

China promotes 8 wetlands to Ramsar sites

Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on 26 December 2014 at 22:15:09 UTC

Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on 26 April 2016 at 22:00:55 UTC

Sentinel-3 OLCI FR acquired on 06 November 2016 from 04:09:17 to 04:12:17 UTC

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Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 17 September 2018 at 02:55:41 UTC

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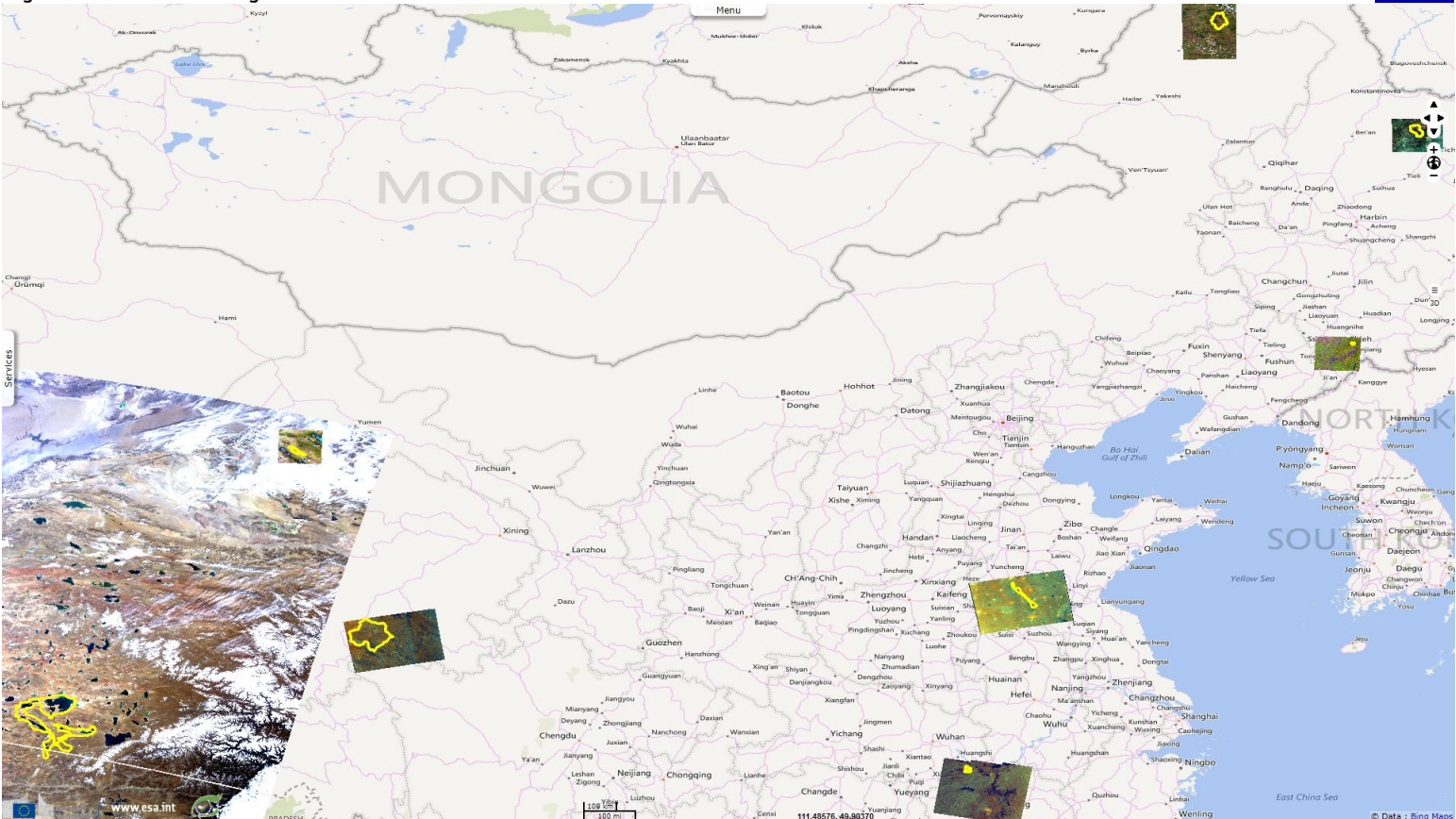
Keyword(s): Wetland, river, lake, marsh, bog, peatland, plateau, Ramsar, UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, biodiversity, China



[3D Layerstack](#)

Fig. 1 - Location of the eight new Ramsar sites in China.

[2D view](#)



Ramsar website has [announced](#): "China has named eight new Wetlands of International Importance. These "Ramsar Sites" cover over 2.8 million hectares, and so China now has 57 Sites extending over more than 6.9 million ha." The size [totaling almost the size of Belgium] and variety of these sites marks a encouraging step in such a challenging period for fauna and flora.

Fig. 2 - s2 (14.06.2018) - 4,3,2 natural colour - Shandong Jining Nansi Lake.

