Conservation of Migratory Birds and Local Communities : Korea

10 May 2019

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Migratory Birds Conservation

- **Habitat-based Approach**
  - Protected Area
  - National Biodiversity Survey
  - Bird Count on important area

- **Species-based Approach**
  - Avian Ecology Research
  - Bird Migration Research
  - Endangered Bird Restoration

- **Communication, Education and Public Awareness**
- **International cooperation**

Policies to Protect Migratory Birds and Wetlands

ablishment of the 3rd Master Plan for Wetland Conservation (Aug. 20

- Vision : **Wetlands for the future, and benefits for all**
- Purpose : (1) Advancement in investigating wetlands, (2) Reinforcement of wetland conservation and management, (3) Establishment of a system for the wise use of wetlands, (4) Stronger international cooperation
- Task/Project : (1)-3 items including 'Improvement of the methods and tools in investigating wetlands', (2)-4 items including 'Expansion of wetland protection area and enhanced management', (3)- 2 items including 'Promoting the wise use of wetlands', (4)-2 items including 'Strengthening int

peration between Relevant Authorities to Expand Nationally Protected A

- Discussions through a consultative group to identify unregistered but valuable areas by responsible ministries and to consider designating and enlarging a protected area (Mar. and Sep. 2018)
- 15 related acts under the 5 ministries, 27 types of protected areas, and 3,392 protected

Timeline to Expand Nationally Protected Areas

	Adding the omitted or unlisted areas (in Dec. 2018)	+	New designation and expanding the protected areas (2019 ~ 2020)	➡	Aichi Target 11 (National target by 2021)
Land	15.6%		1.4%		17.0%
Ocean	2.1%		-		-

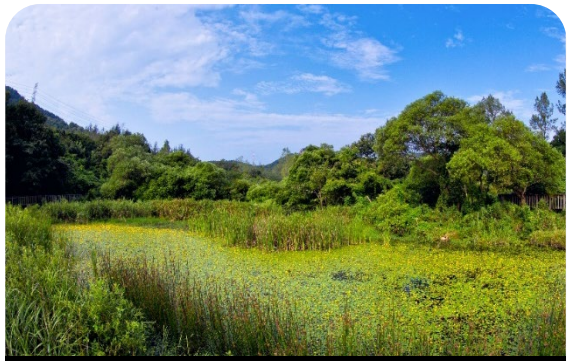
Policies to Protect Migratory Birds and Wetlands

Wetlands Conservation Act

Purpose

- For the efficient conservation and management of wetlands to contribute to the conservation of wetlands and wetland biodiversity, and for the promotion of international cooperation

※The act was established in 1999 jointly by Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries



< Ungok Wetland >

Obligation to Conserve Wetlands

- The State and local governments have an obligation to conserve wetlands
- The Minister of Environment shall exercise general control over the matters concerning the wetland investigations and the formulation of master plans for wetland conservation
- The Minister of Environment shall formulate and implement a policy for designating and conserving wetland protection areas for inland wetlands
- the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries shall formulate and implement a policy for designating and conserving a wetland protection area, etc. for coastal wetlands

Policies to Protect Migratory Birds and Wetlands

Overview of Wetland Protection Areas and Ramsar Wetlands

▶ Wetland Protection Area : 44 sites, 1,552.79㎢

※ Updates in Wetland Protection Area by Ministry of Environment : Incheon River Estuary was newly designated (Oct. 2018), while the protection area of Suncheon Dongcheon Estuary has been expanded (Dec.2018)

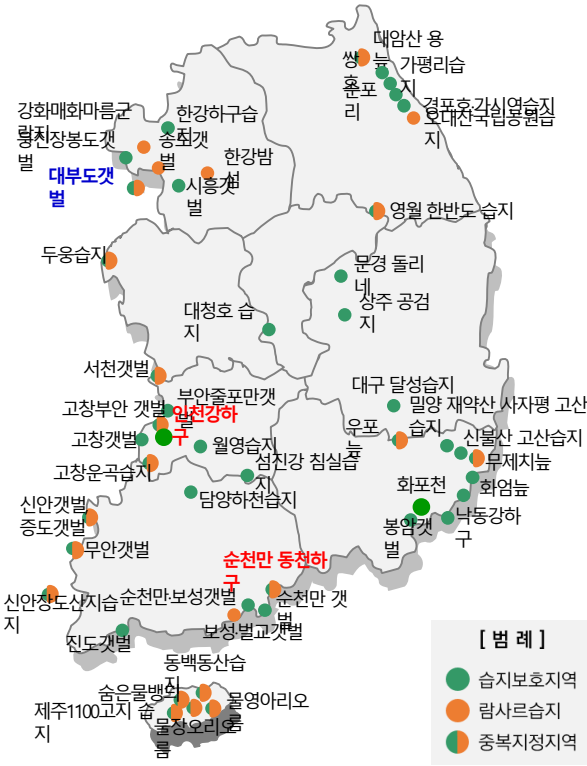
※ Expansion of Wetland Protection Area by Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries : Four areas, which are Bosung Bulgyo Tidal Flat, Gochang Tidal Flat, Seocheon Tidal Flat, Shinan Tidal Flat

