

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:

Name: Xiguo Zhang
Institution: Bureau of Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao Wetland National Nature Reserve
Address: Hulin Town, Hulin City 158400, Heilongjiang Province, China
Tel: +86-(0)467-5898111
Fax: +86-(0)467-5898111
E-mail: wfq1156@163.com

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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 Zhenbaodao Wetland 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 Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao Wetland National Nature Reserve. The north border of this site is contiguous with the administrative are of Dongfanghong Forestry Bureau; the east and south borders are the national border between China and Russia; the west border is contiguous with Abei Town and Tutou Town of Hulin City.

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°07'40"N, 133°38'14"E

Extent: 45°52'01"-46°17'53"N, 133°28'40"-133°47'46"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 the administrative area of Hutou Town and Zhenbaodao Town, Hulin City, Easternmost Heilongjiang Province, Northeast China (on the border between China and Russia). It is 60 kilometers away from the downtown area of the city (in the southeast direction of the site).

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

Average: 170 m; Maximum: 60 m; Minimum: 223.6 m.

11. Area: (in hectares)

44,364 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 located in Eastern Heilongjiang Province, China, and is in the riparian zone of Ussuri River which is the border river between China and Russia. This site presents compound freshwater wetlands, which are mainly composed of river and floodplain wetlands. There are diverse wetland types, including permanent and seasonal herb marsh, shrub marsh, forest marsh, river, etc. Human disturbances are very rare in this site, thereby allow for a well-preserved status of the natural wetlands which can be seen as a representative for the river wetlands in the cold-temperate zone of East Asia. This site provides important habitats for wildlife; and biodiversity is remarkably high. There are 393 higher plant species and 200 vertebrate species. In particular, it is an important habitat and breeding site for such threatened species as *Ciconia boyciana* and *Grus japonensis*. It is recognized as a crucial breeding site and stopover for the waterbirds, and is a hotspot of species diversity in this biogeographic region (Northeastern China Region, Palearctic Realm). Overall, this site plays a key role in maintaining regional biodiversity and eco-security, and has a significant function of flood control.

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 contiguous area of China and Russia; and is possessed of integrated natural wetland ecosystems. The compound river-marsh wetlands are developed on the basis of the Ussuri River and its floodplains, and present diverse wetland types, including permanent and seasonal herb marsh, shrub marsh, forest marsh, river, and floodplains. It provides important habitats for a diversity of wildlife with a considerable amount of individuals that are threatened. Overall, this site is a typical representative wetland area in the cold temperate zone of East Asia.

Criterion 2:

| Scientific name | English name | IUCN category | CMS Appendix | CITES Appendix | National Protection Class |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Avian species | | | | | |
| <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> | Oriental Stork | EN | I | I | I |
| <i>Grus japonensis</i> | Red-crowned Crane | EN | I | I | I |
| <i>Grus vipio</i> | White-naped Crane | VU | I | I | II |
| <i>Anser cygnoides</i> | Swan Goose | VU | I | - | - |
| <i>Anas formosa</i> | Baikal Teal | VU | I | II | - |
| <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> | White-tailed Eagle | LC | I | I | I |
| <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | Peregrine Falcon | LC | - | I | II |
| <i>Egretta alba</i> | Great Egret | LC | II | - | - |
| Mammal species | | | | | |
| <i>Panthera tigris</i> | Tiger | EN | - | I | I |
| <i>Moschus moschiferus</i> | Siberian Musk Deer | VU | - | I | I |
| <i>Ursus thibetanus</i> | Himalayan Black Bear | VU | - | I | II |
| <i>Ursus arctos</i> | Brown Bear | LC | - | I | II |
| <i>Cervus elaphus</i> | Red Deer | LC | I | II | II |

Criterion 3:

Since most wetland areas in this biogeographic region (Northeastern China Region, Palearctic Realm) have experienced extensive reclamation, the large-area river and marsh wetlands with good protection status in this Ramsar Site are important habitats for the wetland-dependent species. At present, this Ramsar Site is represented as a hotspot of species diversity in this biogeographic region and plays an important role in maintaining regional biodiversity. There are 393 plant species in this site, including 9 fern species, 3 gymnosperm species and 381 angiosperm species. Diverse wetland types and plants in this site provide important habitats for many birds, fish and mammals. There are 171 bird species, 61 fish species, 16 amphibian and reptile species and 40 mammal species in this site, including many threatened species.

