



## **NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,  
Romania, June 2012**

Please submit the completed National Report, in electronic (Microsoft Word) format, and preferably by e-mail, to the Ramsar Secretariat by **15 September 2011**.

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

### Introduction & background

1. This National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee in Decision SC41-24 for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Bucharest, Romania, June 2012).
2. Following Standing Committee discussions at its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2009, and its Decision SC40-29, this COP11 National Report Format closely follows that used for the COP10 National Report Format, which in turn was a significantly revised and simplified format in comparison with the National Report Formats provided to previous recent COPs.
3. In addition to thus permitting continuity of reporting and implementation progress analyses by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP10 NRF), this COP11 NRF is structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP10 as Resolution X.1, and the indicators speak to relevant Key Result Areas (KRAs) for each Strategy in the Strategic Plan.
4. The COP11 NRF indicators include, with the agreement of the Standing Committee, certain indicators specifically requested to be included by the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in light of its work on assessing effectiveness indicators, and by the CEPA Oversight Panel, in order to facilitate their information gathering and reporting on key aspects of scientific, technical and CEPA implementation under the Convention. The format also includes indicator questions concerning the use of the "Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands", as requested in Resolution X.3 (2008).
5. This COP11 NRF includes 82 indicator questions. 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.
6. The COP11 Format also now includes an additional, optional, section (section 4) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information, if it wishes to, on indicators relevant to individual Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

### 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 website.
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 and experience to help Parties develop future action;
  - iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
  - iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable for their commitments under the Convention;

- v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and to plan its future priorities; and
  - vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation 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 COP11 consideration.
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent 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 meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the 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., COP10 DOC. 6);
    - 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., COP10 DOC. 7); and
    - the reports providing regional overviews of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in each Ramsar region (see, e.g., COP10 DOCs 8-13);
  - ii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP. Examples at CO9 and COP10 included:
    - Resolution IX.15 and X.13, *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), *Implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2003-2005* (COP9 DOC. 25), *Overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme for the period 2006-2008* (COP10 DOC. 16, and *Background and rationale to the Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character* (COP10 DOC. 27);
  - iii) providing the source data for 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 (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010); 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 on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the COP10 NRF indicators have been used extensively in 2009 in the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems that was being considered by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3).

### The structure of the COP11 National Report Format

12. The COP11 National Report Format is in four sections.

**Section 1** provides the Institutional Information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

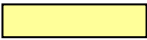
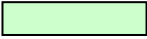
**Section 2** is a “free-text” section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

**Section 3** provides the 82 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and with an optional “free-text” section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity; and a further “free-text” section for adding further information on other aspects of implementation of that Strategy.

**Section 4** ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc)) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This has been included at the request of a number of Parties.

### Guidance for filling in and submitting the COP11 National Report Format

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

13. All of the first three Sections of the COP11 National Report Format should be completed in one of the Convention's official languages (English, French, Spanish).
14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is **15 September 2011**. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP11.
15. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.
16. Fields with a pale green background  are optional free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields in the NRF is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, since experience

shows 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.

17. In order to assist Contracting Parties in providing 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.
18. The Format is created as a “Form” in Microsoft Word. You are only able to move to each of the yellow or green boxes to give your replies and information, as all other parts of the form are locked to ensure that the form and wording of indicators will remain uniform and comparable for all Parties. If you need to work with an unlocked version of the Format, please contact Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer ([dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org)), who will advise on how that can be done.
19. 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.
20. To move down the sequence of fields to fill in, you can also use the “Tab” key on the computer keyboard.
21. 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 Microsoft “Form” format there is limited facility to make editorial changes in the “free-text” box once text has been entered.
22. Certain keyboard characters interfere with the automatic data entry into our database for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ] °°°° in the “free text” fields.
23. For each of the “Indicator questions” in Section 3, a drop-down menu of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: “Yes”, “No”, “Partly”, “In progress”, etc. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies.
24. For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarifications concerning your answer, you can do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question.
25. 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.
26. 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. When filling in this form, it is also advised to refer back to the National Report submitted for COP10 for purposes of continuity and consistency.

27. After each session working on the NRF, remember to save the file! A recommended filename structure is: COP11NRF [Country] [date].
28. After the NRF has been completed, please send the completed National Report to the Ramsar Secretariat, preferably by e-mail, to Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, e-mail: [dufour@ramsar.org](mailto:dufour@ramsar.org). The Secretariat must receive your completed National Report in this electronic (Microsoft Word) format.
29. 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 COP11 National Report.**
30. If you have any questions or problems concerning filling in the COP11 NRF, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (e-mail as above).

## SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

<b>NAME OF CONTRACTING PARTY: REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	
<b>DESIGNATED RAMSAR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>Name of Administrative Authority:</b>	<b>Nature Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of Environment</b>
<b>Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:</b>	Mr. Yoo Je-Chul, Director
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Government Complex-Gwacheon, Gwacheon city, Gyeonggi province, Republic of Korea, 427-729
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+82-2-2110-6731/ +82-2-504-9207
<b>Email:</b>	jecyoo@korea.kr
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION MATTERS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Global Environment Division, International Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environment Mr. Do Ki-Yong, Deputy Director
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Government Complex-Gwacheon, Gwacheon city, Gyeonggi province, Republic of Korea, 427-729
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<b>Email:</b>	kydo@korea.kr
<b>DESIGNATED NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO STRP (SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL)</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	National Institute of Environmental Research
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	National Institute of Environmental Research
<b>Mailing address:</b>	Gyeongseo-dong, Seo-gu, Incheon city, Republic of Korea, 404-708
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+82-32-590-7155/ +82-32-563-7085
<b>Email:</b>	shingeo@korea.kr (contact: Dr. Shin Young-Kyu)
<b>DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title of focal point:</b>	Ms. Lee Hyun-Joo, Public Awareness and Training Officer
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	National Wetlands Center, Ministry of Environment
<b>Mailing address:</b>	1-12 Byeoryang-dong, Gwacheon city, Republic of Korea, 427-800
<b>Telephone/Fax:</b>	+82-2-509-7961/ +82-2-509-7967
<b>Email:</b>	wetlands@korea.kr
<b>DESIGNATED NON-GOVERNMENT NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CEPA PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS</b>	
<b>Name and title:</b>	Mr. Ma Yong-Un, Director
<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Wetlands Division, Korean Federation for Environmental Movement

