



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE



University of
Southampton



REGIONAL FLYWAY INITIATIVE TRAINING SERIES:

Workshop on Wetland Ecosystem Services and Nature-based Solutions

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NEASPEC and its Role in Driving Regional Cooperation for Biodiversity in the North-east Asia Region

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NEASPEC Secretariat

United Nations ESCAP

United Nations ESCAP



- Established in 1947 (Bangkok, Thailand)
- Representing the United Nations in the Asia-Pacific region, with 62 member States (53 member States, 9 associate members)
- 5 Subregional Offices, 5 Regional Institutes, 600+ staff members 성
- Addressing all areas of sustainable development

Subregional Offices

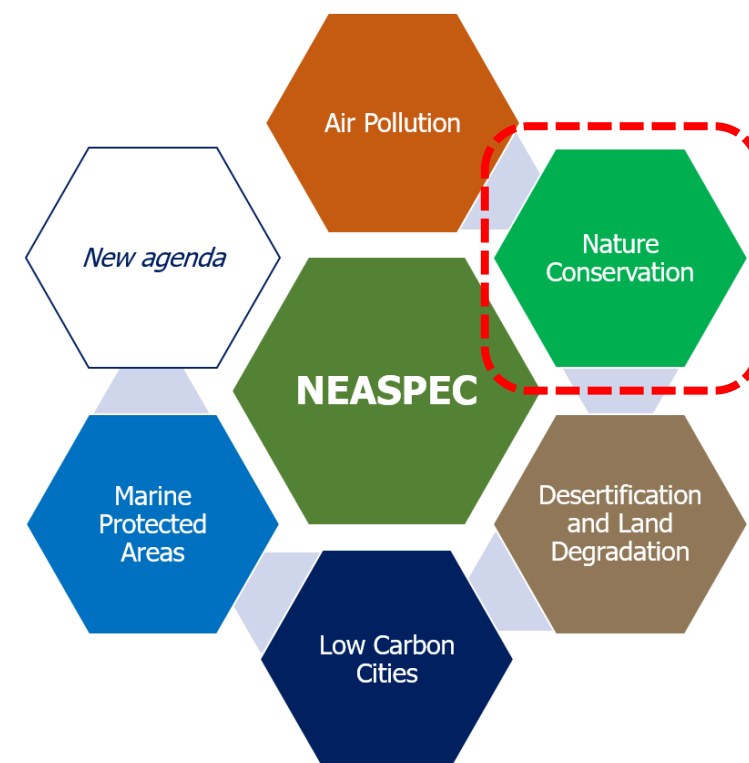


- Pacific (Suva, Fiji)
- **East & North-East Asia (Incheon, ROK)**
- South & South-West Asia (New Delhi, India)
- North & Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan)
- South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)

NEASPEC

North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

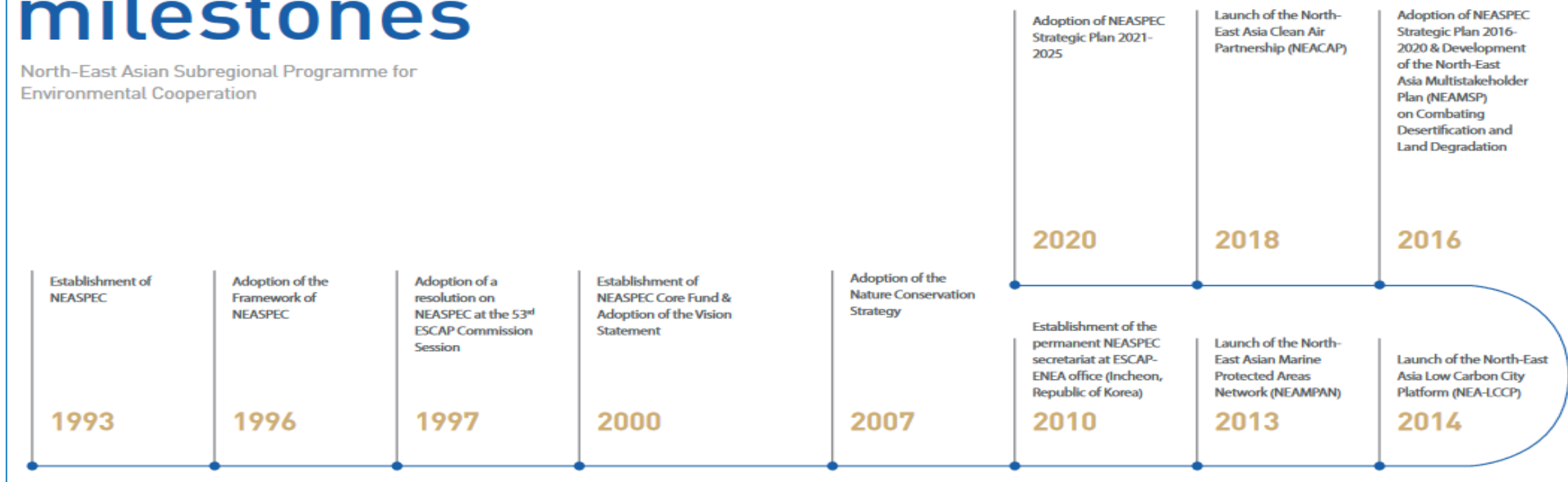
- **Established:** 1993 as a comprehensive cooperation framework
- **Members:** China, DPR Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation
- **Objective:** Promote environmental cooperation and sustainable development in North-East Asia





