Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.

2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.

3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

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2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

August 25, 2011

3. Country:

The People's Republic of China

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Heilongjiang Qixing River National Nature Reserve

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only)**:**
a) Designation of a new Ramsar site; ☑ or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site ❑

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged: ❑

or
If the site boundary has changed:
i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ❑; or
ii) the boundary has been extended ❑; or
iii) the boundary has been restricted** ❑

and/or

If the site area has changed:
i) the area has been measured more accurately ❑; or
ii) the area has been extended ❑; or
iii) the area has been reduced** ❑

** **Important note**: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site**:**

7. Map of site:
Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:
i**) a hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ❑;

ii**) an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ☑;

iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** ☑.

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:
e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

This site has the same boundary with Qixing River National Nature Reserve. The northern border of the site is contiguous with Youyi County and Fujin City; the eastern border is contiguous with Farm 597; the western border is contiguous with Qixinghe Town of Baoqing County; and the southern border is contiguous with Jianping Town of Baoqing County.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):
Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

Center: 46°44′18″N, 132°13′53″E
Extent: 46°39′45″ - 46°48′24″N, 132°00′22″ - 132°24′46″E

9. General location:
Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

The Ramsar Site is located within Baoqing County, Shuangya City, Central Heilongjiang Province, Northeast China. It is 15 km east of the downtown area of the Youyi County, and 40 km north from the downtown area of the Baoqing County.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Average: 54m;
Minimum: 50m and Maximum: 59m

11. Area: (in hectares)

20,000 ha

12. General overview of the site:
Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

This Ramsar Site is a representative of the inland freshwater marsh wetlands in the temperate zone of Northeast Asia. Rivers and bogs are widespread in this site. The marshes are well preserved, and many waterbirds are perching and breeding here. This site is a hotspot of bird diversity, presenting 81 bird species in total. It is one of the most important breeding sites for threatened waterbirds, such as *Ciconia boyciana*, *Grus japonensis*, *Platalea leucorodia* and *Grus vipio*. It also provides important habitats and breeding places for tens of thousands of waterbirds every year. This site is one of the most important reed marsh areas in the Sanjiang Plain, and is of high diversity, in terms of wetland plants and wild animals. Currently, it is recognized as one of the wetland areas that are best preserved with the original status in China.

13. Ramsar Criteria:
Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	❑	❑	❑

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:
Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1:
This Ramsar Site is located in the hinterland of the Sanjiang Plain, which is the largest marsh wetland area in Northeast Asia. It plays an important role in maintaining regional biodiversity. This site presents typical ecological characters of inland freshwater wetlands, and can be viewed as an epitome of the original wetlands in the Sanjiang Plain. It is one of the wetland areas that are best preserved with the original status in China, and plays a key role in alleviating flood and maintaining regional microclimate.

Criterion 2:

Scientific Name	English Name	IUCN Category	CMS Appendix	CITES Appendix	National Protection Class
Avian Species					
Grus leucogeranus	Siberian Crane	CR	I	I	I
Ciconia boyciana	Oriental Stork	EN	I	I	I
Grus japonensis	Red-crowned Crane	EN	I	I	I
Mergus squamatus	Scaly-sided Merganser	EN	—	—	I
Aythya baeri	Baer's Pochard	EN	I	—	—
Platalea minor	Black-faced Spoonbill	EN	I	—	II
Grus monacha	Hooded Crane	VU	I	I	I
Haliaeetus leucoryphus	Pallas's Fish-eagle	VU	I	—	I
Anser erythropus	Lesser White-fronted Goose	VU	I	—	—
Grus vipio	White-naped Crane	VU	I	I	II
Anser cygnoides	Swan Goose	VU	I	—	—
Anas formosa	Baikal Teal	VU	I	II	—
Numenius madagascariensis	Far Eastern Curlew	VU	—	—	—
Emberiza aureola	Yellow-breasted Bunting	VU	I	—	—
Platalea leucorodia	Eurasian Spoonbill	LC	II	II	II
Podiceps grisegena	Red-necked Grebe	LC	II	—	II
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron	LC	II	—	—
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork	LC	II	—	I
Haliaeetus albicilla	White-tailed Eagle	LC	I	I	I
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	LC	II	—	II
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	LC	—	I	II
Coturnix coturnix	Common Quail	LC	II	—	—
Porzana pusilla	Baillon's Crake	LC	II	—	—
Fulica atra	Common Coot	LC	II	—	—
Sterna hirundo	Common Tern	LC	II	—	—
Sterna albifrons	Little Tern	LC	II	—	—
Mammal Species					
Canis lupus	Gray Wolf	LC	—	I/II	—
Cervus elaphus	Red Deer	LC	I/II	I/II	II
Lutra lutra	Eurasian Otter	NT	—	I	—