Criterion 4:

This Ramsar Site provides an important breeding place for many threatened waterbird species. For example, in this site, 4 pairs of breeding White-naped cranes (*Grus vipio*) were observed on May 3, 2010; 8 pairs of breeding Red-crowned crane (*Grus japonensis*) were observed on May 11, 2010; over 2,000 breeding individuals of Ardeidae were observed on the Bird Island (an island in the middle of the Ussuri River in this site) on May 15, 2010. As located on the border between China and Russia, this island is strictly restricted to get accessed to, thus no human activity occurs on this island for a long period. In addition, dense forests on the island and abundant fish as foods in the water are very suitable for Ardeidae to nest and breed. Such conditions also make this site an important breeding place and stopover for anseriformes and lariformes. As human activities are very rare, this site can also provide suitable habitats for many plant species such as *Fraxinus mandshurica*, *Phellodenron amurense* and *Tilia amurensis*, and a good shelter and breeding place for many mammal species, such as Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*).

Criterion 5:

The reserve has been monitoring the birds in this site using transect method in recent years. In the field survey, 32 transects with a length of 5.5 km and a width for single side of 50-100 m were set up, and the number of birds within the transects were recorded. The population density of the bird species was calculated, thereby the total individual number was estimated by interpolating these transect data to the whole area. According to the survey data, there were 166,183 birds in 2008, 140,620 individuals of which were waterbirds; 183,680 birds in 2009, which 138,749 of them were

waterbirds; 199,486 birds in 2010, which 142,325 of them were waterbirds. The data of waterbird populations in 2009 and 2010 are listed as follows.

| Scientific name | English name | Population number | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | 2009 | 2010 |
| <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | Grey Heron | 2840 | 2900 |
| <i>Anser cygnoides</i> | Swan Goose | 13520 | 13810 |
| <i>Anas formosa</i> | Baikal Teal | 12120 | 12340 |
| <i>Anser fabalis</i> | Bean Goose | 8500 | 8750 |
| <i>Anser albifrons</i> | Greater White-fronted Goose | 12620 | 12850 |
| <i>Anas acuta</i> | Northern Pintail | 4000 | 4180 |
| <i>Anas querquedula</i> | Garganey | 5200 | 5500 |
| <i>Anas crecca</i> | Common Teal | 22180 | 22430 |
| <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | Mallard | 30200 | 31400 |
| <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> | Oriental Stork | 1 | 3 |
| <i>Grus japonensis</i> | Red-crowned Crane | 10 | 16 |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | Great Cormorant | 12680 | 12820 |
| <i>Casmerodius albus</i> | Great Egret | 5120 | 5140 |
| <i>Grus vipio</i> | White-naped Crane | 4 | 8 |
| <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> | Whooper Swan | 314 | 418 |
| <i>Anas falcata</i> | Falcated Duck | 5310 | 5450 |
| <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i> | Spot-billed Duck | 4130 | 4310 |
| Total | - | 138749 | 142325 |

Criterion 6:

| Scientific name | English name | Population number | | 1% level |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------|----------|
| | | 2009 | 2010 | |
| <i>Grus japonensis</i> | Red-crowned Crane | 10 | 16 | 10 |
| <i>Anser cygnoides</i> | Swan Goose | 13520 | 13810 | 800 |
| <i>Anser fabalis</i> | Bean Goose | 8500 | 8750 | 800 |
| <i>Anas formosa</i> | Baikal Teal | 12120 | 12340 | 5000 |
| <i>Anser albifrons</i> | Greater White-fronted Goose | 12620 | 12850 | 1800 |
| <i>Anas acuta</i> | Northern Pintail | 4000 | 4180 | 2500 |
| <i>Anas querquedula</i> | Garganey | 5200 | 5500 | 1500 |
| <i>Anas crecca</i> | Common Teal | 22180 | 22430 | 8000 |
| <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | Mallard | 30200 | 31400 | 15000 |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | Great Cormorant | 12680 | 12820 | 1000 |
| <i>Casmerodius albus</i> | Great Egret | 5120 | 5140 | 1000 |
| <i>Anas falcata</i> | Falcated Duck | 5310 | 5450 | 350 |

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 Xingkai Lake-Bulieya Mountains in terms of tectonic setting. It is located in a long-term depression zone. The geomorphology in this site can be classified into the types of plain and hilly area. Belonging to the Wanda Mountains, the hilly geomorphology (ranging between 130-170 m in elevation) is present in the north of the Xiaomu River; and the rock strata are mostly represented as siliceous and conglomerate rocks. The south part of the site is alluvial plain with a mean elevation of 60 m. The main geomorphologic types include floodplain and first terrace.

Origin: Naturally originated.

Hydrology: The major rivers in this site include Ussuri River, Xiaomu River, Abuqin River, Qihulin River, etc. All these rivers belong to the Ussuri river system. And most rivers are permanent plain marshy rivers, where floodplains are well developed and connected with the marshes. There are numerous permanent and seasonal bogs in this site. The main forms of water recharge include precipitation and percolation water from the bogs.