NEASPEC milestones

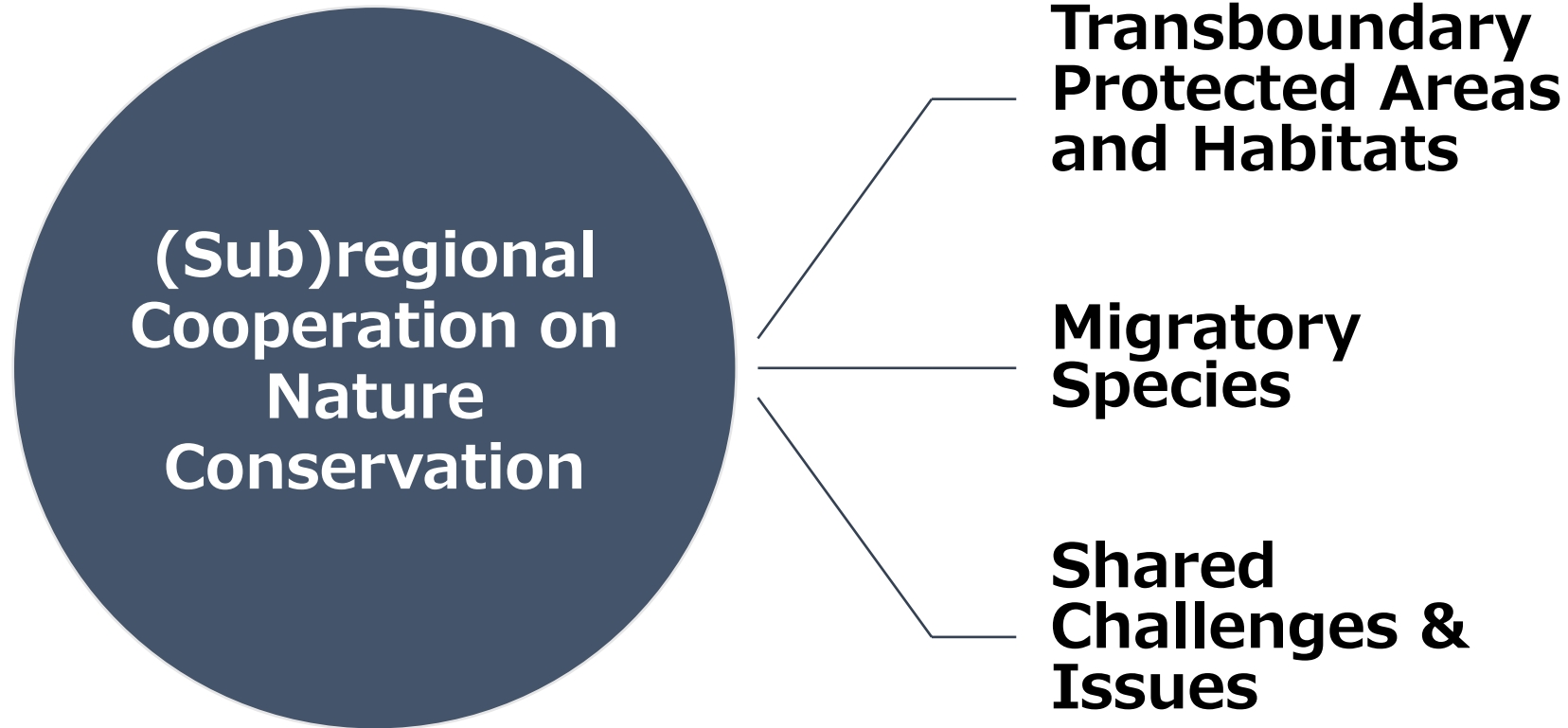
North-East Asian Subregional Programme for
Environmental Cooperation