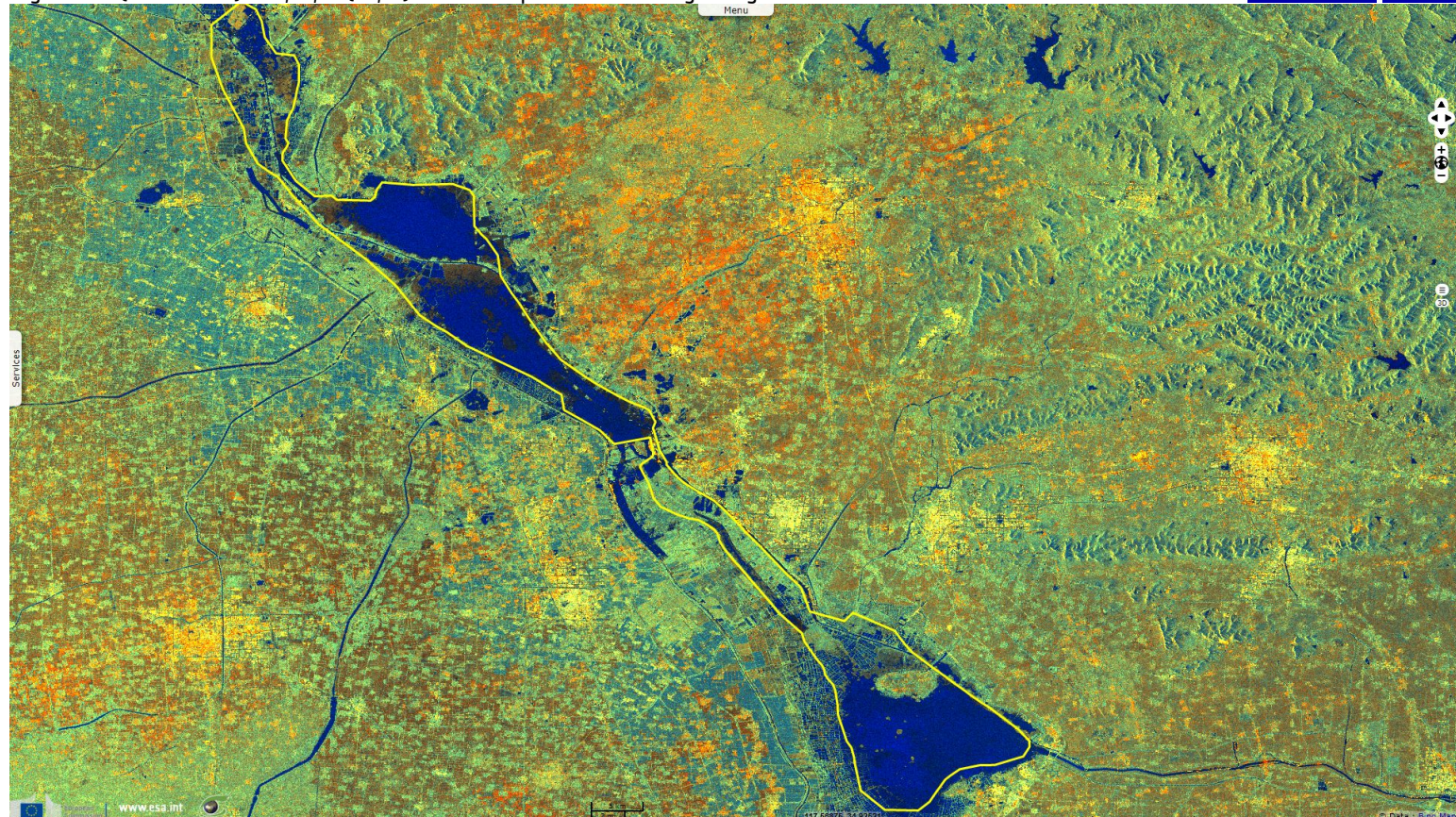
[2D view](#)



