



NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

**National Reports to be submitted to the 10th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
Republic of Korea, 28 October – 4 November 2008**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **31 March 2008**.

National Reports should be sent to: Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Secretariat (dufour@ramsar.org)

Introduction & background

1. This Ramsar COP10 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Republic of Korea, October/November 2008).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 35th meeting in February 2007, and its Decisions SC35-22, -23 and -24, this COP10 National Report Format has been significantly revised and simplified in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In particular this National Report Format provides a much smaller number (66) of implementation "indicator" questions, compared with the much larger suite of questions on all aspects of national implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 included in previous NRFs.
4. The COP10 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee (Decision SC35-24), certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) and CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention.
5. The 66 indicator questions are grouped under each of the implementation "Strategies" approved by the Parties at COP9 (Resolution IX.8) in the Convention's "A Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006 -2008 period" (www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_08_e.htm). The indicators have been selected so as to provide information on key aspects of the implementation of the Convention under each of its Strategies.
6. In addition, for each Strategy the option is provided for a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, to supply **additional information** concerning its implementation under each indicator and, more generally, on implementation of other aspects of each Strategy.

The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention, and are made publicly available through their posting on the Convention's Web site.
8. There are six main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are to:
 - i) provide data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) capture lessons/experience, so as to allow Parties to develop future action;
 - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention through Convention processes;
 - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable against their obligations under the Convention;
 - v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and plan for its future implementation and priorities; and
 - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. In addition, the data and information provided by Parties in their COP10 National Reports now have another important purpose, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation will provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention" currently being further developed by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for Standing Committee and COP10 consideration.

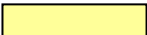
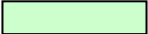
10. To facilitate the analysis and onward use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, once received and verified by the Ramsar Secretariat all information is entered and held by the Secretariat in a database, which then facilitates extraction and analysis of the information for a number of purposes.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
 - i) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each COP on the global and regional implementation, and progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at COP as a series of Information Papers including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 5);
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (see, e.g., COP9 DOC 6); and
 - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP9 DOCs 10-13);
 - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at COP. Examples at CO9 included:
 - Resolution IX.15, *The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, and
 - Information Papers on *Issues and scenarios concerning Ramsar sites or parts of sites which cease to meet or never met the Ramsar Criteria* (COP9 DOC 15) and *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC 25);
 - iii) providing the source of time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention, included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (3rd edition, 2007); and
 - iv) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national-level implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for the CBD for wetlands.

The structure of the COP10 National Report Format

12. In line with Standing Committee Decisions SC35-21 and SC35-22, the COP10 National Report Format is in three sections.
13. **Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.
14. **Section 2** is a "free-text" section in which to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.
15. **Section 3** provides the 66 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy, and with a "free-text" section under each Strategy in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of the Strategy and its indicators.

Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP10 National Report Format

IMPORTANT – READ THIS SECTION OF GUIDANCE BEFORE STARTING TO FILL IN THE NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

16. All three Sections of the COP10 National Report Format should be filled in, in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
17. The deadline for submission of the completed National Report Format is **31 March 2008**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received from Parties after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP10.
18. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
19. 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 in the COP10 NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since it is the experience of the Secretariat that such explanatory information is very valuable in ensuring a full understanding of implementation progress and activity, notably in informing the preparation of global and regional implementation reports to COP.
20. In order to assist Contracting Parties in their provision of such additional information, for a number of indicator questions some particularly helpful types of such information are suggested. However, of course, Parties are free to add any other relevant information they wish in any of the "Additional implementation information" fields.
21. The Format is created as a "Form" in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to, and between, each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information. All other parts of the form are locked.
22. To go to a yellow or green field you wish to fill in, 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.
23. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the "Tab" key on the computer keyboard.
24. For a "free-text" field, you can type in whatever information you wish. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green or yellow "free-text" box, it is recommended that you 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. This is because within the "Form" format there is limited facility to make editorial changes within the "free-text" box once text has been entered.
25. 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 asked in the indicator, but are in general of the form: "Yes", "No", "Partly", "In progress", etc.
26. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can provide this in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
27. 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.

28. The NRF is not intended normally to be filled in by one person alone – for many indicators it would seem best for the principal compiler to consult with colleagues in the same and other agencies within the government who might have fuller knowledge of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the work at any point in the process and return to it subsequently to continue or to amend answers previously given.
29. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP10NRF [Country] [date].
30. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by email, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, email: dufour@ramsar.org. The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
31. When the completed National Report is submitted by the Party, **it must be accompanied by a letter or e-mail message in the name of the Administrative Authority, confirming that this is that Contracting Party's official submission of its COP10 National Report.**
32. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP10 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

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. LEE, Sang-pal, Director
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Email:	sang3859@me.go.kr
DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (DAILY CONTACT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY) FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS	
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DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)	
Name and title of focal point:	Dr. SHIN, Young-kyu, Senior Researcher
Name of organisation:	National Institute of Environmental Research
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DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
Name and title of focal point:	Ms. LEE, Na-mue, Public Awareness and Training Officer
Name of organisation:	UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project
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Telephone/Fax:	+82-(0)2-509-7966 / (Fax) +82-(0)505-115-2650
Email:	namue99@yahoo.co.kr
DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS	
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Name of organisation:	Wetland Center, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements (KFEM)
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SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP9 reporting):

A. What new steps have been taken to implement the Convention?

The Korean Government (with the inter-ministerial cooperation of the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs) established the National Wetland Management Plan (2007-2011) and has been implementing it. The goals of this plan are to minimize the damages and losses of wetlands; to restore wetlands to the original state; to manage protected wetlands, giving priority to those with high-scenic and biodiversity values; and to improve the livelihoods of residents. This plan in particular covers the areas of water resource management, ecosystem protection, improvement of the scientific assessment of coastal ecosystems, river basin protection, and some wetland-related issues mentioned at the WSSD. In addition, as the COP10 hosting country, the Government designated an additional five new Ramsar sites including Suncheon Bay and now has a total of eight Ramsar sites.

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

The Government set up the National Wetland Review Committee composed of diverse stakeholders (Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs; Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Korean Forest Service; Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea; local governments with important wetlands, relevant scholars, and NGO wetland experts etc.). The Government is expecting that this committee will contribute to a national systematic ecosystem conservation and restoration plan and support livelihoods of local residents in protected areas. Establishing a National Wetland Management Plan and designating five additional Ramsar sites were also important achievements for Korea.

C. What have been the greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

In the case of designating wetland protected areas, local residents were sometimes strongly opposed to the designations because of perceived restrictions on property rights. To solve these problems, the Government will prepare consistent and scientifically valid criteria for designating wetland protected areas, promote in-depth surveys for wetlands protection, increase the purchases of private lands within protected areas, and minimize economic losses of local residents by promoting eco-tourism.

D. What proposals and priorities are there for future implementation of the Convention?

In establishing an East Asian Ramsar Regional Center, the Government will strengthen the regional cooperation regarding wetland issues such as the Austral-East Asia migratory flyway partnerships and promote Asian regional initiatives to protect wetlands.

E. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

Regarding the procedures for Ramsar site designation and building the East Asia Ramsar Regional Center, the Government received technical recommendations from the Secretariat, but due to the absence of a Ramsar Asia-Oceania Regional Officer, there was limited assistance from the Secretariat.

F. Does the Contracting Party have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)?

The Korean Government would like to emphasize the role of IOPs to provide technical advice to strengthen the capacities for wetland conservation in developing countries.

- G. 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?

The Government joined the CBD, attended forums and conferences on invasive species such as Neobiota and IAIA, presented the Korean study cases, and exchanged ideas among relevant government officials and academics. In 2008, the Government will continue doing the above-mentioned activities and exchange experiences and information with foreign research institutes. Furthermore the Government is preparing the measures to meet the needs of effective partnerships with relevant international organizations.

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

To incorporate these elements into the national wetland conservation strategies, the Government established the National Wetland Management Plan with relevant ministries together focusing on the prevention of wetland damages, with special care for important wetland protected areas, and securing the livelihoods of local residents.

