

Concept Note

Training Workshop on Migratory Bird Conservation and Wetland Management in North-East Asia

18 – 20 May 2026

Land of Leopard National Park (Barabash), Primorsky Krai, Russian Federation

1. Background

Migratory birds play a critical role in linking ecosystems across regions via nutrient transportation, prey regulation, and seed dispersal across East and North-East Asia. However, their survival is endangered as their key habitats, such as wetlands and coastal landscapes along the East-Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF), come under growing pressure from development, climate change, and habitat loss and degradation.

Recognizing their ecological significance and endangered status, the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) identified the Black-faced Spoonbill, White-naped Crane, and Hooded Crane as flagship species under the Nature Conservation Strategy in 2007 and has prioritized their conservation by supporting and facilitating transboundary conservation efforts in the subregion over the decades.

Over the past years, NEASPEC has supported transboundary conservation of migratory birds in the subregion via a series of projects and activities. For instance, the project “*Conservation and Rehabilitation of Habitats for Key Migratory Birds in North-East Asia*” helped identify priority sites and strengthen evidence-based conservation planning for the transboundary conservation of flagship avian species. Biodiversity surveys in the lower Tumen River basin and the Rason Migratory Bird Reserve, facilitated by NEASPEC, further advanced coordinated avian conservation in cross-border areas that are also key habitats for the flagship species. More recently, NEASPEC has supported various activities under the project “*Connectivity Conservation for Habitats of Flagship Migratory Birds in North-East Asia*”, which aims to further strengthen cross-border habitat connectivity for crane and spoonbill populations in the subregion.

In addition to targeted conservation measures and updated techniques, ensuring the long-term survival of these species requires the effective dissemination of conservation techniques and practices and the strengthening of capacity amongst researchers and frontline conservation professionals for effective coordinated conservation in the future. Building on the Training Workshop for Young Crane Researchers held in 2025, the Training Workshop on Migratory Birds and Wetland Management in North-East Asia, to be convened in Land of Leopard National Park, aims to further facilitate knowledge sharing and enhance skills amongst researchers and conservation practitioners to strengthen collaboration and coordinated conservation efforts across the

subregion. Through a combination of seminars, field activities, and interactive discussions, participants will acquire an in-depth understanding of locally contextualized research and management practices. In addition to technical training, the workshop aims to foster coordinated and international collaboration amongst experts committed to migratory bird protection and involved in key habitats along the EAAF.

By sharing the latest research and practices among conservation professionals, the workshop contributes to the long-term protection of migratory birds and the ecosystems they are an integral part of, while facing the emerging challenges and shifting climatic contexts. It also lays the foundation for future leadership and science-based conservation across North-East Asia.

2. Objectives

- Enhance the technical and contextual understanding of researchers and conservationists in research and monitoring, particularly related to Black-faced Spoonbill, White-naped Crane, and Hooded Crane
- Promote science-based approaches to species and ecosystem protection
- Encourage cross-border collaboration among countries along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway
- Support expert-network development in migratory bird and wetland conservation
- Facilitate peer learning and knowledge exchange across the region

3. Expected Outcomes

The training workshop is expected to:

- Improved conservation management knowledge and skills of researchers and site managers in North-East Asia.
- Improved knowledge and practical skills among participants in monitoring methodologies, habitat assessment, and the latest technical applications.
- Strengthened collaboration and communication networks among researchers and site practitioners across North-East Asia.
- Enhanced understanding of regionally coordinated efforts in monitoring and habitat management practices.
- Continued collaboration and information sharing beyond the duration of the workshop.

4. Location

- Land of the Leopard National Park, Barabash, Primorsky Krai, Russian Federation
- Cape Ostrovok Falshiv, Peter the Great Bay, Primorsky Krai, Russian Federation (For birdwatching)

5. Language

- English

6. Programme

[Day 1] 18 May 2026	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	<u>Opening session</u> • Opening remarks: Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office (record) • Congratulatory remarks: Mr. Philipp Goverdovsky, Deputy Head of the Intergovernmental Commissions Division of the Department of International Cooperation in the Field of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection • Welcome remarks: Mr. Victor Bardyuk, Director, Land of Leopard National Park • Tour de table • Group photo
09:30 – 09:40	Break
09:40 – 11:20	<u>Session 1: Conservation and study of Daurian cranes</u> • Mr. Oleg Goroshko, Daurian Nature Reserve Open discussion and Q&A
11:20 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:30	<u>Session 2: Data on the population and distribution of Hooded and White-naped Cranes in the Amur Region</u> • Mr. Anton Sasin, Head of the Amur Branch of the Russian Bird Conservation Union Open discussion and Q&A
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<u>Session 3: Modern methods in cranes and Black-faced Spoonbill research</u> • Cranes: Mr. Anton Sasin, Head of the Amur Branch of the Russian Bird Conservation Union • BFS: Mr. Chi-Yeung (Jimmy) Choi, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, Duke Kunshan University • Latest Findings in the Census of Red-crowned Cranes in Lake Khanka: Mr. Yuri Gluschenko, Researcher, Pacific Institute of Geography, Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences Open discussion and Q&A
15:30 – 15:50	Break

15:50 – 17:20	<u>Session 4: Using long-term ringing and movement data to monitor and conserve migratory waterbirds in East Asia, with an emphasis on Black-faced Spoonbill</u> Mr. Chi-Yeung (Jimmy) Choi, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, Duke Kunshan University Open discussion and Q&A
18:00 -	Dinner
[Day 2] 19 May 2026	
- 07:00	Assembly for Site Visit Departure
07:00 – 17:30	Field visit: full-day observation at Cape Ostrovok Falshiviy (including field lunch)
18:30 -	Dinner
[Day 3] 20 May 2026	
09:00 – 10:30	<u>Session 5: Current Status of the Black-faced Spoonbill on Furugelm Island</u> Mr. Dmitry Belyaev, Land of Leopards National Park Open discussion and Q&A
10:30 – 10:40	Break
10:40 – 12:00	<u>Session 6: Roundtable Discussion and Closing: Reflections and Way Forward</u> Moderated by Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Deputy Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office / NEASPEC Closing remarks
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 -	Transfer to Vladivostok