



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

China

64 Ramsar Site(s) covering 7,326,952 ha

Anhui Shengjin Lake National Nature Reserve

Site number: 2,248 | Country: China | Administrative region: Chizhou City

Area: 33,340 ha | Coordinates: 30°22'50"N 117°05'17"E | Designation dates: 16-10-2015

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Anhui Shengjin Lake National Nature Reserve is located on the south bank of the middle and lower reaches of the River Yangtze. Dominated by lakes and freshwater marshes and boasting good water quality, it is one of the best preserved inland freshwater lake systems along these stretches of the River. The Site plays a role in regulating floods along the Yangtze, and contributes to water purification and regional climate regulation. It also provides an important stopover and wintering ground for migrating waterbirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway: a total of 175 bird species have been recorded, including globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), and the endangered oriental stork (*Ciconia boyciana*). Known as the "Chinese crane lake", Shengjin Lake is the largest wintering ground in China for the vulnerable hooded crane (*Grus monacha*) whose numbers can reach up to 500, the highest population count in the world.

Bitahai Wetland

Site number: 1,434 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunnan

Area: 1,985 ha | Coordinates: 27°42'N 100°01'E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bitahai Wetland. 07/12/04; Yunnan; 1,985 ha; 27°50'33"N 099°59'10"E. Provincial Nature Reserve. An alpine wetland between 3,000 and 4,260 meters above sea level, with swamps, lake, peat lands, and adjacent forest cover. The site has very high hydrological values such as flood prevention and control in the key catchment zones of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau; as part of the Jinsha River watershed in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, it supplies water to the aquifers and stabilizes the flow in the lower reaches of the Yangtze. The lake is the home of the endemic fish *Ptychobarbus chungtienensis chungtienensis* and the vulnerable Black-necked crane *Grus nigricollis* and, situated within the Central Asia and East Asian-Australasia Flyways, it is an important wintering and stopover site for many migratory birds. The Reserve attracts a large number of tourists every year, and partnerships with academic institutes have been established to study and monitor its ecology. Human uses are largely husbandry and agriculture, with a majority of cash income generated from collecting and selling *Tricholoma matsutake* mushroom, raising cows, and selling dairy products. Since Ramsar designation in 2004, management efforts have been scaled up: frequent patrols were put in place to prevent illegal hunting and fishing, and training on management and biodiversity conservation has been provided to staff. Ramsar site No. 1434. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve, Shanghai

Site number: 1,144 | Country: China | Administrative region: Shanghai

Area: 32,600 ha | Coordinates: 31°29'13"N 121°57'44"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve is located on the easternmost tip of Chongming Island, the biggest estuarine alluvial island in the world. The Site mainly comprises estuarine waters and intertidal mud, sand or salt flats. The wetland holds the biggest and the only remaining natural mudflat on the Yangtze estuary. The rich natural resources of the wetland include flourishing mudflat vegetation, well developed tidal creeks and diverse benthos. Located within the ecotone of the Yangtze River, Yellow Sea and East China Sea, the Site is a typical, unique, diverse and thriving ecosystem. Plants such as *Phragmites* and the endemic *Scirpus mariqueter*, which occupy a large part of the wetland, play important roles in enriching primary productions, purifying water, resisting storm tides and protecting the coastlines from erosion. The wetland serves as an important wintering and stopover site for 111 species of migratory waterbirds, including globally threatened species such as the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) and vulnerable hooded crane (*Grus monacha*). It is also an important habitat and migratory channel for the critically endangered Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*). The 94 species of freshwater, seawater and migratory fish found here account for over 80% of the total Yangtze estuarine fish species.

Dafeng National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,145 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jiangsu

Area: 78,000 ha | Coordinates: 33°16'05"N 120°47'36"E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dafeng (*Elaphurus davidianus*) National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Jiangsu; 78,000 ha; 33°05'N 120°49'E. National Nature Reserve. A typical intertidal mudflat ecosystem on the coastline of the Yellow Sea, supporting a wide variety of rare animal species, including 315 species of birds (23 of them nationally protected), 600 of insects and 156 of fish, as well as the threatened Pere David's Deer or "Milu" (*Elaphurus davidianus*) for which the Reserve was chiefly gazetted. Following the introduction of 39 Milu in 1986, the population has grown to nearly 1,169 individuals in 2007, said to be the largest Milu population in the world; the population is in fact outgrowing the site's capacity, and research on the release of the Milu into the wild is ongoing. The site provides habitat and breeding areas for various kinds of bird, fish and shellfish. The reserve became a Ramsar site in 2001, and then joined the international migratory network of plovers and sandpipers in 2004, and as an internationally important wetland of great ecological significance, the site obtained permanent protection. The site is important for flood control, sediment retention, and shoreline stabilization, to a high degree. There is a visitors' centre of 600 m² visited by about 40,000 tourists every year. Agricultural development, including land reclamation, and chemical runoff are seen as significant threats. Ramsar site no. 1145. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Dalai Lake National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia

Site number: 1,146 | Country: China | Administrative region: Inner Mongolia

Area: 740,000 ha | Coordinates: 48°45'17"N 117°28'44"E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dalai Lake National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia. 11/01/02; Inner Mongolia; 740,000 ha; 48°33'N 117°30'E; National Nature Reserve, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. A complex of lakes, rivers, marshes, shrubs, grasslands and reed beds typical of wetlands in arid steppes, in near-natural conditions. A staging area in the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Flyway, the site is important for some 284 bird species, particularly Anatidae and shorebird species, and exceeds the 20,000 individuals and 1% thresholds for six species. Some 30 fish species are supported, of both Siberian and Northeast China types, and some are economically important. The Dalai Lake region, as the only lower land of the Hulunbeir Plateau, has great significance for flood storage, sediment retention, and groundwater recharge, and is critical for maintaining regional climate. Tourism offers birdwatching, boating, and traditional Mongolian foods, customs, and cultures, and the area is becoming a center for environmental education and research. Fishing is the primary activity, accounting for some 10,000 tons of economic fish per year, and livestock grazing in surrounding grasslands involves more than 2 million animals. Due to the decrease in precipitation in recent years, water supply has decreased and thus reduced the water level of the lake. The reserve became a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002. Ramsar site no. 1146. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Dalian National Spotted Seal Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,147 | Country: China | Administrative region: Liaoning

Area: 11,700 ha | Coordinates: 39°05'31"N 121°15'47"E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Da Lian National Spotted Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Liaoning; 11,700 ha; 39°15'N 121°15'E. National Nature Reserve. A coastal area of the Bohai Sea, 20km from Dalian City, consisting of sea floor covered by pedestal rock of between 5 and 40 meters' depth and including over 70 islands and islets with rocky coasts and reefs. The sites provides habitat for 100 species of fish and numerous shellfish, as well as breeding grounds for a number of whale and dolphin species. The reserve is best known for the spotted seal *Phoca vitulina* and attracts large numbers of tourists from the nearby city and elsewhere. The cycle of the seals' lives is tied to the icing and melting conditions, as, following the adults' migratory routes through the Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, and East China Sea, young seals are born on the ice within the site and remain with a nuclear family until the ice breaks up some three months later in March. Shipping and transportation are sources of disturbance to the spotted seals within the site, while a port development within the Liaodong Bay is also a potential threat. Ramsar site no. 1147. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Dashanbao

Site number: 1,435 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunnan Province

Area: 5,958 ha | Coordinates: 27°25'35"N 103°19'31"E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004

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Dashanbao Wetland. 07/12/04; Yunnan; 5,958 ha; 27°24'36"N 103°20'33"E. National Nature Reserve A peat moor in subalpine swamp meadows, between 2,210 and 3,364 meters above sea level, with shallow water vegetation such as *Poa annua* Linn, *Geum aleppicum*, and *Cyperus serotinus*. Major hydrological functions include flood control and water recharge to supply ground water to downstream and hillside spring vents. The site supports the highest concentration, representing 1/5 of the world population, of Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*, a globally vulnerable species, and is important for other migratory waterbirds, such as *Mergus squamatus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Grus grus*, and *Cygnus Cygnus*. The Nature Reserve has been actively managed, with the reserve managers cooperating regularly with the local government and residents to protect natural forests, restore the wetland and return farmland to grassland. Since its establishment, 60 injured or ill Black-necked cranes have been rescued, and research and monitoring activities are conducted in collaboration with a number of research institutions. In 2008, the Wetland Research and Monitoring Center of Dashanbao was built with financial support from the government of China. Ramsar site No. 1435. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Dong dongting hu