- I. Does the Contracting Party have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

To achieve the goal of wise use of wetlands, it is critical to share experiences and promote technology transfer especially when the implementation capacities of contracting parties are so different. The Government expects the East Asia Ramsar Regional Center will play an important role to develop conservation capacities of East Asian countries who share common wetland issues and to strengthen effective network building. Improved cooperation and partnerships with international organizations will accelerate sharing valuable experiences among countries.

SECTION 3: INDICATOR QUESTIONS & FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Guidance for filling in 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 either one or more of the specific indicators for each strategy, and/or for other aspects of the national implementation of this strategy, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions for each Strategy.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you 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. So as to assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP9, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP9 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

STRATEGY 1.1: *Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1}	A - Yes
1.1.2 Is the wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.3; 1.1.6}	A - Yes
1.1.3 Does your country have information about the status and trends of the ecological character of wetlands (Ramsar sites and/or wetlands generally)? {1.2.2} [if “Yes”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below, from where or from whom this information can be accessed]	A - Yes
1.1.4 If the answer is “Yes” in 1.1.3, does this information indicate that the need to address adverse change in the ecological character of wetlands is now greater, the same, or less than in the previous triennium, for: a) Ramsar sites b) wetlands generally	B - the same B - the same

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.1.1 – 1.1.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.1.1 :

- The Korean Government (the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs) conducts wetland surveys every five years that investigate the overall ecosystem, pollution levels, and adjacent land use.
- Under Article 4 of the Wetland Conservation Act, nationwide surveys on inland wetlands were carried out from 2000 to 2005. This included 33 in-depth surveys on selected wetlands (including Whajinpo, Lake Youngam, and Jeongyang Reservoir), and 737 general surveys on wetlands in seven regions (i.e., Han River, Nakdong River, Geum River, Yeongsan River, Seomjin River, Jeju Island, and East Sea coastal areas).
- The second nation-wide surveys on inland wetlands were initiated in 2006 and are scheduled for completion in 2010. The country is divided into five large regions, each of which in turn is sub-divided into 21 small regions according to the number of wetlands and the intensity of the surveys.
- More intensive research on nine estuaries was initiated in 2004, and in 2008 additional research on three estuaries will be launched.
- As of February 2008, the inventory on 800 inland wetlands has been completed including the results of the first nation-wide inland wetland survey and the research results of 2006.
- From 1999 to 2005, the first nationwide survey on coastal wetlands was conducted, which included but was not limited to nine in-depth surveys on: the Southern region of Kangwhado, Garorim Bay, Hampyeong Bay, Jeung Island, Aphae Island, Doam Bay, Yeoja Bay, Gangjin Bay, and Jondal-ri (Jeju Island) as well as general surveys. Currently in progress is the second survey focusing on 15 characteristics (e.g., sediments, ecosystems, and pollution levels) of six regions.
- Regular in-depth research is being conducted on wetland protected areas and Ramsar sites.
 - Since 2006, a five-year in-depth survey has been carried out to monitor changes in the ecosystems of Ramsar sites and wetland protected areas.
 - Currently, there are 20 wetland protected areas (12 designated by MOE and eight by the former Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) and eight Ramsar sites (six of them are managed by MOE and two by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries).
 - Of the six Ramsar sites managed by MOE, surveys on four sites (The High Moor Yongneup, Upo Wetland, Jang-do Island High Moor, and Moojechi-neup) were completed; a survey on Mulyeongari-oreum is currently underway and another survey is scheduled for Du-ung Wetland in 2009.
 - Of 12 wetland conservation areas designated by MOE, research on five areas (Nakdong River Estuary, The High Moor Yongneup, Upo Wetland, Jang-do Island High Moor, and Moojechi-neup) was completed; additional research is being conducted on two areas (i.e., Mulyeongari-oreum and Whaum-neup); research will be conducted on the remaining five areas from 2009 to 2010.
 - Basic monitoring has continued while long-term national ecological research is being conducted on Upo Wetland (Ramsar site), Han River, Nakdong River, Saemangum, and

Daechung Lake.

- Since 2007, MOE has taken the lead in evaluating the status of streams.

1.1.2:

- Wetland research reports, including national inland wetland surveys, are available to related organizations, libraries, and universities. The general public has access to the research reports (in text or PDF format) on MOE's digital library website (<http://library.me.go.kr>).

- The Korean Tidal Flat Information System (<http://www.tidalflat.go.kr>) provides updated information on wetlands biota, protected areas, online maps, and GIS data. The Environmental Geographic Information System (<http://egis.me.go.kr/egis>) managed by MOE offers to the public the results of national ecological research (including wetlands). This information is available on the National Ecosystem Information Network (<http://ecosystem.nier.go.kr>).

1.1.3:

- The National Institute of Environmental Research (N.I.E.R.) has data on the ecological status of Ramsar sites and MOE designated wetland protected areas, hydrology, topography, geo-morphology, pedology, and observations on changes in wetlands.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 1.2: *Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supranational policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied, where possible specifying the appropriate policy instrument(s) in each Contracting Party which ensures wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

1.2.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {2.1.1} [If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
1.2.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {2.1.2}	A - Yes
1.2.3 Have wetland issues been incorporated into national strategies for sustainable development (including National Poverty Reduction Plans called for by the WSSD and water resources management and water efficiency plans)? {2.1.2}	A - Yes

1.2.4 Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed?	A - Yes
1.2.5 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {2.2.2}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.2.1 – 1.2.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.2.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.2.1:

- In order to more systematically manage and conserve wetlands, MOE has implemented the National Wetland Management Plan following consultations with experts, environmental organizations, municipalities, and related ministries; and contingent on approval from the newly established high level National Wetland Review Committee.

- The National Wetland Management Plan is a five-year mid-term plan under Article 5 of the 1999 Wetland Conservation Act.

- The Plan will be implemented during the period 2007 to 2011, and its policy goal is the “conservation and management of wetlands in harmony with human beings.” Consisting of four objectives and 22 tasks, the Plan aims to foster the systematic conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. The four objectives are: (i) establishing a wetland management system, (ii) conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, (iii) strengthening cooperation on wetlands, and (iv) providing education and raising the public’s awareness on wetlands.

- Details of the National Wetland Management Plan:

- As a policy measure for wetland conservation, Early Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment are actively utilized to prevent degradation caused by various development projects. To maintain the total area of wetlands and prevent any further losses of wetlands nationwide in the long term, a “No Net Loss of Wetlands” policy will soon be introduced to require future development projects causing any potential wetland degradation and/or losses to mitigate these impacts with the creation of new wetlands, or possibly restoration of others. The overall objective should be no further losses of wetlands in the country. The construction of dikes or seawalls at the mouths of major river estuaries have caused major ecological disturbances such as decreases in the numbers of globally significant migratory birds and fishes, measureable declines in water quality, and hardship for local communities (e.g., fishers, shellfish collectors) who are dependent on productive estuarine waters for their livelihoods. To resolve such problems and prevent future ones, institutional reforms have been made to manage the estuaries in a comprehensive manner, and a National Wetland Review Committee established by law to facilitate inter-ministerial policy coordination. NWRC sub-committees focused on policies that require specific expertise have been formed to manage wetlands based on verifiable scientific evidence.

- Currently, a second national survey on inland and coastal wetlands is underway with regards to the conservation and sustainable use of wetland. A database, established by collecting survey results, will be used and made available for basic research on wetland conservation. Wetlands will be classified according to AWI criteria and then appropriate conservation measures (e.g., designation of new wetland protected area according to their relative importance) adopted as needed. The details of these measures will be provided online to raise the public’s awareness of wetlands and conservation efforts. The Korean Government will designate additional wetland protected areas and seek to increase the number of Ramsar sites in the country. However, such designations may place restrictions on the property rights of private landowners, possibly resulting in strong opposition from local residents. To address this and other related issues, the Government will establish a transparent and scientifically based system for the designation of wetland protected areas, and develop various appropriate measures (e.g., extensive research, monitoring, and expansion of wetland restoration programs). The ROK Govt. will also increase the purchase of private properties within protected wetland areas and encourage wetland eco-tourism to minimize the economic impacts on local residents. Rapid urbanization since the 1970s (approx. 89% of the total population now live in urban areas) and stream renewal projects (affecting 80% of the streams nationwide) have caused significant wetland losses and degradation. To address these challenges, scientific research will be conducted to identify the extent of wetland loss and degradation and implement prioritized wetland recovery projects. Needed specialists and appropriate technologies will be retained and utilized, respectively.

