

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**

WILHELMSHAVEN, GERMANY, 30 MARCH 2009

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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**

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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**

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Ms. Elsa Nickel,

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear
Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany