

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from [http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key\\_ris\\_index.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm).

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar Site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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### 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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### 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

August 25, 2011

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### 3. Country:

The People's Republic of China

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### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve

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### 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or  
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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### 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

#### a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

**If the site boundary has changed:**

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\*

and/or

**If the site area has changed:**

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced\*\*

**\*\* Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

**b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:**

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**7. Map of site:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

- i) a hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables .

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundary of the Ramsar Site is marked by natural features, e.g. rivers and mountains, as well as administrative boundaries. To the north is the Yilehuli Mountains, to the east is the Ergen River, west is the administrative boundary of the Bureau of Forestry in Songling District, and south is the administrative boundary of the Bureau of Forestry between Songling District and Jiagedaqi.

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**8. Geographical coordinates** (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

Center: 51°19'14"N, 125°22'52"E

Extent: 51°00'08"-51°39'36"N, 125°01'48"-125°50'04"E

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**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

This Ramsar Site is located in Songling District, the Great Xing'an Mountains Area in Northwestern Heilongjiang Province, Northeast China. It is about 80 km northeast away from the city center of Songling District.

**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Average: 650 m;  
 Maximum: 1,044 m;  
 Minimum: 370 m.

**11. Area:** (in hectares)  
 229,523 ha

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The site is at the headwater area upstream of the Nen River. Being located at the south slope of Yilehuli Mountains which is a branch of the Great Xing'an Mountains, the topography in this site is mostly represented as low-mountains. Rivers, oxbow lakes and pools are densely distributed in this site and covered by well-developed freshwater marsh vegetation. It holds the most concentrated marsh wetlands in the original coniferous forests of the Great Xing'an Mountains in Northeast Asia. Also, it is the largest nature reserve for forest-marsh wetland ecosystems in cold-temperate zone, with the highest latitude in China. The protection targets of the reserve are aquatic, mesic and terrestrial wildlife as well as the special wetland ecosystems. This reserve keeps relatively original forest-meadow marsh ecosystems with diverse types and rich biodiversity. It is dominated by East-Siberian flora. A variety of animal groups, including forest animals, wetland animals and aquatic animals, take this site as important living and breeding habitat. Particularly, many endangered birds, such as the Oriental white Stork *Ciconia boyciana*, Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*, Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* and White-naped Crane *Grus vipio* are distributed in this site.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

**Criterion 1:**

Under the influence of glacier geological processes, the wetlands in this Ramsar Site are formed by long-term water accumulation above the frozen soil stratum. It is a typical high-latitude wetland area supporting diverse wetland animals in this biogeographic region (Northeast China Region, Palaearctic Realm). The large-area natural forest marshes and herb marshes in this site are representatives of marsh wetland ecosystems developed on frozen soils in the cold-temperate zone in East Asia.

**Criterion 2:**

English Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Category	CMS Appendix	CITES Appendix	National Protection Class*
<b>Avian species</b>					
Siberian Crane	<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	CR	-	-	-
Oriental Stork	<i>Ciconia boyciana</i>	EN	-	-	-
Red-crowned Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>	EN	I	I	I
Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	EN	I	-	-
Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	VU	I	-	-
Baikal Teal	<i>Anas formosa</i>	VU	I	II	-
Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>	VU	I	I	II
White-naped Crane	<i>Grus vipio</i>	VU	I	I	II
Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	VU	I	-	-
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	VU	I	-	II
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	LC	I	I	I
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>	LC	II	-	II
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	LC	II	-	II
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	LC	II	II	I
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	LC	II	-	II
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	LC	-	I	II
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	LC	-	I	II
<b>Mammal species</b>					
Siberian Musk Deer	<i>Moschus moschiferus</i>	VU	-	II	II
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	NT	-	I	II
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	LC	-	I	II
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	LC	I	II	II
<b>Plant species</b>					
-	<i>Chosenia arbutifolia</i>	VU	-	-	II

**Criterion 3:**

As a large concentrated area of typical cold-temperate marsh wetlands, this site presents complex combinations of topographic, geomorphologic, hydrological and vegetative conditions, forming diverse habitats for wildlife. It regularly supports 442 plant species, 216 bird species, 49 mammal species, 13 amphibian and reptile species, 31 fish species. Overall, this site is rich in species and habitat diversity and is a biodiversity hotspot in this biogeographic region (Northeast China Region, Palaearctic Realm).

