

Yellow Sea Wetland Institute

Newsletter, Feb 2021

On July 5th 2019, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I) in Yancheng was inscribed as UNESCO's Natural World Heritage site. For the past year and half, Yancheng has made multiple milestones in the progress of World Heritage conservation, scientific research, and sustainable development.

1. Happy Chinese New Year!



2. Establishment of Yancheng Wetland and Natural World Heritage Conservation and Management Center, Yellow Sea Wetland Institute, joint research centers, and allied companies



Marking the moment of the official establishment ceremony on December 16th, 2020



Showcasing plaques of five organizations that first settled

Yancheng Wetland and Natural World Heritage Conservation and Management Center, Yellow Sea Wetland Institute, and three research laboratories were established and unveiled. Three joint research centers are shown as followed:

1. **Nature-based Ecological Restoration Research Center** partnered with **China Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Center of Ministry of Natural Resources** focuses on providing solutions for habitat restoration.
2. **Coastal Agriculture Research Institute** partnered with **Kyungpook National University** focuses on developing sustainable agriculture models.
3. **Urban-rural Integration Development Lab of Tongji University** focuses on advancing the strategic planning of Yancheng and Yellow Sea Wetland.

3. 2020 Yellow & Bohai Sea Coastal Wetlands Symposium



2020 Yellow & Bohai Sea Coastal Wetlands Symposium was held in Yellow Sea National Forest Park

2020 Yellow & Bohai Sea Coastal Wetlands Symposium was successfully held on December 16th and 17th with 120 representatives from the fields of research institutes, international organizations, and leading enterprises gathering in Yancheng, while 82 thousand audience across the globe were watching the live stream of the symposium.

Topics such as Nature-based Solutions, Spartina Control, Feeding and Roost Site Management, Disturbance Management, Evidence-based Sustainable Development, and CEPA (Communication, Education, and Public Awareness) etc. were discussed



during the symposium.

The following proposals were made to help Yancheng in becoming an international wetland city:

- Yancheng, China were welcomed to host a multi-stakeholder Global Coastal Forum in 2021.
- A network of multi-functional feeding and roost sites should be maintained and created.
- Developing well-coordinated multi-disciplinary research programs and a year-round monitoring system.
- A Joint China-International Task Team Group was proposed to move forward on Phase II of the World Heritage nomination.

4. 2021 Research Grant Applications

We are calling for proposals for research grant, with topics as followed:

1. Strategic Planning

- Protection, management, and planning of the heritage site
- Developmental strategies of Yellow Sea Eco-Economic Circle
- Effects of ocean dynamics and tides on radial sand ridges and bird habitats in Tiaozini area.

2. Management and Evaluation

- Monitoring, investigation, and evaluation of biological resources in the heritage site
- Distribution and migratory routes of birds

3. Ecological Restoration

- Ecological restoration mechanism of coastal wetlands
- The impact and control of invasive species

4. Sustainable Development

- Eco-friendly and bird-friendly modes of agriculture

5. Conservation Mechanism

- Collaborative governance and conservation mechanism

6. Youth Pioneer Project

- Designs of cultural and creative merchandise in the theme of Yellow Sea wetland

- Development of citizen science curriculum and models

More details will be released later.

5. Ecological Restoration, Spartina Control, and High-Tide Roosts



Spraying chemicals for spartina control with drones in August 2020

In order to strengthen marine ecological civilization, to build a model of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and to set up an example for the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase II), Yancheng is promoting the ecological restoration projects actively in Dongtai - Chuanshui Bay, Dafeng - Doulong Port, Sheyang- Sheyang Estuary.

A total area of 5202 hectares are being restored. Yancheng is striving for getting these restoration sites being included to China's major ecosystem restoration projects. More details are displayed as followed:



1. Chuanshui Bay Coastal Wetland Ecological Restoration Demonstration Project.

Chuanshui Bay is located in the heritage site and buffer zone of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I). It covers a total area of 1,250 hectares, and is divided into grass swamp wetland, freshwater lake marsh wetland, seawater lake marsh wetland and *Spartina alterniflora* treatment area according to different functions.

2. Ecological Restoration Project of Doulong Estuary and Maolong

The project is located in Dafeng District, in the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site and the southern buffer zone of Jiangsu Yancheng Wetland National Nature Reserve, Rare Birds. It has a total area of 1,940 hectares, with three functional divisions, which include freshwater lake wetland, saltwater wetland, and saltwater beach wetland.

