

2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Research Project

(Phase III) Application Guide

To promote the conservation, sustainable development, and international cooperation and exchange of the Yellow Sea Wetland Natural World Heritage site, and to harness the intellectual strengths of research institutions, universities, enterprises, public institutions, and social organizations worldwide, thereby enhancing the international influence of the Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland, we hereby issue the Application Guide for the 2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Research Project (Phase III).

I. Project Types

The 2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Research Project comprises two types: Open Competition Projects and Research Projects.

(I) Open Competition Projects.

These focus on addressing urgent issues in the conservation and management of the Yellow Sea Wetland through scientific research, while encouraging long-term research and conservation practice at the Yancheng heritage site to produce internationally influential academic outcomes. Project subtypes include International Cooperation Projects and Achievement Award Projects.

(II) Research Projects.

These provide theoretical support and data accumulation for long-term management decision-making and scientific conservation of the Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland. Applicants may propose their own topics within four research directions and content areas, including Regular Projects, General Projects, and Key Projects.

II. Key Support Areas

(I) Open Competition Projects

1. International Cooperation Category

Project 1: Assessment of Key Hub Functions for Migratory Waterbirds in Yancheng, Yellow Sea – Bohai Sea, and Construction of a Cross-Regional Collaborative Conservation Network

Main Research Contents:

(1) Key role assessment: Based on historical and real-time monitoring data, analyze long-term dynamic trends of rare and endangered waterbird populations in the Yancheng heritage site, systematically evaluate the support functions of the Yancheng Yellow Sea – Bohai Sea World Heritage site as critical stopover, wintering, and breeding grounds for IUCN threatened waterbirds, and clarify its global conservation value.

(2) Diagnosis of ecological pressures along migration routes: Integrate remote sensing, ringing, and satellite tracking data, along with field surveys, to identify major ecological pressures faced by birds during migration in Yancheng and other key areas (including the Yellow Sea – Bohai Sea serial heritage sites in China and relevant transnational nodes), and summarize key reasons for population declines of internationally concerned threatened species such as the spoon-billed sandpiper.

(3) Construction of a cross-regional collaborative conservation network: Propose targeted cross-regional collaborative protection mechanisms and management recommendations, form a precise and adaptive management plan for the heritage site, and establish a cross-regional coordination and protection network.

Expected Outcomes:

Data products: Submit the Long-term Dynamic Monitoring Dataset of Waterbird Populations in the Yancheng Heritage Site and the Long-term Dynamic Monitoring Dataset of Waterbird Populations in the China Yellow Sea – Bohai Sea Migratory Bird Habitat Natural World Heritage Site.

Assessment report: Submit the Assessment Report on the Global Conservation Value of the Yancheng Heritage Site, including high-precision ecological function zoning maps.

Diagnostic report: Submit the Diagnostic Analysis Report on Key Ecological Pressures along the Migration Route, identifying key pressure factors in different regions.

Management plan: Develop a cross-regional collaborative protection proposal and promote the establishment of a protection network; produce the Cross-Regional Adaptive Management Manual for Heritage Sites and the Technical Specifications for Bird Monitoring in the China Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Habitat Serial Natural World Heritage Sites.

Project 2: Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland Natural World Heritage: Pathway Design and Practical Research for Building a Globally Exemplary Nature Education (Study) Base

Main Research Contents:

(1) Digital sorting and value transformation of nature education resources: Establish a visual resource library for nature education, converting professional data into science popularization content.

(2) Design and development of a tiered curriculum system, immersive study experience scenarios, and teaching aids: Design a tiered study curriculum system, interactive study scenarios, and a supporting “Wetland Study Toolkit” .

(3) Development of study industry operation models and demonstration of outcome transformation: Study the “government guidance + research support + market operation” heritage site study industry operation model. Collaborate with local travel agencies, study institutions, and communities to conduct field operation tests. Evaluate the driving effect of study activities on local communities, forming a replicable and scalable model for outcome transformation.

Expected Outcomes:

Resource library: Establish a visual nature education resource library containing at least 50 materials.

Curriculum and teaching aids: Develop at least three sets of tiered curriculum systems for different groups (students of different school ages, parent-child families, and professional visitors) and supporting study toolkits (physical products).

Demonstration study routes: Create 2 - 3 high-quality demonstration study routes and conduct field operation tests.

