

PROJECT LOCATIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA



PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN KOREA

Since 2005, HSF works together with regional partners for the sustainable development in the inner Korean border area. From 2010 to 2015, we contributed to the crane restoration project in Anbyon county, North Gangwon province in North Korea. From 2014, we started regular surveys in the Sonbong Migratory Bird Reserve of Rason Special City, North Korea, at the border to China and Russia. Since 2015, HSF works on the conservation of wetlands and international cooperation through the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and others. These projects are meant to contribute not only to better nature protection, but also to more understanding and ultimately reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation, founded in 1967, is a German political foundation, close to the Christian Social Union (CSU), providing political education "in the Service of Democracy, Peace and Development" in Germany and abroad. It has been working for nearly 40 years in the field of development cooperation and is currently taking an active part in approximately 100 projects in around 60 countries worldwide.

Our international activities based on Christian-social ideals seek to promote humane living conditions and to contribute to sustainable development by strengthening peace, democracy and social market economy. In cooperation with our local partners we realize projects in the areas of political consulting and education. Our partners' independency and ownership are particular important to us.

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Our Partners



For further information please visit our website:
www.hss.de/english.html

BIRDS AND NATURE AT THE HAN RIVER ESTUARY

A JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT OF
 HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION KOREA
 AND GIMPO CITY



Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea



HSF KOREA

“In the Service of Democracy, Peace and Development”

This is the motto that describes the work and mission of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) in more than 50 countries worldwide.

For more than 30 years, HSF Korea has supported the process of reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. In South Korea, this includes regional development, in which the border region (DMZ) is especially focused upon. In North Korea, HSF attempts to contribute to the peaceful development of the region through activities that aim for international integration and cooperation in matters concerning the environment.

GIMPO CITY

Rice-fields and hills with mixed forests, a rich biodiversity, few human settlements, a fence and then the river this is the situation along the Han River from the estuary almost stretching to Seoul. In this area, the area from Yudo Island, a small islet in the Han River to Siam wetland, is part of Gimpo city.

With the more peaceful mood on the Korean Peninsula since 2018, also plans for the peaceful use and development of the border area in this region, the Hangang estuary, have been discussed by the adjacent local communities, Gimpo, Goyang, Paju and Gangwha-do. It is however important to ensure that future development in the area is sustainable and allows for peaceful coexistence of people and nature.

THE WEST COAST PROJECT

As part of our work for sustainable development on the Korean Peninsula, HSF Korea has become increasingly involved with the conservation of biodiversity.

Together with Birds Korea we have carried out a total of ten bird and ecological surveys between November 2018 and April 2019 in this area to document its importance, in particular that of Yudo Island, for migratory birds and develop ideas for protection of the area under changing political circumstances.

KEY FINDINGS

The survey resulted in a confirmation of the importance of the area, in particular Yudo island, on a number of grounds:

- It is one of the most important breeding areas for Great Cormorant in Korea, with around 580 occupied nests counted.
- Tags show that birds staying in the Yudo area frequently visit the opposite coast of South Hwanghae province in North Korea.
- Rice field areas around Yudo are important wintering grounds for geese.
- Over 1,300 Swan Geese use the area during November and December, considered to be the largest flock seen in South Korea in more than ten years.
- During the spring migration, the area becomes an important staging area and stopover for a number of species, including thousands of geese, ducks and gulls, as well as Black-faced Spoonbill.
- Throughout the winter the island is visited by White-tailed Eagles, with up to 15 counted along Han River.



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THE FUTURE

The future of this area which is important for bird migration and bird wintering is open-while hopefully, rapprochement and ultimately peace will make the border obsolete, new plans for development will have to be balanced with the protection of birds in the area. Already today, independently from plans for future use, habitat improvements can be introduced on a small scale, like the re-introduction of vegetation like reed into the cleared and sterile trenches and the planting of wind-breaking hedges rich in biodiversity.

In South Korea, economic development has damaged biodiversity and ecosystems. HSF Korea supports sustainable development with a focus on capacity-building. We aim to support the integration of North Korea into international environmental networks in order to promote a sustainable North Korean conservation sector.

TRANSBOUNDARY NATURE CONSERVATION

Nature knows no man-made borders. This is evident when migratory birds cross the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea. While globalization has created many bridges, even amongst formerly hostile states, North Korea remains isolated.

HSF Korea promotes exchange amongst representatives of international organizations and national governments. At the same time, HSF Korea supports training in North Korea and abroad, conferences, and practical environment surveys to improve the expertise of decision-makers.

