

Wetland Policy in Korea



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Ministry of Environment, Korea

The Value of Wetlands in Korea



7.7% of land area
is **wetland**

Diverse Wetlands with Ecological Significance

- **Costal wetlands in west and south coasts**
 - one of the 5 biggest tidal flats in the world
- **Estuaries, riparian wetlands, high-altitude wetlands**
- **Wetland in DMZ**
 - one of the most well-preserved inland wetland in the world

The Value of Wetlands in Korea

Wetlands of Global Significance

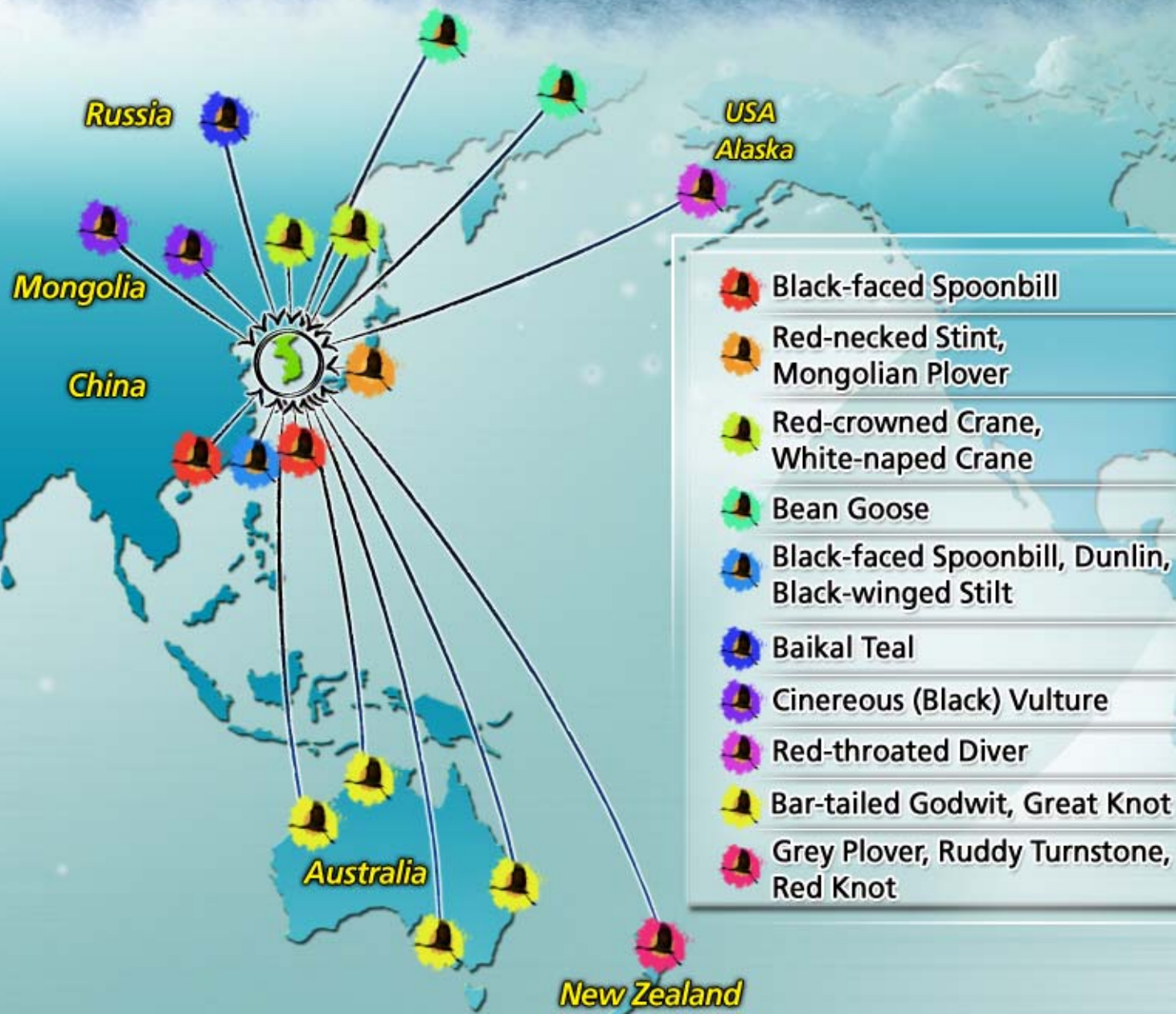
Internationally significant habitats for various migratory birds

