

Dongying Declaration

We, the members of the Wetland City Network, gather in Dongying and jointly commit to taking proactive actions for the development of wetland cities.

Given the increasing world population and the migration to cities, the expansion of urban areas poses a threat to the protection of wetlands. At the same time, urban wetlands have not received sufficient attention and are even regarded as useless areas.

We recognize that urban wetlands provide a variety of ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits to cities. Urban wetlands can regulate the urban climate, alleviate the heat island effect, purify the air, improve water quality, reduce the impact of disasters such as heavy rain on cities, and increase the livability of cities.

We recognize that wetland city certification promotes the protection and wise use of urban and suburban wetlands, bringing sustainable social and economic benefits to the local

people.

We confirm that it is necessary to strengthen the protection and wise use of urban wetlands and promote the sustainable development of wetland cities through the joint efforts of the members of the Wetland City Network. Considering the vision of "Wetland Cities deliver on the wise use of wetlands for the benefit of current and future generations of citizens" put forward in the "Strategic Plan 2022-2028" and the emphasis in the "Wuhan Declaration" on "promoting wetland city certification and building wetland cities that are climate-resilient, biodiversity-friendly and sustainable".

We urgently declare: On the occasion of the 2024 Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors, in order to give full play to the role of wetlands in urban development, we must strengthen the exchanges and cooperation among wetland cities with a strong will and practical actions, jointly promote wetland protection, and promote the sustainable development of cities.

To this end, we will strive to:

1. Take effective measures to strengthen the protection of urban and surrounding wetlands and promote the wise use of wetlands to build wetland cities that are climate-resilient, biodiversity-friendly and sustainable for contemporary and future urban residents.

2. Respect the objective reality, scientifically carry out the investigation, monitoring and evaluation of wetland ecosystems, and be committed to jointly promoting the establishment of a standardized and consistent standard system.

3. Promote the exemplary demonstration role of certified wetland cities in the harmonious coexistence of cities and wetlands, and drive more cities to join the Wetland City Network.

4. Strengthen the exchanges and cooperation among wetland cities, actively participate in two-way knowledge sharing, human and other resource sharing, carry out talent exchange and scientific and technological training activities, and promote cooperation among cities and between cities and international organizations.

5. Encourage wetland cities to introduce relevant laws, regulations and policies, and incorporate wetland protection and restoration into spatial and wetland management plans.

6. Establish an effective financial support mechanism for wetland city construction, and ensure the funds for wetland protection and restoration through government investment, ecological compensation, protection funds, green finance and other measures.

7. Explore sustainable utilization methods of wetland resources, promote the organic integration of wetlands and urban development, and achieve a win-win situation between ecology and economy.

8. Support scientific and technological innovation in wetland protection and management, promote the application of new technologies and methods, and improve the scientific and technological level of wetland protection and management.

9. Strengthen the publicity and education of wetland protection,

raise the public's awareness of the importance of wetlands, and encourage the public to participate in wetland protection and management.

We firmly believe that through joint efforts, we can achieve the sustainable development of wetland cities and create a more beautiful and livable urban environment for future generations.