<b>Mailing address:</b>	251 Nuha-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 110-806
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<b>Email:</b>	ma@kfem.or.kr





## SECTION 2: GENERAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

**In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP10 reporting):**

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

- 1) Expanded the number of "Ramsar Wetland" and "National Wetland Protected Area". (11 --> 17, and 21 --> 29, respectively)
- 2) Raised public awareness of the importance and the wise-use of wetlands (by mass media, governmental and non-governmental advertising materials).
- 3) Establishing "National Wetlands Center" to be open early 2012 with financial supports from the Korean Government.
- 4) Planned on surveying pristine wetlands in the DMZ (the demilitarized zone) between the South and the North Koreans.
- 5) Established "Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia" in July 2009 (Changwon, Korea):
  - Supported the trainings of wetland managers and conservation projects from Asian countries.
  - Hosted International workshops and symposiums for rice paddies conservation.
  - Hosted International networks meetings for implementing the Changwon Declaration.
  - Hosted Simulated Conferences of the Contracting Parties (COP) for Korean youths.
- 6) Donation of total 300,000 CHF to the Ramsar Secretariat (c.a. 100,000/ year: 2009, 2010, 2011)
- 7) Refining national wetland database and inventories using cutting-edge techniques (GIS and Remote Sensing)

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

- 1) As an East Asia Ramsar Hub, Korea led international wetland managers to the Ramsar principle: Conservation and Wise-use of wetlands. In the pursuit of the purpose, "Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia" played a pivotal role in implementing Ramsar Convention with the leadership.
- 2) Initiated building "National Wetlands Center" for management, survey, and especially doing research on wetlands with state-of-the-art instruments and lab facilities.
- 3) Raised public awareness of the importance and the wise-use of wetlands through mass media, public relation, and relevant education programmes.
- 4) Expanded the number of Ramsar Site and National Wetland Protected Area: five more sites were added to the Ramsar List, and seven more sites were designated as Wetlands Protected Areas since COP10.

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

- 1) Two different governmental ministries [i.e. Ministry of Environment (MOE), and Ministry of Land, Transport, and Marine Affairs (MLTM)] deal with the Ramsar Convention's matters: Inland wetlands are managed by MOE while coastal wetlands by MLTM. This administrative separation has had a negative impact on dealing with the Ramsar Convention efficiently.
- 2) A difficulty of resolving the conflicts between stakeholders with a wide array of interests and backgrounds

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

- 1) To complete establishing " National Wetlands Center" and relevant infrastructure for exhibition, education and research.
- 2) Continuing establishment of national wetland inventories and their uses
- 3) To develop scientific, administrative, and legal skills for determining the exact edges of wetlands
- 4) Conflict management between stakeholders with diverse interests and backgrounds

E. Does the Contracting Party have any proposals concerning adjustments to the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan?

Yes, we have "National Wetland Management Plan" <2007-2011> reflecting the Ramsar's <2009-2015> strategic plan. Also, the first draft of CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation, Awareness) Act Plans was completed in May 2011.

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

No, we do not have.

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

No, we do not have.

H. 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?

There are overlapping areas where the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) address the same issues under the framework of solving the problems. This could reduce the efficacy of the conventions implementation by being trapped with redundancy. Coordinations between the Ramsar Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements would be better made by emphasizing on their own specialized areas. This also could help formulate the identity of each individual Convention or Agreement, and enhance efficacy & initiative of the working progress.

- I. 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 industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity)?

Water resources & quality policy of the country can be better implemented by linking it with the fundamental values of wetlands: flood control, water supply & quality improvement. Specifically, artificial wetlands can be constructed to ameliorate non-point source pollutions from upstreams, and back marshes, whether natural or anthropogenic, could be utilized to prevent overflows in riparian areas.

In addition, agricultural subsidy would help raise the incomes of local farmers or residents when designating their lands as "National Wetland Protected Area". Employing local residents as eco-tour guides or rangers in the protected areas can make a commitment to regional economic growth, which will lead to sustainable mutual growth in local communities as well as the country overall.

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

No further comments

## 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 a specific indicator, please provide this information in the green “free-text” boxes below the indicator questions.
3. If you wish to amend any of the text you have put in a green “free-text” box, it is recommended that you cut-and-paste the existing text into a separate file, make the amendments, and then paste the revised text back into the green box.
4. Some characters used in the free text box prevent the automatic data entry into our database designed for handling and analysing National Reports. For that reason, please do not use the characters “ ”, [ ], °°°° in the free text box.
5. To assist Contracting Parties in referring to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP10, for each indicator below (where appropriate) a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP10 NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}
6. Where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
7. Only Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies and KRAs for which there are significant implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format; those parts of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted.