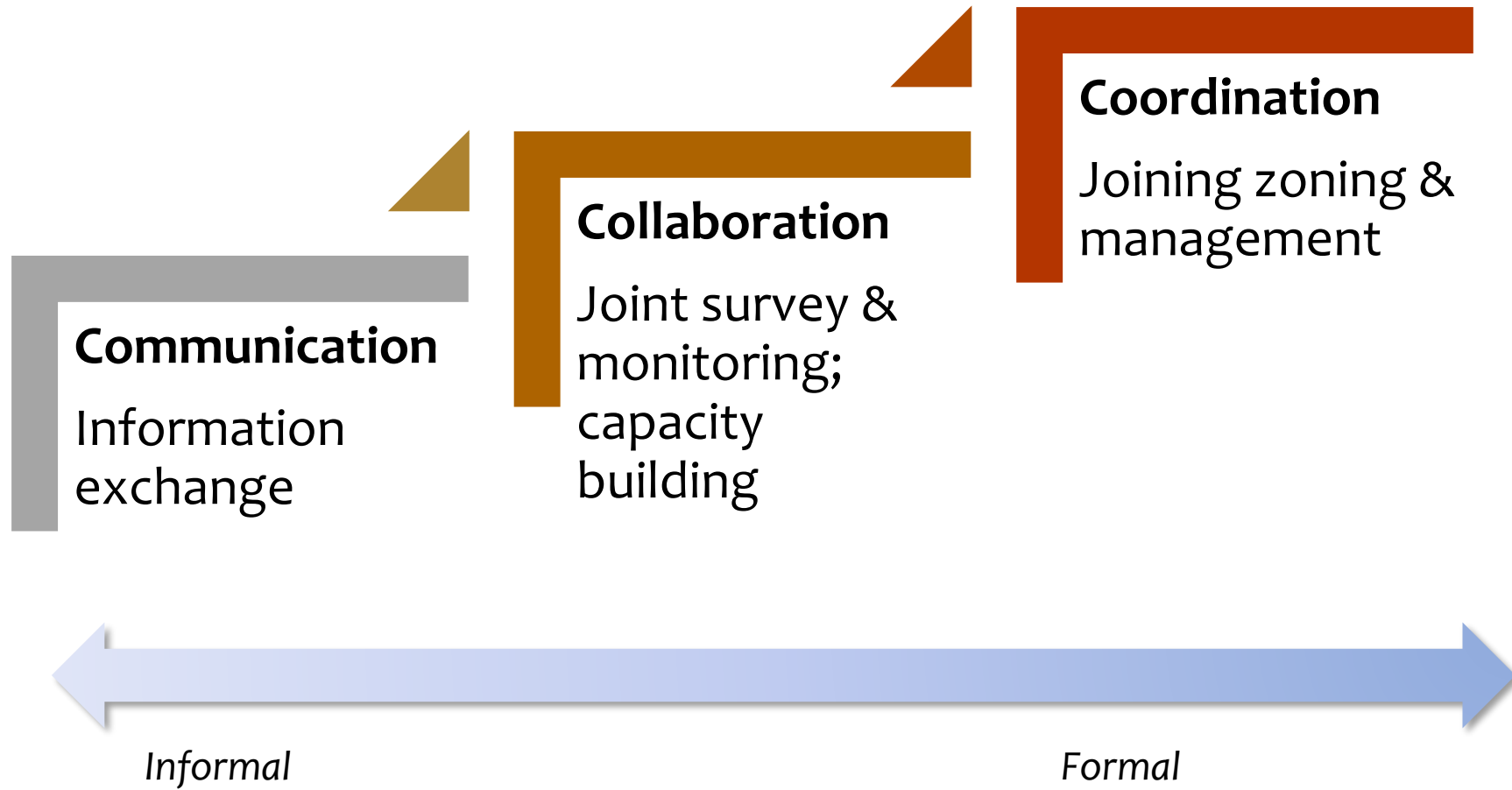
2023: Commemorative Statement on Promoting Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia (30th anniversary of NEASPEC)

