



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 12th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Uruguay, 2015**

Please submit the completed National Report in Microsoft Word format (.doc, 97-2003), as an electronic file (not a printed copy) and preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org) by **1 September 2014**.

The structure of the COP12 National Report Format

The COP12 National Report Format (NRF) is in four sections:

Section 1 provides the institutional information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

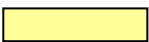
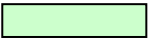
Section 2 is a 'free-text' section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional 'free-text' section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

Section 4 is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

General guidance for completing and submitting the COP12 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS GUIDANCE SECTION BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

1. All Sections of the COP12 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
2. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **1 September 2014**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP12.
3. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
4. Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.
5. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word. You are only able to submit replies and information in the yellow or green boxes, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the structure and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties.
6. To select a yellow or green field you wish to complete, move the cursor over the relevant part of the form and left-click the mouse. The cursor will automatically move to the next field available.
7. To move down through the sequence of fields, you can also use the 'Tab' key on the computer keyboard.

8. For a 'free-text' field, you can type in whatever information you wish. Note that there is only limited facility within the Microsoft 'form' format to make editorial changes in the 'free-text' box once text has been entered. Therefore, if you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate document, make all the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the box.
9. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic entry of data into the Secretariat's database. For that reason, please **do not use double quote marks " "** in the 'free-text' fields. Please **only use single quote marks ' '**. For the same reason, please **only use simple text in the 'free-text' fields: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
10. For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'Yes', 'No', 'Partly', 'In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
11. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).
12. To select an answer to an indicator question, use the Tab key, or move the cursor over the relevant yellow box and left-click the mouse. The drop-down menu of answer options will appear. Left-click the mouse on the answer option you choose, and this will appear in the centre of the yellow box.
13. An NRF is not usually completed by one person alone: for many indicators it is best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP11 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided.
14. After each session, **remember to save the file** in Microsoft Word, .doc, 97-2003 format. A recommended filename structure is: COP12NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP12NRFSpain13July2014.doc
15. After the NRF has been completed, please **send it in this format to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, preferably by e-mail (dufour@ramsar.org).**
16. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP12 National Report.**
17. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

NATIONAL REPORT TO RAMSAR COP12

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at www.ramsar.org/contacts_en.

NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: REPUBLIC OF KOREA

DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

Name of Administrative Authority:	Nature Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of Environment
Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:	Mr. Choi Jong-Won, Director
Mailing address:	Building #6, Government Complex-Sejong, 11 Doum6-ro, Sejong Special Self-Governing City, 339-012, Republic of Korea
Telephone/Fax:	+82-44-201-7220 / +82-44-201-7235
Email:	sudal@korea.kr

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS

Name and title:	Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environment Mr. Park Sungdon, Deputy Director
Mailing address:	Building #6, Government Complex-Sejong, 11 Doum6-ro, Sejong Special Self-Governing City, 339-012, Republic of Korea
Telephone/Fax:	+82-44-201-6591 / +82-44-201-6594
Email:	sungpark3022@korea.kr

DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)

Name and title:	Mr. Ji-Woong Cheong, Scientific Advisor
Name of organisation:	Natioanl Wetlands Center, National Institute of Environmental Reasearch
Mailing address:	872, Mogok-ri, Ibang-Myeon, Changnyeong-gun, Gyeonsangnam-do, 635-833, Republic of Korea
Telephone/Fax:	+82 55 530 5532 / +82 55 530 5535
Email:	arct@korea.kr

DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Ms Hyun-Joo Lee, Public Awareness and Training Officer
Name of organisation:	Natioanl Wetlands Center, National Institute of Environmental Reasearch
Mailing address:	872, Mogok-ri, Ibang-Myeon, Changnyeong-gun, Gyeonsangnam-do, 635-833, Republic of Korea
Telephone/Fax:	+82 55 530 5531 / +82 55 530 5535
Email:	bailalteal@empal.com

DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA)

Name and title:	Ms Ji-Young Jang, Principal Researcher
Name of organisation:	Eco-Horizon Institute
Mailing address:
Telephone/Fax:	+82 2 338 9572 / +82 2 338 9575

Email:

ecojangjy@gmail.com



SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

REMINDER: Please do not use double quote marks “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP11 reporting):

A. What have been the five most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

- 1) The number and size of sites designated as Ramsar Site and/or National Wetland Protected Area has increased, and the number has increased to 19 and 33 respectively.
- 2) The second Master Plan for Wetlands Conservation (2013-2017) has been established.
- 3) The National Wetlands Center has been launched in 2012.
- 4) A pilot wetland city accreditation scheme('Ramsar village accreditation') has been introduced in 2013.
- 5) The framework for national wetland surveys, studies and researches have been improved in 2013.

B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

- 1) To increase awareness on the Ramsar Convention and the importance of nominating and designating national wetlands as Ramsar Site
- 2) To resolve conflicts among stakeholders as more wetlands were designated as Ramsar Site
- 3) To develop and implement detailed conservation and management plans for Ramsar Sites
- 4)
- 5)

C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

- 1) The institutional framework for management of Ramsar Sites needs to be strengthened.
- 2) Efforts need to be made to increase awareness on Protected Areas, including Ramsar Sites.
- 3) Successful implementation of a pilot wetland city accreditation scheme needs to be achieved.
- 4) Regular stakeholder consultations need to be organized.
- 5) The status of the Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia needs to be elevated and the center should be financially independent.

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

No.

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

No.

- F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Ramsar, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), CITES, and World Heritage Convention), and UNCCD and UNFCCC?

