

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

05/24/2001

2. Country:

the People's Republic of China

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

Designation date

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Site Reference Number

3. Name of wetland:

Yancheng National Nature Reserve

4. Geographical coordinates: 32°34'-34°28'N; 119°48'-120°56'E

5. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)

0- 3m

6. Area: 453,000ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The Nature Reserve is located in Jianghuai Plains and the western coastline of Pacific Ocean. The Nature Reserve is the largest coast wetland in China consisted of expansive mudflat with 582-kilometer coastline and holds high biodiversity. Annually about a few million waterfowls migrate through the Nature Reserve. The Nature Reserve also is one of important wintering habitats for some endangered species including Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis* and Saunders' Gull *Saunders' gull* etc.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types; in the present document, the "Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type" is found on page 9)

marine-coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp
Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

A . 1 . 5 . G . 6 . H . F . 2 . J . 9 . 3

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable Criteria; the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* are reprinted beginning on page 11 of this document.)

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 3

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Name: Wang HUI, Cheng Yaqing

Compiler: the Management Bureau of Yang Cheng Bio-cycle NNR

Address : No. 28 Jianjun Zhonglu , Yancheng City, Jiang Su Province 224100

Tel: +86-515-8396527

Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* appended to this document)

Criterion2: It is one of the important wintering habitats for Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*(E) that is the first class of the state protection wildlife, and the wild population of which is above the half of the total world population..

Criterion 3: The beach of the Nature Reserve is the transition zone between terrene ecosystem and ocean ecosystem. So it holds the characteristics of these two ecosystems. Many marsh wetlands distribute in the Nature Reserve. 17 families, 48 genus and 56 halophyte species are recorded, annual

biomass of seashell can reaches 100 thousand ton, 379 birds species are discovered, and more than 42 species of amphibious, reptile, and beast resources are identified in the Nature Reserve

Criterion 4:It is one of important stopovers for the migratory birds along northeast Asia and Australia. Annually about 3 million bird individuals of 200 species migrate through Yancheng beach, among which the dominated species are *Charadriidae* and *Scolopacidae*. Meanwhile, there are thousands of waterbirds dominated by anatidae wintering here.

Criterion 5 :The Nature Reserve is one of the important breeding and wintering habitats for Saunders' Gull *Larus saundersi*(V) that is one of the vulnerable species in the world.

Criterion 6:The Nature Reserve is one of the two largest habitats in China for Water Deer *Elaphurus davidianus*(Ex).

Criterion 7: The Nature Reserve holds one-eighth biodiversity species of the coastal strip in China. About 10% Black-faced spoonbill *Platalea minor* (E) of the total world population winter in Yancheng Nature Reserve.

- 1□ Green Hope –China Biosphere Nature Nature Reserve, 1998
- 2□ A Introduction to the Yancheng National Nature Nature Reserve, the third issue, China Biosphere Nature Nature Reserve, 1999
- 3□ Red-crowned Crane, Shanghai Science Press, Nov. 2000
- 4□ The Features and Functions of the Yanchang National Nature Nature Reserve, 349-350, The Green East Asia, 1993□China Environmental Science Press.
- 5□ China Wetlands Conservation Action Plan
- 6□ National Wetland Conservation Action Plan

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The Nature Nature Reserve is located in Yancheng Municipal and at the right eastern 40 kilometer of Yancheng Center The nearest town is Yandong Town of Sheyang County; the population of the Town is about 40 thousand persons.

14. Physical features: (e.g., geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

Geology and Geomorphology: The main beach is expansive mudflat plain with powder sand that is formed by the ocean drives including tidal current. Currently the most of the coast is of deposited type.

Hydrology :The water sources mainly come from water from land and ocean. About 10 rivers flow cross the Nature Reserve, then feed into Yellow Sea. Annual water volume into Yellow Sea occupies about 90% total water of Jiangsu Province.

Origins: the core area of the site is formed by sediment sand and mud brought by the Huihe River and seawater. It is a typical inter-tidal mudflat in China.

