

**Memorandum of Wetland Conservation Cooperation**  
**between**  
**the People's Government of Changde City, Hunan**  
**Province**  
**and**  
**World Wide Fund for Nature**  
**(2018-2023)**

This agreement is a memorandum of cooperation signed between the World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF, headquarter in Switzerland) and the People's Government of Changde City, Hunan Province, China, at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP13) in October, 2018.

WWF is one of the largest independent non-governmental environmental organizations in the world, which enjoys a high reputation around the world and headquarters in Switzerland. WWF currently has 9 regional centers in Mainland China, and its project topics covers Species, Freshwater, Forests, Climate & Energy, Oceans, Food, Governance, Finance and Markets. It has been committed to promoting effective management, public communications and social participation, professional environment education, capacity buildings as well as international and domestic exchanges and cooperation in terms of freshwater and wetland protection, and has played an active and extensive role in successfully promoting effective management of wetlands in China.

Changde City of Hunan province (hereinafter referred to as "Changde") is located in the northwestern part of Hunan Province. This area is rich in wetland resources. The Yuan River and the Lishui River among "four-water" flowing into the Dongting Lake pass through Changde and flow into the international important wetlands of the Ramsar West Dongting Lake. At present, the

wetland protection rate in Changde is as high as 70%, with 8 national wetland parks and an international important wetland here. Changde has been cooperating with WWF since 1998; it had initiated protection of wetlands and freshwater resources and achieved remarkable results in the past years.

Changde and WWF jointly believe that wetlands, water resources and basin governance in the world are facing severe challenges and good opportunities. Both parties shall promptly seize the favorable opportunities at home and abroad, fully combine their respective advantages, strengthen cooperation, and jointly promote the protection and sustainable use of wetlands and freshwater resources in Changde.

Under the premise of mutual independence and mutual respect, on the basis of the past cooperation results of both parties, this Memorandum was prepared by both parties after discussion with more attention paid to deepening and expanding the future cooperation fields. This Memorandum aims to clarify the cooperation intention of both parties and emphasizes that, they will jointly make efforts to promote Changde to further advance the conservation level and sustainable use of freshwater and wetland resources, increase awareness and professional capacities of wetland environmental education, improve the professional ability of those in charge of protection and management, and strengthen the effectiveness of the protection work. This Memorandum is the basis and principle for further cooperation between both parties, but does not constitute a legal constraint on the parties to carry out their respective related work.

## **I. Cooperation objectives**

Strengthen comprehensive protection and sustainable use of natural wetlands in Changde, promote comprehensive management of the Lishui River and the Yuan River basins, enhance science popularization education concerning wetlands, improve the public awareness on environmental protection, and achieve harmony between human and water, as well as the

sustainable development of river basin ecology, economy and society.

## **II. Cooperation approaches**

Cooperation on relevant projects will be the main approaches of cooperation between both parties, including strategic cooperation regarding the field in which both parties are interested, field demonstration, training, research, study and investigations in China and abroad.

Both parties shall jointly determine the key areas for short-term and medium-term cooperation and specific cooperation projects according to advantages and capacities, opportunities at home and abroad and the actual fund status. Both parties shall set up a regular exchange mechanism to make the working plan after discussion and summarize the cooperation results.

The Changde Forestry Bureau and the WWF Changsha Regional Center are the window liaison units for cooperation between both parties. They will discuss specific cooperation matters through the window liaison unit, and take responsibility for facilitating and undertaking project implementation.

## **III. Cooperation fields**

1. Both parties jointly promoted the development and introduction of the 2030 Changde Wetland Protection Strategy. Through field research, extensive consultation and idea innovation, both parties will jointly promote the development of 2030 Changde Wetland Protection Strategy, striving to achieve 80% wetland protection rate in Changde by 2030.

2. Introduce the internationally advanced wetland protection effective management assessment tool-RMETT, restore the degraded wetlands, especially wetland restoration after poplar cleaning, and strengthen the effective management of the international important wetland – Ramsar West Dongting Lake wetland;

3. Strengthen popularizing the technical guidance of the national wetland park in Changde, especially in the fields of

personnel training, scientific research monitoring, environmental education and community co-management.

4. Promote information sharing, capacity building, and publicity and education. Both parties will organize international exchanges and training around topics of common interest such as integrated river basin management, and protection and rational use of wetlands, and strengthen the capacity building of both parties and relevant partners. In addition, they will carry out publicity and education through various media to enhance the awareness of wetland and water resources protection in the whole society;

5. Both parties will jointly promote investigation of micro-sized and small wetlands in Changde, carry out the field demonstrations of micro-sized and small wetlands in the community, and issue guidelines for construction of micro-sized and small wetlands in Changde.

6. Both parties will jointly summarize and package the results of the cooperation projects over the past two decades, and promote the excellent management experience and successful demonstration of Changde to other river basins and the international community on a wider platform.

This document is in duplicate and two copies are written respectively in Chinese and English, both of which enjoy the same effect and come into force when both parties sign it.

The People's Government of  
Changde City, Hunan Province

World Wide Fund for Nature  
(WWF)

October xx (day), 2018

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