



# UNDP-GEF Flyway Conservation Project and Yellow Sea Cooperation

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**1**

**Yellow Sea World  
Heritage Sites**

**2**

**UNDP-GEF Flyway  
Conservation Project**

**3**

**Potential Cooperation  
Opportunities in Yellow  
Sea**



## Critical Stopover for Migratory Birds in the Yellow Sea

The Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, inscribed through Phase I (2019) and Phase II (2024) of a **phased** nomination process, are situated in the **largest intertidal wetland system** in the world and **one of the most biologically diverse**.

Multiple Locations (12)



## Critical Stopover for Migratory Birds in the Yellow Sea: Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I)

On July 5, 2019, **Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I)** was inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Phase I comprises **five protected areas** in Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province.

The sanctuaries boast the **world's most expansive intertidal mudflats**. Positioned centrally within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), these sanctuaries serve as critical stopovers, molting grounds, and wintering habitats for millions of migratory birds. They support **23 internationally important bird species**, including **17 listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**: 1 Critically Endangered, 5 Endangered, and 5 Vulnerable species.



## Critical Stopover for Migratory Birds in the Yellow Sea: Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase II)

In July 2024, **Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase II)** was successfully added to the World Heritage List. This phase includes five nominated sites (11 migratory bird habitats) in Shanghai, Shandong, Hebei, and Liaoning.

These sites located along the EAAF complement Phase I by **protecting key wetlands and migratory bird habitats in the Yellow and Bohai Seas.**



## Strengthened Protection Measures: Wetland and Flyway Conservation Policies



China has established a series of **wetland and flyway conservation policies**, including

- Wetlands Protection Law of China
- National Wetland Conservation Plan (2022-2030)
- Notice of the State Council on Strengthening the Protection of Coastal Wetlands and Strictly Controlling Land Reclamation from Sea
- Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Issuing the Scheme of Wetland Protection and Restoration System
- Guiding Opinions on Establishing a Nature Reserve System with National Parks as the Main Component
- **Action Plan for the Protection and Restoration of Migratory Bird Flyways in China (2024-2030)**



## Action Plan for the Protection and Restoration of Migratory Bird Flyways in China (2024-2030)

By 2030, **90% of the critical habitats along migratory bird flyways will be brought under effective protection**, forming a well-developed national network for the conservation of migratory bird flyways.



The **habitat quality of key areas along the flyways will be significantly improved**, with a nature-based adaptive management system for habitats preliminarily established. The populations of migratory birds in critical habitats will remain stable or increase.

A diversified and collaborative national monitoring and survey system for birds and habitats will be largely completed, with enhanced technological capabilities and a more balanced distribution of monitoring sites. **Over 80% of migratory bird species will be effectively monitored.**



The concept of protecting migratory birds and **fostering harmony between humans and birds** will be further promoted in people' s minds, creating a comprehensive social atmosphere of bird conservation and propelling China's transition from a participant to a leader in global migratory bird conservation efforts.

**Project Objective: To secure the conservation of globally significant migratory waterbirds through the establishment of a robust, resilient and well-managed network of protected wetlands across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China**

The project contains 3 integrated components and 6 outcomes:

**Component 1:** Flyway PA network planning, expansion, financial sustainability and mainstreaming

- **Outcome 1: Expanded and more representative PA system** for migratory waterbird conservation with **sustainable financing**
- **Outcome 2:** Flyway wetland conservation advanced through **strengthened legislation, planning and sector mainstreaming**

**Component 2:** Site-based demonstrations of adaptive habitat management and rehabilitation for migratory waterbird conservation

- **Outcome 3: Increased management effectiveness** over 305,505 ha of flyway wetland protected areas
- **Outcome 4: Threats to migratory waterbirds arising from unsustainable land uses reduced** over 600,000 ha.

