### 1. Background information

#### Notes – Also see Guidance Note for Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1a. Country</th>
<th>People’s Republic of China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1b. Name of city</td>
<td>Changshu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c. Geographical coordinates of the city</td>
<td>31°40’18.75”N 120°48’38.37”E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1d. Administrative and wetland map</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An eligible ‘city’ for the Wetland City Accreditation may be a city or any other type of human settlement according to the definition given by United Nations Centre for Human Settlement.

Tick box to confirm that a map delineating the administrative boundary of the city and indicating, as far as possible, all wetlands fully or partly situated in its territory or close vicinity, has been provided.
1e. Area of city

127,632ha
maximum 49km from west to east
maximum 37km from north to south

Area in hectares within administrative boundary

1f. Approximate area of wetlands within the city boundaries

Total area of wetlands: 50,771ha
Area of natural wetlands: 22,541ha, accounting for 44.4% of the total area of wetlands;
Area of human-made wetlands: 28,230ha, accounting for 55.6% of the total area of wetlands;

Indication of the area of wetlands within the administrative boundaries, indicating, as far as possible, whether they are natural or human made

1g. Define the types of wetland

3 Irrigated lands: 20,000ha
M Permanent rivers: 18,021ha
1 Aquaculture ponds: 8,230ha

Use the Ramsar Classification of wetlands to describe the range of wetland types. See
present within the city boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification Type</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O Permanent freshwater lakes</td>
<td>3,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tp Permanent freshwater marshes</td>
<td>1,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ts Seasonal freshwater marshes</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-17.pdf (Annex I on Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type) or any classification recognized by your country
2. Accreditation criteria

**Instruction:** To be considered for formal accreditation the city must satisfy ALL of the following criteria. Please provide all necessary information in the yellow cells. Please note that the word limits will be strictly enforced. In addition, compilers may provide attached files or web-links to specific examples, plans, regulatory instruments, relevant reports, case studies or photographs etc.

Group A: Criteria based on delivering the conservation and wise use of wetlands

A city can be considered for accreditation if it has one or more Ramsar Sites or other significant wetlands fully or partly situated in its territory or in its close vicinity, which provide(s) a range of ecosystems services to the city.

A.1 Name any Ramsar Site that is fully or partly in the city administrative boundaries

| None |

Use the official Ramsar Site name and number as described on the Ramsar Information Sheet (available on [https://rsis.ramsar.org/](https://rsis.ramsar.org/)). If none, state ‘None’.

A.2 Name any other significant wetland that is fully or partly in the city administrative boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category: II National Park (IUCN protected area management categories)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Shajibang National Wetland Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Shanghu Lake National Urban Wetland Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specify its legal conservation status (national or local), if none state None.

A city can be considered for accreditation if it has adopted measures for conservation of wetlands and their services including biodiversity and hydrological integrity.

A.3 A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that development avoids degrading and destroying wetlands. Describe the national and/or local policy, legislative measures and regulatory instruments, urban management plans etc. that are in use by the city to proactively prevent the degradation and loss of wetlands.

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

With a human civilization history of 5000 years, a splendid Wu culture of over 3000 years and a city history of over 1700 years, Changshu has long been reputed as the “Promised Jiangnan Land”. The city has an area of 1,276 km² and a population density of 1183 people/km². The urbanization ratio is 75%, with high urban-rural integration. With a dense network of rivers and lakes, rich wetland resources support Changshu. 62% of the wetlands has been protected. The Shanghu Lake, the Kuncheng Lake, the Wangyu River and the Yushan Mountain are located in the downtown area; with streets constructed along rivers, buildings built at the waterside; mountains, water and the city are organically integrated. Over 5000 water streams are distributed with downtown area as the centre, forming a crisscrossed water system. The river network density is as high as 3.73km/km², a typical water town of Jiangnan. The city has won over 20 honours including International Garden City, National landscape Garden City and National Eco-construction Demonstration City.

To strengthen wetland protection and prevent wetland damage, Changshu has developed the Plan for Economic and Social Development (2011), Plan for Ecological Civilization Construction (2012) and implemented China National Wetland Conservation Action Plan (2000), Methods for Ecological Civilization Performance Assessment (2014) - all plans have a key component of wetland protection as part of planning and assessment. Based on the Wetland Conservation Plan of Changshu (2017) and the Changshu Methods
of Wetland Conservation and Management (2017), all land uses involved in wetlands require strict review and special programs to avoid wetland loss. Wetland construction has been included into the city’s fiscal budget. RMB 4.727 billion has been directly invested into wetland protection and restoration in recent years.

Opinions on Establishing Eco-compensation Mechanisms to Develop Rural Economy (2010) and Opinions on Adjusting and Improving Eco-compensation Mechanisms and Policy Systems (2014) have been issued, whilst Assessment Methods for Important Ecological Wetland Protection (2014) and Method of ‘Veto’ for Eco-environment Protection (2017) have been implemented. A total of RMB 465 million has been invested for wetland compensation over three years. This has proactively implemented the relevant national, provincial and municipal laws and rules, which effectively prevent wetland degradation and damage in Changshu.

A city can be considered for accreditation if it has implemented wetland restoration and/or management measures.

A.4. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that it proactively encourages the restoration or creation of wetlands as elements of urban, and especially water management infrastructure. Provide specific examples (site and summary of implemented measures) of where wetlands have been created or restored within the city as elements of urban infrastructure, such as to control flooding, cool climate, improve water quality, provide recreation, etc.

(Task field is limited to 2500 characters)

Since the 1980s, large areas of wetlands, such as Shanghu Lake, Shajiabang Marsh, and Kuncheng Lake have been restored. A unique rural wetland model integrating ecological conservation, food production and local livelihoods has been developed and now effectively protects wetland resources, contributing to urban development.

The Shanghu Lake became a source of drinking water for urban dwellers in 1985, with a daily water supply of 7.5×10^4 t. The Yangtze River Wetland became a source of drinking water in 1997, with a daily water supply of 80×10^4 t. Changshu issued the Program for Standardized Construction of Centralized Drinking Water Sources (2013), which enhances the construction of water sources and guarantees drinking water safety.

Restoration at Kuncheng Lake since 2005, has dramatically increased the capacity of flood regulation and water storage; the lake’s capacity reaches 50×10^6 m^3. Changshu developed the Flood Control Plan of Changshu, and implemented projects for river desilting and environmental treatment, effectively improving the Wangyu River and the city’s capacity for flood control.

Since 2009, Changshu has converted polluted ponds to marsh wetlands, restored vegetation and constructed artificial wetlands for purifying farmland diffuse pollution and domestic sewage water at the Nanhu Lake and Nicanglou, and innovatively built characteristic rural wetlands at 123 villages, including Chenhaiwei and Jiangxiang villages, effectively improving the regional water quality from poor to good.

The landscape of Changshu is a typical composite wetland ecosystem, with a warm and humid climate and favourable weather, Changshu is called the “granary of China”. However, in the 1960s, the Shanghu Lake was turned into agricultural land. Crop yields did not increase, nearby forests died, birds disappeared, and even the local climate changed for the worse. After Shanghu Lake restoration, the function of climate regulation improved; the summer air temperature in Changshu is 1-2℃ lower than that in neighbouring cities.

With a program of converting crop fields to lakes, polluted ponds to wetlands and restoring bird habitats, Shajiabang marsh and Shanghu Lake have become a national wetland park and a national urban wetland
park; the two jointly became a national AAAAA scenic area in 2013, receiving over 2.8 million visitors each year. Eco-tourism within rural wetlands in Jiangxiang and Nicanglou villages, results in over 1 million visitors in 2016.
A city can be considered for accreditation if it considers the challenges and opportunities of integrated spatial/land-use planning for wetlands under its jurisdiction.

A.5. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that it considers the importance of wetlands as elements of spatial planning and integrated city management (such as through Integrated River Basin Management, spatial zonation, water resource management, the development of transport infrastructure, agriculture production, fuel supply, poverty alleviation, pollution control, flood risk management, disaster risk reduction, etc.). Describe the measures (policies, procedures, guidance, legislation, etc.) that ensure that the importance of wetlands is considered fully as elements of spatial planning and integrated city management.

