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

Natural environment is one of the most crucial parts in our world. It helps maintain the balance in the ecosystem. It also facilitates the biodiversity. During our trip, we visited Xianghai in Jilin. It is a nature reserve for mainly protecting Red-crowned Crane and Steller’s Sea Eagle which are the rare animals and plants respectively. After our visit, we think that it is similar to one of the nature reserves in Hong Kong, Mai Po. It also provides different condition such as wetland for protecting different types of animals. Therefore, we want to compare the environment for the animals between Xianghai and Mai Po. We will compare according to their habitats and the biodiversity.

Introduction

Xianghai is one of the most national natural reserves in China. It is located in the North West part of Heilongjiang province. It covers 1054574 hectares. It has complex terrain, diverse habitats and a complex ecological environment. The entire ecological environment is one of the benefactors for Xianghai to become a nature reserve. It is made up of sand dunes, grasslands, swamp lakes.

Different animals are able to adapt the environment. In the Xianghai nature reserve, it mainly includes 595 species of plants; 230 species of birds; more than 250 kinds of medical plants; 2; It is also the area where many animals live 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.

Background

In the WWF, there are roughly 50 million migratory waterbirds that stop at Xianghai. They mostly fly in spring and fall along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The Black-tailed godwit and Black-faced spoonbill are most famous among all waterbirds as they are the world endangered animals 1; 7.

There are 6 wetland habitats provided for the wild animals including basement, freshwater ponds, intertidal mudflats, mangroves, reeds and fish ponds. Other than the waterbirds, there are 500 species of crustaceans and 80 species of wetland animals, including 400 insects, 90 marine molluscs, and 65 species of reptiles.

Mal Po is located at the North West part of HK which was recognized as Wetland of International Importance in 1996. The size of Mal Po Nature Reserve is about 380 hectares. Mal Po Nature Reserve once acted as an important role by preventing the migratory waterbirds.

Mal Po is a long chain of wetland, which is located in the coastal wetland area. that is the mangrove and reed bed wetland. In most of the time, Mal Po is wetland.

Species

According to the WWF, there are roughly 50 million migratory waterbirds that stop at Mal Po. They mostly fly in spring and fall along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The Grey-headed lapwing and Black-headed stork are most famous among all water birds as they are the world endangered animal. 1; 7.

Mal Po is a special wetland, which is the key site of Hong Kong’s largest wetland. Inside Mal Po, we can see 43 wetland habitats, in operation, as well as habitats such as fish ponds, reedbeds, mudflats and mangroves.

Comparison

Both Xianghai and Mai Po have complex terrain, diverse habitats, multiple biota 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 Mai Po, we can see 43 wetland habitats, in operation, as well as habitats such as fish ponds, reedbeds, mudflats and mangroves.

Habitats

Xianghai is a natural reserve of inland water and grassland ecosystem type with limited human interference. It protects rare wetland animal such as red-crowned cranes and white-naped crane. It is located in the coastal plain and lakes are distributed in different directions, cross-crazing and dotted, forming a typical wetland diversity landscape.

Mai Po Nature Reserve is a Ramsar Site and Hong Kong’s largest wetland. Inside Mai Po, there are 43 wetland habitats, in operation, as well as habitats such as fish ponds, reedbeds, mudflats and mangroves.

Conclusion

To sum up, Xianghai Natural Reserve and Mai Po Nature Reserve have provided the good environment for the living organisms in terms of numbers of species, special biodiversity and diverse habitats. It seems that Mai Po contains less complex ecological environment. However, as the area of Mai Po is much larger 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.


References