## GOAL 1. THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

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

1.1.1 Does your country have a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A - Yes
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1.1.1 Additional information:

To build up a comprehensive National Wetland Inventory, geological and biological in-depth survey on wetlands of national importance has been conducted every five years and relevant data have been continuing to be updated and digitalized. Wetland maps also are computerized into digital geographic information systems(GIS) under National Wetlands Center.

1.1.2 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained and made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A - Yes
1.1.2 Additional information:	
Through the Internet, all stakeholders are allowed to access the inventory data and information without any restriction or condition (e.g., www.wetlands.go.kr)	

1.1.3 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since the previous triennium?{1.1.3 & 1.1.4}	P - Status improved P - Status improved
<p>a) Ramsar Sites</p> <p>b) wetlands generally</p> <p>Please comment on the nature of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please comment on what are the principal driver(s) of the change(s).</p> <p>* "Condition" corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention</p>	
1.1.3 a) Additional information:	
1.1.3 b) Additional information:	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.1 implementation:

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

1.3.1 Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place? {1.2.1} KRA 1.3.i (If "Yes", please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)	A - Yes
1.3.1 Additional information:	
National Wetland Policy, a solid and systematic legal basis for wetland conservation and management, is set in place based on Korean "Wetland Conservation Act" (enacted in 1999) and "National Wetland Management Plan" (2007-11)	
1.3.2 Does the National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) incorporate any 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and actions? {1.2.2}	A - Yes

## 1.3.2 Additional information:

National Wetland Policy was incorporated into the main goals and actions of World Summit Sustainable Development (WSSD, 2002). The major aim of WSSD is to focus world's attention and direct actions to meet difficult challenges including improving the quality of world populations and conserving resources that are very important for securing food, water, energy, health, and economy. In particular, the theme of "wise-use of wetlands" on the National Wetland Policy (simultaneously applied to the Ramsar Convention) may correspond to the WSSD's goal, encouraging the world community to meet the challenges to conserve the ecosystem services offered by wetlands (water, energy, genetic resources, etc.).

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

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

{1.2.3} KRA 1.3.i

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

## 1.3.3 Additional information:

- a) The Korean Government (i.e., Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Korean Rural Community Corporation) regards rice paddies as a critical habitat for food production nationwide, and tries to use them as implementing sites for eco-friendly agriculture.
- b) Wetland issues have been incorporated into river management projects conducted by central and regional governments. These governments made every effort to conserve the positive functions of "riverine wetlands" in flood control, water resource supply and water purification.
- c) Coastal wetlands of Korea play a very critical role in providing ecosystem goods (fisheries product) and stabilizing local communities that depend upon them. Hence, the governments pay special attention to control them in such a way that our national economy can be boosted up by marine resource management plans, part of which are implemented by the wise-use principle of wetlands.
- d) The Korean Government (i.e., Korea Forest Service) has a position that "forested wetlands" should be viewed as a core genetic resource for forest, and the forest biodiversity is greatly dependent upon the conservation of the wetlands.
- e) Main national strategy of sustainable development has been being undertaken within the framework of "Low Carbon and Green Growth" policy. In the pursuit of the strategy, wetlands, which is the largest single habitat for carbon sink on earth, are monitored and properly managed in such a way that greenhouse gas emission from the wetlands are mitigated.
- f) Rice paddies are highly considered as "ecosystem supporting system" let alone "ecosystem goods & services producer".
- g) Considering the fact that Korea is among the international hubs for numerous migratory birds, wetlands are acknowledged as a very important habitat for maintaining biodiversity, and a great deal of migratory birds contribute themselves to enhancing international biodiversity. The government takes advantage of incentive measures to encourage local residents to particularly conserve coastal wetlands in this regard.

1.3.4 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.2.5} KRA 1.3.ii

A - Yes

## 1.3.4 Additional information:

"Strategic Environmental Assessments" can be applied to review environmental policies, plans, and programmes that may impact on river and tidal flats. In addition to those habitats, riverine wetlands and coastal wetlands are among the major evaluated components of the "Strategic Environmental Assessment" in Korea.

1.3.5 For any project development (new buildings, new roads, extractive industry, etc.) that may affect wetlands, are Environmental Impact Assessments made?

A - Yes

1.3.5 Additional information:

In "Pre-impact environmental assessment" (equivalent to "Environmental Impact Assessment"), regardless of which types of project development that could impact on wetlands, no building, road or industry is permitted to take in between the range of 300 m and 2 km from the wetland. This regulation is protected by Article 28 of Nature Conservation Law.

1.3.6 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments?

A - Yes

1.3.6 Additional information:

Since COP10, some amendments to "Wetland Conservation Act" have been made to appreciate the commitment of Ramsar Convention. According to the Article 23 of Wetland Conservation Act, no "National Wetland Protected Area" is permitted to disturb for constructing buildings or obtaining construction materials such as sand and cobbles unless the activities contribute to national defense or the public interests. Also, if landowners transformed the protected areas to any other types of lands for their own benefits without permission, legal persecutions would be made, which is tougher than ever legislated (i.e. penalty and/or legal sentence).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.3 implementation:

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

1.4.1 Has an assessment been conducted of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites? {1.3.1} KRA 1.4.ii

A - Yes

1.4.1 Additional information:

Prior to submitting Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) to the Ramsar Secretariat, most of Ramsar Sites had been surveyed for geological and biological assets that they offer. Especially the potential Ramsar Sites had been assessed as to ecological services (flooding prevention, reduction of non-point source pollutions, biodiversity, and cultural values) and economical benefits including monetary evaluations that the wetlands could provide.