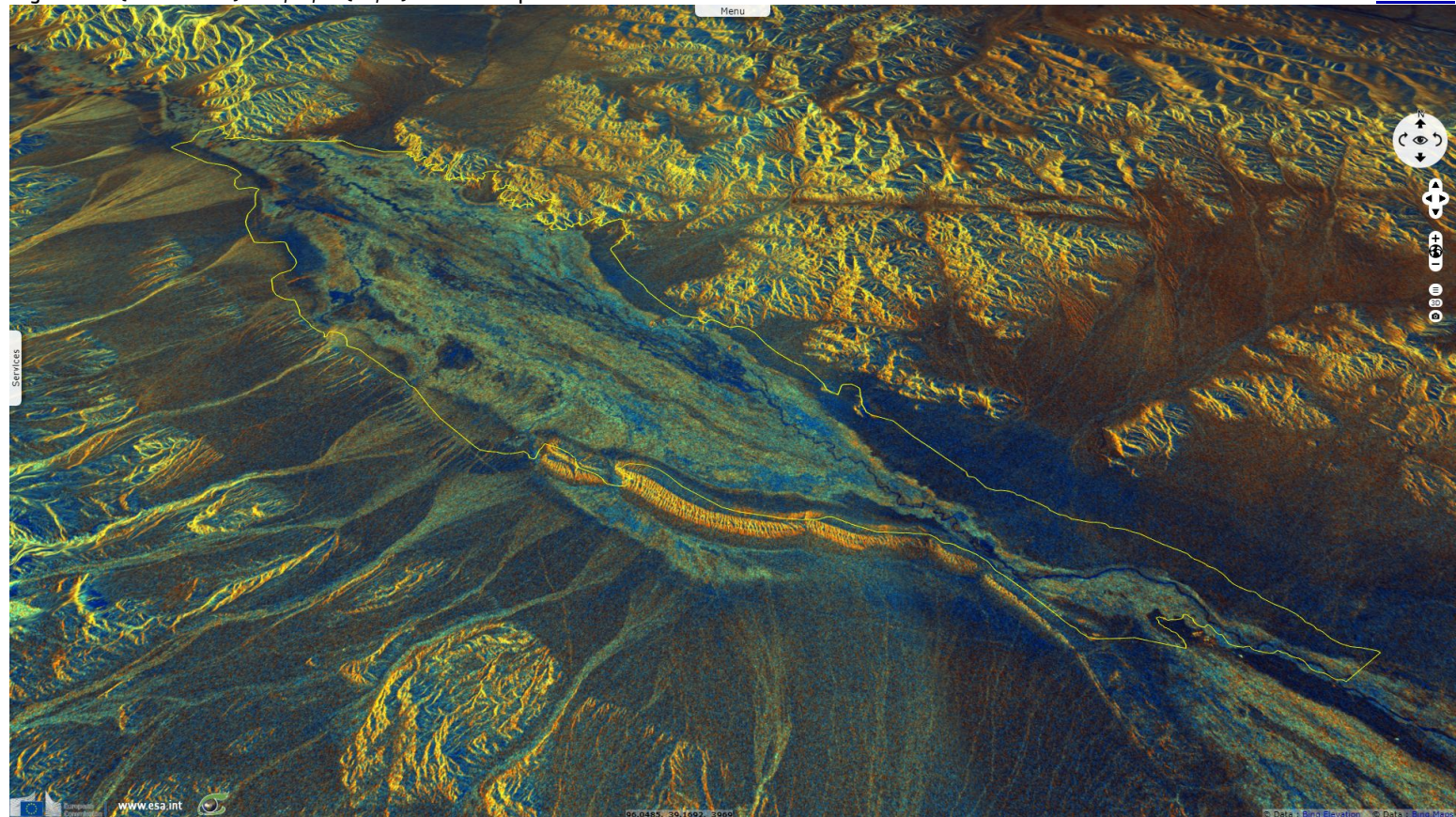
The news [introduces](#) Shandong Jining Nansi Lake: "*Shandong Jining Nansi Lake is the largest freshwater lake in northern China. The water body, comprising Weishan, Nanyang, Dushan and Zhaoyang lakes, is a unique natural environment. With its rivers and vast expanse of open water and extensive marshes, the Site supports a large variety of flora and fauna.*"

Fig. 3 - S1 (16.10.2016) - vv,vh,ndi(vh,vv) colour composite - Shandong Jining Nansi Lake.

[2D animation](#) [2D view](#)



The site sheet [specifies](#): "There are 656 species of vascular plants, 148 aquatic plants, 248 planktonic animals, 79 benthic animals, 46 fish, six amphibians, seven reptiles, 205 birds and 11 mammals. It also serves as a wintering and resting site for a variety of migratory birds."



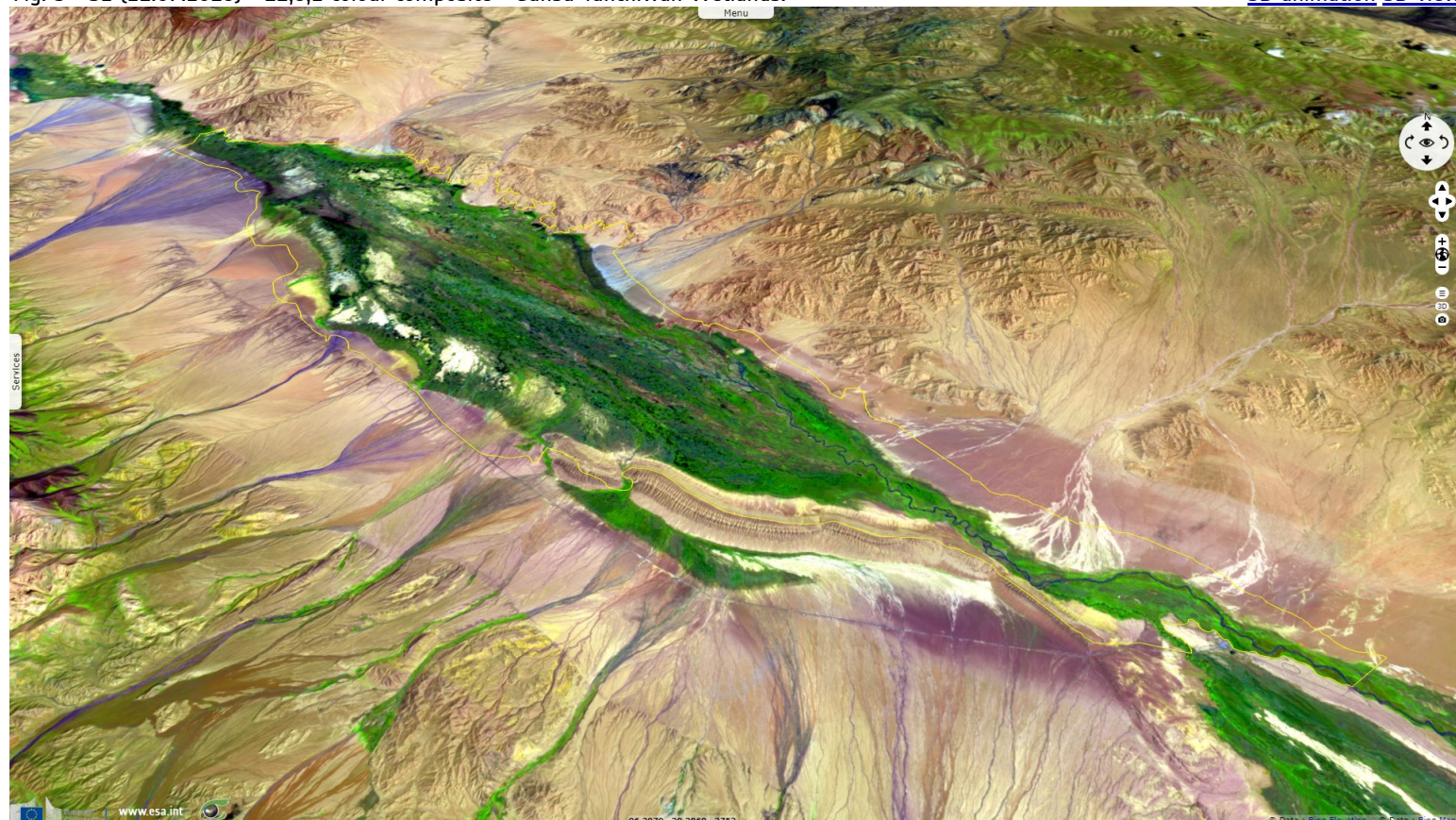
Gansu Yanchiwan Wetlands is described by its sheet [in these words](#): "The Site is located in the upper basin of the Dang river (the primary tributary of the Shule river), where the Inner Mongolia plateau meets the West Qilian mountains on the northern edge of the Tibetan plateau. Its rivers, lakes, and marshes harbour unique wetland ecosystems amid the region's extremely arid and cold highland deserts. The Site is the only source of water for three areas: Subei Mongolian Autonomous County, Aksai Kazakh Autonomous County and Dunhuang City. Lying within Gansu Yanchiwan National Nature Reserve, the Site's concentration of wetlands supports a rich biodiversity, including 278 plant species, 96 birds and 31 mammals."



