

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES  
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Joint Commission  
of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian  
*Dauria* International Protected Area

Gland, 23 September 2009

Dear Commission members,

**V Meeting of the Joint Commission of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area**

The Ramsar Secretariat presents its compliments to the Joint Commission of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area. The Ramsar Secretariat recognises the Commission's role as an important forum for the cooperation between the three countries for conservation of unique ecosystems of transboundary ecological regions of *Dauria* steppe and Amur basin.

We would like to express our support of the Parties' proposal during the IV Meeting of the Joint Commission, to consider the extension of four existing Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) with the aim of establishing a common transboundary Ramsar site on the basis of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian *Dauria* International Protected Area. The extension of **Dalai Lake National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia (RS no. 1146)**, **Lake Buir and its surrounding wetlands (RS no. 1377)**, **Mongol Daguur (Mongolian *Dauria*) (RS no. 924)** and **Torey Lakes (RS no. 683)** would be a key step in joint management of this internationally important transboundary ecosystems.

We also would like to express support to the decisions of the Parties "to elaborate a common management plan of the international protected area", "to consider it reasonable to include into the *Dauria* International Protected Area the existing protected nature areas of *Dauria* ecoregion" and "to facilitate establishment of new specially protected nature areas on the Russian and Chinese banks of the upper reaches of the Hailaer/Argun river, on Lake Buirnuur and other places with their further coming into the *Dauria* International Protected Area".

While recognizing the international importance of the *Dauria* steppe and Amur basin, we also understand that there are a number of engineering projects that have either been completed or are planned for the area, which may alter the hydrological balance of the *Dauria* International Protected Area, especially the wetland ecosystems.

As a result, we would like to enquire whether the cumulative impacts of these projects have been assessed and whether any joint ecological monitoring programme has been proposed or being implemented between the relevant authorities in the three member countries of the Joint Commission, so that any change in the ecological character of the Ramsar sites in the *Dauria* International Protected Area can be identified at an early stage.

To assist you in your discussions on this issue, you may find that the contents of the following Resolutions from COP10 useful:

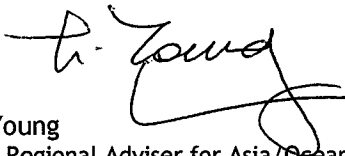
- Resolution X.17: Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance  
[http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key\\_res\\_x\\_17\\_e.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_x_17_e.pdf)

- Resolution X.19 Annex C i: Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance  
[http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key\\_res\\_x\\_19\\_e.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_x_19_e.pdf)

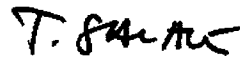
Thank you very much for your assistance and please feel free to contact the Ramsar Secretariat if you think we can provide assistance in any way with the wise of the *Dauria* International Protected Area region.

We wish you a very constructive and successful meeting, and we look forward to hearing the results and to assist the Joint Commission in any way in future.

Sincerely yours



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