

PROTOCOL
of the IV-th Meeting of the Joint Commission
of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area
Chita city, March 14-17, 2006

In conformity with the Agreement between nature-protecting departments of the Russian Federation, Mongolia, and People's Republic of China of March 29, 1994 about the establishment of the joint *Dauria* protected area and according to the Regulations on Joint Commission the IVth meeting of the Joint commission was held in the city of Chita (Chitinskaya oblast, Russia). The delegations were headed: from the Russian Party - by Deputy Director of the Department on state policy in the sphere of environmental protection of the Ministry of Natural resources (Russia) A. M. Amirkhanov, from the Chinese Party – by Deputy Director of the Department on nature protection of the State Environmental Protection Agency (People's Republic of China) He Jun, from the Mongolian Party – by Director of the Department of Special Protected Area Administration of the Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia A. Namkhai.

In the meeting of the Joint commission representatives of the administrations of Chitinskaya oblast of the Russian Federation, autonomous province Inner Mongolia of People's Republic of China, and Dornod aimak of Mongolia, the specialists of nature-protecting departments of the three countries and of the reserves comprising the international protected area, representatives of public and scientific organizations took part.

The full list of the participants of the Meeting is attached.

In conformity with the agenda the Parties considered and concluded decisions on the following issues
1. Having heard the report of the director of the *Dalainor* protected area Bai Fuchun on the results of realization of the decisions of the 3-d meeting of the Joint commission, the report of the deputy director on scientific work of the *Daurisky* reserve Goroshko O. A. and the supervisor of programs of WWF-Russia Far-Eastern Branch Kiriluk V. E. on the DIPA activity in the years 1994-2005, as well as additions to the report of the director of the specially protected area Administration of Dornod aimak Kh. Dashdorj and the specialist of the named administration B. Batdorj, the Parties decided:

- to accept the report on the joint activity of the *Dauria* international protected area in 2000-2005 (the period since the 3-d meeting of the Joint commission in Jalainor, China);
- to accept the report on the main results of joint nature-protecting programs, scientific research and environmental education of the international protected area in Dauria ecoregion in the years 1994-2005;
- to thank the authors of the reports and the specialists who participated in their preparation;
- to note that despite the insufficient financing of the international protected area activity a large amount of work was done, which deserves wide propagation;
- to include into national forms of plans and reports of protected nature areas a section on realizing work within transboundary protected areas;
- to propose to include data on the amount of financing of each national part of the protected area, received from different sources, into the report on the activity of the international protected area;
- to elaborate a common management plan of the international protected area;
- to appeal to the ministries and departments, under which supervision the protected areas-parts of the international protected area are, to consider the possibility of including the staff post of a coordinator of the international activity;
- to appeal to the corresponding agencies of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs of the three countries to consider the issues of allocating favorable long-term visas to the specialists of the international protected area for fulfilling joint activity;

- taking into account special acuteness of the problem to include joint activities on prevention and monitoring the birds' flu into the plans of joint work of the international protected area for 2006-2007;
 - to establish an international ornithological station based in the transboundary *Dauria* international protected area (first of all, for studying birds' migrations and problems of transferring the birds' flu);
 - considering the acuteness and negative impact of steppe and forest fires on ecosystems to include elaboration of the scheme of operative informing about transboundary fires into the plans of joint activities.
2. Having discussed the proposed changes to the Regulations on Joint commission of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* international protected area, the Parties decided:
- * to approve the proposed changes to the Regulations on Joint commission;
- to consider and concert the proposed changes to the Regulations on Joint commission and on the DIPA in the corresponding Ministries and authorities of the Parties within six months period since the signing of this Protocol;
 - to postpone consideration and adoption of the draft Regulations on the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* international protected area for the next meeting of the Joint commission;
 - to charge on the Work group consisting of the director of protected nature areas administration of Dornod aimak Kh. Dashdorj from the Mongolian Party, deputy director on scientific work of the *Daurian* state nature biosphere reserve O. A. Goroshko from the Russian Party, deputy director of the *Dalainor* reserve Liu Songtao from the Chinese Party to collect and summarize the proposals on making changes in the Regulations on Joint commission and on the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area, and to present the concerted variants of the Regulations for final adoption at the next meeting of the Joint commission;
 - until the changes are made in the Regulations to work in accordance with the present Regulations on the Joint commission and on the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area.
3. Having heard the report of the chief of the department of normative regulation in the specially nature protected areas sphere of the Ministry of natural resources of Russia on the possible ways of upgrading the DIPA status, the Parties decided to consider the possibility of:
- concluding an intergovernmental Agreement on the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area signed at the higher level than the present Agreement of March 29, 1994;
 - including the natural site "Daurian steppes" into the UNESCO List of World Heritage as a united trilateral international nomination, to apply to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for financing of a seminar on preparation of nomination of the trilateral World Heritage Site;
 - receiving the status of a UNESCO transboundary biosphere reserve by the international protected area as a whole with the name "Transboundary Biosphere Reserve *Dauria*", as well as by separate specially protected areas, including the *Mongol Daguur* reserve.

