



Ramsar Information Sheet

China

Gansu Yanchiwan Wetlands



Designation date	8 January 2018
Site number	2347
Coordinates	39°05'29"N 95°50'16"E
Area	29 876,20 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Located in the upper part of Dang River basin, which is the primary tributary of Shule River - the second biggest water system in Hexi (Gansu) Corridor, Yanchiwan Wetlands is at the confluence area of Inner Mongolia Plateau and West Qilian Mountains which is on the northern edge of Tibetan Plateau. Mainly consisting of inland rivers, lakes and marshes, the site has typical inland wetland and aquatic ecosystem of alpine desert, which is a representative of contiguous areas between arid desert area in Northwest China and Tibetan Plateau. Yanchiwan Wetlands situates in areas where wetland resources of Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve concentrates. In this site, rivers and lakes spread everywhere, and meadows and marshes are densely distributed. The major type of wetland is natural-state marshes, which is inhabited by many rare and threatened animals, such as *Aythya baeri*, *Grus nigricollis*, *Aquila heliaca*, and *Bos mutus*. As the northernmost breeding place for *Grus nigricollis*, the site is the essential stopover, foraging and breeding grounds for highland migratory birds in West China, playing important roles in preserving local biodiversity and maintaining genetic diversity of the northern edge of Tibetan Plateau. The site is characterized by relatively isolated geographical location, where accumulation of peats is facilitated by the rather chilly climate of alpine desert. At the same time, as the water conservation area in upper part of Dang River basin, Yanchiwan Wetlands is the only water source for 3 cities and counties, impacting greatly on survival and development of Subei Mongolian Autonomous County, Aksai Kazakh Autonomous County, and Dunhuang City. Hence, it is of considerable importance in protecting the World's Cultural Heritage in Dunhuang City, conserving water source, controlling flood, adjusting microclimate and preventing desertification downstream.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Zhigang DOU, Yubin ZHANG, Yuming WANG, Jucai YANG, Yongjun SHAI
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2015
To year	2017

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Gansu Yanchiwan Wetlands
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2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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Boundaries description

Yanchiwan wetlands is a part of Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve, and located at river basin and canyon zone formed by Yemanan Mountain and Danghenan Mountain, west to Dushanzi of the reserve, southwest to the foot of north-facing slope of Danghenan Mountain, east to Fumin Bridge on Dang River, northeast to the foot of south-facing slope of Yemanan Mountain.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Subei Mongolian Autonomous County, Jiuquan City, Gansu Province, P.R. China
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Yanchiwan Town, Subei Mongolian Autonomous County

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

- a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No
- b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):	29876.2
Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries	29836.09

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Udvardy's Biogeographical Provinces	Cold-winter (continental) deserts and semi-deserts, Takla-Makan-Gobi Desert Biogeographic Province, Palearctic Realm

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided

This Ramsar Site is located at cold mountain areas of the northern edge of Tibetan Plateau and West Qilian Mountains. Undertaking surrounding snowmelt, atmospheric precipitation and groundwater recharge, Yanchiwan Wetlands is the water conservation area and upper catchment of Shule River, as well as its main tributaries – Dang River and Yulin River. Large amount of herb-dominated marshes and meadows can effectively conserve water and control flood. Therefore, the site is of great importance in adjusting microclimate, purifying water, maintaining normal groundwater level, and cleaning air. It also plays an essential role in the ecological security and development of Subei Mongolian Autonomous County and Dunhuang City.

Other ecosystem services provided

Yanchiwan Wetlands is located at the confluence area of west end of Qilian Mountains and Altyn-Tagh, the northern edge of Tibetan Plateau. Special geographical location and intricate natural environment harbor unique ecosystems here, combining the features of wetland ecosystems of highland cold desert and extremely arid desert. Therefore, wetland resources here are rather rare in alpine desert, making them stand out in this biogeographic region, and even in the world. The Site is also the north distribution edge of some rare and important species uniquely to Tibetan Plateau, such as *Procapra picticaudata*, *Przewalskium albirostris*, *Bos mutus*, *Moschus chrysogaster*, *Equus kiang*, and *Uncia uncia*; and is the east distribution edge of some birds, such as *Grus nigricollis*, *Tetraogallus tibetanus*, and *Syrhaptes tibetanus*, as well. Those peripheral populations have higher genetic diversity, and support important biodiversity in the biogeographic region.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

This site is of high biodiversity. In this hotspot of regional biodiversity, 278 species of plants, 96 species of birds and 31 species of mammals are found. The ecosystem here combines the features of wetland ecosystems of highland cold desert and extremely arid desert, which is rarely seen even in local biogeographic region. Many endemic species of Tibetan Plateau live here. For instance, *Gymnocypris eckloni*, *Triplophysa breviceuda*, and *Triplophysa leptosoma* are endemic fishes in Tibetan Plateau, which is the important food source of some birds like *Grus nigricollis*. Diversified habitat types provide various living environments for rare and threatened wildlife, such as *Aythya baeri*, *Aquila nipalensis*, *Grus nigricollis*, *Przewalskium albirostris*, and *Felis bieti*, which is of great importance in maintaining regional biodiversity.

- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

- Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers

Start year

Source of data:

- Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

Justification

The fish species such as *Gymnocypris eckloni*, *Triplophysa brevicauda*, *Triplophysa leptosoma* etc. are recognised as endemic species in China. The distribution of those fishes is limited to Tibetan Plateau and adjacent areas. Hence, the fishes are representative in the biogeographic region.

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence ¹⁾	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2700	2015-2017	3.8	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Crit 6: 1 % threshold for E Asia is 710 as of 2012.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Bar-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8018	2015-2017	14.32	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Crit 6: 1 % threshold for C, S & SE Asia is 560 as of 2012.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1333	2015-2017	1.59	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection II	Crit 6: 1 % threshold for E Asia is 840 as of 2012.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle; Asian Imperial Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Protection I	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				EN 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection II	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Baer's Pochard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				CR 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	540	2015-2017	2.16	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Crit 6: 1 % threshold for C & E Asia is 250 as of 2012.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	2015-2017	21	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection I	Crit 6: 1 % threshold for E Asia is 1 as of 2012.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	330	2015-2017		LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection II	Crit 4:wintering in the site;
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker Falcon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				EN 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Protection II	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Crane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	148	2015-2017	1.48	VU 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Protection I	Crit 4:Breeding in the site; Crit 6: 1 % threshold for C & S Asia is 100 as of 2012.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				EN 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection I	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3900	2015-2017	5.49	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Crit 6: 1 % threshold for E Asia is 710 as of 2012.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1233	2015-2017	1.23	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Crit 6: 1 % threshold for E & SE Asia is 1000 as of 2012.
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																		

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Gymnocypris eckloni</i> 		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Crit 7: Representative fish
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Triplophysa breviceauda</i> 		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Crit 7: Representative fish
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Triplophysa leptosoma</i> 		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Crit 7: Representative fish
Others																		
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Bos grunniens mutus</i> 	Wild Yak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection I	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Felis bieti</i> 	Chinese Mountain Cat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection II	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i> 	goitered gazelle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection II	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Moschus chrysogaster</i> 	alpine musk deer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				EN 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection I	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Przewalskiium albirostre</i> 	White-lipped Deer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection I	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Uncia uncia</i> 	Snow leopard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Protection I	

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The major wetland types in the site are permanent freshwater herb-dominated marshes, permanent rivers, and saline/brackish water. Influenced by plateau topography and relative closed geographical environment, vegetation of the site, mainly made up by meadow vegetation, marsh vegetation and aquatic vegetation, has typical closed-structure features of inland ecosystem. Examples of grassland vegetation are *Stipa purpurea* - *Artemisia* community and *Stipa purpurea* - *Iris lactea* community, which provide habitats for rare animals, such as *Equus kiang* and *Procopra picticaudata*. Example of meadow vegetation is *Blysmus sinocompressus* community, which provides shelters and foraging grounds for birds, such as *Grus nigricollis*, and *Anser indicus*. In addition, the site plays an important role in adjusting regional climate and providing water resources for downstream areas.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		2	1556.1	Representative
Saline, brackish or alkaline water > Lakes >> Q: Permanent saline/ brackish/ alkaline lakes		3	405.8	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools		1	21542.6	Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Catchment	6362.7

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle				National Protection Class I
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Little Owl				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eurasian Eagle-Owl				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	Upland Buzzard				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	elk				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Equus kiang</i>	Kiang;Tibetan Wild Ass				National Protection Class I
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Eurasian Kestrel;Common Kestrel				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Grus grus</i>	Common Crane				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Bearded Vulture				National Protection Class I
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Himalayan Vulture				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle				National Protection Class I
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	Eurasian Lynx				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Martes foina</i>	Beech Marten				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Ovis ammon</i>	argali				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Procapra picticaudata</i>	Tibetan gazelle				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>	bharal				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tetraoallus tibetanus</i>	Tibetan Snowcock				National Protection Class II
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Grizzly Bear;Brown Bear				National Protection Class II

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
B: Dry climate	BWk: Mid-latitude desert (Mid-latitude desert)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mneral
- Organic
- No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Four types of soil are found in the site, namely meadow-boggy soil, peat humus-boggy soil, humus-boggy soil and siltage soil.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?
Usually permanent water present

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source
Water inputs from rainfall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water inputs from surface water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water inputs from groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water destination

Presence?
Feeds groundwater
To downstream catchment

Stability of water regime

Presence?
Water levels largely stable

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Main rivers in the reserve are Shule River, Dang River and Yulin River. Shule River (Changma River), with a catchment of 13167 km², is 600 km long and has an annual runoff of 9.94×10⁸m³. Dang River, belonging to Shule River System, has an annual runoff of 3.16×10⁸m³, and a catchment of 10325 km². Dang River, a primary river in the site, originates from north-facing slope of Danghenan Mountain and south-facing slope of Yemanan Mountain. Yulin River, with a catchment of 2474 km², is 120 km long and has an annual runoff of 0.65×10⁸m³. It originates from Daxue Mountain and snow mountain group of Yema Mountain.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

Water pH of Dang River ranges from 8.08 – 8.23 and water pH of marshes ranges from 6.90 – 10.14.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

Mxohaline (brackish)/Mxosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic

Mesotrophic

Oligotrophic

Dystrophic

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself.

