

# ROK's National Policy Framework for Conservation of Migratory Birds

- Implementation of WCC 2012 Resolution 28 & 51 -

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Ministry of Environment



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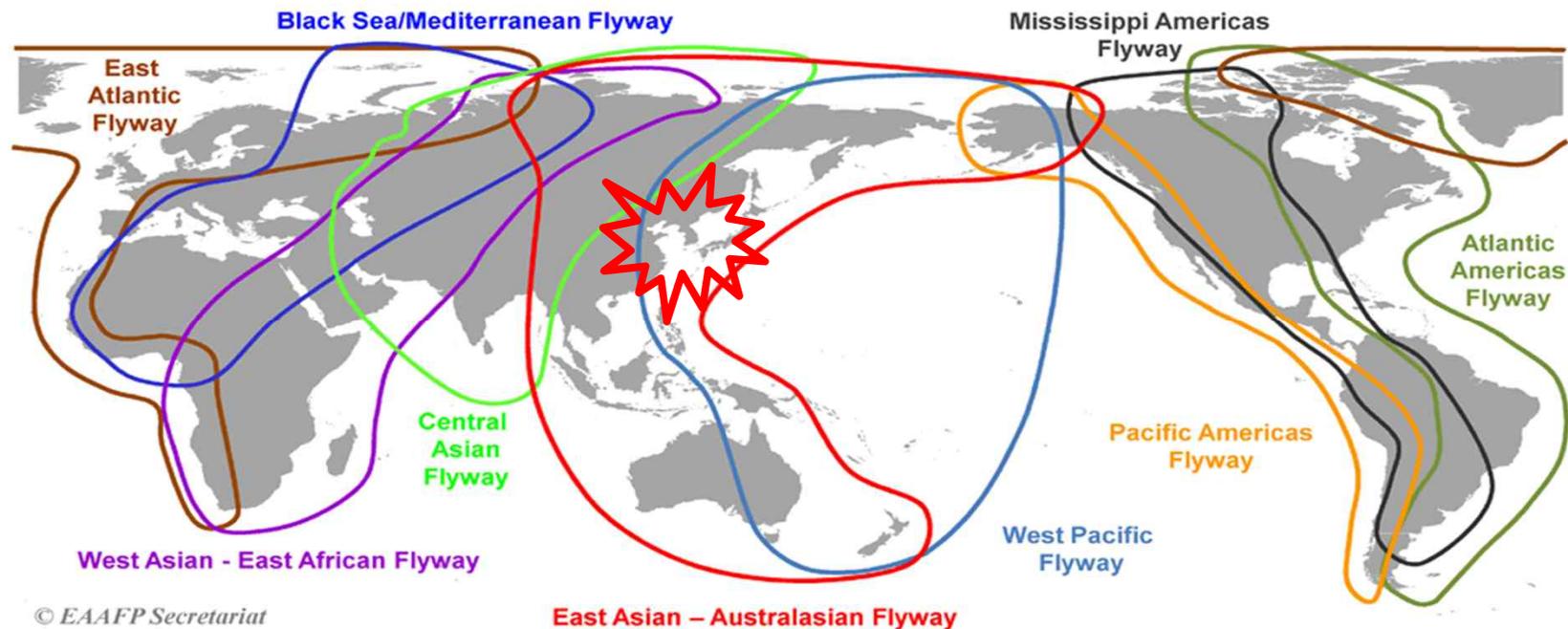
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# 1. Background

## Korea's location in the East-Australasian Flyway

- It has many **key stopover** sites of Migratory Birds along the EAAF
  - providing important **breeding** and **wintering grounds**
- **522 bird species** listed in the National List of Species in Korea were found (2015)
  - black-faced spoonbills, white-naped cranes, hooded-cranes, shorebirds and others listed in the **IUCN Redlist**



# 1. Background

## 2012 WCC Resolutions 28 & 51

- **(Background)** Migratory birds habitats have been degraded and lost (industrialization & urban expansion)
  - Over the last 5 decades, **66 % of coastal wetlands** have been lost and **the number of migratory birds** in the Yellow Sea, such as great knots, has dropped by **18%** each year.
- **(Actions taken)**
  - **Resolutions 28 & 51** adopted at the WCC 2012 in Jeju
  - Support provided to implement the Resolutions as **cooperative activity under the FP** between MOE & IUCN



## 2. National Policy Framework for Conservation of Migratory Birds

### Policy Measures at National Level

- **(Research)** Monitoring activities, launching of the National Migratory Birds Research Center
- **(Protection and Reintroduction)** Legal protection given to, and captive breeding and reintroduction of endangered migratory birds
- **(Awareness-raising)** Public campaigns, bird-watching facilities, nature interpreters



## 2. National Policy Framework for Conservation of Migratory Birds

### Policy Measures at International Level

- **(International Cooperation)** Exchange of data, publications, joint research programme
  - cooperative activities undertaken on a regular basis under the **bilateral migratory birds agreement** signed with **Australia, China, Russia and Japan**
- **(EAAFP)** Administrative and financial support provided to the Secretariat since 2009
- **(2012 WCC)** Res 28 & 51, cooperative activities (under the MoE-IUCN **Framework Partnership**)