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Changshu has given full consideration to the importance of wetlands within spatial planning and city management. The Master Planning of City’s Land Use (2006), requires the guarantee of ecological land use, with priority to drinking water sources, important wetlands of southwest lakes and clear water channels. The Urban Master Plan of Changshu (2010) explicitly designates areas such as drinking water sources, lakes, rivers and important wetlands as prohibited and restricted construction areas and proposes clear control measures. In the Protection Plan for Ecological Redline Area in Changshu (2016), 12 ecological redline areas under 5 categories of strict protection are defined, including drinking water sources, important wetlands and clear water channels. In the Wetland Conservation Planning of Changshu (2017), the city’s space is divided into four wetland zones; wetlands are indispensable spatial elements of the city.

The Plan for Modern Agriculture Development in Changshu (2009) provides strict management protection over irrigated lands and cultivation ponds. It provides a new model of wetland agriculture such as rice planting and aquaculture, and promotes wetland agricultural environmental protection, such as chemical fertilizer and pesticide reduction and returning organic straw fertiliser to farmlands, laying a foundation for the wise use of wetlands.

The City Flood Control Plan of Changshu (2010) requires the optimization of the river network systems, including ecological repair of lakes and the use of rivers and lakes as vital elements of city flood control. The Riverway Blueline Plan of Changshu (2013) classifies river networks into different grades, enhances flood and waterlogging control ability, and improves the water eco-environment through measures like river desilting and bank protection. The Implementation of the Strictest Water Resource Management Regulations (2014) and Functional Zoning of Surface Water Environment in Jiangsu Province (2014), both require comprehensive and strict management of the city’s water resources with water functional zone standardization, ecological treatment of rivers and lakes, and recycling of irrigation water. The Plan for Smooth Water Flow in The Urban Area of Changshu and the Special Plan of Changshu for Sponge City, developed in 2015, explicitly define urban wetlands as the key to ecological protection and restoration and aims to make them part of flood control and drainage of the city.

A city can be considered for accreditation if it has delivered locally adapted information to raise public awareness about the values of wetlands, and encouraged the wise use of wetlands by stakeholders through, for example, establishing wetland education/information centres.

A.6. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that it has adopted the principles of inclusivity, empowerment, and participation of indigenous and local communities and the civil society in decision-making and city planning and management. Describe how indigenous and local communities have been engaged and participate in the management of wetland-related issues.

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

The Implementation of Further Making the Government Information Public (2006); via the governmental website of “Changshu, China” (http://www.changshu.gov.cn/zgcs/zfxxgk/), makes public the information on wetland construction and management. Through the section of “Government-Citizen Interaction” and
"12345 Governmental Hotline", Changshu provides channels for the public to make suggestions and advice, collecting public opinions and engaging communities into government decision-making.

In the Urban Planning Exhibition Hall, displaying the diverse history, overall plan and special planning of city, makes public the city plans and wetland-related construction projects, and solicits citizens’ opinions, so that city plans are more feasible with public support, increasing the public’s participation.

In 2014, a TV program Collection of Citizens’ Opinions was opened. Since then, it has invited government officials, wetland managers, scholars, corporate employees, community residents and social groups to take part and discuss popular issues concerning city construction and development, major livelihood projects and the public’s interest, establishing a new platform for the public to participate in and discuss government affairs and make suggestions. Over 3 years, it has conducted dozens of wetland-related activities, such as Exploring Good Solutions to Water Treatment and How Can We Build Liveable Urban Areas. In the program entitled 10,000-mu Wetland Leads to New Transformation of City in September 2016, in particular, peoples from all walks of life reached a consensus on the harmonious development between wetlands and the city, and offered suggestions and advice on the construction of a wetland city.

In the Community Co-management Implementation Plan for Wetland Parks in Changshu (2017), explicit requirements are proposed on community co-management, such as participation ratios of the local residents’ and gender balance, encouraging wetland parks and nearby community residents to jointly explore harmonious paths for wetland protection and wise use. Some 100 wetland villages have developed local rules to encourage residents to take part in wetland protection.

Changshu Wetland Administration Committee has established a consultative committee, including people from different stakeholder groups like scholars and community representatives, into wetland management decision-making.

A.7. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that it has raised levels of public awareness about the values of wetlands, and encouraged the wise use of wetlands by a diverse range of stakeholders and communities through, for example, establishing operational wetland education or information centres, regularly disseminating information on wetlands, establishing and implementing school education programmes, etc.

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Specific educational facilities were constructed, such as Changshu Wetland Museum, Shajiabang Wetland School, the Scientific Education and Training Platform of Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu, the Centre for Wetland Science Public Education of Changshu and the nature education centres at Shajiabang Central Primary School and at Taqian Primary School, receiving some 30,000 visitors each year.

