In order to promote closer cooperation between China and the ASEAN countries on the conservation of coastal wetlands, a forum was organized in Shenzhen (China) from 1-2 March with some 50 participants representing the government sector in China and the ASEAN region, regional organizations (e.g. ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre), academics, NGOs and the private sector.

The Forum exchanged information on coastal wetland conservation issues between China and the ASEAN countries and at the end, a draft statement was agreed that called for closer cooperation between China and ASEAN on the topic. The statement will now be presented for approval to the meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment that will take place in Melaka (Malaysia) from 10-12 May. After approval, an action plan to promote closer cooperation between China and the ASEAN countries will be drawn up.

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