As part of its effort to implement the Korean Wetland Conservation Act and the Ramsar Convention, Korea has nominated and designated key national wetlands as National Wetland Protected Areas (WPA) and Ramsar Sites. These wetlands are considered critical for biological diversity conservation, providing a foundation for implementing major international agreements on species, including CBD, CMS and CITES. In the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, the national efforts to increase the number and size of WPA and Ramsar Sites were included to implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The national implementation of the Ramsar Convention are linked with that of the World Heritage Convention under the same goal of conservation and wise use of areas of ecological value. The Korean Ministry of Environment (ME) is the Administrative Authority over the national implementation of all major MEAs Korea has joined, enhancing the linkage among the implementation plan of the agreements. .

- G. How can implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

The inland water regimes in Korea that mostly occur in uplands and mountains are managed with special reference to the national 4 largest rivers (Han River, Geum River, Nakdong River and Yeongsan River) lying in the lowland. Recently as the demand for conservation and wise use of natural resources has increased both in the nation and the international community, the national water management strategies shift their focus from physico-chemical water-quality management that deems water as a resource, to water management that considers ecological impacts that it brings with it, in line with the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. To incorporate these ecological impacts into decision-making process, Korea considers creating various types of artificial wetlands, as part of its strategic water management policies. Indeed, the concept of creating constructed wetlands that maximize the roles and functions of natural wetlands in mitigating and controlling pollution gains currency among state ministries related to water and its management, such as ME, and is considered as a new model for water quality management. The recent increase in the number of Ramsar Sites and Wetland Protected Areas (WPA) is clear evidence that sustainable development and conservation and the national biodiversity strategies are prioritized in water management.

- H. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

No.

- I. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

National Wetland Center

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

REMINDER: Guidance for completing this section

1. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the 'drop-down' list in the yellow box.
2. If you wish to add any additional information on a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green 'free-text' boxes below the indicator questions.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green 'free-text' box, you should cut and paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then cut and paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database National Reports. For that reason, **please do not use double quote marks “ ” in the free text boxes. Use single quotes ‘ ’. Text in the ‘free text’ boxes should be simple text only: they cannot accept formatting, colours or objects such as tables and images.**
5. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP11, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP11 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment. *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.*

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i

C - In progress

1.1.1 Additional information:

The first National Wetland Inventory was compiled in 2007 and it holds and updates information on national wetlands based on the findings of the National Wetland Surveys that are conducted every 5 years. The inventory manages information and data on location, formation, altitude and water level, types, major fauna and flora, endangered species, and conservation status of various wetlands across the country. Currently, the first inventory is under review for improvement and the second NWI will be launched building on the legacy of the first inventory. (www.wetland.go.kr)

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.1.2 Additional information:</p> <p>Data and information on national wetlands are accessible to stakeholders from all sectors through the National Wetland Inventory. (www.wetland.go.kr)</p>	

<p>1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the last triennium? {1.1.3}</p> <p>a) Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	<p>a) <input type="radio"/> - No change</p> <p>b) <input type="radio"/> - No change</p>
<p>1.1.3 Additional information on a) and/or b):</p> <p>.....</p>	

STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. *Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.*

<p>1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i</p> <p>(If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)</p>	A - Yes
<p>1.3.1 Additional information:</p> <p>Under the Wetland Conservation Act that states the implementation of the concept of conservation and wise use, Korea elaborates the 5-year Master Plan for Wetland Conservation (MPWC) that guides the national wetland policies and their detailed implementation strategies which reflect on the findings of the national surveys on inland and coastal wetlands. The 2nd MPWC (2013-2017) was created with the goal of facilitating 'harmonious coexistence between human and wetlands', and the 3 objectives; setting up a scientific framework for wetland surveys; facilitating conservation and restoration of wetlands; enhancing the sustainable use of wetlands.</p>	

1.3.2 Have wetland issues been incorporated into other national strategies and planning processes, including:

- a) Poverty eradication strategies
- b) Water resource management and water efficiency plans
- c) Coastal and marine resource management plans
- d) National forest programmes
- e) National strategies for sustainable development
- f) National policies or measures on agriculture
- g) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD

{1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i

- a) Z - Not applicable
- b) Z - Not applicable
- c) A - Yes
- d) A - Yes
- e) Z - Not applicable
- f) A - Yes
- g) A - Yes

1.3.2 Additional information:

c) Under the Coast Management Act, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) created the 10-year Plan for Integrated Coastal Management that encompasses key policies for coastal management, conservation, use and development of the coastal areas and their environment. The 10-year Plan was made and revised in line with the Master Plan for Wetland Conservation (MPWC). In addition, the MOF also made the Master Plan for Conservation of Coastal Wetlands that include actions needed for conservation and wise use of coastal wetlands, in accordance with the Wetland Conservation Act. The master plan is a key national plan and part of the overarching National Fundamental Plan for Wetland Conservation.

d) The Korea Forest Service undertakes its responsibilities in forest conservation policies and programs, providing a foundation for increasing the forest diversity across the nation. Based on the research on forested wetlands within the boundary of the state- and private-owned forests, the Service identifies and designates those wetlands as National Biodiversity Hotspot, in its effort to conserve and manage forest wildlife and its habitats.

f) The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention was held in Korea in 2008 and at the meeting, the Resolution X.31, "Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems" was adopted. Since the COP 10, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFR) has held international workshops on sustainable agriculture and wetlands. The MAFR introduced the Direct Payment Program for Environmentally-friendly Agriculture to increase biodiversity and ensure food safety. A total of 37,635 ha of land was dedicated to implement the program and has provided financial incentives to encourage farmers to engage.

g) Under the Act on Conservation and Use of Biodiversity, ME created the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (2014-2018) that provides a framework for conservation and management of biodiversity, its benefits, and biological and ecological resources, and the public awareness. This includes actions taken to disseminate the importance and value of biodiversity to all sectors of the society. The 3rd NBASAP also contains efforts to expand the national protected area network, to enhance protected area management program, and to list native species and genetic resources and to advance the framework for biodiversity information sharing, both of which strengthen a foundation for sustainable use of biological resources.

