

# **Final Report**

## **The Project on the Conservation of the Relict Gull in Hongjiannao Wetland, Yunlin, Shaanxi Province**

November 2006 –October 2007

**December 2007**

*Sponsor : Shell China Exploration and Production Company Limited*

*(SCEPCO)*

*Implementation Agency : Wetlands International-China*



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# 1. Summary

This project final report presents an overall summary of this conservation project supported by Shell China Exploration and Production Company Limited (SCEPCo) in 2006-2007.

The main objectives of this project are

- To identify the Hongjiannao Wetland as an important breeding area of the Relict Gull;
- To monitor and survey the number of breeding Relict Gull populations at Hongjiannao wetland;
- To identify the main threats to breeding Relict Gull populations at Hongjiannao wetland;
- To suggest effective conservation methods or measures of breeding Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland.

All main objectives are achieved with the great supports from Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department, Yulin Forestry Department, Shenmu governmental department and Hong Jiannao Wetland Management Team as well as national experts on Relict Gull in China.

In this project period, the major activities are:

- Organize a project inception meeting and establish a project working group including officers and staff and experts related to local agencies;
- Conduct a survey of Relict Gull and assessment on the significance for the Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland;
- Conduct a rapid assessment on biodiversity to define the key breeding areas of Relict Gull, main threats and root causes of the problems in the area;
- Establish a network of practitioners for the Relict Gull conservation and research as well as information exchange across all breeding areas of the Relict Gull in China;
- Provide assistance to local government for establishing a nature reserve/conservation station for the Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland;
- Conduct public awareness and education programme on the Relict Gull and its breeding area at Hongjiannao Wetland for local communities and tourists;
- Develop a series of materials for increasing public awareness on wetlands conservation such as leaflets, newsletter and websites;
- Organize a workshop at Hongjiannao, Shanxi Province to share experiences and exchange information on the Relict Gull and development the effective conservation methods of the breeding Relict Gull.

All above-mentioned activities were successfully undertaken and the conservation of Relict Gull and Hong Jiannao Wetland attracts a significant attention in Shaanxi province and Ordos Area as well as national authorities in China.

Conclusions are :

- 1) Hongjiannao Wetland is the most important breeding area of the Relict Gull in mainland China;
- 2) The population of Relict Gulls is increasing rapidly from 2001-2007 and the size of the breeding population of Relict Gulls was 10,072 in 2007, while 174 in 2001.



## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Relict Gull

The Relict Gull *Larus relictus* is a globally rare and little-known species, breeding in Mongolia, Kazakhstan, China and southern Russia and is thought to winter in several countries nearby, including South Korea, and China. The Relict Gull was found and identified as an independent species in 1971. The Relict Gull is classified as Vulnerable (VU C1) on the IUCN Red List 2004 and is listed on Appendix I of CITES. It is also listed on Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and on Annex 2 of the African-Eurasian Migratory Water Bird Agreement (AEWA). Its total world population has been estimated recently at between 2,500 and 10,000 individuals and declining (Birdlife International, 2003). In China, this species is listed as Class I under national protection.



Figure 1: Relict Gull (*Larus relictus*)

In China, breeding records of the Relict Gull are mainly concentrated in Erduosi Plateau between Inner Mongolia and Shaanxi Province. The largest breeding colony of Relict Gulls was found at Taolimao-Alasanwan Lake of Erduosi Plateau in Inner Mongolia. From the beginning of the 1990s until 2000, there have been 3,587 nests of Relict Gull here. Thus its importance has been recognized and the wetland was listed as one of 30 Ramsar sites in China in 2002. In recent years, the breeding population of the Relict Gull has sharply declined and there were not any breeding records of Relict Gulls. There were only 10 individuals inhabiting Tao-Ahaizi Lake in 2004 due to precipitation reduction around Tao-Ahaizi Lake and islands in center of the lake becoming land. However, there were more and more Relict Gulls to be found at Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province. Relict Gulls were first recorded in Hongjiannao Wetland in 2000; there were 2,985 nests of Relict Gulls and the number of breeding Relict Gulls increased to more than 5,970, the total population of Relict Gulls was more than 13,000 at the wetland in 2006. Therefore it is believed that Hongjiannao Wetland has become one of the largest breeding colonies of the Relict Gull in the world (Wetlands International (2002) shows total population number of the Relict Gull is 10,000-12,000 globally).