Gansu Yanchiwan Wetlands - source: [Ramsar](#).

Fig. 5 - S2 (21.07.2018) - 11,8,2 colour composite - Gansu Yanchiwan Wetlands.

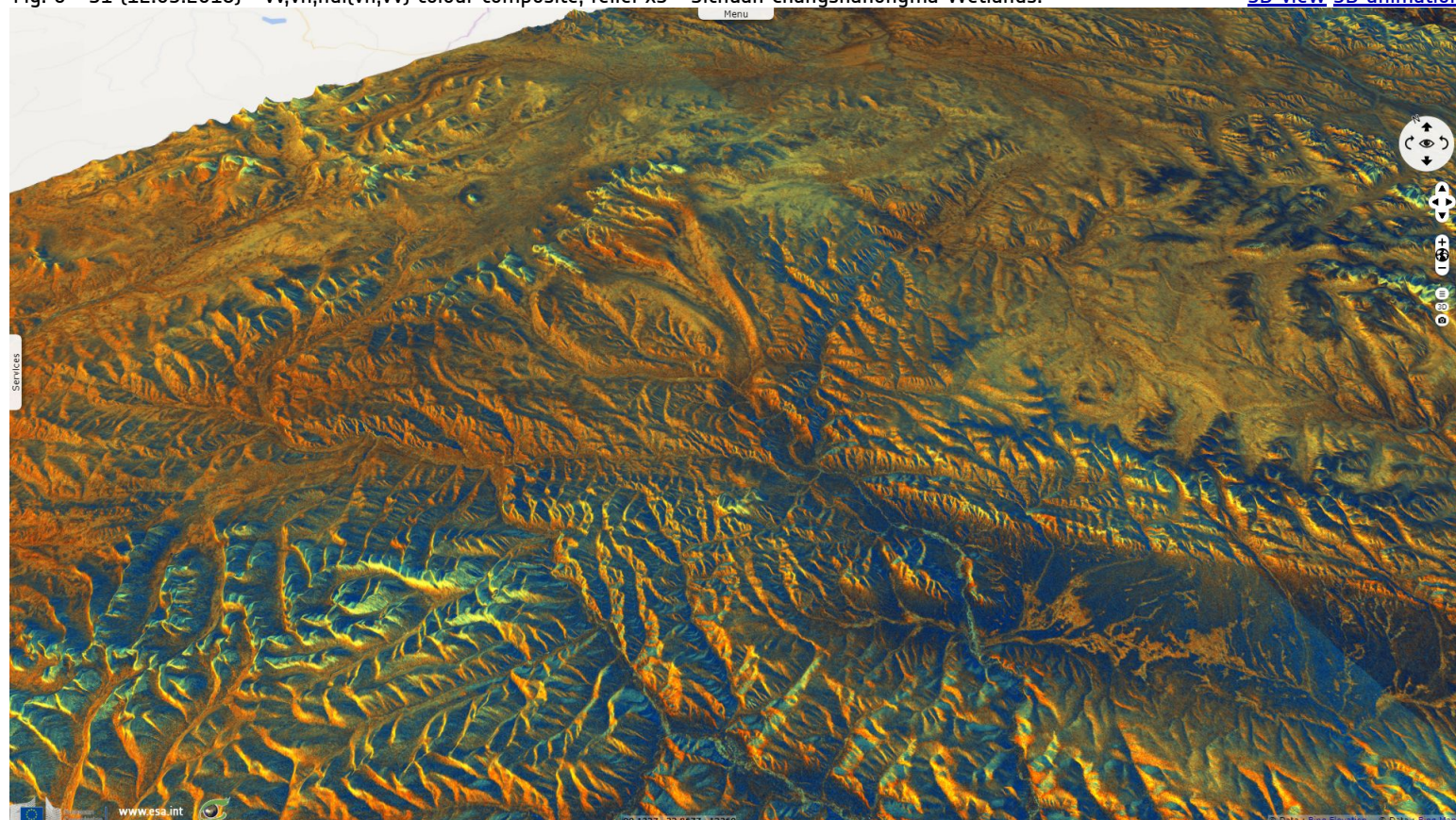
[3D animation](#) [3D view](#)