- Flyway (breeding or resting site) for many migratory birds, including endangered species which travel along the East Asian-Australasian flyway

Major inbound endangered species of migratory birds

- Black-faced Spoonbill and Chinese Egret (only 600~2,500 individuals remain worldwide)
- 30% of world population of Japanese crane and white-naped crane

The Value of Wetlands in Korea



Changes in Public Recognition on Wetlands

Before the mid-'90s

- Due to lack of awareness on wetlands, reclamation and landfill was made for land expansion and farm land

'90s

After the mid-'90s

- Increased awareness on importance and value of wetlands
- National sympathy for wetland protection

Abandoned land

Precious land



Ramsar Convention and Progress in Wetland Policy

***Integrated National
Wetland Inventory***

('00~'05, 770 sites)

***Five year
National Wetland
Management Plan***

***National
Wetland Committee***

(January 2007)

***UNDP/GEF
Korea Wetland Project***

***- Wetland awareness
program (\$6.5 million)***

***Developing policy options
for conserving wetland***

- Biodiversity Contracts***
- Wetland watchman forces
and eco-guide***
- Farming without agricultural
chemicals***

Ramsar Convention and Progress in Wetland Policy



Designating "wetland protection areas"

20 sites (279.6 km²) are designated



11 Ramsar sites registered

3 additional Ramsar sites were registered in 2008



Post COP10 - Basic Policy Direction

**Systematic Conservation
of Wetland Resources**

**Wetland Restoration
Plans in consideration
of economic valuation
of wetlands**

**Strengthened International
Cooperation**

**Wetland for
Eco-tourism
and Bio-business**

**Wetland Policy for
Locals
(Raised public awareness)**



Systematic Conservation of Wetland Resources

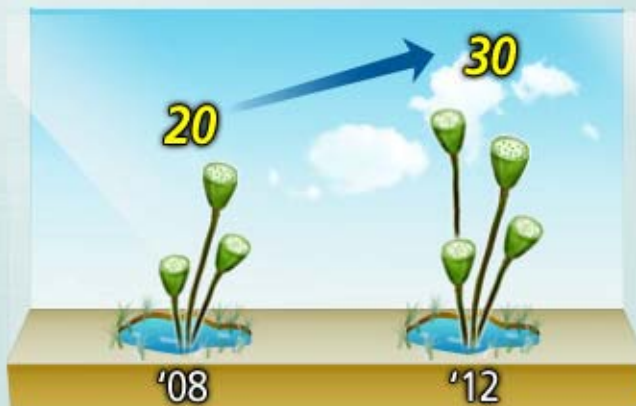
Substantial Increase in Wetland Protection Areas

Establishing National Wetland Inventory by 2012

- Including in-depth wetland eco-system surveys and reassessment of wetland value

Increase in wetland protection areas and Ramsar sites

- 20% of tidal flats to be protected area by 2017



Wetland Protection Areas



Ramsar Sites

Systematic Conservation of Wetland Resources

Precautionary National Land Environment Management

- **Linkage between National Land plans and Environment plans**
- **Minimize wetland destruction by using Environmental Impact Assessment**