In 2001, IUCN/SSC recommended to try updated assessment standards to assess rare status of threatened species globally. According to the new assessment standard of the Relict Gull, the Relict Gull is regarded as a Vulnerable Species (VU). Of course, it was an assessment based on the current status of the Relict Gull. If the ecological environment of the breeding

area in Hongjiannao Wetland were further degraded, the global population of Relict Gulls would quickly become unstable, which would necessitate making an assessment on the status of Relict Gull again.

## 2.2 Hongjiannao Wetland

Located in the west of Shenmu County, Shaanxi province, Hongjiannao Wetland, between latitude (38°13 N-39°27 N) and longitude (109°42 E-110°54 E) lies in the junction of Maomusu Desert and Erduosi High Plateau (See Figure 1). Hongjiannao Wetland has a total area of 4,300 hectares and belongs to a high plateau inland fresh water lake. The lake is the biggest inland fresh water lake in Shaanxi Province and is also a famous desert scenic spot. Thus, Hongjiannao Wetland is listed in the Nationally Important Wetlands of China National Wetland Conservation Action Plan. It is not only the important water source of local production and living, but also the natural habitat of many rare waterfowl such as the Relict Gull, Swan etc. Hongjiannao Wetland is located on the migratory waterbird flyway and is an important breeding area of waterbirds in Shaanxi Province. Many waterfowl stop and breed here each year. There are 26 kinds of birds that are listed as second-class under State protection and 16 kinds of wild fish living in the wetland. It belongs to the continental season-wind temperate zone with the distinct features of a semi-arid climate, characterized by dryness and abundant sunlight. Annual average rainfall varies from 300 mm to 400 mm. The annual average temperature is about 8.3 degrees C with the mean July temperature of about 27 degrees C and a January mean temperature of about -10 degrees C.

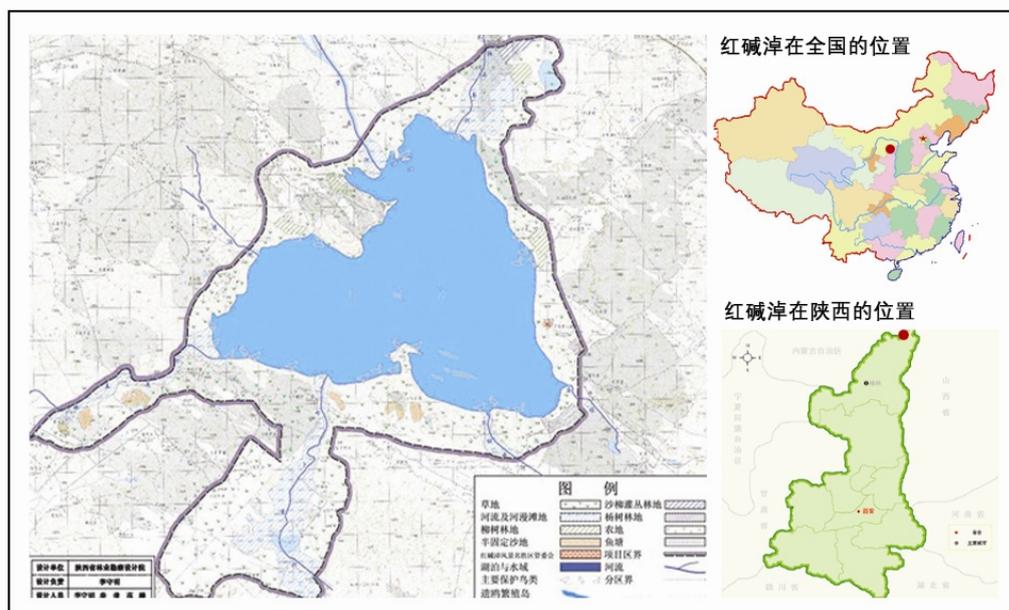


Figure2: Location Map of Hongjiannao Wetland

In the past several years the water level of the lake has decreased by three meters. The area of the lake has decreased from 7,000 hectares in 1999 to 4,667 hectares in 2004, a 389-hectare decrease each year. The rapid and intemperate economic development and

increasing population are serious threats to the wetland and its biodiversity. In the past decade, the excessive extraction of ground water for farmland irrigation and for drinking water led to the fall of ground water levels and a number of bogs and small lakes around Hongjiannao dried up and vanished. There are rich resources of coal, gas and oil in the region, and ill-thought-out mineral development has led to the destruction of the ground water system. Moreover, the Yingpan River, which provides more than 40 percent of the total water supplied to the lake, stopped in 2004 in the upper reaches of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region because of water shortages, leading experts to worry that the wetland and the largest population of Relict Gulls in the world could eventually disappear.

