



**GEF piloting provincial-level wetland PA system
in Jiangxi Province newsletter**

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Project progress

The No. 1 amendment document of the Executing Agreement (EA) was countersigned by FAO on 15 December 2017, by the Jiangxi Province Forestry Department (JxFoD) on 18 January 2018, and by the Jiangxi Province Finance Department (JxFiD) on 1 February 2018.

The project management office (PMO) recruited 11 national consultants who joined the team in April 2018 after a public vacancy announcement.

The equipment was purchased through a competitive consultation procurement process, and the exhibition design of the visitor center was awarded through a competitive bidding process.

The overall plan of “Outreach and Awareness Raising Programs” was developed by the PMO.

The PMO has regular contact with all staff across project sites and has participated in project related workshops and training courses. For example, (i) developed a relationship with the World Bank Poyang Water Environment project in April; (ii) attended a project result dissemination workshop of GEF project “strengthened effective management of PA network in Ta Hsing-an Ling” on June 24 to 25.

Capacity building of nature reserve (NR) staff on conservation and personnel management

On March 14, 2018, the 5th national project steering committee (PSC) meeting for the GEF “6+1” program titled “Wetland PA System Strengthening for Biodiversity

Conservation” was organized and held in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province.

On March 23, 2018, the 1st PSC meeting for Jiangxi project was held in Nanchang,

From March 24 to 25, 2018, the training workshop on project management and M&E took place in Yongxiu county, Jiangxi Province

From May 28 to 31, 2018, the training in Ecosystem Health Index(EHI) monitoring was conducted at Jiangxi Guanshan National Nature Reserve.



1st PSC meeting held in Nanchang, Jiangxi

Wannian County Huyun Tundra Swan nature reserve established

The Wannian County Huyun Tundra Swan Nature Reserve was officially established in 2018. After several visits and regular communication by the PMO with the demonstration county-level nature reserves, the county governments’ recognition of GEF project and their enthusiasm for implementation greatly increased. With tremendous support of the county government and active promotion of PMO, the CPC Wannian county commission of public sector reform issued the notice on adding Wannian County Huyun Tundra Swan Nature Reserve

(Document No.Wanbianfa (2018)31) on May 31, 2018. So far, all three project selected county nature reserves have received official approval document.

Co-financing activities

The Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve (PLNNR) and Nanji NR both conducted cooperative management of water bodies for conserving migratory bird habitats. The PLNNR has made a lease arrangement on Zhushi Lake, Xiang Lake and Changhuchi for managing lake water level. The Nanji NR fulfilled tasks such as:

- i) reviewing the past work on program “award fisherman upon the number of birds in lakes” in 2017 and identified lessons and experiences;
- ii) implementing annual work plan on cooperation agreement with communities;
- iii) monitoring of water level, vegetation and birds in Baisha Lake and Zhanbei Lake.

Project actions

World Wetland Day and Bird-loving Week publicity activities



Public education outreach activities

On “World Wetlands Day”, “Bird-loving Week”, and “World Wildlife Day”, the PLNNR, Nanji NR and Duchang NR organized field stations to carry out outreach activities, publicizing to primary and middle school

students the importance of protecting wetlands, the relevant laws and regulations.

Law enforcement

On March 13, the first national biological judicial protection base was jointly established in Wucheng Village, Yongxiu County, Jiangxi Province by the People's Court of Jiangxi Province, the Intermediate People's Court in Jiujiang City and the People's Court of Yongxiu County. On June 8, the circuit court of environmental resources in Yongxiu County entered the PLNNR for the first time to conduct a public trial on a case of illegal hunting of wild animals and sentenced in court. Some villagers in Jinxian County, Xingzi County, and Yongxiu County attended the trial and received the law popularization education.

Surveys of migrating birds & Water Deer

From May 10, the PLNNR conducted surveys of summer migratory birds and water deer, which was carried out in the Poyang Lake region for 12 days. It focused on monitoring species, quantity and distribution of summer waterfowl in Poyang Lake area, as well as the species, nest sites and nest egg number of breeding birds in Jishan area of Meixi Lake. The survey of Water Deer in Jishan area was conducted simultaneously.

Poyang Lake wetlands conservation awards

From March to April, the Poyang Lake Wetland Management Coordination Committee went to all counties (cities and districts) along the Poyang Lake to award advanced organizations and individuals for 2016-2017 winter migratory birds and wetland conservation.

Introduction of wetland ecosystem, fauna and flora.

381 bird species found in Poyang Lake region

As recorded in the issue of Pakistan Journal of Zoology (Vol. 50, No. 4), there are 18 orders, 64 families, 381 species of birds in Poyang Lake region, accounting for 69.27% of 550 bird species in Jiangxi Province and 27.79% of 1371 bird species in China.



Egrets feeding on the riverside

The PLNNR collected information from banded birds during 2017-2018 wintering period

During wintering period of 2017-2018, the PLNNR staff successfully collected information from banding birds, including 1 Siberian Crane, 13 White-naped Cranes and 2 Swan Geese.

Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*) is a diving duck found in Eastern Asia. It breeds in southeast Russia and northeast China, migrating in winter to southern China, Vietnam, Japan, and India.

L 46–47cm; WS 70–79cm;WT 680–880g. Breeds in southeast Russia and northeast China, winters to southern China, Vietnam, Japan, and India.

Small, compact and very dark, resembling Greater Scaup (*A. marila*), dark back and upper flanks, white lower flanks and belly. In flight, white wing-stripe contrasts strongly with blackish upper wing-coverts and flight feathers.

Recent research shows its numbers decreasing rapidly. In 2012, listed to critically endangered. Between 1987 and 2007, there were only eleven reports of groups of 100+ birds in mainland China. A recent census by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) China of Hubei Province found just 131 individuals on Liangzihu Lake. Hunting and wetland destruction are thought to be the causes of the decline; unconfirmed reports from eastern China suggest that as many as 3,000 individuals may be hunted every year.



Baer's pochard in the PLNNR