

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

06/16/2001

2. Country:

the People's Republic of China

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3. Name of wetland:

Honghe National Nature Reserve

Designation date

Site Reference Number

4. Geographical coordinates:

133° 40' 20"E , 47° 49' 12"N

5. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)

Average 52m, max54.5m, min51.5m

6. Area: 19,649.1ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Honghe NNR belongs to the type of inland wetlands and water ecosystem. Its main protection objectives include wetland ecosystem composed of aquatic, wet and terrestrial bios and their habitats, and some important national-protected wildlife such as Oriental Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis* and White-napped Crane *Grus vipio*.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types; in the present document, the "Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type" is found on page 9)

marine-coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp
 Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

human-made 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 •
9 • Zk(c)

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

Ts 1 U Q R 2 W 5 6 N M

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable Criteria; the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* are reprinted beginning on page 11 of this document.)

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 5.

10. Map of site included? Please tick yes

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this for

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to the *Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance* appended to this document)

Criteria 1: Honghe NNR is the profile of Sanjiang Plain where preserves the largest area of original marsh in China. So far, the Reserve still remains original marsh ecosystem and holds full wetland types and perfect original wetlands. Honghe NNR has abundant biodiversity of the wetlands. It is worthwhile to protect these wetlands.

Criteria 2: Six endangered and rare species of wild flora are recorded in Honghe NNR including *Glycine soja*(V), *Acanthlpanax senticosus*(E), *Astragalus membranaceus*(V), *Phellodendron amurense*, *Juglans mandshurica*(V) and *Fraxinus mandshurica*(E). The endangered and rare species of wild

fauna include Oriental Stork *Ciconia ciconia*(E), Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*(E) and White-tailed Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*(E) etc.

Criteria 5: Honghe NNR is an important stopover along the flyway of northeast Asia and also is one of the important breeding sites for Oriental stork *Ciconia ciconia* that is the first-class national protected wildlife in China. The total population of *anatidae* in the Reserve is over 30,000 individuals during the migratory seasons. The endangered species include *Glycine soja*, *Acanthlpanax senticosus*, *Astragalus membranaceus*, *Phellodendron amurense*, *Juglans mandshurica* and *Fraxinus mandshurica*. Report on the Integrated

Criteria 6: The reserve is one of the important breeding sites of Oriental Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, which is the first-class national protected wildlife in China. Annually, about 15-20 pairs of Oriental Stork breed in the reserve; in Autumn the flocks can reach about 200 individuals.

- 1) Report on the Integrated Survey for Honghe NNR;
- 2) Integrated Plan of Honghe NNR of Heilongjiang Province;
- 3) Avidiversity during Spring and Autumn in Honghe NNR;
- 4) National Wetland Conservation Action Plan

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Honghe NNR is located at the boundary area of Tongjiang City and Fuyuan County, and within the administrative region of Jiansanjiang Sub-bureau of General Bureau of Heilongjiang Farms and Land Reclamation. Jiansanjiang Sub-bureau of Farms and Land Reclamation lies in the northeast of Fujin City of Heilongjiang Province and is 50 kilometers distance from Fujin City.

14. Physical features: (e.g., geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

Geology and Geomorphology: Honghe NNR is located at the subordinate first-class structure unit in broken and sunken basin of Hejiang Inland, and the south side of the center of Fuyuan sunken basin. The inner of the Reserve is low flat and extensive sediment plain. The unit of terrain is simple and the inner is composed of dishing and waterline washes, and bubbles.

Origins: Honghe NNR is natural marsh with an attribute of latent formation.

Hydrology: The rivers distributed in the Reserve are marsh rivers. Nongjiang River with 116-kilometer length stems from the eastern of Qinglongshan Farm and covers 2630 square kilometers. 27.5-kilometer length of Nongjiang River run through the Reserve which covers 283.5 square

kilometers in the Reserve and is 10.8% of the total drainage area. Wolulan River with 5 kilometers length is an inland River with no end. The water of Wolulan River will spread outwards with the rising of water level in raining seasons or a year of abundant water. Currently the Rivers present phenomenon of water-broken with lack of water sources.

Soil type: Three soil types are recorded including white-stiff soil, marsh soil and soil in flooded land.