- To increase and improve cooperative efforts to conserve wetlands, a heightened public

awareness on the value of wetlands and the need for wetland conservation is very much needed. The Korean Government will establish stronger cooperative relationships with civic (e.g., NGOs) and private groups, international organizations, and private global institutions. To this end, the Korean Government will increase financial assistance to civic groups and share more information on wetlands. Moreover, it will promote additional networking among all stakeholders and civic organizations at the regional level and develop training programs as needed. By encouraging citizens to participate in wetland monitoring activities, the Government hopes to encourage greater volunteerism (in the wetland conservation area) among the public. As the host country of the 10th Conference of Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, Korea will actively participate in international discussions and actions for wetland conservation. The Korean Government will also play an appropriate role as Vice Chair of the East Asia-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network, and Chair of the Ramsar Standing Committee. If the Ramsar Regional Center for Networking, Training and Research on Wetlands in East Asia (RRC-East Asia) is located in Gyeongnam Province, the Korean Government will be able to play a significant role (through the Center) in initiating capacity building projects for developing countries in Asia.

The CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) activities for wetland conservation are mainly spearheaded by NGOs in Korea. The Government supports these organizations through the ongoing UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project so that they may continue to raise public awareness and conduct their programs in more effective manners. NGOs contribute to heightening the public's awareness of the importance of wetlands through various means, such as wetland education and training programs, public forums, and community wetland monitoring programs. According to a 2007 NGO survey (involving 60 wetland related NGOs) conducted by Korea Wetland Project staff, the two most common approaches are monitoring and training. The survey also showed that the quality of their activities was high and that their public awareness activities were more successful when they focused on local wetlands that are more closely connected to the lives of ordinary people rather than focusing on wetlands of national importance. For improved management of nationally important wetlands, local governments and wetland management offices are running programs to train wetland experts, maintain informative websites for public run education centers, and train volunteers to serve as "wetland guides". In so doing they spread the concept of the "wise and sustainable use of wetlands" and encourage the general public to participate in wetland conservation. The Korean Government will ensure that CEPA activities can be more systematic and efficient. To accomplish this, the Government will foster wetland research institutes, improve public awareness programs, and develop tailored wetland education programs.

1.2.2:

- The Korean Government has implemented the National Wetland Management Plan (2007 – 2011) through the joint efforts of the Ministry of Environment and the newly established Ministry of Land, Transportation, and Maritime Affairs, both of which are responsible for wetland conservation in Korea. The Plan aims to prohibit any further damages to and losses of wetlands as much as possible, restore natural wetlands to their original state, give special attention and care of protected wetland areas with excellent biodiversity and scenic values, and to strengthen the well-being and livelihoods of local residents. In particular, the Plan incorporates the wetland-related targets and actions of WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) Plan: for example, water resource management, ecosystem conservation, improvement of scientific understanding and assessment of coastal ecosystems, and protection of wetlands and river basins, etc. In addition to the Plan, the Korean Government includes wetland conservation plans in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2006 – 2010) drafted by the high level Presidential Committee on Sustainable Development, that was established for the 2006 implementation of JPOI (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) in Korea. As the first comprehensive plan integrating economic, social, and environmental issues in Korea, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development includes a wetland related action plan for sustainable management of natural resources, such as integrated management of water resources, sustainable development of coastal areas, maintenance of biodiversity, and securing the biodiversity of natural resources.

1.2.3:

- The Korean Government has encouraged local residents to participate in the management

planning of wetland protected areas, and local governments have also actively launched eco-tourism initiatives to compensate the livelihoods of residents affected by protected area regulations. Furthermore, the Korean Government is also keenly aware of the growing environmental pressures in the Asia-Pacific Region. Confronting the problems of severe poverty and increasing demands for better protection of quickly disappearing ecosystems, people are raising a louder voice for “environmentally sustainable economic development” (Green Growth).

Korea has been regarded as a model country for economic growth as well as environmentally sustainable development programs in the Asia and Pacific region. In response to requests for sharing the experiences and lessons of Korean cases with other countries in the region, Korea has convened two sessions of SI (Seoul Initiative) leadership courses (November 2006, October 2007; National Institute of Environmental Human Resources Development) where approximately 60 government employees from Asian-Pacific countries exchanged international experiences on sustainable economic growth and discussed the current environmental conditions of each country. Furthermore, three projects in two countries are currently in progress. One project is focused on decreasing plastic bag usage in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam from October 2007 to October 2008.

- In order to effectively manage water resources, the Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs established a Comprehensive Long-Term National Plan of Water Resources (2006-2020) in June 2006. This plan mainly includes taking measures to utilize riverside water retention and agricultural reservoirs to prevent floods and to ensure that any alterations are compatible with natural river conditions.

1.2.4:

- The Korean Govt. is regularly monitoring and examining the volume of water flow and water quality of the Ramsar sites and the MOE designated wetland conservation areas. Certain wetlands management plans also cover the management of floodgate systems.

- Pursuant to the Act on the Conservation of Water Quality and Water Ecosystems and the Framework for the Management of Water Conditions (2006 – 2010), the MOE has been conducting surveys since 2007 for the purpose of evaluation and analyses of water ecosystems, such as water utilization, hydrology, water quality, benthic organisms, birds, and habitats of the Han River, Nakdong River, Youngsan River, and Seomjin River.

- The Korean Govt. also plans to establish a project unit for water system restoration and to implement a research project (2008-2014) for developing restoration technologies for wildlife habitats and migratory bird stopover points, restoring natural river beds, creating natural riverbanks, conserving riparian ecosystems, forming riverside green belts, managing nonpoint pollution sources, and evaluating river conditions.

1.2.5:

- In regards to the establishment and implementation of various development plans and projects, the Korean Govt. plans to carefully evaluate and consider the potential environmental impacts and economic losses of such a plan and/or project. This will include but is not limited to appropriateness of the plan in issue and feasibility of the location, arrangements for a comprehensive feasibility study prior to any development, and harmony with the surrounding environments. The Korean Govt. anticipates that this will promote “the harmony between development and conservation,” or in more common vernacular, “environmentally friendly development.”

- Legal basis for placing emphasis on wetland conservation

- Address environmental issues in the planning stage of development projects; prevent damages before they occur by reinforcing comprehensive and transparent environmental impact assessments prior to any construction

- Establish wetland experimental plots including areas that remain in natural conditions

-Regular monitoring will be conducted and successful plots will receive financial support.
 -The costs of environmental facilities and wetland conservation facilities will be partially supported in order to prevent pollution and to improve the living conditions of local residents.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.2 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 1.3: *Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defence, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, with a focus on under-represented ecosystem types, through developing and disseminating methodology to achieve wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

<p>1.3.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar sites? {3.3.1} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in the Additional implementation information below, the year of assessment and from where or from whom this information can be obtained]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.2 Have wise use wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {3.3.4}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.3 Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.17)? {3.2.1}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.3.4 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)? {3.3.3}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.3.1 – 1.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.3.1:

○ The Korea Environment Institute (KEI) and other agencies are currently estimating the economic values of wetland ecological functions in several important wetlands nationwide (e.g., Ramsar sites, including Upo Wetland; Han-Imjin River Estuary, Geum River Estuary, and the Nakdong River Estuary), by using various non-market valuation methodologies.

1.3.2:

○ Financial support is provided for releasing Crucian Carp into Junam Reservoir in Changwon (resulting in an alternative income source for local residents) and continuing the eradication of alien and invasive fish species (e.g., Bass). Upo residents are granted exclusive fishing rights to earn a living while non-local residents are prohibited from fishing.

○ In regards to the establishment and implementation of various development plans and development projects in the future, it is emphasized to take into account factors having influences over the environment.

1.3.3:

○ Peatlands cover only a small area of Korea and thereby receive little attention and conservation efforts. However, with the establishment of the East Asia Ramsar Regional Center, pending COP10 approval, we anticipate the establishment of cooperative research programs and a heightened public awareness about peatlands.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 1.4: *Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).*

Indicator questions:

1.4.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been used/applied in decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {3.4.2 – r3.4.xiv}	A - Yes
1.4.2 Have CEPA expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management?	A - Yes
1.4.3 Has the Convention's guidance on wetlands and coastal zone management (Annex to Resolution VIII.4) been used/applied in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making? {3.4.5}	A - Yes
1.4.4 Have the implications for wetland conservation and wise use of national implementation of the Kyoto Protocol been assessed? {3.4.9}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.4.1 – 1.4.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

1.4.1:

○ In 2007 with the establishment of a ten-year plan for ecologically restored rivers, MOE has shifted the direction of river projects from river channel restoration to the restoration of watersides and river basins. Thereby, the Ministry has implemented water purification projects that take into consideration back marshes, lagoons, estuaries and flood plains.

1.4.2:

○ To link the Korean Govt. CEPA program with policies for river basin management, emphasis is placed on activities of the 'River Saving Network'. And at the end of 2007, the KOREAN NGO CEPA network was established.

- About twenty organizations are participating in the River Saving Network for the purpose of resolving water related challenges through local governance, conserving river basins through the restoration of communities in the basin areas, and harmonization and development (via appropriate networks) of organizations committed to river rescue activities.

- Composed of an estimated 60 organizations, the Korea CEPA Network is engaged in information exchange, training, monitoring, and public awareness projects that all serve to raise the public awareness of the importance of wetland conservation and wise use. The Network has also encouraged the identification, recognition, and replication of successful CEPA projects.

1.4.3:

○ In order to more systematically manage and conserve wetlands, MOE established and has implemented a National Wetland Management Plan upon consulting with experts, environmental organizations, municipalities, and related Ministries and getting approval from the National Wetland Review Committee.

1.4.4:

○ While conducting a project on the impacts of climate changes (regional and global) on the wetland functions of the Upo Wetland, Ramsar site, the Korean Government examined the changes in the distribution of Nakdong River Estuary wetlands over the course of the 20th Century. Furthermore, the study was able to identify the tools for assessing climatic impacts and project (using atmospheric modeling) the impacts of wetland losses and degradation on the overall climate of the Nakdong River Basin. The government plans to produce videos (for educational purposes) to show the impacts of wetland degradation and losses on local climate changes.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 1.5: *Identify priority wetlands 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.*

Indicator questions:

<p>1.5.1 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {4.1.2}</p> <p>[If "Yes", please identify any major programmes or projects in Additional implementation information]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>1.5.2 Has the Convention's guidance on wetland restoration (Annex to Resolution VIII.16; Wise Use Handbook 15, 3rd edition) been used/applied in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {4.1.2}</p>	<p>B - No</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.5.1 – 1.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

1.5.1:

- Currently underway is a research project (2008-2010) on the effective management of artificial habitats, including wetlands.
 - Case studies of man-made habitats and the assessment of achieving ecological restorations.
 - Establishing a checklist of key factors needed for the formation of alternative habitats
 - A number of wetlands (e.g., Nakdong River Estuary, Shihwa Lake, and Suhsan Reclamation area) are included in the research projects.

- In September 2007, a workshop was convened for local government officers, experts, and NGOs on wetland restoration and management. The workshop emphasized disseminating wetland conservation activities by raising public awareness of the wise use and conservation of wetlands.

- The Korean Govt. is staying abreast of the latest trends by frequently organizing international conferences and symposiums on wetland restoration.

- Research on the effective restoration and sustainable use of Suncheon Bay (2007-2008)
 - Produced a Suncheon Bay ecological research survey manual and prepared an efficient management plan for the preservation of Suncheon Bay

- Attended by public officials, experts/professionals, and NGOs, a two-day workshop was held (March 2007) on the wise conservation of Suncheon Bay and discuss the future plans for this important estuary area.

- Progress has been made to improve the natural conditions of tidal flats with clean-up activities, removal of damaged dikes, and the installation of channels at the harbors.

- As part of the plan for the conservation and sustainable use of Suncheon Bay, the area has been divided into “core areas” and a “buffer zone”. Furthermore, efforts have been made for conserving the Suncheon Bay ecosystem and restricting careless coastline development by introducing guidelines on development activities in Suncheon Bay and the surrounding areas.

1.5.2:

- In the past, projects were undertaken to construct man-made wildlife habitats that did not comply with Ramsar guidelines. Recently the Government has been examining successful foreign examples of artificial wildlife habitats and now the Ramsar guidelines serve as the key references.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 1.6: *Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems.*

Indicator questions:

1.6.1 Have national policies, strategies and management responses to threats from invasive species, particularly in wetlands, been developed and implemented? {r5.1.ii}	A - Yes
1.6.2 Have such policies, strategies and management responses been carried out in cooperation with the focal points of other conventions and international organisations/processes? {r5.1.ii}	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 1.6.1 – 1.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “1.6.2: [.. additional information ...]”

1.6.1:

○ Designating ten species of alien animal (four) and plant (six) species with harmful effects on wetland ecosystems as 'invasive alien species' pursuant to the Wildlife Protection Act, the Govt. is continuously monitoring the distribution and abundance of species and through research trying to better understand their life histories for more effective management and eradication programs. Alien animals currently threatening the wetlands of Korea include (American) Bullfrogs, Red-eared Sliders, Largemouth Bass, and Blue Gills; all of which are classified as 'invasive alien wild animals'. As for 'invasive alien wild plants', Knotgrass, (*Paspalum distichum* L.), Knotgrass, (*Paspalum distichum* var. *indutum* Shinners), Ball Nettle, (*Solanum carolinense* L.), Great Ragweed, (*Ambrosia trifida* L. var. *trifida*), and Common Ragweed, (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.) are among the listed plants.

1.6.2:

○ Korea is a contracting party to the Convention on Biological Diversity ('CBD'). The Govt. has presented Korean alien species research results at international symposia and conferences, such as the Neobiota and International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA), and continues to exchange opinions regarding alien species issues with government officials and researchers. In 2008 Govt. representatives also plan to attend CBD meetings related to invasive species, Neobiota, and the International Crop Science Congress and to present alien species research results and management programs. The Government is well aware of the need to promote more proactive exchanges with relevant international organizations and are working on plans for meeting this need.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 national implementation:

No further remarks

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

STRATEGY 2.1 *Apply the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Handbook 7, 2nd edition; Handbook 14, 3rd edition).*

Indicator questions:

2.1.1 Have a strategy and priorities been established for any further designation of Ramsar sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? {10.1.1}

[If further Ramsar site designations are planned, please indicate in Additional implementation information, the number of sites and anticipated year of designation]

B - No

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.1.1

2.1.1:

- Currently, the Govt. has registered eight sites as Ramsar wetlands, and plans by 2011 to register at least five additional sites. The priority lists for the designation and management of Ramsar wetlands have not been prepared.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 2.2 *Maintain the Ramsar Sites Information Service and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the Ramsar Sites Database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.*

Indicator questions:

2.2.1 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {10.2.3}

A - Yes

2.2.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its database used in national implementation of the Convention concerning Ramsar site issues?

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.2.1 – 2.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.2.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.2.1:

- The Government continues to conduct surveys on wetland protected areas (including Ramsar sites) every five years.

2.2.2:

- The results of the in-depth surveys on the ecosystems of wetland protected areas, including the Ramsar wetlands, are maintained in a database, which is being utilized for developing management plans and conservation targets. The Ramsar Sites Information Service is being used for references.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 2.3 *Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites.*

Indicator questions:

2.3.1 Have the measures required to maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites been defined and applied? {11.1.1}	A - Yes
2.3.2 Have management plans/strategies been developed and implemented at all Ramsar sites? {11.1.2} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate, in Additional implementation information below, for how many sites have plans/strategies been developed but not implemented; for how many are plans/strategies in preparation; and for how many are plans/strategies being reviewed or revised]	A - Yes
2.3.3 Have cross-sectoral site management committees been established at Ramsar sites? {11.1.5} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please name the sites in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
2.3.4 Has any assessment of Ramsar site management effectiveness been carried out? [if “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.3.1 – 2.3.4 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.3.3: [.. additional information ...]”