## 2.3 Introduction to the project

### 2.3.1. Project Objectives

With a view to the serious environmental situation in Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province, and in order to promote the population of the Relict Gull, Shell China EP (SCEPCO) and Wetlands International - China (WI-C) agreed to implement the project “**The Conservation of The Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland, Yulin, Shaanxi Province**” on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. The pilot programme for this project will be implemented over one year (November 2006 to October 2007).

The long-term objective of the program is to **promote the conservation of the Relict Gull and their breeding area at Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province**

Immediate objectives for the pilot project are:

- To identify the Hongjiannao Wetland as an important breeding area of the Relict Gull;
- To monitor and survey the number of breeding Relict Gull populations at Hongjiannao wetland;
- To identify the main threats to breeding Relict Gull populations at Hongjiannao wetland;
- To suggest effective conservation methods or measures of breeding Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland

### 2.3.2 Plan for Activities of the project

Since November 2006 the project of the Conservation of the Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province has been effectively implemented by Wetlands International - China (WI-China). The success of this project is based on the support received from Shell China Exploration and Production Company Limited (SCEPCO), and the assistance

provided by the following partners: Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department, Forestry Bureau of Yulin City and Institute of Animal in Shaanxi Province, as well as related agencies around Hongjiannao Wetland. All project activities have been smoothly carried out, and our targets were either met or exceeded by October 2007.

The following activities have been conducted by WI-China according to the agreement and Project Work Plan:

- Organize a project inception meeting and establish a project working group including officers and staff and experts related to local agencies;
- Conduct a survey of Relict Gull and assessment on the significance for the Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland;
- Conduct a rapid assessment on biodiversity to define the key breeding areas of Relict Gull, main threats and root causes of the problems in the area;
- Establish a network of practitioners for the Relict Gull conservation and research as well as information exchange across all breeding areas of the Relict Gull in China;
- Provide assistance to local government for establishing a nature reserve/conservation station for the Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland;
- Conduct public awareness and education programme on the Relict Gull and its breeding area at Hongjiannao Wetland for local communities and tourists;
- Develop a series of materials for increasing public awareness on wetlands conservation such as leaflets, newsletter and websites;
- Organize a workshop at Hongjiannao, Shanxi Province to share experiences and exchange information on the Relict Gull and development the effective conservation methods of the breeding Relict Gull.

### **3. Activities conducted and outputs obtained**

#### **3.1 Inception Meeting**

In accordance with the project work plan and communication with Shell China EP, Director Chen Kelin and Project Officer Lu Yong from WI-C made a visit and organized the project inception meeting in Xian City, Shaanxi province during February 4-5, 2007, and further negotiated with local agencies related to the conservation of the Relict Gull and their breeding area in Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province. This marks the beginning of the project on the Conservation of the Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province. The discussions with stakeholders including Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Animal and Yulin City Forestry Bureau led to widespread support for implementation of project activities in general accordance with the original

project workplan.

Inception meeting on the project “the Conservation of the Relict Gull at Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province” was held in Xian City, Shaanxi province on the morning of February 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was hosted by Wetlands International-China and Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department. More than 14 delegates from Institute of Animal of CAS, Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Animal, Yulin City Forestry Bureau and Shell China EP and WI-China attended the meeting. The inception meeting finished successfully and had four main outcomes including;

- establishment of the project working group,
- determination of term of reference for experts,
- determination of work plan: November 2006-April 2007, and
- Expansion of the project influence.

A project working group was established by Shell China EP, WI-C, Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department and Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Animal and Institute of Animal of CAS. Wetlands International - China will serve as the coordinator and implementation agency for the project.