At the same time to ask the MAB National Committees (UNESCO program "Man and Biosphere") to appeal jointly to the Secretariat of the program with the proposal to nominate the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area for the status of an International Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

The coordinator of preparing the joint nomination for the status of a united Transboundary Biosphere Reserve at the first stage is appointed the Russian Party. The fees for preparation of the nomination are paid also by the Russian Party.

Taking into account the functional unity of the wetlands of international importance – "the Torey lakes" (2RU019) from the Russian side and "Mongol Daguur" (2MN001) from the Mongolian side, Ramsar sites "Lake Buirnuur and the surrounding marshes" (2MN008) from the Mongolian side and "Nature reserve Lake Dalai, Inner Mongolia" » (2CN010) from the Chinese side, the Parties find it reasonable to consider the issue on extension the named wetlands with the aim of establishing a

common transboundary wetland of international importance (Ramsar Convention) on the basis of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area. To begin preparation for the nomination of a Transboundary Wetland of international importance with the Russian Party as a coordinator at the first stage. Preparation of the nomination is paid by each Party according to the amounts of means received from national budgets.

The Parties agreed to the proposal on putting forward the initiative of confirming the Ramsar regional initiative on the Amur and found it reasonable to fulfill corresponding national procedures in conformity with the resolution VIII.30 of the Ramsar Convention. The Parties proposed to elaborate the details in order to develop the regional Ramsar initiative on the Amur within the UNDP/GEF project "Complex management of the river Amur/Heilong basin" and taking into account the program "Green Belt of the Amur".

4. Having heard the reports on the prospects of extension of the international protected area territory, the Parties adopted the following decisions:

- to consider it reasonable to include into the DIPA the existing protected nature areas of *Dauria* ecoregion, which have special importance for biodiversity conservation and are key habitats for globally endangered and put into the national Red Data Books objects of animal and plant world
- to facilitate establishment of new specially protected nature areas on the Russian and Chinese banks of the upper reaches of the Argun river, on Lake Buirnuur and other places with their further coming into the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area
- to consider it reasonable to develop cooperation zones around the existing protected nature areas for establishing a united transboundary biosphere area.

5. Having considered the program of cooperation within the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area (DIPA) for the years 2006-2010, the Parties decided:

- to approve the program of cooperation within the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area for 2006-2010;
- each Party makes efforts to provide financing of the planned activities from the national budgets of the Parties and non-budget sources;
- to charge on the Work group of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area to consider and adopt yearly plans of work;
- to fasten the process of signing the intergovernmental agreement on establishing transboundary specially protected nature areas including:
 1. Onon-Balj National Park from the Mongolian side and the *Sokhondinsky* State Nature Biosphere Reserve from the Russian side
 2. Uvs Nuur Reserve from the Mongolian side and the *Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina* State Nature Biosphere Reserve from the Russian side
 3. Khuvsugul National Park from the Mongolian side and the *Tunkinsky* National Park from the Russian side.

Having held the meeting in a constructive and friendly atmosphere the Parties came to the following conclusion:

1. The Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area is an example of successful cooperation of the three countries in the sphere of environmental protection and contributes to the development of friendly relations between the peoples of our states.
2. The protected area is a key object in conservation of landscape and biological diversity of the transboundary ecological regions: *Dauria* steppe one and the Amur basin. The importance of spreading its experience to other transboundary reserves of the region, newly established ones among them, is recognized.
3. Admitting the existence of objective difficulties in the activity of the international protected area, the Parties consider it necessary to make efforts to overcome them.

The Parties decided to hold the next 5-th meeting of the Joint commission in 2008 in Mongolia.

The Parties express their gratitude to:

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This protocol is signed in Chita city of the Russian Federation on March 16, 2006 in three copies in the English, Russian, Mongolian, Chinese languages, each copy having equal judicial force.

Head of the Russian delegation

Head of the Chinese delegation

Head of the Mongolian
delegation

A.M.Amirkhanov

He Jun

A. Namkhai