"This Site play crucial water management roles. As well as preserving local biodiversity and genetic diversity, the Site helps to maintain groundwater levels, control flooding and prevent desertification in downstream areas."

Fig. 6 - S1 (12.05.2018) - vv,vh,ndi(vh,vv) colour composite, relief x3 - Sichuan Changshahongma Wetlands.

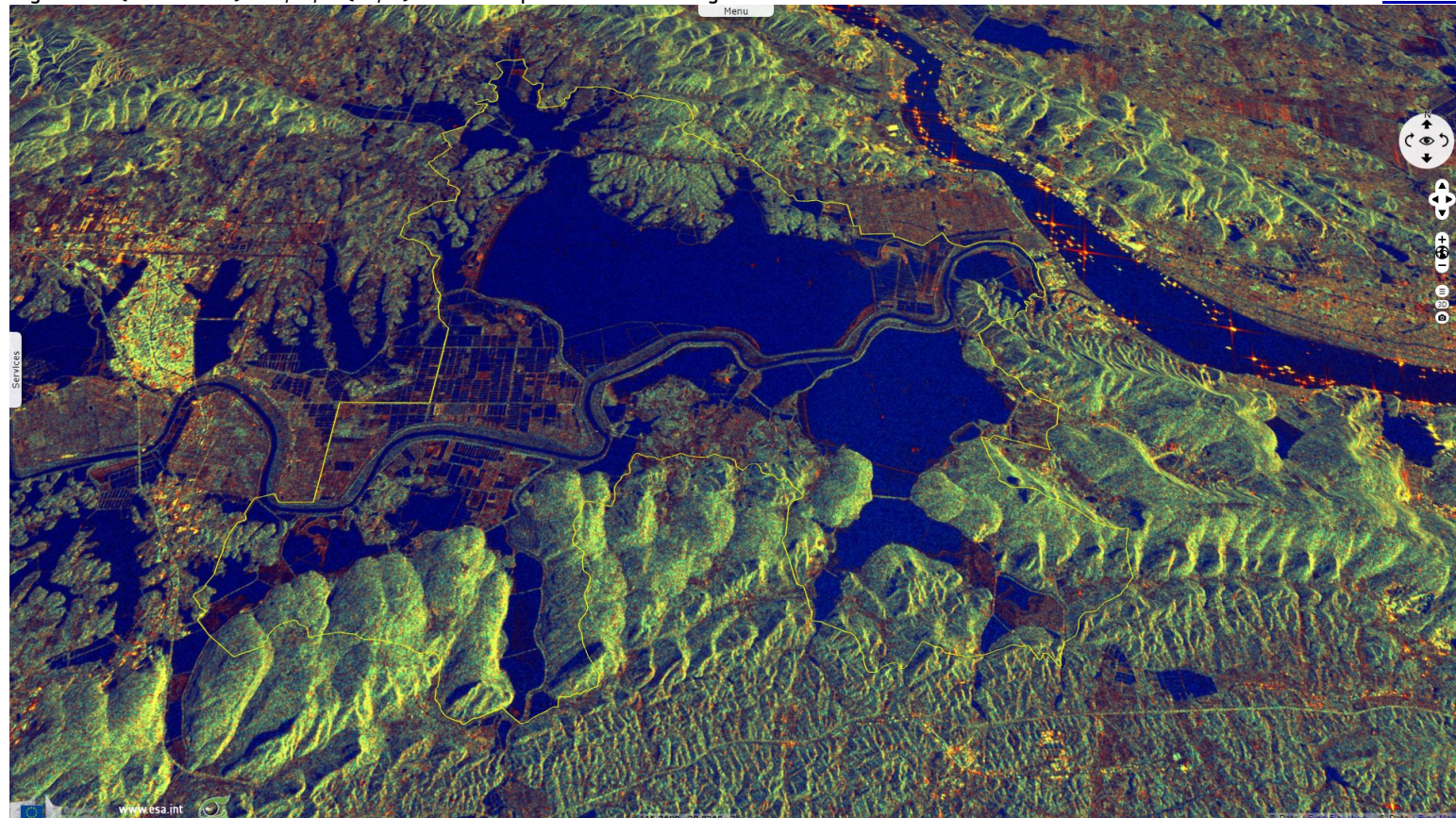
[3D view](#) [3D animation](#)



Sichuan Changshahongma Wetlands are [summed up](#) by Ramsar as: "a high-altitude wetland on the south-eastern edge of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, featuring herbaceous swamps, lakes and rivers. It includes a large peatland developed in the alpine humid climate which serves as an important carbon sink. With its unique geographical and ecological setting, it is one of the region's biodiversity hotspots, providing important habitats for a large number of rare and threatened species".