**Table 1: List of the working group**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Description</b>
Chen Kelin	Wetlands International-China	General coordination
Zhang Xiaohong	Wetlands International-China	Project manager
Lu Yong	Wetlands International-China	Full time staff
Luo Huaisheng	Shell China EP	Advisor
Wang Jianghong	Shell China EP (Yulin)	Advisor
Lei Yinhu	Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department	Biodiversity Expert
Xiao Hong	Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Animal	Expert of Survey on the Relict Gull
He Fenqi	Institute of Animal of CAS	Technical advisor
Wang Zhongqiang	Yunlin City Forestry Bureau	Advisor

According to requirement of the project, WI-China entrust SPFD with the following activities such as a rapid assessment on biodiversity and local communities in Hongjiannao wetland, monitor and survey on the population of Relict Gull and assist WI-China with the organization of the workshop and so on. A MoU for partnership on implementation of the project on the Conservation of Relict Gull signed by WI-China and SPFD on March 15, 2007.

### **3.2 Conduct a survey of Relict Gull;**

Wetlands International-China, Shaanxi Provincial Animal Institute, Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department and Yulin City Wildlife Station jointly conducted a survey on the

Relict Gull in Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province from May- August 2007. The major achievements from this survey include:

- Identify the Hongjiannao Wetland as the most important breeding area of the Relict Gull via an integrated assessment on the status of Relict Gull's breeding area in Hongjiannao Wetland, including breeding habitats (islands of the center of Lake), the status of feeding habitats, which provide a scientific basis for the conservation of Relict Gull and their breeding area
- The status of migratory water birds, size of breeding population and the ecologic character of the Relict Gull in Hongjiannao Wetland is primarily confirmed,
- Define the key breeding areas, the main threats and problems of Relict Gulls and
- Develop the effective management measures and suggestions on the Relict Gull & Hongjiannao Wetland based on outputs of the survey;
- Accumulate a database for the establishment of a nature reserve in Hongjianoa wetland and the effective conservation of Relict Gull and their breeding areas in Hongjiannao Wetland;
- Understand the dynamic Population of the Relict Gull in Hongjianoa Wetland

Conclusions are:

- ◆ Hongjiannao Wetland is the most important breeding area of the Relict Gull in mainland China;
- ◆ The population of Relict Gulls is increasing rapidly from 2001-2007 and the size of the breeding population of Relict Gulls was 10,072 in 2007, while 174 in 2001 (see table 2).

**Table 2: Dynamic Population of the Relict Gull in Hongjiannao Wetland 2001-2007**

Year	Number of Relict Gull			Number of nests					Total eggs	Mean eggs/nest	Hatching Rate(%)
	Total	Breeding Individual	Non-breeding Individual	Number of nests	1 egg	2 eggs	3 eggs	4 eggs			
2001	212	174	38	87	5	64	15	3	190	2.18	81
2002	551	462	89	231	11	170	42	8	509	2.20	86
2003	4012	3392	620	1696	22	792	858	24	4276	2.52	98
2004	5748	4818	930	2409	61	1045	1267	36	6096	2.53	95
2005	6100	4920	1180	2460	72	962	1371	55	6329	2.57	93
2006	7170	5970	1200	2985	498	1761	700	26	6224	2.09	99
<b>2007</b>	<b>11522</b>	<b>10072</b>	<b>1450</b>	<b>5036</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>2399</b>	<b>1816</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11193</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>98</b>

A survey report on the Relict Gull around Hongjiannao wetland, Shaanxi Province was produced and submitted to Shell China Exploration and Production Company Limited

(SCEPCO) (see annex 2: Survey Report on the Relict Gull) .

### **3.3 Study tours to Ordos Relict Gull National Nature Reserve and Hongjiannao Wetland**

To have a full understanding on the habitats of Relict Gull in the surrounding areas of Hongjiannao wetland, a technical tour to Ordos Relict Gull National Nature Reserve (NNR) in Inter-Mongolia and Hongjiannao Wetland in Shaanxi was organised by Wetlands International-China and Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department on June 9-10, 2007. Experts from Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese National Sciences Fund, Wetlands International-China, Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department, Ordos Relict Gull National Nature Reserve and Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Animal.

It was observed that a remarkable tendency of degradation happened to those wetlands on the upland in past decades, for instance, the Aobai Nur, used to be a breeding site for the Relict Gull in early 1990s and even in the last few years, had dried out in autumn 2006, while the T-A Nur, No. 1148 Ramsar Site, is almost totally dry up now, making the two major breeding sites on the upland for the gull vanished. There is some evidence showing that human activities is the key point causing the dry up of the T-A Nur and also causing the water level of the Hongjiannao remarkably reduced in the last few years.

