

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

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Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF)

Section B

“Request for Funding” Form

Note. Please complete and enclose both Section B.1 “Project Summary and Endorsement Form” and Section B.2 “Detailed Project Proposal”, following the section structure and guidance provided below on what to include in each section of the proposal. Thank you.

Section B.1

Project Summary and Endorsement Form

Please fill in sections a, b, c, f, g, h and i, and either section d or section e.

- a. Country requesting support: 16150 \$
- b. Title of project proposal: **Support the breeding colony of declining Dalmatian Pelican at Khar Us Lake in western Mongolia through building artificial platforms**
- c. Category of assistance requested (please consult the Operational Guidelines and indicate one option only):

Contracting Parties:

- Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024. Please indicate relevant Goals and Targets (s):

Please fill in **either** section **d** or section **e** below:

Strategic Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation

1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure,
3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.

Strategic Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

5. The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.

Strategic Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands

10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.

13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.

- d. If the financial support sought from the NWF is requested to carry out part of a larger project, please indicate:
- Title of the main project: **Support the breeding colony of declining Dalmatian Pelican at Khar Us Lake in western Mongolia through building artificial platforms**
 - Duration of the main project: 1 year
 - Total cost of the main project: 16150 \$
 - Amount requested from the NWF: 16150 \$
 - Have the main project and the other funds been approved: Yes No
 - If yes, please indicate the sources of these funds, showing whether the source is in-country or external:
- e. If the proposed project is a stand-alone activity, please indicate:
- Duration of the activities to be covered by NWF grant: 1 Year
 - Amount requested from the Ramsar NWF: 16150 \$
 - Other financial contributions (including in-kind) – indicate whether these are from in-country or external sources: Implementation organization will use own sources including office and computer, man power etc to organize logistical activities that mentioned in the budget section.

- f. Name, address (including phone/fax numbers and e-mail address) and website of the recipient agency, i.e. the institution responsible for the project, specifying the name and contact details of the person responsible for preparing and executing the project.

Mongolian Bird Conservation Center,

Office#401, Undram Plaza, II khoroo, Ikh toiruu, Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; **Email:** info@mbcc.mn; **Website:** www.mbcc.mn;

Mobile: -976+8807-7576; -976+89101032;

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Mongolian-Bird-Conservation-Center/>

- g. Summary (maximum 500 words)
Describe background, justification, objectives and intended follow-up. Indicate if the project will be carried out in a Ramsar site(s) or how it otherwise contributes to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and the fulfillment of its objectives:

Khar-Us Lake National Park, located in Khovd Aimag, was included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance on April 13, 1999. The total covering area is 321,360 hectares. Coordinates: 47°58'N 092°50'E. Three lakes are included here: Khar-Us, Khar, and Durgun. The Ramsar registration number is 976. The continuous reed and cane stands and water plants provide for an important breeding site for some globally endangered bird species including the Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*, the Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, the White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, and the Relict Gull (*Larus relictus*). Three endemic (to the western region) species of fish are recorded in the lake. The lake vicinity contains important historical and archeological sites. It also provides an important ground water source. Khar Us Lake is only highly important place for the nesting and summering of eastern subpopulation Dalmatian pelican *Pelicanus crispus* in east Asian. At present, the eastern subpopulation is estimated to be with less than 150 (declining) pelicans that breed only in Khar Us Lake and winter in south-eastern China (Batbayar, 2005, 2007; Catsadorakis and Portolou, 2017; MBCC report 2020). The species is seriously in danger of habitat degradation and human impacts. Historically, breeding sites of the species were located in the islands of the lakes such as Khar Us and Khar and Airag Lakes but those islands have undergone changes in water level, human disturbance, and overgrazing. Most of them were totally occupied by livestock and it is very important that more surveys be conducted to identify the current breeding areas in western Mongolia (Munkhtogtokh, 2016; Shi et al, 2008; MBCC report 2020). We will provide the artificial platform to establish the breeding colony of the Pelican at Khar Us Lake in Western Mongolia. We will follow the science-based properties to establish the artificial platform that Catsadorakis and Crivelli (2001) suggested. - Before the artificial platform placement, we will survey for potential places to establish the platform in winter. This place must be selected near to the former breeding sites in the Lake and will be far from human and livestock disturbance. It can be the most suitable point for the breeding colony of the species. Because most of the potential nesting islands in Khar Us Lake has been occupied by livestock and human activities due to the fluctuation process which is one of the main threats for this species in western countries. - Monitoring the breeding colony of the pelican is one of the critical things for Khar Us and other

lakes where breeding pelican is previously recorded. This project period will cover the whole breeding season of the species.