Soil type: The main soil types in this site include albic soil, dark-brown earth, meadow soil, bog soil. The average values of the indicators are listed as follows. pH: 5.58; soil organic content: 43.58 g/kg; total N: 179.7 mg/kg; available P: 10.67 mg/kg.

Water quality: Water quality is good in this site. Average water quality is at the Class-II level of national standard. The mineralization degree is less than 0.5 g/L. Most areas in this site present mineralization degree less than 0.2 g/L. Such low mineralized water has a low content of suspended substances. The average values of the water quality indicators are as follows. pH: 7.24; permanganate index: 3.59 mg/L; COD: 18.3 mg/L; BOD₅: 1 mg/L; TN: 0.74 mg/L; TP: 0.12 mg/L.

Water depth: Water depth of the Ussuri Rivers ranges between 2 and 12 meters, while that of the Yueya Lake ranges between 4 and 6 meters; and that of the marshes range between 0.1 and 0.5 meters.

Climate: Continental monsoon climate dominates this site. The mean annual temperature is 2.5 °C. Annual cumulative temperature above 10 °C is 2462.7 °C. The mean annual precipitation is 556.9 mm. Precipitation mostly occurs during June-September when the precipitation can reach 361.3 mm. Sunshine, water and heat show synchronized temporal variation. Winters are long and extremely cold. There are 134 frostless days every year in average. Annual snow-covered days can reach four months.

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 Ussuri River Basin. The main stream of the Ussuri River is the border river between China and Russia. The total length of the Ussuri River is 905 km. The total catchment area is 187 thousand km². The Ussuri River is originated from the Sikhote-Alin Mountains in Russia. The climate in this catchment is represented as continental monsoon semi-humid climate in the cold temperate zone. Winters are long and cold while summers are warm and rainy. The soils in the catchment are mainly composed of bog soil. Water and vegetation are covering mostly catchment areas. High elevations and flat valley are present before Songacha River joins the mainstream. The downstream area of the joint is represented as flat, wide river valley (the width can reach 300 km) with strongly bogging soils.

18. Hydrological values:

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

The marshes and bogging soils in this site have a strong ability of water storage and permeation. Thus, the wetlands have significant functions of water storage and flood control; thereby plays an important role in maintaining eco-security of the catchment. The large area of marshes in this site can reduce the speed of water flow and enhance sedimentation processes, thereby facilitate water purification, nutrient preservation and improvement of soil quality.

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 • Ip • Is • 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 (75%),
Ts (10%),
M (7.5%),
U (2.5%);
W (2.5%);
Xf (2.5%).

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.

This Ramsar Site is located in the midstream area of Ussuri River. Besides the Ussuri River, there are three major rivers (i.e., Xiaomu River, Abuqin River and Qihulin River) in this site, which flow into the Ussuri River from the west to the east. As low and flat topography is present in the riparian zone, the landscape is characterized by multiple, highly bending river channels, very slow water flow, and many oxbow lakes in this site. During the wet seasons in the summer, the riparian zone is flooded, forming vast marsh wetlands. The large area of freshwater herb marshes provides abundant foods and suitable habitats for the waterbirds, especially the wading birds, swimming birds and gulls. The dominant wetland plants include *Carex tristachya*, *Carex appendiculata*, *Deyeuxia angustifolia*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex pseudo-curaica*, *Phragmites australis*, etc. There are island-shaped secondary forests dominated by *Alnus japonica*, *Quercus mongolica*, *Betula ovalifolia* and *Alnus cremastogyne* in this site, which can provide good perching places for the passerine birds. This Ramsar Site plays an important role in biodiversity conservation, water storage and flood control.

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. There are 393 higher plant species in 221 genera of 87 families. The dominant species are *Carex* spp. Four plant species, i.e., *Fraxinus mandshurica*, *Phellodendron amurense*, *Glycine soja* and *Tilia amurensis*, are under national protection. Also, there are some other plants under national protection, such as *Juglans mandshurica*, *Eleutherococcus senticosus* and *Schisandra chinensis*. The herb marshes in this site are mostly represented by *Deyeuxia angustifolia*-*Carex* spp. communities, *Carex lasiocarpa* communities, *Carex appendiculata* communities, *Carex pseudo-curaica* communities and *Phragmites australis* communities. The aquatic vegetations are mostly represented by *Nelumbo nucifera* communities, *Potamogeton distinctus* communities and *Lemna minor* communities. The shrub marshes are mostly represented by *Salix* spp. communities, *Spiraea Salicifolia*-*Carex* spp. communities, *Betula ovalifolia*-*Carex* spp. communities and *Alniphyllum fortunei* communities. The forest marshes are dominated by *Betula platyphylla*-*Carex* spp. communities. There are meadow vegetations dominated by *Calamagrostis angustifolia* in this site; the forest vegetations are dominated by poplars, birches and *Quercus mongolica*.