Fig. 7 - S1 (26.12.2014) - vv,vh,ndi(vh,vv) colour composite - Hubei Wang Lake.

[3D view](#)



Its information sheet [describes](#) Hubei Wang Lake.: "Located between the Mufu and Dabie mountains of central China, the Site is a complex wetland ecosystem with inland shallow lakes, flooded marshes and permanent rivers where wetlands and forests develop in succession."

Fig. 8 - S2 (24.07.2017) - 11,8,2 colour composite - Hubei Wang Lake.

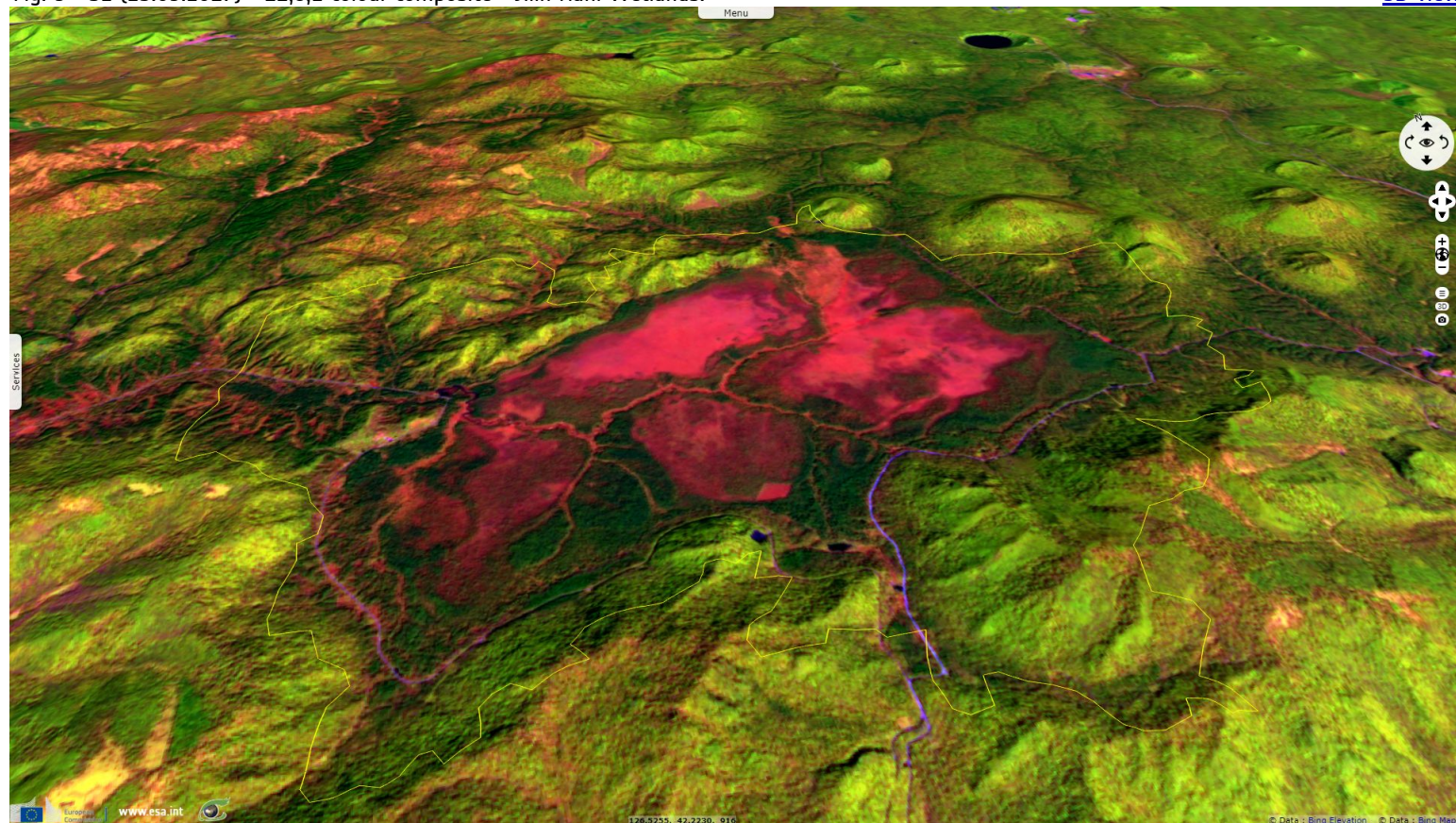
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"Surrounded by mountains and hills in the catchment of the Fu river (a primary tributary of the Yangtze), the relatively isolated and near-natural Site provides habitats for a wide range of wildlife. There are 591 vascular plant species, 46 zooplankton, 30 zoobenthos, 74 fish species, 33 amphibians and reptiles, 167 birds and 25 mammals."

Fig. 9 - S2 (23.09.2017) - 11,8,2 colour composite - Jilin Hani Wetlands.