1.3.3 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii	A - Yes
<p>1.3.3 Additional information:</p> <p>Korea's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, predicts and evaluates the suitability and appropriateness of location and environmental effect of a proposal, plan and project, their environmental consequences and their correspondence with national conservation plans. The EIA is also applied to a development plan or project that has a possible impact on wetlands. The Code on Environmental Impact Statement requires a proposed development plan to precisely indicate the status of area in which the plan is implemented, in case that the plan is undertaken in a national and sub-national protected area, including Wetland Protected Area.</p>	
1.3.4 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) that may affect wetlands,? {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.3.4 Additional information:</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment Act requires investigation, prediction, and assessment of the possible negative impact of an implementation plan, proposal, or project that involve urbanization and development activities in protected area, including wetlands. And the Act also requires a developer of the proposed plan to create ways to eliminate or mitigate the impact.</p>	
1.3.5 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.6}	A - Yes
<p>1.3.5 Additional information:</p> <p>The Wetland Conservation Act has been amended twice over the last 3 years to strengthen the conservation of WPAs, and promote and implement the Convention's concept of conservation and wise use of wetlands.</p>	

STRATEGY 1.4: Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. *Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

1.4.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii	A - Yes
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1.4.1 Additional information:

The assessment of the ecosystem benefits and services has been made in 4 sites of Wetland Protected Areas, 1 Ramsar Sites (Upo Wetland), and other 2 wetlands. The economic values of ecosystem services provided by these sites were calculated by using the Replacement Cost Technique that assesses the price of products (agriculture, fishery and forestry products) created by activities in wetlands, and the Benefit Transfer Method which assesses the non-market value provided by wetlands through the Contingent Valuation Method and Choice Experiment Method.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:

The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties held in Changwon, Korea, in 2008 adopted the Resolution X.31 'Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems' that recognizes the ecological and cultural value of rice paddies, especially those in East Asia, and their functions and roles as wetlands, and urged the Parties to fulfill their responsibilities in and commitment to sustainable and wise use of rice paddies.

To implement the Resolution, the Korean government designated 'Gong-geumji' as a WPA on June 29, 2011, and it became the first rice paddy designated as a WPA. To make contribution to conservation of the rice paddy, the quality of local people's life and the local economy, the following actions were taken; the Wetland Conservation and Management Plan for Gong-geumji was made in March 2013; an initiative for creation of rice paddies and puddles was carried out; and a research to create new products made out of lotus and their roots was conducted.

1.4.3 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

1.4.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

The Wetland Conservation Act designates wetlands of ecological significance as WPAs and upon the designation, it requires developing a Wetland Conservation and Management Plan that is designed for each of the designated wetlands at a national level. The Act requires the plan to conduct wetland surveys, organize consultations for wetland conservation among stakeholders, promote education and generate publicity of each wetland, improve the quality of life of local people, and develop an initiative to maintain and manage biodiversity.

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of the role of the Convention. *Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.*

1.5.1 Since COP11, have you brought the 'Changwon Declaration' (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

- a. head of state
 - b. parliament
 - c. private sector
 - d. civil society
- {1.5.2}

- a. A - Yes
- b. A - Yes
- c. A - Yes
- d. A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

The Changwon Declaration was made to disseminate and transmit key messages concerning human wellbeing and wetlands to stakeholders and decision-makers, and ultimately encourage them to take action. Since the COP 10, the annual meetings of the Changwon Declaration Implementation Network have been hosted and organized by the Korean Ministry of Environment and the Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia. The meeting engages in a review on the implementation of the Declaration, including the dissemination and transmittance not only of the Declaration itself, but of best practices of the Parties.

a) head of state

Korea has marked the World Wetland Day (Feb.2) and organized the Wetland Week Celebration in May. The Wetland Week Celebration brings together multi-sectoral stakeholders who share their vision and achievements in relation to wetland conservation and management. At the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity held in Korea in 2014, the Minister of Environment of Korea and the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention shared their common view on what has been done for wetland conservation in Korea and what needs to be achieved.

b) parliament

The Environment and Labor Committee is a permanent committee of the National Assembly of Korea. The committee is responsible for dealing with matters related to environmental issues and policies, and for making a legislative decision on national and sub-national environmental policies. One of its priorities is to expand the national Wetland Protected Area Network, nominate key wetlands for inclusion in the list of the Ramsar Sites, and to improve the policies and institutions related to wetlands and their conservation. Local governments organize their own council that works with the local private sector to conserve wetlands and enact wetland-related laws.

c, d) private sector and civil society

The private sector and civil society in Korea have shown their great interest in the implementation of the Changwon Declaration that was adopted at the 10th Ramsar COP in Korea. They actively engage in education, dissemination, and monitoring in relation to conservation and wise use of wetlands. In particular, NGOs and environmental civic groups play an important role in bridging between the state and local government, which promote wetland conservation activities at local and sub-national levels.