2.3.1:

- From 2006, a five-year in-depth survey has been carried out to monitor changes in the ecosystems of Ramsar sites and wetland protected areas. Of the six Ramsar sites managed by MOE, the surveys on four sites (i.e., Yongneup, Upo, Jang-do, Moojechi-neup) were completed, while the survey on one site (Mulyeongari-oreum) is currently in progress; and a survey on Du-ung Wetland is planned for 2009.
- The Govt. shall make every effort to maintain the current status of these important wetlands by better understanding their unique ecological characteristics.
- For the Suncheon Bay Ramsar wetland, the local government has continued monitoring the marine protection zone since 2006 and acquired basic materials for establishing a conservation and management plan for the protected area. Training courses were already provided for 50 ecosystem guides.
- In addition to the regular NGO monitoring activities, the local government has also conducted monitoring to provide the best conservation and management of Suncheon Bay. In 2008, Suncheon City will implement an action plan based on the sustainable use studies for Suncheon Bay.

2.3.2:

- The Ramsar-listed wetlands are being managed in a manner appropriate for meeting the objective of their designation as wetland protected zones. Also, a comprehensive conservation plan has been established and implemented in order to effectively use and manage them at different stages.
- Research on the effective conservation and sustainable use of Suncheon Bay (April 2007 – February 2008)
 - Produced a Suncheon Bay ecological research survey manual and prepared a comprehensive conservation and management plan for Suncheon Bay

2.3.3:

- In accordance with Article 11 of the Wetland Conservation Act and the Plan for Conservation of Wetland Protected Areas, the Govt. has formed and are operating a 'Government-Civilian Joint Committee on Conservation and Management in Wetland Protected Areas' consisting of twenty members from the Central Government, local governments, civic organizations (e.g., NGOs), local resident groups, and expert circles.
- The 'Committee on the Ecology of Suncheon Bay' has been organized and in operation to collect opinions, provide policy advice, and establish a cooperative system on the effective conservation and sustainable use of Suncheon Bay wetland protected area. The committee consists of thirty members (local residents, experts, and NGOs).

2.3.4:

The Ramsar-listed wetlands are being managed in a manner appropriate for meeting the objective of their designation as wetland protected zones. Also, a comprehensive conservation plan has been established and implemented in order to effectively use and manage them at different stages.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 2.4 *Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

Indicator questions:

2.4.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {r11.2.iv} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please summarise the mechanism(s) established in Additional implementation information]	A - Yes
2.4.2 Have all cases of change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {11.2.4} [If “Yes” or “Some sites”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which Ramsar sites Article 3.2 reports have been made by the Administrative Authority to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made]	B - No
2.4.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record? {r11.2.viii} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please provide in Additional implementation information information about the actions taken]	D - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.4.1 – 2.4.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

There are monitoring people responsible for each protected area and the results have been regularly reported to relevant authorities.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 2.5 *Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.*

Indicator questions:

2.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {12.1.1}	A - Yes
2.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (including regional site and waterbird flyway networks)? {12.1.2; 12.2.2} [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below for which wetland systems such management is in place]	C - Partly

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 2.5.1 – 2.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “2.5.1: [.. additional information ...]”

2.5.1:

- A comprehensive survey has revealed that the Han River Estuary, a transboundary ecosystem on the borders of South and North Korea, is a unique area of high ecological conservation value. The area has been thus designated as a wetland protection zone and is being managed appropriately.
- Surveys on the DMZ wetlands are insufficient.
 - Surveys have been conducted on the wetlands in some areas such as Panmunjum and junctions of the East Sea coastline railway but a comprehensive investigation on the current status of DMZ wetlands has been difficult to conduct because they are militarily sensitive and thus heavily mined zones.

2.5.2:

- For military defense and political reasons, a cooperative survey and management of DMZ wetlands has not been possible to date.
 - Following the Second South and North Korea Summit in October 2007, the Govt. is expecting to see increased environmental cooperation between South Korea and North Korea regarding the Han River Estuary and DMZ wetlands.
- Involved in the international network for migratory waterbirds passing through transboundary wetlands
 - Both South Korea and North Korea are involved in the Northeast Asia Crane Network and are making joint efforts through such avenues as the International Crane Foundation.
 - Matters pertaining to the international networks of migratory birds are under the responsibility of the National Institute of Biological Resources.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 2.6 *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

Indicator questions:

2.6.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development of a regional initiative under the framework of the Convention? {12.3.2}

[If “Yes” or “Planned”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the name(s) and collaborating countries of each regional initiative]

A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 2.6.1

2.6.1:

- International cooperation among multilateral parties for wetland conservation has been continuously underway via contributions of funds and shared funds for UNEP (Wetland Protection Convention), UNDP/GEF (UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project), ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and Official Development Aid.
- Efforts are being made toward establishing the East Asia Ramsar Regional Center that will focus on regional initiatives, including the migratory flyway partnerships between East Asia and Oceania and Asian wetland issues.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 national implementation:

No further remarks

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGY 3.1 *Collaboration with other institutions: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies.*

Indicator questions:

3.1.1 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)? {13.1.1}	A - Yes
3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {13.1.iii}	A - Yes
3.1.3 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {13.1.6}	E - Not applicable

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “3.1.3: [.. additional information ...]”

3.1.1 and 3.1.2:

Implementation of the Ramsar Convention is managed by Ministry of Environment (Nature Conservation Bureau) and Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs. On the other hand, matters related to MEAs are managed by Ministry of Environment (International Cooperation Bureau) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. However, relevant ministries, both domestic and international, have established close and cooperative relationships. In particular, government delegations for international negotiations consist of officials in charge of domestic matters as well as those in charge of international matters. The National Wetland Review Committee is composed of diverse members including the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs; the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Korean Forest Service, and the Cultural Heritage Administration, as well as local governments and relevant scholars and experts of related academic and civil organizations.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 3.2 *Sharing of expertise and information: Promote the sharing of expertise and information.*

Indicator questions:

3.2.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {14.1.3} <small>[If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information below the networks and wetlands involved]</small>	A - Yes
3.2.2 Has information about the country’s wetlands and/or Ramsar sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a Web site)? {14.1.1}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 3.2.1-3.2.2

3.2.1:

- Korea functions as an important migratory stopover point for a large variety of avifauna. To improve the cooperation on the protection of migratory bird species in the Asia-Pacific region, Korea has concluded in 1994 an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Protection of Migratory Birds, and has promoted the conservation of migratory bird habitats as well as surveys of migration routes.
- Korea initiated (starting in 2005) negotiations with Australia and China on bilateral agreements for the protection of migratory birds, and then signed an Agreement between Korea and Australia on the Protection of Migratory Birds in Dec. 2006. The Agreement between Korea and China on the Protection of Migratory Birds was also signed in Apr. 2007. Since the conclusions of both agreements, Korea is promoting various joint cooperation projects (e.g., surveys) on migration routes.
- In October 2007, an international symposium was held on the conservation of hooded crane habitats in Suncheon Bay that was attended by 150 participants including government officials from home and abroad, academia, research institutes, NGOs and citizens in order to seek international cooperation on the protection of habitats. The symposium discussed international initiatives and the establishment of an international network for the restoration of hooded crane winter habitat located around Suncheon Bay.
- Currently, cooperative efforts are focused on the restoration of hooded cranes, improvement of wetlands management, and crane related international networks. Friendly exchanges with Isumi City (major wintering area for Hooded Cranes in Japan) is also being considered.
- From 26 February to 3 March 2008, the East Asia Crane Youth Camp was held for the purpose of raising the awareness and understanding of the importance of cranes and wetlands around Suncheon Bay.