Water depth: The average water depth of Nongjiang River and Wolulan River is 1.5 meter.

Downriver area: The downriver area of Nongjiang River is Hancongou Town of Fuyuan County and Qianfeng Farm of Jianganjiang Sub-bureau, General Bureau of Farms and Land Reclamation.

Climate: The site is located at a temperate humid climate zone along Sanjiang River. It also has temperate monsoon climate with an annual mean temperature of 1.9°C, an average temperature of -23.4°C in the coldest month, and an average temperature of 22.4°C in the hottest month. It has a long winter season with freezing cold and much snow, a hot summer season and a short autumn season.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.)

Two main rivers flow through the Reserve are Nongjiang River and Wolulan River. Annual water required by the wetlands to regularly preserve their function partly come from natural rainfall, the other part come from the water of these two rivers. The wetland of Honghe NNR has a distinct characteristic of microclimate in Sanjiang Plain and play an important role on regulating the surrounding climate changes, preserving the natural underground water level and atmosphere cleaning etc.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Honghe NNR is one of important breeding sites for some important bird species of state protection including Oriental Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus Cygnus*, White-napped Crane *Grus vipio*, Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* and other large waterbirds.

The vegetation types mainly include *Carex lasiocarpa* Ehrh. Marsh, *Carex pseudo-curaica* Fr.Schmidt. Marsh, Reed *Phragmites australis* marsh, *calamagrostis angustifolia* Kom. Meadow, and *calamagrostis angustifolia* Kom. Meadow mixed with other grass.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

The unique community is an ecosystem composed of island forest, *calamagrostis angustifolia* Kom. meadows and marshes.

The rare species include *Glycine soja* and *Astragalus membranaceus*.

Survey for Honghe NNR;

Integrated Plan of Honghe NNR of Heilongjiang Province;

Avidiversity during Spring and Autumn in Honghe NNR;

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Geologically and zoologically the site stands in the Palaearctic realm, Northeast region, Changbaishan Moution sub-region on the division of zoogeographical areas, thus the component of the wildlife is unique with changeable distribution. Based on statistic, beast being 5orders, 9 families and 27 species, avifauna being 11 orders 28 families 110 species, reptiles being 3 orders 4 families 7 species, amphibian being 2 orders 4 families 5 species, hexapod being over 500species. According to the survey, there 6-8 *Ciconia boycana*, 8-9 *Grus japonensis*, 18-20 *Grus vipio*, 8-10 *Haliaeetus albicilla*, and 5-7 *Aquila chrysaetos* to stage here usually for breeding/wintering annually.

The endangered species include Oriental Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*, White-tailed Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* and Lynx *Felis lynx* etc.

The unique specie is Oriental Stork *Ciconia ciconia*.

Report on the Integrated Survey for Honghe NNR;

Integrated Plan of Honghe NNR of Heilongjiang Province;

Avidiversity during Spring and Autumn in Honghe NNR;

Feasible Research Report on the Surrounding Wetlands Restoration Project for Honghe NNR;

National Wetland Conservation Action Plan 2000

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site, etc.)

Honghe NNR plays great significance on the research of climate, vegetation succession rule and geological structure etc for Sanjiang Plain of Northeast China. And it also holds great research value on the study of large waterbirds, migratory birds, population dynamics and distribution pattern, especially on storks and cranes.

Marsh, meadow and island forest of the inner reserve form three first-class landscapes of Sanjiang Plain, which are typical and representative characteristics for Sanjiang Plain in Northeast China. Meanwhile, the reserve holds great cultural values on the public education. All endangered animals and plants in the reserve including Oriental Stork, Red-crowned Crane and Whooper Swan provide natural ground for the local students in primary and secondary schools to recognize and enjoy nature.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

(a) Site: State owned the land ownership of Honghe NNR.

(b) Surrounding area: The local government owned the land tenure of surrounding area.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a)Site: Part of the land in the reserve has been exploited for the purpose of crop plantation.

