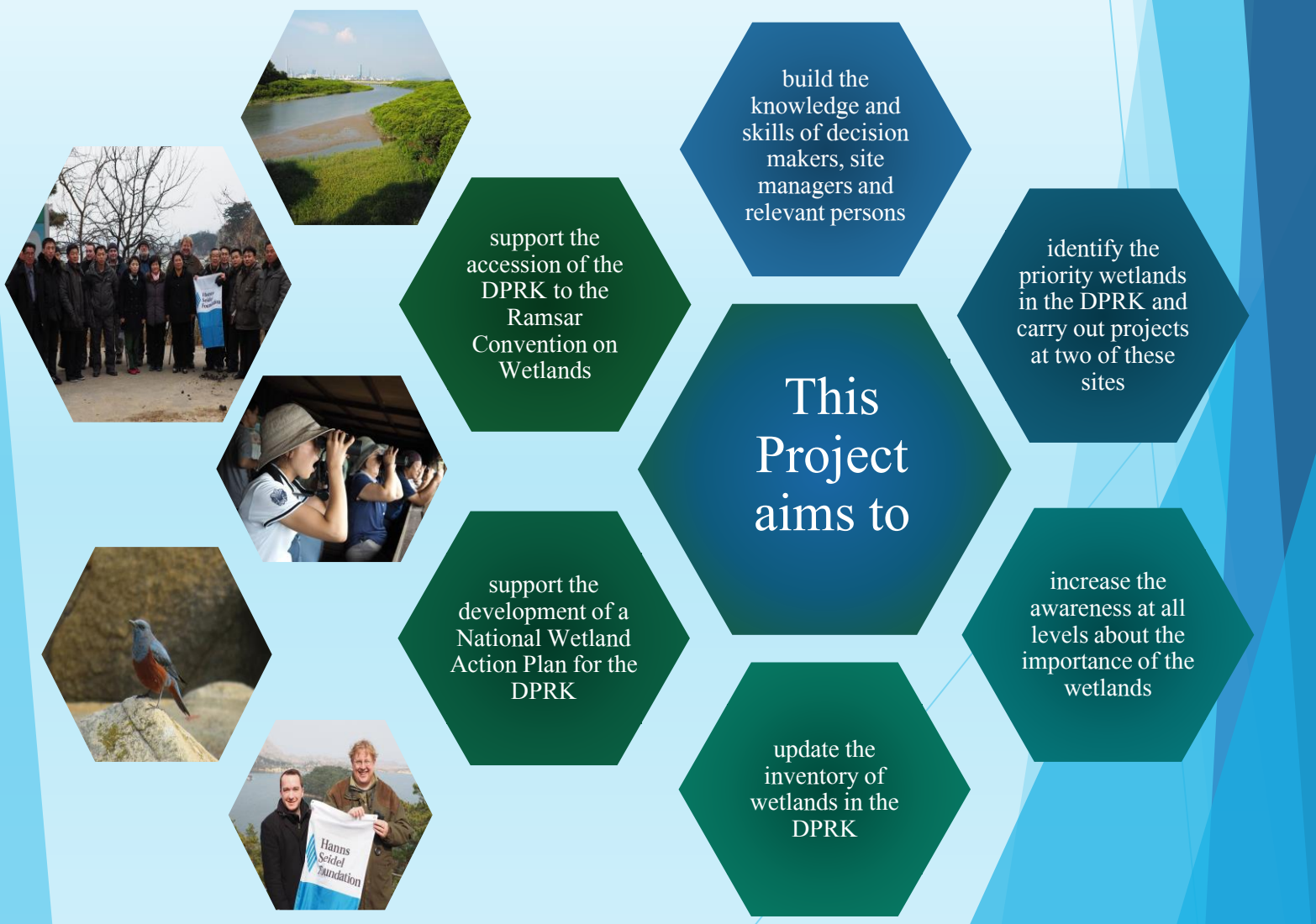


The Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands in the DPR Korea

People and animals benefit from the existence of wetlands. They play a critical role in the natural water cycle. However, they are endangered. In the Democratic People's Republic (DPRK), an estimated 6% of all land are wetlands, a unique habitat for many species, from plants to animals like birds, fish and amphibians. Those habitats are threatened by over-exploitation, pollution, water withdrawal, and climate change. The DPRK tries to solve this problem. This project was designed to support the DPRK achieve its goals regarding the conservation of wetlands.



build the
knowledge and
skills of decision
makers, site
managers and
relevant persons

identify the
priority wetlands
in the DPRK and
carry out projects
at two of these
sites

increase the
awareness at all
levels about the
importance of the
wetlands

This
Project
aims to

update the
inventory of
wetlands in the
DPRK

support the
accession of the
DPRK to the
Ramsar
Convention on
Wetlands

support the
development of a
National Wetland
Action Plan for the
DPRK



ACTIVITIES

National Workshops in Pyongyang

1st Workshop: The participants showed a high interest in the inclusion of the country into international agreements (like the *Ramsar Convention*) and into international organizations (like *IUCN*, the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature*). Outcomes of the workshop were a resolution to create a National Action Plan for the protection of wetlands, the identification of potential Ramsar sites, and capacity building for ministry officials and local officials.



2nd and 3rd Workshop: Latest information on the distribution, status, and value of the wetlands were collected. Participants were experts from national and international organizations, such as *EAAFP* (*East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership*), *Birds Korea*, *Beijing Forest University*, and *IUCN*, as well as representatives from different provinces of the DPRK. Additionally to the workshops, potential Ramsar Sites were visited.