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. *Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.*

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on:

- a. agriculture-wetland interactions
- b. climate change
- c. valuation of ecosystem services

{1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i

a. A - Yes

b. A - Yes

c. A - Yes

1.6.1 Additional information:

a. In the past, national agricultural policies focused on the producer-oriented concept, but recently the focus was shifted to ecosystem and water management, with new approaches being developed and used to reduce nonpoint source pollution and to improve catchments by, for instance, connecting artificial wetlands to irrigation system. Indeed, the Korea Rural Community Corporation has created artificial wetlands with improved functions in treating and purifying pollutants near rice paddies and the reservoirs that supply water to the paddies, in order to mitigate NPS pollution in farming fields nationwide. ME carried out a research on rice paddy-wetland management policies in 2011 to implement the follow-ups of the COP 10 Resolution X.31. The research covered national policies for conservation of rice paddy wetlands, studying and analyzing the definition, boundary, importance and values of rice paddy wetlands. And it designated Gonggeumji, one of the oldest artificial wetlands in Korea, as WPA in July 2011 for the first time for a rice paddy wetland.

b. The Korea's 3rd NBSAP includes strategies to set a framework for conservation and management of wildlife and their habitats, such as wetlands, based on analyses of climate change and its impact on natural environment and monitoring of species and areas vulnerable to climate change, with the aim of predicting the impacts of climate change on natural environment and strengthening the national preparedness for climate change. Korea also plans to prepare and implement ecological response strategies, including long-term monitoring of the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, and in pursuit of these strategies, 'the National Long-term Ecological Research', 'the Research on Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystems on the Korean Peninsula', and 'the Long-term Ecological Supersites Creation and Management' will be implemented. To develop a tool for climate change adaptation for biodiversity conservation, habitats, such as mountainous wetlands, that function as a climate change buffer zone will be designated as Protected Area.

c. The 3rd NBSAP includes national efforts to assess and evaluate the value of ecosystem services and incorporate the outcomes into policy making. In pursuit of these efforts, Korea is working on developing a decision-making support system linked with quantitative assessment of categorical ecosystem services. As part of conducting the National Wetland Survey in accordance with the Wetland Conservation Act, it introduced the National Inland Wetland Monitoring System in 2013 that manages and updates the status and records of major wetlands and carries out the quantitative evaluation of wetlands, the habitats they provide for wildlife, and their vegetation.

1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats to the wetlands? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii

A - Yes

1.6.2 Additional information:

Statutory plans for wetland conservation and management are made based on the findings of the National Wetland Survey and the Intensive Survey on Wetland Protected Area (WPA). These plans include the Master Plan for Wetland Conservation and the Wetland Conservation Action Plan for WPAs. The findings and outcomes of the wetland surveys include the overall status of wetlands, such as their physical characteristics, vegetation, ecosystems, and even the socio-economic conditions. The findings of these surveys are assessed every 5 years by the National Wetland Monitoring.

STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. *Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.*

1.7.1 Do your country's water governance and management systems treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins?
{1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii

A - Yes

1.7.1 Additional information:

The Ministry of Environment (ME) manages water quality, including catchment management that reduces and controls pollutants, including nonpoint source pollutants, in national rivers and streams. Since the Water Quality and Aquatic Ecosystem Conservation Act, the amendment to the Water Quality Conservation Act that mainly focused on physico-chemical water-quality management, was enacted, ME has developed policies that emphasizes the conservation of aquatic ecosystem as well as water-quality management. The amended Act allows ME to be able to acquire privately-owned riverine wetlands or create artificial wetlands in river basins if necessary, in order to conserve the water quality and aquatic ecosystem of the river. And the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) is responsible for use and management of water resources. The River Act allows MOLIT to designate rivers that flows through or around WPAs as National River, and mandates the ministry to manage them properly.

1.7.2 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see [Resolution X.19](#))? {1.7.3}

A - Yes

1.7.2 Additional information:

Few CEPA expertise and tools have been directly incorporated into the Korea's planning and management of catchment and river basins. In accordance with the Act on Catchment Water Quality Improvement and Community Support, however, various national and sub-national CEPA programmes have been in place for each of the 4 largest rivers in Korea, increasing community awareness on environmental conservation and encouraging community engagement. One of the programmes are a land acquisition program that seeks to find a willing seller of their privately-owned land that is situated near national watershed, meaning the landowner participation is completely voluntary. Other works focus on conservation and management of catchment and water regime and community support, including; provisioning support for the clean-tech industries, managing catchment and its surrounding environment, conducting basic research and surveys on environment of catchment and river basins, restoring the ecosystem of rivers to life, reducing nonpoint source pollutants, and supporting water-quality conservation activities. Korea is now developing its 'National CEPA Action Plans' to effectively implement national wetland-related policies and the Ramsar Convention, and upon completion of the development, more stakeholders (for instance, environmental organizations, experts, and local people) are expected to engage in the national effort to develop an integrated water resource management.

1.7.3 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

1.7.3 Additional information:

Refer to the 'Additional Information' of 1.6.1

1.7.4 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v

A - Yes

1.7.4 Additional information:

Refer to the 'Additional Information' of 1.6.1

STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. *Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.*

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.1 Additional information:

Of all 33 WPAs, 5 inland wetlands, including the High Moor, Youngneup of Mt. Daeam and Hanbando Wetland, were restored or in the process of restoration. And of all coastal wetlands, 70 sites covering 32.12 square kilometers were identified for restoration. The priority sites for wetland restoration are identified in two ways; first, the National Wetland Survey assesses the overall status of national wetlands and classifies them into 4 grade categories (I to IV), and those sites in the IV category are prioritized for restoration; second, sites designated as Wetland Protected Area are selected for restoration, in order to sustain the conservation and management of WPAs and improve the integrity of degraded WPAs and their functions.

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i

A - Yes

1.8.2 Additional information:

Sites that were restored and now in the process of restoration are; the High Moor Youngneup of Mt. Daeam, Jangdo Island High Moor, Ungok Wetlands, Sajapyeong of Mt. Jaeyak, Hanbando Wetlands, and Jeungdo Tidal Flat.

STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. *Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.*

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i

A - Yes

1.9.1 Additional information:

In accordance with the Act on Conservation and Use of Biodiversity, Korea has designated invasive species as 'Ecosystem Disturbance Species', and has made the information public. The Act classifies invasive or genetically modified species that currently or potentially cause a pronounced change to an ecosystem into an Ecosystem Disturbance Species group. So far the Act has designated 18 species and managed them accordingly.

