Wetland City Accreditation Nomination Form

**Instruction for compilers:**
i. Complete all yellow cells taking into account the specific limits on characters.
iii. Completed Nomination Forms should be sent by the designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention matters in the Administrative Authority to: ramsar@ramsar.org

### 1. Background information

| 1a. Country | People’s Republic of China |
| 1b. Name of city | Haerbin |
| 1c. Geographical coordinates of the city | 45°47’ N  126°40’ E |
| 1d. Administrative and wetland map | a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables have been attached, and a common GPG map is included in the form below. |
1e. Area of city
1,019,800 ha

1f. Approximate area of wetlands within the city boundaries
138,000 ha, including
127,232 ha natural wetland and
10,768 ha, man-made wetlands

1g. Define the types of wetland present within the city boundaries
Permanent rivers (M): 121,935 ha
Man-made wetlands: 10,768 ha
Permanent freshwater marshes (Ss): 2,727 ha
Permanent Lakes (O): 2,169 ha
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Wetlands (II)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Sunny Islands National Wetland Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Baiyupao National Wetland Park</td>
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<td>(3) Hulan River Estuary National Wetland Park</td>
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<td>(4) Alejin National Wetland Park</td>
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<td>(5) Ashi River National Wetland Park</td>
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<td>(6) Songbei National Wetland Park</td>
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<tr>
<th>Nature Reserves (Ia)</th>
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<tr>
<td>(7) Hulan River Estuary Provincial Level Nature Reserve</td>
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<td>(8) Lalin River Estuary Provincial Level Nature Reserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>(9) Hadong River-side Provincial Level Nature Reserve</td>
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**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, legislativemeasures and regulatoryinstruments, 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)*

Songhua River is vital for the development, and therefore, the urban planning has been based on the ecological and hydrological integrity of Songhua River-Hulan River-Ashi River and the associated tributaries and lakes, where the wetlands have been classified as non-development areas. According to the national wetland policy, in particular, the conservation and restoration of wetlands orders that issued by the State Council, as well as the National Wetland Conservation Action Plans, National Wetland Conservation Programs, Heilongjiang Province passed provincial legislation on wetlands, e.g., Regulation on Wetlands. Under the provincial law (regulation), all wetlands have been identified and listed as provincial key wetlands, with clear boundaries, and all should be protected. Harerbin, as the capital city of Heilongjiang Province, has taken even strict legislative measures, through the People’s Congress, a number of regulations have been promulgated, including

- Regulation on River Course (effective in 2006)
- Regulation on Xiquanayan Drinking Water Protection (effective in 2009)
- Regulation on Monitoring of Aquatic Ecosystems (effective in 2012)
- Regulation on Floodplain Protection (effective in 2013)
- Regulation on Mopanshan Reservoir Drinking Water Protection (effective in 2015)
- Regulation on Urban Sewage Water Collection and Treatment (effective in 2017)
- Protocol for Tourism Management of Songhua River Wetlands (effective in 2011)

Based on both national and local legislation, 6 national wetland parks (II), 3 provincial level nature reserves (Ia), as well as several other types of protected areas (V & VI) have been established, with the total protected wetlands of 83,320 ha, which accounts for 60.39% of the whole wetlands within the city boundary.

To ensure the effective conservation and management of wetlands, the city government has set up an wetland conservation and management system, which employed 125 staff. The management system includes, Office for the Management of Wetlands and Nature Reserves, and bureau for national wetlands parks, and nature reserves.

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.

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

(1) Restoration of creeks and rivers in the center of the city
Hejia Creek, Majia Creek and Xinyi Creek, as well as Ashi River and Hulan River are important tributaries of Songhua River, and spread over the urban areas of the city. However, due to ignore of the wetland ecosystem services, all these creeks have been used as the channels for sewage water in the past, as a result, the ecosystem has been degraded. In order to improve the ecosystem services, in particular, to raise flood retention capacity in urban areas, to improve urban landscapes and living environment, improve water quality, and provide citizens with space for leisure sports and recreation, the government invested 3 billion USD for 226 projects since 2010. Key projects include pollution water treatment facilities, purchase of 247 ha of land for restoration and creation of wetlands, restoration of river flows and riverbank vegetation. The restoration program improved greatly the wetland ecosystem services, which makes the city more beautiful, and safe. Citizens become more proud of their city. In 2013, it won China-HABITAT Model Award.

