



Mission statement

COMMUNICATE

T-016 Distribute a newsletter to the Crane Specialist Group membership every second year, updating the membership on the progress made towards achieving the Crane Conservation Strategy.

Status: No longer a priority

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Research activities

T-003 Estimate the impact of poisoning on threatened crane species and advocate for reduced poisoning at hot spots by 2025.

(KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: The Crane Working Group of Eurasia conference held in Stavropol (October 2023) focused on reasons for Demoiselle Crane's decline as well as the mass mortality last winter of Eurasian Cranes because of poisoning. Therefore, they organised a Round Table on 'Threats for Demoiselle and Eurasian Cranes'. Representatives were invited from the North Caucasus Branches of the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural

Resources, and the Federal Service for Supervision of Agriculture, the ministries of Natural Resources of the Republic of Kalmykia and Stavropol Territory, the Regional Veterinarian service, the regional prosecutor's office, and local government. The ICF/EWT Partnership is gathering information on crane poisoning incidents across Africa – especially in Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda. Most of these poisonings are a result of human-wildlife conflict related to crop damage. As a result, a number of research projects are currently underway to better understand the damage cranes cause to crops and to test mitigation measures that are relevant in a small-scale agricultural setting.

T-010 Understand the status, distribution, and threats to Black Crowned Cranes

PLAN

Planning

T-006 Develop and implement integrated flyway level Conservation Action Plans for Siberian Crane (*L. leucogeranus*), Red-crowned Crane (*G. japonensis*), White-naped Crane (*G. vipio*), Hooded Crane (*G. monacha*) and Black-necked Crane (*G. nigricollis*) by 2025. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: A Flyway-level Strategic Action Plan for Black-necked Crane was reviewed at a workshop in November 2022

T-008 Secure or upgrade the level of legal protection for three or more crane sites by 2025. (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the

implementing and understanding conservation strategies applicable to crane conservation in human-dominated landscapes. It was also an opportunity to build relationships and encourage collaboration across projects in Africa.

Synergy

T-009 Form the Middle East Crane Working Group and develop strategies for reducing threats including hunting by 2022. (KSR 1)

Number of in-kind partnerships established and maintained: 2

Result description: The Middle East Crane Conservation Group was established in 2023 and the first issue of its newsletter was published, highlighting serious hunting threats in the region. The International Crane Foundation (ICF) is supporting an assessment of hunting threats in Pakistan in 2024 and collaborating with the National Wildlife Centre in Saudi Arabia to counter excessive hunting in that country. The Partnership for Oklahoma Wetland Restoration (POWeR) was formed in 2023 including multiple NGOs – ICF, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Playa Lakes Joint Venture – and a state agency – Oklahoma Conservation Commission – to

information, capture techniques, the use of drones for monitoring, among others. They will use this platform as an opportunity to develop best practice guidelines for anyone monitoring cranes and their movements. The Crane Health team was established. They have been involved with gathering and synthesising information on Avian Influenza and assisted with research projects related to lead poisoning, and trying to determine the reason behind leg deformities seen in Blue Cranes in South Africa. The Hunting Working Group was established, and under the auspices of the Middle East Crane Working Group, they have been working to understand better the hunting pressures on Demoiselle Cranes across their range and to develop a project to address this threat to the species.

COMMUNICATE
Communication

T-016 Distribute a newsletter to the Crane Specialist Group membership every second year, updating the membership on the progress made towards achieving the Crane Conservation Strategy. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 0

Result description: No newsletter has been distributed to the members of the Crane Specialist Group. However, a number of the world's Crane Working Groups, as well as the International Crane Foundation, regularly distribute information and newsletters that are available widely. In addition, the

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