3. Ecological Restoration Project of Sheyang Estuary

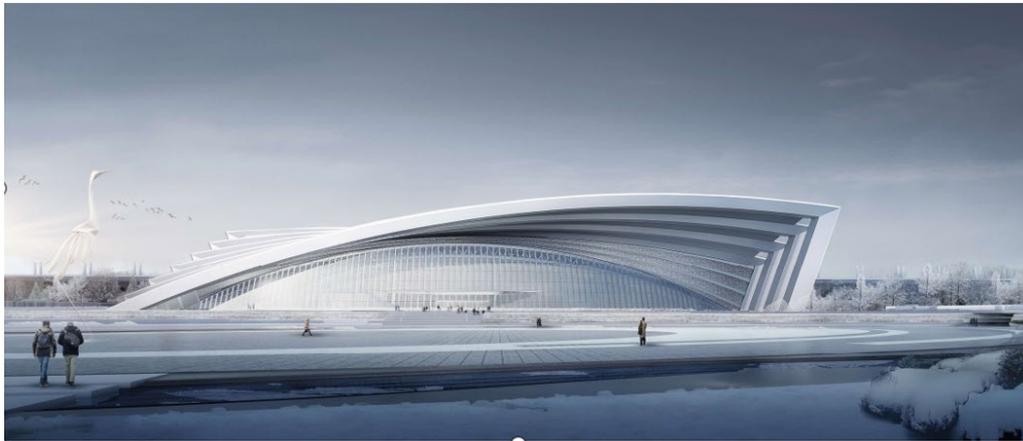
The project is located in Sheyang District, in the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site and the northern experimental zone of Jiangsu Yancheng Wetland National Nature Reserve, Rare Birds. It has a total area of 2,012 hectares, with five functional divisions, which include ecological forest wetlands, freshwater lake wetlands, grass marsh wetlands, saltwater wetlands, saltwater mudflats.

To maintain the balance of ecosystem and to investigate the control of invasive species, experiments have been conducted on spartina in heritage site and buffer zone. To protect the habitat where Spoon-billed Sandpipers depend on, a high-tide roost (HTR720) has been preserved in the northern area of Tiaozini, which attracted a large number of migratory birds last autumn.

6. Wetland Museum and Wetland Park



Wei Jiang, Vice Mayor of Yancheng, introducing the status of wetland museum and wetland park to experts around



Architectural Rendering of Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland Museum



Architectural Rendering of Yancheng Wetland Park

Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland Museum is located at the former Yancheng Railway Station, with the construction area of 18,000 m² and the exhibition area of 7,000 m².

The museum incorporates functions of exhibition, collection, and carrying out citizen science together with natural education. It is designed to be a non-profit institution and a popular destination attracting visitors across the globe.

The museum, the wetland park, and the international conference center together will become an "ecological reception hall" of Yancheng, while playing an important role for the coming Global Coastal Forum.

Yancheng Wetland Park is a space to showcase ecological management experience, a place to relax, and a platform to engage with the nature. It will cover a total area of 44.13 hectares and is expected to open on May 1, 2021.

The design concept of Yancheng Wetland Park emphasizes on communication and integration, which will fully explore the ecological characteristics and wetland culture of this oriental wetland city. The park promotes communication between city and nature, between human and wetland, and between culture and ecology. The park integrates international concepts with oriental artistic concepts.

7. Communication, Education, and Public Awareness



Xinsheng Zhang, President of IUCN, Zhanhai Zhang, Chief Engineer of Ministry of Natural Resources, and Lubao Cao, Mayor of Yancheng visiting exhibition center

Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland Exhibition Center is an interactive place for citizen science, an exhibition platform for green development, a classroom for natural education. It is located on the first floor of Yellow Sea Wetland Institute and was open to the public on December 16th, 2020.

8. Ecotourism



Photography enthusiasts taking photos at Tiaozini

Ecotourism Planning for Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland Natural World Heritage Site was designed to help Yancheng in becoming a global ecotourism destination, to showcase the magnificent beauty of the Yellow Sea Wetland, and to amplify the branding of Natural World Heritage site.

This plan provides a conceptual direction to sustainably develop Yancheng Yellow Sea heritage site by integrating various regional resources and connecting originally scattering sites in series.

Yancheng Wetland and Natural World Heritage Conservation and Management Center
Yellow Sea Wetland Institute

Please contact institute@yellowsea.net for more questions.