

# KOREA

**NORTH KOREA** LAND AREA 122,762 km<sup>2</sup> HUMAN POPULATION 22,170,000 (181 per km<sup>2</sup>)  
NUMBER OF IBAs 33 TOTAL AREA OF IBAs 2,531 km<sup>2</sup> STATUS OF IBAs 13 protected; 12 partially protected; 8 unprotected



Mixed temperate broadleaf-coniferous forest on Mount Myohyang (IBA 12). (PHOTO: TED TIZARD)

## KEY HABITATS AND BIRDS

- Coniferous and mixed broadleaf-coniferous forests in the mountains in the north support some of the characteristic birds of the boreal (or taiga) forest zone (*Biome 02: Boreal forest*), including the threatened Scaly-sided Merganser *Mergus squamatus*.
- Temperate broadleaf and mixed broadleaf-coniferous forest (*Biome 03: North-east Asian temperate forest*) was the original habitat throughout much of North Korea, and several of the best remaining forests have been selected as IBAs.
- The wetlands around the Yellow Sea coast of western Korea are of immense importance for waterbirds, including many threatened species. High proportions of the global populations of both Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* and Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* nest here (on small offshore islands, flying to coastal intertidal flats to feed). Large numbers of ducks and geese, cranes, shorebirds and other waterbirds occur on passage and in winter, principally on estuaries and other coastal habitats, but also on freshwater wetlands and rice paddies.

## CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

The State Committee of Environmental Conservation is in overall charge of environmental protection and pollution control. The Academy of Sciences has ministerial status and is responsible for deciding whether areas should be afforded official protection by the state, and the actual management of nature reserves is the responsibility of the Department of Forest Management. Natural monuments are under the jurisdiction of the General Bureau of Cultural Relic Preservation, part of the Ministry of Art and Culture. The Nature Conservation Union of the DPR Korea also plays a role in nature conservation.

In North Korea, Nature Reserves, Wilderness Areas and National Parks (IUCN Categories I and II) cover c.1,500 km<sup>2</sup>, and Natural Monuments, Species Management Areas, and Protected Landscapes and Seascapes (IUCN categories III, IV, and V) cover c.1,660 km<sup>2</sup>. The total protected areas network therefore covers c.3,160 km<sup>2</sup>, or about 2.5% of the state's land area.

## OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTORY

- The 33 IBAs in North Korea include six forested protected areas, and three IBAs with both forest and wetlands (one a protected area and one partially protected).
- There are 24 wetland IBAs, mostly on or near the coast. In addition to natural or semi-natural wetlands, many of these sites include areas of rice paddy, which provide important feeding habitat for passage and wintering cranes, geese and other waterbirds.
- Six IBAs are offshore islets used by nesting Chinese Egret and/or Black-faced Spoonbill, and several others include important intertidal feeding habitat for these species.

## CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Threats to forest IBAs in North Korea include logging, and human disturbance linked to recreation and tourism activities.
- Wetlands IBAs are under pressure from industrial and urban development, agricultural intensification, coastal reclamation, fisheries (shellfish collection) and human disturbance.
- Thirteen (39%) of the IBAs in North Korea are entirely protected, 12 (36%) are partially protected, and eight (24%) are unprotected.