Nature Conservation under NEASPEC

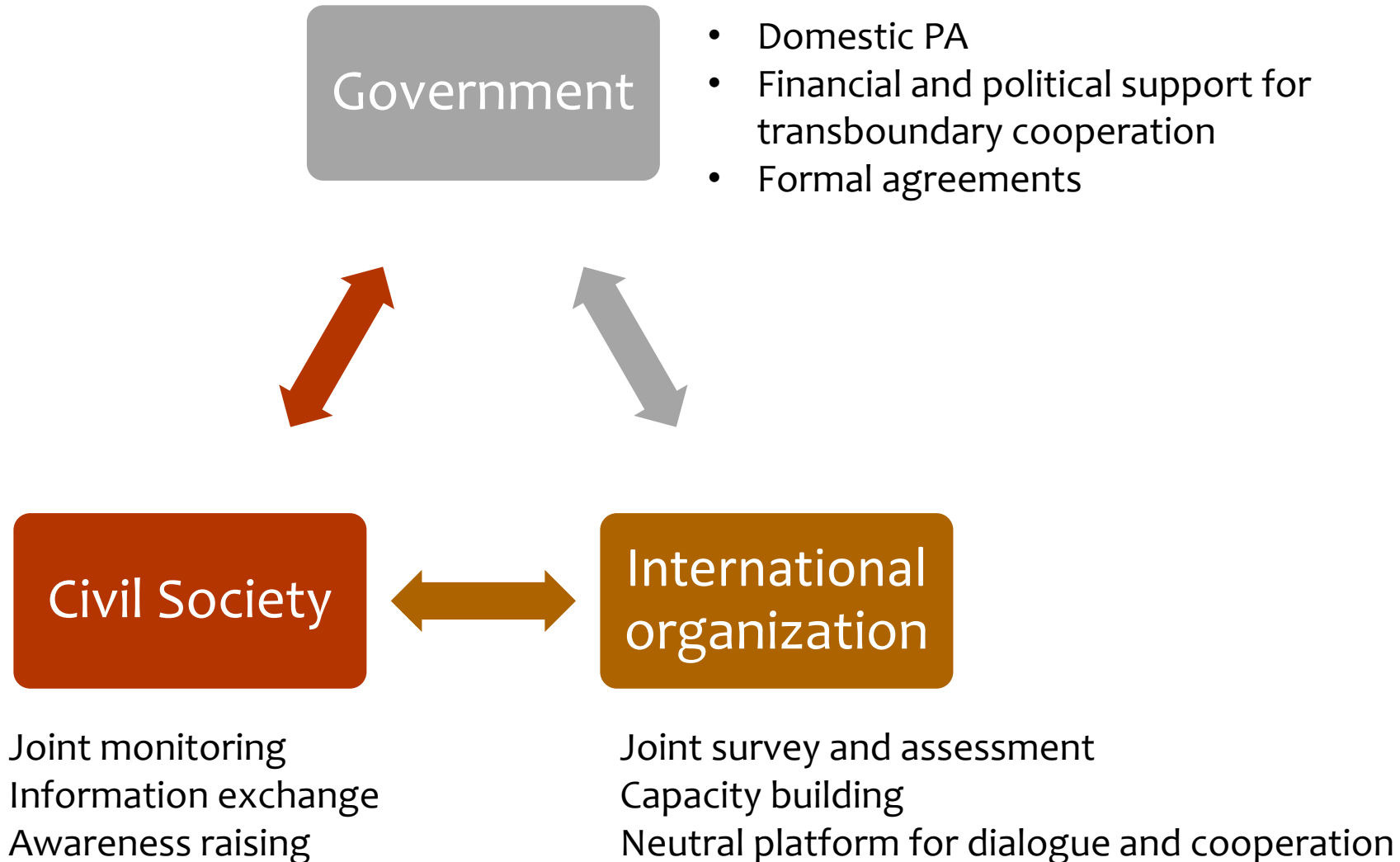
Cooperation for Nature Conservation in North-East Asia (NEA)



