

Muraviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use

The magnificent crane has defined Asian culture for thousands of years. To ensure their unique dance continues for all, **Dr. Sergei Smirenski** has devoted his life to helping these birds and their Russian homeland. The tireless work of Smirenski, along with his colleagues and supporters, has created



the vast Muraviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use in the remote wetlands of Siberia's Amur region. The Park provides sustainable conservation programs in cooperation with the International

Crane Foundation. Their comprehensive approach provides an effective network for cranes, wetlands, as well as the people who work to survive in the harsh Siberian environment.



Amur Region, Far-eastern Russia

Partner since 1999

SUCCESS BITES

The Bear Awakens... for cranes, that is. For the first time, the Russian government has offered support to Muraviovka Park. Saying, "We are surprised your project has not died. Now we know you are serious!" the Amur Region government included 400,000 rubles (\$13,000 USD) for the Park in their 2004 budget and 2.5 million rubles (\$83,000 USD) from Amur Region administration to build a power line to the Park.



Hot Chicks! Despite rampant wildfires, five crane pairs and eight stork pairs brought up their chicks on small grassy islands within the Park, thanks to vigilant fire-fighting efforts by WPZ-supported Park staff.



Planting the Seed for an organic future. The first step to becoming a certified organic producer for the Park's demonstration farm was successfully passed this year. This will be the first organic farm in Far East Russia.



Award-Winning The 1997 Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Conservation Biology was awarded to the International Socio-ecological Union-Russia for the creation of Muraviovka Park.

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Woodland Park Zoo's new innovative program supporting real solutions for species and habitat preservation through successful partnerships.

Muraviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use

Celebrating more than ten years of conservation success, the Muraviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use, located in Far Eastern Russia along the Amur River, is the first privately operated nature park in Russia since 1917. This 13,000-acre wetland, with adjacent croplands, provides critical habitat for more than 200 species of birds. Muraviovka Park's mission is to integrate human and wildlife interests for a sustainable future.



over 1,500 Russian school children, plus students from China, and South Korea. Teachers from the United States, Russia and China jointly organize these camps. The Park also facilitates environmental classes in other parts of Far Eastern Russia and China, and recently conducted the first environmental summer camp in China.

The Park hopes to soon have its Sustainable Demonstration Farm—1,167 acres of crops plus 2,467 acres of pasture—become certified as an organic producer. As part of the certification process, an inspection was conducted by an independent organic farm inspector from the United States. New farming equipment purchased in 2003 allows for the production of better quality seeds, even during wet years, which will offer flour and animal feed to the locals, therefore increasing profitability of the Demonstration Farm. These strategies promote the successful integration of people and indigenous ecosystems.

WPZ's Wild Wise education program has worked with Dr. Smirenski to receive artwork from Russian students. These pieces are then displayed at the Othello Crane Festival, in Othello, Washington as part of an international art exchange.



Dr. Smirenski understands that it is impossible to try to force people to do anything, even good things. The success of the Park lies in identifying and helping the needs of local people by understanding their thinking and way of life. With this approach the Park is able to win trust, respect and cooperation from all.

The Park serves as a test plot for new strategies of ecosystem conservation, environmental education and sustainable development that will benefit both people and wildlife. Park lands were declared Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention in 1995. Since 1994, when the Park was established, numbers of endangered Red-crowned, White-naped and Hooded Cranes, and Oriental White Storks have increased



three-fold. Hundreds of local children and teachers have participated in summer camps and become strong allies for conservation in the area.

The Park looks beyond the short-term, using a comprehensive approach for solutions that will create a sustainable environment and economy. The Park is committed to introducing new methods of land use that will benefit both wildlife and local communities. This includes wildlife research, restoration and management, supporting social programs (such as providing clothes for orphans), and initiating international cooperation between governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Environmental summer camps at the Park have hosted

WOODLAND PARK ZOO

is making a difference by helping Muraviovka Park hold summer camps for students and training programs for teachers. WPZ grants have also provided funds for the Park's basic operations and for salaries of key staff in charge of park management.

TOGETHER we are making a difference.

Muraviovka Park also works in cooperation with: International Crane Foundation—Friends of Muraviovka Park, USA, Moscow State University, Russia, International Socio-Ecological Union-Moscow, Tambovka District Administration, Amur Region, Amur Region Agency of Nature Resources, Amur Center for Social Adaptation of Youth, Amur State University, Russia, Schools (K-11) of the Amur Region, Russia, Changlindao Nature Reserve/597 State Farm, Heilongjiang Province, China, Trust for Mutual Understanding, ROLL Program (financed by US AID and Institute for Sustainable Communities), Pop Group Corporation, LTD, Japan, Global Agri-Tech, Bird Society of Japan, Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, and The Wilderness Society

YOU can make a difference. **Adopt a Nest** for two endangered cranes. Those who adopt a nest site will receive photos and information about the Park and their cranes. Go to <http://www.savingcranes.org/abouticf/friends.asp> for more information. To donate directly to the Park, go to http://www.zoo.org/zoo_info/involved/donate/donate.htm to help.

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