**Criterion 4:**

Since this biogeographic region is dominated by farmlands and forests, and many marsh wetland areas have been reclaimed, the large-area remnant natural marsh wetlands with good protection status in this site are an important habitat for the wetland-dependent species in this biogeographic region, and play an important role in maintaining regional biodiversity. The wetlands in the site provide an important breeding place for many waterfowls. For example, based on incomplete survey, a number of threatened waterbird species have been recorded breeding here. For example, the number of breeding Hooded Crane (*Grus monacha*) was 6 in 2008, 20 in 2009, 34 in 2010 and 50 in 2011; that of breeding White-naped Crane (*Grus vipio*) was 4 in 2008, 10 in 2009, 31 in 2010 and 50 in 2011; that of breeding Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*) was 350 in 2008, 520 in 2009, 810 in 2010 and over 1,000 in 2011. Being under strict protection, this site can also serve as good shelter for the mammals (e.g. *Martes zibellina* and *Gulo gulo*) and plants (e.g. *Cypripedium guttatum* and *Spiranthes sinensis*) from hunting and other human disturbances.

**Criterion 5:**

The reserve has been monitoring the birds in this site using transect method every year. Specifically, in the field survey, 84 transects with a length of 3.5 km and a width for single side of 100 m were set up, and the number of birds within the transects were recorded. The population density of the bird species was calculated, thereby the total individual number was estimated by interpolating these transect data to the whole area.

According to the survey data, there were 115,028 individuals of birds in 2008, 47,620 individuals of which were waterbirds; 122,571 individuals in 2009, 49,187 of which were waterbirds; 129,486 individuals in 2010, 51,365 of which were waterbirds. The data of waterbird populations in 2009 and 2010 are listed as follows.

Scientific name	English name	2009 population	2010 population
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	540	600
<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	Swan Goose	520	810
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	2950	2500
<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Bean Goose	3500	3750
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Greater White-fronted Goose	1720	1050
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail	1000	780
<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	4900	4700
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common Merganser	2500	2200
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser	1800	1900
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey	2200	2500
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck	1200	1800
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Common Teal	1200	1500
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	6200	6400
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	700	850
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green Sandpiper	1800	2150
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	3500	3750
<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern	3500	3820
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Whiskered Tern	1800	1720
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	3120	3260
<i>Ciconia boyciana</i>	Oriental Stork	50	80
<i>Grus japonensis</i>	Red-crowned Crane	10	14
<i>Grus vipio</i>	White-naped Crane	10	31
<i>Grus monacha</i>	Hooded Crane	20	34
<i>Capella gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	326	350

<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan	78	84
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Far Eastern Curlew	202	220
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	147	160
<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Baer's Pochard	200	320
<i>Anas penelope</i>	Eurasian Wigeon	80	125
<i>Anas falcata</i>	Falcated Duck	700	950
<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Lesser White-fronted Goose	800	900
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler	306	315
<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Spot-billed Duck	1420	1530
<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	78	90
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Great Bittern	85	92
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	25	30
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>49187</b>	<b>51365</b>

**Criterion 6:**

According to the field survey (as described in Criterion 5), the waterbird species above the 1% level are listed as follows.

English Name	Scientific Name	Population		1% Level
		2009	2010	
Oriental Stork	<i>Ciconia boyciana</i>	50	80	30
Red-crowned Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>	10	14	10
Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	520	810	800
Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	200	320	150
Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>	20	34	15
White-naped Crane	<i>Grus vipio</i>	10	31	30
Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	800	900	200
Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	700	950	350
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	2950	2500	750
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	3500	3750	800
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	4900	4700	750
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	2500	2200	750
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	1800	1900	1000
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	2200	2500	1500
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1800	2150	1000
Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	1420	1530	1000
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	25	30	5

**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

The Great Xing'an Mountains Sub-region, Northeast China Region, Palaearctic Realm.