Cooperation for TPA

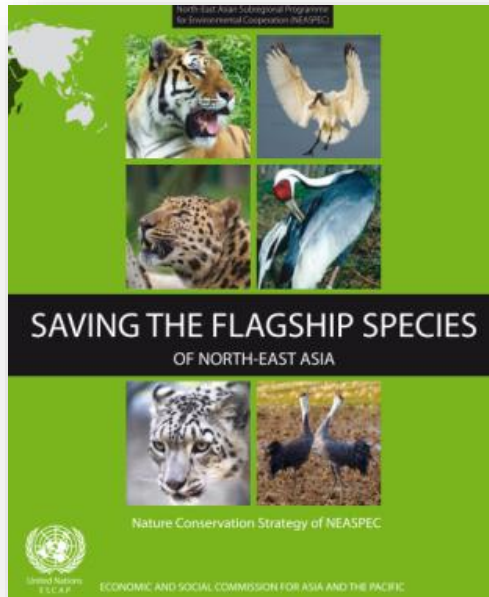


Roles of Stakeholders



Background

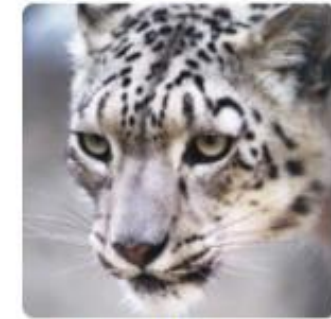
NEASPEC Nature Conservation Strategy SOM-12 (Beijing, 2007)



Amur Tiger



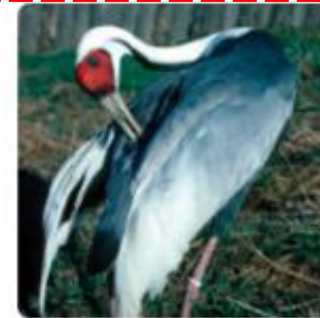
Amur Leopard



Snow Leopard



Black-faced Spoonbill



White-naped Crane



Hooded Crane

Overall goals

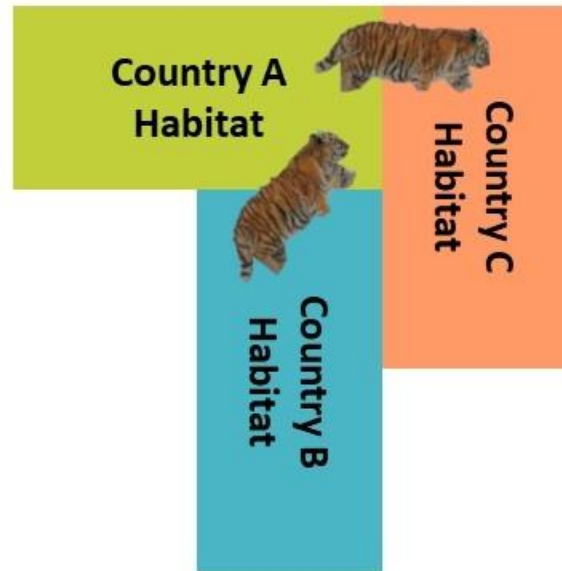
1. Contribute to **biodiversity conservation in NEA** by ensuring the survival of target species;
2. Promote **transboundary and inter-governmental cooperation**;
3. Enhance **coordinated mechanisms** for the conservation of target species and their habitats.