(b)Surroundings/catchment: Three state-owned farms are located in the surroundings of the reserve. The most part of the land have been exploited and utilized for agriculture. The total population of the surroundings is about 20,000 persons and the main crop is paddy.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site around the site :

Over use of water resource, historical drainage channels and intensive agricultural activities are seriously impacting the environmental conditions.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The site located at the downriver 15 kilometers of Nongjiang River in the northeast of Honghe NNR is adjacent to Sanjiang NNR established in 1996. Division of Nature Protection has been established in 1989 in order to efficiently protect the wildlife resources within the reserve. According to the relevant laws including the Law of Wildlife Protection and Law of Forest, the Division usually cooperates with the local Police Department to severely struggle against crimes on illegal catching and poaching. The staff of the reserve regularly conduct related activities including public education, wildlife explanation, forestry fireproofing and wetland protection toward the students of local primary and secondary schools, farmers and leaders in the surrounding area. Meanwhile, the reserve has established a boundary protection belt with 1-kilometer width around the reserve, and is applying to

enlarge the scope including the area from the upriver and downriver of Nonghe River to the segment of Hancungou, which will increase the area of the current reserve. All of them are in favor of the wildlife resources protection.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g., management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area, etc.)

1) The wetlands within the reserve is severely lack of water due to the area increasing of paddy field and over-utilization of underground waters. To loose the above conflicts, some experts suggest to establish a dam for water preserving at the joint of downriver of Nongjiang River and First Team of Qianfeng Farm through complete and integrated evaluation, who are from Honghe NNR, Academy of Survey and Planning for Farms and Land Reclamation of Jiamusi City, Research Institute of Nature Resources of Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences, Northeast Forestry University of China, Northeast Normal University of China, and Research Institute of Geography of Changchun City etc. The experts set down a feasible research report for the sluice dam project for Honghe NNR, the scheme of which is water supply in drought seasons and water drainage in flood seasons.

2) To further protect the original marsh landscape and its integrated ecosystem, the reserve has drafted a feasible research report for the surrounding wetlands restoration project for Honghe NNR in the late of 2000. Through the implementation of the project, it will decrease the area of surrounding paddy field, lighten the over-utilization of underground waters, and mitigate the surrounding human disturbance to the reserve. However, it is worthwhile to mention that the report is in process to submit for approvals.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g., details of current projects; existence of field station, etc.)

1) The reserve has conducted study on the artificial attraction and wild population dynamics for Oriental Stork *Ciconia ciconia* that is cooperated with Academy of Wildlife Resources of NE Forestry University. The results showed the great success and favorable effect.

2) The reserve has conducted study on the community structure and succession mechanism of *calamagrostis angustifolia* Kom in Sanjiang Plain that is cooperated with Research Institute of Nature Resources of Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences, and also published a book on Biodiversity of Honghe NNR.

3) The display room for wildlife specimen has been established in 1995. The total species of the specimen reach above 1000 pieces. Meanwhile, the reserve also conducted some bird banding activities for a few years under the guidance of National Bird Banding Center of China.

In a word, currently the reserve has one field station, where established in the experiment zone of the reserve and covers 380 square meters. The station includes display room for wildlife specimen,

division of scientific research, police station, restaurant, dormitory and garage etc. An observation tower with 25-meter height was established neighboring the field station.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g., visitors centre, hides, info booklet, facilities for school visits, etc.)

The reserve is an important pilot zone for public education and environment protection with support of GEF/UNDP. Currently the reserve has established one scientific research integrated building covered 900 square meters that also acts as education and training base. Some public education activities on the knowledge of wetlands and birds are often conducted in this base, which mainly tailor to the students of primary and secondary schools.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

So far, the reserve is under strict protection. There is almost no project related with recreation/tourism conducted in the reserve.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.)

The regional jurisdiction of Honghe NNR is due to Sanjiang Sub-bureau of Heilongjiang General Bureau of Farms and Land Reclamation; the functional jurisdiction is due to Department of Environment Protection of Heilongjiang Province.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Name: Management Bureau of Honghe National Nature Reserve

Address: Jian Sanjiang Management Bureau of Agriculture Reclamation, Heilongjiang 150090

Tel: +86-454-5703077

Fax:+86-454-5749499

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

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Integrated Plan of Honghe NNR of Heilongjiang Province;

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Feasible Research Report on the Surrounding Wetlands Restoration Project for Honghe NNR;

Feasible Research Report on the Sluice Dam Project for Honghe NNR.

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