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

*Zoogeography of China* (Rongzu Zhang, 1999)

**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

**Geological and geomorphology:** This Ramsar Site is located at the south slope of the Yilehuli Mountains, a branch of the Great Xing'an Mountains. In terms of geological settings, it belongs to the Third Uplift Belt of New Cathaysian System which was formed during late Paleozoic era. The main rock types include granite, quartz trachyte, andesite and basalt. The low-mountain terrain presents relatively little variation in altitude. As the north and west parts are generally higher than the south east parts, a declining topography is shaped in this site. The southeast slopes are long and gentle, whereas the northwest slopes are steep, thus special cuestas are formed. Most peaks of the mountains are relatively flat, scattered and isolated. Permafrost and seasonal frozen soil stratum can block the incision effect of the streams. Consequently, lateral erosion is enhanced and broad valleys are formed. Dense stream network emerges with obvious meanders in this site.

**Origin:** The wetlands in this site are naturally originated. They are formed by long-term water accumulation above the frozen soil stratum under the influence of glacier geological processes.

**Soil:** Brown coniferous forest soil (average organic matter content: 13.43%, N content: 0.58%, P content: 0.10%, K content: 1.49%) is the zonal soil type in this site. Also, there are dark-brown soil (average organic matter content: 4.67%, N content: 0.39%, P content: 0.10%, K content: 1.20%), meadow soil (average organic matter content: 7.24%, N content: 0.40%, P content: 0.20%, K content: 1.50%), bog soil (average organic matter content: 56.1%, N content: 2.10%, P content: 0.20%, K content: 0.70%) and peat soil (average organic matter content: 59.80%, N content: 0.83%, P content: 0.16%, K content: 0.49%) distributed in the site.

**Hydrology:** Belonging to the Nen River system, the main rivers in this site include Nanweng River, Nanyang River, Kandu River, Ergen River and Yixikang River. The sources of water recharge are rainfall, melting snow and surface runoff. The runoff depth is generally about 150-200 mm.

**Water quality:** Water quality of the wetland in this site presents good condition at the II level of national standard (according to this standard, water quality is assessed with a 6-class scheme, with Class-I presenting the best quality). Average values of the indicators are as follows. pH: 6.46-6.87; permanganate index: 2.6-3.7; COD: 8.81-18.52 mg/L; BOD<sub>5</sub>: 1.63-2.81 mg/L; TN: 0.13-0.49 mg/L; TP: 0.014-0.036 mg/L.

**Climate:** The reserve is located in the cold-temperate zone and represented as cold-temperate continental monsoon climate. The mean annual temperature is -3 °C. The extremely high and low temperature is 36 °C and -48 °C, respectively. Annual sunshine duration is about 2,500 hours. The mean annual precipitation is about 500 mm, 80% of which falls between July and August. The frostless period is 90-100 days. The growing season of plants is about 110 days. Influenced by Mongolian winds, the climate is characterized by little cloud and fog, strong sunshine and low temperature in spring and autumn. Influenced by Siberian waves, it is sunny and dry in winter which lasts 9 months in a year. Snowfalls begin from late September to early October. Stable snow cover persists over 200 days in a year. The maximal thickness of accumulated snow is 30-40 cm.

#### 17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The catchment of the wetlands is Nen River Basin. The total area of this basin is 283,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The climate in the catchment is cold-temperate semi-humid monsoon climate characterized by long and cold winter, short and rainy summer. The mean annual temperature is about 3 °C. The minimal and maximal temperature is -39.5 °C and 40.1 °C, respectively. The upstream area (in the west of the basin) is the Great Xing'an Mountains area, where mountain range with elevations between 800 and 1,500 m presents the main geomorphologic type; the main land cover type is coniferous forest. The

midstream area is the transition zone between the mountainous and plain area. The downstream area (in the east of the basin) is the Nen River Plain, which presents very flat topography with elevations between 200 and 500 m; the main soil types in this area include chernozem and black soil; the main land cover type is farmland. It is an important food production base of China.

