

# TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG CRANE RESEARCHERS IN NORTH-EAST ASIA

6-8 July 2025

Khurkh Ecological Research and Community Center, Mongolia

## Overview

Cranes are among the most iconic yet threatened bird species in East Asia. These species depend on increasingly vulnerable wetlands and grasslands, which are under growing pressure from development, climate change, and habitat loss and degradation. Ensuring the long-term survival of cranes requires not only urgent conservation measures today, but also the development of a new generation of skilled researchers and conservation professionals to lead sustained efforts into the future.

The *Training Workshop for Young Crane Researchers in North-East Asia* is designed to bring together emerging researchers and conservation practitioners from across the region to strengthen technical capacity in crane research and conservation. Through a structured combination of lectures, field-based exercises, and interactive discussions, participants will acquire practical skills in crane monitoring, habitat assessment, data analysis, and conservation planning.

In addition to technical training, the workshop aims to foster international collaboration and professional networking among early-career experts committed to protecting cranes and their habitats along the East Asian Flyway. This workshop offers a unique platform for regional exchange, peer learning, and the establishment of long-term partnerships – essential for enhancing coordinated conservation responses across countries.

By investing in the next generation of conservation professionals, the workshop contributes to the long-term protection of cranes and the ecosystems they present. It also lays the foundation for future leadership and science-based conservation across North-East Asia.

## Objectives

The workshop aims to

- Build the technical skills of young researchers and conservationists in crane-related research and monitoring
- Promote science-based approaches to species and ecosystem protection
- Encourage cross-border collaboration among countries along the East Asian Flyway
- Support leadership development in crane and wetland conservation
- Facilitate peer learning and knowledge exchange across the region

## Expected outcomes

The training workshop is expected to result in:

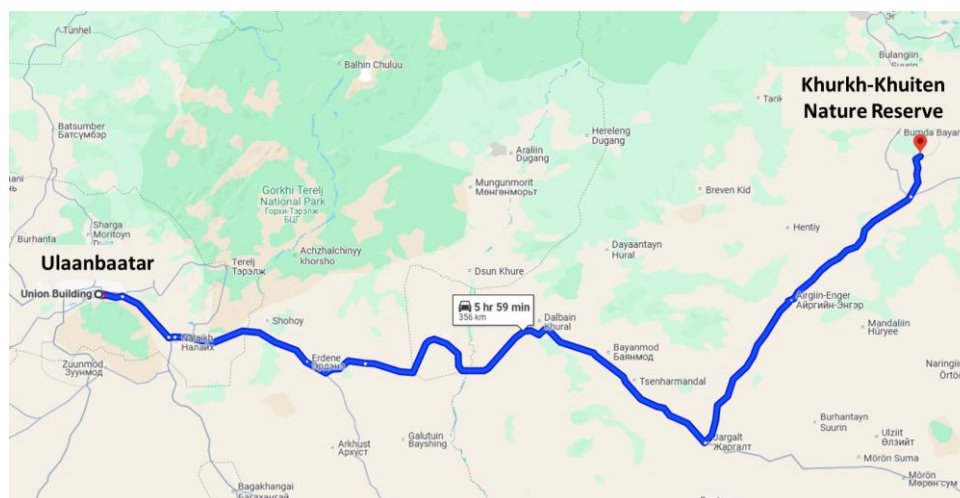
- Improved knowledge and practical skills among participants in crane monitoring methodologies, habitat assessment, and data interpretation;
- Strengthened collaboration and communication networks among young crane researchers across North-East Asia;
- Enhanced understanding of regionally coordinated efforts in crane capture and color-banding schemes;
- Increased exposure to and engagement with senior crane researchers and conservation practitioners;
- Renewed motivation and commitment among participants to pursue conservation actions within their home institutions and countries; and
- Continued collaboration and information-sharing beyond the duration of the workshop.

## About the Khurkh Ecological Research and Community Center

The workshop will be hosted at the Khurkh Ecological Research and Community Center, located within the Khurkh-Khuiten Nature Reserve in northeastern Mongolia. This reserve is nationally and internationally recognized for its ecological importance, particularly for wetland and waterbird conservation. It was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2004, an Important Bird Area in 2009, and a National Nature Reserve in 2020.