Overall approach

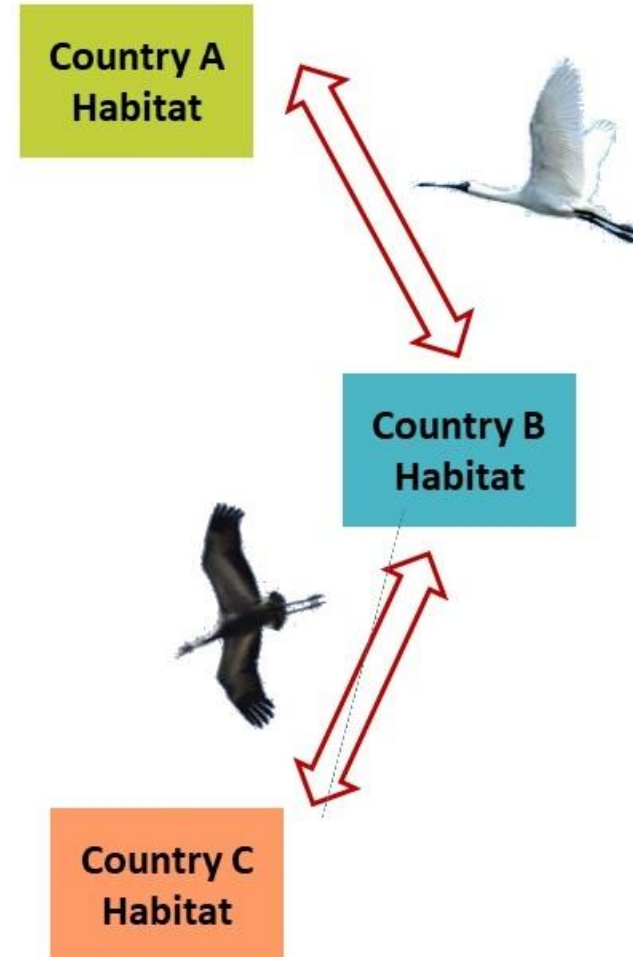
- Build on existing schemes to **create synergies, promote partnership with existing activities and networks**.
- Support the **subregional implementation of international agreements** such as CBD, CMS, CITES and other relevant agreements.

Connectivity conservation

1. Physically- and Ecologically- Connected



2. Ecologically-Connected



Connectivity Conservation

Effective in conservation

- For migratory/ species that require large range, also for long-term viability of many others by providing buffer (e.g. in climate uncertainty)

Cost-effective

- For protecting existing habitats, and restoring degraded landscapes
- e.g. compared to simply enlarging or creating new protected areas

