

The 1st Joint Workshop of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Wadden Sea and Korea

Learning on Wadden Sea strategy for Getbol protection

Report from the workshop and excursions in Korea,
17 – 25 October 2009
(version 3.11.09)

1. INTRODUCTION

In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Wadden Sea – Korea ([Annex 1](#)), the Korean MLTM (Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs) and the Getbol Forum organized a bilateral partnership-consolidating event between MLTM and Trilateral Cooperation on Wadden Sea in Korea on 17 – 25 October 2009. It consisted of a 2-day workshop (19 – 20 October) and a 4-day field trip (18 & 21 –23 October) to the tidal flats at the Korea west coast.

The Wadden Sea delegation was headed by Mr. Jens Enemark (CWSS) and Ms. Stefanie Hedtkamp (BMU) and consisted of representatives from various fields of expertise such as national park agencies, research institutes, tourism industry, information centers and NGO. The chairman of the Wadden Sea Forum, Mr. Jörn Klimant, was also member of the delegation.

2. OBJECTIVES

The aims of the visit were

- To promote conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of intertidal wetlands;
- To raise awareness for a coherent conservation of tidal flats at an ecosystem scale;
- To establish and expand networks of experts, authorities and NGOs to exchange knowledge and experiences concerning the management of tidal flats.

3. WORKSHOP

The joint workshop in Mokpo on 19 – 20 October was organized by Getbol Forum in collaboration with the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, and hosted by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, and the Province of Jeollanam-do, Republic of Korea. About 100 participants from Korea and the Wadden Sea attended the workshop

The workshop addressed the following topics:

- The process of policy, plan and integrated management for the protection of tidal flat ecosystems
- Monitoring and Research
- Public Relations: Visitor Centers and Eco-Tourism

The workshop program is attached in [Annex 3](#).

The conclusions and recommendations from the workshop which have been prepared in cooperation with the Korean Ministry MLTM are attached in [Annex 4](#).

4. EXCURSIONS

KOEM, MLTM in cooperation with the Getbol Forum, Provinces, Counties and NGOs have organized a four-day excursion along the Korean west coast to experience the tidal flat ecosystem, its protection, the corresponded information and education activities, as well as eco-tourism programs.

4.1 Excursion Seamangeum and Mandol Tourism Village (18.10.09)

The embankment of the Seamangeum bay and estuary was concluded in 2006. It is the world largest reclamation project with an area of over 40,000 ha and the longest sea dike (33 km) in the world. Although there was a great opposition against this project on local and regional level by fisherman and NGOs, the court gave green light to continue the project in.

Because of problems with water quality, seawater is now let in through the sluice gates and the lake is kept brackish. The tidal range inside is very limited, certainly when compared with the 3 – 4 meters in the past. There are indications that since the closure the populations of some migratory birds have declined drastically. The project had severe impacts on the tidal flat ecosystem and the local fishery. Presently, there are discussions on how to develop the reclaimed area; recent proposals cover agricultural, industrial and recreational use.

More information:

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/publications/Wsnl/Wsnl99-1/wsnl99-1.html>

<http://www.lighthouse-foundation.org/index.php?id=199&L=2.html%3F>

<http://www.birdskorea.org/Habitats/Wetlands/Saemangeum/BK-HA-Saemangeum-Shorebird-Conservation-in-ROK.shtml>

The village of Mandol was introduced as an example how local communities can profit from tourism by providing infrastructure (info center, access to tidal flats) and qualified guided tours and recreational programs.

4.2 Excursion to the tidal flats of Shinan county (21/22.10.09)

On invitation of the county of Shinan, the Wadden Sea delegation experienced the “1004 islands” archipelago of the south-west coast which covers about 40% of the south Korean tidal flat area. After a boat tour through the archipelago, the residents of the island of Jeungdo prepared a regional “slow food” promoting the recent designation of the island as UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve and as “Slow City” regarding a sustainable tourism.

The delegation visited the Taepyoeng salt farm and the adjacent restored salt marsh area with visitor guidance system and the tidal flat information center. Size, Number of staf, visitors

The fauna of flora the Korean tidal flats was experienced during a 2-hour field trip on the Juengdo island.

4.2 Excursion to the tidal flats of Muan county (22.10.09)

The visit of the Muan info center which is directly located adjacent to the tidal flat areas of the island of Jellanamdo was a highlight of the tour. There were boardwalks over the flat and a salt marsh development was started, using brushwood groins. The tidal flat exhibition which included also cultural aspects has recently been established. The center is planned to be opened in May 2010.

