

Success in China

Important protection goal achieved for the extremely endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper

The most important resting area of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, the coastal wetland Tiaozini in the Jiangsu province north of Shanghai, has now been included by the Chinese government in its proposal list for the Yellow Sea World Heritage Site and is thus protected accordingly.

This is a great success for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (SBS) Task Force, which was established and coordinated by the Manfred-Hermsen-Stiftung in 2004 as the 'SBS Recovery Team'. For many years she has worked with many other national and international conservation organizations and institutions to protect the endangered sandpiper and this wetland, including a campaign office in Shanghai.



Our partner Jing Li (kneeing) with trainees in the protection area Tiaozini

These joint activities have probably contributed to a rethinking of coastal management in China. Many years of the worst fears that this central resting area will be completely sacrificed in favor of further industrial use have now given way to the hope of preserving and recreating important coastal wetlands.

In addition to this area protection of approx. 40,000 hectares, a total of 14 coastal wetlands in the Yellow Sea have been proposed as world natural heritage sites. They provide habitats for many hundreds of thousands of migratory waterfowl and provide a livelihood for hundreds of local shellfish fishermen. The Chinese government now wants to go even further and restore some of the already embanked areas! In addition, it has made millions available to Beijing University for the protection of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and three other globally endangered species.



In just a few years, China has moved from being one of the largest habitat destroyers of coastal wetlands in Asia to the forefront of those that protect the important coastal wetlands and footstones for many bird species on the East Asian migratory route.



Yangcheng Workshop in December of 2017, where important decisions have been made.