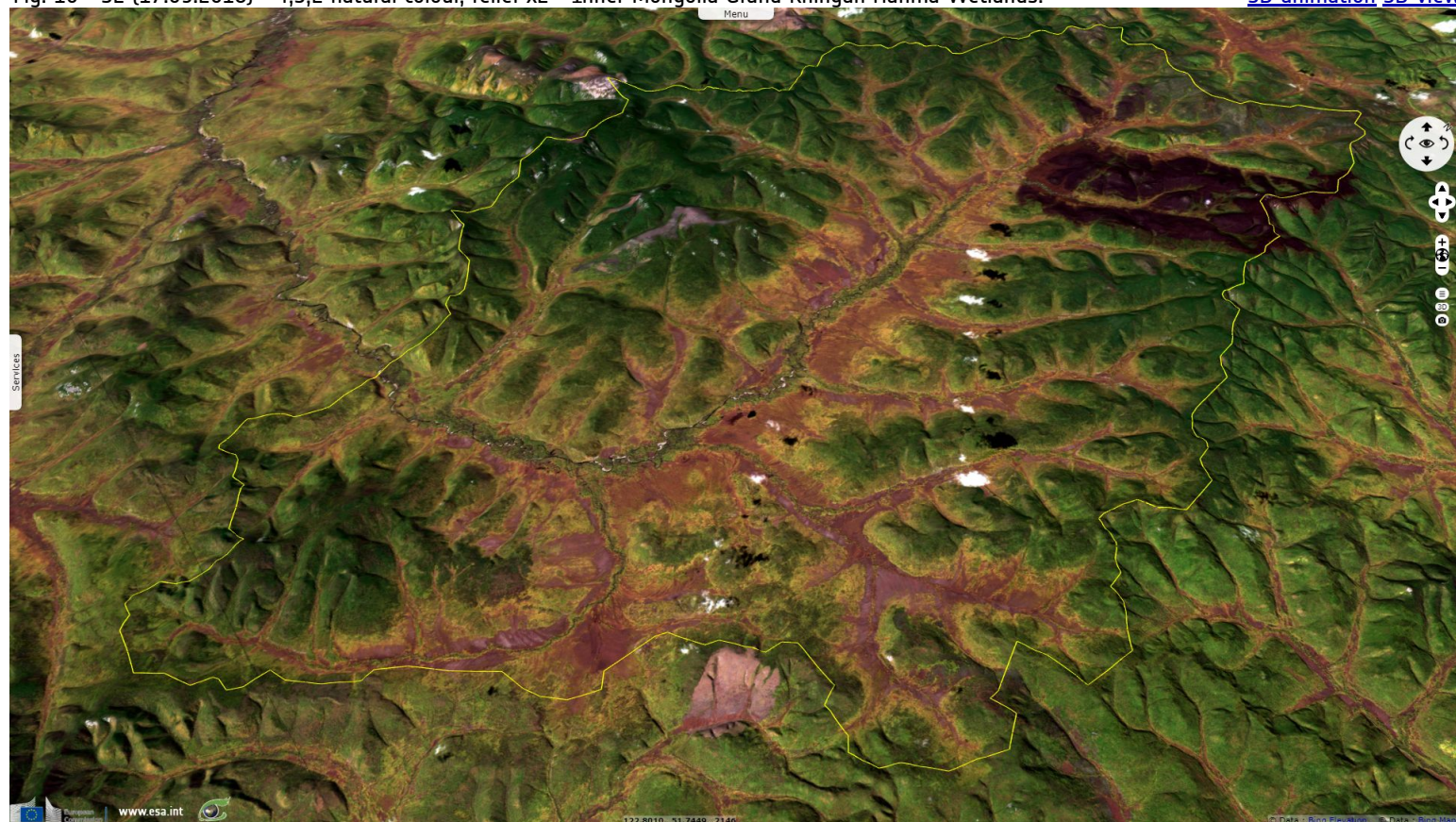
[3D view](#)



Near the border with North Korea lies the smallest of the eight new sites, Jilin Hani Wetlands. Its description [says](#): "*Located in north-east China's Changbai mountain system, Jilin Hani Wetlands are part of the Longgang volcano group and mainly comprise forested and non-forested peatlands. Boasting the thickest peat layer (9.6 metres) in north-east China, the Site is one of the most important carbon sinks in the biogeographic region and helps maintain the carbon cycle in the Hani river basin.*"

Fig. 10 - S2 (17.09.2018) - 4,3,2 natural colour, relief x2 - Inner Mongolia Grand Khingan Hanma Wetlands.

[3D animation](#) [3D view](#)



The news [presents](#) Inner Mongolia Grand Khingan Hanma Wetlands as: "*one of the most well-preserved temperate coniferous forest areas in China, is dominated by marshes, rivers and lakes. The wetlands were among the 51 China Demonstration Reserves in 2006 and became a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 2015.*" Its sheet [details](#): "*the large Larix gmelinii and Sphagnum bogs are typical of the biogeographic region, and serve as important carbon sinks. The Site plays an important role in regional biodiversity conservation by supporting a variety of rare and threatened species. It is home to 620 species of plants (ferns, bryophytes, gymnosperms, and angiosperms), 26 fish, ten amphibians and reptiles, 203 birds and 51 mammals.*"



Inner Mongolia Grand Khingan Hanma Wetlands - source: [Ramsar](#).

