



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Uruguay, 2015**

Please submit the completed National Report in Microsoft Word format (.doc, 97-2003), as an electronic file (not a printed copy) and preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org) by **1 September 2014**.

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) is in four sections:

Section 1 provides the institutional information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

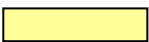
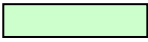
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

Section 4 is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

1. All Sections of the COP12 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
2. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **1 September 2014**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP12.
3. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
4. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
5. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word. You are only able to submit replies and information in the yellow or green boxes, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the structure and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties.
6. To select a yellow or green field you wish to complete, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
7. To move down through the sequence of fields, you can also use the 'Tab' key on the computer keyboard.

8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks " "** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks ' '**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
10. For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'Yes', 'No', 'Partly', 'In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
12. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
15. After the NRF has been completed, please **send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).**
16. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.**
17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at www.ramsar.org/contacts_en.

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

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**SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION
PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES**

REMINDER: Please do not use double quote marks “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP11 reporting):

A. What have been the five most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

1) Completion of the second national wetland resources survey

China has finished its second nationwide wetland resource investigation. Launched in 2009 and completed in 2013, the survey by 22,000 forestry professionals was conducted and completed by the State Forestry Administration with great support from relevant departments of the State Council.

The survey has firstly adopted a wetland classification system in line with that recommended by the Ramsar Convention. It has also applied advanced techniques, including remote sensing (RS), geographical information system (GIS), and the global positioning system (GPS), in field sampling and satellite imagery analysis. The survey was designed to cover all of China's wetland patches no less than eight hectares individually in size. Each eligible wetland patch was portrayed by eleven survey parameters, e.g. wetland type, water supply, dominant aquatic plants, land tenure, and governance status. The statistics also had an in-depth description of 1,579 nationally or internationally important wetlands by studying their aquatic environment, fauna and flora, conservation and exploitation of wetland resources, socioeconomic context, and ecological threats.

The survey results indicated that China's wetlands falling into 34 types in 5 categories cover an area of 53,602,600 ha, exclusive of 30,057,000 ha paddy fields, amounting to 5.58 percent of China's total land area. Findings from the survey also showed that China's wetlands declined by an estimated 3,396,300 ha between 2004 and 2013, including an estimated 3,376,200 ha or 9.33 percent of the losses for the natural wetlands. The statistics presents China the latest information on wetland resources, key aquatic plants and animals, main threats to wetlands, and land tenure.

All collected data have been digitalized, which will secure data-informed decision-making on the conservation, management, planning, and utilization of wetlands and their resources. The updated information will further help prioritize conservation planning efforts to close gaps in wetland protection through ameliorating wetland protected area network and optimizing geographical space for the conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources.

2) Conservation funds for wetlands climbed and the protected wetlands expanded

The survey report of the second national wetland resource inventory implied that the protected wetland area in China was 23,243,200 ha, representing 43.51 percent of China's land area. An estimated 21,156,800 ha natural wetlands (45.33 percent) were under protected. Between 2004 and 2013, wetland area under protection increased by an estimated 5,259,400 ha, comprising an estimated 13.02 percent of the total land area of China. China has, so far, established a hierarchical wetland protected area network, consisting of nature reserves, wetland parks, preserves, and other conserved areas.

By 2013, 46 wetlands in China had been designated as Ramsar sites, and nine of which won their designations during 2011 and 2013.

Between 2011 and 2013, the Ministry of Finance apportioned 1.467 billion RMB for wetland conservation and management to the State Forestry Administration (SFA) and the Ministry of Agriculture. Specifically, SFA received 1.37 billion RMB, of which 650 million RMB earmarked for over 200 wetland conservation subsidy projects and 720 million RMB budgeted for other wetland conservation and restoration efforts; and the Ministry of Agriculture obtained 97 million RMB budgetary appropriations for 26 agricultural wetland protection projects in Jiangsu, Hunan, Anhui, Heilongjiang and Hubei provinces, and Heilongjiang Agricultural Reclamation Area. Local governments also invested wetland conservation. The above-mentioned 26 projects, for example, received 186 million RMB co-financing from local governments.

Supported by the Ministry of Finance, China has obtained \$36 million in grant or loan for wetland conservation, including \$26 million from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and \$10 million from Asian Development Bank (ADB). The GEF-funded project, CBPF-Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland PA system Strengthening for Biodiversity

Conservation, aims to consolidate China's wetland protected area system. The two ADB-financed projects have received \$180 million for the projects titled the Gansu Urban Infrastructure Development and Wetland Protection Project and the Anhui Huainan Urban Water Systems Integrated Rehabilitation Project, of which \$10 million for wetland-related activities covering restoring wetlands, improving habitat management and monitoring, treating lake pollution, and piloting the wise use of wetlands.

SFA also brought in additional conservation funds through international cooperation. Between 2010 and 2012, the Australia Government aided AUD1.14 million for a Australia-China environment development project, focusing on Wetland Management Policy, Guidelines and Capacity Building, and aiming to increase capacity of wetland management agencies. During 2010 and 2014, the Germany Government has donated 3 million Euros with same amount co-funding matched by China for an environmental partnership project, Wetland Biodiversity Protection in China, to improve the effectiveness of wetland management.

3) Mainstreaming of wetland conservation and management further progressed

To pursue the sustainable development of the Chinese nation and fulfill its shared responsibilities for securing global ecological safety, China has committed to building its ecological culture, calling for 'expanding wetland area' and for 'protecting biodiversity'. Wetland conservation and management have been listed on the national agenda. In 2013 President Xi reiterated that: 'our mountains, waters, forests, farmland and lakes make up a community of life' and called on integrating the protection and stewardship of natural resources in his speech addressing the Decisions of the Central Committee of the Community Party of China on Some Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening the Reform. Since wetlands sustain mountains, waters, forests, farmland and lakes, they are nothing but the prime target of natural resource management.

Since COP11, wetland conservation and management have been integrated into ten national strategic development plans as follows:

Drafted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030) was approved by the State Council in September 2010.

The Twelfth Five-Year Plan for National Forestry Development (2011-2015) was issued by the State Forestry Administration in August 2011, setting targets of wetland conservation.

The Opinions of the State Forestry Administration and the National Tourism Administration on Accelerating the Development of Forest-based Tourism, announced in November 2011, pointed out: 'to establish a tourism network built on forest parks, wetland parks, nature reserves, and etc.'

The Twelfth Five-Year Plan for China's Environmental Protection (2011-2015), endorsed by the State Council in December 2011, highlighted four environmental issues to be tackled, two related to wetlands: water environment improvement and ecological protection and enhancement of law enforcement.

Delivered by the Ministry of Transport in January 2012, the Twelfth Five-year Plan for Protecting the Surrounding Environment of Transportation Networks of Highways and Waterways identified protecting the environment adjacent to highways and waterways and combating environmental pollution by transportation-related practices as two priority activities.

The National Land Consolidation Plan (2011-2015) was issued by the Ministry of Land and Resources in March 2012. The Plan viewed environmental integrity and wetland conservation as a guideline to land consolidation.

Approved by the State Council in August 2012, the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for Implementing National Wetland Conservation Programme (2011-2015), was to direct 12.987 billion RMB, both central and sub-national funding, to wetland conservation,

wetland restoration and integrated improvement, the wise use of wetlands, and wetland management capacity building between 2011 and 2015.

The Twelfth Five-Year Plan for China's Marine Economic Development (2011-2015) was put out by the State Council September 2012. The Plan aimed to strengthen protecting marine environment with five key strategies.

The Master Plan for Protecting the Environment and Ecosystems of Lakes with Good Water Quality (2013-2020) was promulgated by the State Council in December 2013. The plan was prepared for controlling and preventing water pollution in key watersheds and for saving lakes suffering notorious pollution except protecting water bodies in pristine condition across China's five lake districts.

Approved by the State Council in March 2014, the National Ecological Protection and Development Plan (2011-2020) will serve as a framework for mainstreaming wetland conservation into a wide range of natural resource exploitation and conservation plans.

A municipal-level Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan is under preparation by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and is supposed to be implemented in 2015.

4) Further promoted the safeguarding mechanisms for wetland conservation management

China has attributed its current wetland conservation achievement to the progressive wetland safeguarding mechanism that includes, inter alia:

(i) Legal system—First of all, the State Forestry Administration issued the Wetland Conservation and Management Provisions in 2013 after it put out the National Administrative Measures for Wetland Parks (Tentative) in 2010 to steer the establishment of national wetland parks. The Ministry of Agriculture introduced the Tentative Administrative Rules for Aquatic Resource Preserves in January 2011. Second, the Ministry of Finance, together with the State Forestry Administration, drafted the Tentative Measures for Wetland Conservation Subsidy Programme. Later on, the State Forestry Administration further adopted the Interim Provisions on the Administration of Wetland Monitoring and Management Funds for advising the use of earmarked funds for wetlands. Third, the State Forestry Administration supported six provinces' promulgating provincial-level wetland conservation regulations or measures, sending the number of provinces with wetland ordinance to 19 up to 2013. The six provinces were Jiangxi and Zhejiang provinces, Qinghai and Yunnan Provinces, and Shandong and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Last, the State Forestry Administration succeeded in adding the enactment of the Regulations on Wetland Protection to the legislative agenda of the State Council. It is now revising and refining the draft version of the Regulations in answering review comments or advices from over twenty national sectors with a view to get the Regulations effective earlier.

(ii) Technical standard system—Since 2011, China has put forward and has developed an array of technical standards or guidance to standardize wetland conservation and management practices, covering nominating, designating and managing a wetland protected area, assessing threats to wetlands, and evaluating the stewardship performance of a wetland protected area management authority. Over the past three years, China effected five technical norms, including : (i) Tentative Scheme for Early Warning the Changes of Ecological Features of Ramsar Sites, (ii) Technical Guidelines for Preparing Management Planning for Ramsar Sites in China, (iii) Guidelines on the Management of Environmental Impact Assessment of Construction Projects on Aquatic National Nature Reserves, (iv) the Business Practices for Building and Managing National Ecotourism Pilot Sites, and (v) the Recommended Indicators for Evaluating Ecological Health and Functions of Wetland Ecosystems.

(iii) Economic incentive system—China has established a special subsidy fund for wetland conservation since COP11. In addition, the State Forestry Administration started wetland ecological compensation work, attempting to use economic instruments to

engage wetland stakeholders in wetland conservation and management.