4.3 Excursion to the island of Gangwha (23.10.09)

On invitation of the county of Gangwha, the Wadden Sea delegation visited the Han river estuary (demarcating the border to North Korea), the cultural history museum and the tidal flat center at the south cost of the island.

The International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) was introduced by Anja Szczensinski to about 20 Korean colleagues involved in tidal flat education. There was a great interest to learn about the IWSS network approach, as well as getting practical information from the Dutch, German and Danish info centers. A further exchange of experiences with Wadden Sea centers on information and education was welcomed e.g. by conducting training courses.

5. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

As result of the workshop and the excursions, a number of follow-up activities were identified by the Wadden Sea delegation and the Korean colleagues at a final meeting on 24 October 2009 which could be implemented in the framework of the MoU.

5.1 Capacity building and fields of cooperation

On proposal by the Korean MLTM and Getbol Forum, it was agreed focusing on capacity building activities especially with regard to monitoring (development of monitoring and assessment concepts, scientific networks, monitoring methods) and information / education (practical courses, training of guides, NGOs and teachers) These activities should be carried out in Korea in order to involve as much participants as possible from the Korean side. A budget for these activities can be provided via the KEOM and funding from ongoing monitoring projects at the universities.

In addition, more knowledge on structure and function of Wadden Sea management and policy was of interest for the Korean side, in order support capacity building and awareness for policy makers. The establishment of “pilot regions” was considered as a possibility to get experience with new management approaches. As a first step, a workshop on policy and management will be organized in the Wadden Sea in connection with the visit of a Korean delegation at the Sylt Conference.

5.2 TGC Sylt 2010

The Trilateral Governmental Conference on Sylt in March 2010 would be an opportunity to start these activities. A participation of a Korean delegation at the TGC should be organized. In addition, information exchange events (site visits, workshops) with the respective experts should be organized before and/or after the TGC in Sylt in cooperation with the National Park Administration and NP Partners, NGOs, and Denmark.

5.3 Joint workshops and coordination

Future joint workshops and activities should be combined as far as possible with existing trilateral events such as the Scientific Wadden Sea Symposia or Trilateral Governmental Conferences. In regular intervals, e.g. every three years, follow-up MOU workshops should be organized in Korea to take stock of the progress achieved so far.

The delegation agreed that all initiatives and activities between partners from Wadden Sea and Korea should be communicated via the MOU liaison officers, Mr. Harald Marencic (CWSS) and Mr. Chul-hwan Koh (Getbol Forum) who serve as a focal point for communication between the Trilateral Cooperation, Korea, and all involved parties (MoU § 2.2).

A more detailed implementation plan for the proposed activities should be prepared by the lead persons until **1 December 2009**.

Table 1: Overview of proposed follow-up activities

A. Information and education	Ideas for implementation (what, who, when)			
	What	Lead persons	When	Costs
A 1. Eco-Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of strategies for eco-tourism in tidal flats, training of information und tourist managers cooperation between information centers 	Visit of Korean tourism experts to exchange information on tourism and marketing including World Heritage Site Tourism Strategy	Höfinghoff, CWSS, WHS Tourism Group	March 2010, two day trip SH	Accommodation transportation
A 2. Information, environmental education and awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cooperation of IWSS and Wadden Sea the Korean visitor centers development of material for students and school classes (exchange with International Wadden Sea School) translation of IWSS material, workshops on environmental education 	Participation of guides from Korean centers in Wadden Sea training courses and center programmes,	Szczesinski (IWSS network) in collaboration with Krol and Jessen	September, 2010	Cost for courses to be calculated, accommodation, transportation (by Korean Partner)
B. Policy and Management				
B.1. Restoration of wetlands	No specific activities planned			
B.2. Development of integrated strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protection strategies for sustainable development and wise use integrated coastal zone management development of scientific based guiding principles, targets and assessment tools 	1, Promotion to establish a "pilot region" at the Korean Getbol for integrated policy and management 2. Initiate cooperation on regional level: County Ganghwa – Landkreis Aurich	1. WSF / CWSS 2 Farke	1. March 2010 2 until March 2010	1. Accommodation transportation 2. To be covered by regional partners
C. Monitoring and research				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of monitoring methods including data handling systems and concomitant research, operational monitoring with remote sensing techniques Subtidal monitoring Ecological research projects (e.g. Wadden Academy) 	1. Monitoring workshop with Korean experts methods, assessment, and reporting 2. Benthos workshop (incl. field work) 3. Scientific comparison of tidal flat ecology	1. Marencic / TMAG 2. Farke / CWSS 3. Dankers / Farke / CWSS	1. 2010 2. 2010 3. to be defined	1. Accommodation transportation (by Korean Partner) 2. Accommodation transportation (by Korean Partner) 3. to be done

