

UNDP/GEF Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China

The Challenge

China is particularly rich in wetlands because of its diverse geology, a long coastline, a large river network and large number of big lakes. Yet the integrity of many wetlands and their biodiversity is at risk of drainage and conversion to agriculture and aquaculture; over-harvesting, both legal and illegal, of fish, birds, invertebrates and aquatic plants; dams and diversions and other large infrastructure projects; pollution from industry, households, agriculture and aquaculture; siltation; over-use of ground and surface waters; and introduction of certain alien invasive species. Many of the underlying causes of these immediate threats lie in the ease with which activities that provide short-term profit at the expense of long term stability can be carried out within the current policy, legislative and regulatory framework. Accordingly, the functional significance of wetlands in the wider landscape is often ignored in terms of irrigation water supply, ground water replenishment, transport, micro-climate control, prevention of salt water intrusions, natural flood control, etc.

The Response

The project will provide technical support for the full range of agencies with impacts on wetlands to ensure that wetland biodiversity considerations are included routinely in decision-making and action. It will do this through providing recommendations for a workable operational framework for implementation of these policies, and strengthening of water, wetland and biodiversity management at local government level (four sites) leading to identification of incentives for better management, changes in interagency government coordination and involvement of the public, improved consultation with scientists,

and the better practices in the collection, sharing, analysis and use of information required for policy formulation and implementation.

Project Focus

The project will work at the national level in Beijing, at the provincial level in Heilongjiang, and at the prefectural, municipal and county levels, including nature reserves, at four wetland sites focusing on demonstration of good practices in wetland management that addresses critical issues of importance for both wetland biodiversity conservation and to meet local priorities. At site level, the project focuses on improved public knowledge of wetland functions and value in Yancheng Coastal Marshes, use of indicator species monitoring and data sharing in decision making and actions in Dongting Lake, consideration of biodiversity in water management and international transboundary coordination in Sanjiang, and integration of biodiversity into pasture management with inter-provincial coordination in Ruoergai Marshes.

At A Glance

Project Start Time: 1999
 Project Start Time After Reformulation: 2005
 Project End Time: 2008
 Implementing Partner: State Forestry Administration
 Project ID: 00012109

MDG: ensuring environmental sustainability (Goal 7)
UNDAF: more efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally friendly behaviour in order to ensure environmental sustainability (Outcome 3)
UNDP CP: conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is more effective (Outcome 7)

Current GEF Budget: US\$5,348,973.53
 Government Budget: US\$9,858,200
 Total Budget: US\$15,207,173.53

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the programme, please visit our website or contact Mr. Guo Yinfeng, Programme Manager at (86-10) 8532 0734 or yinfeng.guo@undp.org

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