For different audiences, characteristic wetland education courses have been designed, including interactive courses on research, learning and tourism such as “Flight Feather Spirits in Wetland”, “Explore the Botanical Garden”, “Feel the Fish-Water Connection” and “Play with Nature”, receiving good feedback from the attendees.

Since the 1980s, events including the Bird-Loving Week, the Wetland Cultural Festival, the Wetland Protection Publicity Week, the Parent-Child Tour for Wetland Science Communication, and the Wetland Summer Camp have been held. Throughout Changshu, some 20,000 volunteers have attended wetland protection activities; The “Rules for Wetland Conservation Volunteers” was formulated to promote volunteer engagement.

A feedback and evaluation system for science popularization and education (SPE), through questionnaires, on-the-spot suggestions and volunteer experience assessments allows for evaluation and continuous
improvements in materials and methods.

In 2016, Changshu hosted the 10th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference, ca. 1500 representatives from 10 international institutions and 72 countries were present; a special forum “Better Wetland, Better City” was organized to discuss green development of cities with China’s real estate agents, scholars and managers; The conference attendees also issued The Changshu Declaration on Wetlands and advocated the development and practice of wetland city accreditation under the Ramsar convention.

During the 10th INTECOL IWC, a youth workshop on wetland was organized, where teenagers from over 50 countries exchanged ideas on wetland value, products and culture, effectively improving their awareness of wetland protection. In September 2017, participants of the “Training Course on Wetland Conservation in Developing Countries”, from 14 countries, came to Changshu and exchanged experiences in wetland protection and management, effectively promoting international exchange and popularization of the “Changshu Model of Wetland Conservation”.

A.8. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that it has proactively promoted events around World Wetlands Day (2 February) in order to raise awareness on wetlands and their importance to the city. Describe the types of events that have been delivered to celebrate World Wetlands Day in the city.

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Changshu has vigorously responded to the call from the Ramsar Secretariat, related to the annual theme for World Wetlands Day. It proactively deploys across the city publicity for the day and organizes wetland parks and community residents to carry out colourful and diverse activities for wetland promotion.

In 2015, the theme of the World Wetlands Day was “Wetlands for Our Future”, publicity posters and mobile stands were prepared for city-wide exhibition tours, together with specific website items for education centres that promoted wetland knowledge, wetland services and functions and their importance for future development of the city. They also called for the public to care for wetlands and share in a sustainably developed future.

In 2016, the theme was “Wetlands for Our Future: Sustainable Livelihoods”, for which Changshu launched the following activities: 1) encouraged communities to carry out activities, using “reed” as the core theme for awareness raising and publicity and discussing the development of wetland industries that use reed. This involved 5000 participants; 2) used websites to deliver and publish relevant wetland information, expounded the great significance of wetland industry to human production and living, and promoted the important role of wetlands in the sustainable livelihood of human beings.

In 2017, the theme was “Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction”, for which, in addition to posters and website publicity, Changshu also launched the “Themed Activities for the World Wetlands Day at Shajibang National Wetland Park”, including “Wetland Mystery Exploring” and “Q&A on Wetland Science Knowledge Promotion”, communicating the role wetlands play in flood and extreme climate management. This involved over 6000 participants.

For further promotion of activities for World Wetlands Day, Changshu plans to combine activities with the “Wetland Protection Publicity Week”, aiming at different levels (city, town, community and wetland park) and at different groups, especially youth. Diverse promotion activities with rich content around the theme of the current World Wetlands Day, will create coordinated promotion and education for World Wetlands Day. The activity content is shared with other cities via the website of “Changshu, China”.

A city can be considered for accreditation if it has established a local committee with appropriate knowledge and experience on wetlands and demonstrates representation of and engagement with stakeholders to support the Wetland City Accreditation, both through the submission of the Accreditation Form and the
A.9. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that it has established a local committee (or similar structure) to support and to further the aims of the Wetland City Accreditation. Such a committee should contain appropriate knowledge and experience on wetlands and should be representative of stakeholders and communities. Describe the committee, its members, mandate and operation.

