

## First WCF Establishment Group Meeting

Coastal wetlands and ecologically associated habitats worldwide are under pressure and there have been increasing calls for urgent action, including through the various biodiversity conventions and the IUCN. In an International Advisory Meeting on the World Coastal Forum held on Jan 10, 2022 in Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province, China with global online participation of governments, conventions, international NGOs and experts there was agreement to establish a “World Coastal Forum (WCF)”. The meeting was hosted by the People’s Republic of China’s Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Jiangsu Provincial People’s Government. To develop the institutional framework and Terms of Reference of the WCF an international voluntary and informal World Coastal Forum Establishment Group (WCFEG) has been established that began its work in February 2022, supported by the Eco Foundation Global and BirdLife International.

A first meeting of the group was held online on 17 February 2022. The meeting brought together over 40 persons from around the world including from governments (Cambodia and China), a development agency (Asian Development Bank), international frameworks/initiatives (Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat, East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat, IUCN, ICLEI - International Local Governments for Sustainability, and Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Secretariat), NGOs (BirdLife International, International Crane Foundation, Future East Coasts, The Nature Conservancy, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust), universities (Queensland and Adelaide, Australia, Taif in Saudi Arabia, Cambridge, UK), and invited advisors (Arthur Hanson and Stanley Johnson). A full list of participants is available [here](#).

The meeting reviewed progress since the January 2022 meeting including the appointment of an Interim Coordinator supported by Eco Foundation Global. The meeting confirmed Mr Zhang Xinsheng (Ex IUCN President and Chairman of the Board, Hainan Institute of National Park) as the Chair of the WCFEG. The meeting received an update on planning for the COP14 of the Ramsar Convention to be hosted in China in November 2022 by Madam Li Yan (Vice Director of Wetlands Section of the National Forestry & Grassland Administration), and where it is proposed that establishment of the WCF would be formally announced.

The Terms of Reference for the group were agreed with the main responsibility for development of the documentation for the launch of the WCF. The work will be undertaken by five voluntary Task Teams, namely for development of the Institutional Framework and resources, International Engagement, Local and Subnational Engagement, Stakeholder Mapping and Science and Evidence Base. The next meetings are scheduled for 17 May and 17 August 2022.



**World Coastal Forum Establishment Group**  
**Participant List for First WCFEG Meeting of 17 February 2022**

Institution	Name	Position	Participation in 1 <sup>st</sup> EG meeting*
1. Ministry of Natural Resources, PRC	Jiang Xiaohong	Vice Dept Head, International Cooperation	Attended
2. National Forestry & Grassland Administration, PRC	Li Yan / He Jinxing	Vice Director, Wetlands Sec / Chief, International Cooperation Sec	Attended
3. Hainan Institute of National Park	Zhang Xinsheng	Chairman of the Board	Attended
4. Environment Cambodia	Chhun Bunlong	Vice Chief office, GIS	Attended
5. CBD Secretariat	Joseph Appiott / Oliver Hillel / Neil Pratt	Programme Management Officer / <i>Programme Officer</i> / Senior Environmental Affairs Officer	
6. CMS Secretariat	Ivan Ramirez / Tilman Carlo Schneider	Head, Avian Species Team / Associate Programme Officer, Avian Species	Attended /
7. Ramsar Secretariat	Jerker Tamelander	Director, Science and Policy	
8. Common Wadden Sea Secretariat	Bernard Baerends / Harald Marencic	Executive Secretary / Deputy Executive Secretary	Represented by Jens Enemark
9. UNESCO WHC	Guy Debonnet / Susanna Kari / Akane Nakamura	Chief / Project Officer / Associate Programme Specialist	
10. East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat	Doug Watkins	Chief Executive	Attended
11. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network	Rob P. Clay	Executive Director	Attended
12. Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation	Ibrahima Gueye	Coordinator	
13. Future Earth Coasts	Prof Tim Smith/ Prof Xiuzhen Li	Co-Chair Future Earth Coasts and University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia / East China Normal University	Represented by Prof Xiuzhen
14. International Union for Conservation of Nature	Tim Badman / Maud Lelievre / Raphael Glemet / Maeve Nightingale	Director / Vice-Chair of the French IUCN Committee / Senior Programme Officer / Senior Programme Officer	Attended /
15. Asian Development Bank	Duncan Lang	Senior Environmental Specialist	Attended

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16. BirdLife International	Vinayagan Dharmarajah / Gary Allport / Geoffroy Citegetse	Asia Director / Senior Adviser to the CEO / East Atlantic Flyway Manager	Attended / Attended / Attended
17. International Crane Foundation	Spike Millington	Vice President of International Programs–Asia	Attended
18. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	Ingrid Coetzee / Shu Zhu	Director of the African Secretariat / Director of East Asia Secretariat and Chief Representative of China	Attended /
19. Mandai Nature of Singapore	Jessica Lee	Assistant Vice President, Head of Bird Programs and Partnerships	
20. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Emily Landis / Lindsey Smart / Chen Jun	Coastal Wetlands Strategy Lead	Represented by Lindsey / Attended / Attended
21. Wetlands International	Ward Hagemeyer	Head Business and Ecosystems	
22. Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Tim McGrath / Tomos Avent	Head of Project Development / Head of International Programmes	Attended /
23. University of Cambridge, United Kingdom	William James Sutherland	Professor	Attended
24. University of Queensland, Australia	Richard Fuller	Professor	
25. University of Adelaide, Australia	Micha Jackson	Research Fellow	Attended
26.	Stanley Johnson		Attended
27.	Jens Enemark		Attended
28.	Arthur Hanson		Attended
29. Taif University, Saudi Arabia	Mohammed Shobrak	Professor	Attended
30. Yancheng Wetland and Natural World Heritage Conservation & Management Center, China	Wu Qijiang	Director	Attended
31. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, United Kingdom	Nicola Crockford	Principal Policy Officer	Attended
32. Eco Foundation Global	Alex Zhang / Taej Mundkur	Secretary General / World Coastal Forum Establishment Group (WCFEG) Interim Coordinator	Attended / Attended