Evaluation report: Assess the driving effect of study activities on local communities and explore effective pathways to transform ecological value into economic benefits.

2. Achievement Award Category

Focus on ongoing research on waterbird conservation and sustainable development in the Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland, enhancing the international influence of Yancheng's heritage conservation. Research outcomes recognized as having significant national or international impact will receive financial awards to support further research. Awardable outcome forms include: academic papers, standards, and think tank reports. To ensure that research outcomes effectively serve the conservation and management practices of the Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland heritage site, all outcomes submitted for awards must be closely aligned with the protection of the site's Outstanding Universal Value and sustainable development needs, with emphasis on migratory bird habitat restoration, heritage site monitoring and ecological security maintenance, and community co-development.

(II) Research Projects

1. Migratory Bird Conservation Category

Focus on migratory bird flyways and coastal ecological protection, carry out population dynamics monitoring of rare and endangered birds, precise identification of migration routes, habitat assessment, and conservation strategies. Strengthen the support and protection capacity of the Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland as a key node in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. Conduct research on key role assessment of Yancheng as an important migratory bird stopover site, scientific site selection of high-tide roosting habitats in Yancheng's coastal wetlands, etc., to enhance Yancheng's international influence in migratory bird and wetland conservation.

2. Climate Change Response Category

Focus on the impact mechanisms of climate change on coastline changes, erosion dynamics, and ecosystem structure and function of the Yancheng

Yellow Sea Wetland. Conduct research on coastal wetland carbon accounting and carbon sequestration enhancement technologies, adaptive management of migratory bird habitats, and synergies between climate governance and adaptation. Enhance scientific response of Yancheng and comprehensive governance capacity in climate change, supporting regional ecological security and climate resilience.

3. Sustainable Development Category

Based on the construction of Yancheng as an international coastal wetland city, focus on the realization mechanisms of ecological product value and the development of blue industries in Yancheng's natural heritage site. This includes ecological product value accounting, mechanisms for realizing ecological product value, exploration of green finance and ecological banking models, bird-friendly models in productive coastal zones, and citizen science. Conduct policy design, mechanism innovation, and industrial practice research to promote coordinated high-quality development of natural heritage protection and the marine economy in Yancheng.

4. Outcome Synthesis Category

In conjunction with the World Coastal Forum, systematically summarize the conservation practice mechanisms of the Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland to produce replicable knowledge, financial products, and technical standards. Priority support for the compilation and publication of high-quality monographs and standard development, including the compilation and publication of the Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland Natural Heritage Site Scientific Series, the publication of a bird guide for the Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland, and technical guidelines for bird-friendly ecological farming and management in Yancheng's productive coastal zones.

III. Funding Standards

(I) Open Competition Projects

Funding for a single International Cooperation Project ranges from RMB 500,000 to 1,000,000. Achievement Award Projects are assessed by experts

based on the form, level, impact, etc., and the award amount is determined accordingly. Specific award standards for Achievement Award Projects are as follows:

1. Paper Publication

SCI/SSCI journal divisions are based on the JCR (Journal Citation Reports) journal division for the year of publication. Papers must be formally published or accepted.

Journal Category	Specific level/journal	Grant amount (in RMB 10,000)
Nature, Science, PNAS	Nature, Science regular issue	30
	Influential Nature and Science sub-journals and PNAS journals	15
SCI/SSCI journals	JCR Zone 1 Journal	8
	JCR Zone 2 Journals	4
Chinese Journals	Chinese Core	2

2. Standard Setting

- Industry standards and provincial-level local standards: RMB 100,000.
 - Municipal-level standards: RMB 50,000.
- Standards must be officially published or approved.

3. Think Tank Reports

- Reports receiving affirmative instructions from leaders at the provincial level or above in Jiangsu Province: RMB 50,000.
- Reports receiving affirmative instructions from Yancheng municipal leaders: RMB 20,000.

(II) Research Projects

Applicants may propose their own topics within the four research directions. Project types include Regular Projects (\leq RMB 100,000), General Projects (RMB 100,000–200,000), and Key Projects (\geq RMB 200,000–300,000).

IV. Application Methods and Requirements

1. Application Method

Applications are solicited globally through online announcements and targeted invitations. After expert review and on-site defense, consultation will be held to determine the implementing units and project leaders, and project agreements will be signed.

2. Application Requirements

The project research period can be one year or two years.