Changshu Wetland Administration Committee was established, with the Mayor as the director and members from 16 government agencies, representatives of 13 land owners, scholars and community representatives from Chenzhaiwei and Nicanglou villages, etc. The purpose of the committee is for unified organization, coordination, administration and supervision of wetland protection and restoration. Each term of the Committee lasts for five years, and the first term was directly appointed by Changshu Government. The committee summarizes the work program and makes the work plan for next year, regularly holds review meetings and special meetings on major issues when necessary. It has held 3 special meetings for the certification of International Wetland City.

Changshu Wetland Conservation and Management Station has been founded, with 6 professional technicians, for the daily management of wetland protection. Changshu Wetland Monitoring Centre has been setup. All the important wetlands are monitored. The online devices provide real-time monitoring of water quality, disturbance and birds, providing data that supports wetland management.

Jointly established with Nanjing University, the Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu and Jiangsu Provincial Wetland Restoration Engineering Laboratory conduct research, applied technologies and education activities; a total of 45 local wetland projects have been implemented, providing sustainable and powerful scientific support for wetland conservation.

Changshu launched the five-level wetland conservation system: national wetland park, provincial wetland park, wetland conservation zone, municipal-level important wetland (wetland town), and wetland village (wetland community), exploring special construction models for rural wetlands with 123 wetland villages built. The rural wetland construction model has been highly praised by domestic and foreign experts.

To enhance wetland city certification the Changshu Leading Group for Wetland City Accreditation was established. This formulated the Implementation Program of Changshu for International Wetland City Accreditation, organized the application, development and certification for the international wetland city, and compiled 14 documents for this purpose, including the Master Planning of International Wetland City and the Plan for Review, Optimization and Promotion of Rural Wetland Models, etc. (to read all the supporting materials: http://wetlandcity.intecol-10iwc.com).

Group B: Complementary approaches

A city can be considered for accreditation if it has developed and applied appropriate standards regarding water quality, sanitation and management in the entire area under the city’s jurisdiction.

B.1. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that it has applied standards on water quality and sanitation, including waste management facilities which include collection and treatment for solid waste and wastewater (industrial, domestic and stormwater). Describe the standards, policies and regulatory framework which ensures delivery on water quality and sanitation standards.

Water quality is managed in accordance with China’s national standards, such as the Environmental Quality Standard for Surface Water (GB3838-2002), the Standard for Drinking Water Quality (GB5749-2006) and the Water Quality Standards for Urban Water Supply (CJ/T206-2005); under the “Implementation of the Strichest Water Resource Management Regulations”, rural wastewater treatment ratio reached 70%; 5150
points of livestock and fowl breeding have been shut; projects to reduce chemical fertilizers and pesticides have been proactively implemented. Urban domestic wastewater treatment covers the whole city territory, with 97% of inputs treated. A water saving irrigation system covers 75% of farmland; 70% reclaimed industrial water is reused. More than 300 projects have been carried out to dredge the water network, restore the rivers and lake ecosystems, control the pollution, build a sponge city, and improve the control systems guaranteeing wetland protection.

Sanitation management implements national standards such as the Standard for Urban Appearance (GB50449-2008), the Hygienic Standard for Communal Toilets in a City (GBT17217-1998) and the Ambient Air Quality Standard (GB3095-2012), and formulated local standards on hygienic management, such as the Quality Standard for Rural Environmental Hygiene Management, and special policies, including the Methods for Classified Collection and Treatment of Urban Domestic Garbage and the Implementation Program for Classification and Local Treatment of Rural Domestic Garbage, and established the “Solid Waste Management Centre” for city-wide solid waste supervision and management; the city has a garbage cleaning and transport rate of 100%; urban and rural domestic garbage is completely incinerated, the disposal rate of solid waste is 96%; and high air quality covers 76% of the year; a complete medical and health service system has been established. In 1995, Changshu was awarded “National Health City” by the China government.

Changshu has implemented the Methods for Ecological Civilization Performance Assessment and set specific targets for water quality and health management, including the water area protection, the main pollutant reduction, the decontamination ratios of urban and rural domestic garbage, the quality of drinking water and the wetland protection ratios, which are under the responsibility of different departments and collectively assessed by Changshu Government, forming a complete supervision system.

A city can be considered for accreditation if it recognizes and considers the socio-economic and cultural values, as well as the broader ecosystem services, of wetlands and has established good practices to consider and protect them in decision-making.