	Total	MoE	MOF	Local governments
Number of Sites	44	25	12	7
Area(㎢)	1,552.794	129.000	1,415.540	8.254

▶ Ramsar wetlands : 23 sites, 199.312㎢

※ The tidal flat of Daebudo Isalnd(Wetland Protection Area) was added as a Ramsar wetland (Oct. 2018)

	Total	MoE	MOF
Number of Sites	23	16	7
Area(㎢)	199.312	22.543	176.769



Case Study: Biodiversity Management Contract

Introduction of Biodiversity Management Contract

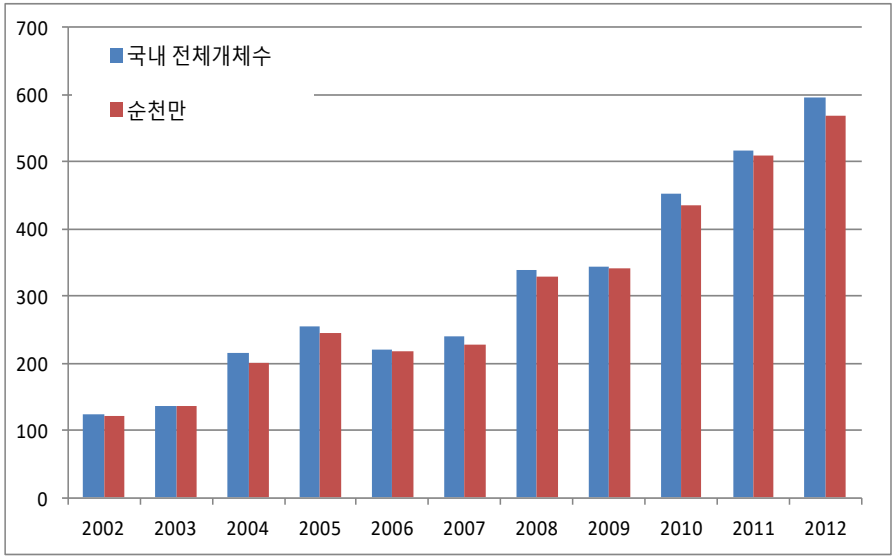
Biodiversity Management Contract

- **Overview of Biodiversity Management Contract**

  - **(Purpose)** To provide habitats and preys for migratory birds in winter

  - **(Operation)** During Oct. ~ Feb. / 25 local governments in participation/ 4,530 million KRW of project expenses

  - **(Outcome)** Increased number of migratory birds in winter / awareness rising / improved participation in conservation activities



Biodiversity Management Contract

Outline

- To conserve an area with outstanding ecosystem, the head of a local government may conclude a contract with local residents to preserve the ecosystem
- Under this scheme, the local residents who fulfil their contract will be provided subsidiaries by the head of the local government

Legal basis : Article 16 of Act on the Conservation and Use of Biological Diversity

Article 16 (Biodiversity Management Contract) The Minister of Environment may conclude a contract on change of owner, method for cultivation of land, reduction of using chemical materials, creation of wetlands or other method of land management, etc. or recommend the head of local governments to conclude the biodiversity management contract to conserve the following areas excluding the ocean :

1. an area that is necessary for the protection of endangered wildlife;
2. an area which needs the enhancement of biodiversity;
3. an area where biodiversity is distinctive or excellent

Biodiversity Management Contract

Programs under the contract

Cultivation Management Contract

- Cultivation Management Contract pays a farmer cultivating barley (hulled barley, rye, malting barley, etc.) or other crops under the contract and feeding migratory birds
- The head of the local government offers incentives to the local farmer who accomplished their requirements under the contract

Biodiversity Management Contract

Programs under the contract

Conservation Activity Management Contract

- Conservation Activity Management Contract pays for farmers leaving grains and straw on fields and making animal shelters
- This program supports conservation activities by local residents to protect areas with excellent biodiversity

볏짚존치(서산)

쉼터조성 및 안내판(서산)