Annex 1

Memorandum of Understanding

on Mutual Cooperation
for the Purpose of
Conservation and Management of
Tidal Flat Ecosystems

**THE MINISTRY OF LAND, TRANSPORT AND MARITIME AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA**

AND

**THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE PROTECTION OF
THE WADDEN SEA**

Hereinafter referred to as the "Participants"

RECOGNIZE that the tidal flats of the Wadden Sea in The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark and Korea constitute the largest tidal coastal flats world wide with high ecological and socio-economic values, a high biodiversity and a global importance for the migration of bird populations;

NOTE that tidal flats have endured a significant danger of loss caused by, amongst others but not limited to, land-reclamation over the past few centuries, and climate change including sea level rise;

BEAR IN MIND that the Participants have gained an extensive and unique knowledge of the ecology of tidal flat ecosystems and shared a significant interest in the conservation, management and, sustainable use of tidal flats;

RECALL the conclusions from the international symposium on intertidal wetlands in Changwon, 27th October 2008, jointly organized by Getbol Forum, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Birdlife International and the Yellow Sea Project (UNDP/GEF YSLME, WWF/KORDI), which have been attached as Annex 2 to the Ramsar Resolution 22 at the 10th Meeting of the Conferences of Participants of the Ramsar Convention (2008);

RECOGNIZE the recommendations of the 10th International Scientific Symposium in Groningen, 2000, "to initiate a co-operation with The Republic of Korea to foster the transfer of knowledge and experience in the fields of tidal flat ecology and coastal zone management as gained in the European Wadden Sea area";

NOTE the existing relationships between Korea and the National Park Schleswig-Holstein, the GKSS Research Center Geesthacht and the Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research, which were established in the mid 1990s;

RECALL that the 4th Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the Ramsar Convention (1990) encouraged the cooperation of Parties to enter into bilateral and multilateral cooperation to protect wetlands and migratory species of waterfowl;

RECOGNIZE that international cooperation for advanced conservation and management of tidal flats is desirable between the Participants and others such as the Parties to the Ramsar Convention;

ARE CONVINCED that the exchange of experiences and knowledge is necessary based on mutual respect and understanding of cultural, traditional and socio-economical differences between the Participants;

DESIRE to strengthen communication and cooperation between the Participants.

Have reached the following understanding:

1. PURPOSE

The Participants intend

- 1.1 To work together for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of intertidal wetlands;
- 1.2 To raise awareness for a coherent conservation of tidal flats at an ecosystem scale;
- 1.3 To establish and expand networks of experts, authorities and NGOs to exchange knowledge and experiences concerning the management of tidal flats.

2. ACTION FOR ARRANGEMENTS

The Participants intend

- 2.1 To share knowledge and experiences of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of tidal flats;
- 2.2 To designate liaison officers to serve as a focal point for communication between the Participants;
- 2.3 To exchange experts to carry out specific projects and to provide finances for these activities, as appropriate;
- 2.4 To hold educational and academic joint workshops and symposia and to invite representatives of the Participants to workshops and conferences in relevant fields;
- 2.5 To initiate joint scientific and management projects where necessary and possible;
- 2.6 To inform the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention of the activities of cooperation between the Participants in order to expand international cooperation.

3. PRINCIPLES

The Participants share the view that:

- 3.1 The Participants should respect each Participant's laws and regulations and no actions arising from the Memorandum will override the statutory duties or responsibilities of the Participants;
- 3.2 The Participants should seek to achieve mutual cooperation and assistance respecting each other's culture, history, tradition, and heritage of tidal flats;
- 3.3 In case of the Cooperation on the Protection of the Wadden Sea all financial implications will be covered by the existing budget;
- 3.4 The cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding should start when signed by the respective Representatives from each Participant;
- 3.5 A Participant may request to amend or terminate this Memorandum of Understanding with a 90 days' notice to the other Participants.

Signed in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, 30 March 2009

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF LAND, TRANSPORT AND MARITIME AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Byoung-Gyu Seo, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Korea

FOR THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE WADDEN SEA

Ms. Elsa Nickel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany

Annex 2

Time schedule 17 – 25 October

Oct 17: Arrival at Incheon (Seoul) International Airport,

Oct 18: Travel by Bus to Saemangeum and other Getbol to Mokpo

Oct 19 & 20: Two-day workshop (see Annex 4),

Oct 21: Excursion to Shinan Getbol (visitor center, salt pan, mudflat excursion)

Oct 22: Excursion to Muan Getbol (visitor center and others),

Oct 23: Excursion to Ganghwa island (Han river estuary, tidal flat center),

Oct 24: Final meeting with Getbol Forum and MLTM for future activity of MOU,

Oct 25: Departure from Incheon International Airport

Annex 3 Workshop Program, Maritime Museum, Mokpo, 19 – 20 October 2009**Day 1: 19th October, 2009**

- 11:30-13:00 Press Conference, Registration & Lunch
 13:00-13:30 Opening of the workshop and Welcome addresses

Session 1: The process of Policy, Plan and Implementation for the Protection of Wadden Sea

Chairs: Harald MARENCIC, CWSS, and Jong Geel JE, KORDI / City & Nature Institute

- 13:40-14:20 Wadden Sea Cooperation: History and Achievements
 Jens ENEMARK, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS)
 14:20-15:00 The concept and success of the Wadden Sea Forum
 Joern KLIMANT, Province of Dithmarschen / Chairman Wadden Sea Forum
 15:00-15:40 Processes of Policy Formation & Implementation: Lower Saxon and National Park
 Hubert FARKE, National Park Lower Saxon Wadden Sea
 15:40-16:00 Coffee break
 16:00-16:40 Integrated management approach and stakeholder involvement in the Wadden Sea
 Region
 Manfred VOLLMER, Wadden Sea Forum
 16:40-17:00 National and International Efforts: Korean & East Asian Regional Seas
 Chul-Hwan KOH, SNU
 17:00-17:20 Coffee break
 17:20-18:00 Discussion

Day 2: 20th October, 2009**Session 2: Monitoring and Case Studies**

Chairs: Hyun-Sig LIM, Mokpo University & Hubert FARKE, NP of Lower Saxon

- 09:00-09:40 Monitoring Guidebook and Structure of Monitoring organization
 Harald MARENCIC, CWSS
 09:40-10:20 Structure of Wadden Sea Research and WS Symposium and its Relation to the Policy
 Formation
 Norbert DANKERS, Institute of Marine and Ecological Research (IMARES)
 10:20-10:30 Coffee Break
 10:30-11:10 Monitoring of Migratory Birds: Structure and achievements
 Mark Van ROOMEN, SOVON/Joint Monitoring Group of Migratory Birds (JMMB)
 11:10-11:30 Monitoring of Migratory Birds: Structure and achievements- The Korean experience
 Yong-Ki Ju, Chonbuk University
 11:30-11:50 Korean Getbol Monitoring and its Relation to the Policy Formation
 Seung-Soo CHUN, Chonnam University & Hyun-Sig LIM, Mokpo University
 11:50-12:30 Session Discussions
 12:30-14:00 Lunch
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Session 3: Public Relations: Visitor Centers and Eco-Tourism

Chairs: Anja SZCZESINKI, IWSS & Dong-Uk Han, PGA Korea

- 14:00-14:35 International Wadden Sea School
Anja SZCZESINKI, International Wadden Sea School (IWSS), Husum
- 14:40-15:10 Regional and international cooperation in nature education in a Wadden Sea Area
Søren Rask JESSEN
- 15:10-15:45 Tourism and Marketing in the Wadden Sea
Constanze HOEFINGHOFF, Nordsee-Tourismus-Service GmbH, Husum
- 15:45-16:20 Information and education in the Wadden Sea: Experiences from the visitor center on the island of Ameland,
Johan KROL, Visitor Center, Ameland
- 16:20-16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30-16:50 Two Korean Eco-Tourism
Jong Geel JE, KORDI / City & Nature Institute
- 16:50-17:10 Making National Implementation Plan for CEPA, Korea
Dong-Uk HAN, PGA Korea
- 17:10-17:30 The Korean Visitor Centers
Ji-Young JANG, Eco-Horizon Institute & Young-Up YOO, Jeungdo Tidal Flat Ecological Exhibition Center
- 17:30-17:40 Coffee break