Species classified as Ecosystem Disturbance Species: nutria(*Myocastor coypus*), bullfrog(*Rana catesbeiana*), genus of red-eared slider(*Trachemys scripta elegans*), bluegill(*Lepomis macrochirus*), largemouth bass(*Micropterus salmoides*), Limois emelianovi, ragweed(*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), *Ambrosia trifida*, white snakeroot(*Ageratina altissima*), *Paspalum distichum* var. *indutum*, *Paspalum distichum*, *Solanum carolinense*, Sheep's sorrel(*Rumex acetosella*), burr cucumber(*Sicyos angulatus*), *Hypochaeris radicata* L., white aster(*Symphotrichum ericoides*), canada golden-rod(*Solidago canadensis*), prickly lettuce(*Lactuca serriola*)

1.9.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRa 1.9.iii	A - Yes
<p>1.9.2 Additional information:</p> <p>The Wetland Conservation Act prevents invasive and/or exotic species under the Act on Conservation and Use of Biodiversity from entering wetlands. In addition, 'Invasive Species Management Plan' was established to control or eliminate those speices from national Protected Areas, including the Korean DMZ, National Parks, WPAs, and Ramsar Sites.</p>	

STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i	A - Yes
<p>1.10.1 Additional information:</p> <p>The Chapter 3 of the Master Plan for Wetland Conservation requies national efforts to encourage the engagement and involvement of the private sector in the national program regarding wise use of wetlands. The plan requires establishing the 'National CEPA Action Plan' as an instrument for promoting the private sector's engagement. It is also required to set up a framework for facilitating public-private cooperation on wetland protected areas and their conservation and management, and developing a capacity building programme for all stakeholders. The plan provides a guideline for applying the Ramsar Convention's Wise Use of Wetland concept to natinoal wetlands through buidling a Wetland Visitor Center Network and Wetland City Accreditation inititiaves.</p>	
<p>1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise use and management of:</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b. Wetlands in general</p> <p>{1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii</p>	<p>a. A - Yes</p> <p>b. A - Yes</p>

1.10.2 Additional information:

The private sector has engaged in almost all local-level activities for wise use and management of national wetlands. These activities includes identification and monitoring of important wetlands, restoration and reconstruction of the wetlands, conservation of wetland biodiversity, education and awareness-raising activities, and these provided a foundation for effective implementation of national wetland policies. Recently, public-private partnerships for wetlands have been forged, enhancing the private engagement. To keep up with this trend, the state and local governments in Korea provides a framework for facilitating the private engagement and its cooperation with government.

The Korean government recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ramsar Secretariat for developing a mechanism for the concept of Ramsar City Accreditation, and has piloted the Ramsar Village (or 'Settlement') Scheme that it developed for the national implementation of the concept. The objective of the scheme is to educate the local people living in and around Ramsar Site areas to adopt and apply the concept and principle of conservation and wise use, to encourage them to engage in conservation activities, and ultimately to bring into practice harmonious coexistence between humans and wetlands. The pilot scheme has been running in two Ramsar Sites (Dongbaekdongsan and Upo Wetland).

STRATEGY 1.11: Incentive measures. *Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.*

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

The incentive measures that Korea has used to encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands are implemented in line with other national environmental policies. One of the policies is the Designation Scheme for Ecotourism Destination that promotes sustainable use of ecological resources, including wetlands, encourages local community's engagement in conservation activities, and ultimately invigorates local economy and strengthens local community. Currently the scheme is piloted in 4 major ecotourism destinations, including Dongbaekdongsan (Ramsar Site).

Pursuant to the Act on Conservation and Use of Biodiversity, the Biodiversity Management Contract Scheme was established to encourage local farmers to voluntarily engage in conservation of ecosystem and biodiversity, and one of the examples is that famers agree to provide their fields to be used as winter habitats for migratory birds. Farmers leave their rice fields uncultivated and place rice straws on the field after harvest during winter, so that migratory birds flocked to the field to rest on and search for food. In so doing, farmers receives financial incentives from the government.

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i

B - No

1.11.2 Additional information:

.....

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Note: An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP12 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on each of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

REMINDER: In 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes " "; use single quotes ' ' instead.

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar Site designation. *Apply the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance' (Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?* {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i

A - Yes

2.1.1 Additional information:

Pursuant to the Wetland Conservation Act, the Master Plan for Wetland Conservation is required to elaborate the efforts for further designation of Ramsar Sites and strengthening the management of existing Ramsar Sites. In particular, the section 2 of the Master Plan is devoted to strengthening conservation and management of wetlands and includes requirements to prepare a manual for management of Ramsar Sites and to create a national scheme for supporting further designation of Ramsar Sites. In response to the Convention, Korea keeps updating the information of Ramsar Sites, contributing to the list of wetlands of international importance.

2.1.2 How many Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2015-2018)? {2.1.4} KRA 2.1.iii

4 sites

2.1.2 Additional information (If possible, please indicate the name(s) of the Site(s) and anticipated year of designation):

The national plan regarding Ramsar designation focuses on further nomination of national wetlands for the designation. It sometimes requires a long-term process of consultation among stakeholders, which makes it difficult to set a goal of how many wetlands are nominated annually. Of all 32 wetlands designated as Wetland Protected Area, 19 are currently Ramsar Site and the rest 14 sites are identified to be suitable for inclusion in the list of Ramsar Sites.

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar Site information. *Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service . . . is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.*

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

.....

STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning - new Ramsar Sites. *While recognizing that Ramsar Site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar Sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.*

2.3.1 Have all sites being prepared for Ramsar designation (2.1.2 above) had adequate management planning processes established? {2.3.1} KRA 2.3.i

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

In most cases, Wetland Protect Areas are selected and nominated for inclusion of the Ramsar site list, and under the Wetland Conservation Act, a conservation and management plan is required for each WPA, containing measures for conservation and management of those sites and for improving the quality of life of people living in and around the sites.

