

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:** Jiangxi Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve
- 4. Geographical co-ordinates:** 29°05 - 19°15'N 115°55 - 116°03'E
- 5. Altitude:** 12 - 18 m
- 6. Area:** 22,400 ha

7. Overview

The physical feature of the place is flat. The lake, as a water passage, alternates between land and water.

- 8. Wetland type:** O M P Tp
- 9. Ramsar Criteria:** 1a, 1c, 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: The largest fresh water lake in China in near-natural state;
1c: Good example of natural lake and alluvial floodplain;
2a: Large numbers of wintering waterfowl including several endangered species and important fauna and flora communities.
3a: Over 100,000 wintering waterfowl;
3c: Nearly 3,000 Siberian White Cranes (*Grus leucogeranus*), accounting for 95% of the world's total.

13. General location:

50 km northeast of the city of Nanchang.

14. Physical features:

Poyang basin was naturally formed by lacustrine deposits and alluvial. The flood season of the lake is between May and September with the water level being 22.2 m. The dry season is between October and next March with the water level being 11-12 m. The depth of the water is generally 3 m. The 18 m water level can keep for 100 days. The soil type is tidal soil and the terrain is flat. Nine independent lakes are formed in winter when water retreats and shoals emerge. The grassy marshes and shoals are formed in highland. The pH value of the lake was 7.0-7.6. It has sub-tropical climate with an annual precipitation between 1400 and 1900 mm, and annual average temperature being 17°C.

15. Hydrological values:

It is a flood-diversion area of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, supplements the underground water in the northern part of Jiangxi Province and plays a role of flood prevention.

16. Ecological features:

It has a wetland ecological environment. There are 154 phytoplankton species in 54 families and 102 aquatic vascular bundle plants in 38 families in recorded. The superior water plants are Eelgrass (*Vallisneria spiralis*), Distinct Pondweed (*Potamogeton distinctus*), *Chlorophyceae* and *Cyanophyceae*. The reed area is not very large. The surroundings of the lake are mostly farm land, grass land, pine plantations and secondary bushes.

17. Noteworthy flora:

The wetland vegetations: Grassy Family (*Graminae*), Composite Family (*Compositae*), Sedge Family (*Cyperaceae*), Pondweed Family (*Potamogetonaceae*), Knotweed Family (*Polygonaceae*) and Frogs-bits Family (*Hydrocharitaceae*) are major plant communities.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

There are over 300 bird species in record. The major bird populations are Cranes (*Grus*), Storks (*Ciconiidae*), Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), Geese (*Anser*) and Ducks, Geese and Swans (*Anatidae*), etc.

19. Social and cultural values:

It is the largest fish production area and one of the four largest ancient towns in Jiangxi Province.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

- (a) site: 4,400 hm² of Dahu Pond and Shahu Lake are under the jurisdiction of the reserve. Other lakes and land in the reserve are under the jurisdiction of the local governments.
- (b) surrounding area: under the jurisdiction of the three surrounding counties.

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

- (a) site: nature conservation, scientific research, tourism, fishery, grazing and collection of medicinal herbs.
- (b) surrounding area: fishery, grazing, agriculture, urban residence.

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

- (a) site: Drain of the pond to get all the fish and destruction of the wetland environment have reduced the birds' food.
- (b) surrounding area: Drain of the lake to get all the fish, reclamation of land from marshes, tree plantation and changes of flow volume of the source of rivers.

23. Conservation measures taken:

The reserve was established in 1984 with a total area of 42,000 hm². A United Conservation Committee was set up. Public security organisations and local police stations are responsible for patrolling and supervising the site according to laws. The public education has been conducted and hunting prohibited around the lake.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Expand the range of the reserve, reduce the disturbances of human production activities to birds' breeding in the core zone, control the water level of the reserve.

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

Research on wintering Siberian White Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), investigation and research on the population, number, distribution and ecological habitat of wintering and migratory birds, bird ringing, rescue of wounded and sick birds, the impacts of the Three-Gorges programme on Poyang Lake wetland. There is a raising farm, a specimen room, an experimental lab, etc.

26. Current conservation education:

Love-bird and protect-bird public education activities have been conducted in the whole society. The staff and workers have been trained to raise their professional levels.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

Develop fishing, hunting farm and tourism activities around the lake.

28. Jurisdiction:

Department of Forestry, Jiangxi Province.

29. Management authority:

Management Bureau of Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, Jiangxi Province

30. Bibliographical references:

no information available