The project proposal is fully comply main criteria of goals at the Nagao Wetland Fund and Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) requirements and the total project budget is 16150 US\$ and other necessary field equipment will be provided by implementation organization.

h. Endorsement of this project application by the Ramsar Administrative Authority:

Please confirm the importance of this proposed project in relation to your national Ramsar Convention implementation priorities. **Please tick (✓) only one of the following statements:**

1. The project's outcomes will deliver significantly increased implementation capacity for a high national priority. OR	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The project's outcomes will deliver increased implementation capacity for a lower national priority. OR	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The project's outcomes will not directly lead to increased implementation capacity.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Institution/Agency:

Name/Title: Ramsar Administrative Authority

Date: 01 / 04 / 2021

Signature:

Please return this form along with the Detailed Project Proposal to:
Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF), Ramsar Convention Secretariat,
 28 Rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland. Fax: +41 22 999 0169, E-mail:
asia.oceania@ramsar.org

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Section B.2

Structure and contents of Detailed Project Proposal

Details of proposal

A. Background and justification

The Depression of the Great Lakes (Great Lakes Basin) in western Mongolia belongs to the Central Asian Internal Drainage System and some of the largest lakes of the country are situated here and the depression of the Great Lakes is only highly important places for the nesting and summering of eastern subpopulation Dalmatian pelican.

At present, the eastern subpopulation is estimated to be with less than 150 pelicans that breed only in western Mongolia and winter in south-eastern China (MBCC report 2020; Catsadorakis and Portolou, 2017). Khar Us Lake Ramsar Site consists of three large but shallow lakes including Khar Us Lake, Khar Lake, and Dorgon Lake. Vast reed beds and extensive aquatic plant communities provide a suitable habitat for a large number of breeding and migratory water birds, including the globally threatened Dalmatian Pelican, Swan Goose, Ferruginous Duck, White-headed Duck, and Relict Gull. Three species of fish endemic to Western Mongolia occur in these lakes. The lakes are of fundamental importance for the groundwater recharge of the area and are of social and cultural significance because of the presence of a number of sacred places and archaeological sites. Current land use around the lakes is semi-nomadic animal husbandry.