The Khurkh-Khuiten Nature Reserve serves as a critical habitat for a number of globally and regionally threatened species, including the White-naped Crane (*Antigone vipio*), Hooded Crane (*Grus monacha*), Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*), Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*), Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*), and Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*).

Inaugurated in August 2022, the Khurkh Ecological Research and Community Center is supported by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia and the International Crane Foundation. The center offers essential facilities for ecological research, environmental education, and community engagement, and plays a key role in advancing conservation activities, particularly for the White-naped Crane and associated wetland ecosystems in the region.



## Program

DAY 1 (5 July, Saturday)	
<p>Departure from UB at 09:00</p> <p>Lunch will be on the road</p> <p>Dinner at the Reserve</p>	
Day 2 (6 July, Sunday) Fundamentals of crane research & population monitoring	
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:15	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening remarks (ESCAP, ICF, WSCC, KKNR)</li> <li>• Group photo</li> </ul>
09:15 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 1. Overview of the Crane Research and Conservation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global and North-East Asia overview of crane research and conservation</li> <li>• Introduction to population status and numbers of cranes in breeding areas (Mongolia, Russian Federation, China)</li> <li>• Introduction to population status and numbers of cranes in wintering areas (China, Republic of Korea, Japan)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 2. Climate change and habitat degradation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding climate change impact on cranes and wetlands – what crane projects can do to mitigate impacts</li> <li>• Agriculture expansion in North-East Asia, potential effects and benefits to cranes and their habitats</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 3. Habitat assessment, monitoring, and restoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing wetland habitat conditions and planning for long-term monitoring</li> <li>• Improving crane habitat and wetland restoration techniques</li> <li>• Quantifying diet and feeding habitat of cranes</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 17:30	<p><b>Session 4. Drone usage, capture and marking, AI sampling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using drones for crane population monitoring</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crane capture, sampling, and marking techniques, safety considerations</li> <li>HPAI and disease surveillance in cranes and waterbirds</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>
<b>18:00 – 19:30</b>	Welcome dinner & networking
<b>DAY 3 (7 July, Monday) CEPA, Community work, communications, and cooperation</b>	
<b>09:00 – 10:10</b>	<p><b>Session 5. CEPA and community works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making effective environmental education programs</li> <li>Conducting questionnaire surveys and considerations</li> <li>Community based conservation, case studies</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>
<b>10:10 – 10:30</b>	Break
<b>10:30 – 12:00</b>	<p><b>Session 6. Protected areas and flyway level approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected areas' role in crane conservation</li> <li>Flyway level conservation work: needs and challenges</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion: Challenges in crane conservation in NEAsia</p>
<b>12:00 – 13:30</b>	Lunch
<b>13:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Field activities: Capturing and color banding cranes</b>
<b>18:00 – 19:30</b>	Dinner
<b>DAY 4 (8 July, Tuesday) Data analysis and programming applications</b>	
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	<p><b>Session 7. Remote sensing application</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usage of remote sensing images in habitat assessment and mapping</li> <li>Application of Google Earth Engine</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>
<b>10:30 – 10:50</b>	Break
<b>10:50 – 12:00</b>	<p><b>Session 8. GIS and QGIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application of GIS and QGIS</li> <li>Data analysis in R</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>
<b>12:00 – 13:30</b>	Lunch
<b>13:30 – 17:00</b>	<p><b>Field activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sampling diet and habitat data collection</li> <li>Visit to the Khurkh Bird Banding Station</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint crane and birdwatching</li> </ul>
<b>17:45 – 19:00</b>	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <p>Wrap-up, certification ceremony &amp; closing remarks</p> <p>Farewell dinner and party</p>
<b>DAY 5 (9 July, Wednesday)</b>	
<p>Departure from the Reserve at 10:00</p> <p>Lunch on the road</p> <p>Arrival at UB at around 19:00-20:00</p>	