Biodiversity Management Contract

Programs under the contract

Conservation Activity Management Contract

- Contract to retain stacks of rice straw : After harvesting the rice, farmers are asked not to collect all the straw and to leave stacks of the rice straw partially, or to cut the straw in 10~15cm to spread them in paddies with aims to provide feeding and roosting site for migratory birds
- Contracts to leave rice, to create roosting sites, and to formulate and manage small ponds in rice fields :

  ➔ Leaving unharvested rice – This program is to assign a part of rice paddies upon the contract and to keep the area unharvested in order to provide prey for migratory birds

  ➔ Creating roosting sites – To maintain (fresh water) roosting sites in a depth of 3~30 cm

  ➔ Formulating and manage small ponds – To maintain and manage small freshwater ponds (in a depth of 50~70 cm) to enhance

Biodiversity Management Contract

Exemplary case : conservation of cranes in Cheorwon

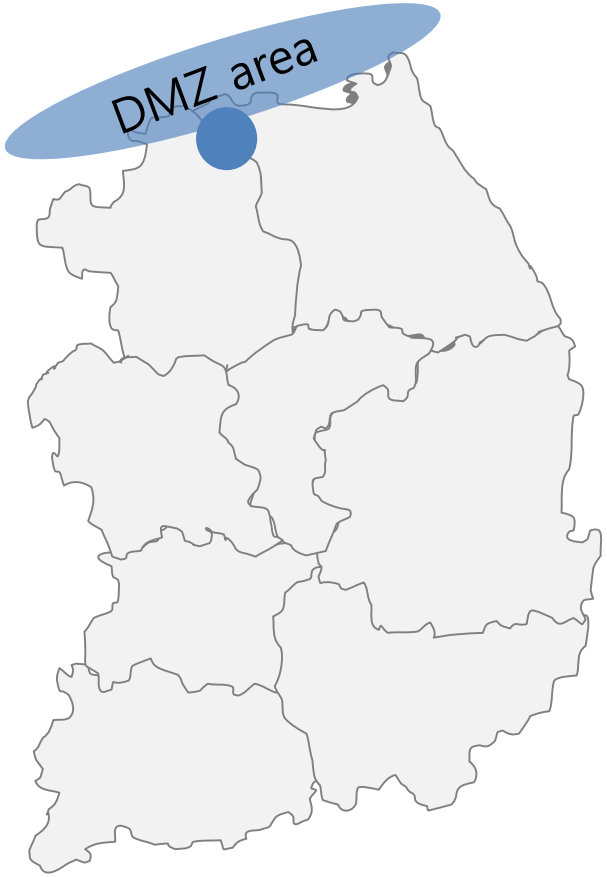
- Cranes in Korea : Among 7 species that occur in Korea, Red-crowned crane, White-naped crane, Hooded crane regularly migrate to Korea to spend the winter
- In Korea, cranes are the largest bird, and its global population is around 2,800~3,300
- Cranes are classified as Class I Endangered Wildlife species by the Ministry of Environment

Red-crowned crane	White-naped crane	Hooded crane

Biodiversity Management Contract

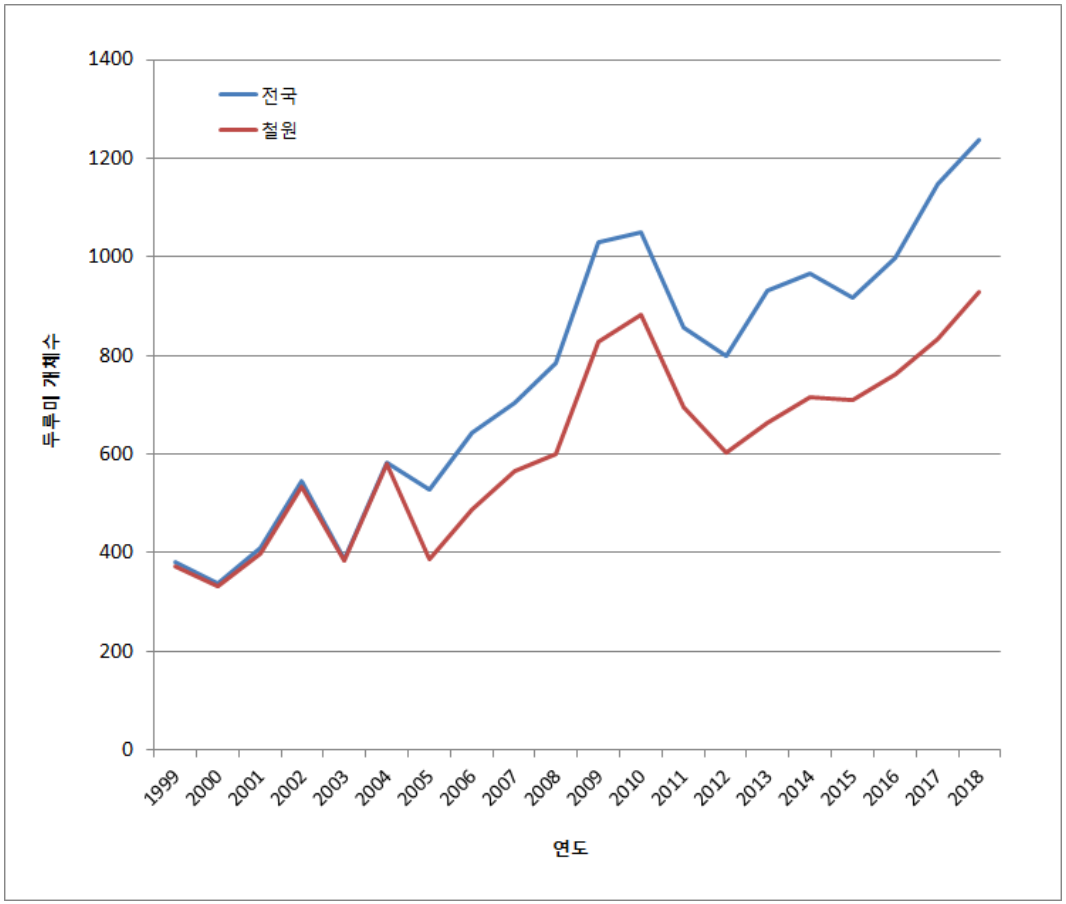
Exemplary case : conservation of cranes in Cheorwon

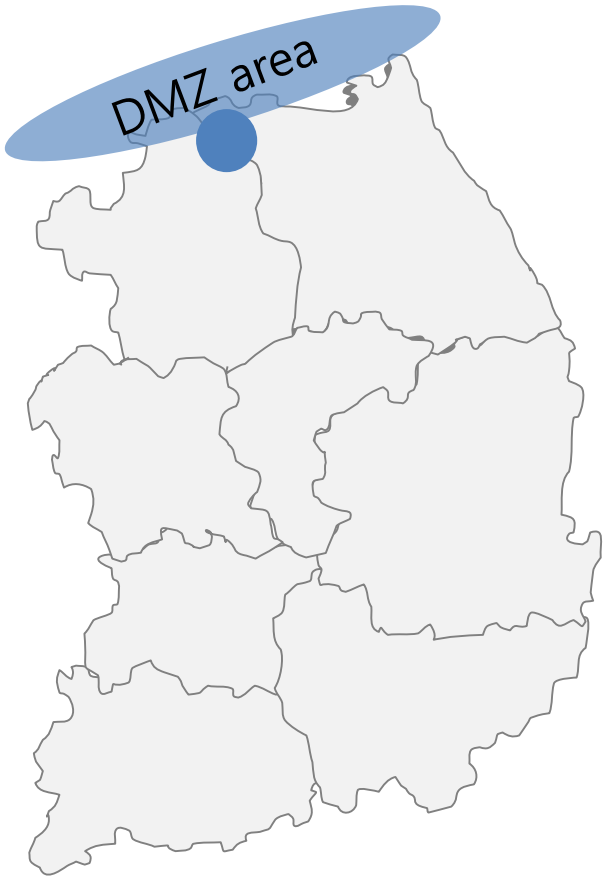
- **Cheorwon Plain : The plain is as large as 150㎢ around the rivers of Imjingang and Hantangang, along with unfrozen rapids, making the area the perfect environment for migratory birds**
- **Cheorwon Plain is the largest wintering site for cranes as 30% of all wild cranes in the world have spent the winter at this plain**
- **From 2004, the Ministry of Environment has encouraged Biodiversity Management Contract of the region. In 2018, 980 cranes were observed at this pain in winter, which is the largest number since the launch of Winter Waterbird Census of Korea (382 cranes were observed in1999)**



Biodiversity Management Contract

Exemplary case : conservation of cranes in Cheorwon





Improvement Plan and Future Direction

Improvement Plan and Future Direction

Improvement Plan : Issues to be addressed

- Appropriate management of the farm land subject to Biodiversity Management Contract, moral risks, and the article regarding redemption in the related act
- Equal treatment between the farmers in the contract and encouragement of voluntary participation

Conservation Activity Management Contract

- The scope of the contract will be expanded in terms of conservation activities (eco-friendly farming techniques), subject species, and local governments in participation
- The target regions and supports for project expenses will also be increased

“Joint Cooperation in Conserving Migratory Birds”

REPUBLIC OF KOREA