Human Benefits

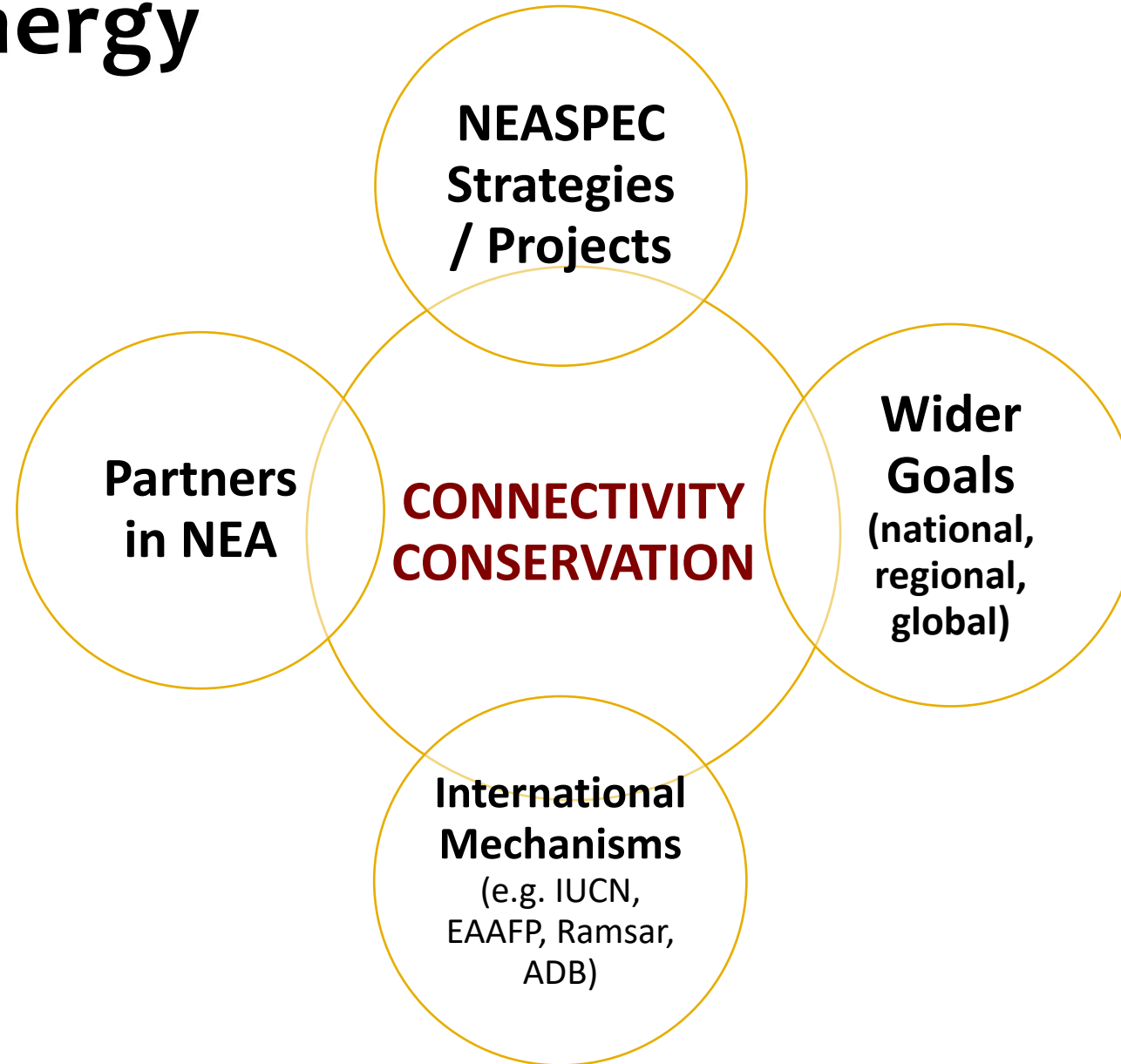
- Long-term initiatives but can also provides short-term benefits when community needs are addressed (managed landuse)

New way + level of cooperation

- Requires new institutional and inter-sectoral cooperation and agreement, multi-level and multi-stakeholder support

(IUCN, 2007)

Synergy



Projects on Migratory Birds

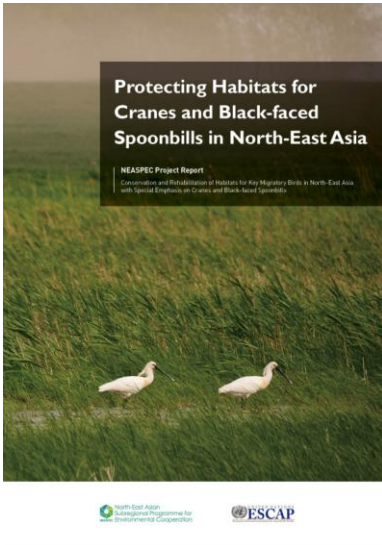
NEASPEC 2014-2016: Conservation and Rehabilitation of Habitats for Key Migratory Birds in North-East Asia

Key Outcomes

- **Identified main threats** to migratory bird habitats for the flagship species, namely, the White-naped Crane, the Hooded Crane, and the Black-faced Spoonbill
- **Highlighted the role of flagship species** in fostering ecological unity across countries.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- **Scoping survey** on species, habitat, biophysical, social and management information
- **Joint study** (transboundary habitat)
- **Capacity building and experience sharing** on habitat management
- **Awareness raising**
- **Strategy for habitat conservation and rehabilitation**



