Preface: Conservation, management, and restoration of shallow lake ecosystems facing multiple stressors

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Shallow lakes provide important services to human beings, which include drinking water supply, fisheries, vegetation-based resources, recreational and socio-economic, and aesthetic values. Shallow lake ecosystems are now facing multiple stressors, such as eutrophication, pollution, invasion of exotic species, droughts, overfishing, and climate changes. Some of these stressors may act synergistically to magnify the problems they cause, accelerating degradation of shallow lake ecosystems. The Seventh International Symposium on Shallow Lakes was held from 24–28 April, 2011 at Wuxi, a large city some 150 km west of

Shanghai, located on the north shore of a large, shallow and eutrophic lake, Lake Taihu, China. The main aim of symposium was to understand the response of shallow lake ecosystems to multiple stressors, and to formulate steps that can be taken to help conserve, manage, and restore these valuable aquatic ecosystems. About three hundred participants from 22 countries attended this symposium.

In total, there were one hundred eighty oral or poster presentations in the symposium and this special issue of *Hydrobiologia* encompasses a selection of 22 peer-reviewed papers from 61 submissions. These accepted papers cover the following five main topics.

1. Fish, zooplankton, and food webs in shallow lakes.
2. Plankton and macrophytes in shallow lakes.
3. The functional role of sediments and benthic organisms in shallow lakes.
4. Multiple stresses and ecosystem changes in shallow lakes.
5. Water quality, restoration, and management of shallow lakes.

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indispensible for organizing the Seventh International Symposium on Shallow Lakes and for inviting students and prominent scientists in the field of

shallow lake research. The Eighth International Symposium on Shallow Lakes will be held in October 2014 in Antalya, south of Turkey.