Site number: 551 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hunan

Area: 190,000 ha | Coordinates: 29°19'47"N 112°57'13"E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dong dongting hu. 31/03/92; Hunan; 190,000 ha; 29°19'49"N 112°59'0"E. National Nature Reserve. A freshwater lake with numerous smaller lakes and ponds, marsh, swamp and wet grassland fed by flooding from the Yangtze and four other rivers. The wetland is an important migration stopover site and wintering area for the critically endangered Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*), the endangered Oriental Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*), and 12 other globally threatened waterbirds, and represents an important refuge for the critically endangered Chinese Sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*) and the vulnerable Finless Porpoise (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*). About 100 Finless Porpoises live in the wetland, which accounts for 10% of the populations found in the Yangtze River catchment. Freshwater fish aquaculture and fishing are very important to local economic development. A comprehensive coordinating mechanism committee for conserving the Dongting Lake was established in 2007. Ramsar Site no. 551. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Dongfanghong Wetland National Nature Reserve

Site number: 2,185 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang Province

Area: 31,538 ha | Coordinates: 46°18'34"N 133°44'56"E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dongfanghong Wetland. 16/10/2013; Heilongjiang; 31,538 ha; 46°18'34"N 133°44'57"E. Nature Reserve. Located in the transition zone between the Wanda Mountains and the Ussuri River along the border with the Russian Federation, this floodplain supports rare and globally threatened wildlife such as the critically endangered Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* and the endangered Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* and Tiger Panthera *Tigris*. More than 60 freshwater fish species are found at this site, which is also an important breeding and stopover site for several species of waterbirds. The reserve is important for recharging groundwater, storing water, and regulating river runoff. Ramsar Site no. 2185. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Dongzhaigang

Site number: 553 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hainan

Area: 5,400 ha | Coordinates: 19°58'59"N 110°34'59"E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Dongzhaigang. 31/03/92; Hainan; 5,400 ha; 19°59'N 110°35'E. Nature Reserve. Small shallow sea bay of extensive intertidal mudflats and mangrove swamps. The swamps are important feeding and nursery areas for waterbirds and fish. The site is located in a densely populated region, surrounded by numerous villages and large rice paddies. A mangrove restoration project is under way. Ramsar site no. 553. [reprint of management plan, 1999] Most recent RIS information: 1997.

Eerduosi National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,148 | Country: China | Administrative region: Inner Mongolia

Area: 7,680 ha | Coordinates: 39°48'N 109°34'59"E | Designation dates: 01-11-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eerduosi National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Inner Mongolia; 7,680 ha; 39°48'N 109°35'E. National Nature Reserve. A typical Euro-Asian grassland and Asian desert with high ecological fragility, including a large number of permanent freshwater and saline lakes and pools. The site supports some 15,000 breeding Relict gull (*Larus relictus*) in May and is a staging area for 60% of the world's population of that species; some 81 other species of waterbirds are also present, including significant numbers of Whooper swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*) and Ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). In the surrounding areas, about 3,900 people rely upon small-scale agriculture, forestry, and livestock grazing for their livelihoods. Desertification and soil erosion, as well as over-extraction of groundwater in this area adjacent to the Maowusu and Kubuqi Deserts, are seen as potential threats. Land use is under a holistic planning regime under the Nature Reserve authority. Ramsar site no. 1148. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Eling Lake

Site number: 1,436 | Country: China | Administrative region: Qinghai Province
Area: 65,907 ha | Coordinates: 34°54'23"N 97°40'49"E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Eling Lake. 07/12/04; Qinghai; 65,907 ha; 34°54'25" N 97°40'48"E. Nature Reserve. The largest freshwater lake in the Yellow River catchment with high hydrological values, regulating run-offs, retaining sediments, maintaining water quality, and preventing flooding. At over 4,200 meters on semi-arid plateau, the lake is an important habitat for the endangered Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* and the vulnerable Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*. It supports endangered mammals such as the vulnerable White lipped Deer *Przewalskium albirostris* and Wild Yak *Bos mutus*. A number of endemic fish species can be found including *Gymnocypris eckloni* Herzenstein and *Gymnodiptychus ptychocheilus* Herzenstein. The sub-Himalayan plant community forms the main food of livestock and the source of traditional Tibetan herbal medicines. The lake plays an important role in Tibetan Buddhist history and is one of the six holiest sites for pilgrimage. Threats to the site include shrinking glaciers and retreating snow lines caused by global warming, with decreasing water supplies. Ramsar site no. 1436. Most recent RIS information:2012

Fujian Zhangjiangkou National Mangrove Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,726 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunxiao County
Area: 2,358 ha | Coordinates: 23°55'N 117°25'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Fujian Zhangjiangkou National Mangrove Nature Reserve. 02/02/08; Fujian; 2,358 ha; 23°55'N 117°25'E). National Nature Reserve. Dominated by mangrove forest in the estuary area and including intertidal mudflats and salt marshes, located in the estuary of Zhangjian River. Due to high productivity, high decomposition and restitution rate, the mangrove coastal marsh and coastal arenaceous vegetation provides habitat for more than 154 birds species, including IUCN Red-listed species like Daimao (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Lengpigui(*Dermochelys coriacea*), Xigui (*Caretta caretta*), Taipinyangligui(*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Huangzuibailu(*Egretta eulophotes*), andHeizuiou (*Larus saundersi*), as well as 240 other aquatic animal species and 224 vascular plants. It is also a spawning and breeding place for important fish species like Yicheng (*Sinonovacula constricta*), Banji (*Clupanodon punctatus*), and Ziyu(*Mugil cephalus*). The site plays an important role in typhoon resistance, coastline protection, purifying water and maintenance of regional microclimate. Aquaculture is practiced here for local economic purposes. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1726. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Gansu Gahai Wetlands Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,975 | Country: China | Administrative region: Gansu Province
Area: 247,431 ha | Coordinates: 34°16'40"N 102°26'53"E | Designation dates: 01-09-2011
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Gansu Gahai Wetlands Nature Reserve is located within the administrative area of Luqu County, Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Northwest China. This site is a part of the largest alpine peat marsh area in the world and the wetland supports flora and fauna of both the Loess and Tibetan Plateaus which are rarely seen elsewhere in the world.

Alpine marshes, seasonal/intermittent herb-dominated marshes, permanent herb-dominated marshes on peatlands and inorganic soils, permanent freshwater lakes, permanent rivers and streams are different types of wetlands in this site.

There are 15 threatened species at this site including birds, amphibian and mammals such as the vulnerable Black-necked Crane, *Grus nigricollis* and the Alpine Stream Salamander, *Batrachuperus tibetanus*. It is a regional hotspot of species diversity, with many endemic species of the Tibetan biogeographic region, especially fish and amphibian species.

The wetland has significant function for water storage, carbon storage and flood control. As a result, flood disaster is very rare in this site. The local Tibetan herdsman and communities practice wetland conservation and wildlife protection as part of their tradition, and believe that Gahai Lake is sacred.

The Master Plan of Gansu Gahai-Zecha National Nature Reserve was approved in 2000.

Gansu Yanchiwan Wetlands

Site number: 2,347 | Country: China | Administrative region: Subei Mongolian Autonomous County, Jiuquan City, Gansu Province, P.R. China

Area: 29,876.2 ha | Coordinates: 39°05'29"N 95°50'16"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the upper basin of the Dang river (the primary tributary of the Shule river), where the Inner Mongolia plateau meets the West Qilian mountains on the northern edge of the Tibetan plateau. Its rivers, lakes, and marshes harbour unique wetland ecosystems amid the region's extremely arid and cold highland deserts. The Site is the only source of water for three areas: Subei Mongolian Autonomous County, Aksai Kazakh Autonomous County and Dunhuang City. Lying within Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve, the Site's concentration of wetlands supports a rich biodiversity, including 278 plant species, 96 birds and 31 mammals. Among them are globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*), the endangered steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) and the vulnerable goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*). The wetlands serve as important stopover, foraging and breeding grounds for highland migratory birds in western China, and they are the northernmost breeding place for black-necked crane *Grus nigricollis*. The Site plays a significant role in preserving local biodiversity and genetic diversity, and it helps to regulate the microclimate, purify water and air, maintain groundwater levels, control flooding and prevent desertification in downstream areas.

Gansu Yellow River Shouqu Wetlands

Site number: 2,429 | Country: China | Administrative region: Maqu County, Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province, P.R. China

Area: 132,067 ha | Coordinates: 33°34'38"N 102°11'04"E | Designation dates: 03-02-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site is a typical high-altitude wetland of the Tibetan Plateau, with densely distributed meadows, marshes, ponds and rivers. It feeds the upper reaches of the Yellow River, the second longest in China, which highlights its importance for water conservation. This vast wetland also limits rapid runoff of excess water, reducing flood risks further down the Yellow River basin. The site also acts as a vast carbon sink, with deep layers of peat having built up underneath the marshlands. These features and wetland types create suitable habitat for many threatened species including the vulnerable snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) and two endangered musk deer (*Moschus berezovskii* and *Moschus chrysogaster*). Many bird species use the wetland as a stopover and breeding ground, including the vulnerable black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*).