### 18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Being the headwater area of Nen River, the largest tributary of Songhua River, this site plays an import role in water supply. It's water quality is good and qualified to the national standard of drinking water. It supports the water use for over 10 million populations in Nen River Basin, as well as the water recharge of 350 million m<sup>3</sup> for Zhalong Nature Reserve (another Ramsar Site in Heilongjiang Province) per year.

With the large area of wetlands covering 80,916 ha, this site also has significant effects in water storage and flood control, which play an important role in agricultural and residential security in the downstream Nen River Basin.

### 19. Wetland Types

#### a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

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)

#### b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes and ponds, 52,200 ha, accounting for 64.5% of the wetlands.

Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands, 27,409 ha, accounting for 33.9% of the wetlands.

M: Permanent rivers, 1,307 ha, accounting for 1.6% of this site.

### 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

Being located in the transitional area between temperate and cold zone, this Ramsar Site represents a mixing feature of plants, including Siberian, Inner Mongolian and Changbai floras. The vegetation in this site is composed of various types including forests, shrubs, meadows and aquatic vegetations. Taiga forest is the zonal forest in the site. The wetlands can be divided into the following types: meadow marsh wetland, forest marsh wetland, shrub marsh wetland, emerging vegetation wetland, floating vegetation wetland and submerged vegetation wetland. These diverse vegetation types provide important living and breeding habitats for many wild animals, especially for rare birds. The forests provide habitats for many passerines, scansores, terrestrial birds, raptors and mammals (such as *Martes zibellina*, *Lynx lynx* and *Gulo gulo*); the wetlands provide important breeding and living habitats for the natatores, gallatores and mammals (such as *Alces alces*). The marsh wetlands can store considerable amount of water during wet seasons and release water via evaporation, transpiration and surface runoff during drought seasons, thus play an important role in regulating



micro-climate, conserving water resource, as well as maintaining the ecological balance of the Great Xing'an Mountains and Nen River Basin.

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### 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

In this Ramsar Site, the main forest type is taiga forest dominated by *Larix* spp. The shrub vegetations are dominated by *Salix viminalis* and *Alnus japonica*; the meadow vegetations are dominated by *Deyeuxia angustifolia* and *Carex schmidtii*; the meadow marsh vegetations are dominated by *Carex schmidtii*, *Betula fruticosa* and *Deyeuxia angustifolia*; the aquatic vegetations are dominated by *Typha davidiana*, *Ranunculus gmelinii*, *Ceratophyllum* and *manschuricum*. Overall, 442 vascular plant species in 61 families have been found in the site, including such species under national protection as *Pinus sylvestris*, *Phellodendron amurense*, *Boschniakia rossica*, *Astragalus membranaceus* and *Schisandra chinensis*.

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### 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The animals in this Ramsar Site can be divided into the following groups in terms of habitat type: forest animals, marsh animals and aquatic animals. According to the observation records in 2006, the site holds 216 bird species in 40 families of 16 orders. Of those, 136 species accounting for 63% are Palearctic species, and the rest 37% are wide-distributed species. There are 40 mammal species in 16 families of 6 orders, 7 reptile species in 3 families of 2 orders, 6 amphibian species in 3 families of 2 orders and 31 fish species in 12 families in this site.

Besides the species listed in Criterion 2 of Section 14, there are 2 animal species (*Martes zibellina* and *Tetrao parvirostris*) under the first class of national protection, and 4 animal species (*Aix galericulata*, *Lyrurus tetrrix*, *Larus minutus*, *Alces alces* and *Lepus timidus*) under the second class of national protection.

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### 23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

This Ramsar Site is located in the Great Xing'an Mountains forestry center which is famous in China. Before the establishment of the reserve, forestry and the related industries were the pillar industry in this area. After the establishment, the reserve has played an important role in enhancing the environmental and ecological awareness of the public. Moreover, the original forests, marsh meadows, rivers, lakes, unique ice and snow landscapes ground the reserve in developing eco-tourism.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

No.

If Yes, tick the box  and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

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**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:  
State ownership; the reserve has the tenure of land use.
- b) in the surrounding area:  
State ownership; the local government has the tenure of land use.

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**25. Current land (including water) use:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:  
All the lands in this Ramsar Site are included within the National Nature Reserve. Currently, the function divisions of the reserve are as following:  
**Core area:** accounting for 32.6% of the total area of the reserve. There is nearly no human disturbance occurring in this area.  
**Buffer area:** accounting for 27.8% of the reserve. Merely scientific researches and investigations are allowed in this area.  
**Experiment area:** accounting for 39.6% of the reserve. Scientific experiments, domestications and reproductions of rare animals and plants are carried out in this area.
- b) in the surroundings/catchment:  
Forestry is the only form of land use in this area.

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**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:  
Being far away from human settlements, there is nearly no direct human disturbance in this Ramsar Site. The ecosystems are mainly influenced by occasional lightning fires.
- b) in the surrounding area:  
There is some timber collection in the surrounding area, which may cause some influence on the wetlands.

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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

- a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:  
In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Provincial nature reserve was established in this site in 1999. It was promoted to a national nature reserve in 2003.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

“Master Plan of Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve” (2006-2015) has been approved by State Forestry Administration and is being implemented.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Exploitations in this site are strictly restricted according to the *Regulations of Wetland Protection in Heilongjiang Province* (1994). According to the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Wildlife* (1988), the reserve has established the department of resource protection; hunting and lumbering are forbidden in the reserve. According to the *Regulations of Protection of Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve* (2009), the reserve is under strict protection. The reserve set up 6 base stations in charge of the management of fire, fishing and hunting activities. Cooperating with the base stations, the management division of the reserve and the public security station regularly entered the reserve to patrol. Moreover, wireless infrared monitoring camera system was set up in 6 locations in the reserve to implement real-time monitoring for fire, animal and human activities.

**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

None.

**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

The main scientific facilities in the reserve include a scientific building (427 m<sup>2</sup>), a located station for wetland ecosystem with 3 ecological monitoring towers, a wildlife monitoring station with wildlife rescue building of 80 m<sup>2</sup>, an automatic meteorological station, a hydrological observation station, a pest monitoring and prevention station, a bird banding station of 60 m<sup>2</sup> and 11 permanent plots. Based on these facilities, the reserve carried out many scientific monitoring and research works. The wildlife monitoring network was surveyed, mapped and reported. Nine monitoring plots as well as a 4-ha large plot was established. The website of the ecological station was under construction. The monitoring records showed that the wild animals and plants in the site substantially increased in the recent years. In addition, the reserve sent technicians and managers to participate the training and learning practices of bird banding.

**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitors’ centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The reserve organizes group study and training twice a year. The bureau has produced numerous popular science materials on wetlands, and opened an exhibition room with multimedia equipments to propagandize wetland conservation. Also, the bureau has established a special team to propagandize the policies, laws and regulations related to nature conservation, in the neighbouring communities. On World Wetland Day, World Water Day and World Environment Day each year, the

reserve carries out propaganda activities on wetland conservation through TV, broadcasting, newspaper and handbill. The reserve also takes some regular areas and routes in the experiment area as the teaching and practicing site for high school and college students. Five sets of questionnaire with 120 copies were collected to investigate public awareness on wetland conservation.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

No entertainment or tourism activity has been carried out in this site.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

**Territorial:** The government of Heilongjiang Province.

**Functional:** Forestry Group of the Great Xing'an Mountains (a branch authority of State Forestry Administration in Heilongjiang Province)

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**33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Institution: Bureau of Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve

Address: Songling District 165012, the Great Xing'an Mountains Area, Heilongjiang Province

Principal: Bingyan Wu (Director)

Tel.: +86-(0)457-3366599

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Chen, Y. 1995. Research on China's Wetlands. Changchun: Jilin Science and Technology Press.

Zhang Rongzu. 1999. The Biogeography of Fauna in China. Beijing: Science Press.

Comprehensive Scientific Survey on Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve, 2006.

Master Plan for Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve, 2006.

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