B.2. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that it proactively recognises the ecosystem services that wetlands provide and has integrated these multiple values into decision making. Where appropriate, special attention should be given to describing sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism and the cultural values of wetlands. Describe how the different provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting ecosystem services are recognised and the benefits that they provide to human society are integrated into planning and decision-making. Where possible, illustrate with examples.

(Each field is limited to 1000 characters)

Provisioning services:

The Yangtze River Drinking Water Source and the Shanghu Drinking Water Source, provide a city-wide tap water coverage of 100%. The storage capacity of the Yangtze River Emergency Water Source is 6.1×10⁶ m³, which guarantees the city’s emergency water supply for 1 week; 100% for domestic and 70% for key industrial water.

The irrigated land has an annual rice output of 19×10⁴ t and aquatic plants such as “eight aquatic plant immortals” provide an output of RMB 960 million. The aquatic farms where ecological aquaculture of featured products like fresh water crabs is conducted, have an annual production of 3.7×10⁴ t and RMB 2.5 billion. Wetlands in Changshu are able to provide each citizen 180kg of rice and 35kg of aquatic products each year.

Therefore, Changshu has included water source sites into the ecological redline area for the strictest protection, and named paddy fields as national basic farmlands for strict protection and for green and
Regulating services:

There are over 5000 rivers and 24 lakes in Changshu, covering an area of 175 km², with water storage of $3.5 \times 10^8$ m³ and flood storage of $1.75 \times 10^8$ m³. The storage capacities of Kuncheng and Shanghu Lakes are $50 \times 10^6$ m³ and $16 \times 10^6$ m³, respectively. The Yangtze River Wetland, across Changshu territory, is 144 km² and is able to drain a flood of $5 \times 10^8$ m³ annually.

Wetland restoration at Shanghu, Shajiabang, Kuncheng and Nanhu has improved regional water quality from poor to good. A constructed wetland at the Advanced Material Industrial Park purifies wastewater to Grade III-IV. Farmland runoff and domestic sewage is purified by wetlands to required levels.

Wetland restoration at Shanghu, Shajiabang, Kuncheng and Nanhu regulate the Changshu microclimate; summer air temperature is 1-2 °C lower than neighbouring cities.

Changshu has implemented strict regulations on wetland and water resources in city flood control planning, smooth water flow and sponge city, guaranteeing the water eco-environment.

Supporting services:

The city’s wetland is composed of diverse wetlands: rivers, lakes, marshes, reservoirs, ponds and paddy fields, with 530 wetland plants species (accounting for 68% of the city’s plants) and 250 wetland vertebrates (71% of the city’s vertebrates) recorded. The Conservation Zone of the Yangtze River Wetland has provided excellent habitats for rare species, such as Chinese sturgeon (CR, IUCN 3.1), mullet (National class II protected animal), Chinese merganser (EN, IUCN 3.1) and black finless porpoise (EN, IUCN 3.1).

The unique geographic location of Changshu makes wetlands conserve the city’s water and soil, and create fertile cropland, the content of soil organic material reaches 30g/kg, providing good support for the growth of wetland crops.

For this reason, Changshu has followed China’s regulations and implemented strict wildlife protection and management; while farmland soil protection policies, like fallow crop rotation and returning straw to farmlands, are also implemented.

Cultural services:

In 2016, Changshu received 19.85 million tourists with revenues of RMB 30.3 billion, largely from wetland eco-tours in Shajiabang marsh, Shanghu Lake and Jiangxiang Village. Shajiabang has become a famous brand of wetland tourism in China.

Nanjing University established a Changshu Scientific Research and Practice Center and completed 45 wetland research projects. Environmental protection organizations such as WWF conduct scientific promotion, education and training activities in Changshu.

Changshu has a thousand years of Jiangnan water town culture, giving birth to unique classical artistic schools such as Yushan school of painting, Qinchuan schools of poetry and zither, and intangible cultural heritage such as Xupu Fishing Song, Hudian Dragon Boating and Watertown Marriage Customs.

For this purpose, Changshu has built the tourism industry into the leading industry, and taken the wetland
B.3. A city can be considered for accreditation if it can demonstrate that there is a close link between local communities and the wetlands. Describe how local communities are engaged with the wise use of wetlands and how the communities benefit from the services the wetlands provide.