Transboundary Cooperation in North-East Asia

Overview:

deep-dive case studies on transboundary cooperation

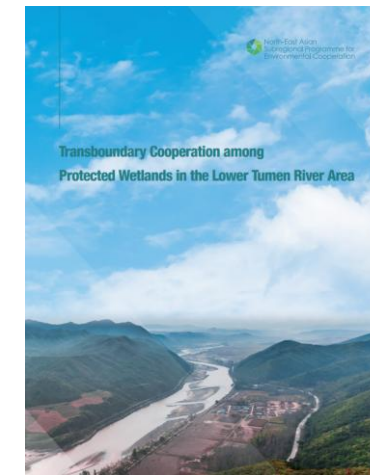
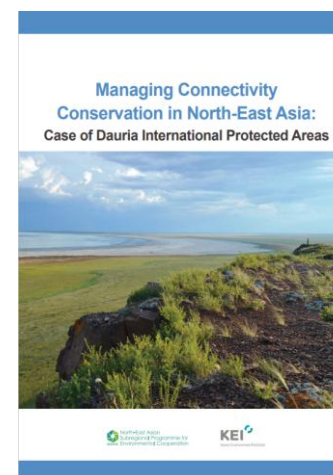
- Dauria International Protected Areas
- Lower Tumen River area

Key Importance:

- **Enhanced Habitat Connectivity:** Preserves and restores habitats across borders, ensuring migratory routes and reducing habitat fragmentation.
- **Coordinated Conservation Efforts:** Aligns policies, shares data, and addresses threats like habitat loss and climate change collaboratively.

Concrete Outcomes:

- **Joint Field Surveys:** In 2014, NEASPEC and Hanns Seidel Foundation conducted the first baseline survey in the Rason Migratory Bird Reserve (DPRK), confirming it supports 100+ bird species.
- **Transboundary Ramsar Sites:** DPRK's 2018 Ramsar accession and Rason Reserve designation enable joint management and protection of critical migratory bird habitats.



New Activity (2024-2027)

2024-2027

**New Project
"Connectivity
Conservation for
Habitats of
Flagship Migratory
Birds in North-East
Asia (Black-faced
Spoonbills, White-
naped Cranes, and
Hooded Cranes)"**

1

Demographic studies of the three flagship species and the influence of environmental, social, and economic factors on their habitats

2

Analytical studies on impacts by energy infrastructure and agricultural activities

3

Capacity building for stakeholders, with a special focus on empowering youth and women



**Strengthen connectivity conservation for habitats of flagship birds in North-East Asia
(Black-faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-naped Cranes)**

(Reference) Project's Framework

Objective

**Strengthen connectivity conservation for habitats of flagship birds in North-East Asia
(Black-faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-naped Cranes)**

Outcome

OC1: Target groups strengthen coordination to conserve target species and their habitats and build the capacity to assess, monitor and manage those target species

Outputs

OP1.1: Target groups have knowledge of the latest status of and recommended coordinated actions for conservation of the target species and their habitats

OP1.2: Target groups have knowledge of biodiversity management practices (e.g., agricultural activities) at the local, national, subregional, and global levels

OP1.3: Target groups, including young scientists, are equipped with capacity on coordinated actions to assess, monitor and manage target species and their habitats

Activities

A1.1.1: Conduct simultaneous monitoring to update the demographic information and the status of habitats of the target migratory birds, including a tailored analysis of environmental, and socio-economic impacts on target species.
A1.2.1: Recommendations, including for coordinated actions for conservation of target species and their habitats.

A1.2.1: Conduct analytical studies on:
assessing the impacts of agricultural activities on flagship birds; examining the effects of energy infrastructure developments (e.g., solar and wind generation facilities) on migratory birds (e.g., route changes, soil erosion, and reduction of food supply), and other relevant issues.
A1.2.2: Develop recommendations, including for coordinated actions, to support biodiversity management practices.

A1.3.1: Organize outreach activities (e.g., seminars, forums, etc.) for dissemination of latest findings of in-depth studies for target species and habitats conservation (OP1.1) and the recommendations, including for coordinated actions for conservation, to support biodiversity management practices (OP1.2).
A1.3.2: Organize capacity building activities (e.g., technical workshops, field research, site visits, etc., as needed by A1.1), including for young scientists. Other capacity building activities to be recommended by A1.1.2 and A1.2.2 will also be included, as needed.



Thank you

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