

Ramsar Information Sheet

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- 1. Date this sheet was completed:** October 1997
- 2. Country:** People's Republic of China
- 3. Name of wetland:** Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve, Hainan Province
- 4. Geographical co-ordinates:** 19°57' - 20°01'N 110°32' - 110°37'E
- 5. Altitude:** 0 m (sea level)
- 6. Area:** 5,400 ha

7. Overview

The reserve falls under the category of subtropical tidal wetlands, with curved coastlines and gentle harbours. Lots of zigzagging tidal ditches are distributed there. The beach is flooded when the tide rises and resurfaces when the tide ebbs, 2,000 hm² of mangrove forests are distributed in the shoals of the tidal zone.

- 8. Wetland type:** A I G
- 9. Ramsar Criteria:** 1c, 1a, 2d
- 10. Map of site included:** Yes

11. Name and address of compiler:

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12. Justification of criteria selected under point 9:

- 1a: wetland in the coastal region in southern China;
1c: It plays an important hydrological and ecological role;
2d: It is a wetland dominated by mangrove forests which plays a special role.

13. General location:

It is located in Qiongzhan City in north-eastern Hainan Province. The administrative office for the reserve is 3 km from Yanfeng Town, Qiongzhan City and 30 km from Haikou, the seat of Hainan provincial government.

14. Physical features:

The reserve is a slightly saltwater tidal swamp of silt which originated from a big earthquake that hit northern Qiongzhan in 1605. The soil is diluvium with a thickness of about 110 mm. It is made up of fine semi-fluid sticky grains which are rich in humus. The pH value of the soil ranges from 3.3 to 8.2, mostly over 5. The harbour is usually 4 meters deep. The regular day tide in the reserve reaches a maximum of 2.3 meters and a minimum of 0.1 meter. with an average tidal range of 1.1 meters. The reserve falls under the category of tropical monsoon maritime climate, with an average annual temperature of 23.8°C, the highest temperature reaching 38.9°C and the lowest 2.8°C. The average annual sunshine time is 2,200 hours and the average annual precipitation 1,938 mm. The highest temperature of sea water reaches 32.6°C, and the lowest 14.6°C, with an average of 24.5°C.

15. Hydrological values:

Mangrove forests provide birds with favourable habitat conditions and commercial fish with fry-breeding bases. They can effectively alleviate coastal erosion and damages of typhoon.

16. Ecological features:

There are 58 species of plants in the reserve, including 29 species under 15 families of mangrove plants, such as Stylose Mangrove (*Rhizophora stylosa griff*), Common Bruguiera (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*), Sixangled Bruguiera (*Bruguiera sexangula poir.*), Kandelia (*Kandelia candel druce*) and *Avicennia marina*. Other plants include reed, seaweed and pineapple.

17. Noteworthy flora:

Pure and mixed forests of Stylose Mangrove (*Rhizophora stylosa griff*), Common Ceriops (Ceriops tagal CB Rab.), Linden Hibiscus (*Hibiscus tiliaceus linn.*), Common Bruguiera (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*), Sixangled Bruguiera (*Bruguiera sexangula poir.*), Kandelia (*Kandelia candel*) and *Avicennia marina*.

18. Noteworthy fauna:

There are 118 kinds of birds, 93 varieties of fish and shrimp on record in the reserve. There are also large numbers of shellfish and plankton.

19. Social and cultural values:

The abundant wintering birds attract large numbers of people. The beautiful landscape of mangrove forests is one of the ten major tourist spots in Hainan Province. The conservation and development of mangrove forests have promoted the development of fishery production.

20. Land tenure/ownership of:

- (a) site: state ownership;
- (b) surrounding area: collective ownership.

21. Current land use/principal human activities:

- (a) site: nature conservation, scientific research, boating, fishing;
- (b) surrounding area: fishing, agricultural production, urban and township residence.

22. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:

- (a) site: Fishing of fish and shrimps as well as human disturbance.
- (b) surrounding area: Overfishing of fish and shrimps.

23. Conservation measures taken:

A reserve was set up in 1980. An administrative office and an administrative station were also established. A joint administrative committee has been set up in coordination with surrounding townships and state farms for sound protection of wetlands. Publicity has been undertaken in a bid to enhance awareness of local people. The government of Qiongzhan City issued a public statement which reiterated that legal measures will be enforced for conservation of mangrove forests and birds in the nature reserve.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Bird-protection stations should be erected and an ecological mangrove forest belt established in a bid to enlarge the area of mangrove forests. A museum for wetland of mangrove forests should also be set up in an effort to carry out publicity on protection of wetland ecosystems.

25. Current scientific and research facilities:

Inventory of mangrove resources; directional and positional observation of mangrove forests during the phenological period; afforestation and species introduction experiment in different tidal zones; observation of wintering waterfowl.

26. Current conservation education:

Slogans, publicity cars and films are used down in the countryside in a bid to enhance the conservation awareness of wetlands and waterfowl of mangrove forests.

27. Current recreation and tourism:

Boating in the reserve for sightseeing of mangrove forests and birds.

28. Jurisdiction:

Department of Forestry, Hainan Province.

29. Management authority:

Administrative Office for Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve, Hainan Province.

30. Bibliographical references:

None available.