

## **Fuzhou Declaration**

China Coastal Wetland Conservation Network  
Fuzhou, China  
June 17, 2015

Some 180 representatives from the national and local governments of 11 coastal provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, research institutes, conservation organizations, nature reserves, and wetland parks gathered today in Fuzhou. The participants analyzed causes of coastal wetland degradation, discussed protection measures, and established the China Coastal Wetland Conservation Network, committed to the spirit of Cooperation, Protection and Development to strengthen coastal wetlands protection.

China's coastline spans eighteen thousand kilometers, covering 11 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, including Hebei, Tianjin, Shandong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, and Hainan, as well as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. This area supports 40% of the country's population and is the largest economic region of the country, accounting for 58.6% of national GDP. Coastal wetlands are among the most productive areas economically as well as the richest in terms of biodiversity along the coast. They serve as an ecological buffer zone and underpin future sustainable growth.

We recognize that reclamation, pollution and the spread of invasive species cause serious degradation of coastal wetlands, affecting the ecological safety and advancement of the concept of ecological civilization in coastal areas. The area of coastal wetlands in China has decreased by 1.3612 million hectares over the past ten years, with an annual rate of loss over 2.2%, significantly higher than the national average of total wetland loss, which is 0.88%. The population of migratory birds on the East Asia-Australasia Flyway, an indicator of the overall health of a wetland ecosystem, is declining at an annual rate of 5%-10% per year.

We call upon society and governments at all levels to fully understand the significance of coastal wetlands in biodiversity conservation, the fight against climate change, protection of coastal zones, and the development and preservation of the concept of ecological civilization, as well as to incorporate coastal wetland conservation and sustainable use into government objectives.

We call upon the legislature to finalize wetland protection laws promptly, ensuring legal protection of wetlands; to adjust the existing land classification system for the purpose of ecological protection; to strictly control reclamation of coastal mudflats and intertidal areas, to prevent further loss of habitat for migratory waterbirds.

We call for evaluation of the sustainability of the coastal economy, establishment of long-term supporting mechanisms for wetland ecological compensation and other funding systems, encouragement of the incorporation of the value of ecosystem services into the National Accounting System, and encouragement of the inclusion of wetlands protection into the Natural Resources Balance Sheet of coastal provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

We call for increased cooperation and exchanges among all sectors of society and nations of the world, to share the results and experiences of coastal wetland conservation and sustainable use. We also call for social sectors to increase attention to coastal wetlands, in order to achieve sustainable development while securing protection.

We invite more social organizations, enterprises, nature reserves, marine conservation areas, wetland parks, and ocean parks to participate in the China Coastal Wetland Protection Network under the theme “Let’s protect coastal wetlands together.”

We recommend that the government and community groups at all levels increase investment in wetlands, carry out coastal wetland restoration projects, strictly control pollution and invasive species, as well as scientifically manage invasive species, and restore the structure and function of wetland ecosystems.

We suggest that the relevant administrative departments assess the effectiveness of existing coastal wetland protection systems as soon as possible, to improve the existing system, including the nature reserves, wetland parks and others, to scientifically define a “red line” of protection for coastal wetlands, and to implement a comprehensive management system for coastal wetland ecosystems.

We recommend involving relevant research departments, social organizations, and non-governmental organizations to establish coastal wetland monitoring mechanisms and to promote collaborative monitoring and research.

We believe that through our joint efforts and an effective division of labor, China's coastal wetland protection will progress in a healthy way, and we will pass to future generations a highly diverse and sustainable ecological civilization.