Criterion 3:
As a large area where typical freshwater marsh wetlands are concentrated, this Ramsar Site is a hotspot of wetland biodiversity in Northeastern China Region of Palearctic Realm (biogeographic region). Diverse wetland types in this site provide important habitats for many species. There are 388 plant species, 201 bird species, 35 mammal species, 10 amphibian and reptile species, and 18 fish species found in this site. As most marsh wetlands in this biogeographic region experienced extensive reclamation and were transformed into farmlands, the large-area natural marsh wetlands preserved in this site are now playing an important role in maintaining regional biodiversity.

Criterion 4:
This Ramsar Site provides important perching and breeding places for more than 80 water bird species, such as Oriental White Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*), Red-crowned Crane (*Grus japonensis)*, Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), White-naped Crane (*Grus vipio*), and Whooper Swan

(*Cygnus Cygnus*). According to the field survey during 2008-2010, about 10-15 pairs of Red-crowned Cranes, 8-10 pairs of White-naped Cranes, 120-140 pairs of Eurasian Spoonbills and 3-4 pairs of Whooper Swans were found to breed in this site each year. With large-area remanent natural wetlands, this site is also a good shelter for the waterbirds as well as many protected mammals, such as Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and Mountain Hare (*Lepus timidus*), since most wetlands in this region have been transformed into farmlands.

Criterion 5:
According to the bird survey in 2008, there were 28,406 individuals of waterbirds found in this Ramsar Site, including 1,100 individuals of Ardeidaes, 106 individuals of cranes, 3,800 individuals of Anseriformes, 2300 individuals of gulls, and 21,100 individuals of ducks. Detailed bird data by species in 2009 and 2010 were shown in the table below.

Scientific Name	English Name	Individual number (2009)	Individual number (2010)
Podiceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe	165	345
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron	322	419
Casmerodius albus	Great Egret	142	1956
Plataea leucorodia	Eurasian Spoonbill	343	420
Anser cygnoides	Swan Goose	2534	1320
Anser anser	Greylag Goose	3568	895
Anser fabalis	Bean Goose	2689	3750
Anser albifrons	Greater White-fronted Goose	1500	435
Anas acuta	Northern Pintail	1000	780
Anas crecca	Common Teal	655	505
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	5500	4340
Aythya fuligula	Tufted Duck	1708	1840
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	467	543
Tringa ochropus	Green Sandpiper	1564	648
Larus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull	479	676
Chlidonias leucopterus	White-winged Tern	4587	2759
Chlidonias hybrida	Whiskered Tern	2736	1680
Ciconia boyciana	Oriental Stork	12	47
Grus japonensis	Red-crowned Crane	58	94
Grus vipio	White-naped Crane	38	64
Grus monacha	Hooded Crane	-	6
Tachybaptus ruficollis	Little Grebe	-	241
Capella stenura	Pintail Snipe	-	352
Capella gallinago	Common Snipe	-	197
Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged Stilt	-	204
Cygnus cygnus	Whooper Swan	-	12
Numenius madagascariensis	Far Eastern Curlew	-	46
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard	-	674
Aythya baeri	Baer's Pochard	-	76
Mergellus albellus	Smew	-	25
Anas penelope	Eurasian Wigeon	-	173
Anas falcata	Falcated Duck	-	110

Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler	-	234
Anas poecilorhyncha	Spot-billed Duck	-	743
Sterna hirundo	Common Tern	-	220
Sterna albifrons	Little Tern	-	165
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron	-	88
Botaurus stellaris	Great Bittern	-	25
Total		30,067	27,107

Criterion 6:

English Name	Scientific Name	Population		1% level
		Individual number (2009)	Individual number (2010)	
Oriental White Stork	*Ciconia boyciana*	12	47	30
Eurasian Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*	343	420	100
Swan Goose	*Anser cygnoides*	2534	1320	800
Red-crowned Crane	*Grus japonensis*	58	94	10
White-naped Crane	*Grus vipio*	38	64	30
Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	3568	895	750
Bean Goose	*Anser fabalis*	2689	3750	800
Whiskered Tern	*Chlidonias hybrida*	2736	1680	1000
Great Egret	*Casmerodius albus*	142	1956	1000

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Changbai Mountain Sub-region, Northeastern China Region, Palearctic Realm

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Zoogeography of China, (Rongzu Zhang, 1999)

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Geology and geomorphology: This Ramsar Site is part of the Tongjiang inland depression in terms of tectonic setting. The formation of the large-scale marshes in this area is associated with the Quaternary subsidence which formed a low-lying topography with poor drainage. A typical river valley floodplain landscape is present in this site. Along with changes of the river channels, diverse geomorphologic features occurs, such as floodplain scroll, abandoned river channels, oxbow lakes, linear and butterfly-shaped depressions. As a result, various meadow and marsh vegetations are developed in this site.

Origin: Naturally originated.

Hydrology: Qixing River is the major surface runoff in this Ramsar Site, with a length of 56 km within this site. It has the characteristics of typical marshy rivers. Influenced by inter-annual variation

of precipitation, flow and water level of the Qixing River fluctuates greatly. The flood discharge can reach 500 m^3/s at the frequency of once a decade, and reach 1020 m^3/s at the frequency of once a hundred years.

Water quality: In average, water quality in this site is at the Class-III level of national standard (according to this standard, water quality is assessed with a 6-class scheme, with Class-I presenting the best quality). The groundwater has a pH value of 6.5; the salinity is less than 500 mg/L. The concentration of total phosphorus is 0.068 mg/L and that of nitrogen is 0.337 mg/L.

Soil type: The main soil types in this site are albic soil, meadow soil and bog soil.

Water depth: Water depth of the rivers falls between 0.5 and 2 meters, while that of the marshes ranges between 0.2 and 0.5 meters.

Climate: Continental monsoon climate dominates this site. The mean annual temperature is 2.4 °C, the mean annual precipitation is 551.5 mm. Due to significant inter-annual variation of precipitation, droughts and floods are frequent. The mean annual evaporation from free water surface is 857.7 mm, while that from land surface is 630.5 mm. The annual sunshine duration is 2513.2 hours. The annual mean wind speed is 4.8 m/s. Southerly wind prevails. There are 143 frostless days every year in average.

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17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The catchment of this site is Qixing River Basin. The Qixing River is the secondary tributary of the Ussuri River, which is located in the eastern part of Heilongjiang Province and originated from the north slope of the Wanda Mountains. The total length of the Qixing River is 255 km; and the catchment covers 3,985 km^2. Low-lying topography is present along the Qixing River; and there are numerous swamps in the riparian zone. During the seasons when rainfall is high, floods are prone to occur as a result of poor drainage. The mid/downstream areas of the river are located in the hinterland of the Sanjiang Plain, where marshes are commonly seen. The soils in the catchment are mainly composed of bog soil (including meadow bog soil, humus bog soil and peat soil). The main land cover types are water and marsh vegetation. The climate in this catchment is represented as temperate continental monsoon humid/semi-humid climate. Ice period ranges from middle November to early April of the next year.