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. *Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.*

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i

18 sites

2.4.2 For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a management plan is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i

18 sites

2.4.3 For how many Ramsar Sites is a management plan currently being prepared? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i

1 sites

2.4.1 – 2.4.3 Additional information:

Ramsar sites with a management plan being implemented:

The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam (Ramsar Number 898), Upo Wetland(934), Jangdo Island High Moor(1458), Suncheon Bay(1594), Mulyeongari-oreum(1648), Du-ung Wetland(1724), Moojehineup(1725), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Muljangori-oreum wetland(1847), Odaesan National Park Wetlands(1848), 1100 Altitude Wetland(1893), Seocheon Tidal Flat(1925), Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Dongbaekdongsan(1947), Ungok Wetland(1948), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Han River-Bamseom Islets(2050), Songdo Tidal Flat(2209)

Ramsar Sites with a management plan currently being prepared:

Ganghwa Maehwamareum Habitat(1846)

2.4.4 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	11 sites
<p>2.4.4 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):</p> <p>The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam (898), Upo Wetland(934), Moojehineup(1725), Ungok Wetland(1948), Han River-Bamseom Islets(2050), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Suncheon Bay(1594), Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Seocheon Tidal Flat(1925), Songdo Tidal Flat(2209)</p>	

2.4.5 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared? {2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	19 sites
<p>2.4.5 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):</p> <p>The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam (Ramsar Number. 898), Upo Wetland(934), Jangdo Island High Moor(1458), Suncheon Bay(1594), Mulyeongari-oreum(1648), Du-ung Wetland(1724), Moojehineup(1725), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Ganghwa Maehwamareum Habitat (1846), Muljangori-oreum wetland(1847), Odaesan National Park Wetlands(1848), 1100 Altitude Wetland(1893), Seocheon Tidal Flat(1925), Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Dongbaekdongsan(1947), Ungok Wetland(1948), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Han River-Bamseom Islets(2050), Songdo Tidal Flat(2209)</p>	

STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar Site management effectiveness. *Review all existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance'.*

2.5.1 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i	C - Some sites
<p>2.5.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):</p> <p>Under the Wetland Conservation Act, a conservation and management plan for each WPA and Ramsar Site is required to be made and renewed every 5 years. The plan is built on the progress of its prior plan based on the assessment of its effectiveness. Through the assessment, the problem in conservation and management methodologies and the direction of the plan are contemplated and incorporated into the next 5-year plan. To assess the overall effectiveness of conservation and management, the findings and outcomes of the Intensive Survey on Ecosystem of Wetlands conducted every 5 years and the annual Wetland Monitoring are analyzed and integrated into the plan.</p>	

STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status. *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

C - Some sites

2.6.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

Different local authorities have responsibilities for conservation and management of different Ramsar Sites; river-based environmental offices of the Ministry of Environment for inland Ramsar Sites, regional maritime affairs and port offices for coastal Ramsar Sites, and each local government for Ramsar Sites within their jurisdiction.

These authorities have common responsibilities for identifying and monitoring changes in the ecological character of their Ramsar Sites, for regulating development and other activities resulting in loss and degradation of the sites, and for restricting access to the sites. If any given plan, programme, and project is considered having negative changes in the ecological character of a given Ramsar site, local authorities can exercise their power to take action, such as issuing an order to cease, or to restore to their original condition, and are required to report to the state government.

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

Z - No negative change

2.6.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

.....

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

B - No

2.6.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

.....

STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. *Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar Sites but have been identified through domestic application of the Strategic Framework or an equivalent process.*

2.7.1 Has the ecological character of internationally important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar Sites been maintained? {2.7.1} KRA 2.7.i

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

Internationally important wetlands in Korea that were not designated as Ramsar Site include wetlands that play an important role in biodiversity conservation and provide habitats for waterfowls, such as the ones located along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, and conservation and management plans are made based on the designation of the wetlands

Of all 11 sites listed in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network (Cheolwon Basin, Han River Estuary, Cheonsu Bay, Gumi Haepyung Wetland, Suncheon Bay, Junam Reservoir, Upo Wetland, Nakdong Estuary, Geum River Estuary, Yubu-do Tidal Flat, Chilbaldo Islet), 3 of them (Upo Wetland, Yubu-do Tidal Flat and Suncheon Bay) are designated as Ramsar Sites, and the estuaries of Han River and Geum River are designated as Wetland Protected Areas. The rest of the sites, some of which are designated as wildlife reserves, are conserved and managed by local governments.

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
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Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

<p>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i></p>

<p>3.1.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv</p>	<p>B - No</p>
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3.1.1 Additional information:

Pursuant to the Wetland Conservation Act, the National Wetland Committee are in place and works for conservation and management of WPAs and other wetland-related issues, but the national focal points of other MEAs are not invited to its meetings.

<p>3.1.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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3.1.2 Additional information:

To support the cooperation with and support for MEAs, Korea has established its permanent mission to the UN Office at Geneva, and one or more staffers from the Korean government are deployed to the mission, attending major international environmental conferences, maintaining a liaison between the government and international organizations, and engaging in dialogues with the Office.

<p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</i></p>
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<p>3.2.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
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3.2.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

Regional initiatives involving Korea within the strategic framework of the Convention are the East Asia Ramsar Regional Center (RRC-EA) that supports the conservation of wetlands and implementation of the Convention in the East Asian region; and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership that facilitates the conservation of habitats for migratory birds along the flyway.

The Korean government reported the establishment of the regional center to the 40th Ramsar Convention Steering Meeting in 2009, and in July of the year, the center was inaugurated in Changwon, Korea. Since then, the center has brought in the participation of 16 nations in the region.