**SOURCES OF IBA DATA**

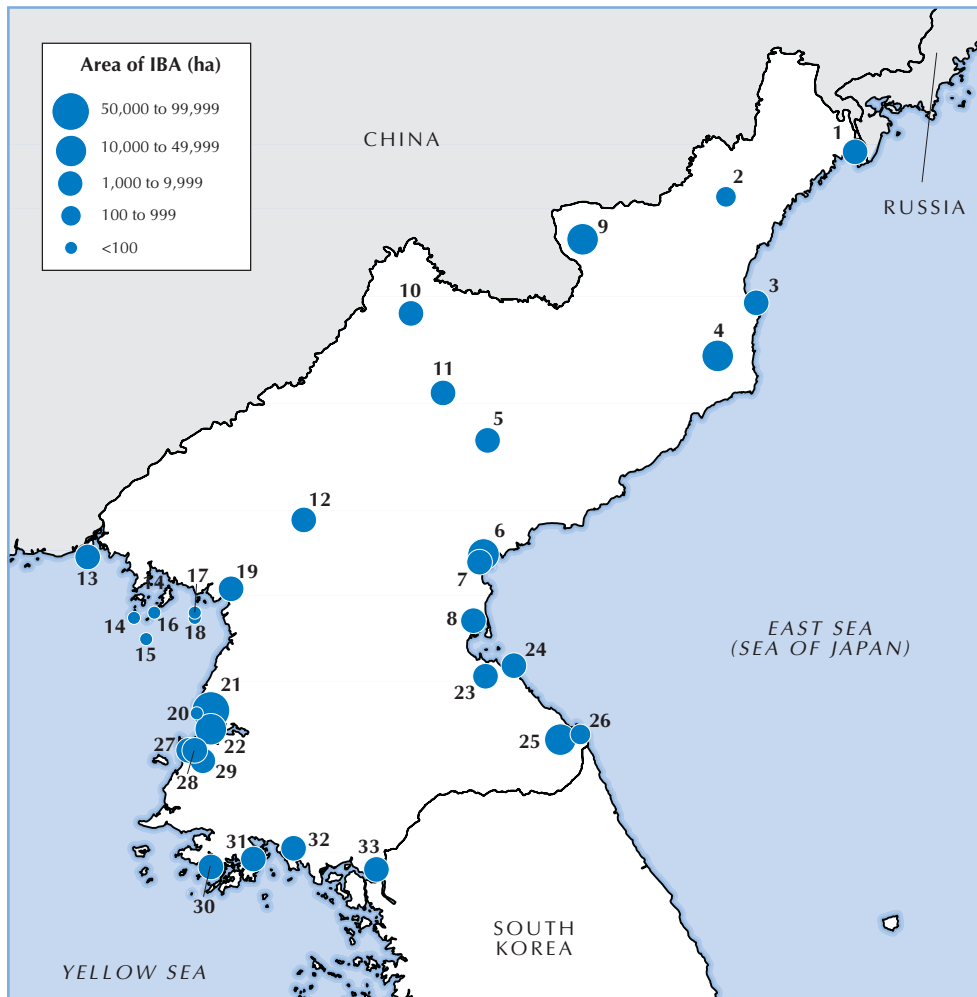
This initial list of IBAs in North Korea was compiled for this publication by Pak U-il and Chong Jong-ryol.

**REFERENCES**

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INFORMATION ON PROTECTED AREAS DOWNLOADED FROM THE WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE EARTHTRENDS COUNTRY PROFILES – Biodiversity and protected areas in North Korea: [http://earthtrends.wri.org/pdf\\_library/country\\_profiles/](http://earthtrends.wri.org/pdf_library/country_profiles/) (accessed on 18/6/2004)



**Map 1.** Location and size of Important Bird Areas in North Korea.

Table 1. Important Bird Areas in North Korea.			
AP = IBA is wholly or partially an Asia-Pacific Waterbird Network site; BR = IBA is wholly or partially a Biosphere Reserve			
<b>1</b>	<b>Lake Manpo and Lake Bonpo</b>	Partially protected	A1 A4i
Admin region Hamgyongbuk-do Coordinates 42°21'N 130°34'E Altitude 1–2 m Area 5,880 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands Threatened species <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> Congregatory waterbirds <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i>			
<b>2</b>	<b>Mayang reservoir (Mayang Chosuji)</b>	Protected	A1
Admin region Hamgyongbuk-do Coordinates 42°04'N 129°30'E Altitude 720 m Area 376 ha Habitats Wetlands Threatened species <i>Mergus squamatus</i>			
<b>3</b>	<b>Orangchon River estuary</b>	Partially protected	A1 A4i
Admin region Hamgyongbuk-do Coordinates 41°24'N 129°45'E Altitude 0–2 m Area 2,500 ha Habitats Wetlands Threatened species <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Mergus squamatus</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> Congregatory waterbirds <i>Anser fabalis</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Calidris alpina</i>			
<b>4</b>	<b>Mount Chilbo</b>	Protected	A1 A3
Admin region Hamgyongbuk-do Coordinates 41°04'N 129°26'E Altitude 20–700 m Area 30,000 ha Habitats Forest Threatened species <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> , <i>Aythya baeri</i> Biomes AS03: North-east Asian temperate forest			
<b>5</b>	<b>Lake Bujon</b>	Protected	A1 A3
Admin region Hamgyongnam-do Coordinates 40°32'N 127°32'E Altitude 900–1190 m Area 2,600 ha Habitats Forest; Wetlands Threatened species <i>Otis tarda</i> Biomes AS03: North-east Asian temperate forest			

