

# PROTECTING SOUTH DONGTING LAKE

Supporting People and Nature

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



RESTORING NATURE



CREATING CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



BUILDING TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND RAISING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGH ECO-TOURISM CENTRES

## A TREASURE IN PERIL

South Dongting Lake is part of Dongting Lake (the second largest freshwater lake in the People's Republic of China) and is located in the Yangtze River floodplain. This fertile land holds immense economic, environmental, agricultural, and cultural significance. It is a haven for migratory and threatened species, recognized internationally as a vital wetland under the Ramsar Convention.

**This biodiversity-rich ecosystem, which has provided food, jobs, and clean water for millennia, now faces multiple crises.** The lake's ability to sustain life is threatened by:

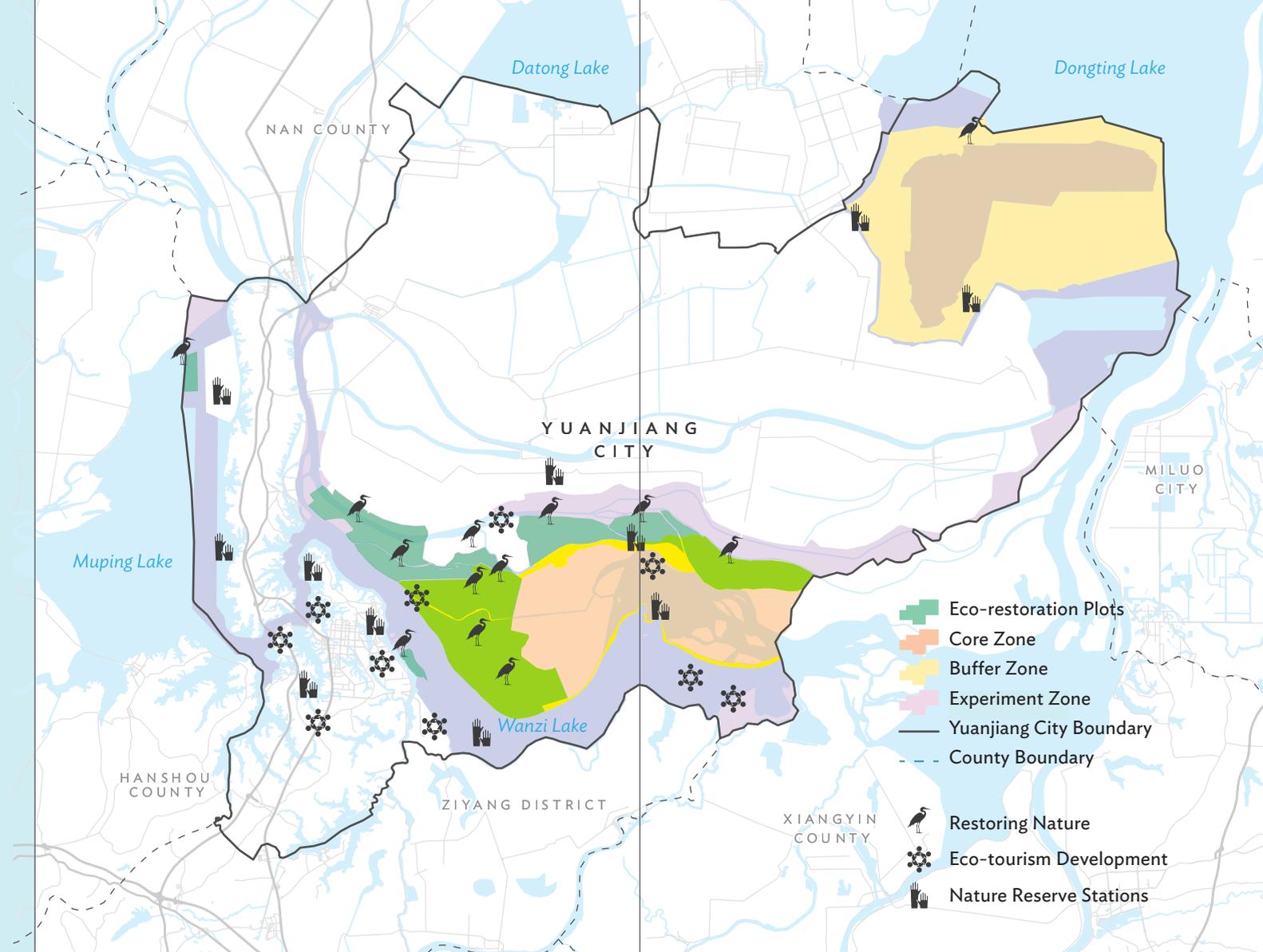
- The collapse of nature: Species are disappearing at an alarming rate.
- Reclamation of land: The lake is shrinking as natural habitats are converted for development.
- Climate change: Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns disrupt the delicate ecosystem.
- Invasive species: Poplar beds and other non-native species outcompete local flora and fauna.
- Unsustainable fishing: Overfishing and harmful methods depleted fish stocks and threatened livelihoods.
- Pollution: Agricultural, industrial, and human waste contaminate the water.

Protecting this invaluable treasure is not just an environmental imperative, but also a matter of safeguarding human well-being and preserving a vital part of our shared heritage.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE?

- Enhancing institutional capacity for integrated wetland management in South Dongting Lake
- Restoring 11,989 hectare of degraded wetlands to create habitat
- Enhancing climate resilience and improving sustainable livelihoods
- Improving knowledge and capacity of local and regional stakeholders as part of the Regional Flyway Initiative
- Clearing of poplar and reed beds
- Creating new habitat within the nature reserve to increase water storage and provide habitat for water birds
- Providing eco-compensation incentive funds to support ecological farming and aquaculture
- Promoting Yuanjiang City as an International Wetland City and sustainable eco-tourism destination
- Providing training, education and support to for reserve managers, volunteers and eco-tourism service providers

## MORE RESOURCES



The project is a partnership between national, provincial and municipal bodies with funding from the Asian Development Bank and the Agence Française de Développement as part of the **Regional Flyway Initiative**.

The **Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI)** is a large-scale program that aims to mobilize \$3 billion investment and improve management of 50 wetlands (>2 million ha) along the East Asian-Australasian global route. It will demonstrate that habitat restoration, sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, pollution control, water management, and ecotourism can be financially viable and provide multiple benefits for people, nature, and the climate.