(2) Restoration of green corridor of the Songhua River
Based on the inventory and assessment of Songhua River wetlands, a wetland restoration and wise use plan was developed, which include the restoration of series wetlands, and connect all the national wetland parks and nature reserves along the 120 KM long Songhua River. Objective of the restoration includes river side environment improvement, habitat restoration, historical and culture sites rehabilitation, return the reclaimed farmland into wetlands, as well as the wetland ecotourism facilities, include visitor centers, hiking trails, etc, etc. The plan has been implemented and great success has been achieved. Eco-corridor restoration has not only improved the ecosystem integrity and increased flood retention capacity that helps Harerbin a more safe city, but also provided opportunities for local communities to participate in the ecotourism business. Farmers that used to reclaim wetlands for grain production, is now actively participate in the restoration, and look after the wetlands for attracting tourists, as their livelihoods.

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)
Spatial Planning and Integrated Master Plan of Harbin City was developed in 2011, which has been based on the key ecological function zoning principles that promulgated by National Development and Reform Commission. Zoning of the city into three categories, e.g., the built up areas, regulated built up areas, and areas not for development. The Sunny Island Scenic Areas, Tianheng Mountain Scenic Areas and Changling Lake Scenic Areas, as well as, Majia Creek, Hejia Creek and Xinyi Creek, are classified as strictly controlled areas with limited development, whereas, wetlands of the Songhua River, Hulan River, Ashi River, core areas of nature reserves and historical sites, Xiquanyan Water Reservoir as well as the drinking water sources, basic farmland, are classified as not for development areas. Therefore, the city develops on the framework of the wetlands and ecosystems. The Master Plan also set restoration of Majia Creek, Hejia Creek, Xinyi Creek and Ashi River and its associated lakes as top priority for restoration through water pollution control, wetland restoration, green corridor development along the rivers, so as to enhance the flood retention capacity, water purification, citizen leisure enjoyment spaces of central urban areas.

Measures:
- Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES, or Eco-compensation in China) has been conducted as pilot for Hulan River Basin, and complementary monitoring protocol has also been developed and implemented.
- Eco-civilization Strategies: Overall Plan for the Key Ecological Function Zoning as the basis for the Eco-civilization city development objectives. A series of management mechanism have been developed, such as Ecological Risks Warming Mechanism, Environment and Ecological Damage Accountability for all leaders, Compensation Mechanism for Environment Damages, etc. etc.
- Red Linning: all nature wetlands are classified as provincial level important wetlands with all boundaries marked, and integrated into the city’s development red line.

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.

Wetlands are key nature resources for local communities. Traditionally, fishing and collection of aquatic plants are major use forms. However, with the development, expansion of the city, wetlands are key resources for urban environment and landscapes, tourism, and therefore, local communities, urban citizen are keen on the management of the wetlands. Local communities are encouraged to conduct ecotourism business, as organized associations. For an instance, Hadong River Site Nature Reserve has been established on the restored wetlands that used to be farmland of local communities, and therefore, it is the sole livelihoods of 4403 people. The nature resere authority has been working with the communities, and developed co-management. Villagers have been organized as shareholders for the eco-tourism business, which depend on the health of the wetlands. The better quality, and more water birds in the wetlands, more visitors come to the village. Villagers used to hunt birds, but now become the key force of protecting wetlands and birds. Volunteers from universities and civil societies have been very active in wetland monitoring, and wetland environment education. Young students have been organized to help wetland parks, wetland education centers to help visitors understand wetlands and its services.

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)

**Six wetland education centers** have been established in Harerbin, including one within the city planning exhibition center. More 1000 volunteers have been working at these education centers, which provide wetland knowledge and information for 1 million visitors each year.

**Publications:** Seventeen books and brochures on wetlands and wetland tourism have been published, include wetland ecosystem services, wetland tourism and culture festival of Songhua river, Harbin summer tour guide, winter tour of Harbin-dreaming ice city, postcards.

**Textbook and curriculum:** Bureau of Education has included wetland knowledge into the text book and curriculum of the primary school and middle schools, and meanwhile, encouraged schools to conduct field visits to the wetlands and wetland education centers.

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)

World Wetland Day Exhibition: Celebration of World Wetland Day has been organized every year, In a special way, such as the ice and snow festival. Artists display their products, in particular ice sculpture and snow sculpture on the Songhua river, which is famous world-wide.