3.2.2:

- Through the UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project website (www.koreawetland.org) we are advertising the Ramsar COP10 as well as providing information on wetlands to enhance the public awareness on wetland conservation.
- Entrance to Yong-neup of Daeam Mountain is prohibited until July, 2010. In order to meet the needs of those who would like to visit Yong-neup and to publicize the ecological value of Yong-neup, the Govt. has launched a virtual excursion website (www.yongneup.go.kr), as well as provided research reports and photographs of Yong-neup.
- A Committee on the Ecosystem of Suncheon Bay collects opinions and consults on policies for the effective conservation and sustainable use of Suncheon Bay. 'Suncheon Bay Dream', a membership organization, provides information on Suncheon Bay wetlands, and other projects that promote and provide updated information on wetlands and the Ramsar Convention.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 national implementation:

No further remarks

GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY

STRATEGY 4.1 *Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values: Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, including women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including in relation to understanding the dynamics of cultural values.*

Indicator questions:

4.1.1 Has resource information been compiled on local communities' and indigenous people's participation in wetland management? {6.1.5}	A - Yes
4.1.2 Have traditional knowledge and management practices in relation to wetlands been documented and their application encouraged? {6.1.2}	A - Yes
4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party promote public participation in decision-making (with respect to wetlands), especially with local stakeholder involvement in the selection of new Ramsar sites and in Ramsar site management? {6.1.4}	A - Yes
4.1.4 Have educational and training activities been developed concerning cultural aspects of wetlands? {r6.1.vii}	A - Yes
4.1.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning of Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r.6.1.vi} [if "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar sites and their names in Additional implementation information below]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.1.1 – 4.1.5 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.1.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.1.1:

- From March to September 2008, research on a comprehensive plan for Geum River wetlands conservation was undertaken. The research will systematically compile historical, cultural, socio-economic, and biological information on the Geum River Basin area and be utilized to prepare a mid-term master plan for sustainable development.
- The Korean Government has designated certain Geum River Basin local villages to actively participate in this Geum River Wetlands Conservation Campaign and encourage the participation of all local residents and cooperation around Seocheon, Buyeo, Iksan, Kunsan, and Nonsan areas.
- Korea has been making conservation efforts for Suncheon Bay in collaboration with environmental NGOs, universities, and local governments for more than 10 years.
- With the participation of NGOs in the conservation of Suncheon Bay (Green Sooncheon 21 and four other organizations), monitoring surveys and promotion at home and abroad have been continued.
- Local residents are encouraged to participate in the conservation efforts around Suncheon Bay areas.
- Fishing village cooperatives and fishers around Suncheon Bay collect ocean trash on a regular basis thus improving the Suncheon Bay environment.
- By improving the facilities and conditions for homestays around Suncheon Bay, local residents (200 households) can improve their income.

4.1.2:

- Education materials (including guide books) on wetlands conservation and the ecosystem of Suncheon Bay wetlands have been published to raise the public awareness on wetland conservation and enhance their community pride for the Suncheon Bay wetland.
- From August 2007 to February 2008, a survey on the tales, legends, and folk songs around Suncheon Bay area was conducted in collaboration with a local civic organization. The survey is planned to be used for publicity of the area in the future.

4.1.3:

- In accordance with Article 11 of the National Wetland Conservation Act and the plan for wetland protection area conservation, a “Government-Civilian Joint Committee on Conservation and Management in Wetland Protected Areas” consisting of twenty members including Central Government, local governments, civic organizations, local residents and experts, is being organized and operated.
 - The major functions of the committee are (i) to provide advice on permitted activities and entry control; (ii) to give advice and proposals on the necessity of wetlands conservation facilities and its installation; (iii) to provide advice on the restoration of degraded wetland protected areas and listen to the concerns and ideas of local residents; (iv) and to provide advice on matters related to the protection of other wetland protected areas.
- Government is attempting to raise local residents’ awareness on the importance and value of

Suncheon Bay through open discussions with residents and to encourage local residents' participation in the conservation and management activities.

4.1.4:

○ In the downstream Nakdong River area, programs linking the culture, history and literature are actively operated. Educational materials to train wetland eco-guides are being prepared. The materials will contain information on wetlands, wildlife, environment, as well as the history and culture of the area.

4.1.5:

○ Social or cultural values of Ramsar sites are described. (fishery products, forestry, spiritual and aesthetic importance, archeological value, etc.)

- Ramsar sites (seven sites) in Korea are the following: High Moor; Yongneup of Mt. Daeam ('09.3.28); Upo Wetland ('98.3.2); Jangdo Island High Moor ('05.3.30); Suncheon Bay ('06.1.20); Mulyeongari-oreum ('06.11.18); Du-ung Wetland ('07.12.20); and Moojehineup ('07.12.20)

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.2 *Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

4.2.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the wise use principle in activities and investments concerning wetlands? {7.1.1}	A - Yes
4.2.2 Have private-sector "Friends of Wetlands" fora or similar mechanisms been established? {7.1.4} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information below the private sector companies involved]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.2.2: [.. additional information ...]"

4.2.1:

○ In Mar. 2007, an agreement among business supporters for wetland conservation in the Nakdong River Basin was concluded and is being operated with the participation of the UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project, Nakdong River Basin Environmental Office, Gyeongsangnam-do Province, Changwon-si City, Changwon Chamber of Commerce, and 18 local businesses including Masan MBC and the Korea National Housing Corporation. The Agreement aims to encourage private sector financial support to local wetland conservation, provide support for the residents of wetland protected areas and NGOs, and to provide assistance to projects and programs preparing and/or publishing educational materials.

4.2.2:

○ The 'Wetland Forum' is a quarterly meeting to facilitate information exchanges and understanding among all relevant stakeholders (government officials of MOE, UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project, Korea Environment Institute, scholars, local governments, NGOs and others). The forum considers all areas related to wetlands including biodiversity, microorganisms, irrigation, geology, geochemistry, and earth sciences. Diverse local organizations are undertaking grassroot activities.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.3 *Promote measures which encourage the application of the wise use principle.*

Indicator questions:

4.3.1 Have actions been taken to promote incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	A - Yes
4.3.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {8.1.1}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.3.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.3.1:

○ Since 2002 a 'biodiversity management contract system' has been operational to give local residents incentives for migratory bird protection and ecosystem conservation activities. This is accomplished through contracted farming of barley, leaving crops (rice) un-harvested, leaving rice straws on the field, and creating roosting areas for birds.

- Description

Title: Biodiversity Management Contract

Period: 2002 - present

Total project budget: (KRW) 4.1 billion

Support: 30% support from local governments

Operated by: City, Country, District

○ In order to establish facilities for eco-tourism and to provide citizens with opportunities for field studies in nature and eco-tourism, Korea has improved and expanded support for the establishment of the facilities for environmental conservation and tourism.

○ From November 2007 to March 2008, the biodiversity management contract project has been successfully promoted for the long-term and efficient conservation and management of Suncheon Bay. Under the contract, barley was grown and rice straw was intentionally left on a 282.9 ha field following the harvest.

○ The Korean Government supports the stocking of carps into the Junam Reservoir that serves as a supplemental income for local residents and enhances the eradication of alien and invasive fish species.

4.3.2:

○ In July 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture (currently, the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries) replaced government subsidies for the use of chemical fertilizers in farmlands with subsidies for organic fertilizers to reduce the excessive use of nitrogenous substances into wetlands and rivers.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.4 *Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution VIII.31) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA).*

Indicator questions:

4.4.1 Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (National Ramsar/Wetland Committee or other mechanism) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement? {r9.iii.ii}

[If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe in Additional implementation information below the mechanism]

A - Yes

<p>4.4.2 Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the subnational, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? {r.9.iii.iii}</p> <p>[Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.3 Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies? {r9.iii.v}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.4 Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {r9.vi.i}</p> <p>[If:</p> <p>a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or</p> <p>b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values,</p> <p>please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.5 Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out? {r9.vi.ii}</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.4.6 Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? {r9.viii.i}</p> <p>[If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the Additional implementation information section for Strategy 4.4 below]</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.4.1 – 4.4.6 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.4.3: [.. additional information ...]”

4.4.1:

The National Wetland Review Committee is composed of Central Government bodies, metropolitan and local organizations, academia, and experts from civil organizations.

