

## How can management influence industry and urbanism?

### Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone of Jiangxi Province, China

#### Basic Information

##### Background Information

Jiangxi Province is characterized by the Poyang Lake, the largest freshwater lake in China. Situated in the North of the province, the lake drains directly into the middle and lower reaches of Yangtze River, thereby acting as a natural flood-buffer for the entire lower Yangtze hydrological system.

Having experienced devastating degradation of its natural environment until the 1980's the Provincial Government has recognized the threats and decided to take actions to protect and to rehabilitate the natural environment of the province. In 1985 the Provincial Government set up the Mountain-River-Lake Development Program in order to tackle the problems by initiating a sustainable development program for the entire province. The Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone is a further development of the Mountain-River-Lake Development Program considering new challenges.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 the State Council approved the Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone Plan as part of its National Strategy. This plan basically includes all three aspects of a sustainable development: environmental protection, social aspects and economic growth. Additionally, the State Council's acknowledgement indicates clearly the plan's importance beyond the province's border.

The Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone is located in the North of the province covering a total area of 51 200 sq km (app. 30 % of the province). The area covers three large cities and 38 counties with a population of more than 20 million inhabitant (app. half of the province's population).

##### Three Areas - One Platform

The entire Eco-economic Zone will consist of three sub-zones.

The **core protection zone** (5180 sq km) includes the lake's water body up to its maximum size and the directly connected wetland. Environmental protection will be highly prioritized here; consequently economical activities have to follow very strict regulations.

The **lakeshore zone** surrounds the core protection zone by a radius of 3 km covering an area of 3750 sq km. Strong regulations are to be observed will guide and limit all economic development in this sub-zone.

The **development zone** covers the largest part of the Poyang Lake Eco-economic Zone with an area of 42.200 sq km. Economic development and growth is a priority in this area; however the guidelines of an environmental friendly development will be compulsory in this zone, too.



Basically the concept is addressed to improve Jiangxi's economic development by paying high attention to ecological requirements and environmental protection at the same time. In order to achieve this goal, the plan's implementation splits up into short term (2009 – 2015) and long term objectives (2016 – 2020).

**Promotion Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development (MRLSD)**

is a non-profit and non-government organization founded in 1999. MRLSD's purpose is to promote sustainable development of Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake, and its watershed, with a focus on the solution of the issues of environmental degradation and poverty alleviation.

MRLSD's membership is composed of relevant government departments, research institutes, academic associations, and experts. Currently MRLSD has 24 organizations as its members as well as 90 individuals holding a membership.

Since 2002 MRLSD is the national partner of the global *Living Lakes* Network (<http://www.livinglakes.org/>). The set up of the national China Living Lakes Network is one of our current major activities.

**China Living Lakes Network (CLLN)** is the national branch of *Living Lakes* – a global network of environmental organizations striving for the protection of lakes worldwide. The China Living Lakes Network has been initiated by five member organizations, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), **MRLSD**, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, CAS (NIGLAS), WWF China, and Yunnan Development Institute (YEDI). On the grounds of the global *Living Lakes*' vision and principles, CLLN will focus on the protection and sustainable development of China's lakes according to local prevailing requirements. **MRLSD serves as the secretariat and coordinator of CLLN.**

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