In order to reach wide scope communities, the World Wetland Day activities have been adapted to a local Heilongjiang Wetlands Day, on 10th of June each year, and Haerbin Songhua River Wetland Ecotourism Festival has been celebrating since 2011, which include music festival, Marathon game, and wetland culture display, as well as the wetland attractions, values of the wetlands.

New media: http://fb.harbin.gov.cn as well as webchat

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 subsequent implementation of proper measures for fulfilling the obligations under the accreditation process.

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.

(This field is limited to 2500 characters)

To strengthen the management of Harbin wetland resource and improve the regional wetland environment, rational use of wetland resources. The city government set up a coordination steering committee of wetland protect and management.

The committee leader: the vice mayor: Mr Zhang Wanping
The committee members:
-Development and Reform Commission is responsible city planing
-Finance Bureau is responsible for budget on wetland conservation and wise use;
-Agriculture Commission is responsible for water-saving and rural environment protection
-Rural and Urban Development Commission is responsible for city development plans
-Tourism Bureau is responsible for the enforcement of regulations on wetland ecotourism
--Water Resource Management Bureau is responsible for water supply, water use
-Land Resource Bureau is responsible for land use and enforcement of Land Resource Law
-Forestry Bureau is responsible for wetland conservation, forests protection and wildlife conservation
-Environment Protection Bureau is responsible for sewage water treatment, and biodiversity conservation
-Police Bureau is responsible for law enforcement, in particular, regulation on wetlands.
-Animal Husbandry Bureau is responsible for grazing and grassland management.
The volunteer groups of Northeast forestry university contain the protection birds committee, sunny youth committee and protection of wildlife committee. There are nearly one thousand members, they are responsible on the community survey, wetlands monitor, bird resources survey, international natural class, advocacy in bird protection weeks and wildlife protection knowledge.

-Hadong river-side village committee is the community representation that is responsible on the management of Hadong river-side Provincial Level Nature Reserve.

-The experts: Mr. Zhang Minghai, professor, Northeast Forestry University
  Mr. Xu Haijun, professor, Northeast Forestry University
  Mr. Li Xiaomin, professor, Northeast Forestry University
  Mr. Li Feng, professor, Northeast Forestry University
  Ms. Yu Hongxian, professor, Northeast Forestry University

The secretariat is based at the office for forest protected areas and wetlands.

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

(Each field is limited to 2500 characters)

(1) Standards:

The city fully apply national standards on water quality, national standards on collection and treatment for solid waste and waste water. National water quality classified as Grade I, II, III, IV, V, and Worse than Grade V. Grade I is the best quality, and Grade III is acceptable drinking water quality.

(2) Legislation and Policies:

Regulation on Water Supplies, which was promulgated in June, 1995, and revised in 2004 and 2010, which focus on water resource protection, wise use, as well as the strict monitoring of water quality, and incentives, punishment.

Regulation on Water Saving, promulgated in 2011, aims to improve water use efficiency, and protection of water resources, for the sustainable development of the city.

Protocol of Appraisal of Water Resource Management, which set three red lines, e.g., water use volume quota, agricultural water use efficiency, and industrial water use efficiency. The appraisal score card consists of 6 groups of 12 indicators, which include water quality, water use, water resource protection.

Protocol of Water and Soil Conservation, which was promulgated in 2001, which was based on the national law on Water and Soil Conservation, and its complementary regulation and implementation guidelines that published by the provincial government, aims at preventing and conservation of water and soil resources, protect and enhance environment conditions.

(3) project of the improvement of water quantity and the environment

since 2010 the government implement the restoration of creeks and rivers in the center of the city Hejia Creek, Majia Creek and Xinyi Creek, as well as Ashi River and Hulan River are important tributaries of Songhua River, and spread over the urban areas of the city. However, due to ignore of the wetland ecosystem services, all these creeks have been used as the channels for sewage water in the past, as a result, the ecosystem has been degraded. In order to improve the ecosystem services, in particular, to raise flood retention capacity in urban areas, to improve urban landscapes and living environment, improve water quality, and provide citizens with space to leisure sports and recreation, the government invested 3 billion USD for 226 projects since 2010. Key projects include pollution water treatment facilities, purchase of 247 ha of land for restoration and creation of wetlands, restoration of river flows and riverbank vegetation. The restoration program improved greatly the wetland ecosystem services, which makes the
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:**

1. **Freshwater:** for drinking and household use, agriculture, industrial and ecological uses have been the key focus on city management, the overall wetland conservation plans, as well as the drinking water source protection by “regulation of drinking water protection”.

2. **Food:** except rice, which in general is not calculated in wetland supply service in China, fishes has been the main protein supply. To ensure sustainable fishery, the government issued ordered seasonal fishing ban every year, as well as the protection of spawning sites, and the migration route of the four major economic fishes.

**Regulating services:**

1. **Flood hazard regulation:** Harbin is located in the middle reaches of Songhua River, it receives flooding water from both upstream of Songhua River and Lunjiang River, and thus has great pressure in mitigating flood disasters;

2. **Water Purification:** sediments and nutrients from upstream of Songhua River and Lunjiang River, as well as from the urban areas through Ashi River, Majia Creek, Hejia Creek and Xinyi Creek.

**Supporting services:**

1. **Water recycle:** each year, there are about 350 million cubic meters of polluted water from point emission were first purified by factory, and then, use wetlands to be further treated for qualified water resources, at Grade III. All non-point polluted water emission from agriculture (about 3 billion cubic meters) were all treated by wetlands.

2. **Habitat** for 38 species of fishes, 199 species of birds. It also support 5 species of amphibians and 5 species of reptiles, 20 species of mammal and 865 species of vascular plant species. At least 10threatened species on the IUCN redlist are inhabit here, including 3 global critically threatened species, e.g., Baer’s Pochard, and endangered species, such as red-crowned cranes and Oriental storks.

**Cultural services:**

1. **Culture heritage:** Harbin as the original and center of Jin dynasty, there are lots of the heritage, local habitat and the culture inherit since Jin dynasty. Just as Baiyupao national wetland park is the fishing areas since Jin dynasty and since Qing dynasty, it is the special fishing areas for the kings’ family.

2. **Recreation and tourism:** There are 14 wetland scenic areas that receive tourist. In 2016, tourism income recorded 30 billion USD.

3. **Inspirational values:** Harbin is the cradle of Jin and Qing dynasty, the nomads live here along the Songhua river and they depend on the fishing and hunting. So the development of the city can not leave
the river, the Baiyupao national wetland park is the famous areas of fishing for the present tribute fishes in Qing dynasty. For hundreds of years, the people live on the wetlands and adopt the winter fishing habitat, they know how to live with the wetlands harmoniously, wise use the wetland sources sustainably.

(4) Research and education: As the capital of Heilongjiang province, it is the center of the politic, culture, and economic of the whole province. There are a lot of universities and institutes to do the research on the wetlands. The northeast forest university have co-built the science education base with the Baiyupao and Songbei national wetlands park. Songbei national wetlands also establish Harbin forestry and science institute to do the monitoring in the national wetland park and do the series researches about the wetland process and the wetland ecosystem services.

All the wetland national park develop the extracurricular activities with the primary and middle schools all over the city. And most of the primary and middle school develop the wetlands science education, they also write the knowledge of the wetlands into the lessons plan as a part of the daily teaching content.

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)

The community involvement in the management of Hadong River-side Provincial Level Nature Reserve has been proven to be effective in wetland conservation and wise use. Farmers used to hunt waterbirds, and collect bird eggs before the establishment of the nature reserve. With the set up of nature reserve, co-management mechanism has been established between the nature reserve and local communities. Volunteers from universities has organized awareness campaign, local farmers understand the importance of wetland conservation and wise use, in particular, when they are organized to conduct ecotourism. There are over 4400 villagers around the nature reserve, and their farmland have been restored as wetlands for eco-tourism. Farmers are organized as shareholders according to the land areas, villagers are engaged in tourism activities instead of their former farming. The community generated 25 million USD revenue in 2016, which are far more than they can earn before. Farmers become more care of the ecosystem health of their wetlands, since visitors come to their wetlands to watch birds and experience health wetlands. Conservation of wetlands is the only measure to safeguard their livelihoods, and therefore, they are not only actively participate in decision-making of wetland conservation and restoration, but also organized themselves for communication and environmental education to visitor.

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.

Name/Title: Song Xibin
Position: Mayor of Harbin
Address: No.2955, Longsheng Road, Songbei Distrcit, Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, China.
E-mail: hrbsdzx@126.com
Date: Signature:
### 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 Wetland Management Office, People’s Republic of China</th>
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</table>
| Name and title of Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention matters | WANG Zhigao  
Director General  
The Convention on Wetland Management Office, P.R. China  
The Office of Wetland Conservation and Management, State Forestry Administration, P.R. China |
| Date: | Signature of the Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention matters: |