Session 4: Workshop Wrap Up and Discussions

Chairs: Jens ENEMARK, CWSS & Chul-Hwan KOH, Getbol Forum Korea

- 17:40-18:40 Wrap Up and Hearing for the Future Cooperation between Wadden Sea and Korea

Annex 4

The 1st Joint Workshop of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Wadden Sea and Korea

Learning on Wadden Sea strategy for Getbol protection Mokpo, Republic of Korea, 19th – 20th October 2009

Workshop Results

The first joint workshop held in the framework of the MoU Wadden Sea – Korea was held on 19 – 20 October in Mokpo, Korea. The symposium was organised by KEOM and the Getbol ('tidal flats') Forum, Republic of Korea in collaboration with the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, and the Province of Jeollanam-do, Republic of Korea. Over 100 participants from Korea and the Wadden Sea (The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark) attended the workshop.

The aim of the workshop was

- To promote conservation, restoration and sustainable use of intertidal wetlands;
- To raise awareness for a coherent conservation of tidal flats at an ecosystem scale;
- To establish and expand networks of experts, authorities and NGOs to exchange knowledge and experiences concerning the management of tidal flats.

The participants welcomed the workshop as an excellent opportunity to discuss common issues of conservation, restoration and sustainable use, as well as information and awareness raising of our precious Getbol and Wadden Sea and to consider further working fields.

General conclusions:

1. The tidal flat ecosystems of Korea and the Wadden Sea are of global importance for biodiversity conservation and natural processes biological production, with outstanding socio-economic, cultural and landscape values, and provide benefits for the people. At the same time, intertidal mudflats are facing a multitude of threats.
2. The Getbol Forum has to play a critical role in providing valuable information and involvement of society in Korea.
 3. The designation of marine protected areas at the Korean tidal flats has progressed and will be continued.
4. The experiences from the Wadden Sea Cooperation have shown the importance of a common vision for conservation and sustainable use of the coastal area, a regular and harmonized monitoring and assessment, and involvement of a larger community on a structural and committed basis in mutual trust and respect.
5. The tidal flat ecosystems of Korea and the Wadden Sea are similar but have different management systems:
 - The Wadden Sea has a long history of nature conservation whereas in Korea management aims for tidal flats has changed to conservation since the Wetland Conservation Act was enacted in 1999.
 - Wadden Sea conservation is based on an ecosystem approach and wise-use whereas tidal flat conservation in Korea is confined to smaller areas due to the lack of mutual agreements.
 - In the Wadden Sea, the main goal of policy making and management is nature conservation based on scientific knowledge with, whereas management of Korean Getbol had been influenced mainly by local and short-term economic interest.
6. There is a lack of an overall strategy for information and awareness activities for tidal flats in Korea in particular with regard to developing a master plan for Getbol centres.
7. There is a need to enhance awareness on all levels to increase support for the cooperation on the protection of the tidal flat ecosystem.

The workshop participants having heard the presentations from the Wadden Sea and Korea identified the following fields of future cooperation:

1. Development of a management approach for the Korean Getbol considering the experience, history and structure of the Wadden Sea management strategy, aiming at the long-term goal to manage the Korean Getbol at an ecosystem level.
2. Development of monitoring strategies and exchange of data in particular with regard to migratory birds and, in particular, establishment of a monitoring group of Korean experts to experience the Wadden Sea monitoring and data management.
3. Developments of strategies with regard to sea level rise, adaptation to climate change, invasive species and sediment processes.
4. Awareness and information:
 - Development of an overall strategy / master plan for tidal flat information centres including guidelines for regional implementation and training / qualification of staff (e.g. by exchange of staff between Korea and Wadden Sea on the site level),
 - Exchange of ideas for the development of material for students and school classes,
 - Translation of IWSS material for education purposes on Korean Getbol,
 - Joint workshop on CEPA (communication, education, participation and awareness).
5. Development of overall strategies for sustainable tourism for tidal flats by exchanging experience from new concept of eco-tourism in Korea and the long tradition of nature tourism in the Wadden Sea which has benefited from nature conservation and which is now the main economic factor in the region.
6. Enhancement of knowledge of the tidal flat ecosystem in Korea in order to establish a scientific basis for monitoring, assessment and management.
7. Enhance of awareness of tidal flat ecosystem protection in Korea for policy makers on state, provincial and regional level.

The workshop participants recommended organizing regular (e.g. bi-annual) follow-up workshops in the framework of the MoU addressing specific themes.