The EAAFP was launched after adopted in the list of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2006, with Korea being the vice chair of the partnership, and the secretariat of the partnership has continued to be hosted by Korea. Its partners include 30 nations and international organizations and agreements, including Korea, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Birds (CMS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF). The current chair is China and the vice chair is the United States.

3.2.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):

ME has provided the financial support to the RRC-EA and the part of the support goes to the center's CEPA programmes for government officials in the region. In addition, the regional initiative within the strategic framework of the convention has operated other programmes; the Youth Model Ramsar convention, the RRC-EA Wetland Fund, and the Changwon Declaration Meeting, the CEPA & STRP NFPs Networking.

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. *Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.*

<p>3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP11):</p> <p>The Korea International Cooperation Agency(KOICA) was set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an agency responsible for the government's Official Development Assistance to developing nations. The agency's works do not directly focus on wetland-related issues, but its assistance for water management and rural area development contribute largely to conservation and management of the wetlands in developing nations.</p> <p>Since 2009, the Korean government has provided funds to the RRC-EA to support the center's assistance programme for wetland conservation in the East Asian nations. In 2013, the government provided financial contribution to the center's works for wetland conservation in Indonesia, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines, and the contribution amounted to less than 10,000\$ USD for each of 4 countries.</p>	
<p>3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>3.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>In 2012, KOICA created the Environmental Mainstreaming Guideline that helps create a tool for institutional conservation and environmental impact assessment in the recipient countries, building on their existing works for such activities.</p> <p>The KOICA guideline noted that the key decisions of an ODA plan or project are made early in the planning process, and that once made, these decisions are unlikely to change or be revised. Considering this, it suggests that the assessment and discussion on environmental conservation and potential impacts of a proposed project should be done in the planning process.</p>	
<p>3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}</p>	<p>---</p>
<p>3.3.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP11):</p> <p>.....</p>	

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. *Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}

A - Yes

3.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):

Sister site arrangements have been established between 4 wetlands in Korea and their counterpart sites in Japan, China and Singapore that are positioned in the Flyway Site Network of the EAAF partnership.

The existing sister-site partnerships are between Juam Reservoir and Kejo-numa wetland (Japan), Suncheon Bay and Arasaki wetland (Japan), Janghang wetland and Zhalong National Nature Resrve(China), and Yubudo Tidal Flat and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve(Singapore).

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

The National Wetland Center of the National Institute of Environmental Research, affiliated to the Ministry of Environment (AA), has conducted researches and studies on the national wetlands and its status, implemented the CEPA programme on wise use of wetlands, and supported the implementation of the national wetland policies.

The center's information about the wetlands, their status, and the findings of their researches and studies have been made public through publications and its website, and the information and services are accessible to everyone.

The center has provided the National Wetland Geographic Information Service for an easy access to information on maps, locations, and status of the national wetlands, and other publications regarding the center's project and plan and major wetland stakeholders.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries provides the distribution and status of coastal wetlands through its Eco-sea websites.

National Wetland Center website: www.wetland.go.kr

Eco-sea website: www.ecosea.go.kr

3.4.3 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Information about the national wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites has been provided to the Secretariat through the Ramsar Information sheet and the National Report, on a regular basis.

STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. *Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

3.5.1 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified?
{3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

3.5.1 Additional information:

After the Korean War in 1950, the Demilitarized Zone formed the boundary between South and North Korea. Since the demarcation, the zone has been inaccessible to civilians and this natural isolation has augmented its biodiversity and created many well-preserved wetlands.

To enhance the conservation of its natural environment, the South Korean government designated the zone and its surrounding areas as Ecological Network and has conducted for many years researches on the wetlands located in the area.

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

A - Yes

3.5.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):

Korea has participated in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project, together with China and North Korea that share the sea. The Yellow Sea is one of the 64 largest single ecosystems and has one of the 4 largest coastal wetlands in the world. The focus of the project is on reducing development stress and restoring the health of the coastal ecosystem. The international strategic project is mainly implemented by the UN Development Programme and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

3.5.3 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species?
{3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

The regional agreements and initiatives that Korea joined regarding wetland-dependent migratory species include the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, the North East Asian Crane Site Network, and the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Site Network.

The agreements regarding protection of migratory birds include the Republic of Korea –Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, the Agreement between the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation on the Protection of Migratory Birds, and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Migratory Birds.

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

Note: in 'free-text' boxes please do not use double quotes “ ”: use single quotes ‘ ’ instead.

STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.*

4.1.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i

- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

- a) C - In progress
- b) C - In progress
- c) C - In progress
- d) C - In progress

(Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)

4.1.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):

Since the Ramsar COP 10, the Korean government has been preparing its National Wetland CEPA Action Plan by bringing in inputs from multi-sector stakeholders. The government organized a group of multi-sector experts in May 2010 who were appointed to prepare the Action Plan, and the experts have also engaged in a public-private consultation that was initiated in September the same year. In August 2011, a public hearing was held, seeking to collect the views and ideas of the local governments and other stakeholders on the contents of the plan and on its preparation process. The plan includes 6 action strategies that include; establishing a comprehensive awareness-raising system on national wetlands; building a wetland web-portal that provides an easy access to everyone; strengthening the collaboration and communication between the public and the private sector and their capacity in the planning and implementation of wetland policies.