Guangdong Haifeng Wetlands

Site number: 1,727 | Country: China | Administrative region: It is in Shanwei City.

Area: 11,590.5 ha | Coordinates: 22°55'51"N 115°24'55"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Guangdong Haifeng Wetlands are located along the coast of the South China Sea near Shanwei City. The Site's constituent wetlands are typical of the sub-tropical marine coastal and reservoir wetlands of southern China. They are mainly composed of tidal flats, reservoirs, ponds, estuaries, deltas, aquaculture ponds, intertidal mangroves, shallow sea waters, sand beaches, gravel/scree beaches and permanent river ponds. The Site is an important habitat for waterbirds in southern China and is considered as the "hometown of Chinese waterfowl". The Site serves as wintering ground for numerous species including the globally endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), and the vulnerable greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*) and Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). Besides moderating water levels and reducing floods, the wetlands also play an important role in maintaining water quality and regulating and stabilizing the region's climate. The abundant resources of the Site serve as major economic supports to the local community: they provide water for drinking, irrigation, industrial use, hydropower generation and aquaculture, while the beautiful landscapes and unique wildlife resources encourage eco-tourism.

Guangdong Nanpeng Archipelago Wetlands

Site number: 2,249 | Country: China | Administrative region: Shantou City of Guangdong Province
Area: 35,679 ha | Coordinates: 23°16'56"N 117°15'21"E | Designation dates: 16-10-2015
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the northern section of the South China Sea, Guangdong Nanpeng Archipelago Wetlands cover a chain of four islands that support diverse habitats and ecosystems such as upwellings, rocky marine shores, coral reefs and algae layers. The Site is located at the interface of shallow coastal and deeper sea waters, and at the confluence of two upwelling zones. The average water depth is from 1.0 to 1.5 metres, but deeper water at the Site's periphery contributes to its ecological character. The Site hosts a wide range of rare and endangered marine species such as the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) and great seahorse (*Hippocampus kelloggi*), and birds such as the Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*), Christmas frigatebird (*Fregata andrewsi*) and short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*). The islands are an important spawning ground for five threatened turtle species, and play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity not only in the biogeographic region but also in East Asia as a whole. The Site is extensively used for ecological and environmental research.

Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,728 | Country: China | Administrative region: Fangchenggang City
Area: 3,000 ha | Coordinates: 21°35'27"N 108°09'24"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coastal wetland with mangrove forest, intertidal mudflats and seagrass beds located on the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. Situated to the north of Beilun River, a transboundary river between Viet Nam and China, it represents the largest contiguous stretch of mangrove forest in coastal China. The mangroves help resist and alleviate the impacts of hazards and protect the coast from shoreline erosion. The Site supports ten true mangrove species and five semi-mangrove species; *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* and *Acanthus ilicifolius* dominate. The seagrass community in the peripheral areas is dominated by *Zostera marina*. The Site also provides habitat to 155 species of large benthic fauna, 27 fishes, 213 birds and over 1,400 species of higher plants. Globally threatened species include the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*); the endangered black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*); and the vulnerable Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*) and fairy pitta (*Pitta nympha*).

Hangzhou Xixi Wetlands

Site number: 1,867 | Country: China | Administrative region: Western Lake District
Area: 325 ha | Coordinates: 30°16'07"N 120°03'35"E | Designation dates: 07-07-2009
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hangzhou Xixi Wetlands. 07/07/09; Zhejiang; 325 ha; 30°16'N 120°03'E. National Wetlands Park. A complex of ca.400 permanent freshwater ponds connected by channels and rivers representative of both natural and humanmade wetlands in Eastern China. The ponds are dominated by floating plant communities (*Azolla imbricate*, *Salvinia natans* and *Lemna minor*), while herbaceous marshes connect the river and pond wetland areas. 126 species of bird have been recorded at the site, including 28 waterbirds. The site is important for nine threatened species of birds and provides breeding and feeding habitat for a large diversity of fish species, including 5 endemic species. Water within the wetland can be managed through a number of channels and sluices, for both flood control and fish habitat. The wetlands have an important function for groundwater recharge and flood mitigation for downstream Hangzhou City, and they are valued for their importance for 2000 years of cultural history. A special wetland culture has developed over the past 1000 years which combines fish ponds, silk production and mulberry trees; with its sacred Autumn-Snow Temple, the site has long been an inspiration to famous writers and poets. The site receives an average 720,000 visitors per year and is an important centre for wetland education. It is managed in accordance with ecotourism and ecological management plans. Ramsar site no. 1867. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Heilongjiang Hadong Yanjiang Wetlands

Site number: 2,428 | Country: China | Administrative region: Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, P. R. China

Area: 9,973.6 ha | Coordinates: 45°55'34"N 126°49'16"E | Designation dates: 03-02-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located close to Harbin City, the site is part of the main stream of the Songhua River. Characterized by flat open deltas, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes, 64% of the entire site is covered by marshes, which provide exceptional habitat for waterbirds. Overall, more than 20,000 waterbirds are found on the site, including over 1% of the biogeographical populations of bean goose (*Anser fabalis*) and greater white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*). It also hosts a complex range of fish featuring species from frigid, temperate and sub-tropical environments. Threatened species of birds and fish including the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and the Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*). The main wetland plants found include *Calamagrostis purpurea*, *Carex appendiculata*, *Phragmites australis* and *Nymphoides peltata*. Major ecosystem services include conserving water sources, maintaining soil and water conditions, and regulating climate and floods.

Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,976 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang Province

Area: 229,523 ha | Coordinates: 51°19'14"N 125°22'51"E | Designation dates: 01-09-2011

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Heilongjiang Nanweng River National Nature Reserve is located in the Great Xingan Mountains Area, Songling District, in Northeast China. Being located in the transitional area between the temperate and cold zone, this Ramsar Site supports a representative mixture of plants from the Siberian, Inner Mongolian and Changbai floras. As the largest nature reserve located at the highest latitude in China for forest-marsh wetland ecosystems in the cold-temperate zone, the site holds the most concentrated marsh wetlands in the original coniferous forests of the Great Xingan Mountains.

This site consists of permanent freshwater marshes and ponds, freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands and permanent rivers and supports 442 plant species, 216 bird species and 49 mammal species, including 22 threatened species from birds, mammals and plants such as the critically endangered Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* and the vulnerable Siberian Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus*. This wetland also supports more than 1% of global population of 17 birds.

This wetland is an important water source for over 10 million populations in Nen River Basin, as well as ensuring the recharge of 350 million m³ of water for Zhalong Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site) per year.

There is a Master Plan developed for this site (2006-2015) which is being implemented.

Heilongjiang Qixing River National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,977 | Country: China | Administrative region: Central Heilongjiang Province

Area: 20,000 ha | Coordinates: 46°44'17"N 132°13'53"E | Designation dates: 09-01-2011

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Heilongjiang Qixing River National Nature Reserve is located in Northeast China and is representative of the inland freshwater marsh type in Northeast Asia. The site is recognized as one of the best preserved natural wetland areas in China, and supports a diversity of wetland plants and animals, including many waterbirds that also breed there.

The large-scale reed marshes in this Ramsar Site are one of the most important in the Sanjiang Plain (Northeastern China Region) and have the remarkable ability of water storage and flood control.

This site supports 29 threatened species of which 3 are mammals and 26 are birds such as Siberian Crane, Oriental Stork, Red-crowned Crane, Scaly-sided Merganser and Baer's Pochard. The diverse wetland types at this site provide important habitats for many species, including 388 plant species, 201 birds (including 80 waterbirds), 35 mammals, 10 amphibians and reptiles, and 18 fish species. More than 1% of the population of nine waterbirds species is present at the site.

The Heilongjiang Qixing River National Nature Reserve is an ideal base for scientific research, education and popularization of wetland conservation. The rich biodiversity can provide germplasm resource for the development of agriculture, forestry and aquaculture in the region. The Master Plan for Qixing River Nature Reserve and Management Methods for Qixing River Nature Reserve have been developed and been implemented.

Heilongjiang Youhao Wetlands

Site number: 2,353 | Country: China | Administrative region: Youhao district, Yichun City, Heilongjiang Province, Northeast China.