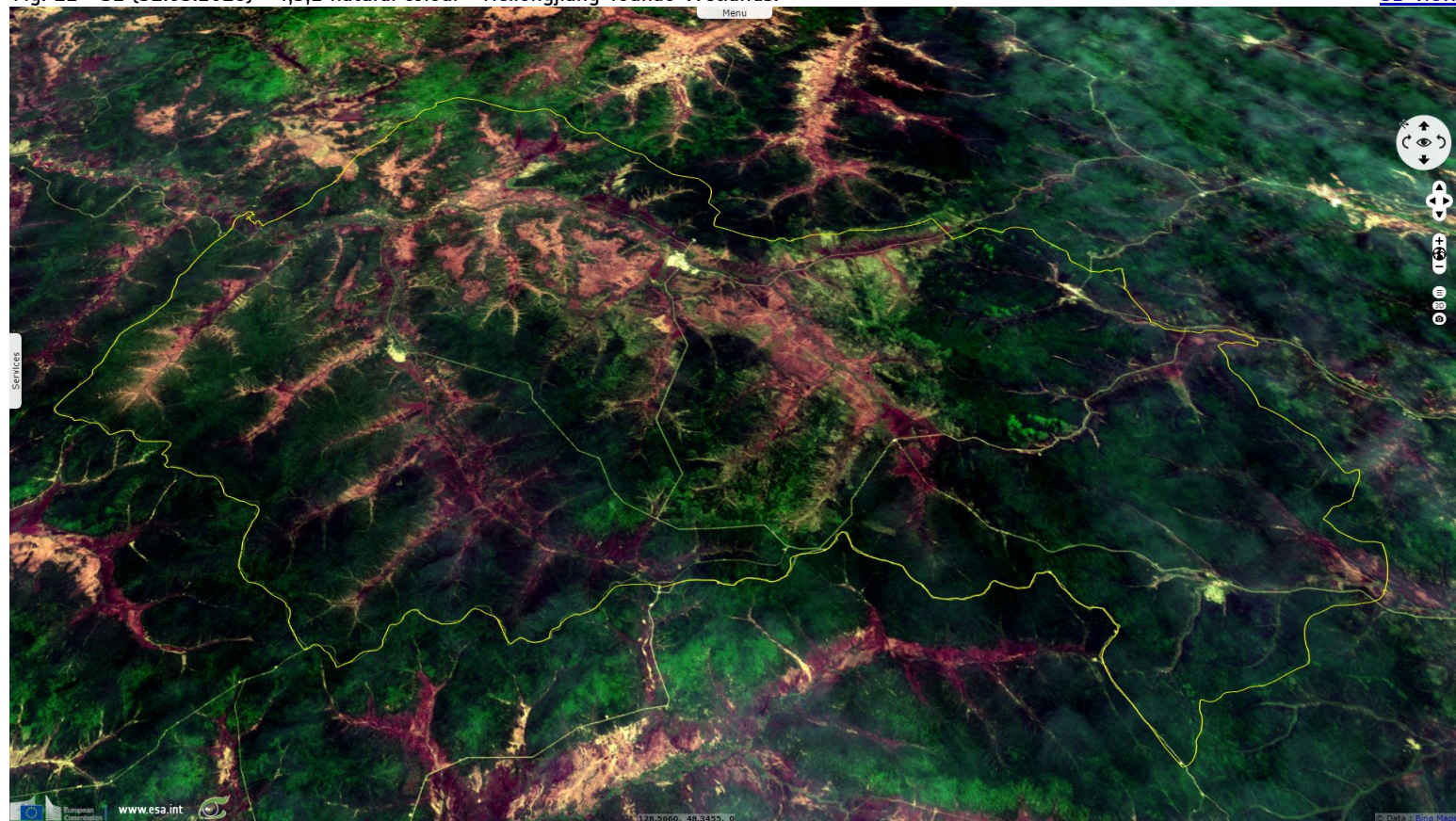
Fig. 11 - S3 (06.11.2006) - 10,6,3 natural colour, relief x3 - Tibet Selincuo Wetlands.

[3D view](#)



The article [depicts](#) Tibet Selincuo Wetlands: "with an average elevation of 4,700 metres, it is a representative alpine wetland ecosystem highlighting rare and unique features of alpine wetlands across the world. The Site plays a significant role in maintaining biodiversity, and is also an important stopover and breeding ground for many waterbirds."

It is deeper [specified](#): "The Site is divided into two zones: the western part, in the vast area between the Kunlun mountains and the Nyenchen Tanglha mountains of the Gangdisê range, which is the largest system of inland lakes on the Tibetan plateau; and the eastern part, to the north of the Nyenchen Tanglha mountains and on the eastern side of the north-east Tibetan watershed, with a system of rivers which flow towards the sea".



The eighth and last of these new sites is [outlined](#) as follows: "*Heilongjiang Youhao Wetlands, stretched over the north- and south-facing slopes of the Lesser Khingan mountains in north-east China, are typical of the forested wetland ecosystems of the northern mountainous region. The Site plays an important role in protecting rare wild plants and animals.*" The sheet [complements](#): "*This Site is an inland wetland ecosystem characterized by flat and open valleys, oxbow lakes and thaw lakes with large areas of herb, shrub and tree-dominated marshes.*"

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