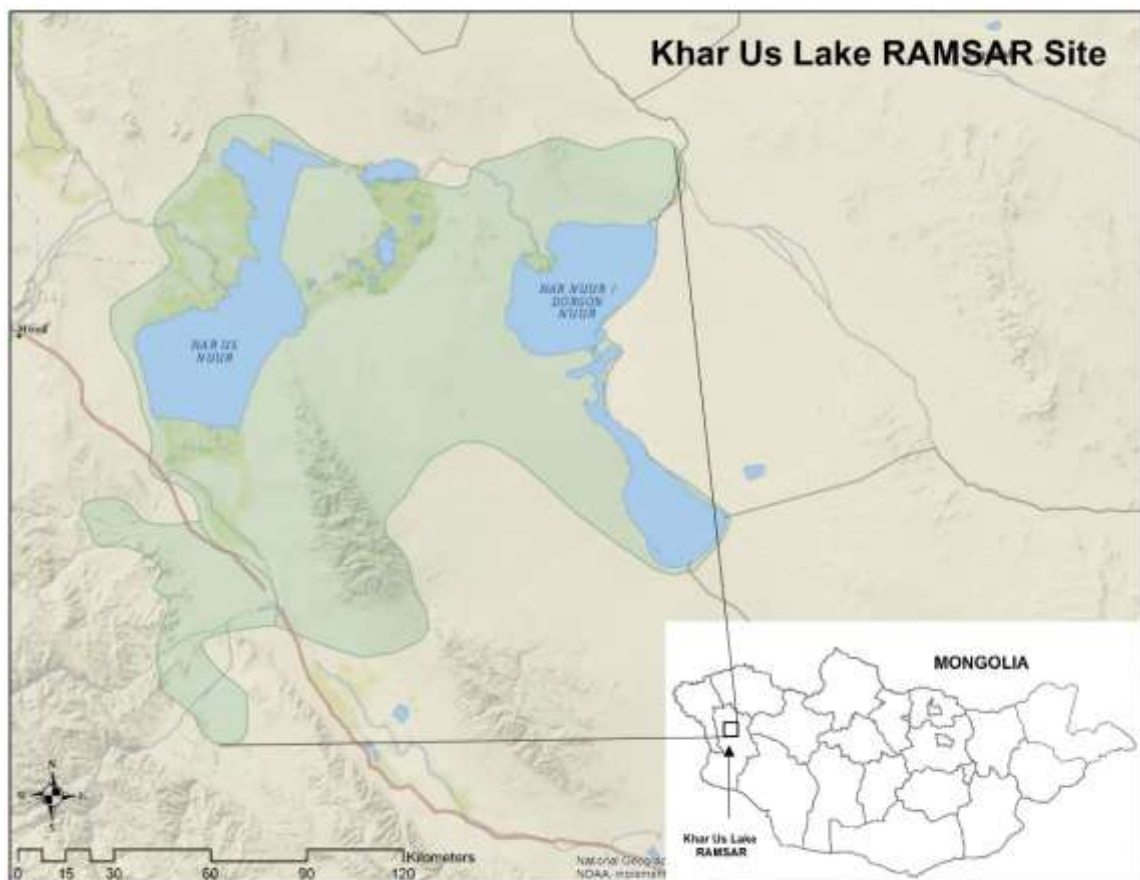
Dalmatian Pelican is one of the most threatened water bird populations in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway requiring urgent conservation actions by Mongolia and China. Dalmatian Pelican is classified as:

- ✓ Globally Vulnerable (VU); (IUCN, 2011)
- ✓ Regionally Critically Endangered (CR); (IUCN, 2011)
- ✓ Listed in Mongolian Red Books very rare
- ✓ Listed in CITES Appendix I/II
- ✓ Listed in CMS Appendix I/II
- ✓ Registered threatened birds of Asia (Birdlife International, 2020)
- ✓ Protected very rare under Mongolian law of Fauna

Regionally, this species has been assessed as Critically Endangered, C2a (i), because the population is undergoing a continuing decline and there are thought to be less than 50 mature individuals in the largest subpopulation (Gombobaatar and Monks, 2011). This is primarily due to high levels of poaching and habitat loss (MBCC report 2020).

In 2020 summer, a joint team of Mongolian Bird Conservation Center has assessed the number of Dalmatian Pelican at Khar Us Lake in western Mongolia and it was about 110-120 individuals (MBCC unpublished report 2020). This team has also started the first migration study of the species in the country this summer (<http://www.mbcc.mn/Home/Projects>). A field team of the Mongolian Bird Conservation center was conducted surveys on Dalmatian pelican at the Khar-Us Lake NP, two times from 13 to 20 June and 18-23 July 2020. Our team outcomes that the habitat measurement data can be more important to determine nest site selection and nesting success, therefore further surveys should collect the data on habitat measurements of the pelicans. Because there are still many sites available that can be occupied by the breeding pelicans but no breeding attempts observed. It maybe belongs to habitat loss due to the heavy grazing of the livestock. In addition, the species is seriously in danger of habitat degradation and human impacts at its most nesting sites. We strongly believe that the artificial nest platform is one of the potential solutions to bring the breeding colony back to the lake. Therefore, the next projects should support the nesting colony supporting by artificial islands. During the last 10 years, conservation organizations in Mongolia have been actively involved and working towards surveying to estimate the population, breeding biology, and reducing the negative impact on the breeding population of the species. The East Asian population of Dalmatian Pelican breeds in western Mongolia and spends the non-breeding period along the East China coast in winter. However, the migration survey of the Dalmatian Pelican hasn't been conducted until now. Its single species action plan has also highlighted the artificial platform to support the nesting colony. Catsadorakis, G. and Portolou, D. (compilers). 2018. International Single Species Action Plan the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). CMS Technical Series No. XX, AEWAs Technical Series No. XX. EAAFP Technical Report No. 1. Bonn, Germany and Incheon, South Korea.