When visiting the Ordos Upland, we were luck to have Prof. Zhu Zuo-yan, senior Chinese biologist, to be with us, then, on a high level meeting, Prof. Zhu offered the T-A Nur as a special case showing an urgent need for desertification control to the whole desert and semi-desert region of NW China.

On 20~21 August 2007, a seminar was held at Hongjian Nao on the issue of Relict Gull conservation, and participants noticed, with deep concern, that, though it should be just during the rain season, some 35 cm declining of the water level has happened to the lake since mid-June of the year.

After the seminar, Mr. Chen Ke-lin and Mr. Ma Ju-ru, Director and Senior Consultant of Wetland International China Office, made a survey to the T-A Nur. When we got at the location, we found that, although there was a rain last night and the morning rain not yet stopped, no water at all in the riverbed of the several seasonal rivers running into the lake. Then, tracing upwards to the source of the Jigou River, which used to be the longest one with the largest water gathering area for the lake, we found dams set up or in constructing, entirely stopped any surface water going into the lake.

The same thing also happened to the Hongjian Nao Wetland. And, this is the main reason causing the water level of the two lakes dramatically declined in the last few years.

### **3.4 Conduct a rapid assessment on biodiversity around Hongjiannao Wetland.**

One of the important components of the project is to collect information and base data of biodiversity around Hongjiannao Wetland and identify major problems and threats to wetlands and their biodiversity resource, which is also the precondition and foundation for the implementation of Relict Gull and their habitats conservation and public awareness & education activities. A rapid assessment on biodiversity and communities around Hongjiannao Wetland was conducted by some experts who were selected by WI-China and SPFD in in Mid-April 2007, with the aim of finding out the status of biodiversity resource such as natural environment, nature resource, population, social and economic status & local communities around Hongjiannao Wetland. *A report on the rapid assessment of biodiversity and local communities around Hongjiannao Wetland (see annex 3)* was produced and submitted to Shell China Exploration and Production Company Limited (SCEPCO). The report includes the following contents:

- Population, Social and Economic Status around Hongjiannao Wetland including the basic status of society, economy, tourism activities, fishing, gas and oil exploitation, pollution etc;
- Biodiversity Resources in Hongjiannao Wetland and the Vegetation Character of Hongjiannao Wetland including wetland resources, wetland plant species, and types of vegetation of the Hongjiannao Wetland as well as Fauna Diversity of the Hongjiannao Wetland such as the descriptions of mammals, waterfowl, amphibians, reptiles, fish and insects.
- Human disturbance, problems and threats to the wetland, state of the conservation and management of the Relict Gull and its habitats in Hongjiannao Wetland, especially breeding areas;
- Recommendations and Measures of the Management and Conservation of the Relict Gull and Hongjiannao Wetland including the establishment of a nature reserve, promoting to list as an Internationally Important Wetland, development of water-saving agriculture and wise use of water resources, adjustment of the overall plan of tourism, balancing needs between development and protection, implementation of monitoring and research programmes, enhancement of integrated management and conservation of wetlands and the Relict Gull, and establishment of a wetland conservation agency.

### **3.5 Establish a network of practitioners for the Relict Gull conservation**

A network of practitioners for the Relict Gull conservation and research in China has initially developed through a series of project activities conducted such as inception meeting, stakeholders workshop, survey on Relict Gull and a rapid assessment on biodiversity and local communities, as well as the distribution of leaflets, newsletter, websites and other public materials. The following are related to agencies and experts were

involved in the project for the conservation and research of the Relict Gull (see table 3):

**Table 3:** List of agencies and experts involved in the project for the conservation and research of the Relict Gull in China