1.4.2 Have wetland programmes and/or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives and/or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.3.2} KRA 1.4.i

A - Yes

1.4.2 Additional information:



1.4.3 Has national action been taken to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21)?  
{1.3.4} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

1.4.3 Additional information:

We strive to conserve the cultural values of wetlands as well as ecological ones, and advertise them in such a way that stakeholders from different backgrounds and interests appreciate the values. For instance, recently designated rice paddy of 1400 years history as "National Wetland Protected Area" was a case that the public began to recognize cultural and anthropological values of wetlands as well as the values of producing foods. In the meantime, fisheries apparatus and seafood eating cultures (practices) were surveyed to apply the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands when coastal wetlands were designated as National Wetland Protected Areas.

1.4.4 Have socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.1.5} KRA 1.4.iii

A - Yes

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

To meet the commitment of Ramsar Convention and improve the public awareness of wetlands, socio-economic values of wetlands were included "National Wetland Management Plan (2007-11)", and in 2008, a study was conducted on "A study of assessment on economic values of Korea's major estuaries including coastal wetlands". In the research, economic values including marketed and nonmarketed values as well were obtained by calculating an yearly productivity of wetland per unit land surface.

The wetlands where economic values have been assessed are Upo wetland, Nakdong river estuary, Hwajin estuary, Geum river estuary, Janghang wetland, and Sajapyeong of Mt. Jaeyak.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.4 implementation:

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

1.5.1 Have you taken steps to ensure that your national focal points for other environmental conventions are contributing to the application of Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms? KRA 1.5.i

A - Yes

1.5.1 Additional information:

Korea Forest Service, which is National Focal Point for "UN Convention to Combat Desertification" and "Partnerships for East Asian- Australasian Flyway" whose headquarter is located in Korea were invited and encouraged to participate in wetland-related events hosted by the Ministry of Environment.

1.5.2 Have you brought the "Changwon Declaration" (Resolution X.3) to the attention of your:

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

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.5.2 Additional information:

1.5.3 Has the "Changwon Declaration" been used to inform the positions of your national delegations to other external processes (such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, and the World Water Forum)?

B - No

1.5.3 Additional information:

1.5.4 Have you translated and disseminated the "Changwon Declaration" into local languages relevant for your country?

A - Yes

1.5.4 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.5 implementation:

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

1.6.1 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: a. agriculture-wetland interactions b. climate change c. valuation of ecosystem services KRA 1.6.i	A - Yes A - Yes A - Yes
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1.6.1 Additional information:  a. Research Title: A study on the development of ecological infrastructure to improve bio-diversity in paddy wetlands (2010) - funded by Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MFAFF), Korea Agricultural Corporation  b. Research Title: Research on estimated fluxes of methane gas from Upo wetland (2011), Title: A study on the predictive effects of Upo wetland in mitigating local climate change (2007) - funded by Ministry of Environment, National Research Foundation of Korea, UNDP/ GEF  c. Research Title: A study on assessment of economic values of Korea's major estuaries including coastal wetlands (2008) - funded by Ministry of Environment	
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1.6.2 Have all wetland management plans been based on sound scientific research, including on potential threats to the wetlands? KRA 1.6.ii	A - Yes
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1.6.2 Additional information:  On an annual basis, "National Wetland Protected Areas" have been monitored with sound scientific methodology and techniques under the framework of National Wetland Management Plan.	
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.6 implementation:

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

1.7.1 Has the Convention's water-related guidance (see Resolution IX.1. Annex C) been helpful in informing decision-making related to water resource planning and management? {1.4.1} KRA 1.7.i	A - Yes
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## 1.7.1 Additional information:

Acknowledging the roles played by wetlands in flood control and water quality improvement, we view the wetlands as a critical component of river or river basin on an "waterscape" scale and subsequently have been making great efforts to conserve them.

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

A - Yes

## 1.7.2 Additional information:

We take into account wetlands not as a separate habitat or ecosystem but part of river basin (especially riparian wetlands) because they stabilize water supplies, and process large fluxes of materials and energy from upstream systems. Actually, the follow-up monitoring of Ramsar Site designation is carried out by "River Basin Environmental Office" located at Korea's each individual province.

1.7.3 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.4.2}

D - Planned

## 1.7.3 Additional information:

NGOs are taking active part in monitoring catchment-scale management and plannings conducted by the Korean Government. In the river basin planning and management to be supported by CEPA tools (to be completed by 2012), they take advantage of their own expertise or know-hows in citizen eco-tour programmes, part of which include monitoring riverine wetlands. In the monitoring process, scientific aspects are reviewed along with legal, institutional, and economic factors for optimum wetland management.

1.7.4 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? {1.4.3}

A - Yes

## 1.7.4 Additional information:

Observing "Wetland Conservation Act" that reflects Conventions' guidance on coastal zone management, coastal wetlands are managed and protected in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and decision-making (Wetland Conservation Act, Article 13-2, 13-3: urban development and invasive species that may harm coastal wetlands or habitats are strictly prohibited). Also, economic values of coastal wetlands and estuaries were evaluated with monetary calculations and applied to the ICZM planning and decision-making.

1.7.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change? KRA 1.7.iii

A - Yes

## 1.7.5 Additional information:

Korea is proudly possessing numerous coastal wetlands and tidal flats. We recognize that coastal wetlands and tidal flats play a critical role in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change such as reducing greenhouse gas emission and preventing flooding caused by sea-level rise. And this role of wetlands has been discussed through forums, conferences, research, and formal publications on the governmental and non-governmental levels. Therefore, policy concerning coastal ecosystem management established by the Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs reflect the important roles of wetland conservation in the coast and the estuaries.

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

A - Yes

## 1.7.6 Additional information:

Since rice paddies are a primary food source in Korea, we take control of agricultural wetlands under a framework of eco-friendly farm management. Recently, "Korea Rural Community Corporation" of the Government has been developing an environmental project of linking rice paddies, streams, and catchments together through a river basin network. This project reflects the commitment of the government in acknowledging integrating roles of rice paddies with agricultural production, and ecological stabilization.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.7 implementation:

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

1.8.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i	A - Yes
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1.8.1 Additional information:

1.8.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects been implemented? {1.5.1} KRA 1.8.i	A - Yes
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1.8.2 Additional information:

Two Ramsar Sites (Yongneup of Mt. Daeam, and Gochang Tidal Flat) and one National Wetland Protected Area (Sajapyeong of Mt. Jaeyak) were identified as priority sites for wetland restoration project and the restoration projects are in good progress.

1.8.3 Has Ramsar guidance (Annex to Resolution VIII.16) or equivalent guidance on wetland restoration been used in designing and implementing wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes or projects? {1.5.2}	A - Yes
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1.8.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.8 implementation:

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

1.9.1 Does your country have a comprehensive national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? KRA 1.9.i	A - Yes
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1.9.1 Additional information:

Reference: "Korean Red Data Book (Endangered and Invasive Species in Korea)", 2009, Ministry of Environment, National Wetlands Center, National Institute of Environmental Research

1.9.2 Have national invasive species control and management policies or guidelines been established for wetlands?  
{1.6.1} KRa 1.9.iii

A - Yes

1.9.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.9 implementation:

We have a government-level guideline for invasive alien species management applicable to any ecosystems including wetlands that are vulnerable to human disturbances. With regard to wetland invasive alien species, Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), One-seeded burcucumber (*Sicyos angulatus* L.) and Beggar-ticks (*Bidens frondosa* L.), are among the widely recognized invasive alien species that have been impacting on Ramsar Sites in Korea.

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

1.10.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {4.2.1} KRA 1.10.i

A - Yes

1.10.1 Additional information:

Especially through "Wetlands Visitor Center Network", private sector is encouraged to apply the Ramsar principle and guidance in its activities and investments concerning wetlands.

1.10.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the wise and management of:

a. Wetlands in general

b. Ramsar Sites

KRA 1.10.ii

A - Yes

A - Yes

1.10.2 Additional information:

The private sector (e.g. NGOs, business corporations, local residents) takes active part in wetland conservation activities on a local and national level. These activities were undertaken through training workshops, wetland conservation campaigns and projects, and citizen volunteer monitoring programmes contributing to the wise-use principle of wetlands.

1.10.3 Have awareness-raising materials been made available to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices? KRA 1.10.iii

A - Yes

1.10.3 Additional information:

In addition to awareness-raising materials available, public relation and educational programmes also contribute themselves to wetland-friendly consumer choices,

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.10 implementation:

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

1.11.1 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.1} KRA 1.11.i

A - Yes

1.11.1 Additional information:

To implement economic incentive measures, property owners or farmers whose lands belong to National Wetland Protected Area or Ramsar Site are compensated properly with monetary aids. And local residents were employed as rangers, waders, or eco-tour guides by the Korean Government (Ministry of Environment), which would help boost up local economy.

1.11.2 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {4.3.2} KRA 1.11.i

Z - Not applicable

1.11.2 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 1.11 implementation:



## GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

**Note.** An optional Annex (Section 4) to this COP11 National Report Format is provided so that a Contracting Party, if it so wishes, can also provide additional information separately on any of its designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).

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

2.1.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List?</i> {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A - Yes
2.1.1 Additional information:  Based on Wetland Conservation Act and National Wetland Management Plan reflecting Ramsar Convention, we have strengthened lawful enforcement of protecting valuable wetlands, which would lead to increasing the likelihood of succeeding in designating them as Ramsar Site. Following the implementation of "National Wetland Management Plan(2007-11)", more and more local villages with ecological and cultural values have been being considered as "Eco-tour site". These comprehensive actions were of great help in designating further detection and subsequent designation of potential Ramsar Sites.	
2.1.2 Have all required updates of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat? {2.2.1} KRA 2.1.ii	D - Planned
2.1.2 Additional information:	
2.1.3 How many Ramsar Site designations in your country have been submitted to the Secretariat but are not yet placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance? KRA 2.1.iii	17 sites
2.1.3 Additional information:  Seventeen RISs were submitted to the Secretariat for Ramsar Site designation and they all were successfully placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Secretariat.	
2.1.4 If further Ramsar Site designations are planned for the next triennium (2012-2015), please indicate how many sites (otherwise indicate 0) KRA 2.1.iii	2 sites
2.1.4 Additional information (please indicate the anticipated year of designation):  Of 29 National Wetland Protected Areas, we are trying to submit RISs of 12 wetlands to the Secretariat, which have not been designated as Ramsar Sites, and plan on designating at least 2 wetlands as Ramsar Sites every year.	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.1 implementation:

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

2.2.1 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.2} KRA 2.2.ii

A - Yes

2.2.1 Additional information:

Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools have been being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate. Along with "Korean Wetlands Type Classification System", "Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type" is of great help in categorizing our wetlands in a systematic and scientific manner.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.2 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

2.3.1 Additional information:

Usually, Ramsar Site being prepared for Ramsar designation should be designated as "National Wetland Protected Area" before its RIS being submitted to the Secretariat. The potential Ramsar Site is examined by the Korean Government as to whether the wetland has ecological, geological, and socio-economic and cultural values. Also, "National Wetlands Management Plan" should be approved by the Korean Government once the wetland was designated as "National Wetland Protected Area". Of 29 National Wetland Protected Areas, 11 areas are trying to be submitted to the Secretariat for Ramsar Site designation and their National Wetlands Management Plans have been established (Nakdong estuary wetland, Hwaum-neup, High Moor of Mt. Shinbool, Damyang wetland, Han estuary wetland, Sajapyeong wetland, Jindo Tidal Flat, Ongjin Janbongdo Tidal Flat, Dalsung wetland, Gonggumjee of Sanju, Choodong wetland, Songdo Tidal Flat).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.3 implementation:

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

2.4.1 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {2.3.2} KRA 2.4.i	14 sites
2.4.2 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being implemented? KRA 2.4.i	14 sites
2.4.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan in preparation? KRA 2.4.i	3 sites
2.4.4 For those Ramsar Sites with a management plan, for how many is the management plan being revised or updated? KRA 2.4.i	sites
<p>2.4.1 – 2.4.4 Additional information:</p> <p>All Ramsar Sites with management plans have been being revised and updated every five years to execute the sustainable management framework. As of current, the second National Wetlands Management Plan(2012-16) are ready to be complete.</p>	
2.4.5 Do the Ramsar Site management plans establish the maintenance of the ecological character as a management objective? KRA 2.4.ii	A - Yes
<p>2.4.5 Additional information:</p> <p>For the purpose of maintenance of the ecological character, in-depth ecological survey of wetlands are carried out every five years and wetland ecosystem monitoring every year</p>	
2.4.6 How many sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.3.3} KRA 2.4.iv	9 sites

2.4.6 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please name the site(s)):

Upo wetland, Ungok wetland, Moojehineup, Suncheon Bay, Muan Tidal Flat, Seocheon Tidal Flat, Gochang & Buan Tidal Flats, Jeungdo Tidal Flat, Han estuary wetland

2.4.7 For how many sites has an ecological character description been prepared? KRA 2.4.v

17 sites

2.4.7 Additional information (If at least "1 site", please give the site(s) name and official number):

Dongbaekdongsan (1948), Du-ung wetland (1724), Ganghwa Maehwamarum Habitat (1846), Gochang & Buan Tidal Flats (1931), Jangdo Island High Moor (1458), Moojehineup (1725), Muan Tidal Flat (1732), Muljangori-oreum wetland (1847), Mulyeongari-oreum (1648), Odaesan National Park wetland (1848), Seocheon Tidal Flat (1925), Suncheon Bay (1594), Ungok wetland (1947), Upo wetland (934), The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam (898), Jeungdo Tidal Flat (1974), 1100 Altitude Wetland(1893)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.4 implementation:

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

2.5.1 Have any assessments of Ramsar Site management effectiveness been carried out? {2.3.4} KRA 2.5.i

C - Some sites

2.5.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please indicate the year of assessment and from whom, or from where, the information is available):

In 2009, "IUCN" and "Korea National Park Service" jointly assessed the efficacy of managing some "Ramsar Sites", and the evaluated sites were Upo wetland, Du-ung wetland, and Mulyeongari-oreum. (Title: A study on evaluating an efficacy of managing Korean Protected Areas, 2009, Korean National Park Service)

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.5 implementation: (

**STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar Site status.** *Monitor the condition of Ramsar Sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar Sites,*

*and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.*

2.6.1 Are arrangements in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.4.1} KRA 2.6.i

A - Yes

2.6.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some sites", please summarise the mechanism(s) established):

All Ramsar Sites are monitored by the Korean Government (Ministry of Environment) via each individual province's "River Basin Environmental offices".

2.6.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2,? {2.4.2} KRA 2.6.i

Z - No negative change

2.6.2 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate for which Ramsar Sites 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):

2.6.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.4.3} KRA 2.6.ii

Z - Not applicable

2.6.3 Additional information (if "Yes", please indicate the actions taken):

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.6 implementation:

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

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

A - Yes

2.7.1 Additional information:

Although "Nakdong Estuary" and "Han Estuary" have not been yet designated as Ramsar Sites, they are a critical international habitat for migratory birds, and hence are protected by the Korean Government as National Wetland Protected Area.

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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 2.7 implementation:

<b>GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</b>
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<b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs.</b> <i>Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</i>
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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)? {3.1.1} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.ii	B - No
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3.1.1 Additional information:
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3.1.2 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.2} KRA KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	A - Yes
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3.1.2 Additional information:
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3.1.3 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO, etc)? KRA 3.1.iv	B - No
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3.1.3 Additional information:
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3.1.4 [For African Contracting Parties only] Has the Contracting Party participated in the implementation of the wetland programme under NEPAD? {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iii	Z - Not applicable
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3.1.4 Additional information:
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Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.1 implementation:
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<p>Even though there has not been a particular mechanism established for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other multilateral environmental agreements, we have a governmental level system in which multiple national focal points work efficiently because most of environmental agreements are implemented within the Ministry of Environment.</p>
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**STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives.** *Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.*

3.2.1 Has the Contracting Party been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {2.6.1} KRA 3.2.i

A - Yes

3.2.1 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Planned", please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):

In July 2009, we established and initiated a regional Ramsar initiative titled as "Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia", which is located in Changwon, Korea. This international Ramsar hub is supported financially by the Korean Government and Gyeongnam province of Korea .

3.2.2 Has your country provided support to, or participated in, the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {4.10.1}

A - Yes

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

Since COP10, we have been providing annual training workshops for other East Asian wetland managers with financial assistance from the Korean Government. In the program, Asian countries partook in training programmes offered by the Korean Government, and shared their knowledge and information, particularly through Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia (RRC-EA).