**Component 3:** Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and monitoring & evaluation

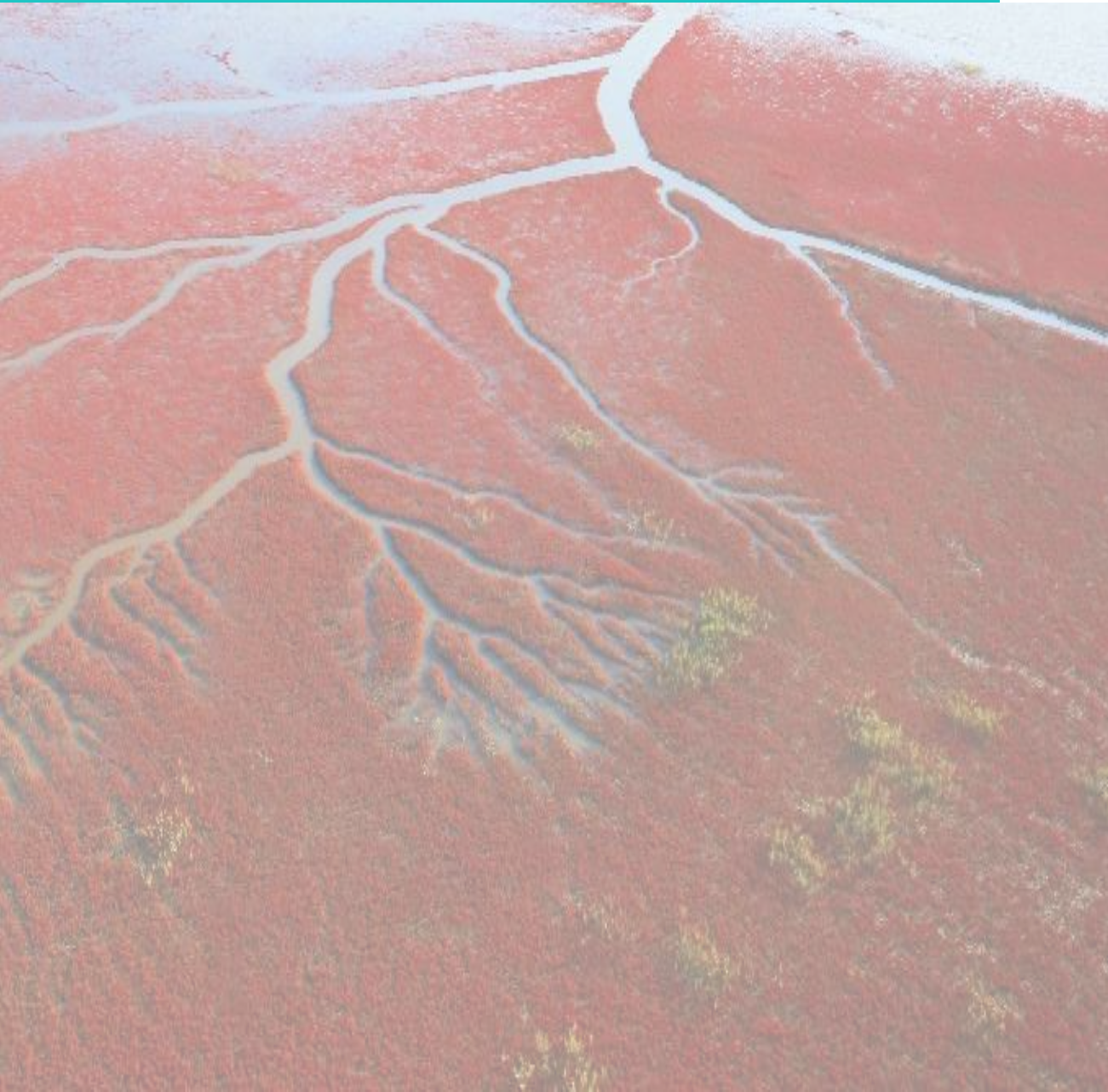
- **Outcome 5: Strong public support** for wetland and migratory bird conservation
- **Outcome 6: Effective sharing of knowledge** supports learning across the project, China and EAAF Partnership



## Four demonstration sites:

- Liaoning Liao River Estuary National Nature Reserve
- Shandong Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve
- Shanghai Chongming Dongtan National Nature Reserve
- Yunnan Dashanbao Black-necked Crane National Nature Reserve





## Liao River Estuary National Nature Reserve

### Global Biodiversity Significance

- 1) Listed as a **Ramsar site** in 2005
- 2) Listed in the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Site Network as a key stopover site in 1996 and upgraded to **EAAF Network Site** in 2006
- 3) **Key stopover sites for Cranes** including Red-crowned Crane and Siberian Crane
- 4) **Largest breeding population** of Saunders's Gull in the world
- 5) **At least 18 species of waterbirds** occur in numbers exceeding 1% of their global population.



## Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve

### Global Biodiversity Significance

- 1) Listed as a **Ramsar site** in 2013
- 2) Listed in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network in 1996 and upgraded to **EAAF Network Site** in 2006
- 3) **Largest breeding site** for Oriental White Stork
- 4) **Second largest breeding site** for Saunders's Gull
- 5) **38 species of waterbirds** found in numbers exceeding 1% of their global population





## Chongming Dongtan National Nature Reserve

### Global Biodiversity Significance

- 1) Listed as a **Ramsar site** in 2002
- 2) Listed in the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Site Network in 1999 and upgraded as **EAAF Network Site** in 2006
- 3) **Over a million individuals of migratory birds** stay or pass through the site each year
- 4) **11 species of waterbirds** reach or exceed 1% of flyway population

## Key achievements

### Achievement 1: Supporting Policy Making for Flyway Conservation and Restoration

- Wetlands Protection Law of China
- National Wetland Conservation Plan (2022-2030)
- Action Plan for the Protection and Restoration of Migratory Bird Flyways in China (2024-2030)

### Achievement 2: Promoting International Exchange on Flyway Conservation and Restoration

- Ramsar COP14 Side Event
- EAAFP Study Tours
- Yellow River Delta International Birdwatching Festival

#### Ramsar COP14 Global Waterbird Flyways and Habitats Conservation Forum



#### EAAFP Delivers Speech at Yellow River Delta International Birdwatching Festival



#### EAAFP Study Tours to Australia and New Zealand





## Key achievements

### Achievement 3: Establishing Replication Models for Flyway Conservation and Restoration

- Waterbird-friendly Farming Model
- High-tide Roosting Site
- Migratory Bird Habitat Construction (Saunders's Gull, Cranes, etc.)
- Spartina Alterniflora control

### Achievement 4: Strengthening Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

- CEPA Cases on Wetland Education
- World Wetlands Day and World Wildlife Day
- Marine Waste Collection and Recycling

#### Wetland Nature Education Classroom

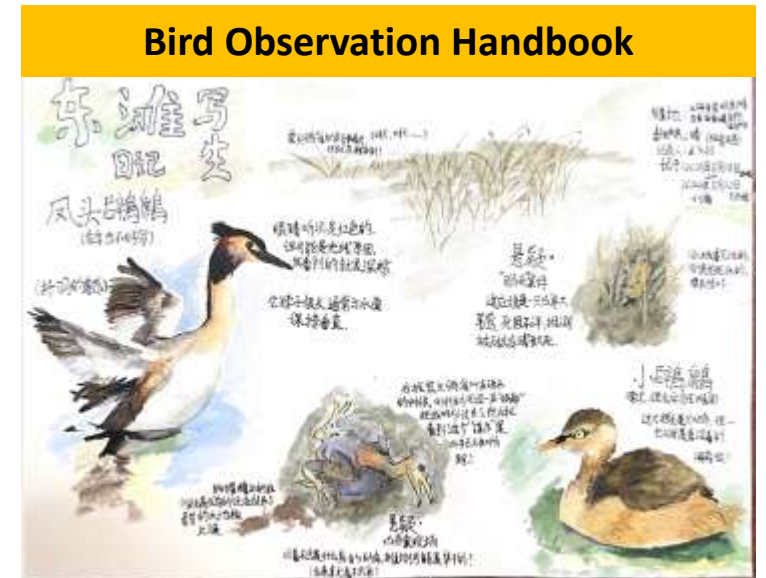


#### Wetland Power Collection of CEPA Cases on Wetland Education in China

#### CEPA Cases in China



#### Bird Observation Handbook





## 1. Research

Migratory Bird High-tide Roosting Site Restoration and Management

Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species

Human-waterbird Harmony

Sustainable Use of Wetlands

## 2. Capacity Building

Wetland Conservation and Restoration Workshop

Waterbird Survey Training

World Heritage Sites Conservation and Management

CEPA and Nature Education

## 3. International Exchange

15th Conference of The Contracting Parties (COP15) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands – July 2025

Yellow River Delta International Birdwatching Festival – Nov 2025

11th Meeting of Partners (MOP11) of EAAFP

## 4. EAAFP Sister Sites

Two Party and Three Party Sister Sites (with Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve) with ROK, Australia, New Zealand, and EAAFP Partners on bird research, monitoring, exchange visits, and capacity building

Thanks!