(iv) Management effectiveness evaluation system—China has introduced a reporting mechanism built on the Bulletin of Ecological Status of China's Ramsar Sites to release ecological status of the Ramsar sites in China in a regular manner. The State Forestry Administration evaluated ecological changes at 41 Ramsar sites during 2009 and 2012, and the assessment results is to be released soon.

5) Public interests on wetlands reached new high

In conjunction with China Central Television (CCTV), the State Forestry Administration (SFA) take an initiative to select the top ten most beautiful wetlands in China. The initiative concluded with 225 million tallied votes—that was, one in five Chinese partook in the activity. Such an extensive public involvement was attributable to China's unremitting efforts to promote wetland conservation and the escalating popularity of wetland-based tourism in China.

China's national leaders attended and delivered an important speech at a celebration marking the country's 20th anniversary of joining the Ramsar Convention in 2012. In addition to the celebration, SFA also publicized wetland conservation and biodiversity conservation through mainstream medium, generating over 1,000 pieces of media coverage except staging a 19-day series programme themed Wetlands in China on China National Radio (CNR).

SFA also celebrated China Wetland Festival in 2011 and 2013. The 2011 China Wetland Festival and Asian Wetland Symposium on Human Well-being and Wetlands concluded with the adoption of the Wuxi Declaration. It was also the largest global gathering for marking the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention that year. Relevant news were googled on Baidu, Chinese Google, as much as 2.4 million times. The 2013 celebration event ended with the adoption of the Dongying Declaration. China's National Political Consultative Conference Vice President Lu Fuhe and the Ramsar Convention's Secretary General observed the two events along with over 1,000 representatives altogether from twenty country across the world.

Working with CCTV, SFA also ran a large-scale campaign themed Beautiful China: Wetlands, shooting 50 episodes of China wetlands documentary and getting them televised on CCTV-4. It also published articles on wetland in a special section, The Loss of Wetlands, in China Economic Weekly. CCTV news also covered wetland conservation several times over the last three years. In 2011, China's ex-Administrator of SFA published a thematic article in the People's Daily, calling for valuing wetlands. SFA published at least twelve types of books on China's wetlands, such as Strategic Research on China's Wetland Conservation and Handbook for Wetland Conservation Management. Over the last three years, other Chinese state sectors also conducted a wide range of wetland-related promotion activities on different festival days, such as World Wetlands Day, Earth Day, and National Land Day. They built the knowledge and understanding of wetlands of the public ranging from school students to farmers, through giving presentations, hosting seminars, and doling out promotion materials, including books.

China hosted 3.25 billion tourists in 2013. Some wetlands, such as Qiandaohu Lake and Xixi Wetlands, have become famous tourist destinations in China. Thirteen wetlands have won their designation as a National Ecotourism Pilot Site along with other 26 forest sites, according to the National Tourism Administration (NTA). Among 175 5A-level tourist sites, as graded by the NTA, 49 sites consist of wetlands, representing 28 percent of China's 5A-level tourist sites. And eight Ramsar sites (17 percent) have reached level 3A or above. Establishing a functional on-site environmental education or interpretation system has been considered a key strategy for China's wetland management authorities to promote wetland and biodiversity conservation.

The website of ChinaWetlands has grown as the main window for the public to keep abreast of the latest information about wetlands. The website had over 33 million hits in 2013, 3.6 times more than that in 2012.

SFA also established a branch of wetlands of the China Ecological Culture Association and formed a China Wetland Conservation Association. The two organizations may expand wetland conservation efforts by connecting more people concerning over wetlands.

B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

1) No national regulation on wetland conservation in place: China's wetland conservation remains a challenge for lack of a national wetland law or regulation that could enable the institution of other specific mechanisms for wetland management, including those related to conservation concession, ecological compensation, supplementing water supply, water pollution treatment, and the wise use of wetland resources. It is high time for China to enact a comprehensive state-level wetland conservation act to guide and mandate wetland conservation and management in a consistent way.

2) Lack of a long-term mechanism for wetland conservation: Even though China has established a national wetland conservation subsidy fund, the fund is, however, only available to part of important preserved wetlands. This leave many wetlands closely tying to economic growth and people's livelihood unprotected or less concerned because of widespread shortage in conservation funding. To tackle the challenge, China needs to answer how to diversify conservation funding sources and increase conservation funds, particularly to establish a functioning wetland ecological compensation mechanism.

3) No effective scheme for addressing trans-regional ecological threats: The survey results from the second national wetland inventory implies that China's wetlands are suffering from ecological threats beyond geographical boundaries, such as invasive species and global warming. China has, unfortunately, not developed appropriate national response strategies and mechanisms, e.g. measures for managing alien invasive species and monitoring and early warning systems for invasive species or climate change. And what's worse, quite a few wetland managers and decision-makers have limited or no knowledge about invasive species and climate change and their ecological consequences.

4) Critical need for support from sound wetland science and technology: A long-standing lack of scientific knowledge concerning wetland conservation and management has led to neither scientifically sound wetland conservation and restoration projects nor expected conservation and restoration results. Existing wetland conservation or management only focuses on all or part of a single wetland rather than considers the entire watershed where the wetland is situated. This helps explain overwhelming unsatisfactory outcomes of wetland restoration and creation despite enormous financial investments over the past years.

5) Wetland awareness not high enough for making wetland friendly decisions: China is still making its way to build effective awareness for the need to protect the country's wetlands sustaining its socioeconomic growth, particularly increase the awareness of decision-makers at all levels.

C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

1) To delineate the “red line” for wetlands and develop a national blueprint for wetland protection

The State Council has agreed on the State Forestry Administration's proposal of maintaining China's wetlands not blow a red line of 800 million mu (53.3 million ha) by 2020. The State Forestry Administration is to determine where the “red line” should be drew, that is, which wetlands should get inside the red line by analyzing the latest data of wetlands from the second national wetland resource inventory while referring relevant strategic plans, such as China's Biodiversity Conservation Strategies and Action Plan (2011-2030), the National Comprehensive Water Resources Plan (2011-2030), the Guidelines for National Land Use Development Master Plan (2006-2020), and the National Land Consolidation Plan (2011-2015). The Administration also plans to introduce a mechanism for steering wetland conservation and utilization to keep the red line for wetlands secured. Such a mechanism should well balance the needs of wetland conservation as well as allowable wetland resource utilization. As for the other wetlands that are not subject to the red line policy, the types, scope and intensity of the use of these wetlands will be also stipulated in line with their ecological carrying capacity defined by their wetland types and ecological character.

2) To expand the wetland protected area network and improve the ecological environment of wetlands

2.1 To expand the wetland protected area network

China hopes to identify conservation gaps in wetland conservation by comparing the geographic distribution of the current protected areas with that of the proposed red-line on wetlands. The gap analysis results are expected to allow China to prepare its 13th Five-Year plan for building the country's wetland conservation network, combining designated protected areas for strictly preserving natural wetland resources, those for the sustainable use of natural resources, and those for safeguarding the interaction between nature and human society built on time-tested resource use modes. In accordance with the available relevant plans for wetland resource utilization, the 13th Five-Year Plan is to address the following priority conservation needs: (i) Designate new strictly protected wetland protected areas; (ii) Promote the development of wetland parks to keep wetland conservation and sustainable wetland resources in tandem; (iii) Establish ecologically-friendly extensive wetland use zones to explore the wise use of wetlands through integrated management modes that can satisfy agricultural development purposes while benefiting biodiversity conservation and soil protection.

2.2 To proceed with major wetland restoration projects

Between 2011 and 2015, China is to restore and improve 116,500 ha wetlands, including restoring 92,800 ha destroyed wetlands, re-establishing 20,300 ha wetland habitat for key species, and rehabilitating 3,400 ha wetlands degraded by invasive species. The restoration will focus on those wetlands that are severely ecologically degraded, ecological fragile or of special ecological and social importance. The identified strategies for wetland restoration and improvement include reinforcing supplementing water supply of wetlands, returning reclaimed land to wilderness, controlling and preventing pollution from wetlands, and appropriately limiting production practices in wetlands.

2.3 To designate more Ramsar sites

China is going to step up designating Ramsar sites, aiming to add at least three but no more than five wetlands to the Ramsar site list.

2.4 To build a watershed-based wetland conservation network

The ecological character of a wetland determines it the ultimate goal of wetland conservation and management to maintain the ecological integrity of the aquatic ecosystem. This requests any wetland conservation and management must be based on or derived from a watershed-wide integrated wetland conservation and management planning. China is therefore to continue to enhance the establishment of watershed-scale wetland conservation system in protecting migratory waterbirds, managing water

resources use, controlling and preventing water pollution, and developing conservation plans for nearshore and coastal wetlands. To do so, China will not only strengthen the cooperation between wetland resource management sectors in developing any wetland-related planning, but also encourage farmers, fishermen and ranchers to adopt ecologically friendly agricultural practices to expand the size of wetland area skirting the wetland protected areas under certain conservation easement. The combination of different conservation measures is expected to build the harmony between wetland conservation and local socioeconomic development.

3) To advance systematic wetland protection legislation and mechanisms to establish a three-in-one securing system combining legislation, finance and science instruments

3.1 To ameliorate wetland legislation and law enforcement

China is to push forward national wetland legislation. In conjunction with other relevant national sectors, the State Forestry Administration is pushing the way to promulgate the Regulations on Wetland Protection. In addition to directing local governments to comply with the Provision on Wetland Conservation and Management, the State Forestry Administration will bring forward provincial wetland legislation in nearly one third provinces in China that have not issued their provincial wetland ordinances, bylaws or regulations. The Administration also plans to revise the National Administrative Measures for Wetland Parks (Tentative), enact the Methods for Identifying Nationally Important Wetlands, and introduce the Measures for Managing Ramsar Sites in China in order to lay a strong and powerful legal basis for protecting and managing wetland resources.

3.2 To activate standards for wetland management

China aims to standardize the management of wetlands of international importance. On one hand, China will promote the implementation of available standards in wetland stewardship, including the Technical Guidelines for Preparing Management Planning for Ramsar Sites in China, the Scheme for Early Warning the Changes of Ecological Features in Ramsar Sites (Tentative), and the Business Practices for Building and Managing National Ecotourism Pilot Sites. On the other hand, it will prepare and implement the Management Measures for Ramsar Sites in China and release bulletins to disclose the ecological status of China's Ramsar Sites in a regular manner. The standards are believed to push China's wetland stewardship toward management effectiveness in different aspects, including wetland planning, management, early warning, monitoring, and management effectiveness reporting.

3.3 To explore and institute a multidimensional economic incentive scheme

In the near future, China is going to scale up central budgetary appropriations for wetland protection subsidy to secure ecological functions of wetlands healthier. In addition, China is to advance its wetland ecological compensation efforts by offering appropriate compensations to relevant stakeholders who sacrifice their benefits for wetland conservation. The initiative is supposed to balance different interests involved in wetland protection, leading to increased enthusiasm of relevant stakeholders for wetland preservation. To ensure a smooth implementation of the ecological compensation work, China will also introduce a mechanism for economic evaluation of wetlands to regulate wetland valuation approaches and standards. Such a mechanism will enable China to develop informed economic incentives, including the wetland ecological compensation initiative.

3.4 To mainstream wetland conservation

China will strive for making wetland conservation an indicator of China's socioeconomic development appraisal system at the soonest. By then wetland coverage and the total coverage of protected wetlands will become indicators measuring the local governments' performance, linking with an official accountability system. In addition, the governments will consider planting new evaluation mechanisms as well as appraisal indicators except continuing to promote the River Administrator system, focusing on mitigating the pollution of water bodies in China.

4) To enhance wetland management competencies and improve the management effectiveness of wetlands

4.1 To produce strong scientific and technical assistance

(i) Research on wetlands: China is to carry out thematic research on how to protect and restore wetland ecosystems and establish bases for wetland field research. Such research efforts is to understand the interactions between climate change, water resource safety or biodiversity and wetlands, learn more clearly the impacts of large-scale hydrological projects and facilities on wetlands, explore best practices for wetland conservation and engineering restoration, and manage wetlands in accordance with the designated purposes of function zones of wetlands.

(ii) Wetland monitoring: China will ameliorate available wetland monitoring systems to create a nationwide long-term monitoring system for tracking the ecological changes of wetlands over time, and expand its efforts to monitor and appraise wetlands in coastal areas, urban areas and some of largest agricultural regions. The ultimate goal of having a nationwide wetland monitoring system is to standardize monitoring activities to achieve effective sharing of monitoring data.

4.2 To increase competencies of wetland stewardship personnel

China is to establish national and regional training centers for wetland professionals. The training centers will serve as bases for wetland employees to receive trainings needed to fulfill their job responsibilities, focusing on wetland conservation and management, wildlife protection, law enforcement, and wetland monitoring. China will provide more opportunities of thematic trainings, international or national wetland seminars or workshops for wetland professionals who might profit by sharing their knowledge and information with their counterparts at home and abroad. The training efforts will turn into improved management skills and enriched knowledge of wetland stewardship.

5) To increase wetland promotion activities to make wetland protection a universal concern in China

China will seize opportunities generated from the ecotourism boost to wetlands, wetland friendly agriculture development and water resource protection to establish and ameliorate environmental education systems for wetlands with a view to involve the Chinese in preserving wetlands. Furthermore, it will see the existence of a nationwide network of wetland education centers, a platform built on in-place facilities and other resources for wetland awareness building in wetland nature reserves and national wetland parks across China. It will also present a wide range of trainings and international communication activities to help wetland education and interpretation staff members become professional. Last, it will enrich training materials and update training equipment, including promoting wetland protection on internet and organizing experts to developing training materials and textbooks tailored for target readers.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

1) To institute a financial mechanism to better implement the Ramsar Convention;

2) To establish a capacity development mechanism for improving the competencies of developing and least developed countries with weak capacity for conserving, governing and using their wetlands in a sustainable way;

3) To establish best practices of the Ramsar Convention, including establishing technical schemes and guidelines for wetland restoration, benchmarks for ecological health of Ramsar sites, recommended standards and monitoring schemes for monitoring Ramsar sites, to promote sciences-based and evidence-based management of wetlands.

- E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

To strengthen the communication and cooperation between international organization partners, the Secretariat of Ramsar Convention, and contracting parties, to channel more funds and knowledge convention-wide for better implementing the Ramsar Convention.

- F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

To introduce a national coordination mechanism in order to strengthen the communication and coordination among national implementation agencies of multi-lateral international agreements by integrating information and optimizing resources among all relevant conventions.

- G. How can implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

China is on the way to build a moderately prosperous society built on a five-in-one layout consisting of economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological cultural construction. Since the construction of ecological culture interacts with that of the other four, it is critical to maintain the harmony between the five constructions. In implementing the Ramsar Convention, the State Forestry Administration, along with other member agencies, lives up to the overarching principle.

First, China's National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention reviews their work the last year and solve major issues related to wetland conservation and management at their annual gatherings. The annual gathering not only keeps the member agencies on the same page in implementing the Ramsar Convention, but also presents them chances to be familiar with the priorities work areas of other fellow agencies and the overall work plan for implementing the Ramsar Convention the next year; therefore, they could weave the Ramsar-related work into their own work plan in line with their responsibilities and administrative jurisdiction.

Second, the Committee's member agencies also keep in touch with each other on a daily basis. When it comes to preparing wetland-related planning and policies, they cooperate, collaborate, or assist with each other to ensure the cohesion and consistency between strategic planning and policies. Only during 2011 and 2014 did the member agencies deliver a dozen of strategic planning and policies about wetlands by teaming up with each other. For example, ten national sectors, including the State Forestry Administration (SFA), the State Oceanic Administration, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the National Reform and Development Commission, put out the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for Implementing National Wetland Conservation Programme (2011-2015) in 2012. Soon in August 2013, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture co-issued the Notice Concerning Further Strengthening the Management of Environmental Impact Assessment on Aquatic Resource Conservation. Later on, the National Ecological Protection and Development Plan (2011-2020) was approved by the State Council in March 2014. The Plan was co-prepared by twelve sectors, including the National Reform and Development Commission; and is expected to facilitate integrating wetland conservation into relevant plans for exploiting wetland resources, such as water function zoning plans for national important rivers and lakes, integrated watershed plans, marine functional zoning plans, provincial plans of key ecological function zones, and sub-national land use master plans. Another plan to be promulgated in 2014 is the Master Plan for Addressing Crucial Environmental Issues in Agriculture (2014-2020), aiming to improve the protection of China's wetlands and water resources with the synergy of a series of highlighted wetland conservation efforts, such as treating water pollution, preventing underground water from over extraction, keeping wetlands from ecological deterioration, and implementing incentives for wetland protection, including wetland protection subsidy and wetland ecological compensation.

Last, SFA also plays its responsible role as China's administrative agency of the Ramsar Convention in assisting member agencies in integrating wetland conservation into their sector-specific or national development plans. In 2012 and 2013, the Administration replied requests from member agencies on reviewing and commenting on over 100 strategic plans, ranging from national key ecological function zones to water resource protection to integrated watershed management, with producing over 1,000 pieces of comment or advice. The Convention on Wetlands Management Office with SFA also invited experts to prepare research reports or policy recommendations for helping national or provincial governments develop policies or make decisions on wetlands.

H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

- 1) To establish effective mechanisms, such as short-term personnel exchange, for sharing information and knowledge between contracting countries to facilitate implementing the Ramsar Convention;
- 2) To broaden and deepen technical assistance, particularly (i) to explore wetland restoration modes through removing barriers to wetland restoration with a better understanding of wetland ecosystems and applicable technologies; (ii) to promote managing wetlands in tune with their ecological dynamics by creating best techniques for wetland monitoring systems built on wetland ecological health monitoring and early warning systems, and (iii) to prepare a National Action Plan for Addressing Climate Change to respond global warming in a precautionary manner.

I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

The governmental sectors contributing to the report include as follows: the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Forestry Administration, the State Oceanic Administration, the National Tourism Administration, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and Fish Protection Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region.

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

1. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the 'drop-down' list in the yellow box.
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green 'free-text' boxes below the indicator questions.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database National Reports. For that reason, **please do not use double quote marks “ ” in the free text boxes. Use single quotes ‘ ’. Text in the ‘free text’ boxes should be simple text only: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
5. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP11, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP11 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment. *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

A - Yes

1.1.1 Additional information:

In 2013 China completed its second nationwide wetland resources survey covering every wetland patch of at least eight hectares in accordance with the Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type. Two types of survey were designed: general and specific surveys. A general survey was applied to all eligible wetlands to collect information of eleven parameters of wetland determination, such as the category, size, exact location, hydrological regime, aquatic flora and fauna, and land tenure of wetlands. A specific survey was also conducted in 1,579 nationally or internationally important wetlands to further obtain detailed information of additional five parameters of wetland determination, including aquatic environment and conservation, utilization, and threat status. The State Council Information Office has unveiled the key results from the countrywide investigation to the world in convening a press conference.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
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1.1.2 Additional information:

The Wetland Resource Monitoring Center of the State Forestry Administration is responsible for maintaining the national wetland resource inventory for public and government use. In addition, sub-national governmental agencies at different levels manage data on wetlands within their geographical jurisdiction. For example, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region periodically updates its wetland inventory and information for government use. The main findings of the second national wetland inventory by province are expected to be compiled and published, and are accessible to stakeholders with different interests.

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}	
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a) Ramsar Sites

b) wetlands generally

Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).

* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention

a) P - Status improved

b) N - Status deteriorated

1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):

a) Four years after the first ecological status assessment on China's Ramsar sites, the State Forestry Administration again evaluated the ecological health of China's 41 Ramsar sites in 2013. The released Bulletin of Ecological Status of China's Ramsar Sites (Second Report) showed that the overall ecological health of China's Ramsar sites was improved, particularly that of freshwater inland wetlands. Compared to inland wetlands, coastal wetlands faced severer threats, a rare few even showing signs of ecological deterioration. The ecological degradation of coastal wetlands were largely due to the following major threats, including wetland reclamation and encroachment by economic growth and infrastructure development, pollution, over harvesting of wetland resources, and alien invasive species.

b) Compared to that of the 2003 first national wetland survey, the result of the 2013 second survey illustrated that China lost an estimated of 3,376,200 ha of natural wetlands over the past decade, representing an average annual 9.33 percent loss of its wetlands.

STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i	A - Yes
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(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)

1.3.1 Additional information:

In December 2010, the State Forestry Administration promulgated the National Administrative Measures for Wetland Parks (Tentative), guiding the development of wetland parks in China.

In January 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture enacted the Tentative Administrative Rules for Aquatic Resource Preserves to regulate the conservation and management of China's aquatic resources and their natural refuges.

Ten months later, the Ministry of Finance, together with the State Forestry Administration, issued the Tentative Measures for Wetland Conservation Subsidy Programme to steer the allocation of wetland conservation subsidies. During 2011 and 2013, the Central Government of China earmarked an accumulative 650 million RMB for wetland conservation.