4.4.2:

○ The CEPA activities in Korea are spearheaded by civic organizations that focus on training and PR functions. The Government's role is to support activities for raising public awareness of the civic organizations through the UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project and to provide guidance for better practices. Activities for raising the public awareness of wetlands by civil organizations include training, discussions/debates, wetland monitoring, and publicizing methods for conservation and wise use. Some of the government activities include development of a national wetland center and research institute, establishment of wetland education and publicity systems, and development/operation of wetland education programs appropriate for different target groups. Furthermore, the Government plans to develop programs for local interest groups to improve the wetland management capacity of local residents and thereby establish a foundation for education and publicity of wetland conservation and strengthen the capacity of civic organizations.

4.4.3:

○ The MOE UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project organized a two-day workshop for Central and local government/public officers in Changnyung in 2007. Another workshop was convened in November 2007 for government/public officers responsible for the management of wetlands in Chungcheong Nam Do with the agenda of legislating wetland conservation ordinances and fostering a system of honorary wetland ecosystem guides.

○ The Korea Wetland Project - Nakdong River Basin Site Management Unit ran a pilot program to economically evaluate the Upo Wetland. This regional office also launched an ecosystem cultural experience program for Upo residents and an eco-village building project since 2007. In order to increase the numbers and variety of these kinds of projects, a partnership agreement was reached between the Gyeongnam Development Research Institute, Changnyung-gun, and the Ulsan/Gyeongnam Regional Office of Korea National Housing Corporation that permits these private sector and public entities to directly contribute to the effective development of environmental education programs and human resources in the region.

○ Workshops and international symposiums (March, May and October, 2007) were held for the wise conservation of Suncheon Bay and recognizing the importance of wetlands. Among the agenda were international initiatives and building international networks for the restoration of wintering habitats of hooded cranes in Suncheon Bay.

○ A New Year's Day 2008 event in Suncheon Bay was held in celebration of signing the MOU for wetland conservation. The attendees (including governors of Gyeongnam and Cheolla), NGO representatives, and citizens) numbered about 2,000.

4.4.4:

○ Civic organizations are spearheading the CEPA activities in Korea in the areas of the education and publicity for wetland conservation. Some of the activities include campaigns, programs, projects, and wetland forums.

- Campaigns :

1) Ceremony for the Agreement with Business Supporters, March 2007

As an avenue for the private sector to more actively engage in conservation activities, this event helped raise the awareness of the importance of wetland conservation. Participants included 16 companies and six other organizations, including Gyeong Sang Nam-do.

2) Upo & Junam English Camp, in Upo: Feb.2007, in Junam:July 2007

These camps provided opportunities for local students in the vicinity of wetlands to understand the importance of wetlands and to experience the diversity of wetland wildlife (e.g., birds) species. Running programs in English further enhanced the interest level of students and provided opportunities to raise awareness of both parents and students.

3) In celebration of Water Day, planting 'trees of life' at Bongahm Tidal Flat, March 2007

Activities by business supporters aimed at raising the public awareness of water and wetlands as well as wetland conservation; participants included business organizations, elementary schools, volunteers, and various institutions. It also helped popularize business supporters' activities.

4) In celebration of Migratory Waterbird Day, 'Big Bird Race', May 2007

In celebration of the Migratory Waterbird Day (12 May), business organizations, schools, and civic organizations voluntarily organized the "Big Bird Race", which was comprised of both bird observation activities and donations. It also helped popularize business supporters' activities.

5) In celebration of the World Environment Day (5 June), Geum River clean-up activities, June 2007.

A riverside clean-up of trash by local residents (including youth and adults) along the Geum River

6) Clean-up activities in Jinahn-gun wetlands, August 2007

A discussion session for formation of artificial wetlands in Jinahn-gun, and wetland clean-up activities with participation by government employees and local residents.

7) Swan Observation Rally, December 2007

Continuous monitoring of wetlands at the estuaries of Nakdong River; encouraging action plans for the protection of swans, which are designated as 'national treasures'

8) Agreement with Gwangju Bank, November 2007

An avenue for inviting corporate support for environmentally-friendly businesses at Suncheon Bay

9) MOU with the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement, October 2007

Joint efforts with an NGO for the protection of the wetlands at Suncheon Bay

- Programs:

1) Ecosystem Experience at Geum River Basin for Seoul Youth, July 2007

Provide urban youth with opportunities to experience and study Geum River Basin wetlands and raise their awareness of wetlands

2) "Wetland Experience in English", July and August 2007

Wetland experience education (in English) for local Gunsan and Iksan City youth and adults

3) "Wetland Experience in Geum River Basin", November – December 2007

Tidal flat experiential programs at the Geum River Estuary and observation of migratory birds for 19 designated schools in the Geum River Basin area

4) Ecosystem Experience Study Center at Suncheon Bay, Throughout the year

Experience programs aimed at raising the awareness of the importance of Suncheon Bay and conserving the environment

5) Tidal Flat Experience Program with Mudskipper, August 2007

An experience program for students to visit the tidal flats at Suncheon Bay and the ecology museum to have hands-on field experience of the tidal flat culture

6) 2008 Crane Camp for Youth in East Asia, February – March 2007 (six days)

Aimed at building an international network of East Asian teenagers by educating them on the importance of the coastal wetlands of Suncheon Bay and enhancing their understanding of wetlands

- Projects:

1) Simultaneous Monitoring at Nakdong River Basin Wetland, Every month beginning in

October 2006

- Surveys were conducted of major flagship species to contribute to a comprehensive management plan and to facilitate network building in the Nakdong River Basin.
- Raised public awareness on schools, local residents, and civic organizations on the importance of wetlands and migratory birds
- Formed a Nakdong River Wetlands Network in March, 2007

2) The Role of Wetlands in Regional Climatic Changes, April 2007 – April 2008

- Conducted an economic valuation of the impacts of wetlands on the regional climate by identifying the differences in changes of wetlands in the Nakdong River area

3) Monitoring Yongneup Wetland (Mt. Daeam), Annually: 1999 – 2006 / Quarterly: 2008

- Monitoring changes in the ecosystem of Yong-neup by a group of five fauna and flora experts

4) Basic resource survey for the management and conservation of the natural ecosystem at Suncheon Bay, May 2008

- Procured basic resources necessary for establishing plans for the conservation and management of Suncheon Bay by monitoring the natural environment and ecological characteristics of Suncheon Bay
- Established guidelines for a systematic monitoring and management of Suncheon Bay

- Wetland Forums

1) "How to provide education on wetlands?", January 2007

- Summarized the current status of wetland education; recognized the need for making materials for wetland education; discussed directions

2) Report on the relics from wetlands, Nakdong River, January 2007

- Developed a comprehensive management plan for managing wetlands and conserving ancient historical and cultural artifacts collected from the Nakdong River Basin area wetlands

3) Wetlands and Agriculture; Wetland Resources and Farming, October - November 2007

- Identified the need for wetland resources, agricultural fields, and environmentally friendly farming methods

4) Workshop on Strategies for the Wise Conservation of Suncheon Bay Wetlands, March 2007

5) International Symposium on Advancing the Management of Coastal Wetlands, May 2007

- Discussed directions for the conservation of coastal wetlands at Suncheon Bay

6) International Symposium on the Restoration of Hooded Crane Ecosystem at Suncheon Bay, October 2007

4.4.5:

○ The Ministry of Environment in partnership with the Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs, local governments, and the Korean Wetland Society organized a celebratory event for the Sixth World Wetland Day on 2 February 2007. About 800 people attended, including the Secretary General of the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement.

- About 60 grassroots environmental organizations throughout the nation produced and exhibited posters and photos of their activities for raising public awareness of wetlands in their regions, and the exhibition led to the dissemination of local public awareness raising activities and recognition of the importance of wetland conservation.

○ In addition, the Changwon Local Government also convened a "2007 Corporate sponsors for Wetland Protection Event" in commemoration of World Wetland Day to report on the wetland conservation activities of 16 local business organizations who have actively participated in wetland conservation efforts in the past year. An official commendation was awarded to participating businesses by the CEO of the Korea National Housing Corporation and the Minister of Environment and a plaque of appreciation was given to local residents (by Donghwan Ind. Corp.).