### 3. Implementation of RESs 28 & 51

#### National Level Workshop

- **(Date & Venue)** 26-27 May 2016, Songdo Incheon, ROK
- **(Participants)** 50 from Korean MoE, MOF, site managers, NGOs, IUCN, Birdlife Int.
- **(Highlights)**
  - **Exchange of information and knowledge** regarding conservation status of and threats to YS wetlands & their migratory birds in Korea
  - Concurrent **group discussions** on conservation measures and collaborative framework



### 3. Implementation of RESs 28 & 51

#### National Level Workshop

- (Exchange) **Conservation status and policy measures** regarding YS estuaries and costal wetlands and their migratory birds
- (Discussion) Challenges in **conservation** and **management, threats**, etc.
  - Key threats, strength and weakness in legal/policy framework, priority actions



# 4. National Workshop Outcomes

## Outcome text

### Outcome of National Workshop on Intertidal and Estuarine Wetland Conservation and Management in the Yellow Sea Provinces of the Republic of Korea

Loss and degradation in the Yellow Sea intertidal and estuarine wetlands is an issue of critical global concern due to it being one of the most important biodiversity hotspots and one of the most threatened habitats in the world. Especially it has been known well as an important stopover site for shorebirds migrating long distance such as Black-faced Spoonbill, and Chinese Egret. The declined number of migratory waterbirds caused by the development of coastal area in the Yellow Sea resulted in increased voices requesting the conservation and restoration of the habitats for the migratory waterbirds.

At the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Jeju, Korea in September 2012, 100% of voting governments (including Korea) agreed to adopt Resolution 28 on 'Conservation of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and its threatened waterbirds, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea' as well as Resolution 51 on "improving conservation and sustainability of the Yellow Sea". Furthermore Korea hosts the Secretariat of EAAFP whose mission is to protect migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

In spite of the efforts made by national government by expanding protected areas, promoting researches and enhancing cooperation among the countries in the flyway, the survival of migratory birds is still threatened with increased pollution, alien species, and habitat loss.

Therefore, the National governments, local governments, experts and NGOs gathered together in Incheon on May 26 – 27, 2016 to seek solutions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Participants of the workshop recognized i) the global importance of Yellow Sea intertidal and estuarine areas, in particular to sustaining the migration of millions of declining waterbirds; ii) that vital ecosystem services provided coastal and estuarine wetlands are fundamental for sustainable social-economic development; iii) because of their strategic importance, effective conservation and restoration of the coastal and estuarine wetlands along the Yellow Sea requires commitment of the government of the Republic of Korea, as well as significant international collaboration.

The workshop participants call for the solutions as below :

- 1) Strong recognition of the important ecosystem services of the intertidal and estuarine zone of the Yellow Sea, including biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, coastal protection, disaster risk reduction, fisheries protection, tourism development by all society and by national, provincial and local governments. Raise awareness of the importance of coastal and estuarine protection and management, notably intertidal zones, at all levels
- 2) Protection and sustainable management of coastal wetlands should be adopted in governmental agenda, in consultation with the public and local stakeholder groups.
  - Suggestion to all relevant stakeholders to make collaborative efforts to reduce the habitat loss in coastal and estuarine wetlands in Yellow Sea.
- 3) Identify priority intertidal and estuarine wetland zones for protection. Establish protected areas at key sites that are not under protection; evaluate the effectiveness of current protection system and improve it. Development and implementation of a national action plan and strategy for the protection, restoration and management of coastal and estuarine wetland ecosystems of Korea
- 4) Expand the basis for the conservation of migratory waterbirds in East Asia Australasian Flyway, establish effective management system for capacity building of habitat managers and include the system in the framework of National development planning.
- 5) Strengthen national and international collaboration and exchange of information on achievements and experiences in protection and wise use of intertidal wetlands, and put intertidal and estuarine wetlands in Yellow Sea into key international cooperative frameworks.
- 6) Strengthen monitoring and research on ecological characteristics of the Yellow Sea coastal wetlands, establish national coastal wetland monitoring network, and provide scientific and technical support for scientific/wise policy-making and management.

## 4. National Workshop Outcomes

### Key Highlights

- 1) Strong **recognition of the important ecosystem services** of the intertidal and estuarine zone of YS by all society
- 2) Protection and sustainable management of coastal wetlands should be **adopted in governmental agenda**, in consultation with the public and local stakeholders.
- 3) Development and implementation of a **national action plan and strategy** for the protection, restoration and management of coastal and estuarine wetland ecosystems; to expand protected areas and evaluating the effectiveness of current protection system and improving it
- 4) To expand the **basis for the conservation** of migratory waterbirds; to establish effective management system for capacity building of habitat managers
- 5) To strengthen **national and international collaboration** and exchange of information on achievements and experiences in protection and wise use of intertidal wetlands
- 6) To **strengthen monitoring and research** on ecological characteristics of YS coastal wetlands; to establish national coastal wetland monitoring network; to provide scientific and technical support for scientific/wise policy-making and management

Thank for your attention

