

NanChang Declaration on Wetland and Migratory Bird Conservation

An International conference on Wetland and Migratory Bird Conservation, focused on Poyang Lake, Jiangxi, was held on December 7, 2019 in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, China. More than 200 attendees from nearly 10 countries including China, South Korea, Japan, Russia, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom and Kenya attended the conference. Delegates at the meeting reached a consensus on the need to strengthen conservation of wetlands and their associated migratory birds.

The conference issues this *NanChang Declaration*,

recognizing that:

- ◆ Poyang Lake is *globally important and one of the most important wetland ecosystems in the Yangtze River basin*. Complex geographical, climatic and hydrological characteristics allows abundant wetland biodiversity to flourish and play an irreplaceable role in the ecological security of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River;
- ◆ Poyang Lake provides a *full range of ecosystem services* including climate regulation, flood control, drought prevention, purification of water quality, provision of fresh water, fisheries, shipping, tourism etc.;
- ◆ Poyang Lake is the *most important migratory waterbirds habitat in the East Asia-Australasian flyway*, supporting 350,000 wintering waterbirds, including more than 98% of the global population of Siberian cranes, more than 75% of the global population of Oriental Storks and more than 30,000 geese;
- ◆ Poyang Lake represents *strong eco-cultural values* represented by ancient Peng Li and Tengwang Pavillion, among others. It forms a valuable spiritual heritage of Jiangxi and China. The long interactive history of human and wetland relationships represents the values of ecological civilization;
- ◆ Within the *national strategy of ecological civilization* for China Yangtze River conservation represents an important opportunity for Poyang Lake to lead in wetland conservation and regional green development nationally and globally;
- ◆ *Ecological monitoring and scientific research* are the basis for wetland and migratory bird conservation;
- ◆ *education and popularization of wetland and migratory bird conservation*, making full use of social resources, can help governments implement such conservation;

and urges that:

- ✓ Governments and civil society actively explore ways to *coordinate Poyang Lake's ecological conservation and green development*, adhere to ecological priority, green and high-quality development, promote ecological restoration for biodiversity, especially migratory bird habitats, thereby ensuring the ecological integrity of Poyang Lake and the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River is improved;
- ✓ High priority be given to conserving the Poyang Lake wetland ecosystem by adhering to the system conservation concept that mountains, rivers, forests, fields, lakes and grasses are a community of life, and *implementing a watershed-scale integrated ecosystem management system*;
- ✓ Establishment of natural protected area systems with national parks as backbone, to promote the optimization of protected areas in Poyang Lake area, and *establish Poyang Lake National Park as a high priority*;
- ✓ *Long-term monitoring and related research* into migratory bird populations and their habitats be strengthened, including through high-level international cooperation, to provide a strong scientific and technological basis for strategic policy-making and practice of migratory bird conservation;
- ✓ *Strategic planning* for the continuously changing ecosystem through formulating adaptive conservation and management mechanisms be undertaken;
- ✓ *Strong social participation* and an effective communication and public awareness programme incorporating wetland and migratory bird conservation at its core;
- ✓ *Support from surrounding communities of Poyang Lake* be generated to form a protective force balancing nature, society and culture, leading to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Nanchang · China

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