



INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION



WORLD CENTER FOR THE STUDY AND PRESERVATION OF CRANES
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Dear Mr. Samant,

Thank you very much for your letter of December 24. We are looking forward to collaborating with BNHS in honoring the Centenary Birth of Dr. Salim Ali through an international conference on cranes and wetlands that might convene in India in early January, 1996.

As you know, the population of Siberian Cranes that spends the winter in India is almost gone. A second group that winters in Iran is reduced to 7 individuals. To address the problems facing these western populations of Siberian Cranes, ICF and Russian colleagues, in consort with the Bonn Convention on Migratory Animals, drafted a Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (MoU). Pakistan has agreed to hold the documents of this MoU, and it has been signed by Iran, Pakistan and Russia. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and India have indicated an interest in signing. Contact has yet to be established with authorities in Afghanistan.

I wish to propose that a meeting of the range states of the western population of cranes be convened in India in consort with the proposed international conference on cranes and wetlands. Nations that have not as yet signed the MoU will be encouraged to endorse it. During this historic meeting, a Recovery Plan for the Siberian Crane (now being drafted by the Russians) can be discussed and revised. Conservation objectives can be discussed and prioritized for implementation.

In addition to comprehensive discussions about Siberian Cranes, the conference would provide an opportunity for the presentation of reports on other crane research and conservation activities on the subcontinent. Some potential presenters and topics are listed on the attached enclosure, and more names and titles can be provided by Dr. Rishad Pravez (address below) and Prakash Gole. In addition, ICF can provide the names and addresses of crane researchers from around the world whom BNHS can then invite to attend the conference and present reports about their work.

Where should the meeting convene? What are the costs per delegate? Can BNHS provide support for the participation of delegates from the range states of the western populations of Siberian Cranes? There will probably be 2-3 persons from each of the 7 non-Indian range states.

Over a decade has rapidly past since ICF joined BNHS in celebrating the centenary of BNHS through the International Crane Workshop convened at Bharatpur in February of 1983, followed by

Dr. Salim Ali's visit to ICF in July of 1984. The very day he visited ICF, a Siberian Crane chick hatched in our incubator. We named the downy youngster "Dr. Sahib" and we were a bit disappointed when it turned out to be female. Today "Dr. Sahib" is one of the six reproductively active Siberian Cranes at ICF. One of her chicks is destined for release with the wild cranes in Iran. Who knows, perhaps offspring of "Dr. Sahib" will also mount the skies over India. That's yet another reason why our work together continues to be so very important.

I am looking forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

George

George Archibald
Director

GA:jz

Enclosure

CRANE PROJECTS FOR INDIA

SIBERIAN CRANES

Objectives:

1. Locate Siberian Cranes that may be wintering extralimital to Keoladeo National Park (KNP).

Aerial surveys, followed by ground surveys, will be made over probable sites in January - February 1990.

Prakash will

ICF will

✓ discuss project with BNHS and the GOI, assist with both aerial and ground surveys as requested

provide maps

2. Bolster existing population and monitor migration by releasing captive-reared cranes with the wild cranes.

Techniques for rearing and releasing captive cranes into the wild will be developed by (a) training two Indians (KNP, BNHS) at ICF during the summer of 1990, (b) rearing and releasing several Sarus Cranes at KNP during summer of 1990, (c) releasing ICF-produced Siberian Cranes at KNP in autumn of 1991, and (d) importing Siberian Crane eggs from ICF and/or USSR for hatching, rearing and releasing at KNP in 1992.

Techniques for the radio-marking and satellite-tracing of Siberian Cranes will be developed by (a) during the winter of 1989-90, testing the techniques first ^{on Common} using Sarus Cranes and then Common Cranes in Gujarat, and (b) radio marking captive-reared Siberian Cranes released at KNP in 1991 and 1992.

Prakash will

ICF will

✓ discuss projects with BNHS, Rajasthan and GOI, help select trainees; advise as to construction of crane-rearing facilities at KNP, help coordinate radio-telemetry studies

train Indians at ICF, send advisor to KNP to assist with rearing facilities, send Siberian Crane eggs or juveniles to KNP, provide radio telemetry equipment and staff to assist with migration studies

Training program in radio-marking & monitoring satellite tracking, Capturing cranes through channels & common nets

Handwritten notes at top: *Handbook A.P. Prakash - Commons* and *Appoint a co-ordinator.*

Handwritten notes on left: *to BNHS to write a report*

Handwritten notes on right: *to BNHS for 1st year at KNP*, *Subj*, *Relevant*, *to BNHS*

BLACK-NECKED CRANES

Objectives:

1. Locate wintering grounds of as yet unknown flocks that may winter in Arunachal Pradesh.

In collaboration with the military, survey all valleys east of Bhutan and west of northern Burma.

Prakash will

ICF will

coordinate surveys with
BNHS and the army

provide maps

2. Protect in Ladakh, wetlands that are critical breeding habitat for cranes.

Wetlands must be gazetted, monitored and protected as reserves.

Prakash will

ICF will

urge JK and GOI to
take action

write support letters

SARUS CRANES

Objectives:

1. Protect major breeding areas.

Based on Prakash Gole's 1989 report, wetlands designated as of major importance to Sarus Cranes should be gazetted, monitored, and protected.

Regions not yet surveyed should be surveyed and critical habitats for cranes identified and protected.

COMMON AND DEMOISELLE CRANES

Objective:

1. Determine the main wintering areas and numbers of cranes in

2. *Economic impact of cranes on crops.*

3. *Migration studies.* FWS

east-central India.

GENERAL

Objectives:

1. Monitor and protect Siberian Cranes on their wintering grounds and Black-necked Cranes on both breeding and wintering grounds.
2. Increase public awareness of cranes.

A colorful field guide to the cranes will heighten public interest in helping the cranes. Prakash has written this booklet, David Rankin has agreed to illustrate it, and GOI has provide support for its publication.