4.1.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii

- a) at Ramsar Sites
- b) at other wetlands

- a) 6 centres
- b) 6 centres

4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):

a) at Ramsar Sites

Upo Wetland Ecosystem Pavilion, Upo Ecology Education Center (at Upo Wetland), Muan Ecological Tidal Flat Center (at Muan Tidal Flat), Seocheon

Bird Ecology Pavilion (at Seocheon Tidal Flat), Suncheon Bay Ecological Exhibit Hall (at Suncheon Bay), Jeungdo Mudflat Ecological Exhibition Hall (Jeungdo Tidal Flat)

b) at other wetlands

Ganghwa Tidal Flat Center, Geumgang Migratory Bird Observatory, Nakdong Estuary Eco Center, Bong-ahm Tidal Flat Ecology Center, Hongseong Bird Science Center

4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:

- a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management
- b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?

a) A - Yes

b) A - Yes

{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii

4.1.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):

The National Wetland Committee was established to review and assess the national plan for wetland conservation, its planning and revision process, the national implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Convention, and nomination of national wetlands for inclusion in the Ramsar List. The members of the committee include the Vice Minister of Environment (chair) and the director of relevant ministries and local governments, experts from the private sector, and local stakeholders. The Wetland Conservation Act requires the Minister of both Environment and Ocean and Fisheries to consult with relevant ministries and local governments before nominating a proposed wetlands for inclusion in the Ramsar List.

4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?

{4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii

A - Yes

4.1.4 Additional information:

To meet the training needs for the implementation of the Convention, the United Nations Development Plan and the Global Environment Facility' project (00038362) on 'Conservation of Globally Significant Wetlands in the Republic of Korea' has been implemented since 2014. One of the main activities of this project is to 'strengthen technical capacity of civil servants and NGO staff to support decision-making involving wetlands (output 2.1.5)'. This activity included building technical capacity for research and monitoring of national wetlands; and organizing workshops, seminars, and on-site visits to provide a platform to discuss how to build and effectively operate a cooperative and supportive regional network. After 5 years of implementation, the activity was assessed and monitored and has been developed into a regular-basis training programme that continue to be implemented after the termination of the UNDP/GEF project.

<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP11? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>Number of opportunities:</p> <p>a) 0 b) Once every year</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>The Korean government has run an annual training program about wetland conservation and management for wetland site managers of the state and local governments. The trainees are given information about the major national wetland policies and government activities regarding the wise use of wetlands. The program is an opportunity for the state government to spread and disseminate its wetland policies to local governments.</p>	
<p>4.1.6 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP11; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>The Wetland Conservation Act requires organization of the National Wetland Deliberative Committee. NWDC is a national wetland committee, a mechanism that assists the implementation of the Convention at the national level. The Committee has held 4 meetings since the COP 11, taking stock of the planning of national wetland policies, the designation of Wetland Protected Area, the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Convention, and other NPAs-related issues. NWDC consists of the President, 2 Vice Presidents, and 27 members from the state government, NGOs and of wetland experts.</p>	
<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and:</p> <p>a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies</p> <p>{4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>a) A - Yes b) B - No c) A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partly', please describe what mechanisms are in place):</p> <p>a) An information sharing mechanism in place between ME and its affiliated organizations (the AA of inland wetlands), and MOF and its affiliated organizations (the AA of coastal wetlands). The affiliated organizations of the two ministries are the local authorities of Ramsar Sites, responsible for on-site management and conservation of the sites. The organizations have their own local wetland committee in which the staffs of the Ramsar Site management in the state government take part.</p> <p>c) ME, the AA responsible for management and conservation of wetlands of</p>	

national importance and ecological value, communicates, if deemed necessary, with other ministries and agencies regarding conservation and management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands. For instance, it communicates with the Korea National Forest Service in regard to wetlands in mountain areas, and with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in regard to riverine wetlands.

4.1.8 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP11? {4.1.8}

A - Yes

4.1.8 Additional information:

Korea has celebrated the World Wetlands Day on 2 February every year since COP 11 (2012), and the government has used the day as an opportunity to raise awareness, exchange knowledge, and propagate its wetland-related policies and initiatives. Because of the unfavorable weather conditions of the month, the government has designated every second week of May as National Wetland Week since 2010 and during the week, ME, its affiliated organizations, and local governments carry out Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities throughout the nation.

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP11 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):

In Korea, awareness-raising campaigns and projects have been undertaken every year throughout the nation, with participation of people from all walks of life. The Wetland Visitor Centers located in major wetland areas have provided on-site experience programmes and ecological education programmes throughout the year. Local governments, in collaboration with local stakeholders, have run their own ecological education programmes, in order to move ecotourism in wetlands into the mainstream.

Korea has initiated a pilot wetland city accreditation scheme in two villages by Dongbaekdongsan and Upo wetland (both designated as Ramsar Sites). Various programmes have been piloted there to facilitate the wise use of wetlands; for instance, some programmes provide hands-on experiences on both tangible and intangible ecosystem benefits provided by wetlands; ecological monitoring programmes have been run to facilitate the conservation of wetlands and their values. These programmes highlight the capacity of wetlands for conservation of biodiversity and the image of wetlands as clean area, and embody the wise use concept. Furthermore, the affiliated organizations of ME have carried out projects that eliminate introduced and invasive species, and control water pollution, in order to retain the integrity and resilience of wetlands.

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. *Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanism for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.*

4.2.1

a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2012, 2013 and 2014? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i

B - No

b) If 'No' in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:

The Korea's annual contributions of 2012 and 2013 were paid in full, but the payment for the 2014 contribution has not been made yet. Upon the receipt of the invoice for the Korea's payment of the 2014 annual contribution, ME has allotted the amount and will make a full payment in October 2014.

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i

A - Yes

4.2.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):

In November 2013, upon the request from the Convention, ME provided its voluntary contribution of \$ 19,000 (USD) to support the preparation and publication of 'Handbook on Best Practices for the Planning, Design and Operation of Wetland Education Center'.

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.*

4.3.1 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii

A - Yes

4.3.1 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):

The previous Ramsar National Reports of Korea has been used in monitoring implementation of the Convention and in preparing its National Report for the Ramsar COP12.

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

* The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, and WWF International.

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

4.4.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance received):

.....

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.4.2} KRA 4.4.iii

B - No

4.4.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the IOP (or IOPs) and the type of assistance provided):

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