4.4.6:

○ Wetland Centers (Name/ Operation/ Location)

- 1) Geum River Migratory Bird Observatory
 - The Migratory Bird Ecosystem Management Division, Gunsan City
 - Sungsan-myung, Gunsan-si, Chunbook
 - <http://www.gmbo.kr>
 - Gunsan City has been organizing an annual international migratory bird festival.
- 2) Geumgang Migratory Bird Observatory
 - Suhchun-gun
 - Masuh-myun, Suhchun-gun, Chungnam
- 3) Geumgang Environment Education Center
 - Suhchun-gun
 - Masuh-myun, Suhchun-gun, Chungnam
- 4) Ecosystem Study Center at Junam Wetlands Park
 - The Environment and Water Service Division, Changwon City
 - 306-16 Woljam-ri, Dong-eup, Changwon-shi
 - <http://junam.changwon.go.kr>
- 5) Upo Nature Study Center
 - The Green Upo Friends Foundation
 - 1392 Ahn-ri, Yibang-myun, Changnyun-gun
 - <http://www.woopoman.co.kr/>
- 6) Upo Neup Ecology Museum
 - The Environment and Hygiene Division, Changnyun-gun
 - Sejin-ri, Yibang-myun in Changnyun-gun
- 7) Upo Ecology Education Center
 - Operation by Green Gyeongnam 21 of the Changnyung Federation of Environment Movement until its registration as a non-profit civil organization in September 2006; currently under a restructuring process, and upon completion, the Education Office of Changnyung will take the responsibility of its operation with support from the Education Office of Gyeongnam-do
 - 387 Daedae-ri, Yoouh-myun, Changnyung-gun
 - <http://www.woopoi.com>
- 8) Nakdong Estuary Eco Center
 - Busan Metropolitan City
 - Hahdahn-dong, Saha-gu, Busan
 - <http://wetland.busan.go.kr>
- 9) Ganghwa Tidal Flats Center
 - Joint operation by Incheon Metropolitan City, Ganghwa-gun, and the Korean Federation for the Environmental Movement
 - 934-6 Yeocha-ri, Hwado-myun, Ganghwa-gun, Incheon
- 10) Suncheonman Bay Ecological Park
 - The Tourism Promotion Division, Suncheon City
 - 162-7 Daedae-dong, Suncheon
 - <http://www.suncheonbay.go.kr/index.jsp>
- 11) Maritime Eco Park in the Capital Area
 - The Namdong-gu Office (The Park Project Division), Incheon
 - 1-16 Nonhyun-dong, Namdong-gu, Incheon
- 12) Shihwa Lake Reed Wetland Park

- Shihwa Lake Environment Management Center of Korea Water Resources Corporation
- 1031-8 Sah-dong, Sangrok-gu, Ahnsan, Gyeonggi
- <http://sihwa.kwater.or.kr>

○ The Upo Ecology Education Center is a member of the WLI (Wetlands Link International). The Ecosystem Study Center at Junam Wetlands Park filed an application for a WLI membership on March 2008.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.5 *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.*

Indicator questions:

<p>4.5.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only] Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {15.1.1}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the countries supported since COP9]</p>	A - Yes
<p>4.5.2 [For Contracting Parties in receipt of development assistance only] Has funding support been mobilized from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {15.1.8}</p> <p>[If “Yes” or “Some countries”, please indicate in Additional implementation the agencies from which support has been received since COP9]</p>	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.5.1 – 4.5.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.5.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.5.1:

- International cooperation among multilateral parties for wetland conservation has been continuously underway via contribution of funds .

4.5.2:

- Beginning in 2004 with the funding support from the Korea Wetland Project, the Govt. is working on upgrading the national wetland management system to meet international best standards and practices and a conservation project is underway until 2009 for Korean wetlands of global significance.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.5 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.6 *Provide the financial resources required for the Convention’s governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.*

Indicator questions:

4.6.1 {16.1.1}	A - Yes
a) For the last triennium have Ramsar contributions been paid in full and in a timely manner (by 31 March of calendar year)?	
b) If “No” in 4.6.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	

4.6.2 {16.1.2}	A - Yes
a) Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund or other non-core funded Convention activity?	
b) If yes, please state the amounts:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ramsar Regional Center for East Asia pending approval at the 10th COP shall carry out supporting roles for capacity building for wetland conservation in the East Asia region and shall be fully funded by the Korean government for three years. The annual budget is estimated to be USD 225,000 and additional funding shall be procured by various international cooperation initiatives.. 	

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.6.1 – 4.6.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. “4.6.2: [.. additional information ...]”

4.6.1:

- We have paid Ramsar contributions in full and in a timely manner in the last triennium. The contribution for 2008 and the 10th Conference of Parties fees shall be paid in the near future.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.6 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.7 *Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Framework.*

Indicator questions:

4.7.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? [If “Yes” or “Partly”, please indicate in Additional implementation information how the Reports have been used for monitoring]	A - Yes
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Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicator 4.7.1

The former reports have been checked and the Govt. has submitted a Ramsar site application in accordance with the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.7 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.8 *Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands.*

Indicator questions:

4.8.1 Has a review of national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands been completed? {18.1.1} [If "Yes" or "Partly", please indicate in Additional implementation information if this has led to proposals for, or implementation of, any changes in institutional responsibilities]	A - Yes
4.8.2 Is a National Ramsar/Wetlands cross-sectoral Committee (or equivalent body) in place and operational? {18.1.2} [If "Yes", please summarise in Additional implementation information its membership and frequency of meetings]	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.8.1 – 4.8.2 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.8.2: [.. additional information ...]"

4.8.1:

○ Plans are underway for periodic workshops for the conservation and wise use of wetlands for government employees involved in nationwide wetlands in order to strengthen the capacity of relevant agencies.

4.8.2:

○ Under Article 5.2 of the National Wetland Conservation Act, it is prescribed to establish a 'National Wetland Review Committee' for the purpose of moderating wetland policies amongst public agencies and offices related to the wetland conservation policies, including review over the establishment and amendment of the National Wetland Management Plan. The Committee should convene a meeting at least once per year, and is composed of 30 members from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Ministry of Food Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Korea Forest Service, Cultural Heritage Administration, as well as local governments having jurisdiction over major wetlands, and relevant scholars and experts of related academia and civic organizations.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.8 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.9 *Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs*) and others.*

Indicator question:

4.9.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs* in its implementation of the Convention? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]	B - No
4.9.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs*? [If "Yes", please provide in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided]	A - Yes

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

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.9.1-4.9.2

4.9.1:

There is very limited cooperation with all IOPs, however beginning in 2004 with the implementation of the UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project, the Government is currently upgrading the national wetland management system to meet international standards.

4.9.2:

The Korean Government joined IUCN as a country member in Sept. 2006 and since then has contributed approximately KRW 0.25billion annually that has benefited international wetland conservation activities and relevant international cooperation.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.9 national implementation:

No further remarks

STRATEGY 4.10 *Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses.*

Indicator questions:

4.10.1 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? [If "Yes", please indicate in Additional implementation information the name(s) of the centre(s)]	A - Yes
4.10.2 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention, including in the use of the Wise Use Handbooks, been made? {20.1.2}	B - No
4.10.3 Have opportunities for wetland site manager training in the country been provided? {20.1.6}	A - Yes

Additional implementation information:

A): on Indicators 4.10.1 – 4.10.3 For each piece of additional information text, please clearly identify to which indicator number it refers – e.g. "4.10.3: [.. additional information ...]"

4.10.1:

○ The Korean Government shall provide financial support for the East Asia Ramsar Regional Center which will serve to strengthen capacity for wetland conservation in the East Asia region. The proposal for this center is expected to be approved at the 10th COP, and its operation is expected to start in 2009.

4.10.3:

○ A research project is planned for the development of a specialized research institute (tentatively named 'National Wetland Center' for the time being) which shall oversee matters pertaining to wetlands, such as wetland-related research, training, information management, and international cooperation, as well as function as a visitor's center. Upon completion of the research, the center shall be launched in 2012.

B): on any other aspects of Strategy 4.10 national implementation:

No further remarks