Water quality: The PH value of the land water is above 7 with high mineralization. The seawater is mainly affected by the tide and storm. The outside beyond 20 meters of Dam is common semi-tidal area of regular tide. The PH value of the offshore water area is about 8.

Climate: The Nature Reserve is located at the transition zone between warm temperate zone and north sub-tropical zone. The climate is mainly affected by oceanic and mainland climates. The annual average temperature is 13.7-14.6°C. The annual lowest temperature is 10°C under zero in January and highest temperature is 39°C in August. The site has long frost-free period, abundant sunlight and rainwater. The annual rainfall is about 1000 mm. The disaster weathers are of storm, rainstorm, tornado, fog and frost etc. The main threats to the Nature Reserve are drought and flood.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.)

(1) The sea dyke efficiently relieves the disaster degree caused by storm, high tide and flood. Many ponds and reservoirs in the Nature Reserve also play important roles in flood preventing and delaying.

(2) Above ten rivers flow across the Nature Reserve, then feed into Yellow Sea with many types of sediment from the upstream. In addition, many floaters of the ocean aggregate on the beach surface with tidal current.

Annual deposited distance in the southern mudflat is about 100-200 meters. The deposited speed of the northern mudflat is slow with the prevention of sea dam. Annual total deposited area is about 900 hectare.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The wetland is deposited mudflat with powder sand. The vegetation communities from land to sea orderly are reed community, *Suaeda yuana* community, naked mudflat and *Spartina angeliaca* community. *Spartina angeliaca* was reintroduced in 1960s in small scale; currently it has been formed as 500-1000 meters width. Annual spread distance of vegetation strip is about 300-500 meters; the dominated vegetation is due to the genus of *Suaeda*.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

480 plant species were discovered in the Nature Reserve including about 40 species of planting crops. 286 species of phytoplankton and algae are also recorded. Most of the species are indigenous but unique to tidal mudflat.

Green Hope –China Biosphere Nature Reserve, 1998

A Introduction to the Yancheng National Nature Reserve, the third issue,
China Biosphere Nature Reserve, 1999

Red-crowned Crane, Shanghai Science Press, Nov. 2000

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

43 coelenterate species, 65 annelid species, 156 mollusk species, 139 carapace species, 310 insect species, 281 fish species, 45 species of amphibious and reptile, 379 bird species and 47 mammal species are recorded in the Nature Reserve. 43 special species are identified in the Nature Reserve dominated by the fishes. 62 endangered species are discovered and 46 species are birds. 12 species of the National First Class protected wildlife include Red-crowned crane *Grus japonensis*(E), Hooded Crane *Grus monacha*(E), Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*(E), Oriental Stork *Ciconia ciconia*.(E) Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*(E), Chinese Merganser *Mergus squamatus*(R), Relicts Gull *Larus relictus*(V), Great Bustard *Otis tarda*, Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*, White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Paddlefish. 67 species of the National Second Class protected wildlife include water deer *Elaphurus davidianus*, Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*(E) and Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*(V) etc. The Nature Reserve also is one of the area distributed by some high-endangered species, so far, some species have been listed in the Red Book of IUCN. Green Hope –China Biosphere Nature Nature Reserve, 1998

A Introduction to the Yancheng National Nature Nature Reserve, the third issue, China Biosphere Nature Nature Reserve, 1999

Red-crowned Crane, Shanghai Science Press, Nov. 2000

The Features and Functions of the Yanchang National Nature Nature Reserve, 349-350, The Green East Asia, 1993 □China Environmental Science Press.

China Wetlands Conservation Action Plan

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site, etc.)

The tidal area of the Nature Reserve is quite valuable and important to the local communities; about one million are living directly or indirectly on the tidal flat.

