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Environmental Comparison between Xianghai and Mai Po

NENU x EdUHK Joint-U Ecological Studies in Jilin Province in 2018

Objective:

Based on the comparison, find out which one may provide a better living environment for the animals and plants, and what factors affect the wetland.

1

Introduction

2.1

Mai Po

Wetland of International Importance

Mai Po is located at the North West part of HK which was recognized as **'Wetland of International Importance'** in 1995. The size of Mai Po Nature Reserve is round 380-hectare which was acted as an important role for the Migratory waterbirds.

Gulls and Spoonbills

According to the WWF , there are roughly 50 million migratory waterbirds will stop at there while wintering site along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. **The black-billed gulls and black-faced spoonbills** are the most famous among all waterbirds as they are the world endangered animals.^[1]

Six Habitance

There are **6 wetland habitat** were provided for the wild animals including basement, freshwater ponds, intertidal mudflats, mangroves, reeds and fish ponds. Other than the waterbirds, there are many wild animals and wetland animals, including 400 insects, 90 marine invertebrates, and 62 species of butterflies.

2

Background

2.2

Xianghai

National Nature Reserve

Xianghai is one of the major **national nature reserve** in Jilin. It totally covers 105467 hectares. It has complex terrain, diverse habitat and complex ecological environment. The complex ecological environment is one of the benefit for Xiang Hai to become a nature reserve. It is made up of sand dunes, grasslands, swamps and lakes.

Species

Different animals are able to adapt the environment in Xianghai. For this nature reserve, it mainly includes 595 species of plants which contains more than 220 kinds of medicinal plants.^[2] There are also different animals living in the nature reserve. It includes 300 species of vertebrates which contains 293 species of birds, 37 species of mammals, 8 species of reptiles and 5 species of amphibians.

Important Mission

There is a **important mission** for Xiang Hai. It needs to protect rare animals such as Red-crowned Crane and Haliaeetus pelagicus. Therefore, Xianghai is one of the necessary nature reserve in mainland China.

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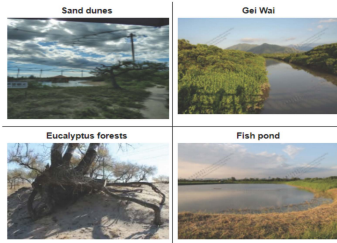
Comparison

Both Xianghai and Mai Po have complex terrain, diverse habitats, multiple biotas and complex ecological environments, but they have different types of habitats..

Mai Po Nature Reserve is a Ramsar Site and Hong Kong's largest wetland. Inside the Reserve are 24 gei wais still in operation, as well as habitats such as fish ponds, reedbeds, mudflats and mangroves.



Jilin Xianghai Nature Reserve is a nature reserve of inland wetland and water ecosystem type with the main purpose of protecting rare waterfowl such as red-crowned cranes and Mongolian sassafras. Sand dunes, grasslands, swamps and lakes are distributed in different directions, criss-crossing and dotted, forming a typical wetland diversity landscape.



Xianghai :

The Xianghai Natural Reserve is very rich. Most of animal and plant resources of the Songliao Plain sub-region in the northeast region and the eastern grassland sub-region of the Mengxin District in China's animal geographical division are distributed here. There are 595 species of plants in the area, including more than 220 kinds of medicinal plants; more than 300 species of vertebrates, including 293 species of birds, 37 species of mammals, 8 species of reptiles, 5 species of amphibians, 29 species of fish, and national key protection.^[3] There are 52 species of wild animals in the 335 species. Among them, there are 10 species of protected birds: Datun, Oriental White Stork, Black Stork, Red-crowned Crane, White Crane, White-headed Crane, Golden Eagle, White Shoulder Sculpture, White-tailed Sea Eagle, and Tiger Head Sea Eagle. There are 42 species of secondary protected birds. Meanwhile, there are 235 terrestrial wild animals that are beneficial to the state or have important economic and scientific research value.

Mai Po

A large number of species is attracted to reside in the area of Mai Po, including around 400 insect species and 300 bird species. In addition, every year Mai Po attracts over 60,000 migratory waterbirds for wintering, including the famous Black-faced Spoonbill. It is also estimated that around 120,000 migratory waterbirds pass through and stop over Mai Po each year, as the site is situated on a flyway. The Reserve has set up several bird watching hides for bird observation.^[4]

3.2

Special Biodiversity



4

Conclusion

To sum up, Xianghai Natural Reserve and Mai Po Nature Reserve have provided the good environment for the living organisms in terms of their climates, special biodiversity and diverse habitats. It seems that Mai Po contains less complex ecological environment. However, as the area of Mai Po is much less than Xianghai. It does not reflect Mai Po cannot provide good environment. At the same time, both nature reserve have done the great job for the animals. We think Hong Kong still lacks of nature reserve, it is not enough to protect all the animals. We suggest Hong Kong can develop the natural environment to become others nature reserve.

^[1]吉林向海国家级自然保护区简介(n.d.). Retrieved September 20, 2018, from <http://www.xianghai.org/xianghaijianjie.html>

^[2]向海湿地重现盎然生机. (n.d.). Retrieved September 20, 2018, from http://www.gov.cn/jrzq/2011-09/05/content_1940439.htm

^[3]吉林向海湿地明年將消失 國家珍稀鳥類大鍋絕跡. 新浪. 2005-04-11 [2011-09-28]吉林省地方志編纂委員會

^[4]Climate of Hong Kong. (n.d.). Retrieved September 20, 2018, from https://www.weather.gov.hk/cis/climahk_e.htm