

Ramsar Information Sheet

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- 1. Date this sheet was completed:** October 1997
- 2. Country:** People's Republic of China
- 3. Name of wetland:** Jilin Xianghai National Nature Reserve
- 4. Geographical co-ordinates:** 44°55' - 45°09'N 122°51' - 122°31'E
- 5. Altitude:** 156 - 192 m
- 6. Area:** 105,467 ha

7. Overview

There are three river systems in the reserve. It is the reed and marsh wetland submerged by rivers, Chinese leymus (*Leymus chinensis*) and elm (*Ulmus*) trees and bushes in sand dune criss-cross.

- 8. Wetland type:** Tp N W 6
- 9. Ramsar Criteria:** 1a,2a,3a,3c
- 10. Map of site included:** Yes

11. Name and address of compiler:

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12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:

1a: alluvial geomorphic wetland type due to the mixture of rivers and lakes in the eastern part of China;

2a: 22 species of waterfowl including large numbers of endangered species;

3a: over 20,000 waterfowl;

3c: some 90 black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*).

13. General location:

67 km north-west of Tongyu County, Jilin Province

14. Physical features:

The geological feature of the area belongs to the western rim of Sangliao seg in the eastern part of north-east table land. The geomorphic feature: it is high in the west and low in the east, with marshland and grassland ecosystems. There are no obvious river beds with the inflow of Huolin River and Ermuqin River. Many lakes and large areas of reed and marsh wetland have been formed due to overflow of rivers. In 1971, a dam was built to form Xianghai and Xinglong large reservoirs and create parts of man-made wetland. The volume of underground water is between 50 and 60 mm with an annual precipitation of 400-500 mm in Xianghai Reserve. The source of reservoirs is mainly Tao'er River. When the volume of flow becomes very large, the tail water flows into Tao'er River. The soil types are castenozem, saline-alkali soil and wind alluvial sand soil with little humus soil and pH value inclining to alkaline. The quality of water inclines to alkaline with pH value over 9. The silt content of the reservoirs is very high. The water of other lakes and marshlands is rather clear without industrial

pollution. The depth of reservoirs is 1.5 - 10 m. The canal in the marshland is 0.5 - 2 m. The water level of the reservoirs had no obvious changes of the water in marshland from rivers with July and August being flood seasons and winter and spring being dry seasons. The area of the catchment is 12,441 km². Because it is a river without the tail there are no heavy flood impacts on the lower reaches of the river. It has the continental monsoon climate in the north temperate zone and semi-arid climate with an annual mean temperature of 4.9 °C, maximum of 37 °C and minimum of -32 °C, a frost free period of 150 days and precipitation of 400-500 mm concentrated in July and August.

15. Hydrological values:

The lakes and marsh wetland in the reserve have played an important role in adjusting local climate and atmosphere and preventing flood. At the same time, rich biological resources and unique wetland landscape have provided a good living and breeding environment for wild fauna and flora in the area.

16. Ecological features:

It has rich water plants. There are many floating, submerged and emerged plants. Large numbers of algae are the stable food for fishes. The plankton and fishes are good baits for waterfowl. Large areas of reed and marshland have provided a cover used as the habitat and breeding area for waterfowl. Large numbers of herb plants are distributed in meadow and meadow prairie of low-lying land which are the grazing range or the local people. Natural elm (*Ulmus*) trees grow on the sand dune with lakes and meadow criss-cross.

17. Noteworthy flora:

There are reed, Common Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Sweetflag (*Acorus l.*), Cattail (*Typha l.*), etc. in marshland and Chinese Leymus (*Leymus chinensis*) in meadow prairie. The water plants are composed of floating, submerged and emerged plants. The plants in sand dune areas are mainly Bigfruit Elm (*Ulmus macrocarpa*), Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*), Wild Apricot (*Prunus ansu*), Mongolian Mulberry (*Morus mongolica*) and Chinese Silkvine (*Periploca sepium*), etc.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

There are 253 bird species in the reserve, among which 193 species are waterfowl. They are mainly 6 species of cranes including Red-crowned Crane (*Grus japonensis*), some kinds of heron including Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*), and Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and some geese and ducks as Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) and Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*) and many other Woodcocks (*Scolopacidae*) and Gulls (*Laridae*). In addition, there are over 30 species of animals including Antelope gutturosa pollas, Tolai Hare (*Lepus c. totail*) and Alpine Marmot (*Mus marmota*).

19. Social and cultural values:

Rich waterfowl species have attracted large numbers of tourists to come to the reserve for bird watching. It can provide 1 million kg of fish and 20,000 tons of reed each year due to rich water resource in the reserve, which is a traditional economic income for the local people.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

- (a) site: owned by the State and collective
- (b) surrounding area: owned by the State and collective

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

- (a) site: nature conservation, scientific research, tourism, fishery and grazing;
- (b) surrounding area: fishery, grazing, agricultural production, urban residence.

22. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

- (a) site: reclamation of the land from marshes, decrease of wetland, overfishing, decrease of fish resources, development of production activities, increase of human disturbance;
- (b) surrounding area: overfishing in arable land.

23. Conservation measures taken:

The nature reserve was established and rules and regulations on management of the reserve promulgated. The local governments coordinate all unites under their jurisdiction for joint

conservation. Public education was conducted. Local police station and forestry policy and forest resources section were set up for the enhancement of resources conservation according to law.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Limit large-scale production and exploitation activities in the reserve, reduce the disturbances of human production activities to birds' breeding in the core zone, develop biological conservation programs by planting 50 m wide sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) shelterbelt, and build a reservoir on Huolin River to adjust the water volume of the wetland.

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

Conduct resource inventories on birds, animals, amphibious and reptile species, plants, insects and hydrobios; build a specimen hall and a red-crowned crane raising and breeding base, etc.

26. Current conservation education:

Use mobile vehicles to conduct publicity activities, set up networks in villages for public education at a regular basis, organise non-periodically primary and middle school students for public education.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

Develop tourism, wetland bird watching and sightseeing. There are bathing places, cruiserboats, visitor's stands, bird observation stations, specimen hall and crane watching places, etc.

28. Jurisdiction:

Department of Forestry, Jilin Province.

29. Management authority:

Management Bureau of Xianghai National Nature Reserve, Jilin Province.

30. Bibliographical references:

Administration Division of Nature Reserves in Jilin Province.