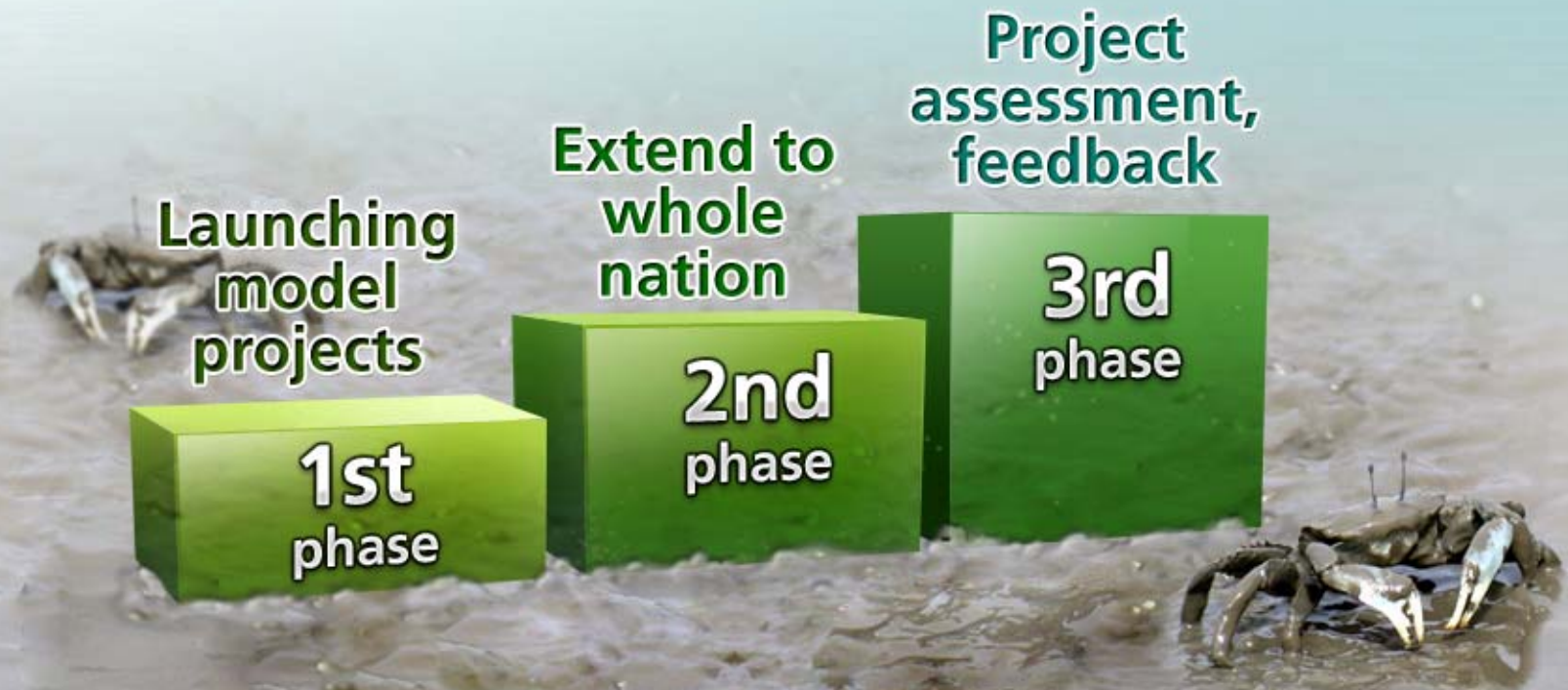
Introduction of No Net Loss of Wetland

- **Landfill of coastal wetlands will be restricted excluding exceptional cases**
- **For the prevention of wetland loss by development projects, substantial wetland to be formed in the event of development**

Restoration of Wetland Ecosystem

Restoring 10% of Damaged Coastal Wetland

- Establish master plan for tidal flat restoration and
Implement restoration project



Restoration of Wetland Ecosystem

Promoting Restoration Projects for Riparian Wetlands

- Restoring 100 urban streams



Restoring Wetland Ecosystem

- Developing restoration technology and promoting restoration projects for endemic and rare species