The project proposal is fully comply main criteria of goals at the Nagao Wetland Fund and Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) requirements and the total project budget is 16150 US\$.



B. The problem(s) to be addressed

The species is seriously in danger of habitat degradation and human impacts. Historically, breeding sites of the species were located in the islands of the lakes such as Khar Us and Khar and Airag Lakes but those islands have undergone changes in water level, human disturbance, and overgrazing. Most of them were totally occupied by livestock and it is very important that more surveys be conducted to identify the current breeding areas in western Mongolia (Munkhtogtokh, 2016; MBCC report 2020).

C. Objective(s)

An important step for this specific aspect of the project is to maintain and annually monitor the artificial platforms to control breeding success. The results of this project will give us a real situation on how the nest site is important for this species. Based on the project outcome, we will continue to build more artificial platforms for other potential breeding pairs at the River Delta of Khar Lake. We will involve the local conservation NGO's and local families who live near the lake, and produce brochures about Dalmatian Pelican habitat conservation and wetland importance. Increase the public awareness on knowledge of wetland conservation

D. Outputs

1. Artificial nest platform will be established to support the breeding colony
2. Well elaborated monitoring method on nesting colony of Dalmatian pelican at the lake will be produced and implemented
3. 5000 Brochures on understanding of conservation and values of Khar Us Lake Ramsar Site will be published and distributed to the all herder families who live near the Site
4. Well trained personnel including expert and rangers from the local Park Administration will be prepared
5. Good quality of the baseline data to develop the further management plan of the Khar Us Lake National Park will be collected

E. Activities

Output 1. Kick-off meeting with main stakeholders from the Khovd Province and Park administration will be organized

Objective 1. Increase the participation and the contribution of the main stakeholders

Activity 1. Organize kick-off meeting to introduce the project involving the main stakeholders from the region in 25 September, 2021

Output 2. Artificial nest platform will be established to support the breeding colony

Objective 1. To establish the artificial nest platforms

Activity 1. To prepare the artificial platform in Khovd province in October

Activity 2. To transport the artificial platform to the lake and place it in suitable site in February, 2022

Output 3. Well elaborated monitoring method on nesting colony of Dalmatian pelican will be produced

Objective 1. Organize the monitoring on breeding and non-breeding population of the pelicans

Activity 1. The first survey will conduct in September before migration starts and find the suitable site for artificial nest platform

Activity 2. Second survey will conduct during the early breeding season in May, 2022 to assess the nesting attempt and the breeding success

Activity 3. Third survey will conduct in August 2022 by the local park rangers who attended the trainings to assess the nesting success of the pelicans.

Output 4. 5000 Brochures on understanding of conservation and values of Khar Us Lake Ramsar Site will be published and distributed to the all herder families who live near and at the Site

Objective 1. To rise the public awareness

Activity 1. To prepare the brochures on understanding of conservation and values of Khar Us Lake Ramsar Site in October to December 2021

Activity 2. To print a total of 5000 brochures in January 2022

Activity 3. To distribute the brochures to the all herder families who live near and at the Site during the winter visit while placing the artificial nest platforms in February 2022

Output 5. Well trained personnel including expert and rangers from the local Park Administration will be prepared and a good quality of baseline data will be collected

Objective 1. To train the local park experts and the rangers to improve their monitoring skills on water birds at the lake and data collections

Activity 1. Organize the workshop to train the local park experts and the rangers in Khovd city and well prepared presentations will be presented by the ornithologists

Activity 2. Organize the training visit around the lake on estimation and counting the breeding water birds particularly on pelicans during both surveys in the field

F. Logical frame of the project

Problems	Objectives	Outputs	Activities
Lack of participation of the main stakeholders	Objective 1. Increase the participation and the contribution of the main stakeholders	Kick-off meeting with main stakeholders from the Khovd Province and Park administration will be organized	Activity 1. Organize kick-off meeting to introduce the project involving the main stakeholders from the region in 20 September, 2021
Lack of nesting sites	Objective 1. To establish the artificial nest platforms	Artificial nest platform will be established to support the breeding colony	Activity 1. To prepare the artificial platform in Khovd province in October Activity 2. To transport the artificial platform to the lake and place it in suitable site in February, 2022