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.2 implementation:

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



3.3.1 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Has funding support been provided from the development assistance agency for wetland conservation and management in other countries? {4.5.1} KRA 3.3.i	A - Yes
<p>3.3.1 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate the countries supported since COP10):</p> <p>Since 2009, RRC-EA has been providing some grants to Asian developing countries for implementing their own wetland conservation projects. In order to offer the funds, we have reviewed formal applications from those countries and selected 2~3 excellent proposals every year over conservation and wise-use of wetlands. Each individual project was presented 10,000 USD.</p>	
3.3.2 [For Contracting Parties with development assistance agencies only (“donor countries”): Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by your development assistance agency? KRA 3.3.ii	A - Yes
<p>3.3.2 Additional information:</p> <p>We checked out whether the project proposal from the recipient countries had included environmental safeguards and assessments.</p>	
3.3.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only (“recipient countries”): Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {4.5.2}	A - Yes
<p>3.3.3 Additional information (If “Yes”, please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP10):</p> <p>"Korea Wetland Project" &lt;2004~2009&gt; was supported in part by UNDP/GEF funds (United Nations Development Programmes/Global Environmental Funds).</p>	
<p>Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.3 implementation:</p>	

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

3.4.1 Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.2.1}

A - Yes

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

For sharing knowledge and information on wetlands, we established "National Wetlands Commission" and use national networks such as "Wetlands Conservation and Management Commission" and "Wetlands Visitor Center Network" for each Ramsar Site, which constitute the representatives from the Korean Governments (central & regional), scientists, and the public. On an international level, "Wetland Links International" plays a critical role in mediating between countries in sharing information on which our country has continued to work.

3.4.2 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made publicly available (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.2.2}

A - Yes

3.4.2 Additional information:

Information about "Ramsar Sites" and "National Wetland Protected Areas" are made publicly available through official governmental publications, documents or internet websites.

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

A - Yes

3.4.3 Additional information:

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.4 implementation:

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

3.5.1 Have all transboundary/shared wetland systems been identified? {2.5.1} KRA 3.5.i

A - Yes

## 3.5.1 Additional information:

Some wetlands located in Korean DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), and in the Korea-China border have been identified as transboundary/shared wetlands (e.g. Imjin riverine wetland).

3.5.2 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {2.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii

A - Yes

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

In 2005, Korea and China launched "Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project" which was funded by the two countries and the UN GEF. In the project, two countries sharing catchment/river basins and marine ecosystem were encouraged to make a commitment to solving transboundary 'waters'-related problems. In the pursuit of the purpose, geographic descriptions and travels of physiochemical materials across the neighboring watersheds (including wetlands) or the open-ocean were investigated in detail so that water-related environmental stresses can be addressed in proper and scientific methods.

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

A - Yes

3.5.3 Additional information:

To deal with wetland-dependent migratory birds, we are participating in the regional networks: "Partnerships for East Asian-Australasian Flyway", "East Asia Cranes Network", "East Asia Shorebird Network" and Bilateral Migratory Birds Agreements (w/ Japan, China, Russia, Australia)". By joining the international networks, we are making a contribution to protecting international migratory birds, their habitats and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 3.5 implementation:

<b>GOAL 4. IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY</b>
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<p><b>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA.</b> <i>Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</i></p>
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<p>4.1.1 Has/have an Action Plan/Plans for wetland CEPA been established? {4.4.2} KRA 4.1.i</p>	
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- a) At the national level
- b) Sub-national level
- c) Catchment/basin level
- d) Local/site level

C - In progress  
C - In progress  
C - In progress  
C - In progress

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

<p>4.1.1 Additional information (if "Yes" or "In progress" to one of the four questions above, please describe the mechanism, and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>
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In October 2008, the first committee meeting for developing CEPA plans was held and a Task Force Team was convened for creating "National CEPA Act Plans". In May 2011, "National CEPA Act Plans" draft was made based on the open discussion between local communities and the CEPA committee. The final draft of the Act Plans is anticipated to be completed in the near future.

<p>4.1.2 How many centres (visitor/interpretation/education) have been established at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {4.4.6} KRA 4.1.ii</p>	<p>6 centres</p>
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<p>4.1.2 Additional information (If centres are part of a national or international network, please describe the network(s)):</p>
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We have visitor centers of six Ramsar Sites or National Wetland Protected Areas, and they are members of "National Wetlands Visitor Center Network". Three of those centers also have memberships of International Wetland Network (Wetland Links International). Below are the wetlands with visitor centers: Upo Wetlands, Nak-dong river estuary, Seocheon Tidal Flat, Muan Tidal Flat, Suncheon Bay, and Jung-do Tidal Flat.

<p>4.1.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote public participation in decision-making with respect to wetland planning and management</p> <p>b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?</p> <p>{4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p> <p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.3 Additional information (if "Yes" or "Partly", please provide information about the ways in which local communities are involved):</p> <p>a) The public is greatly encouraged to participate in decision-making process when it comes to wetland management and planning process. The decision-making can be properly in place by consulting with temporary advisory committee or by joining "National Wetland Commission" or "Cross-sectoral management committee" of each National Wetland Protected Area.</p> <p>b) Based on Wetland Conservation Act, participation of local stakeholders in National Wetland Protected Areas is guaranteed legally in nominating a wetland for Ramsar Site. On a regular basis, the participation of local stakeholders is also made through "National Wetland Commission" and "Cross-sectoral management committee" of each National Wetland Protected Area.</p>	
<p>4.1.4 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made?</p> <p>{4.10.2} KRAs 4.1.iv &amp; 4.1.viii</p>	<p>A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.4 Additional information:</p> <p>National CEPA Act Plan Committee has assessed national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention and before the assessment started, different social and regional organizations were given opportunities to review and evaluate the Act Plan draft.</p>	
<p>4.1.5 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP10? {4.10.3} KRA 4.1.iv</p>	<p>opportunities</p>
<p>4.1.5 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):</p> <p>Workshops and trainings have been provided for "Government officers", "Wetlands managers", and "Rangers or Wardens" on an annual basis since COP10. However, the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used as a reference.</p>	