(1) Open Competition Projects

- International Cooperation Projects: The project leader should be the proposer of the main research ideas and the actual lead researcher. Generally, a doctoral degree and senior professional title are required. No age limit and no restriction on the number of projects, but the leader must have capacity and energy matching the project requirements.
- Achievement Award Projects: Applications must be submitted after the achievement is obtained (application windows: September 1–30, 2027, and September 1–30, 2028). Regarding output and intellectual property attribution, the following requirements must be met:
 - For paper outcomes and reports receiving affirmative leadership instructions: the Yancheng Heritage Conservation Management Center must be listed as a co-contributing unit.
 - For standard-setting outcomes: the Yancheng Heritage Conservation Management Center must be listed as the first or second primary completing unit.

(2) Research Projects

Applicants select topics based on the research directions and content. Each project leader may lead only one project; each participant may be involved in up to two projects. For General Projects, the project leader should have a senior professional title or a doctoral degree. For General and Key Projects, the project leader must hold a doctoral degree and a senior professional title.

V. Submission Deadlines

For the International Cooperation category under the Open Competition Projects and for the Research Projects, please submit the *2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Research Project Application Form* (Attachment 1) and the *2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Research Project Application Summary Table* (Attachment 2) to the email address: **ychhsdkt@126.com** by **June 19, 2026**. The email subject line should be formatted as: "*Yellow Sea Wetlands Phase III Project – Project Type and Direction – Project Title – Institution – Name*".

For the Achievement Award category under the Open Competition Projects, applications may be submitted only after the achievement has been obtained, and the achievement must have been completed **after January 1, 2026**. The application window is from **September 1 to September 30, 2027** and from **September 1 to September 30, 2028**. Please send the *2026 Yellow Sea Wetlands Research Project Achievement Award Application Form* (Attachment 3) to the email address: **ychhsdkt@126.com**. The email subject line should be formatted as: "*Yellow Sea Wetlands Phase III Project – Achievement Award Application Form – Institution – Name*".

All project application forms must be completed and submitted in **Chinese**. For projects involving two or more institutions, a cooperation agreement may be signed with reference to the *2026 Yellow Sea Wetlands Joint Research Agreement Template* (Attachment 4).

We sincerely welcome institutions, experts, and scholars to actively submit applications, and together contribute their wisdom to the conservation of the Yellow Sea Wetlands and global ecological governance.

Annexes:

1. 2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Research Project Application Form
2. 2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Research Project Application Summary Table
3. 2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Achievement Award Project Application Form
4. 2026 Yellow Sea Wetland Joint Research Agreement Template

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Yancheng Wetland and Natural World Heritage Conservation Management Center

April 16, 2026

Annex 1

Yellow Sea Wetland Project 2026 Application

Project Name: _____

Project Type: _____

Funding direction: _____

Applying entity : _____

Collaborating units: _____

Project Leader: _____

Contact number: _____

Correspondence Address: _____

Declaration date: _____

Yancheng Wetland and Natural World Heritage

Conservation Management Center

Preparation Instructions

1. This application form is exclusively applicable to the special project application for the Yellow Sea Wetlands Research Project.
2. Project types are divided into: Open Competition Projects and Research Projects.
3. Funding directions are divided into: Migratory Bird Flyway Protection, Climate Change Response, Sustainable Development, and Results Synthesis.
4. Application requirements: The applicant institution must engage in substantive collaboration with partner units, sign a cooperation agreement, and clearly stipulate the division of tasks and funds, funding capacity guarantees, and accountability responsibilities.
5. The application form shall be jointly prepared by the applicant unit and its partner units, and shall bear the official seals of all participating units.
6. The applicant institution shall provide truthful and accurate application materials and comply with relevant national laws and regulations. Any verified fraudulent application will result in disqualification.
7. Formatting requirements: The text shall be written in Chinese, on A4 paper, using SONG typeface, font size 14 pt. Paper copies shall be printed double-sided and bound in book form with glue. The electronic version shall be fully consistent with the paper copy, in Microsoft Word format, and submitted together with the paper documents.

