



A brief intro to World Estuary Alliance

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Arjan Berkhuisen, ABerkhuisen@wwf.nl
Xinghua River Fu, xhfu@wwfchina.org
John H. Matthews, John.Matthews@wwfus.org



Estuaries are critical centers of ecosystem and human activity globally



Most estuaries face profound challenges to become healthy, sustainable, and resilient regions



Water source decrease



Dams



Urban development



Climate change impacts



Pollution and a lot more



Navigation



For humans, climate change is mostly about water management



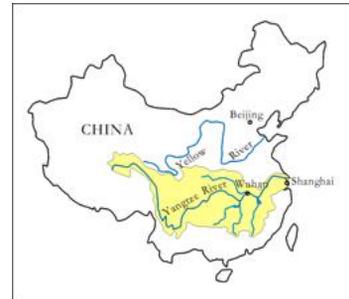
- We are a water species
- Humans can adjust to air temperatures from Greenland to the Sahara desert, but we must always depend on water
- Water structures many of our critical activities, such as agriculture, industry, and urban and household uses
- Water is the medium through which humans experience most climate change impacts on a regular basis: droughts, floods, agriculture, industrial use
- The problems are complicated in estuaries, requiring greater flexibility



China's Yangtze river basin



- 3rd longest river worldwide (~4,500 miles)
 - Home to >400 million (~1/3 of China, 25 million in Shanghai alone)
 - 40% of China's GDP here
 - Stretches from Tibet to the Pacific
 - Home to two freshwater dolphins & over 170 fish species
- This region has been industrializing rapidly for decades
- Development trajectory, human health and quality of life, and the future of thousands of wild species are on a collision course with each other and climate change
- Shanghai faces threats to water supply, sea-level rise, and development pressures



The Danube river basin



- The Danube river is not large compared to the Yangtze in volume but spans 19 countries in central and eastern Europe
- Several of these countries have fought savage wars in the past 20 years
- Runs east from Germany to the Black sea
- The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River serves as a forum for discussing transboundary water issues
- Climate adaptation is a key issue for navigation, sturgeon migration, flood control, and drought protection
- The estuary is rapidly losing productivity and under strong development threats
- The ICPDR in recent months has begun to consider how to assemble a basin-wide climate vulnerability assessment as a preliminary step to creating an international adaptation plan



The WEA works to promote policy, practical action, and science working together



How do we move forward? By sharing visions and lessons



The integrating approach of climate adaptation: natural solutions

The long-term green economic vision of climate mitigation: low-carbon city



World Estuary Alliance



Connect scientists



WEA



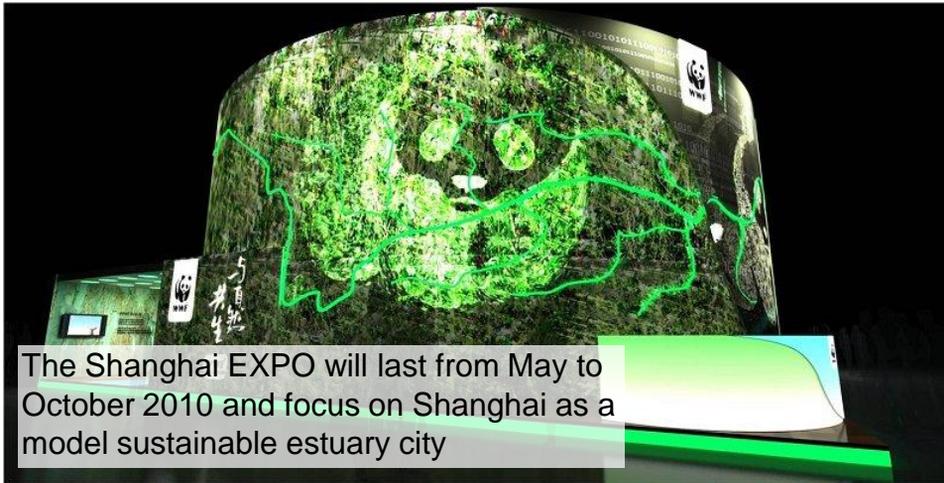
Promote best practices



Engage decision makers



WEA launch during 2010 Shanghai EXPO



WEA launch during 2010 Shanghai EXPO



WEA Launch ceremony	June 5
WEA report release	June 8-9
WEA symposium	June 8-9
Side events	June, July



WEA partners are working together for safe, vital, and sustainable deltas during a period of rapid climate change



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