Area: 60,687 ha | Coordinates: 48°24'09"N 128°22'02"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site is an inland wetland ecosystem characterized by flat and open valleys, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes with large areas of herb, shrub and tree-dominated marshes. Stretched over the north- and south-facing slopes of the Lesser Khingan mountains in north-east China, it is typical of the forested wetland ecosystems of the northern mountainous region. The boundary of the Ramsar Site is the same as that of the Heilongjiang Youhao National Nature Reserve; over 70% is covered by marshes, which are preserved in a natural state. It has a large area of original red pine forests and a variety of wild plants such as *Pinus koraiensis*, *Phellodendron amurense* and *Chosenia arbutifolia*. With 836 plant species, 221 birds, 47 mammals, 19 amphibians and reptiles and 43 fish, the Site plays an important role in protecting rare wild plants and animals. The wetland is an important breeding place for waterbirds, including the critically endangered yellow-breasted bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), the endangered Blakiston's fish owl (*Bubo blakistoni*) and the vulnerable Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*). The forest and wetland ecosystems in the area provide important services at the catchment scale in conserving water, maintaining soil and water quality, and regulating climate and surface runoff.

Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao Wetland National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,978 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang Province

Area: 44,364 ha | Coordinates: 46°07'40"N 133°38'13"E | Designation dates: 01-09-2011
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao Wetland National Nature Reserve is located in Northeast China on the border between China and Russia. It supports a diversity of freshwater wetlands types, mainly river and floodplain wetlands, as well as permanent and seasonal freshwater marshes/pools, herb marshes, shrub marshes, forest marshes, etc. This Ramsar Site is part of Xingkai Lake-Bulieya Mountains in terms of tectonic setting and has significant functions in terms of water storage and flood control, thereby playing an important role in maintaining eco-security of the catchment. This site is a typical representative wetland area in the cold temperate zone of East Asia

The site supports 13 threatened species of which 8 are birds and 5 are mammals. There are a total of 393 plant species, 171 birds, 61 fish, 16 amphibians and reptiles and 40 mammal species.

According to the surveys in different years this site supports more than 100,000 of birds and also supports more than 1% of the population of 12 waterbird species.

The wetlands in this site are now under strict protection, and are not used for agriculture, aquaculture or other production uses. However, with the beautiful landscapes of the Ussuri River and diverse wetlands, this Ramsar Site is of great potential value for ecotourism. Presently, some 10,000 people visit this site each year. A Master Plan for Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao National Nature Reserve has been compiled.

Henan Minquan Yellow River Gudao Wetlands

Site number: 2,426 | Country: China | Administrative region: Minquan County, Shangqiu City, Henan Province

Area: 2,303.5 ha | Coordinates: 34°39'33"N 115°19'20"E | Designation dates: 03-02-2020
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site is located in Henan province on the North China Plain, on what was a channel of the Yellow River until the River was diverted in the 19th century. It now forms a part of the Huaihe River Basin and is an important source of drinking water for Minquan county and Shangqiu City. It features a reservoir, and also the permanent river which feeds it and aquaculture ponds. The site provides important waterbird habitat along the East Asia - Australasia Flyway migration route and regularly supports 60,000 individuals, including more than 1% of the biogeographical populations of a number of species qualifying the site as a wetland of international importance under Ramsar Criterion 6. Of these, some species are threatened with extinction, including the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) as well as the endangered Oriental stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) and far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). The wetlands are important for hazard reduction in this flood-prone part of China, as well as for maintaining the local hydrological regime.

Honghe National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,149 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang
Area: 21,836 ha | Coordinates: 47°49'N 133°40'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Honghe National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Heilongjiang; 21,836 ha; 47°49'N 133°40'E. National Nature Reserve. A near-natural marsh ecosystem with a large variety of wetland types, providing support for six endangered and rare species of flora and three of avifauna. The Reserve is the main breeding site for the Oriental stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), with 200 individuals in autumn, as well as for Black stork, Red-crowned and White-napped cranes, Whooper swan, and Mandarin duck. State-owned farms cultivate rice in the area. Overuse of groundwater and intensive agriculture are viewed as potential threats. In 2001, scientific monitoring programs were introduced to monitor large waterfowl as well as surface water and groundwater levels. Ramsar site no. 1149. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve

Site number: 2,184 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hubei Province
Area: 11,579 ha | Coordinates: 30°20'N 113°49'33"E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve. 16/10/2013; Hubei; 11,579 ha; 30°20'01"N 113°49'34"E. IBA, Nature Reserve. An Important Bird Area and Provincial Nature Reserve, the site is situated at the confluence of the middle reaches of the Huangsi and Tongshun River systems, regulating flood water in the Eastern Jiangnan Plain and guaranteeing the safety of Wuhan City, 45km away. Large permanent freshwater marshes and freshwater lakes support a total of 140 species of birds, of which eight occur in internationally important numbers. The vulnerable Chinese Water Deer *Hydropotes inermis* can be found here. In addition to its important role in groundwater recharge, flood storage and fish production, the site is important for environmental education and tourism, with about 20,000 visitors annually. Ramsar Site no. 2184. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Hubei Dajiu Lake Wetland

Site number: 2,186 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hubei Province
Area: 9,320 ha | Coordinates: 31°28'14"N 110°02'50"E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hubei Dajiu Lake Wetland. 16/10/2013; Hubei; 9,320 ha; 31°28'14"N 110°2'51"E. Nature Reserve. The site is a rare representative of a typical subalpine sphagnum bog wetland located in subtropical central China. It lies in the watershed of Yangtze and Han Rivers, close to the Shennongjia Forest District, one of the "WWF Global 200". The wetland represents the source of the Du River, a first level tributary of the Han, and has great value in the biogeographic region for flood control, climate regulation, groundwater recharge and water purification. Several threatened species of plants, waterbirds and mammals occur at the site, including the critically endangered Veitch's Spruce *Picea neoveitchii*, the endangered Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* and Forest Musk Deer *Moschus berezovskii*. Ramsar Site no. 2186. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Hubei Honghu Wetlands

Site number: 1,729 | Country: China | Administrative region: Honghu County
Area: 43,450 ha | Coordinates: 29°49'59"N 113°19'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hubei Honghu Wetlands. 02/02/08; Hubei; 43,450 ha; 29°50' N 113°19' E. Nature Reserve. The seventh largest freshwater lake of China, located on the northern bank of middle Yangtze river along the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. IUCN Red Listed species like *Anser cygnoides*, *Ciconia boyciana*, *Mergus squamatus*, *Aythya baeri*, and *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* are found here, and the site supports 1% threshold for *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Podiceps cristatus*, *Anser anser*, *Anser fabalis*, *Anser albifrons*, and *Platalea leucorodia*. The aquatic, polar and willow vegetation provides habitat for 139 bird species, 62 fish species, 6 amphibian species, 12 reptile species, 13 mammal species, 379 zooplanktons, 472 vascular plants species and 280 phytoplankton species. Flood regulation, fisheries, regional climate regulation, and water quality enhancement are ecosystem services provided by the site. In the past, reclamation, construction, and aquaculture were threats at the site; however, since the designation as nature reserve, these threats have been improved. Qingshui fort, at the centre of Honghu Wetland, is a relic of Wuling and the famous ancient battlefield of 208. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1729. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Hubei Wang Lake

Site number: 2,349 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yangxin County, Huangshi City, Hubei Province
Area: 20,495 ha | Coordinates: 29°50'37"N 115°20'E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located between the Mufu and Dabie mountains of central China, the Site is a complex wetland ecosystem with inland shallow lakes, flooded marshes and permanent rivers where wetlands and forests develop in succession. Surrounded by mountains and hills in the catchment of the Fu river (a primary tributary of the Yangtze), the relatively isolated and near-natural Site provides habitats for a wide range of wildlife. There are 591 vascular plant species, 46 zooplankton, 30 zoobenthos, 74 fish species, 33 amphibians and reptiles, 167 birds and 25 mammals. It supports a variety of rare and threatened species such as the critically endangered Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) and Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*); the endangered Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*) and Chinese forest musk deer (*Moschus berezovskii*); and the vulnerable serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*) and lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*). It also provides important stopover and wintering grounds on the East Asian – Australasian Flyway for 20,000 to 50,000 birds. 80% of the inflow from the north slope of Mufu mountain and Yangxin County is discharged into the wetland and so it serves as an important flood buffer system for the Yangtze and Fu rivers.

