

Yalu Estuary Reserve - Protection of Shorebird Habitat in China

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Yalu Estuary Wetland National Nature Reserve is located on the northern Yellow Sea coast of China and close to the border with North Korea. It is an important staging site for shorebirds during their northward migration on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. More than 40 species shorebirds that have been observed in the reserve and up to 500,000 shorebirds use the Yalu Estuary Reserve as a habitat for breeding and feeding. In recent years, because of the habitat lost and increasing human activities in the reserve, the Management Bureau of Yalu Estuary Reserve decided to enhance the management and protection of the shorebird habitat in the reserve. To this effect we contacted local government and gained their support for our shorebird and habitat protection schemes. To raise public awareness of the reserve and its important role that it plays in the local community we have developed many education and publicity activities for the general public and we frequently talk to school students about the reserve. Now more and more local people are aware of the important of Yalu Estuary Reserve. In addition we also improved our enforcement capacity within the reserve by increasing patrol times. This combination of improved cooperation with local government, improved public awareness activities and better enforcement has significantly improved the management of the reserve. This increased effectiveness has been illustrated by our annual shorebird surveys that suggested there had been no change in the species or numbers of shorebirds using this critical habitat.



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