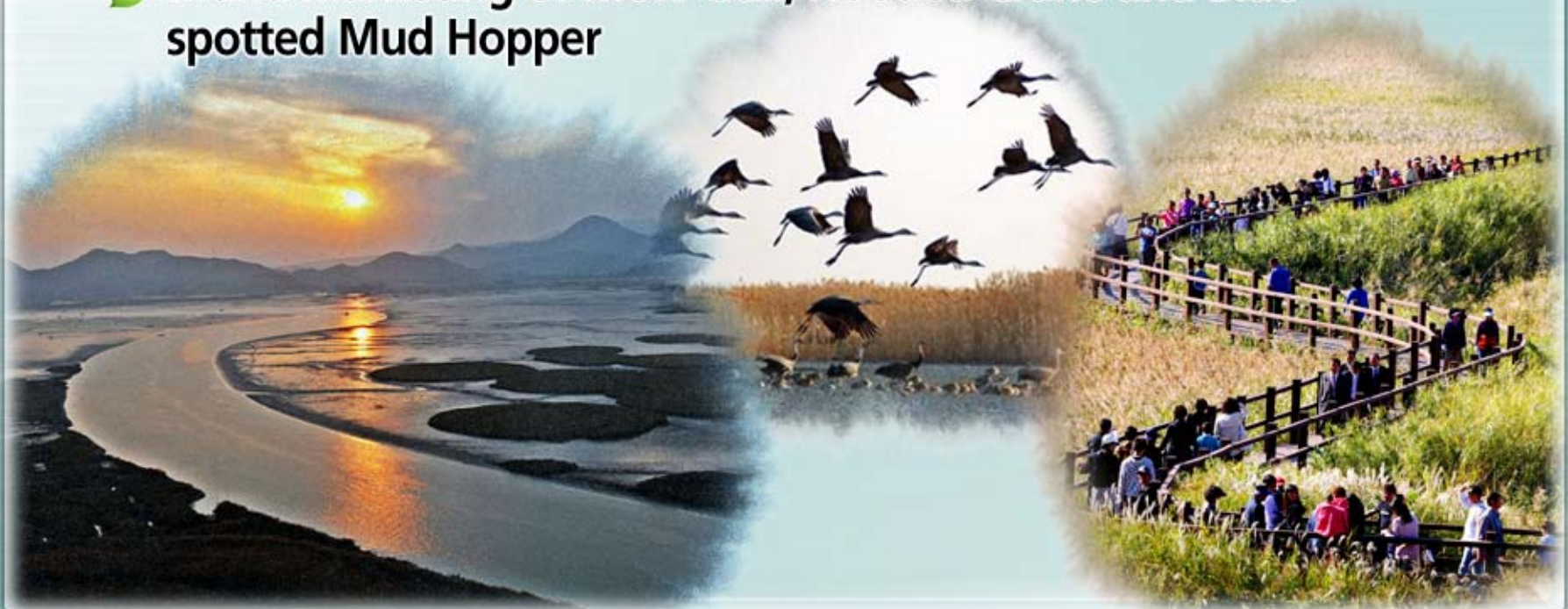


Wise use of Wetland

Eco-tourism with Wetland

Best Example of Suncheon Bay

- Reed Festival with 2 million visitors
- Brand marketing of Mew Gull, Hooded Crane and Blue-spotted Mud Hopper



Wise use of Wetland

Utilizing for Bio-industry

- Constructing Regional Institute of Biological Resources(Central, Yeongnam, Honam, etc.)
- Expanding Bio Resources Bank



Raising Public Awareness

- Studies on wetland including researches and inventory, etc.

- Wetland conservation and restoration research

Establishing National Wetland Centre

- Communication, education and public awareness on wetland

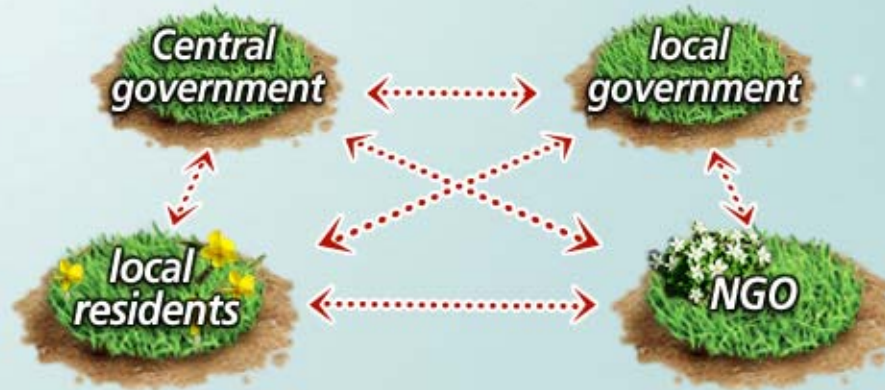
- International cooperation



Raising Public Awareness

Establishing Wetland Conservation Network

- Network participated with Central government, local government, local residents and NGOs



- Developing Wetland PR activities

- Introduction of lives and biodiversity in wetland
- Publishing Wetland PR materials
- Developing Wetland Conservation Games, etc.