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

Changshu has built 123 wetland villages integrating ecological conservation, food production and local livelihoods, and being suitable for living and tourism. While protecting and restoring rural wetlands, villagers conduct agricultural activities and eco-tourism that provide an income whilst enjoying beautiful environments, with the life expectancy increased to 82.4 years. Wetland restoration has been conducted in Jiangxiang Village since the 1970s, with the implementation of duck feeding in rice fields and artificial wetlands to treat domestic sewage.

Residents in the city’s communities proactively participate in nearby wetland protection and restoration, and enjoy various benefits like cool weather and beautiful environments provided by the nearby wetlands. Liantang Community supports the protection and construction of Nanhu Wetland Park, while Nanhu Wetland Park provides job opportunities and excellent living environments for community residents. Through aquaculture cooperatives, Shanghu Fishing Community has conducted ecological aquaculture of fish, shrimps and crabs, promoted employment of community residents and created famous aquatic products such as clear water crabs and freshwater shrimps of “Shanghu” Brand.

The concepts of “towns on wetlands” and “homes in water towns” are perfectly explained in Changshu. Based on wetland protection and restoration, Shajiabang Town has established Shajiabang National Wetland Park, driving eco-tourism and nearby aquaculture industries to obtain revenues of RMB 2 billion, creating 12,000 jobs for community residents and increasing personal income by 15%. Rice paddy and good wetland eco-environments in Shanghu, Nanhu and Guantang lakes, and Shanghu Town (including the Shanghu Modern Agricultural Industry Park), has resulted in 3,700ha of rice paddy now part of the ecological planting industry and forming famous products like “Shanghu Rice”.

City-wide, multi-layer and multi-dimensional conservation of wetlands has been achieved in Changshu, along with rapid and healthy economic growth. Wetlands coexist harmoniously with the city and the residents. We actively explore the five-level system of wetland conservation and try to find an effective way for densely populated, economically developed, and short-of-land regions to achieve both wetland conservation and urban development.
### 3. City approval

**Instruction**: An authorised representative of the city authority making the application needs to check and approve the accreditation form against the guidance provided. In the case of several cities making a joint submission, a representative of each authority needs to check and approve the form, and then send it to the country’s Ramsar Administrative Authority who will formally submit it to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat (ramsar@ramsar.org) If more than three authorities are making the submission please insert further boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Title:</th>
<th>ZHOU Qindi/ Mr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position:</td>
<td>Mayor of People’s Government of Changshu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>10# Jinshajiang Road, Changshu City, Jiangsu Province, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>October 18, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4. Endorsement by the Ramsar Administrative Authority

**Instruction for the Ramsar Administrative Authority:** Please check and endorse each application for City Accreditation in your country, before sending this form to the Ramsar Secretariat at (ramsar@ramsar.org). Please also consult *Wetland City Accreditation Guidance Note for Ramsar Administrative Authority*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Administrative Authority</th>
<th>The Convention on Wetlands Management Office, People’s Republic of China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Name and title of Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention matters | WANG Zhigao  
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Attached Photos

To read all the supporting materials, please visit: http://wetlandcity.intecol-10iwc.com

Wetland Landscapes

Fig.1 Wetlands and city

Fig.2 Rural wetland, city with landscape
Fig. 3 Shajiabang marsh

Fig. 4 Shanghu lake
Fig. 5 Changshu fields
Fig. 6 Jiangnan water town

Wetland Communities

Fig. 7 Fuwei village, Yushan town
The Wise Use of Wetlands

Fig. 8 Rural wetland in Chenhaiwei

Fig. 9 Jiangxiang village, covered with snow

Fig. 10 Shajiabang marsh, Reed Wetland Science Museum
Wetland Restoration

Fig. 11 Wetland foods

Fig. 12 Shajiabang marsh, before and after restoration
Fig. 13 Nanhu lake, before and after restoration

Wetland Animals

Fig. 14 Shajiabang marsh, Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus), Photographed by Baofu Cheng

Fig. 14 Shajiabang marsh, Black-winged Stilt
Fig. 15 Shanghu lake, Mandarin

Fig. 16 Nanhu lake, Egret
Fig. 17 Changjiang river, Egrets on the tidal flats in the morning

Fig. 18 The 10th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference
Fig. 19 Changshu Wetland Science Museum

Fig. 20 The “Next generation thinking about wetlands” workshop