The Nature Reserve is an important site for eco-tourism, environmental education, scientific researches, agriculture and fishery.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

The Yancheng City Government has the ownership of the land of the Nature Reserve. The Nature Reserve has the managerial rights of the core area, which is about 17,400 ha. The local governments have the managerial rights of the buffer zone and experimental zone.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

The core area of the Nature Reserve is still in its natural conditions, and no people are living in it. Some parts of the buffer zone and experimental zone have been explored to be rice fields and fish or shrimp ponds.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

At the site ,Pollution from factories, seaports.

Around the site :Land exploitation for agricultural purposes.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

- 1.The Yancheng City Government approved the Yancheng Nature Reserve in 1984.
 - 2.The core area will be strictly protected from hunting, exploitation, and protected to be natural condition.
 - 3.A management regulation approved by the Yancheng City Government.
 - 4.The master planning was drawn out by the Nature Reserve in 1997.
Educational plates were set up in the Nature Reserve.
-

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g., management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area, etc.)

- (1) The Nature Reserve is now trying to set up police stations.
 - (2) The Nature Reserve is scheduled to set up five field stations according to the geomorphologic features of the Nature Reserve.
-

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g., details of current projects; existence of field station, etc.)

- 1 The researches on captive breeding, habitat, wintering population, behavior, and migration of Red-crowned Crane.
 - 2 The researches on behavior, habitat evolvement, the dynamics of population of Water Deer.
 - 3 The researches on breeding ecology, captive breeding, and population monitoring of Saunders' Gull.
 - 4 The basic survey of biodiversity of the coast of the Nature Reserve.
 - 5 The research on the population ecology of migratory waterbirds in currently undergoing.
- Equipment for scientific research: 5 computers, 4 telescopes, overheads, GPS system, and cameras.
-

26. Current conservation education: (e.g., visitors centre, hides, info booklet, facilities for school visits, etc.)

1 Staff have opportunities to visit other Nature Reserves, and to get to be trained, as visiting Maipo Nature Reserve in Hong Kong.

2 The Nature Reserve is one of the environmental education bases in Jiangsu Province.

3 The exercise bases for some universities and colleges.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

The Nature Reserve has conducted some activities of eco-tourism. A tourism company has been set up for such purposes. Now there are some resorts for the tourists, as a specimen room, a butterfly room and a captive center are open to the visitors. Annual visitors coming to the Nature Reserve are about 40,000; they come here mainly in winter.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.)

The Nature Reserve has the managerial rights of the core area of the Nature Reserve, and the local governments have the managerial rights of the buffer zone and the experimental zone.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland) **the**

Name: Management Bureau of Yancheng National Nature Reserve

Address: Xinyanggang, Sheyang County, Jiangsu Province, 210008

Tel/Fax: +86-515-8396527

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Green Hope –China Biosphere Nature Nature Reserve, 1998

A Introduction to the Yancheng National Nature Nature Reserve, the third issue, China Biosphere Nature Nature Reserve, 1999

Red-crowned Crane, Shanghai Science Press, Nov. 2000

The Features and Functions of the Yancheng National Nature Nature Reserve, 349-350, The Green East Asia, 1993 China Environmental Science Press.

China Wetlands Conservation Action Plan

Lu Shicheng, The Dynamics of the Population and Distribution of Red-crowned Crane in Yancheng National Nature Nature Reserve. Sichuan Animals, 7 4 41—42, 1988

Lu Shicheng, A Primary Analysis of the Avi-fauna of Yancheng, The Symposium of China Zoological Society on its 15-year Anniversary, 1989.

Lu Shicheng, Zhou Shie, The Study of the Population Trend of Red-crowned Crane at the Coast of Yancheng, *The Nature*, 13□2□□101-103, 1990.

Wang Hui, Save the Black-faced Spoonbill, *The Nature*, 4□20, 1991.

Wang Hui, Liu Xiping, Survey data on shorebirds and other waterbirds in coastal wetlands of Jiangsu Province, CHINA 1990-1992 1-62 AWB Publication Kuala Lumpur, 1994.

Wang Hui,□Cranes and Storks in Jiangsu Province CHINA, *Cranes and storks of the Amur River* 50 Arts literature Publishers Moscow, 1995.

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org