Huidong Harbor Sea Turtle National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,150 | Country: China | Administrative region: Guangdong
Area: 400 ha | Coordinates: 22°33'N 114°54'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Huidong Harbor Sea Turtle National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Guangdong; 400 ha; 22°33'N 114°54'E. National Nature Reserve. At the juncture of Daya Bay and Honghai Bay in the South China Sea, presently the only sea turtle protected area in China, with seawater and gently-sloping sandy beaches still in good environmental quality and eminently suitable for sea turtles, which have traditionally been regarded as a divine species and symbol of longevity and good luck in the region. The beach, 1,000m long and 70m wide, surrounded by mountains on the three landward sides, supports as many as 400-500 Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), an IUCN Red List endangered species, during egg-laying. The area is under collective ownership, and the site has been delimited as a fishery protected area by local government - since it received Reserve status in 1992, fishery stocks have benefited. It is felt that the boundaries of the present Reserve, demarcated in 1986, are somewhat too restricted for its conservation purposes, and efforts are being made to expand it. Artificial incubation and breeding ponds have been established to assist young turtles when adverse conditions, such as bad weather, warrant. Ramsar site no. 1150. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

Inner Mongolia Bila River Wetlands

Site number: 2,427 | Country: China | Administrative region: Oroqen Autonomous Banner, Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, P.R. China

Area: 56,604 ha | Coordinates: 49°26'29"N 123°19'02"E | Designation dates: 03-02-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site is a vast wetland covering both cold and milder temperate zones on the slopes of the Grand Khingan mountain range in north-east China. It includes numerous braided rivers and oxbow lakes. Vegetation communities and habitats across the site include grasslands, forests, meadows, swamp meadows and shrub lands. The site's soil is constantly saturated, therefore the litter of the forest and herb marshes cannot decompose and forms thick peat layers. These marshes make up about 19,460 hectares, accounting for 98% of wetlands in the site. With this mosaic of habitats, the site is home to great biodiversity, with 45 mammal, 228 bird and 35 fish species present, many of which are threatened. These include the vulnerable Siberian taimen (*Hucho taimen*) and the critically endangered yellow-breasted bunting (*Emberiza aureola*). Forest fire, drought and temperature extremes are the major threats to the ecological character of the site.

Inner Mongolia Grand Khingan Hanma Wetlands

Site number: 2,351 | Country: China | Administrative region: In Genhe City, Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Area: 107,348 ha | Coordinates: 51°35'20"N 122°38'01"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the northern part of the western slope of the Grand Khingan mountains, the Site is one of the most well-preserved temperate coniferous forest areas in China, featuring tundra mountain bright coniferous forest. Lying along the Taliya river and its tributaries, the Site is dominated by marshes, rivers and lakes; the large *Larix gmelinii* and *Sphagnum* bogs are typical of the biogeographic region, and serve as important carbon sinks. The Site plays an important role in regional biodiversity conservation by supporting a variety of rare and threatened species. It is home to 620 species of plants (ferns, bryophytes, gymnosperms, and angiosperms), 26 fish, ten amphibians and reptiles, 203 birds and 51 mammals. It is also an important habitat and breeding ground for a number of bird species in north-east China and along the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. Hanma Wetlands (Hanma Reserve) was among the 51 China Demonstration Reserves in 2006 and became a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 2015.

Jiangxi Poyang Lake Nanji Wetlands

Site number: 2,431 | Country: China | Administrative region: Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province

Area: 33,300 ha | Coordinates: 29°00'19"N 116°17'49"E | Designation dates: 03-02-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The site is located in the southern part of the main body of Poyang Lake, the largest freshwater lake in China. The existing Poyanghu Ramsar Site (Site no. 550) is found nearby within Poyang Lake. One of the main features of this new site is the large inland delta complex formed by the northern, middle and southern channels of the Ganjiang River, which flow into the Lake and on from there into the Yangtze River. Significant water level fluctuations occur within the wetland between the wet and dry seasons, with the total surface water coverage varying between under 40% and almost 99% of the wetland. When the water level drops, a variety of other wetland features emerge including rivers, lakes, meadows and mudflats. This creates important habitats for waterbirds as a stopover and wintering place, with between 20,000 and 70,000 migratory birds wintering in the site annually. These include a number of threatened species including the Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), and more than 1% of the biogeographical populations of 21 species.

Jilin Hani Wetlands

Site number: 2,350 | Country: China | Administrative region: Liuhe County, Tonghua City, Jilin Province, China

Area: 3,571.5 ha | Coordinates: 42°12'52"N 126°31'08"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in north-east China's Changbai mountain system, Jilin Hani Wetlands are part of the Longgang volcano group and mainly comprise forested and non-forested peatlands. Boasting the thickest peat layer (9.6 metres) in north-east China, the Site is one of the most important carbon sinks in the biogeographic region and helps maintain the carbon cycle in the Hani river basin. The peat layer developed through the Holocene period with continuous and fast deposition of diverse plant residues; a peat pillar in the Site provides a rare geological archive of the evolution of the Holocene environment. The Site is mainly fed by rainfall and surface water from bedrock fissures at the foot of the mountain. It is in the headstream region of the Hani river, which flows into the Hunjiang river (a primary tributary of the Yalu river) and is also in the Hani river water conservation area, which is the only source of drinking water for the city of Tonghua. The Site provides important habitats for a wealth of biodiversity, and plays a key role in water conservation, flood control, groundwater recharge, and regulation of the regional microclimate and the carbon cycle in north-east Asia.

Jilin Momoge National Nature Reserve

Site number: 2,188 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jilin Province

Area: 144,000 ha | Coordinates: 45°54'32"N 123°45'56"E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Jilin Momoge National Nature Reserve (144,000 ha; 45°54'32"N 123°45'56"E) located in the transition zone between deserts and grasslands in the northwestern part of Jilin Province, supports wetland types that are representative of the biogeographic region, such as low plain wetlands, rivers, temperate meadow and shallow lakes. These habitats provide important refuge for a variety of fish and bird species. In spring 2012, 97% of the world's population of the critically endangered Siberian Crane *Leucogeranus leucogeranus* were recorded at the site, and over 100,000 waterbirds were recorded in each year between 2010 and 2012. The site plays an important role in groundwater recharge, flood water storage, and local climate regulation. It is also important in supporting the local fisheries, livestock farming and agriculture. Ramsar Site no. 2188. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Lashihai Wetland

Site number: 1,437 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunnan Province

Area: 3,560 ha | Coordinates: 26°53'43"N 100°08'15"E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Lashihai Wetland. 07/12/04; Yunnan; 3560 ha; 26°53'52" N 100°08'6" E. Provincial Nature Reserve. A unique plateau freshwater lake with marsh meadows, located between 2,440 and 3,100 meters above sea level at the headwaters of the Yangtze River in the Hengduan Mountains. The critically endangered White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* and Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* can be found at the site. It is an important migration passage, breeding ground and wintering habitat of nearly 76 species of wild geese and ducks and in total more than 100,000 waterbirds visit the site each year. The water outlet of the lake is connected to the Jinsha River with major hydrological functions of flood control, storage and water balance in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. It also supplies drinking water to Lijian City, a famous World Heritage cultural property. As a biodiversity 'hotspot', Lashihai attracts 5000 tourists daily particularly for birdwatching; major protection measures include a ban on fishing, poaching and hunting. With the support of The Nature Conservancy, research on aquatic plants, amphibian and reptiles was carried out between 2005 and 2006. Ramsar Site No. 1437. Most recent RIS information: 2012

Maidika

Site number: 1,438 | Country: China | Administrative region: This Ramsar site is administratively located in Chali County of Nakchu District, Tibet Autonomous Region, Western China.

Area: 43,496 ha | Coordinates: 31°01'N 92°50'55"E | Designation dates: 01-12-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This vast swamp meadow is located on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau at 4,800 metres above sea level. With permanent and seasonal pools and lakes, the wetland forms one of the sources of the Lhasa River. It is one of the highest altitude wetlands in China and indeed the world, performing major hydrological functions such as control of soil erosion and prevention of seasonal floods. Maidika also has an important role in providing water for residents as well as acting to retain sediment and sequester carbon. The wetland plays a critical role as a staging and breeding habitat for migratory waterfowl, including the vulnerable black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) and the common pochard (*Aythya ferina*). The endangered snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) and the endangered saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) can also be found within the site. Over-grazing and reduced rainfall as a result of climate change are present threats to the ecological character. The lands are state-owned and are managed by the Bureau of Maidika Wetland in Chali County.

Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay

Site number: 750 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hong Kong

Area: 1,540 ha | Coordinates: 22°29'20"N 114°02'44"E | Designation dates: 04-09-1995

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay. 04/09/95; Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; 1,540 ha; 22°29'20' N 114°01'44' E. Restricted Area; Site of Special Scientific Interest; Water Quality Control Zone; East Asia-Australasian Flyway Network Site. First designated as a Ramsar site by the United Kingdom, transferred to China in 1997. A shallow coastal bay with extensive intertidal mudflats backed by dwarf mangroves, shrimp and fishponds. The aquaculture activities carried out in Mai Po provide a good example of how artificial or semi-artificial habitats can support a high diversity of wildlife under proper management. Built in the 1930s, the tidal shrimp ponds, known as Gei wais, are drained in rotation throughout the winter and kept drained for a long period of time to attract waterbirds to feed on the remaining small fish or invertebrates. Most of the Gei wais in the site are now managed as roosting and foraging habitats for migratory birds or as freshwater habitats for dragonflies. Thirteen globally threatened species of birds and 17 species of invertebrates new to science are present. The site regularly held over 20% of the global population of Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* between 2007-2012. Another 26 species of waterbirds are found in numbers amounting to more than 1% of their regional population. Research, conservation education, fish farming and recreation are the main activities. Over 40,000 people, of whom 11,000 are students, visit the reserve annually for birdwatching or informal education visits. Ramsar site no. 750. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Mapangyong Cuo

Site number: 1,439 | Country: China | Administrative region: Tibet Autonomous Region
Area: 73,782 ha | Coordinates: 30°41'38"N 81°23'17"E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Mapangyong Cuo. 07/12/04; Tibet Autonomous Region; 73,782 hectares; 30°44'29"N 81°19'42"E. A high-altitude wetland of the Tibetan plateau (4,500-6,500m asl) covering Mapangyong and Laang Lakes with surrounding swamps and rivers, "one of the highest elevation freshwater wetlands in the world" and a source of the Yalu Tsangpo/Brahmaputra River. It is a spawning and survival habitat for Tibetan plateau endemic fish species *Schizopygopsis microcephalus* and *Triplophysa stewarti* and supports large populations of the vulnerable Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* and the endangered Chiru or Tibetan antelope *Pantholops hodgsoni*, and Snow leopard *Uncia uncia*. Records between 2008 and 2010 show that the area supports about 80,000 waterbirds annually. Vegetation is dominated by subalpine desert grasslands such as *Stipa glareosa* with alpine meadow composed of *Stipa purpurea*, *Carex moorcroftii*, *Poa annua* and *Caragana versicolor* distributed between 4,700-5,000m asl. The lake, situated beside the holy mountain Kang Rinpoche, is a holy place in Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and "Black Buddhism" and attracts hundreds of devotees and tourists every year. Local herdsmen use the surrounding wetlands for grazing. Since the area was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2004, several conservation and restoration projects were carried out to improve the protection and signage at the Site, for a total investment of 4.7 million USD. Each year, around 10,000 people visit the site. Ramsar site No. 1439. Most recent RIS information: 2012

Nan Dongting Wetland and Waterfowl Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,151 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hunan
Area: 168,000 ha | Coordinates: 28°49'59"N 112°40'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nan Dongting Wetland and Waterfowl Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Hunan; 168,000 ha; 28°50'N 112°40'E. Nature Reserve. Located in the southern part of Dongting Lake, the largest lake on the plains of the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, the site supports important numbers of endangered Oriental Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) and critically endangered Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), as well as Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*), and produces rich fauna and flora of high economic value. It also plays an important role in the regulation and storage of flood water from the Yangtze. Some 14,000 people live within the site, chiefly practicing fishing and aquaculture in human-made ponds and growing economic crops in the mudflat areas, including some 120,000 tons of reeds annually. Deforestation in the upper reaches of the Yangtze is leading to increased flow of mud and sand into the lake bed, and pesticide runoff and industrial pollution are also seen as potential threats; in addition, the water level of the lake has descended due to the damming of the Three Gorges Project. A restoration project was approved in 2005 to strengthen the protection of diverse habitats for rare and endangered waterfowl. Ramsar site no. 1151. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Napahai Wetland

Site number: 1,440 | Country: China | Administrative region: Yunnan Province
Area: 2,083 ha | Coordinates: 27°51'16"N 99°38'44"E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Napahai Wetland. 07/12/04; Yunnan; 2,083 ha; 27°51'16" N 99°38'44"E. Provincial Nature Reserve. A seasonal karst marsh composed of meadow, open water, peatlands, and surrounding forests situated at about 3,260m above sea level, with lake outflow through karst caves draining underground into the Jinsha River in the upper reaches of the Yangtze. It is an important wintering site and staging post for numerous wintering birds, supporting over 70,000 birds annually and over 1% of the population of the vulnerable Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*. The region is economically very poor, but in recent years sightseeing and birdwatching have brought significant economic and social benefits, and it is felt that conservation-based ecotourism will benefit the protection of the ecosystem. Overgrazing and logging in the surrounding area are seen as potential threats. Since 2008, 674 ha of vegetation in the meadows and shallow water areas were restored by stabilizing water levels. The management of the reserve have engaged the local community in the conservation of the site by teaching the villagers how to observe birds and identify rare plants. Ramsar site no. 1440. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Niaodao

Site number: 552 | Country: China | Administrative region: Qinghai
Area: 53,600 ha | Coordinates: 36°49'59"N 100°10'E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Niaodao ("Bird Island"). 31/03/92; Qinghai; 53,600 ha; 36°50'N 100°10'E. Nature Reserve. The lake, centered on an island, is fed by two rivers and numerous smaller rivers originating from mountain snow melt. Marshes are both brackish and fresh, along which a rich alpine meadow community thrives. The site is extremely important for numerous species of breeding birds, wintering Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans, etc.), and for staging waterbirds in spring and autumn. Human activities include livestock grazing, fishing, and tourism. Ramsar site no. 552. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

Poyanghu

Site number: 550 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jiangxi
Area: 22,400 ha | Coordinates: 29°10'N 115°58'59"E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Poyanghu. 31/03/92; Jiangxi; 22,400 ha; 29°10'N 115°59'E. Nature Reserve; Crane Network Site. A large freshwater lake subject to seasonal fluctuations, within a region of subtropical, deciduous broad-leaved and evergreen forest surrounded by marshes and wet grassland fed by five major rivers. The site supports numerous species of plankton, mollusc, fish, and mammals and at least 46 species of birds. It is important for wintering and staging birds and for a population of 20,000 people whose activities include grazing water buffalo, harvesting grass and aquatic vegetation, small-scale cultivation, fishing and a freshwater pearl industry. Wildlife tourism is increasing rapidly. Ramsar site no. 550. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

San Jiang National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,152 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang
Area: 164,400 ha | Coordinates: 47°55'59"N 134°19'59"E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

San Jiang National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Heilongjiang; 164,400 ha; 47°56'N 134°20'E. National Nature Reserve. An alluvial floodplain typical of high-altitude wetlands, a mixture of rivers, open bogs, seasonally flooded meadows, and sedge marshes, the largest area of freshwater wetland in the country. The site is internationally important for waterbirds, including the endangered *Ciconia boyciana*, *Mergus squamatus* and *Anser cygnoides*. The number of geese and ducks may reach up to 100,000 in autumn. The site is an important habitat and breeding area for several commercial fish species and serves as a natural reservoir for the San Jiang Plains, providing vital flood control as well. The management of the reserve has been working together with the governments of surrounding towns and villages since 2003, and a conservation committee has been established. Ramsar site no. 1152. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Shandong Jining Nansi Lake

Site number: 2,346 | Country: China | Administrative region: In Jining City, Shandong Province.
Area: 50,761.6 ha | Coordinates: 34°53'40"N 116°57'19"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shandong Jining Nansi Lake is the sixth-largest freshwater lake in China and the largest in northern China. The water body, comprising Weishan, Nanyang, Dushan and Zhaoyang lakes, is a unique natural environment with rich biological resources, which has developed into a well-preserved and structurally complete macrophytic wetland ecosystem, the largest north of the Huaihe River. With its rivers and vast expanse of open water and extensive marshes, the Site supports a large variety of flora and fauna. There are 656 species of vascular plants, 148 aquatic plants, 248 planktonic animals, 79 benthic animals, 46 fish, six amphibians, seven reptiles, 205 birds and 11 mammals. It also serves as a wintering and resting site for a variety of migratory birds. Some of these are globally threatened such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*); others are vulnerable such as the swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*) and white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*). The Site is also an important water diversion area and transfer channel of the South-North Water Transfer Project (Eastern Route), playing a key role in regulating the runoff and water quality.