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18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The large-scale reed marshes in this Ramsar Site have remarkable ability of water storage and flood control. The wetlands in this site can recharge groundwater by 200 million m^3 and have the flood control capacity of 200 million m^3 every year. The wetlands also have a strong ability of water purification. And the wetland also played a vital role in regulating regional micro-climate, maintaining groundwater level and cleaning air.

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19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines.*

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)

b) dominance:
List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Tp (70%), Ts (10%), M (7.5%), U (2.5%);
Within the boundary of this site there are some areas represented as terrestrial ecosystems (including forests and farmlands) accounting for 10% of this site.

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20. General ecological features:
Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The wetlands in this Ramsar Site are mainly composed of permanent freshwater herb marshes and bogs; and the seasonal floodplains in the riparian zone are covered by wetland vegetations (95% coverage). These components together present integrated freshwater marsh ecosystems. The dominant wetland plants include *Phragmites australis*, *Deyeuxia angustifolia*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex pseudo-curaica*, etc. This site is a crucial habitat for water birds, even in the whole area of Sanjiang Plain. It is also an important stopover for the migratory birds. It provides abundant foods and suitable perching and breeding places for many water bird species. This site plays an important role in regulating micro-climate, providing water resource, and maintaining ecological balance.

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21. Noteworthy flora:
Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS*.

This site belongs to Changbai flora, and is influenced by other floristic components. Consequently, mixed floristic composition is present in this site. Meadow vegetation, marsh vegetation and aquatic vegetation are the dominant vegetation types in this site. There are totally 388 plant species in 174 genera of 74 families. Reeds and sedges (*Carex* spp.) dominate this site. The meadow vegetations are mostly represented by *Deyeuxia angustifolia* communities, *Deyeuxia angustifolia-Carex* spp. communities and *Deyeuxia angustifolia-Phragmites australis* communities, etc. The marsh vegetations are mostly represented by *Phragmites australis* communities, *Phragmites australis-Deyeuxia angustifolia* communities, *Carex* spp.-*Deyeuxia angustifolia* communities, *Carex lasiocarpa* communities, *Carex appendiculata* communities, etc. The aquatic vegetations are mostly represented by floating-leaved plant communities (dominated by *Nelumbo nucifera*, *Nymphaea alba*, *Nymphoides peltatum*, *Euryale ferox*, etc.), floating plant communities (dominated by *Lemna minor*), submerged plant communities (dominated by *Myriophyllum spicatum*, *Potamogeton crispus*, etc.). Two plant species under national protection can be found in this site, i.e., *Glycine soja* and *Myriophyllum propinquum*.

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22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Temperate fauna dominates this Ramsar Site. There are 264 vertebrate species from 207 genera of 75 families in 33 orders of 5 classes. Specifically, there are 18 fish species, 8 amphibian species, and 2 reptile species. Bird diversity is very high, especially for water birds. There are 201 bird species, 98 of which are passerines. Waterbirds account for 70 species, the dominant species of which are *Anas platyrhyncho, Anas crecca, Aythya farina, Anser fabalis*, *Chlidonias leucoptera* and *Chlidonias hybrida*. There are 35 mammal species from 10 families in 5 orders. Mountain hare (*Lepus timidus*) and foxes (*Vulpes* spp.) are commonly seen.

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23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

This site is an ideal base for scientific research, education and popularization of wetland conservation. The high biodiversity can provide germplasm resource for the development of agriculture, forestry and aquaculture in the region.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

No.