<p>Lack of sustainable monitoring and poor data cannot develop the good quality of the management plans</p>	<p>Objective 1. Organize the monitoring on breeding and non-breeding population of the pelicans</p>	<p>Well elaborated monitoring method on nesting colony of Dalmatian pelican will be produced</p>	<p>Activity 1. The first survey will conduct in September before they migrate and find the suitable site for artificial nest platform Activity 2. Second survey will conduct in next Spring during the early breeding season in May to assess the nesting attempt and the nesting success</p>
<p>Poor understanding of wetland conservation and its importance</p>	<p>Objective 1. To rise the public awareness</p>	<p>5000 Brochures on understanding of conservation and values of Khar Us Lake Ramsar Site will be published and distributed to the all herder families who live near and at the Site</p>	<p>Activity 1. To prepare the brochures on understanding of conservation and values of Khar Us Lake Ramsar Site in October to December 2021 Activity 2. To print a total of 5000 brochures in January 2022 Activity 3. To distribute the brochures to the all herder families who live near and at the Site during the winter visit while placing the artificial nest platforms in February 2022</p>

<p>Lack of experienced expert and rangers at the site</p>	<p>Objective 1. To train the local park experts and the rangers to improve their monitoring skills on water birds at the lake</p>	<p>Well trained personnel including expert and rangers from the local Park Administration will be prepared and a good quality of baseline data will be collected</p>	<p>Activity 1. Organize the workshop to train the local park experts and the rangers in Khovd city and many well prepared presentations will be presented by the ornithologists Activity 2. Organize the training visit around the lake on estimation and counting the breeding water birds particularly on pelicans during both surveys in the field</p>
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G. Project management arrangements and stakeholders

Mongolian Bird Conservation Center (MBCC) NGO, a project leader organization and one of the active conservation and scientific NGO’s in the country. One of the main strengths of the organization is the extensive experience in multi-faceted bird research that our scientists and researchers possess. Currently, MBCC has 7 full-time and contracted-part time-4staff. Most of our work is focused on endangered birds in Mongolia. “Our mission is to create tools and research that shape new solutions to the challenges of sustainable development. We wish to make a clear contribution to the understanding and preservation of national avian species and their habitat resources through implementing scientific based studies and conservation activities”. Here we described some of our relevant activities:

1. Eastern Mongolian Steppes World Heritage Site: Mongolian Government has submitted 5 nature reserves to the tentative list of UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites as natural category in 2014. MBCC has been working on its feasibility studies for nomination, collaborating with Michael Succow Foundation, Germany since August 2019. The project is funding and supporting by the Advisory Assistance Program of the German BMU and Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO. In this project, we involve the local families and participate with stakeholders from 6 soums and 2 provinces in eastern Mongolia.
2. “Wetland conservation along the Ulz River in north eastern Mongolia using White-naped Crane as umbrella” project funded by Swiss Development Agency in Mongolia: this project highlights a potential conflict between livestock grazing and wetland conservation and calls for the development of sustainable grazing management plans for shared pasture land. Therefore, well managed integrated plan is needed to protect the both crane and wetland. We expected following three outcomes from the project: 1. Wetland management plan elaborated based on information of wetland use by large livestock (cattle and horse) and

White-naped Crane movement in breeding site using satellite and GSM mobile tracking system; 2. Birdwatching tourism plan combined with cultural aspects elaborated and tested its viability; 3. Environmental and education for wetland conservation programme elaborated and implemented and Wetland research and training center will be established to mitigate the local tourism.