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

Yanchiwan wetlands is a part of Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve, located at river basin and canyon zone formed by Yemanan Mountain and Danghenan Mountain. Dang River Wetlands and neighboring marshes constitute this Ramsar site. Surrounding area has significantly different land cover, such as highland rock slope, alpine meadow and desert.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	Medium
Fresh water	Water for irrigated agriculture	Medium
Fresh water	Water for energy production (hydro-electricity)	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Low
Wetland non-food products	Reeds and fibre	Low

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	High
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	High
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	High
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climatic processes	High
Biological control of pests and disease	Support of predators of agricultural pests (e.g., birds feeding on locusts)	Medium
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Inspiration	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Contemporary cultural significance, including for arts and creative inspiration, and including existence values	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Spiritual and religious values	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	High
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Sediment retention	High
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	High
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	High

Within the site:

Outside the site:

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable

Several cliff paintings are found near the site, namely Daheigou, Huiwanzi and Yumushan paintings, which are the carriers of culture of ancient nomads and reflect society and culture development of Dang River Basin then. It is also the valuable materials for exploring the history of ancient nomads.

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) 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

Description if applicable

Mongolian people believe in Lamaism. In religious viewpoints of this Buddhist sect, ideas of environmental protection are highly praised and morally practiced, which leads to positive effects in preserving ecological environment. Local Mongolian residents believe that water is the god of purity and treat water sources, such as rivers and springs, as the Land of Innocence. They are accustomed to saving water instead of polluting or dropping litters into them. They also live in harmony with wildlife in wetlands.

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Bureau of Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve

Provide the name and title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Zhigang DOU, Director

Postal address:

12#, Bayin Road
Dangchengwan Town
Subei Mongolian Autonomous County
Gansu Province
P.R. China

E-mail address:

ycwzq0622@126.com

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Dredging	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salinisation	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Livestock farming and ranching	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Habitat shifting and alteration	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Droughts	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Temperature extremes	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Nature Reserve	Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve	http://ycw.gsly.gov.cn/	partly

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Re-vegetation	Implemented
Soil management	Implemented
Land conversion controls	Implemented
Faunal corridors/passage	Implemented
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Implemented
Improvement of water quality	Implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented
Control of invasive alien plants	Implemented
Control of invasive alien animals	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Management of water abstraction/takes	Partially implemented
Regulation/management of wastes	Implemented
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Proposed
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented

Other:

The boundary identifying of the reserve is accomplished; 830 boundary markers and 75 boundary monuments are erected. The first draft of Regulations of Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve for public comment is finished, laying good legislative foundation of achieving goals on suitable measures for local conditions for every reserve. A three-level system (Administration Bureau, towns, and communities) of joint administration is set up. Agreements on joint administration are signed with governments of 2 towns and 7 villages in the reserve, enhancing supervision over construction programs in the reserve.

Based on the scientific research and teaching platform established by Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute under Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing Forestry University, Lanzhou University, and Gansu Agricultural University, the professional abilities of the staff are trained and the quality of scientific research is promoted in the Administration Bureau.

Many projects had been carried out since the reserve was established, including background resource investigation of wild animals, study and assessment on plant diversity and conservation, forest resources survey, and monitoring on black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) (and other migratory birds), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and white-lipped deer (*Przewalskium albirostris*), which promotes the quality of scientific research of the Administration Bureau as well.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but a plan is being prepared

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Soil quality	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

Meteorological station and monitoring system of hydrology and water quality are set up; equipment for collecting, preserving specimen and education, such as photomicrography and microscope are purchased. Wild animals are investigated and studied using line transects method and infrared automatic monitoring camera. Audiovisual materials of snow leopard, brown bear, jackal, lynx, and upland buzzard are collected. In the reserve, 23 fixed lines are decided, and the total length of which are 941 km in the field investigation areas. Field investigation has been carried out for 15 times.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Lixun Zhang, Meilin Shu, Bei An, et al. 2017. Biparental incubation pattern of the Black-necked Crane on an alpine plateau. Journal of Ornithology. DOI 10.1007/s10336-017-1439-6
Master Plan of Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve (2018-2027).
Scientific Investigation Report of Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve. 2001.
Udvardy M. 1975. Classification of the Biogeographical Provinces of the World. IUCN Occasional Paper No. 18.
Zhang LX, Shu ML, An P, et al. 2014. Number and distribution of the Black-necked Cranes (*Grus nigricollis*) in Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve, Gansu, China. Zoological Research, 35(S1): 117–123.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<2 file(s) uploaded>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Grus nigricollis (the Reserve, 15-05-2017)



Permanent freshwater marshes (the Reserve, 21-10-2010)



Permanent rivers (the Reserve, 01-08-2014)



Anser indicus (the Reserve, 22-05-2014)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation