

# **The 2017 Yancheng International Symposium on the Conservation and Management of the Intertidal Wetlands of the Yellow and Bohai Seas**

## **Outcomes and Recommendations**

### **Yellow & Bohai Sea World Heritage Nomination and Governance**

#### **Rec A: The Yancheng nomination and the World Heritage area boundary**

1. To ensure the integrity of the Yancheng World Heritage nomination there is a clear need to review its proposed boundary. The Yancheng Municipality is therefore urged to coordinate with Nantong Municipality to include within the World Heritage area the components of the coastal ecosystem that lie within Rudong county. This would result in a larger Jiangsu Coast World Heritage nomination within the Municipalities of Yancheng and Nantong, and would include appropriate sections of Yancheng National Nature Reserve, Tiaozini, Dongsha and other appropriate areas of the Radial Sand Ridges, Xioyangkou and Dongling to meet the requirements of Outstanding Universal Value
2. The boundary needs to encompass the entire intertidal ecosystem taking into account the mobility of the geomorphology, including Dongsha Shoals, in line with predictions provided by expert marine geo-morphologists.

#### **Rec B: Transnational Cooperation**

3. It is recommended that the governments and relevant stakeholders of PRC, RoK and DPRK, establish a trilateral Working Group for the co-management of the Yellow Sea coast including intertidal and ecologically associated wetlands behind the sea wall. This process could be facilitated by IUCN.
4. The IUCN and/or EFG should also invite the governments of PRC and ROK to a closed bilateral meeting early in January 2018 to coordinate their respective timetables and plans for Yellow Sea World Heritage serial transnational nomination.

#### **Rec C: National Coordination**

5. Calls on China and RoK to consider establishing national coastal wetland conservation committees involving all relevant ministries and local government administrations to feed into the proposed Trilateral Yellow Sea Working Group.
6. Encourages the Government of Yancheng, in coordination with the National Chinese Government, to attend Asia Pre-COP 13 Regional Meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in Sri Lanka, and COP13 in Dubai (UAE) to facilitate an additional regional dialogue on the conservation of the intertidal wetlands of the Yellow Sea, in the context of the proposed Ramsar Draft Resolution on coastal wetland conservation globally.
8. Encourages the Government of Yancheng Municipality to ensure that efforts on coastal wetlands conservation are adequately reported in National Reports to the UNFCCC as contributing to China's climate change mitigation.

#### **Rec D: Yancheng and Global coastal conservation initiatives**

9. To provide additional international support for the conservation of the Yellow Sea coast, the PRC and RoK is called on to support a draft Resolution to Ramsar COP12 in 2019, to establish a Global Coastal Forum under the CBD, Ramsar, Convention on Migratory Species and EAAFP, proposing that the Yellow Sea becomes a pilot area for the conservation of coastal ecosystems, combating habitat loss, and reducing pollution and invasive species.

### **Rec E: Adaptive Management and Increased Monitoring**

10. The establishment of the Yancheng Coastal Wetland Research Institute is warmly welcomed and provides the opportunity to support adaptive management and governance of the intertidal wetlands under World Heritage nomination, particularly in relation to the emerging threats from climate change – such as sea level rise, droughts, flooding and heat stress. This would involve increased scientific monitoring of key values and threats and the integration of such data into management processes to increase the capacity to rapidly respond to critical environmental changes to prevent more serious ecosystem collapse.

### **Rec F: World Heritage Management & Governance requirements**

11. International representatives present at this Symposium have offered support to the Yellow Sea States in capacity building in relation to monitoring and adaptive management.
12. It is recommended that in conjunction with the Ramsar Convention a meeting of the three Yellow Sea states is held to harmonise intertidal wetland conservation strategies in relation to World Heritage reporting and management requirements.

### **Managing Threats to the Critical Ecological and Environmental Assets of the Proposed World Heritage Area**

#### **Rec: G Intertidal Wetland Threat Management Priorities**

13. The proposed Southern Jiangsu Coast World Heritage Area will include appropriate sections of the Jiangsu coast and associated tidal flats, parts of the Yancheng National Nature Reserve, Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve and the tidal radial sand ridges area (Dongtai/Rudong counties).
14. Large parts of this area include fishery activities, wind farms, ports and coastal shipping. Land use adjacent to the coastal area includes irrigated agriculture, aquaculture, salt production ponds and industrial parks. Several waterways drain into the proposed nominated area. The alien invasive plant *Spartina alterniflora* has become established along the intertidal areas of the southern Jiangsu coast and is adversely impacting on the natural values of the area.
15. The Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage areas must be protected and managed to ensure that they are sustained or enhanced over time. Adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management will be needed to ensure the safeguarding of the nominated site. Accordingly, it is recommended that the existing and proposed land use, in and adjacent to the proposed nomination area, be reviewed, and potentially refined, to ensure that they are not adversely impacting on the Outstanding Universal Values of the nominated area. This would include addressing the impact of *Spartina alterniflora* on the intertidal areas of the coast.
16. It is recommended that capacity building be undertaken in relation to more adaptive and effective monitoring and management of key environmental values and threats. These would include the impacts invasive plant, the sustainability of wildlife such as the Milu deer, and the ecological integrity of

the mudflats and wetlands in relation to waterbird populations and their food requirements. This is required independent of World Heritage nomination.

## **Yancheng Ecological Industries and Green Development**

### **Rec: H Nature-based Tourism**

17. Focus on domestic tourism - by far the most important economically, and build an active outdoor 'Capital of Wetlands' brand that celebrates the environment and clearly includes desired sustainable development goals. This will mean building tourism and infrastructure that is brand-aligned and that meets domestic demand.
18. Develop environmental quality and standards for businesses wishing to use the 'Capital of Wetlands' Brand and logo. Include a requirement to show commitment and continuous environmental improvements.

### **Rec: I Ecological Industries**

19. Manage the 'Capital of Wetlands' brand to support and strengthen the quality and value of agriculture and seafood products including organic certification where possible. This would improve local community benefits and to support and encourage the transfer of a wide range of other 'clean green' industries such as high tech sector to Yancheng. This process will be significantly enhanced by the introduction of a fast train linkage Yancheng to Shanghai and strategic planning should be undertaken in relation to the introduction of this service.