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Government Agencies</b>		
Sun Chengqian	Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department	Deputy-Director
Wang Wanyun	Wildlife Protection Section of Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department	Section Chief
Lei Yinhu & Hong Ning	Wildlife and Nature Reserve Management and Protection Station of Shaanxi Province	Vice-director
Lu Xirong	Wildlife Protection Association of Shaanxi Province	Vice-director
Zhang Dingyou	The People's Government of Shenmu County	Vice-governor
Qun Li	Wetland and Wildlife Management Office of Forestry Department of Inter Mongolia Region	Vice-director
Xing Xiaojun & Ren Hongqi	Erduosi Relict Gull National Nature Reserve	Director
Zhang Zilai & Wang Zhongqiang	Yulin City Forestry Bureau	Vice-director
Yang Fengming	Hongjiannao Wetland Management Authority	Director
<b>Institutes and Universities</b>		
Xiao Hong & Wu Xiaoming	Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Animal	Director
He Fenqi	Institute of Animal of CAS	Researcher
Luo Yaping	Beijing Nature Museum	Director
Wang Daqiang	West-north China Normal University	Professor
Zhang Zhengwang	Beijing Normal University	Professor
<b>International Organizations &amp; Companies</b>		
Chen Kelin	Wetlands International-China	Director
Zhang Xiaohong	Wetlands International-China	Deputy-Director
Ma Juru	Wetlands International-China	Senior Advisor
Lu Yong	Wetlands International-China	Project Officer
Luo Huaisheng	Shell China EP	Environmental Advisor
Wang Jianghong	Shell China EP (Yulin)	Communication Officer
Liang Jianzhong	Petrol China Company Ltd.	Manager

### **3.6 Conduct public awareness and education program through the development and distribution of materials**

Since November 2006, the significance and progress of the project have been widely publicized through WI-China's bilingual the Newsletter for Wetlands and website. In addition, relevant information has also been presented to some international and national experts on water-bird at some meetings. WI-China also invited vice-director of Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department to compose an article on the conservation of Relict Gull and their habitats around Hongjiannao Wetland issued on the No.2-2007 of the Newsletter for Wetlands, which show that related to government agencies at provincial level gave their ideas and recognition on the conservation of Hongjiannao Wetland and Relict Gull. Thus much attention has been given to this project currently within the environmental conservation field at both international and national levels.

A series of public awareness materials have been distributed widely to relevant agencies and organizations, especially at a workshop on Wetlands and Waterbird Conservation in Tianjin on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2007, where the materials were distributed to the government and non-governmental organizations that participated in the meeting, in order to facilitate the recognition of the project.

About 20, 000 copies of booklet were produced and distributed by Wetlands International-China at the beginning of August, 2007 and this publication was jointly-funded by Shell China Exploration and Production Co. Ltd and Petrol China Company Ltd.. Most of this publication was distributed to tourists and local communities around Hongjiannao Wetland.

### **3.7 Organize a Project close-out workshop at Hongjiannao Wetland**

Workshop on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Relict Gull and Wetlands in Hongjiannao/Ordos was held jointly by Wetlands International-China and Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department in Hongjiannao Wetland on August 20-21, 2007. More than 40 participants from Wetlands International, Shell China Exploration and Production Co. Ltd, Petrol China Company Ltd, Institute of Animal, CAS, Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department, Forestry Department of Inter-Mongolia, Association of Wildlife Protection in Shaanxi Province, Erduosi Relict Gull National Nature Reserve, West-north China University, Shaanxi Normal University, Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Animal and official from forestry, environment protection, water resource, tourism government agencies as well as related to media in Shenmu County and Yulin municipality. The aim of the workshop is to summarize results and experience of the conservation and research on Relict Gull and wetland in Erdusi Plateau, exchange information, the discussion of the conservation and management measures for Relict Gull in Ordos Upland and the promotion of the conservation and sustainable development of Hongjiannao wetland and Erduosi Plateau. **A Declaration on the Conservation of Hongjiannao Wetland and Wetlands in Ordos Upland** was developed and adopted through this workshop. All participants paid a

visit to Hongjiannao Wetland during the workshop. (See Annex 4: The declaration on the Conservation of Hongjiannao Wetland and Wetlands in Ordos Upland in Chinese Version) .

## **4. Positive impact generated by the project**

### **4.1 A visit to Hongjiannao Wetland and Ordos Relict Gull National Nature Reserve conducted by Vice-administer of State Forestry Administration of China**

On September 25, 2007 Yin Hong, vice-administer of the State Forestry Administration of China (SFA) paid a visit to Hongjiann Wetland companied with Sun Chengqian, deputy director of Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department and Wang Chang'an, vice-mayor of Yulin City. The vice-administer emphasized that the conservation of Hongjiannao wetland need continue to be enhanced and habitat and breeding area of Relict Gull also need to be protected better through the implementation of Hongjiannao Wetland Conservation and Construction Program approved by SFA and the application for the Construction of Hongjiannao Relict Gull Nature Reserve Program as soon as possible.