International Cooperation




Strengthening the intermediary role between developed and developing countries

- Create international fund for supporting developing countries



Building East Asia Ramsar Wetland Centre



- Supporting researches on current wetland issues in the region
- Database of information on East Asian Wetlands
- Providing wetland-related policy know-how and information to support developing countries' wetland management

Inter-Korean Environmental Cooperation

*Joint survey between North and South Korea
on tidal flats ecosystem in Korean peninsular*

- Ecological survey, joint wetland protection projects, etc



*Conservation Policy for Ecological
Resources in Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)*

- Eco-Peace Park
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserves



Post COP10 – Next Steps

Sustainable Development

Next Steps

- Korea is to upgrade environmental conservation standard
- Sustainable development to be boosted

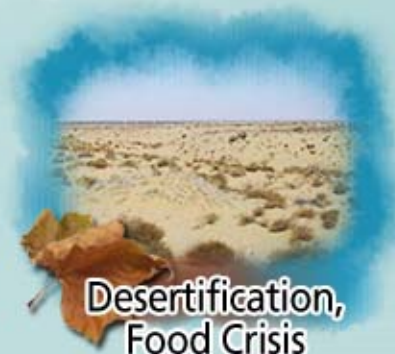
Ramsar COP10

- an opportunity to substantially improve Korea's wetland policy and raise public awareness

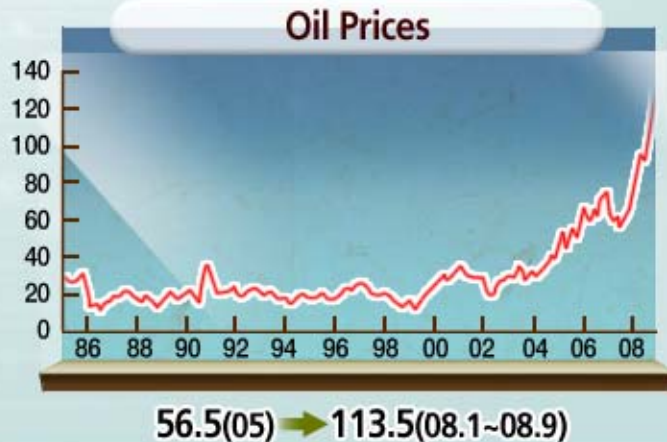
RAMSAR

Economic and Environmental Conditions

- Poor ambiance for the sustainable development in the world
- Resources and nature crisis era



- Rapid rise in the price of natural resources and other energy



Resolutions – Green Growth

Initiate Green Growth as a national vision

Concept of Green Growth

- Pursuing growth in an eco-friendly way
- Virtuous circular development, breaking out of the stereotype that environment contradicts the growth



Strategies for Green Growth

Improving the quality of life

- eco-friendly consumption, green transportation system, eco-education, eco-city, new renewable energy

Contributing to international society


- bridging developed and developing countries
- Coping with climate change

Growth Engines


- water industry, green car industry, converting wastes into energy, environmental services, carbon dioxide market, eco-tourism, bio-industry




Green Growth and Wetland Conservation




Wetland conservation and wise use of wetland - successful cases of green growth

- Wetland conservation leads to improving the quality of life
 - Wise use of wetland could lead local economic development
 - Contributing to international efforts to conserve the wetlands
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Ramsar COP10 as an opportunity to realize the green growth and wetland conservation

- Healthy wetlands, healthy people
 - Green growth which maximizes environmental and economic values
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Thank You