4.1.6 Do you have an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee (or equivalent body)? {4.8.2}	A - Yes
<p>4.1.6 Additional information (If "Yes", indicate a) its membership; b) its frequency of meetings; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p> <p>"National Wetlands Commission(NWC)" is composed of 30 persons, some of whom are officers from the Government (both central and regional), and the others are wetland experts from non-governmental organizations. The NWC members of the central government are from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, Korea Forest Service, and Cultural Heritage Administration. The NWC's regional officers are from regional governments governing the regions that National Wetland Protected Areas are located in. The chairperson of the commission is Vice-Minister of Environment and the commission meeting is convened every year, and if necessary, a special meeting is held as well. In the meeting, the members discuss the new resolutions and recommendations from Ramsar COP or deal with other important wetlands issues.</p>	
<p>4.1.7 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and</p> <p>a. Ramsar Sites managers?  b. other MEA national focal points?  c. relevant ministries, departments and agencies?  {4.4.3} KRA 4.1.vi</p>	<p>A - Yes  A - Yes  A - Yes</p>
<p>4.1.7 Additional information (If "Yes" or "Partly", please describe what types of mechanism are in place):</p> <p>a. On an annual basis, the Ramsar Administrative Authority meet Ramsar Sites managers through training workshops and Cross-sectoral management committee of each National Wetlands Protected Area.</p> <p>b. c. Governmental ministries and other MEA national focal points can communicate with each other through National Wetlands Commission or meetings of intragovernmental agencies for Ramsar Sites Designation.</p>	
4.1.8 Have World Wetlands Day activities, either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP10? {4.4.5}	A - Yes

## 4.1.8 Additional information:

Every year since Feb. 2002, the Korean Government has been officially celebrating "World Wetlands Day" and implementing celebrating activities in cooperation with civil organizations (Photo Exhibition, Wetland Eco-Tour, Seminar, Eco-experience education etc.).

4.1.9 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day) been carried out since COP10 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.4.4}

A - Yes

4.1.9 Additional information (including, if support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations, please indicate this):

The Korean Government have 1) established "Korea Wetlands Visitor Center Networks", 2) developed an "Eco-experience project" of Wetlands Protected Areas, 3) implemented Cross-sectoral (Government-Scientist-NGO) workshops for raising awareness of the importance of wetlands and 4) published guidelines classified by wetland types 5) managed the Weblog for monitoring the status of National Wetland Protected Areas.

Korea regional governments have distributed advertising materials about local wetlands, 2) carried out wetland experience program, 3) provided training program of local wetland rangers, 4) celebrated festival of wetlands and migratory birds.

NGOs have hosted 1) training workshops for eco-tour guides, 2) seminars on wetland conservation and management, and initiated 3) migratory birds monitoring programmes, 4) international cooperation for wetland conservation & management (i.e., Korea-Japan Wetland Forum, Kids Ramsar Convention, Korea-Japan Kids Wetlands Symposium) and conducted 5) survey of rice paddy biodiversity.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.1 implementation:

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

4.2.1	
a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2009, 2010, 2011? {4.6.1} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
b) If "No" in 4.2.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
<p>We have donated about 300,000 Swiss franc ( c.a. 100,000 CHF/ year) as a contribution to Ramsar Secretariat for the three consecutive years:</p> <p>2009: 92, 921 CHF</p> <p>2010: 101, 338 CHF</p> <p>2011: 105, 701 CHF</p>	

4.2.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.6.2} KRA 4.2.i	A - Yes
4.2.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):	
<p>We have provided the Ramsar Secretariat with the fund for "Carbon Offset Program" that assists developing countries for a project of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (10,000 USD).</p>	

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.2 implementation:

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

4.3.1 Has the Contracting Party used its previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring its implementation of the Convention? {4.7.1} KRA 4.3.ii	A - Yes
□	
4.3.1 Additional information (If "Yes", please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):	
<p>We have used our previous Ramsar National Reports to check out whether resolutions of Changwon Declaration were implemented, particularly focused on how the government showed its leaderships among different governmental and private sectors in designating Ramsar Sites and dealing with Ramsar issues.</p>	

4.3.2 Has the Secretariat been updated on any appointments and changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts (including CEPA and STRP National Focal Points)? KRA 4.3.i	A - Yes
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4.3.2 Additional information:

The Secretariat has been informed of a new appointment of government CEPA National Focal Point.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.3 implementation:

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

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

4.4.1 Has your country received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.9.1} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.1 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

The Korean Government and IUCN have worked together to evaluate the efficacy of management system of National "Ecological and Landscape Protected Areas" in Korea.

4.4.2 Has your country provided assistance to one or more of the Convention's IOPs? {4.9.2} KRA 4.4.iii

A - Yes

4.4.2 Additional information (If "Yes" please provide the name(s) of the IOP(s) and the type of assistance provided):

We have provided IUCN with some funds for their implementing conservation projects and programmes worldwide.

Additional information on any other aspects of Strategy 4.4 implementation:

**Section 4** ([www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11\\_nrform\\_e\\_sec4.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/doc/cop11/cop11_nrform_e_sec4.doc)) is an optional Annex to the National Report Format to allow any Contracting Party that wishes to do so to provide additional information separately for any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).