On September 26, 2007, The vice-administer also visited Ordos Relict Gull NNR, Inter-Mongolia and emphasized the NNR (Ramsar site) is one of the most important breeding area and habitat of Relict Gull in the world and it is significant importance to biodiversity at global. She asked related to government agencies from Ordos City to increase the conservation awareness of Relict Gull and restore, conserve the international importance wetland using the principle of "Giving priority to natural restoration, accessorizing engineer measures".

### **4.2 A Program on the Conservation and Restoration of the Ordos Relict Gull National Nature Reserve approved by the Center Government.**

The successful implementation of the project on the conservation of Relict Gull around Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi province has attracted wide attention in the field of environmental conservation, both nationally and internationally. More and more institutes and organizations related to environmental conservation and public awareness education have been consulting us about wetland conservation and wise use in Ordos Upland.

The State Forestry Administration of China (SFA) paid attention to **the Declaration on the Conservation of Hongjiannao Wetland and Wetlands in Ordos Upland** and problems of wetlands in Ordos Upland including Hongjiannao Wetland. SFA and National Development and Reformation Committee jointly approved of a Programme on the Conservation and Restoration of Ordos Relict Gull NNR at the end of 2007 (Total budget: RMB 18.36 million yuan). The objective of programme is to restore and rehabilitate degraded wetlands and ecosystems of Ordos Relict Gull NNR through the dredging rivers and canal, increasing surface flow and the improvement of ecological environment of T-A Nor Catchments. At present total budget of the first phase of the programme is 7.48 million and has been implemented.

**Annex 1: Final Financial Report for Project on the Conservation of Relict Gull  
around Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province**

No.	Item	Description	Budget (RMB/yuan)	Expenditure (RMB/Yuan)	Balance
<b>1.</b>	<b>Travel costs and travel subsistence</b>		<b>17,500</b>	<b>17,500</b>	<b>0</b>
	Domestic travel cost	3,000yuan & 4 persons	12,000	13,500	
	Subsistence (hotel/food/local transportation)		5,500	4,000	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Field survey for Hongjiannao wetland (5 persons) in summer</b>		<b>30,000</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>8,400</b>
	Local travel cost (cars rental, boat hire, etc)	2,000yuan/day & 8days	16,000	12,000	
	Accommodation and food	1,000yuan/day & 8days	8,000	6,600	
	Survey report (printing, dissemination, etc)		6,000	3,000	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Inception meeting</b>		<b>9,600</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>-900</b>
	Venue		1,500	1,500	
	Food and drinks	120yuan x 15persons x 2d	3,600	4,000	
	Accommodation	150 yuan x 15persons x 2d	4,500	5,000	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Workshop</b>		<b>36,800</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>-6,700</b>
	Venue		4,000	4000	
	Accommodation	200yuan x 30persons x 3d	18,000	20,000	
	Food and drinks	120yuan x 30persons x 3d	10,800	18,000	
	Materials & equipments		4,000	1,500	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Public awareness materials and publicity</b>		<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>600</b>
	Website (publication & distribution)		2,600	600	
	Newsletter (publication & distribution)		5,000	6400	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Rapid assessment &amp; report</b>		<b>8,900</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>-1,100</b>
	Technical visit, data collection, report		8,900	10,000	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Time input</b>		<b>29,500</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Field work</b>		29,500	29,500	
	Project coordinator	900yuan/day x 13days	11,700	11,700	
	National expert	800yuan/day x 11days	8,800	8,800	

Full time staff	500yuan/day x 15days	7,500	7,500	
Administrative support	300yuan/day x 5days	1,500	1,500	
<b>Office work</b>				
Project coordinator	<b>No charge</b>	—		
National expert	No charge	—		
Full time staff	No charge	—		
Administrative support	No charge	—		
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>139,900</b>	<b>139,600</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Overheads Costs (10%)</b>		<b>13,990</b>	<b>13820</b>	<b>170</b>
<i>Total</i>		<i>153,890</i>	<i>153,420</i>	<i>470</i>

***Annex 2: Survey Report on the Relict Gull around Hongjiannao Wetland, Shaanxi Province (Chinese version)***

***Annex 3: report on the rapid assessment of biodiversity and local communities around Hongjiannao Wetland (Chinese version)***

***Annex 4: The declaration on the Conservation of Hongjiannao Wetland and Wetlands in Ordos Upland (Chinese version)***