In August 2012, the State Council endorsed the Twelfth Five-Year Implementation Plan for National Wetland Conservation Programme (2011-2015) collaboratively prepared by the State Forestry Administration along with other nine central sectors. Under the plan, the Central Government and sub-national governments at different levels are expected to invest as much as 12.987 billion RMB for conserving and restoring wetlands, demonstrating sustainable utilization of wetland, and enhancing capacities of wetland decision makers, managers and practitioners.

In October 2012, the State Forestry Administration delivered the Interim Provisions on the Administration of Wetland Monitoring and Management Funds to specify the operating rules for applying for and using the Central Government's budgetary direct appropriations for wetland conservation and management.

In May 2013, Administrator General of the State Forestry Administration issued an executive order, Wetland Conservation and Management Provisions, aiming to strengthen wetland protection and management.

1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

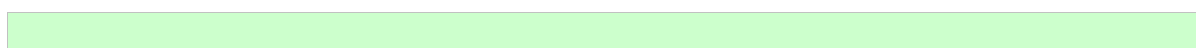
- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes
- e) A - Yes
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

- In September 2010, on approval of the State Council, the Ministry of Environmental Protection released the China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030), prioritizing wetland conservation and restoration and the establishment of monitoring systems for significant wetlands by stating 'select wetlands from China's ecologically important regions for piloting and exploring best practices for conserving, restoring, and utilizing wetlands wisely'.
- In August 2011, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) put out the 12th Five-Year Plan for National Forestry Development (2011-2015), setting national targets for wetland conservation.
- Launched November 2011, the Opinions of the State Forestry Administration and the National Tourism Administration on Accelerating the Development of Forest-based Tourism stated that by 2020, the National Tourism Administration (NTA) and SFA are to forge a forest-based tourism network built on forest parks, wetland parks, nature reserves and other preserves, facilitating the implementation of planned work on enhancing the building of eco-tourism sites including wetland parks listed in the 12th Five-Year Plan for China's Tourism Development delivered by the NTA in 2010.
- In December 2011, the State Council approved the 12th Five-Year Plan for China's Environmental Protection (2011-2015), highlighting improving water environment and strengthening ecological conservation and environmental law compliance, two of four top priorities for tackling key environmental challenges during the planning period.
- In January 2012, the Ministry of Transport announced the Twelfth Five-year Plan for Protecting the Surrounding Environment of Transportation Network of Highways and Waterways, identifying seven main tasks from 2011 to 2015. Two related to wetland conservation are to protect the environment and to treat environmental pollution in regions adjacent to highways and waterways.
- In March 2012, the Ministry of Land and Resources introduced the National Land Consolidation Plan (2011-2015), considering maintaining environmental integrity and wetland conservation an important goal in land consolidation and calling for 'to maintain the harmony between land consolidation and ecological protection' and 'to prohibit the conversion of any natural wetland under legal protection to agricultural usage of land'.
- In September 2012, the State Council endorsed the 12th Five-Year Plan for China's Marine Economic Development (2011-2015), specifying strengthening marine conservation, including (i) ameliorating the coordination mechanisms for terrestrial-marine interface conservation, (ii) advancing marine monitoring system, (iii) improving the marine environmental impact assessment mechanism, (iv) refining the compensation mechanisms for marine ecological damage and losses, and (v) consolidating marine ecological restoration and the management of marine nature reserves.
- In December 2013, the State Council approved the Master Plan for Protecting the Environment and Ecosystems of Lakes with Good Water Quality (2013-2020). The plan is designed to save lakes with poor water quality by preventing and controlling water pollution in major watersheds while preserving water bodies in good ecological condition across China's five lake districts.
- In March 2014, the State Council passed the National Ecological Protection and Development Plan (2011-2020). Jointly-developed by twelve state sectors, including the National Reform and Development Commission, the Plan outlined over 30 principal strategic plans that might involve wetlands. The plan will serve as a framework for mainstreaming wetland conservation into a wide range of natural resource exploitation and conservation plans, such as water function zoning for national important rivers and lakes, integrated watershed plans, marine functional zoning plans, provincial plans of key ecological function zones, and sub-national land use master plans.



1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii

A - Yes

1.3.3 Additional information:

Since the Regulations on Environmental Impact Assessment of Planning was effective Oct. 1, 2009, wetland strategic environmental assessment has become an effective instrument for all levels of government in preserving and managing wetlands.

1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii

A - Yes

1.3.4 Additional information:

Co-issued by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture in August 2013, the Notice Concerning Further Strengthening the Management of Environmental Impact Assessment on Aquatic Resource Conservation came after the promulgation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Environmental Impact Assessment effective September 1, 2003 and the Guidelines on the Management of Environmental Impact Assessment of Construction Projects on Aquatic National Nature Reserves enacted by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2009. The notice detailed requirements for assessing environmental impacts of planning and construction projects on aquatic organisms and their habitat, specifying the scope, procedures, and main areas of environmental impact appraisal.

1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information:

The Regulations on Wetland Protection has been listed on the legislative agenda of the State Council. The State Forestry Administration is now hastening to revise, modify, and improve the draft of the Regulations on Wetland Protection in response to review comments from over twenty other central governmental sectors. During 2012-2013, additional eight provinces passed their provincial regulations on wetland conservation, bringing the number of provinces with wetland conservation ordinance to 19 by 2013.

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

A - Yes

1.4.1 Additional information:

Since 1997, many Chinese researchers have economically valued the ecological functions and services of wetlands at different spatial scales, including those of 25 Ramsar sites. The results from the economic valuation efforts have scarcely adopted by governmental agencies for making informed decisions because available research approaches are either non-unified or oversimplified.

China is in need of establishing a standardized system for valuing wetland ecosystems. The State Forestry Administration, therefore, launched a major forestry research programme, Study on the Economic Valuation of Typical Lacustrine Wetland Ecosystem Services in March 2012, aiming to assist China in implementing the Ramsar Convention and in managing wetlands in a scientific manner by understanding ecosystem services generated by lakes and revealing mechanisms underpinning the interactions of ecosystem services.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:

During 2011 and 2013, the State Forestry Administration granted over 200 projects, making the cumulative subsidies for wetlands stand at 650 billion RMB. The subsidy projects aimed to conserve and restore wetlands, enhancing the health and ecological integrity of aquatic systems to secure the safety of all organisms in the target project areas. Such projects were also designed to improve the lives of local residents in areas surrounding the project sites in creating more jobs and in building better environmental settings for agricultural practices and tourism, making local economy and residents better-off.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture completed 26 freshwater agricultural land conservation projects in Jiangsu and Hunan provinces, Heilongjiang Agricultural Reclamation Area and Hubei province, and Hunan province, promoting the integrated conservation and utilization of wet agricultural fields. The projects received 283.13 million RMB in grant, with 97.13 million RMB (34 percent) from the central government and 186 million RMB (66 percent), co-financed by local governments.

Supported by the Ministry of Finance, the Gansu Urban Infrastructure Development and Wetland Protection Project implemented by Gansu province and the Anhui Huainan Urban Water Systems Integrated Rehabilitation Project totally received a loan of \$180 million, \$10 million of which for wetland conservation covering wetland restoration, habitat protection management and monitoring, lacustrine ecosystem improvement, and sustainable wetland resource utilization. The GEF has endorsed a \$26 million grant to the State Forestry Administration for the project, CBPF-Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland PA system Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation, launched in November 2013. The GEF-funded project also covers project activities helping advance the wise use of wetland resources and increase the income of local communities at the project sites.

Wetland-based tourism is growing more and more popular in China. Under the Wetland Conservation and Management Provisions issued by the State Forestry Administration in 2012, Article 20 defines the ecotourism opportunities provided by wetland parks by stating that: 'Wetland parks can be set up to preserve wetland ecosystems, promote the wise use of wetland resources, and promote public understanding and stewardship of wetlands through environmental education, scientific research, and wetland-based ecotourism initiatives'. By 2014, the National Tourism Administration has designated 39 national ecotourism sites, including 13 wetland sites. The sustainable use of ecotourism opportunities generated by wetlands can not only create more jobs for local people, but also increase public awareness of wetlands through enlightening the public about wetland conservation issues; therefore, wetland-based ecotourism can promote public stewardship of wetland ecosystems.

The Twelfth Five-Year Plan for Implementing National Wetland Conservation Programme (2011-2015) proposes to pilot 20 wetland projects for sustainable resource utilization and poverty alleviation in the middle and west of China, including Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Qinghai province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Yunnan province, and Jiangxi province. The initiatives are to promote best practices of the wise use of wetlands, including developing sustainable tourism in wetland sites.

1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

China has considered preserving social and cultural values of wetlands in China an important integral part of its wetland management and planning. Each of 46 Ramsar sites has covered how to preserve and manage social and cultural values of its wetland(s) in either a management plan or a master plan.

Promulgated by the State Forestry Administration in February of 2010, the Guidelines on National Wetland Park Master Plan stipulates that a master plan for a national wetland park should include theme planning on 'wetland sustainable utilization', 'cultural heritage preservation', and 'trans-regional coordination as well as community involvement'.

The Australia-China environmental development cooperation programme, Wetland Management Policy, Guidelines and Capacity Building, has developed the Guidelines on Management Planning for International Important Wetlands, recommending taking account of multiple values yielded by wetlands, including social, economic, and cultural values in preparing management planning for an internationally significant wetland.

The social and cultural values of wetlands are also a key component of any subject-specific plans for wetlands. To better conserve and utilize cultural services generated by wetland ecosystems for ecotourism, the National Tourism Administration oversaw the formulation of several trans-regional, major tourism strategic plans, such as the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal Tourism Master Plan, the Poyanghu Lake Ecotourism Zone Planning, Yangtze River Delta Region Tourism Development Plan, and the Eco-cultural Tourism Zone Plan for the Middle Section of South-to-North Water Transfer Conduits. The administration guided many a tourism development plan for multiple coastal provinces as well over the past years. It has attempted to conserve and exploit social and cultural values of wetlands in line with the boundaries of wetland ecosystems by ecological integrity rather than administrative jurisdiction. Such efforts have facilitated translating the ecosystem-based approaches to wetland management promoted by the Ramsar Convention into tangible actions in China.

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention. *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.*

1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
 - b. parliament
 - c. private sector
 - d. civil society
- {1.5.2}

- a. A - Yes
- b. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes
- d. A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

China's former President Hu Jintao sent out the clearest messages to the nation at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China for intensifying protection of natural ecosystems and the environment, launching major projects for ecosystem restoration, and enlarging the coverage of key ecosystems, including lakes and wetlands.

China has manifested its commitment to the Changwon Declaration over the past three years. The State Forestry Administration sent a delegation to the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, held in Romania in 2012. A special report on the key decisions of the meeting was submitted to the State Council soon after the meeting.

To advance the implementation of the Ramsar Convention smoothly, the State Forestry Administration also convened the fourth and the fifth annual meetings of National Committee on Implementing the Ramsar Convention to review the work in last year and arrange tasks for next year.

Interpreting the Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Some Major Issues Concerning Comprehensive Deepening the Reform, President Xi Jinping firstly embraced the concept of '...realizing that our mountains, waters, forests, farmland and lakes make up a community of life...', stressing the interaction among different natural ecosystems.

In line with the overall guidance by President Xi, the State Forestry Administration was managed to integrate wetland conservation into relevant national development Plans for the '12th Five-Year Plan' period and national ecological construction and conservation plans. The promulgation of the Regulations on Wetland Protection is on China's legislative agenda.

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

- a. A - Yes
- b. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

Cooperating with the European Union, the Ministry of Land and Resources implemented the Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Land Use Planning and Land Consolidation Project in 2011, developing replicable knowledge and practices for farmland planning and ecological protection, including agriculture use of wetlands.

In the same year, the State Forestry Administration studied the relationship between wetland conservation and the drought conditions across the five provinces in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, addressing how to respond the effects of climate change on wetlands and socioeconomic development in a watershed region.

In March 2012, the State Forestry Administration began a study on the valuation of ecological services provided by lacustrine wetlands with a view to untangle ecological functions and their underlying mechanisms. Such efforts, it is hoped, will provide sound data for wetland conservation, contributing to implementing the Ramsar Convention.

In July 2012, the Ministry of Science and Technology along with other 15 central governmental agencies co-issued the Twelfth Five-Year Special Plan of Science and Technology Development in Responding to Climate Change, attempting to quantify carbon capture capacities in wetlands and explore as well as use integrated coastal zone adaptation technologies so as to build and strengthen the capacities of wetlands for combating climate change.

In 2013 the State Forestry Administration formed a research group of eminent experts to analyze potential influences of a proposed water control project on Poyanghu Lake Ramsar site, particularly on wetland ecosystems and migratory waterbirds. The Administration also sponsored a research to explore the relationship between soil erosion and wetland conservation in Northeast China abounding in fertile black soil.

The same year, the State Meteorological Administration completed the assessment reports on climate change in eight regions of China. The computer modeling projected impacts of climate change on water resources and coastal zones might serve China's wetland conservation.

In April 2014 the State Forestry Administration investigated carbon pool in peat swamp forests in two pilot sites: Liaoning and Jilin provinces. The research initiative is supposed to produce evidence-based data for China to address climate change and implement the United Nations Framework on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention. Chinese experts also participated in preparing the 2013 Supplement to 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands, passed in UN Climate Summit in Warsaw, Poland in November 2013.

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Every wetland management planning is developed by starting with a thorough literature review and a follow-up data gap-filling exercise by conducting new survey on social, economic and wetland resources to supplement the missing data identified in the preceding review process. To guarantee a wetland management plan sound, any research entity or professional planning unit undertaking the planning should not only investigate the physical, chemical and biological properties of a target wetland and its protection status, but also collect first-hand data of social context related to the wetland to identify socioeconomic stresses and stakeholders' concerns.

Any renewal of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Management Plan, for example, takes into account relevant scientific literature and ecological baseline including the data collected from the Baseline Ecological Monitoring Programme for the Ramsar Site and the Waterbird Monitoring Programme for the Deep Bay Area.

The existence of ecological health assessment mechanism for China's Ramsar sites enables China to adjust or improve its wetland management and conservation by referring to up-to-date combined monitoring results. The mechanism currently involves two pioneer systems: the Bulletin of Ecological Status Quo and the scheme of early warning the ecological degradation of China's internationally important wetlands.

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins?
{1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

Similar to many other countries, China considers wetlands the prime sources of drinking water and industrial uses. Nationwide water resource shortage and water environment deterioration urge China to concern water resource utilization and wetland conservation in an unprecedented decisiveness.

Delivering the National Comprehensive Water Resources Plan in November 2010, the Ministry of Water Resources, together with other nine fellow agencies, further put out the Implementation Plan on Assessing the Accountability and Performance in Implementing the Strictest Water Resources Management System in February 2014, instituting water quality compliance rate integrated into the performance profile of governmental officials and the administration of relevant enterprises. In the Twelfth Five-Year Development Plan for Water Resources, the state sector underscores that ecological governance should be based on extensive instruments combining precautionary protection, integrated ecological improvement, and ecological restoration rather than on single measures confined to controlling water pollution in key areas, and that water resource management should evolve towards equalizing water resource exploitation and water environment protection from belittling protecting the water environment. China's existing management practices of water resource optimal allocation call for functioning ecological water allocation to meet the ecological water requirements of certain wetlands under the effect of the global warming.

1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see [Resolution X.19](#))? {1.7.3}

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

In 2006 China's Ministry of Environmental Protection enacted the Tentative Measures for Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment, stipulating 'Construction units or their designated compiling organizations should solicit public opinions on their draft statements of environmental impact assessment (EIA) through holding workshops, reasoning meetings, and public hearings or taking other appropriate forms as long as they release their draft EIA statements and post the notice of availability for public review'.

The Yangtze River Water Resources Commission of the Ministry of Water Resources governs the Yangtze River by holding the belief that 'the exploitation and management of a river should not be considered a mere hydrological engineering project but a social engineering stemming from the harmony between nature and human, a project thriving on full involvement and strong support of the watershed's stakeholders inspired with sound knowledge of river management'.

To offer proper guidance to the public is to expose them to the current status and future trends of wetland resources in the watersheds where they live and encourage them to engage in watershed conservation and planning exercises with the available environmental education approaches. To push the public into wetland conservation, management and utilization, the Yangtze River Water Resources Commission has recommended building public understanding of watershed governance and planning in different promotion measures and tools, such as preparing a mid- and long-term environmental education plans for the Yangtze River, throwing Yangtze River Conservation Forum, and establishing the Yangtze River Media Award.

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.7.3 Additional information:</p> <p>In December 2011 the State Forestry Administration issued the Twelfth Five-Year Key Points of the Action Plan of Forestry Sector for Addressing Climate Change, guiding the implementation of the 2009 Action Plan of Forestry Sector for Addressing Climate Change. The Key Points identifies strengthening wetland ecosystem conservation as one of the four recommended climate change adaptation means. The Administration prepared the Primary Plan for Investigating Soil Organic Carbon in Wetlands over One Hectare in Size in China in 2012.</p> <p>The State Forestry Administration launched the the survey of carbon storage of mangrove forests after drafting the Technical Framework for Monitoring Carbon in Mangrove Ecosystems. In addition, it also drew up the Technical Specification for Investigating Carbon Storage in Peat Swamp Ecosystems in China and associated Field Work Guidelines for Investigating Carbon Storage in Peat Swamp Ecosystems in China, the efforts leading to the initiation of field survey in pilot provinces in 2014.</p> <p>In February 2014 the state sector further issued a white paper on Actions of the Forestry Sector to Address Climate Change, highlighting reinforcing wetland conservation and restoration to reduce forestry emissions.</p> <p>In July 2012 the Ministry of Science and Technology, along with other 15 state fellow sectors, issued the Twelfth Five-Year Special Plan for Science and Technology Development in Addressing Climate Change, proposing to avail of wetland carbon storage capacity and explore technologies for coastal zone integrated adaptation in enhancing the resilience of wetlands under global warming.</p>	

1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v	A - Yes
<p>1.7.4 Additional information:</p> <p>According the layout outlined in the National Wet Agricultural Land Protection and Utilization Plan (2011-2015), the Ministry of Agriculture channelled 283.13 million RMB of national and subnational budgetary appropriations to 26 wet agricultural land conservation projects, steadily advancing the synergy between wetland conservation and sustainable agriculture development.</p> <p>Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has implemented a Management Agreement Scheme, firstly introduced in 2004, to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of freshwater agricultural habitats through partnership between local farmers and non-governmental organizations.</p>	

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	A - Yes
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1.8.1 Additional information:

In April 2014 the State Forestry Administration, together with other nine state agencies, developed the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for Implementing the National Wetland Conservation Programme, identifying priority areas for wetland restoration and integrated wetland environment improvement and wetland patches with high priority for rehabilitation. During the '12th Five-Year Plan' period, wetland restoration efforts target four types of wetlands: swamps, nearshore and coastal wetlands, lakes, and rivers; and priority areas for wetland restoration are typical and important wetlands, ecologically fragile and sensitive wetlands, migratory routes for aquatic animals, and wetlands deteriorated by non-native species.

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has identified areas of degraded wetlands within the Wetland Buffer Area as stipulated in the Town Planning Guidelines as target areas for wetland restoration.

In total, 110 sites have been identified as priority sites for restoration and rehabilitation.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

China restored 63,000 hectares of wetlands during 2011-2013, part of restoration efforts in the following nature reserves, including Dalinuo'er, Huihe and A'luka'erqin in Inner Mongolia; Yalujiang Estuary Wetlands in Liaoning province and Honghe River in Heilongjiang province; Yancheng wetlands in Jiangsu province and Sihonghongzehu Lake in Jiangsu province; Tongling freshwater dolphin reserve in Anhui province and Xinxiang Yellow River Waterbird reserve in Henan province; and Shishou Pere David deer reserve in Hubei province, Tongguling reserve in Hainan province, and Huize Black Stork reserve in Yunnan province. Nationally important water bodies and coastal wetlands topped the list of wetlands for restoration or rehabilitation.

The Ministry of Transport similarly kicked off its '12th Five-Year Plan' for pilot projects of ecological conservation and restoration in areas adjacent to highways and waterways, with the aim to: (a) reestablish the ecological connectivity of hydrologic regimes of wetlands on or close to highways; (b) restore aquatic vegetation and create artificial reefs at ports and harbors on reclaimed coastal land; and (c) restore the environment of inland waterways with intensive hydrological facilities through creating fishways, releasing fish fries, and restoring the ecosystems of ecological protection embankments along rivers.

In addition to restoring a wetland mitigation area of Tin Shui Wai to the Hong Kong Wetland Park in 2006, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has incorporated wetland restoration works as part of an approved residential area at Wo Shang Wai within 'Other Use (Comprehensive Development Area with Wetland Restoration Area)' Zones in Deep Bay area, bringing the restored wetland area within the project site under long-term maintenance and management.

STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i	A - Yes
<p>1.9.1 Additional information: China's Ministry of Environmental Protection, along with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, released the first and the second lists of invasive species in China, exotic aquatic animals and plants in 2003 and 2010 respectively.</p>	
1.9.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRa 1.9.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.9.2 Additional information: Ordered by the State Forestry Administration in 2013, the Wetland Conservation and Management Provisions specified that 'Unless otherwise stipulated by laws or regulations, alien species are prohibited to be introduced to a wetland'. In September 2011 the Ministry of Environmental Protection passed the Technical Guidelines for Assessing Environmental Risks of Alien Invasive Species, standardizing the efforts to analyze risks of non-native species. Hunan province enacted the Regulations on Managing Exotic Species in Hunan on October 1, 2011, marking the first provincial bylaw specific to the management of non-native species. The Ministry of Agriculture announced the List of Key Alien Invasive Species Subject to Strict Management in China (the first batch) February 1, 2012, containing 52 species of exotics including nine wetland aliens. It is also drafting the Regulations on Alien Species Management and the National Planning for Preventing and Controlling Alien Invasive Species, along with other ministers or administrations, such as the State Forestry Administration and the State Oceanic Administration. In addition, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has conducted study on controlling and piloting the use of invasive plants: water hyacinth (<i>Eichharnia crassipes</i>) and smooth cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>). The Hong Kong Special Administration Region has developed a management strategy to manage and remove the <i>Sonneratia</i>, an exotic mangrove species with a high colonization ability, in Inner Deep Bay as as precautionary measure to conserve the intertidal native mangroves.</p>	

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i	A - Yes
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1.10.1 Additional information:

Effective May 1, 2013, Article 6 of the Wetland Management and Conservation Provisions stipulated that 'the departments of forestry administration in the people's governments at or above the county level shall encourage and support the public, private sectors and other organizations to engage in wetland conservation in various forms, including providing voluntary services and offering endowment'.

Also Article 18 read 'if any construction project causes the ecological features of a Ramsar site degraded or even disappeared, the forestry administrations in the people's government of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities shall work with other relevant agencies at corresponding levels to urge and guide the responsible construction unit(s) to restore the degraded wetland within a limited time frame, and report the situation to their corresponding people's governments as well as the State Forestry Administration; If the destroyed wetland fails to be restored or is by no means to be restored, the State Forestry Administration shall deal with the responsible construction unit(s) in accordance with relevant provisions after consulting with the relevant people's government of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and the relevant departments of the State Council'.

In addition, Article 27 stated that 'If any wetland protection effort damages the legal rights and interests of the wetland owners or operators, compensations should be paid in accordance with relevant regulations'.

As stipulated in the Town Planning Board guidelines, the Hongkong Special Administration Region has adopted the Private-public Partnership approach for private development with conservation objectives in the Wetland Conservation Area (including the landward part of Ramsar site) to ensure long-term commitment for conservation and management of wetlands within the development site. In an approved residential development at Fung Lok Wai in Deep Bay wetlands within a site zoned 'Other Specified Uses' annotated 'Comprehensive Development and Wetland Enhancement Area', the project proponent is required to conduct long-term maintenance and management of a enhanced wetland nature reserve within the project site.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:

a. Ramsar Sites

b. Wetlands in general

{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii

a. A - Yes

b. A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

The Business Practices for Building and Managing National Ecotourism Pilot Sites gave China new teeth for steering the operations or services of tourism private enterprise in wetlands in 2010. Some wetland protected areas have granted tourism management and operation to private sector through legal instrument according to their management arrangements.

There are three modes of wetland governance in China. One is governance by government, and the other two are shared governance by government and private sector and governance delegated to a private company. Both the shared governance and the governance delegated to a private company accent the role of private enterprise in managing wetlands.

The shared governance by government and private sector is often seen in projects covering wetland-based ecologically friendly agriculture and aquaculture as well as wetland improvement, in which private companies undertake wetland restoration, ecological project development and operation while governmental agencies administer wetland conservation, planning and supervision.

In 2007 the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government of Guangdong province delegated the management of the Overseas Chinese Town wetland to the Overseas Chinese Town (OCT) Group, who has restored the wetland and improved its water quality as well as wildlife habitat with funds from foundations, endowment, and public donations.

The Hong Kong Special Administration Region has seen a series of Management Agreement projects for fishpond conservation undertaken in the Deep Bay area (covering the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site) since 2012. With support from the Government's Environment and Conservation Fund, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has engaged fishpond operators in and around the Ramsar Site to conduct drain-down of the fishponds to provide more foraging opportunities for waterbirds in the Deep Bay area. In return, the fishpond operators receive a management fee as financial incentive. The Management Agreement projects are regarded as a win-win situation between bird conservation and aquaculture operation. Another type of Management Agreement project has contributed to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity of wet agricultural land by engaging local farmers and landowners since 2005.

The Hong Kong Wetland Park has launched a coporate community service programme, encouraging the private sector to participate and commit to wetland conservation work.

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes
<p>1.11.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and its sub-national governments have introduced a wide range of administrative measures, promoting integrated wetland conservation and utilization programmes weaving wetland improvement into wetland friendly agriculture, wetland friendly agriculture sightseeing, intensive utilization of wet agricultural fields, or water-saving agriculture. The move facilitates comprehensive cooperation among local farmers, fishermen, ranchers, and management authorities of wetlands, leading to satisfactory outcomes for agriculture, tourism and environmental protection simultaneously. The Ministry has championed wetland ecological compensation, wetland conservation award, and other incentives for wetland protection in the Master Plan for Addressing Crucial Environmental Issues in Agriculture (2014-2018), hoping for advancing wetland protection and governance and for safeguarding China's environment for agriculture healthier.</p> <p>The Ministry of Finance collaborated with the State Forestry Administration in improving the conservation of wetlands and their settings in multiple programmes, including piloting ecological compensation for wetlands, budgeting special funds for biodiversity conservation, channelling central governmental investments in infrastructure for forest conservation, and consolidating the Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve.</p> <p>The State Forestry Administration recognized the recreation values of wetlands in its 2013 Provisions on Wetland Conservation and Management. The provision has enabled China's tourism management authorities to translate corresponding principles for sustainable utilization of wetlands as indicated in the Ramsar Convention into concrete actions. The National Tourism Administration also classified wetlands as one of seven ecotourism sites in China in the Business Practices for Building and Managing National Ecotourism Pilot Sites, underlying the uniqueness and importance of wetlands in being popular destinations for visiting. The ruling further stipulated that 'the (ecotourism) pilot site should reserve no less than ten percent of its revenues from tourism for collecting and compiling natural and cultural data, preserving the environment, promoting environmental education, conducting scientific research, promoting ecological knowledge, and conducting other activities ecologically beneficial to the site'.</p> <p>The management agreement programmed promoted by Hong Kong Special Administration Region can be found in Section 1.10.2.</p>	
1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i	A - Yes

1.11.2 Additional information:

China has introduced combined measures to reduce negative effects of various threats on Ramsar sites, including early warning of wetland degradation, regular evaluation of wetland management performance and remedies for wetland damage. The 2013 Wetland Conservation and Management Provisions stipulated the measures as 'regularly inspect and assess the ecological status of wetlands of international importance and report assessment results to the public', 'the management authorities of wetlands of international importance should institute early warning systems of wetland degradation', and 'if any construction project causes the ecological features of wetlands of international importance degraded or even disappeared, the forestry administrations in the people's government of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities shall work with other relevant agencies at corresponding levels to urge and guide the responsible construction unit(s) to restore the degraded wetland within a limited time frame'.

As for national wetland parks, China has adopted two pivotal measures against ecological stresses: setting high standards for designation and best business practices for management. The 2013 Wetland Conservation and Management Provisions interpreted the two measures as 'if a poor-managed national wetland park refuses or fails to tackle existing management issues, and causes irreparable damage to its ecological features, the State Forestry Administration shall remove the designation of the wetland as a national wetland park and keep the public updated'.

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note: An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP12 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on each of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”; use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. *Apply the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance' (Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?* {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

The number of China's Ramsar sites now stands at 46, ten of which winning their designations in 2009-2014.

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii

3 to 5 sites

2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):

.....

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information. *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.*

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

When nominating a candidate wetland for Ramsar designation, China always refers to available information and tools recommended by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to ensure its nomination complying with the applicable criteria and requirements.

STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites. *While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.*

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i	A - Yes
2.3.1 Additional information: The nominated wetland for Ramsar designation should be legally protected as either a wetland nature reserve or a wetland park, master plan equivalent to management planning in place.	

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	25 sites
2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	18 sites
2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	6 sites
2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information: A wetland is eligible for the nomination for Ramsar designation only when protected as either a wetland nature reserve or a wetland park. The candidate site should have a latest master plan, analogous to a management plan. As stipulated in the Wetland Conservation and Management Provisions effective in 2013, Article 17 read 'The management authority of a Ramsar site should establish an early warning mechanism of wetland health, formulate and implement its management plan, carry out regular monitoring, and create digital archives. The State Forestry Administration is also preparing the Management Measures for Ramsar Sites in China and the Technical Guidelines for Preparing Management Planning for Ramsar Sites in China by consulting the conceptual framework and requirements for developing management planning as stated in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site renewed its Management plan in 2011.	
2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	20 sites

2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve (1728), Shankou Mangrove Nature Reserve (1153), Fujian Zhangjiangkou National Mangrove Nature Reserve (1726), Hubei Honghu Wetlands (1729), Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve (2184), Sichuan Ruoergai Wetland National Nature Reserve (1731), Hangzhou Xixi Wetlands (1867), Eling Lake (1436), Zhaling Lake (1442), Niaodao (also known as 'Bird Island') (552), Jilin Momoge National Nature Reserve (2188), Dashanbao (1435), Shandong Yellow River Delta Wetland (2187), Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve, Shanghai (1144), Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve (1157), Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve (1727), Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve (1150), Dongdongtinghu (551), Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay (750)

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v

46 sites

2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

China requests any wetland for a Ramsar designation to provide a comprehensive scientific survey report covering the basic information of the site concerning general ecological features, flora and fauna, limnology, hydrological values, and social as well as cultural values, available conservation and utilization practices, and management status. Such a report can satisfy completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands in line with the recommended explanatory notes and guidelines for filling in the information sheet.

STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness. *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance'.*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i

A - Yes

2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):

Since the introduction of a reporting mechanism for wetland health of the Ramsar sites, the State Forestry Administration has evaluated the management effectiveness of the Ramsar sites in China twice. In 2009, the State Forestry Administration staged the first evaluation, assessing China's 36 Ramsar sites then. Later in 2013, it launched a second evaluation examining 41 Ramsar sites at that time, and released the Bulletin of Ecological Status of China's Ramsar Sites (2009-2012) soon after the assessment.

The management authority of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site regularly reviews its management based on results of different ecological monitoring programmes.

STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status. *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

The bulletins of the ecological status of China's Ramsar sites allow the management authorities of the Ramsar sites at all levels to understand changes of wetlands over time, including the changes to the size of a Ramsar site and wetland coverage, to the number of species and waterbird population, and to the number of endangered species, invasive plant coverage, and to the changes of land use.

Besides, the State Forestry Administration issued the Scheme for Early Warning the Changes of Ecological Features in Ramsar Sites (Tentative), and every Ramsar management authority is requested to track every change in its protected wetland Ramsar site and take corresponding actions as suggested in the Scheme.

The monitoring mechanism, along with regular and ad-hoc monitoring efforts, assists each Ramsar management agency in pinpointing its management weakness as early as possible and in optimizing the location of limited resources towards high-priority conservation activities.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the local Administrative Authority of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region manages the Baseline Ecological Monitoring Programme for the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site.

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

Z - No negative change

2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

.....

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

.....

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i

C - Some sites

2.7.1 Additional information:

China has designated many internationally important wetlands that have not yet been a Ramsar site as nature reserves, wetland parks, or other types of protected areas, and fulfills appropriate conservation in line with available laws, regulations, and policies.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. *Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).*

3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee?
{3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv

A - Yes

3.1.1 Additional information:

In 2007, China established its National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention. The Committee has 16 member state agencies, including the following focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements: the Ministry of Environmental Protection (the implementing agency of Convention on Biological Diversity) and the State Forestry Administration (the responsible agency of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification); and the National Development and Reform Commission (the responsible agency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the Ministry of Land and Resources (the responsible agency of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage).

During 2011-2012, the State Forestry Administration hosted two meetings to brief each member state agency of the National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention on the progress of the implementation of Ramsar Convention and of international cooperation projects in the last year and went through the annual work plan for implementing the Ramsar Convention in the next year.

3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv

A - Yes

3.1.2 Additional information:

The State Forestry Administration has long partnered with the following organizations in implementing wetland-related projects, they are, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Development and Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

During 2011 and 2013, in partnership with UNDP and FAO, the State Forestry Administration developed the project CBPF-Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland PA system Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation, receiving \$26 million fund from GEF for expanding and consolidating China's wetland protected area system.

STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

In addition to sending a delegation to attend the Asia Regional Ramsar Meeting and advancing the Himalayan Initiative, the State Forestry Administration hosted the second China Wetland Cultural Festival—Asian Wetland Symposium on Human Well-being and Wetlands in 2011, along with Wetlands International China and the Ramsar Center Japanese. The event concluded with the adoption of the Wuxi Declaration, conveyed to the Asia Regional Ramsar Meeting, the 43rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention, and the 11th Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

In 2013, the Administration celebrated the third China Wetland Cultural Festival and Dongying International Wetland Conservation, hosting a eight plus one dialogue. The celebration was closed with issuing the Dongying Declaration, calling for strengthening wetland conservation with better knowledge exchange.

The Administration also sent an expert present at the Asia Regional Workshop on Scientific and Technical Support for Implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

During 2011 and 2014 the State Forestry Administration sent wetland managers to South Korea for wetland management training by the Ramsar Regional Center for Networking, Training and Research on Wetlands in East Asia, supported and selected trainees for training programmes on wetland reserve conservation for managers hosted by WWF-Hongkong.

The Hong Kong wetland park participates in the Wetland Link International-Asia network which aims to share experience in wetland management and conservation education with other wetland centres in Asia.

The State Forestry Administration held the International Forum for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in Northeastern Asia in Shuangyashang, China, advancing wetland conservation information exchange and sharing among wetland management organizations in the region.

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an*

integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.

3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i

Z - Not applicable

3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11):

.....

3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii

Z - Not applicable

3.3.2 Additional information:

.....

3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}

A - Yes

3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):

China has received international funds for wetland conservation from Australia, Germany, the United States and the Global Environment Facility since COP11.

Australia Government funded China 1.14 million Australian dollars for a two-year project entitled Australia-China development cooperation programme: Wetland Management Policy, Guidelines and Capacity Building (April 2010-April 2012).

The Germany Government is helping China to protect wetland biodiversity and wise use of wetland resources in a sustainable way by introducing an integrated ecosystem management approach through in a cooperative project titled Wetland Biodiversity Protection Project in China (July 2010-December 2014). Germany and China has committed 6.4 billion Euros to the project.

The Global Environment Facility has approved \$26 million for funding China to strengthen wetland protected area network during 2013-2018.

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}	C - Partly
<p>3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):</p> <p>Since China joined the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), its 34 nature reserves has become a member site of the EAAFP Site Network up to now. In addition, the Yangtze Wetland Protected Area Network has grown to the nexus of 175 wetland protected areas from 12 provinces across China.</p>	
3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A - Yes
<p>3.4.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The State Forestry Administration unveiled the first Bulletin of Ecological Status of China's Ramsar Sites in 2009 and the second in 2013. The 2010 Bulletin of Forest Coverage in China and the 2012 Report on Forestry Development in China, published by the State Forestry Administration, described the status quo of wetland conservation and management in relevant chapters.</p> <p>The periodical dedicated to wetlands is another kind of information source for the public to attain information about China's wetlands. The most popular periodicals are Wetlands by Wetland International China, Wetland Management and Science by the Chinese Academy of Forestry, and Wetland Science by the the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.</p> <p>Maintained by the Wetland Conservation and Management Center with the State Forestry Administration, the website of Chinawetlands (www.shidi.org) provides current information about wetland conservation and management in China to the public. A lot of wetland management authorities have also set up their own websites or webpages to offer the public detailed information about the wetland treasures they managed. The profile of Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, for example, can be available online at www.afcd.gov.hk.</p> <p>Some non-governmental organizations, including Wetland International China and WWF-China, detail their wetland projects at their webpages. WWF-China issued the Yangtze River Conservation and Development Report in 2011.</p>	
3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A - Yes
<p>3.4.3 Additional information:</p> <p>The latest information about China's 46 Ramsar sites are available on the Ramsar Secretariat's website.</p>	

STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. *Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified?
{3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

The second national wetland resource survey, completed in 2013, identified the boundaries of the trans-country wetlands.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

C - Partly

3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

Xingkaihu in Heilongjiang and Sanjiang Ramsar site have signed co-management agreements with their neighboring protected areas in Russia.

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species?
{3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

China has joined the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership with three working groups on Anatidae, Cranes and Shorebirds. To date 34 Chinese nature reserves have been included in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.*

4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

- a) A - Yes
- b) D - Planned
- c) C - In progress
- d) C - In progress

(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)

4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):

With a grant from the Ramsar Small Grant, the State Forestry Administration prepared the China National Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan for Wetland Protection in China (2010-2020), identifying the main objectives and activities in building awareness of wetland conservation. The 2013 Wetland Conservation and Management Provisions defined CEPA as 'The departments of forestry administration in the people's governments above the county level, together with relevant wetland management authorities, shall strengthen trainings and the promotion of wetland conservation to increase awareness of wetlands at special events, such as World Wetland Day, Bird-loving Week, and Publicity Month for Wildlife Conservation.'

In 2011, the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government issued the Action Plan for Advancing Ecological Culture Building, a provincial roadmap for building environmental awareness, in which detailed tasks for environmental communication, education and public awareness were included.

As stated in the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for Implementing National Wetland Conservation Programme (2011-2015) released in 2012, China plans to establish or upgrade wetland education centers and associated facilities or equipment at ten wetland sites as below: Qinghaihu Lake in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the Yellow River Wetlands in the Loess Plateau; Caohai Lake in Guizhou province and Chongmingdongtan wetlands in Shanghai Municipality; Poyanghu Lake in Jiangxi province and the Swamp Plain in Northeast Chia; and the Three Gorge Area wetlands in Chongqing Municipality and Tiahu Lake in Jiangsu province. The move is expected to establish a wetland education center or wetland museum, a hub of wetland awareness-building for each above-mentioned region.

Many a Ramasar site has developed its site-specific communication, education and public awareness action plan tailored to identified awareness-building needs. Xixi Wetland, for example, completed a Research Report on

Scientific and Environmental Education System in the Hangzhou Xixi National Wetland Park, and started implementing the Xixi Wetlands Education Plan for Green Nature. Poyanghu Ramsar site put in place the Action Plan for Environmental Education in the Poyanghu Lake and its Associated Wetlands. Shanghai Chongmingdongtan National Nature Reserve has initiated the Chongmingdongtand Waterbirds and their Habitat Conservation Campaign as well. The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site is also implementing a local CEPA programme as indicated in the Wetland CEPA plan for the Hong Kong Wetland Park.

4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA
4.1.ii

- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

a) 32 centres
b) t centres

4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

Except for geographical constraints or otherwise stipulated in management planning, the Ramsar site should establish a education center to address the promotion needs as indicated in its master plan or management planning. So far 32 Ramsar sites have built their environmental promotion and education centers in different forms or types.

Many other wetlands, such as wetland nature reserves and wetland parks, have museums, education centers, visitor centers (e.g. Hong Kong Wetland Park) operationalized; however information on the exact number of centers is missing.

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

a) A - Yes
b) A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

Active engagement and support of all stakeholders have proved to the secret to sustain wetlands. Over the past three years, the stakeholders that care about wetlands contributed to the promulgation of a series of wetland-related regulations, bylaws, plans, policies, and business practices. A milestone example was the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for Implementing National Wetland Conservation Programme endorsed by the State Council. The plan was a cooperative outcome, a fundamental, cross-sectoral partnership framework for wetland conservation between ten state sectors in next several years.

Wetland management authorities understand and consider needs and interests of key stakeholders through accompanying relevant stakeholders to field visits, convening consultation meetings, collecting written opinions or comments, and other appropriate ways. The State Forestry Administration sent the draft of Regulations on Wetland Protection to over 20 state sectors for review,

and is working out a new version by integrating the collected review feedback. What's more, when it came to introducing new policies for wetland conservation, such as Wetland Ecological Compensation and Expanding Wetland Areas, the Administration not only joined the working groups from the National People's Congress and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference to visit project provinces, but also consulted with the Ministry of Finance in increasing capital investment for wetlands and discussing the feasibility of initiating a wetland ecological compensation mechanism.

As the country focal point of the Ramsar Convention, the State Forestry Administration has been playing a responsible part in planning and decision-making led by other relevant sectors. Only in 2013 did the Administration advised no less than 1,000 comment or opinion pieces in replying over 100 requests for reviewing strategic planning concerning national key ecological function zones, water resources conservation, and integrated watershed management.

As far as individual wetlands are concerned, each wetland management authority considers community co-management or shared governance routine work in wetland management. A large number of wetland nature reserve management authorities have taken in local communities' opinions and recommendations for wetland conservation and governance through forging conservation agreements, establishing comment forums, or setting up community co-management committees.

The Mai Po Management Committee oversees the management of the Mai Po nature Reserve managed by the WWF-HK with funding support from the Hong Kong Special Administration Region. The Mai Po Management Committee consists of government representatives, concerned NGOs and academics. Furthermore, the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site has involved public wisdom in designating the Ramsar site and in reviewing and renewing the management plan of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?
{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

A - Yes

4.1.4 Additional information:

China has assessed training needs at the national, provincial, and site levels in projects funded by Germany, Australia, and the United States.

Capacity building for wetland management represents a large proportion of project activities in both the Australia-China development cooperation programme titled Wetland Management Policy, Guidelines and Capacity Building and the Sino-Germany environmental partnership project of Wetland Biodiversity Protection Project in China.

China has identified competence needs of relevant central sectors and sub-national agencies in six project provinces when designing the framework programme, CBPF-Main Streams of Life (MSL): Wetland PA system Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation. The competence needs assessment measured the soundness of policy for wetland protection, institutional capacity, capacity of individual staff member, and financial sustainability, and recommended appropriate project activities for enhancing the professional capacity of different levels of wetland management agencies, that of implementing the Ramsar Convention not excepted.

<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) 8</p> <p>b) 6</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>The State Forestry Administration organized over 14 trainings between 2011 and 2013, six of which specially designed for Ramsar site managers held at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site, located in Hong Kong Special Administration Region. It also sent wetland managers to attend a training by the Ramsar Regional Center for Networking, Training and Research on Wetlands in East Asia in South Korea. In 2013, the Administration threw a training on how to manage a Ramsar Site. In addition, it conducted three trainings on national wetland park management, one on wetland conservation subsidy, one on wetland ecological stations, and one on wetland habitat improvement from 2011 through 2013. The trainings introduced appropriate information recommended in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook in line with training objectives.</p> <p>In addition, the State Forestry Administration, together with the provincial forestry administrations, conducted specific trainings on approaches adopted by the Ramsar Convention or internationally renowned organizations for wetland resource survey to deliver a high-quality national wetland resource inventory.</p> <p>It is estimated that nearly 8,500 wetland practitioners, including wetland management staff members and members from local communities, took part in various trainings by wetland management administrations, non-governmental organizations, or international cooperation projects.</p>	
<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>a) Established in 2007, China's National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention is chaired by the State Forestry Department with the assistance of five vice chairman departments, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the State Oceanic Administration. The member seats are filled by the following ten state sectors, including the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Land and Resources and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development; the Ministry of Transport and the National Tourism Administration; and the Chinese Academy of Sciences and China Meteorological Administration.</p> <p>b) Twice: Since COP11, China's National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention met in 2011 and 2012 for their fourth and the fifth meetings.</p>	

- c) Main responsibilities: The mission of China's National Committee for Implementing the Ramsar Convention is, inter alia, to (i) coordinate and guide relevant departments in implementing the Ramsar Convention, (ii) study and make major strategies and policy to facilitate the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, (iii) coordinate and resolve the important issues hampering the implementation of Ramsar Convention, (iv) prepare strategies and review proposals for the Convention-related international negotiations, (v) coordinate and implement the Convention-related decisions and those adopted in other relevant international meetings or conferences, and (vi) coordinate the application and follow-up implementation of international wetland cooperation projects.

4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:

- a) Ramsar Site managers
- b) other MEA national focal points
- c) other ministries, departments and agencies

- a) A - Yes
- b) A - Yes
- c) A - Yes

{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi

4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):

As the Ramsar Administrative Authority of China, the State Forestry Administration keeps in touch the Ramsar site management authorities by phone and email. Every Ramsar site management agency at least updates the State Forestry Administration about the ecological status of the Ramsar site once a year, and provides real-time progress in special circumstances as stipulated in applicable administrative orders, policies, regulations and laws.

The State Forestry Administration has organized ad-hoc trainings for the Ramsar site management personnel to improve their professional abilities to manage wetlands of international importance.

In addition, the Administration introduced a reporting mechanism to disclose the ecological health of the Ramsar sites in China. The initiative is believed to improve the stewardship of the Ramsar sites toward management effectiveness.

The Administration issued the Scheme of Early Warning the Changes of Ecological Features in Ramsar Sites (Tentative) in 2014. The initiative is expected to help each Ramsar site management agency make informed management decisions because it can keep a Ramsar site management agency staying alert to early signs of wetland degradation.

In addition to staying in communication via official notes, phones, and emails, the State Forestry Administration many a time invites the designated focal points for other multi-lateral environmental agreements that China has ratified or their designated representatives to attend activities related to implementing the Ramsar Convention, such as World Wetlands Day Celebration as well as wetland conservation and management workshops.

4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.8 Additional information:</p> <p>China's central government, local governments and the Ramsar site management agencies join popular media and non-governmental organizations (such as WWF) to commemorate World Wetlands Day every year.</p> <p>Centering on the theme of 'Wetlands and Tourism' for World Wetlands Day 2012, the State Forestry Administration opened a special section on the China Green Times to outline the past, present and future of wetland-based ecotourism in China. The Administration also designed and printed leaflets and postcards themed 'Experiencing Wetlands—a WOW' to promote wetland conservation and wise use.</p>	
4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):</p> <p>China celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention at the second China Wetland Cultural Festival-Asian Wetland Symposium on Human Well-being and Wetlands from 11-13 October 2011, hosted by the Chinese State Forestry Administration, Jiangsu Province People's Government, Wetlands International, and the Ramsar Center Japan.</p> <p>On December 17, 2012 Chinese National leaders joined the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention and the representatives from relevant departments of the State Council and from international organizations to celebrate China's being a contracting party to the Ramsar Convention for 20 years at the Great Hall of the People and gave an important speech. The event precluded the 20th anniversary celebration prepared by the State Forestry, who made over 190 reports on China's wetlands broadcasted over China National Radio (CNR) in a 19-day series program themed Wetlands in China. The Administration also appeared on the Window to Governmental Affairs (also known as 'Zhengwuzhitong' in Chinese), a CNR programme broadcasted live over both the air and the internet. The promotion efforts have exposed the public to wetland conservation.</p> <p>In 2012, the State Forestry Administration also joined the China Green Foundation, the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE), and Coca-cola China to sponsor the Let's Go Birdwatching campaign promotion, building the enthusiasm of the public and private sector for wetland conservation and stewardship. The activities of the programme were broadcasted live by Qinghai Satellite TV as an important strategic partner.</p> <p>The State Forestry Administration successfully hosted the third China Wetland Cultural Festival and Dongying International Wetland Conservation in 2013. National Political Consultative Conference Vice-president Lu Fuhe and the Ramsar Convention's Secretary General Christopher Brigg observed the event along with over 300 participants from more than 20 countries and international organizations. The event concluded with the adoption of the Dongying Declaration, calling for better wetland conservation to improve</p>	

human welfares. The Administration and China Central Television (CCTV) co-initiated a nationwide wetland promotion campaign Beautiful China: Wetlands, screening 50 documentaries about China's wetland conservation in prime time on channel 4 of CCTV. The initiative also designated China's Top Ten Wetlands of Beauty. The award ceremony was broadcasted live on CCTV-1 and CCTV-4 in prime time, inspiring a nationwide passion for caring for wetlands.

Last but not least, the State Forestry Administration published articles and books on wetlands and filmed wetland videos over the last three years. In 2011, China's late Administrator of the State Forestry Administration published a thematic article on the People's Daily. China Economic Weekly carried a series of articles on wetland under an special section of The Loss of Wetlands. Working with WWF China, the State Forestry Administration shot the video of Rare Animals in Forests and Wetlands and get it televised on CCTV. In addition, the Administration compiled the early drafts of seven books, including Strategic Research on China's Wetland Conservation and Strategic Study on Implementing the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and published an array of books with chapters about wetlands, such as Green Growth in China, Forestry Development and Ecological Culture, 2010 Bulletin on China's Status Quo of Vegetation Coverage, 2011 Report on China's Forestry Development, and Three Major Ecosystems and Biodiversity.

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

.....

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i

B - No

4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):

.....

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

A - Yes

4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

The national reports for COP11 and earlier COPs gave a detail review of China's wetland conservation and management. The informative reports can create reliable baselines for China's Ramsar Administrative Authority to monitor its performance by reviewing the latest report.

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, and WWF International.

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):

Wetland International: Wetland International China has been held an annual meeting with the State Forestry Administration to sign a memorandum of understanding for project cooperation. Both parties have co-identified six wetland cooperative projects for 2014. Wetland International China co-organized the second China Wetland Cultural Festival—Asian Wetland Symposium on Human Well-being and Wetlands in 2011.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): The State Forestry Administration attended the Fifth IUCN World Conservation congress in 2012.

World Wide Fund (WWF): WWF China joined the State Forestry Administration in promoting the establishment of the Yangtze Wetland Protected Area Network. WWF China also initiated the birdwatching campaign themed Let's Go Birdwatching (also known as 'Shidifeiyu' in Chinese) in 2012, along with other organizations including the State Forestry Administration. It surveyed the freshwater dolphins in the Yangtze River in 2012 as well. To secure a productive cooperation, WWF China meets the State Forestry Administration annually to finalize their cooperative projects and cooperative memorandum of understanding.

International Water Management Institute (IWMI): The IWMI further co-sponsored the Fifth International Yellow River Forum in 2012 after co-establishing a Center of Excellence for Water Management in Agriculture (CEWMA) along with its Chinese partner the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in China in 2010.

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):

The State Forestry Administration has funded Wetland International China to issue bi-monthly Wetlands, a journal for the asking.

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has licensed a 230-ha land to WWF-HK at a nominal rent per year to carry out habitat management in the Mai Po Nature Reserve. Besides, it also provides an estimated HK\$1.6 million funding to WWF-HK to support the habitat management as well as public education work.