3. This is a joint shared project of Mongolian Bird Conservation Center, Hangzhou Yuehai Technology Co., Ltd, and a Research Institute of Subtropical Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry, China, under the agreement on banding and satellite telemetry of migratory natatorial bird species. Within the frame of this agreement MBCC, Khar Us Lake National Park and WWF Mongolia Program contracted and conducted “The survey of Dalmatian Pelican population and migration” in July 2020. A survey was conducted in July under the tracking permission from the Environment and Nature Resources Department of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia. By the end of July 2020, we tracked 2 young Dalmatian Pelican from Khar Us Lake. They started their migration by early October and currently, they are resting at the stop oversite of the Bay of Bohai Sea, China. By knowing the migration route of the East Asian rare pelican, which is only about 100 individuals left, it is very important for enhanced collaboration of researchers and rangers of the 2 countries and also further conservation management action plans.
4. In cooperation with Environmental Department of Dornod Province and the Eastern Mongolian Protected Area Administration (EMPAA), it established the contracts on biological studies for its biodiversity, particularly on bird studies. We have been working on migratory key species of birds such as Cranes including White-naped Crane, Common Crane, Hooded Crane and Demoiselle Crane in Eastern Mongolia since 2016, collaborating with Research Institute of Subtropical Forestry, Chinese Academy Forestry, EMPAA and Beijing Forestry University, a key bird species of the grasslands of Eastern Mongolia. Our team has been tracking (mobile based transmitters) more than 100 birds of 7 globally endangered migratory species from eastern Mongolia since 2017.
5. We conducted a survey on 6 nature reserves in eastern Mongolia collaborating with WWF, Mongolia and estimated their management effectiveness in 2019.
6. We have been implementing the School links program in Mongolia which is the official conservation program of International Association for Falconry (IAF) since April, 2017. The program works closely with local families who are living near the raptor nests, and falconers, falcon conservationists to ensure that the SLP continues to link local and international students through falcon conservation, sustainability and falconry. Currently, we are closely working with total 44 schools in Mongolia, out of 23 schools from the country side and 21 from Ulaanbaatar.
7. We worked on Ogi Lake Conservation in June 2017 – 2018 and the project was funded by Nagao Environmental Fund, Japan. Ogi Lake is one of the two Ramsar sites that have no State Government protection in Mongolia. Main marshy area in western part of the lake has been dried out due to density of livestock. The goal of the project was improvement of the Ogi Lake wetland conservation, with the cooperation of stakeholders, tour companies and local herders so that the site is better managed to avoid emerging threats to this internationally important wetland and we successfully achieved the project.

H. Work Plan

A schedule should be presented for production of all the outputs of the proposed project during the life of the project. This work plan should indicate the order in which activities will be undertaken so as to show the sequence and relationship between activities.

Outputs & Key Activities	2021				2022							
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Output 1 Activity 1:												
Output 2 Activity 1:												
Activity 2:												
Output 3 Activity 1:												
Activity 2:												
Activity 3:												
Output 4 Activity 1:												
Activity 2:												
Activity 3:												
Output 5 Activity 1:												
Activity 2:												

I. Budget

i) ***Budget summary***

This proposal is a sample for your reference and budget information has been removed from this version of the proposal.

ii) ***Overall itemized budget***

J. Follow Up

An important step for this specific aspect of the project is to maintain and annually monitor the artificial platforms to control the breeding success. The results of this project will give us a real situation on how the nest site is important for this species. Based on the project outcomes, we will continue to build more artificial platforms for other potential breeding pairs at the River Delta of Khar Lake, the historical nesting site. We will involve the Park Administration, local conservation NGO’s and local families who live near the lake and work with them on how to conserve the Pelicans in the Lake. Artificial nest platforms will be the sustainable monitoring point to assess the

main trend of the nesting success of the breeding population and the data from this monitoring will support the further management plans on conservation of the pelican.

K. Bibliography

Please list key references.

- Amarkhuu Gungaa, Nyambayar Batbayar, Tseveenmyadag Natsagdorj, Erdenechimeg Damdin and Sarangerel Ichinkhorloo. 2015. A report on current status of birds at Khar Us Lake National Park. Funded and supported by WWF- Mongolia. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- BirdLife International Species factsheet: *Pelecanus crispus* 2020. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 26/07/2020. Recommended citation for factsheets for more than one species: BirdLife International (2020) IUCN Red List for birds.
- Crivelli, A.J., Hatzilacou, D. and Catsadorakis, G. 1998. The breeding biology of the Dalmatian pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. *Ibis* 140(3): 472-481.
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- Ramsar National Report, 2012. Ministry of Nature, Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia,