

# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 27 August 2019 Update version, previously published on : 2 February 2008

# China

# Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve



Designation date 2 February 2008
Site number 1728
Coordinates 21°35'27"N 108°09'24"E

Area 3 000,00 ha

## Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

## 1 - Summary

#### Summary

Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve is a coastal wetland with mangrove forest, intertidal mudflats and seagrass beds located within the East Asian Australasian Flyway. Situated in the north of Beilun River, a transboundary river between Vietnam and China, this Ramsar Site represents the largest contiguous stretch of mangrove forest dominated by Bruguiera gymnorhiza and Acanthus ilicifolius in coastal China. The mangrove forest help resist and alleviate the impacts of hazards and also protect the coast from shoreline erosion. The Site supports 10 true mangrove species and five semi-mangrove species. The sea grass community is dominated by Zostera marina in the mangrove's periphery in the low tidal regions. This wetland is the only area where Heritiera littoralis forest grows on a coastal region. Besides, the Site provides habitat to 155 species of large zoobenthos, 27 fishes, 213 birds and over 1400 species of higher plants. Of these are some globally threatened species such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard (Aythya baeri) and spoon-billed sandpiper (Eurynorhynchus pygmeus); the endangered black-faced spoonbill (Platalea minor); and the vulnerable Chinese egret (Egretta eulophotes) and fairy pitta (Pitta nympha).

## 2 - Data & location

## 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

## Compiler 1

Name	Xiong Liu, Jialiang Liang, Xiaopeng Zeng
Institution/agency	Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve Management
	Fenghuang Road 1 Jiangshan Peninsula District,538038 Fangchenggang City Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region P.R China
E-mail	gxblhk@163.com
Phone	+86 770 3392089
Fax	+86-770-3392080

## 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year 2008

To year 2014

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve

## 2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A Changes to Site boundary Yes O No 

(Update) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

### 2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?

## 2.2 - Site location

## 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps 0

#### Boundaries description

The boundary of the Ramsar site is almost the same as the existing reserve, including core area, part of buffer area and experiment area.

## 2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

Fangchenggang City

Pingjiang Town

#### 2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes O No 

O

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?

## 2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 3000

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from 2995.977 GIS boundaries

## 2.2.5 - Biogeography

## Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Udvardy's Biogeographical Provinces	Tropical humid forests, South Chinese Rainforest Biogeographic Province, Indomalayan Realm

## 3 - Why is the Site important?

#### 3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided

The mangrove ecosystems in this Ramsar Site can resist the impingement of waves, tides and floods, also it can effectively alleviate the damage caused by typhoons, violent tides and tsunamis. Besides, it has functions in protecting coastlines and reclaiming lands from the sea.

Other ecosystem services provided

This Ramsar site presents the largest contiguously stretched mangrove forest dominated by (Bruguiera gymnorhiza) and (Acanthus ilicifolius) in coastal China. There are 10 true mangrove species and 5 semi-mangrove species in this Ramsar Site. It is rare that in Pearl Bay there are many mangrove plants growing on the tidal flat under average sea level, while in the periphery low tide region, there grows Zostera marina sea grass community. Also the reserve is the only site where (Heritiera littoralis) forest grows on the coastal region.

- ☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- ☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

This Ramsar site is a regional hotspot of biodiversity. It holds 155 species of large zoobenthos and 213 species of birds. Also, there are more than 1400 species of higher plants along the coastal areas.

- ☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions
- ☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification

This Ramsar site is a significant place for the reproduction, migration, foraging, breeding and inhabiting of many marine species. There are 27 fish species belonging to 3 orders and 19 families, including Leiognathus brevirostris, Harengula ovalis and Ctenogobius gymnauchen. The mangrove's tidal creeks are vital places for female limulus to reproduce, while infants of limulus scatter on mangrove's tidal flats. The ancient relic species Lingula anatina can be found frequently on bare beach at the edge of mangroves.

## 3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion	Species contributes under criterion	Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
Birds												
CHORDATA/ AVES	Anser erythropus	Lesser White- fronted Goose			]			W		<b>√</b>		wintering bird
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aquila heliaca	Asian Imperial Eagle; Eastern Imperial Eagle	<b>2</b> 000					VU	V	<b></b> ✓	National Protection Class: I	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Aythya baeri	Baer's Pochard			]			CR				wintering bird
CHORDATA/ AVES	Egretta eulophotes	Chinese Egret			]			VU		V	National Protection Class: II	
CHORDATA/ AVES	Eurynorhynchus pygmeus	Spoon-billed Sandpiper			]			CR		V		wintering bird
CHORDATA/ AVES	Pitta nympha	Fairy Pitta			]			W				
CHORDATA/ AVES	Platalea minor	Black-faced Spoonbill			)			EN			National Protection Class: II	wintering bird
Fish, Mollusc a	Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea											
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII					1							Crit 8: Spawning in the site
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII		Shortnose slipmouth			9							Crit 8: Spawning in the site

<sup>1)</sup> Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

#### Criterion 4:

Located on the East Asian - Australasian Flyway for migratory birds, the site is a significant breeding ground for waterbirds. In this wetland, 96 of the 227 migrant bird species protected by the agreement signed between China and Japan stopover; while 38 of 81 migrant bird species protected by the agreement signed between China and Australia stopover here.

## 3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

## 4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

## 4.1 - Ecological character

This Ramsar Site is located in the tropical monsoon climate region with a mean annual temperature of 22.3 I and a mean annual precipitation of 2500 mm. The coastal areas are mainly composed of sandy and humid-thermo ferralitic soils with low nutrient content. The mangrove forest represents the main vegetation type of the Site. The mangrove species together with the inhabiting birds, planktons, zoobenthos, fishes and insects characterize the biological community of the Site. The wetland plays a significant role in reducing the impacts of hazards and protecting the coastline from erosion. This estuarine system supports a wide variety of life forms and provide opportunities for scientific and educational studies.

#### 4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		2	660	
l: Intertidal forested wetlands		1	1299	Representative

## 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
Acanthus ilicifolius	Holly Mangrove	
Acrostichum aureum	Golden Leatherfern	
Aegiceras corniculatum		
Avicennia marina	Gray Mangrove	
Cerbera manghas	Reva	
Excoecaria agallocha	Hai Qi	
Heritiera littoralis	Looking Glass Tree	

### 4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	%occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATAAVES	Accipiter nisus	Eurasian Sparrowhawk				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Accipiter soloensis	Chinese Sparrowhawk;Gray Frog- Hawk				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Accipiter trivirgatus	Crested Goshawk				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Accipiter virgatus	Besra				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Aviceda leuphotes	Black Baza				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Butastur indicus	Grey-faced Buzzard				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Buteo buteo	Common Buzzard				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Centropus sinensis	Greater Coucal				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Centropus toulou	Malagasy Coucal				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Circus aeruginosus	Western Marsh Harrier				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Circus spilonotus	Eastern Marsh Harrier				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Egretta sacra	Pacific Reef Heron				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAAVES	Elanus caeruleus	Black-winged Kite				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Falco subbuteo	Eurasian Hobby,Northern Hobby				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Falco tinnunculus	Common Kestrel;Eurasian Kestrel				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Metopidius indicus	Bronze-winged Jacana				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Milvus migrans	Black Kite				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Ninox scutulata	Brown Hawk-Owl				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Numenius minutus	Little Curlew				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Otus bakkamoena	Collared Scops Owl				National Protection Class:
CHORDATA/AVES	Otus scops	Common Scops-owl				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey,Western Osprey				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Pelecanus philippensis	Spot-billed Pelican	<u> </u>			National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Phalacrocorax pelagicus	Pelagic Cormorant				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAVAVES	Platalea leucorodia	Eurasian Spoonbill				National Protection Class:
CHORDATAAVES	Porzana bicolor	Black-tailed Crake	1			National Protection Class:

# 4.4 - Physical components

## 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cwa: Humid subtropical (MId with dry winter, hot summer)

This Ramsar site is located in tropical monsoon maritime climate region. Mean annual temperature: 22.3 **I**; Mean July (the hottest month) temperature: 28.6 **I**; Mean January (the coldest month) temperature: 14.1 **I**; Extremely low temperature: 2.8 **I**; Mean annual precipitation: 2500 mm. Mean rainy days per year: 147.5 (mostly falling between May and September). Mean annual evaporation: 1400 mm. Prevailing wind: NNE and SSW: Mean wind speed: 5.1 m/s.

and 55W; Weari Wind	i speed: 5. i m/s.		
4.4.2 - Geomorphic set	tting		
a) Minimum elevation al	`   1		
	metres)		
a) Maximum elevation al	bove sea level (in metres)		
	En	tire river basin	
	Upper par	t of river basin	
	Middle par	t of river basin	
	Lower par	t of river basin	
	More than o	one river basin $\square$	
	No	tin river basin 🗹	
		Coastal 🗹	
Please name the river basin	n or basins. If the site lies in a	sub-basin, please also nam	the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.
the north of Beibu Gul	f in China		
4.4.3 - Soil			
		Mineral ☑	
	(Update) Changes		Increase O Decrease O Unknown O
		ele information	inclease of bedease of dividual of
Are sail those subject to			
condition	change as a result of changin ons (e.g., increased salinity or	acidification)?	
	mation on the soil (optional)		
			rmo ferralitic (depth of 1-1.5 m, pH value of 5-6) developed by sand shale.
			e sand is the main sediment type, with 71.8%~97.9% sediment rexample, the total nitrogen is merely 0.693 g/kg, while the average
	•	•	9.724 g/kg, respectively.
4.4.4 - Water regime			
Water permanence Presence?	Changes at RIS update		
Usually permanent water present			
ргезеп			
Source of water that maintain Presence?	s character of the site  Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update	
Water inputs from surface	Tredominant water source	No change	
water Water inputs from rainfall		No change	
Marine water	<b>2</b>	No change	
Water destination Presence?	Changes at RIS update		
Marine	No change		
Stability of water regime			
Presence?	Changes at RIS update		
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change		
-		, ,	his boxto explain sites with complex hydrology:  cs, with many small rivers flowing into the bay.
This Name are pres	senis typicai estuanne ny	diological characterisi	cs, with many small rivers nowing into the bay.
4.4.5 - Sediment regim	ie		
Significant accretion of	or deposition of sediments occ	urs on the site 🗹	
	(Update) Changes	at RIS update No change	Increase O Decrease O Unknown O
		gime unknown	
Diago provide further infor	mation on sediment (optional):		

Much of sediments belong to marine deposits of Holocene. Fine sand is the main sediment type, with 71.8%~97.9% sediment concentration.

What is the Site like?, S4 - Page 3

#### 4.4.6 - Water pH

#### Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4 )

 $^{ ext{(Update)}}$  Changes at RIS update No change oldot Increase O Decrease O Unknown O

Unknown

#### 4.4.7 - Water salinity

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l) ₩

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change 

● Increase O Decrease O Unknown O

Unknown

#### 4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown 🗹

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

The water in this Ramsar Site represents class III of National Standard of China in 2013. The pH values range between 6.78 and 8.40 with an average of 7.99. Mean DO: 7.12 mg/L; Mean COD: 1.41 mg/L; Mean TP: 0.035 mg/L; Mean labile phosphate: 0.011 mg/L; Mean TN: 0.399 mg/L; Mean nitrite: 0.152 mg/L; Mean ammonia nitrogen: 0.101 mg/L; Mean inorganic nitrogen: 0.282 mg/L.

## 4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar  $oldsymbol{0}$  ii) significantly different Osite itself:

## 4.5 - Ecosystem services

#### 4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

#### Provisioning Services

1 To Violotining Col Vioco						
	Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance			
	Wetland non-food products	Other				

Regulating Services

	regulating connects						
Ecosystem service		Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance				
	Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	High				
	Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High				
	Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	High				

#### Cultural Senices

Cultural Services		
Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	High

## Supporting Sonicos

Supporting Services		
Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Medium

## 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland
ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former $\hfill\Box$ civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland
iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction $\hfill\Box$ with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological  $\hfill\Box$ 

character of the wetland

## 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

## 5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

## 5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

#### 5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal		
government		(a)

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

The local government and the reserve have the tenure of land use within the Ramsar Site.

The local government has the tenure of land use in the surrounding area.

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

agency or organization responsible for	Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve Management
managing the site:  Provide the name and title of the person or	
people with responsibility for the wetland:	Bo Su, Director
Postal address:	Fenghuang Road 1 Jiangshan Peninsula District,538038 Fangchenggang City Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region P.R China.
E-mail address:	152747159@qq.com

## 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

## 5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Marine and freshwater aquaculture			<b>&gt;</b>		✓	

#### 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Nature Reserve	Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve		partly

## 5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

la Strict Nature Reserve 🗵
lb Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
Il National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
VProtected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly

#### 5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

	=-3		
Measures		Status	
	Legal protection	Implemented	

#### Habitat

1 Idol Idol		
Measures	Status	
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented	

#### Species

op color		
Mea	sures	Status
	/rare species nt programmes	Proposed

#### **Human Activities**

Tarrary buries		
Measures	Status	
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented	
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Partially implemented	
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented	
Research	Implemented	

## 5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes O No ●

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning Yes O No oprocesses with another Contracting Party?

## 5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, but a plan is being prepared

## 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

0 1	
Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

## 6 - Additional material

#### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation, State Environmental Protection Administration. 1992. Management conference of nature reserves. Beijing: China Environmental Science Press.

Guangxi Mangrove Research Center. 1997. Resource investigation and comprehensive report Of Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve. Liang Shichu, Liu Jingfa, Liang Mingzhong. 2004. Ecological Study on the mangrove communities in Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve. Journal of Guangxi Normal University, 22(2): 70-76.

Liu Jingfa. 2002. Walk into the mangrove—Guangxi Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve, China. Beijing: Ocean Press.

Ministry of Forestry in the People's Repubic of China. 1988. The overall design standards of nature reserve construction. Beijing.

Song Chaoyu, et al. 1988. Nature reserve work Manual. Beijing: China Forestry Publishing.

State Environmental Protection Administration, et al. 1993. State Standard of the People's Republic of China—Principle for categories and grades of nature reserves. Beijing: China Standards Press.

Udvardy M. 1975. Classification of the Biogeographical Provinces of the World. IUCN Occasional Paper No. 18.

Wang Menghu, et al. 1990. Nature reserve work Manual. Beijing: China Forestry Publishing.

Wang Xianbo, et al. 1989. Theory and Practice of Nature Reserve. Beijing: China Environmental Science Press.

Writing committee of China Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation. 1993. China Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation. Beijing: China Environmental Science Press.

Writing committee of Chinese programme for natural protection. 1990. The corpus of China's natural protection. Beijing: China Environmental Science Press.

#### 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

iv relevant Article 3.2 reports

v. site management plan

vi. other published literature

<no data available>

#### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



ridibundus in the site ( the /e 02-07-2014



landscape of mangrove forest (the reserve, 02-07



the Inverted reflection of mangrove forest ( the

## 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2008-02-02