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.*

There are 288 vertebrate species from 75 families in 34 orders. Birds are the most abundant species, presenting 171 species from 43 families in 16 orders and accounting for 58.9% of total animal species in this site. Also, there are 40 mammal species from 15 families in 6 orders, 8 reptile species, 8 amphibian species, and 61 fish species from 14 families in 7 orders. The dominant waterbird species in this site include *Anas falcata*, *Anas acuta*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anser cygnoides*, *Anser fabalis*, *Anser albifrons*, *Anas formosa*, *Anas poecilorhyncha*, *Anas querquedula*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Egretta alba*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, etc.

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:

The wetlands in this site are now under strict protection, and are not used for agriculture, aquaculture or other production uses. This site is the place where World War II ended. There are some famous military relics of World War II in this site, such as the world's biggest battery and the Hutou fortress, which have significant cultural value.

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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

State ownership, the Forestry Bureau of Hulin City has the tenure of land use.

b) in the surrounding area:

State ownership; the governments of Hutou Town and Zhenbaodao Town have the tenure of land use.

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

This site is under the protection of the national nature reserve. The core area accounts for 42% of the reserve, where no human disturbance occurs. The buffer area accounts for 25% of the reserve, where only scientific research and monitoring activities are allowed. The experimental area accounts for 33% of the reserve, where only scientific experiments, domestication and breeding activities of endangered species are allowed.

b) in the surrounding area:

The main land use type in the surrounding area is farmland. Farmlands account for about 80% of this area; forested lands accounts for about 10% of this area; rural residential areas account for about 5% of this area; there are some scattered wetlands accounting for about 5% of this 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:

None.

b) in the surrounding area:

Although the navigation channel does not pass through this site, the transportation activities on the Ussuri River might have some influences on the waterbirds, but there is not any survey confirming this impact.

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 2002 at a provincial level, and was approved as a national nature reserve in 2008. The land tenure of the reserve has been certificated by the Hulin Government.

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 Master Plan for Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao National Nature Reserve has been compiled.

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 and logging activities in the reserve. 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 actively developing collaboration with the project office of Wetland International and other reserves on the flyways of migratory birds in Northeast Asia. At present, the reserve is planning to develop Sino-Russia co-conservation activities in the Ussuri River area. Management Regulation of Heilongjiang Zhenbaodao National Nature Reserve is about to be issued.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

The high biodiversity can provide germplasm resources for the development of agriculture, forestry and aquaculture in the region. This site can play as a base for education and scientific popularization of wetland conservation. In addition, since this site is located on the border of China and Russia, it has significant value for developing collaborations on science, technology and economy. Since the establishment of the reserve, 4 scientific projects have been carried out in collaboration with Renmin University of China, Northeast Forestry University and Harbin Normal University. 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 water birds 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 reserve has established a specimen room to carry out public education and propaganda. Propaganda and education activities were carried out at Birds-loving Week, World Wetlands Day, Earth Day every year. During Birds-loving Weeks, the reserve staffs gave a series lectures on avian knowledge to the school students, and distributed leaflets on bird protection. At World Wetlands Days and Earth Days, leaflets on wetland knowledge and conservation were made and distributed. Also, routine activities of propaganda and education are carried out. The reserve organized over 100 youth volunteers to start a series training courses on significance of wetlands in human life, as well as laws and regulations of wetland conservation and wildlife protection. These activities efficiently improved public awareness in the neighborhood. In addition, the reserve actively communicated with the media such as *Green Time* (a nationwide newspaper) and *Heilongjiang Daily* (a provincial newspaper) and made great efforts on propaganda of the Zhenbaodao wetlands.

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 the Ussuri River and diverse wetlands, this Ramsar Site is of great potential value for ecotourism. Based on the landscape of the marsh wetlands and the Ussuri River, ecotourism activities have been carried out. About 10 thousand tourists visit this site each year. The wetland-related tourism activities are mostly represented as view and admiration of the wetland scenes via pleasure-boats and watch towers. During these activities, tourists are strictly limited to enter the wetlands to avoid human disturbances on the wetlands.

32. Jurisdiction:

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

Territorial: Government of Hulin City, Heilongjiang Province.

Functional: Government of Hulin City, 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.

Principal: Yanjun Wang (Director)

Institution: Bureau of Zhenbaodao Wetland National Nature Reserve.

Address: Hulin Town, Hulin City 158400, Heilongjiang Province, China.

Tel (Fax): +86-(0)467-5859111

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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