4th Workshop: With the topic “The Conservation and Management of the Intertidal Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds of the West Sea”, a workshop was organized by the *Ministry of Land and Environment Protection (MoLEP)*, *IUCN*, *HSF*, and *EAAFP*. It was followed by a visit to *Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve*, a potential Ramsar site at the East Coast.

During all workshops, about 100 representatives of all DPRK ministries and research institutes with relevance to the protection of wetlands were present. Therefore, the workshops were able to serve the purpose of raising awareness beyond all related government bodies.

Local Workshops

Workshops at Kumgang mountain: *HSF*, *MoLEP*, and the *Ramsar Secretariat* held two workshops in the northeastern province Kosong. Prior to the workshops, surveys at Samil-po and at the East Sea in North Kosong proved that the qualification for a Ramsar Site can be met. The workshops focused on the criteria of the selection of Ramsar Sites, strategies to update the inventory of wetlands, and ideas to introduce eco-tourism.



ACTIVITIES

Biodiversity Surveys

Dr. Nial Moores (*Birds Korea*) and Dr. Bernhard Seliger (*HSF Korea*) visited Rason (northeast of the DPRK), and together with other international scientists also the DPRK's east coast, the inner-Korean border region, and the DPRK-China-Russia border region.



The goal of each visit was to collect first-hand information about the wetlands that could be selected as Ramsar Sites. An updated wetlands inventory is very relevant in order to meet the guidelines of how to designate a Ramsar Site.

On this map you can find the locations of our activities on the Korean Peninsula.



International Activities

“Strengthening Wetland Biodiversity Conservation in East Asia” - Workshop in Mongolia:

An international workshop was held at the Mongolian Wildlife Science and Conservation Center, and attended by a delegation from the DPRK. This activity was an important opportunity for the DPRK delegation to join the wetland efforts on biodiversity conservation in East Asia, and establish and strengthen cooperation relations with organizations in this field.

10th INTECOL Conference in China:

At this conference, the delegation from the DPRK visited various of the more than 70 sessions on topics related to wetlands and conservation. They got the chance to inform an international audience - especially from China and South Korea - about the status of the wetlands in their country. Representatives of all countries neighboring the Yellow/West Sea had the rare opportunity to discuss future cooperation on this declining ecosystem.

Field visits to wetlands around the metropole Shanghai took place, one of them a designated Ramsar Site. Here, the DPRK delegation could learn more about wetland management in China and the designation process of Ramsar Sites. The delegation had the possibility to get in contact with more international organizations and broaden their network.



ACTIVITIES

International Activities

UNESCAP Workshop in Beijing:

A workshop on cross-border environmental cooperation at the *Beijing Forestry University (BFU)* together with the *United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)* took place. The DPRK delegation was again able to broaden their network in the field of environmental protection and expressed a great interest in working closely with China's State Forest Administration.

Workshop and Study Tour in Hong Kong:

A delegation from HSF Korea and the DPRK visited Hong Kong. *WWF Hong Kong* introduced a Ramsar Site, and experts from international organizations participated in a workshop on environmental conservation in the DPRK. Topics included awareness raising, updating of national wetland inventories, management of wetland education centers, and the conduction of regular surveys in the DPRK with international organizations.



Workshop in Cambodia:

With the goal of knowledge sharing HSF organized a workshop on international cooperation in the fields of forestry, wetlands, biodiversity, and water. The workshop was attended by a delegation from the DPRK and the ROK, and experts from international organizations. Included were fieldtrips to a research center, the Mekong river, and more. The DPRK delegation was able hear about other countries' experiences and problems in the field of wildlife and water protection.

“Yancheng International Symposium on the Conservation and Management of the Intertidal Wetlands of the Yellow Sea” - China:

During this workshop, the delegations from DPRK, ROK, and China discussed their approaches for conservation and management of the Yellow Sea. The forum served the purpose of finding ways for closer cooperation between these three countries which are located at the Yellow Sea.



Awareness Raising

Translation of the Ramsar Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands:

The Ramsar Convention (named after the city of Ramsar, Iran) is an agreement of 169 countries (as of the year 1971) about the importance of wetlands for environmental conservation and for the society. To raise awareness in the DPRK about the importance of wetlands, the HSF supported the translation process and eventually, an English-Korean version of the Ramsar Convention was published by the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection (MoLEP) in the DPRK.

OUTCOMES

- **National Wetlands Inventory:**

Through better awareness and enhancement of skills and knowledge, the DPRK is now conducting an update on National Wetlands Inventory with modern methodology and based on scientific standards.

- **Awareness Raising:**

The conduction of awareness-raising activities (e.g. the translation of the Ramsar Convention and related handbooks into Korean, and the celebration of International Environment Days) support a better understanding for the significance of healthy ecosystems among representatives of government institutions, officials, students, media and actors on the local level.



- **Enhancing Networks:**

Regular participation of representatives of the DPRK in international meetings, conferences, and workshops, as well as visits of representatives of more than 10 international organizations to the DPRK since 2014 enhanced the international network of stakeholders in the DPRK. The international community is actively supporting projects to conserve and ensure the wise use of wetlands.

- **Reintegration into International Environment Networks:**

The Ministry of Land and Environment Protection of the DPRK became a member of the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature*, and the DPRK applied to become a member of the *East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership*.



- **Capacity Building:**

Trainings abroad and in the DPRK supported the environmental sector in the DPRK and lead to an improvement of skills and knowledge.

- **Ramsar Accession:**

Two sites (Mundok and Rason) were nominated as the first Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance) in the DPRK and an accession to the convention is planned in 2018.





For more Information about our work visit

our Website:

www.hss.de/korea/en/home.html

or Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HannsSeidelFoundationKorea



This project is implemented by Hanns Seidel Foundation