If Yes, tick the box ❑ and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

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

iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

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24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:
All lands in this site present state ownership. The Reserve has the tenure of land use.

b) in the surrounding area:
State ownership; the local government has the tenure of land use.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:
The lands within the site are mostly protected lands without any human use. In the experimental area of the site, there is a small portion of cultivated lands and experiment lands for scientific researches.

b) in the surrounding area:
The main land use type in the surrounding area is cultivated land, covering about 95% of the area. Scattered rural settlements account for less than 2% of the area. A few small wetlands also occur in the surrounding area.

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

a) within the Ramsar site:
There is no resident in the wetlands; and there is no significant human disturbance on the wetlands. There is a small portion of croplands in the experimental area of the reserve. There are some agricultural activities, but they have slight influence in the wetlands.

b) in the surrounding area:
Agricultural activities in the surrounding area are increasing during the recent years and could produce some indirect influences on the wetlands.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:
In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

The reserve was established in 1991, promoted to the provincial level in 1998, and approved as a national nature reserve in April 2000.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ❑;Ib ☑; II ❑; III ❑; IV ❑; V ❑; VI ❑

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

The Comprehensive Survey Report of Qixing River Nature Reserve, The Master Plan for Qixing River Nature Reserve, Management Methods for Qixing River Nature Reserve.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

In this Ramsar Site, wetlands reclamation activities were restricted according to "Wetland Protection Regulations of Heilongjiang Province" announced in 1994. Hunting is strictly forbidden according to "Wildlife Conservation Law of China" announced in 1988. The reserve established the Resource Conservation Branch to prohibit hunting, grazing activities in the reserve. The local government formulated "Management Methods for Qixing River Nature Reserve", and has carried out a wetland restoration project and a long-term mechanism of wetland water supplement. In 2007, sponsored by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Global Environment Fund (GEF), the Wetland Conservation

and Restoration Project in the Sanjiang Plain was carried out in this site, and the endangered water birds were monitored and restored in this site.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:
e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

The reserve is planning to expand international collaboration with the project office of Wetland International and other reserves on the flyways of migratory birds in Northeast Asia. *Management Regulation of Qixing River National Nature Reserve* is about to be issued before 2015.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:
e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Since the establishment of the reserve, a series of scientific monitoring work has been carried out, including monitoring of the habitats and population sizes of waterbirds, and monitoring of surface water, groundwater, and meteorological conditions. Seven research projects were implemented in collaboration with Renmin University of China, Northeast Forestry University, Heilongjiang Academy of Nature and Ecology. Two books on the animals and plants in the reserve and over 10 research articles were published.
In 2007-2010, sponsored by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Global Environment Fund (GEF), the Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project in the Sanjiang Plain was carried out. Based on this project, the reserve conducted a series of researches on returning farmlands to wetlands, ecological migration, alternative livelihoods, ecotourism, restoration of endangered waterbirds and water resource management. Besides, the reserve has established 4 management stations, an automatic meteorological station and an automated water monitoring system. In collaboration with Northeast Forestry University, the reserve established a base for scientific research, teaching and practice. At present, the relevant equipments include 10 telescopes, 7 GPS, 2 digital video cameras, 3 digital cameras, 1 jeep in the Reserve.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:
e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The specimen room of the reserve has been established and taken shape. It is opened to the public to carry out scientific researches and public education. Large-scale propaganda and education activities were carried out at Birds-loving Week, World Wetlands Day, Earth Day every year. Also, routine activities of propaganda and education are carried out on wetland value and knowledge, laws and regulations of wetland conservation and wildlife protection. The reserve successively printed nearly 30,000 copies of brochures on the reserve and wetland conservation.

31. Current recreation and tourism:
State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

With beautiful landscapes of natural marsh wetlands, this Ramsar Site is of great potential value for ecotourism. Recreational and tourism activities have not been carried out in this site yet.

32. Jurisdiction:
Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Territorial: Government of Baoqing County, Heilongjiang Province.

Functional: Forestry Administration of Heilongjiang Province

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

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34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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