Shandong Yellow River Delta Wetland

Site number: 2,187 | Country: China | Administrative region: Shandong Province

Area: 95,950 ha | Coordinates: 37°46'11"N 119°05'08"E | Designation dates: 16-10-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shandong Yellow River Delta Wetland. 16/10/2013; Shandong; 95,950 ha; 37°42'18"N 119°09'02"E. National Reserve. Located in the Yellow River National Reserve of Shandong Province, the wetland is composed of two units, with the northern part located at Diaokou River, referred to as the 'Ancient Yellow River', while the southern part is located along the course of the Yellow River and extends out to the Bohai Sea. The site is an almost naturally intact estuary wetland composed of shallow estuarine waters, tidal flats, marshes, reed swamps, canals and drainage channels, and aquaculture ponds at the mouth of Yellow River estuary. It has an annual accretion rate of 32.4 km² which is one of the fastest rates in the world and is due to the large amount of sediment brought down by the Yellow River. The wetland is an important migratory waterbird staging and wintering area and supports 38 species in internationally important numbers, with a total waterbird count of between 80,500 and 248,600 in recent years. The large amount of reeds found in the wetland form the basis of the weaving and paper production industries in the area. In recent years, flow from the Yellow River has decreased, resulting in wetland degradation. Ramsar Site no. 2187. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

Shanghai Yangtze Estuarine Wetland Nature Reserve for Chinese Sturgeon

Site number: 1,730 | Country: China | Administrative region: Shanghai

Area: 3,760 ha | Coordinates: 31°31'N 122°04'59"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shanghai Yangtze Estuarine Wetland Nature Reserve for Chinese Sturgeon. 02/02/08; Shanghai; 3,760 ha; 31°31'N 122°05'E. Nature Reserve. A estuarine salt-fresh water wetlands in the estuarine area of the Yangtze river, the third largest in the world. The wetland provides habitat for IUCN Red Listed species like Baixun or Chinese paddlefish (*Psephurus gladius*), Baiqitun (*Lipotes vexillifer*), and Moxiangjing (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and it provides critical refuge for Chinese Sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*) as well as breeding place for important economic fish species. 332 fish species are found here. Deposition of large amounts of sands, mud and nutrition accelerates the development of coast, maintaining the nutrient level of the water body which plays important role in levelling ground water table, purifying water quality, and stabilizing microclimate conditions. The shipping business is potential threat to site. A management plan is in place. Ramsar site no. 1730. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Shankou Mangrove Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,153 | Country: China | Administrative region: Guangxi

Area: 4,000 ha | Coordinates: 21°33'19"N 109°41'06"E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shankou Mangrove Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Guangxi; 4,000 ha; 21°28'N 109°43'E. Nature Reserve, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Two related areas on either side of the Shatian Peninsula on the Beibu Gulf at the border between Guangxi and Guangdong provinces in the southwest of China, where salt marsh and mangrove forest form a protective barrier for the coastal farmlands and villages. Some 14 species of mangrove are represented, principally *Rhizophora stylosa* and *Avicennia marina*, and provide support for the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*. It is also an important stopover site for a great number of migratory birds. Shrimp culture and improper hunting create pressures, and ecotourism is growing at the site, but reforestation efforts since 2002 have restored 200 ha of mangrove. Ramsar site no. 1153. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Shuangtai Estuary

Site number: 1,441 | Country: China | Administrative region: Liaoning Province

Area: 128,000 ha | Coordinates: 40°54'45"N 121°45'41"E | Designation dates: 07-12-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Shuangtai Estuary. 07/12/04; Liaoning; 128,000 ha; 40°54'45"N 121°45'41"E. National Nature Reserve. The estuary of the Liao River at Liaodong Bay in northeastern China, the site includes "the essential part of the world's largest reed marsh (*Phragmites communis*)", a large area of *Suaeda* community, and shallow sea. The site, which meets eight of the Ramsar Criteria, provides flood control and prevention, maintains groundwater recharge, and retains 10.4 million tons of nutrients and sediment each year, helping to prevent coastal water eutrophication and salt water intrusion. It provides important habitat for resting and breeding of over 100,000 waterbirds from 106 species, including the critically endangered Siberian Crane *Leucogeranus leucogeranus* and the endangered Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana* and Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*, and is the largest breeding site in the world for the vulnerable Saunder's Gull *Larus saundersi*. The site provides seasonal occupation for 20,000 people for reed irrigation and harvest, oil exploration facility checking, agriculture and aquaculture. Conservation measures include environmental awareness and education for the protection of birds. A Wetland Ecosystem Monitoring Station has been established to observe and study waterbirds and monitor the status of the wetland. So far, about 400ha of *Larus saundersi* habitat have been restored. Ramsar site no. 1441. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

Sichuan Changshagongma Wetlands

Site number: 2,348 | Country: China | Administrative region: In Shiqu County of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Region western in Sichuan Province, P.R.China

Area: 669,800 ha | Coordinates: 33°45'36"N 97°59'29"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a high-altitude wetland on the south-eastern edge of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, featuring herbaceous swamps, lakes and rivers. It includes a large peatland developed in the alpine humid climate which serves as an important carbon sink. With its unique geographical and ecological setting, it is one of the region's biodiversity hotspots, providing important habitats for a large number of rare and threatened species (including some that are endemic to China,) such as the globally endangered alpine musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*) and Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*), and the vulnerable snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Chinese mountain cat (*Felis bieti*) and the endemic white-lipped deer (*Przewalskium albirostris*). The Site serves as an important stopover and breeding ground for many migratory birds such as black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) and ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). It plays a significant role in regulating the local climate, conserving water, controlling floods and mitigating climate change.

Sichuan Ruoergai Wetland National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,731 | Country: China | Administrative region: Sichuan Province

Area: 166,570 ha | Coordinates: 33°43'N 102°49'E | Designation dates: 02-02-2008

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Sichuan Ruoergai Wetland National Nature Reserve. 02/02/08; Sichuan; 166,570 ha; 33°43'N 102°44'E. Nature Reserve. Said to be the largest alpine peat marsh in the world as well as tundra wetland located in the upstream area of the Yellow River and the northeast of Qinghai Tibet Plateau at 3,422m-3,704m altitude. A marsh meadow vegetation provides habitat for 137 bird species including IUCN Red-List species Chai (*Cuon alpinus*), Yudaihaidiao (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*), and Heijinghe or Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*), as well as 38 animal species, 3 amphibian species, 15 fish species, 3 amphibian species and 362 wild plant species. The site is also referred to as the water tower of China, as it serves the important water supply area of upper Yangtze River and Yellow River. The site stores peat of 7 billion m³ and has water-holding capability of nearly 10 billion m³. It contributes to local climate regulation, water and soil conservation, and aids in reducing green house effects. A high touristic place with a unique ecosystem, panoramic plateau landscape, and colorful Tibetan culture with great aesthetic value. Desertification and decrease in marsh area have occurred due to global warming and rainfall reduction. Ramsar site no. 1731. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Tianjin Beidagang Wetlands

Site number: 2,425 | Country: China | Administrative region: Tianjin, People's Republic of China

Area: 1,130 ha | Coordinates: 38°47'39"N 117°21'30"E | Designation dates: 03-02-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Tianjin Beidagang Wetlands lies in a transitional area of inland and coastal wetlands where the Duliujian River meets Bohai Bay. Located just to the south of the city of Tianjin, the site covers a small part (3%) of the greater Beidagang Provincial Wetland Nature Reserve. It is mainly composed of permanent freshwater marshes, rivers and ponds. The site provides exceptional habitat for waterbirds, and its situation on the East Asian – Australasian Flyway migration route results in annual total numbers regularly exceeding 400,000. Among these are threatened species including the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and Siberian crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) as well as the endangered Oriental stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) and great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*). More than 1% of the biogeographical populations of a number of species have been recorded within the site, including the common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*). Ecosystem services provided by the wetland include pollution control and detoxification as well as flood control.

Tibet Selincuo Wetlands

Site number: 2,352 | Country: China | Administrative region: Nagqu City, Tibet Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China

Area: 1,893,630 ha | Coordinates: 31°22'29"N 89°35'31"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an inland wetland dominated by permanent highland saline and freshwater lakes on the south Chang Tang plateau, part of the Tibetan plateau. This high-altitude wetland, with an average elevation of 4,700 metres, is a representative alpine wetland ecosystem highlighting rare and unique features of such wetlands across the world. The Site is divided into two zones: the western part, in the vast area between the Kunlun mountains and the Nyenchen Tanglha mountains of the Gangdisê range, which is the largest system of inland lakes on the Tibetan plateau; and the eastern part, to the north of the Nyenchen Tanglha mountains and on the eastern side of the north-east Tibetan watershed, with a system of rivers which flow towards the sea. The Site's vast and varied alpine wetland ecosystems play a significant role in maintaining biodiversity, including 472 species of plants, 23 mammals, 105 birds, one amphibian, three reptiles and ten fish species, among them rare and threatened species such as the saker falcon *Falco cherrug*, Pallas's fish-eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, the eastern imperial eagle *Aquila heliaca* and the snow leopard *Panthera uncia*. The Site is also an important stopover and breeding ground for many waterbirds such as *Grus nigricollis*, *Larus brunnicephalus*, *Anser indicus* and *Tadorna ferruginea*.