Research Integrity Commitment Letter

During the application, implementation, and acceptance review of the Yellow Sea Wetlands Research Project, I hereby strictly abide by the relevant regulations and requirements, including but not limited to the *Measures for the Administration of Special Funds for the Yellow Sea Wetlands Research Project*, and make the following commitments:

1. I will truthfully complete the project application materials, inspection and acceptance documents, scientific data, etc., and bear direct responsibility for the authenticity, completeness, validity, and legality of the said materials.
2. I will adhere to research integrity, and commit no acts of plagiarism or misappropriation of others' research findings, fabrication or falsification of research data, infringement of others' intellectual property rights, provision of false information in resumes of professional titles or research foundations, violation of research ethics, or any other research misconduct; I will not seek project approval through illegitimate means such as bribery, disguised bribery, or deliberate duplicate applications; I will ensure that all members of the project team comply with research integrity and fulfill their respective commitments, and guarantee that their identities and track records are truthful and valid.
3. Upon project approval, I will organize, coordinate, and advance the project implementation strictly in accordance with the project contract, complete the project's mandated deliverables on schedule; I will use project funds in compliance with laws and regulations, and ensure that no acts of embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion, or other misuse of project funds occur.
4. In the event of major changes during project implementation that significantly affect the project, such as changes in the implementation site, project duration, project leader, or partner institutions, I will promptly report to the project undertaking unit for review, and the project undertaking unit shall fulfill the approval procedures.
5. I will strengthen research integrity management among project team members during project implementation; if any research misconduct is discovered, I will promptly report it and actively cooperate with the relevant authorities in investigation and handling.

Should any of the above dishonest acts occur, I will cooperate fully and accept sanctions as stipulated by the relevant regulations, including but not limited to warnings, criticisms, disqualification from project applications, revocation of project approval, temporary or permanent disqualification from applying for any Yellow Sea Wetlands Research Project, and recording such acts as adverse research integrity records. In case of serious circumstances, I will be subject to further actions in accordance with relevant regulations.

Project Leader (Signature): _____

Year _____ Month _____ Day

Project Information Sheet

Project Name						
Project Type	(Open Competition Project/Research Project)		Funding Directions	(Migratory Bird Conservation/Climate Change Response/Sustainability/Outcome Refinement)		
Declaration Institutions	Institution Name			Location		Declaration Units
	Correspondence Address			Legal Representative		
Collaboration Institutions	Serial Number	Unit Name				
Project Leader	Name		Gender		Date of birth	
	Degree		Title/Position		Id card	
	Country or region		Telephone		Email	
	Main research areas					
	Ongoing projects (approval number, project name, start and end dates, funding agency and personal role)					
Representative scientific papers related to the application in the last five years (up to 5)						
International project leader (if	Name		Gender		Date of birth	
	Degree		Title/Position		Passport	

any)	Country or region		Telephone		Email	
	Main research areas					
	Ongoing projects (approval number, project name, start and end dates, funding agency and personal role)					
	Representative scientific papers related to the application in the last five years (up to 5)					
Start and end dates of the project	Year -month — year -month					
Project Summanry (300 words or less)						
Project Keywords (Up to 5)						
Projected outcomes and assessment metrics						

Budget estimates	Project application funds amount to ten thousand yuan	Project matching funds amount to ten thousand yuan
Applicant Institution	<p>This entity solemnly undertakes: to be responsible for the authenticity of the information filled in and the relevant materials, and to bear the corresponding legal responsibilities in accordance with the law; In addition to financial subsidies, our organization is capable of raising other funds to complete the research project.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Seal of the unit Year,Month,Day</p>	

Project Application Text

I. Basis and Necessity of Project Initiation

2. Project Research content and plan

(1) Main research content and objectives (including key problems to be solved, etc.)

(2) Research plan and technical route

(3) Sustainability and innovation of the project

(4) Project Research plan

(V) Expected Outcomes and Assessment Indicators **iii.**

Project Research Foundation

(1) Basic information of the applying entity

(2) Basic information of the collaborating units

(3) Information on project leaders and participants Profile of

the Project Leader

Key participants in the project team:

Serial Number	Name	Age	Education	Single position	Position, Title	Specific duties intended for

(4) The existing work foundation of the project

4. Project Organization and Management

(1)Project Task Division

If there are collaborating units, please clearly define the organizational cooperation mode and task division between the applying unit and the collaborating units during the project implementation. Project units should have a clear division of labor, a reasonable structure, and complementary strengths among themselves.

(2)Project implementation organization and management measures

V. Feasibility analysis of Project implementation

Vi. Budget estimates

(1) Budget table for each participating Institution

Unit Name: Unit: Ten thousand yuan

Serial number	Name of Budget account	Total	Purpose and specification quantity description
(1)	Direct costs		
1	Charges for small instruments and equipment		
2	Cost of materials		
3	Testing, laboratory processing fees		
4	Fuel and power cost		
5	Travel expenses		
6	Conference fees		
7	International cooperation and exchange fee		
8	Publication/Documentation/information dissemination/intellectual property fees		

9	Labor costs		
10	Expert consultation fee		
11	Others		
(2)	Indirect costs		
1	Management costs related to existing equipment and housing provided for the project research, water, electricity, gas and heating consumption		
2	Performance-based expenses		
Total			

(II) General Budget Sheet (with reference to the sub- budget sheet)

Vii. Economic, Social and ecological benefits

Viii. Risk Analysis and Safeguards

Evaluation situations of technical risks, market risks, financial risks, policy risks, etc., as well as risk control ideas and safeguard measures, etc.

Annex 2

**Summary Table of Applications for the 2026 Yellow Sea
Wetland Project**

Serial Numbers	Project Name	Project Type	Funding Directions	Applicant Units	Collaborating units	Project Project Leader	Contact Information	Application for grant (ten thousand)	Matching funds (ten Thousand)	Notes

Annex 3

**2026 Yellow Sea Wetlands Research Project
Achievement Award Application Form**

Title of Achievement						
Form and level of the outcome		Reward application				
Accepting Institution of the Results	(Journal Name)	Time of the Results	(Journal Name)			
Declaration Institutions	Institution Name			Location		
	Correspondence Address			Legal Representative		
Cooperation Institutions	Serial Number	Unit Name				
	1					
	...					
Project Leader	Name		Gender		Project Leader Name	
	Degree		Title/Position		ID card	
	Country or region		Telephone		Email	
	Main research areas					
	Ongoing projects (approval number, project name, start and end dates, funding agency and personal role)					
	Representative scientific papers related to the application in the last five years (up to 5)					
Project members	Name	Unit	Title/Position	Signature		

1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
Summary of Results (300 words or less)				
Results Keywords (Upto 5)				
Briefly describe the contribution and impact of the achievements on the conservation and management of heritage in				

<p>Yancheng (300 words)</p>	
<p>Subsequent Research Content and Plan (300 words)</p>	
<p>Attachments</p>	<p>Copies of the Project Leader's ID card, academic degree certificates, and professional title information Copy of the entity's business license / legal person certificate, and copy of the legal representative's ID card Electronic version of the research achievement Proof of journal publication, standard issuance status and its grade/level, etc. Contribution and impact of the achievement on Yancheng heritage protection and management (within 2000 words) Evidence of influence of the achievement on Yancheng heritage protection and management Subsequent research content and plan (within 2000 words)</p>
<p>Applicant Institution</p>	<p>I/We hereby solemnly declare that the information and materials provided are truthful and accurate, and shall bear the corresponding legal liability in accordance with the law.</p> <p>Bank Account Name: Project Leader (Signature): Bank Account Number: Legal Representative (Signature):</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Entity Seal Year ____ Month ____ Day</p>

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Annex 4

Project joint research agreement template

Basic parts (but not limited to these parts):

1. Title of the Joint Research Project
2. Principal Investigators and Main Participants from Both Sides

List principal investigators and participants of each side

3. Research Plan, Division of Labor and Timetable

Briefly describe the scientific objectives, methodologies and approaches of the research. State clearly which part is “Partner A” ’ s work and which part is “Partner B” ’ s. Include time frames in this part if necessary.

4. Sources of Funding and Its Use

Describe sources of funding for the collaborative research and the mechanism to use it. Provide certificates or written commitment of the foreign collaborator if necessary.

5. Ownership, Use and Transfer of the Intellectual Property

Clearly state who shall own the intellectual property and how to use or share it.

6. Duration, Amendment and Withdrawal

Clearly state the specific dates that the collaborative research starts and ends and the process to deal with changes concerning principal investigators and main participants before the research terminates.

7. Legal Validity

Effective date, period and termination.

8. Signature by Principal Investigators of Participating Parties, Date and Place

The Agreement shall be printed on paper that contains the name of the either collaborator’s institution and contact information (address, telephone, fax and email).