



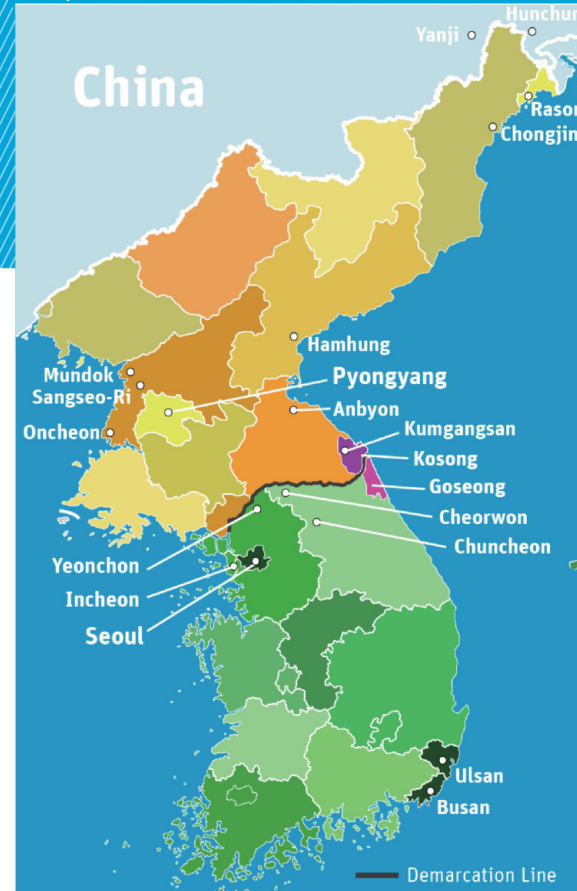
# SEABIRDS IN THE INNER BORDER AREA OF KOREA

A JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT OF  
HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION KOREA AND BIRDS KOREA



Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea

## 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 of particular importance to us.

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## 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 in 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.

## THE EAST 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. Since 2014, we have collaborated with the Busan-based Korean NGO Birds Korea on bird surveys and public awareness work and in 2016 we became a partner to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, based in Incheon.

Together with Birds Korea we have surveyed birds in Rason and at Samilpo on the east coast of North Korea as part of supporting national accession to the intergovernmental Ramsar Convention. And between June 2015 and March 2017, we conducted more extensive research on seabirds in Goseong County, Gangwon Province.

## GOSEONG COUNTY

Already famous for its beautiful scenery and healthy produce, seabird surveys by HSF Korea and Birds Korea confirm that the marine areas of the divided Goseong County are also internationally important for seabirds. These birds – while beautiful in themselves – are widely recognised as natural indicators of productive and healthy ecosystems. Successful conservation of seabirds in Goseong County, as elsewhere along the East Coast, would provide multiple benefits to local people. It would help ensure the sustainability of fisheries; would attract eco-tourists; and would help lay the basis for “Green Diplomacy” between north and south.



All Images © Birds Korea

## KEY FINDINGS

During the HSF Korea and Birds Korea surveys in Goseong County we recorded

- 46 species of seabird, including species that breed in Russia, Alaska and Canada; and some that winter in Indonesia and Australia
- A minimum 64,000 birds. This is three times the number used to identify Marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas
- Six seabird species in internationally important concentrations
- At least one seabird – the Pelagic Cormorant – which commutes across the DMZ every day in winter

## THE FUTURE

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 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.