Tibet Trari Nam Co Wetlands

Site number: 2,430 | Country: China | Administrative region: Ngari Prefecture, Tibet Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China

Area: 142,982 ha | Coordinates: 30°56'27"N 85°34'58"E | Designation dates: 03-02-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located in the south-west of the Chang Tang Plateau, on the northern hinterland of the larger Tibetan Plateau, this high-altitude wetland at 4,600 metres above sea level includes permanent saline and freshwater lakes, and permanent and seasonal rivers. The main lake itself, Trari Nam Co (Lake Zharinanmu), is, at more than 100,000 hectares, the third largest in Tibet. The wetland provides habitat to numerous threatened species including the vulnerable snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) and the endangered steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*). Annually, the site also regularly holds more than 20,000 waterbirds, among which are seven species of waterbird with more than 1% of their biogeographical populations. Long-term scientific monitoring is undertaken of this unique alpine lake ecosystem's geology and biodiversity.

Xianghai

Site number: 548 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jilin

Area: 105,467 ha | Coordinates: 45°01'59"N 122°40'59"E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Xianghai. 31/03/92; Jilin; 105,467 ha; 44°02'N 122°41'E. Nature Reserve; Crane Network Site. A system of freshwater marshes, lakes, wet grassland and a linked series of irrigation canals, fed by three major rivers. The site includes sand dunes, plantations, cultivated land and reservoirs subject to spring flooding. At least 30 species of mammals are found here and the area is important for breeding, wintering and staging waterbirds. 15,000 permanent inhabitants cultivate various crops, raise livestock and, in winter, cut reeds for the paper industry. Ramsar site no. 548. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

Xi dongting lake nature reserve

Site number: 1,154 | Country: China | Administrative region: Hunan

Area: 35,000 ha | Coordinates: 29°01'N 112°04'59"E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Xi Dongting Lake (Mupinghu) Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Hunan; 35,000 ha; 29°01'N 112°05'E. Nature Reserve. The important western part of Dongting Lake, comprising open freshwater lake and smaller lakes, some shallow mudflats during low water periods, reed swamp, sphagnum bog, and beaches. The site is very important for rare fish, such as the endangered Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*), and birds, such as the endangered Oriental Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*); in addition it serves as a staging area for many other migrating cranes and storks. Fishing, and increasingly fish-breeding, and livestock grazing are important economic activities dependent upon the site. The wetland provides water to over 90,000 people and 10 local industries. Conservation research and education have been developed in collaboration with WWF. The construction of the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River has impacted the wetland through a change in hydrological conditions and sedimentation. Ramsar site no. 1154. Most recent RIS information: 2008.

Xingkai Lake National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,155 | Country: China | Administrative region: In Jixi City, Heilongjiang Province, PR China

Area: 222,488 ha | Coordinates: 45°15'58"N 132°40'06"E | Designation dates: 08-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Located on the south of Sanjiang Plain, in north-eastern China, the Xingkai Lake National Nature Reserve is an inland wetland ecosystem dominated by lakes and swamps. It is representative of the alpine wetland ecosystems along the border between China and Russia. The Site is a tectonic lake and the largest water body in the Heilongjiang river basin. The Sanjiang Wetlands in China and the mixed broadleaf-coniferous forests of the Russian far east, both of great importance for the region's biodiversity, are interconnected by this Site. Having a reputation as a "natural reservoir", Xingkai Lake and the surrounding wetlands are very important for biodiversity protection globally. The Site is a refuge for several globally important species such as the critically endangered yangtze sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*), Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*) and Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*); the endangered red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*), scaly-sided merganser (*Mergus squamatus*) and eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*); and the vulnerable white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*), velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) and Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*). The flood plain formed by Xingkai Lake and its rivers provides a significant stopover and breeding ground for 1.5 – 2 million birds migrating between East Asia and Australia.

Yancheng National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,156 | Country: China | Administrative region: Jiangsu

Area: 453,000 ha | Coordinates: 33°31'N 120°22'E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Yancheng National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Jiangsu; 453,000 ha; 33°31'N 120°22'E. National Nature Reserve. Comprises the largest coastal wetland in China, expansive mudflats along over 120 kilometres of coastline which supports high biodiversity. About 3 million individuals of 200 bird species are said to migrate through the site annually, and many, particularly Anatidae, winter there. The site provides one of the two largest habitats in China for the Pere David's or Water deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*), known as "Milu", and is said to support about 10% of the world population of Black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*). The core areas are uninhabited and in natural condition, whereas the buffer and experimental zones include rice fields, fish and shrimp ponds, with about one million people living in and near the site. The site is owned by Yancheng City: the Reserve management has managerial rights over the core area, whilst local governments have managerial rights over the buffer zones, within agreed parameters. Ramsar site no. 1156. Most recent RIS information: 2001.

Zhaling Lake

Site number: 1,442 | Country: China | Administrative region: Guo Luo State, Qinghai Province

Area: 64,920 ha | Coordinates: 34°54'41"N 97°16'29"E | Designation dates: 01-12-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

A plateau freshwater lake located in north-western China, Zhaling Lake is the second largest lake in the source area of the Yellow River and serves as a major source of water for communities there. This high altitude tectonic lake is situated within the core area of Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve and helps to regulate the hydrology of the region. With its particular natural environment, abundant water resources and productive grasslands, this Site is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the Tibetan plateau biogeographic region. Since 2001, the Chinese Academy of Forestry has led multiple scientific surveys on the Nature Reserve, which have found that this area is among the most species-rich areas in this biogeographic region with about 2,300 plant species, 85 mammals, 238 birds and 40 fishes. Some of these are globally threatened, such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*); the endangered steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) and Przewalski's gazelle (*Procapra przewalskii*); and the vulnerable black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*). The wetland provides stopover and breeding areas for several waterbird species, and it is also an important spawning and nursing site for the fish species endemic to the upper Yellow River, such as *Chuanchia labiosa* and *Gymnocypris eckloni*. The Site is also designated as an Important Bird Area.

Zhalong

Site number: 549 | Country: China | Administrative region: Heilongjiang

Area: 210,000 ha | Coordinates: 47°12'N 124°12'E | Designation dates: 31-03-1992

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zhalong. 31/03/92; Heilongjiang; 210,000 ha; 47°12'N 124°12'E. Nature Reserve. A system of permanent and seasonally flooded freshwater marshes, shallow lakes and ponds, with extensive reedbeds and grasslands. An important area for breeding, wintering, and staging migratory birds, supporting a flora of more than 500 species, 42 species of fish, and numerous amphibians. Reed harvesting provides a major source of income. Ramsar site no. 549. Most recent RIS information: 1997. Most recent RIS information: 1997.

Zhangye Heihe Wetland National Nature Reserve

Site number: 2,246 | Country: China | Administrative region: Zhangye City in Gansu Province

Area: 41,164.6 ha | Coordinates: 39°29'56"N 99°46'10"E | Designation dates: 16-10-2015

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zhangye Heihe Wetland National Nature Reserve is located along the Heihe River, on the plains of the historic Gansu Corridor trading route in north-western China. Surrounded by the extremely fragile environment of the temperate desert, the Reserve is the region's largest oasis zone and plays a critical role in regulating surface runoff, storing floodwater and mitigating drought impacts, supporting regional biodiversity and maintaining ecological security. The Site includes a rich variety of landscapes such as glaciers and snowy mountains, forests and grasslands, deserts and oases, and red Danxia landforms. It is dominated by aquatic systems such as natural rivers, lakes, swamps and meadows which are important breeding and stopover grounds for a variety of globally threatened birds including Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*), saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), and relict gull (*Larus relictus*). The Reserve is also the largest breeding habitat for black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) in East Asia, with a stable population of above 300 every year and the highest recorded being above 500. The Site is in an extremely arid environment with average annual precipitation of only 129 mm, and so the wetland ecosystems of the region are vulnerable to any change in climate that exacerbates the impacts of drought, high temperature and evaporation.

Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve

Site number: 1,157 | Country: China | Administrative region: Guangdong

Area: 20,279 ha | Coordinates: 20°54'N 110°07'59"E | Designation dates: 11-01-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve. 11/01/02; Guangdong; 20,279 ha; 20°54'N 110°08'E. National Nature Reserve. The largest mangrove forest wetland reserve in China, located along coastal areas of the Leizhou Peninsula at the southernmost tip of China between the South China Sea and the Tonkin Gulf, adjacent to Hainan Island. Some 24 species of mangrove are said to be present, and at low tide large areas of exposed mudflats provide excellent support for migrating waterbirds. Like other mangrove forests, the somewhat separate components of the site provide sanctuary for offshore fish, sustenance for birds and other fauna, and coastal protection from waves, tides, and storm surges. The coastal and inshore area supports economic fishing and aquaculture for local people. Agricultural and urban development and fishfarming have destroyed much of the former mangrove areas, but a comprehensive management and afforestation programme for the Reserve, supported by The Netherlands, holds promise for arresting these impacts. Ocean pollution of oil and heavy metal has been taking a toll. Ramsar site no. 1157. Most recent RIS information: 2001.