Table 1 ... continued. Important Bird Areas in North Korea.					
<b>6</b>	<b>Ryonghung Gang estuary</b>			Unprotected	■ A1
	Admin region Hamgyongnam-do Coordinates 39°49'N 127°30'E Altitude 0–5 m Area 10,000 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Grus japonensis</i>				
<b>7</b>	<b>Lake Kwangpo</b>			Partially protected	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Hamgyongnam-do Coordinates 39°46'N 127°28'E Altitude 1–5 m Area 4,500 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Coturnicops exquisitus</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Ardea cinerea</i> , <i>Cygnus olor</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i>				
<b>8</b>	<b>Kumya Bay</b>			Partially protected <sup>AP</sup>	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Hamgyongnam-do Coordinates 39°24'N 127°25'E Altitude 1–2 m Area 4,500 ha Habitats Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Cygnus olor</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Anser fabalis</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i>				
<b>9</b>	<b>Mount Paekdu</b>			Protected <sup>BR</sup>	■ A1 ■ A3
	Admin region Ryanggang-do Coordinates 41°48'N 128°19'E Altitude 800–2,750 m Area 45,000 ha Habitats Forest ■ Threatened species <i>Mergus squamatus</i> ■ Biomes AS03: North-east Asian temperate forest				
<b>10</b>	<b>Mount Oga</b>			Protected	■ A3
	Admin region Jagang-do; Ryanggang-do Coordinates 41°20'N 126°54'E Altitude 600–1,204 m Area 6,000 ha Habitats Forest ■ Biomes AS03: North-east Asian temperate forest				
<b>11</b>	<b>Lake Rangrim</b>			Unprotected	■ A3
	Admin region Jagang-do Coordinates 40°50'N 127°10'E Altitude 700–1,700 m Area 8,600 ha Habitats Forest; Wetlands ■ Biomes AS03: North-east Asian temperate forest				
<b>12</b>	<b>Mount Myohyang</b>			Protected	■ A3
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 40°02'N 126°01'E Altitude 200–1,906 m Area 7,000 ha Habitats Forest ■ Biomes AS03: North-east Asian temperate forest				
<b>13</b>	<b>Amrok River estuary</b>			Partially protected	■ A1 ■ A4i,iii
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 39°48'N 124°14'E Altitude 3–45 m Area 7,000 ha Habitats Other; Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Anas formosa</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>				
<b>14</b>	<b>Oksem, Dongsolbatsem, Sesolbatsem and Namsolbatsem islands</b>			Unprotected	■ A1
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 39°25'N 124°37'E Altitude Sea-level Area 50 ha Habitats Coastline ■ Threatened species <i>Platalea minor</i>				
<b>15</b>	<b>Rab-do and Muki-do islands</b>			Protected	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 39°17'N 124°43'E Altitude 0–6 m Area 40 ha Habitats Coastline ■ Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Egretta eulophotes</i>				
<b>16</b>	<b>Batogisem, Dansem and Zamori islands</b>			Unprotected	■ A1
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 39°27'N 124°47'E Altitude Sea-level Area 50 ha Habitats Coastline ■ Threatened species <i>Platalea minor</i>				
<b>17</b>	<b>Sogam-do, Daegam-do, Zung-do, Ae-do and Hyengzedo islands</b>			Protected	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 39°27'N 125°07'E Altitude 0–40 m Area 18 ha Habitats Coastline ■ Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>				
<b>18</b>	<b>Ummu-do island</b>			Protected	■ A1
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 39°25'N 125°07'E Altitude Sea-level Area 80 ha Habitats Coastline ■ Threatened species <i>Platalea minor</i>				
<b>19</b>	<b>Chongchon River estuary (including Mundok Nature Reserve)</b>			Partially protected <sup>AP</sup>	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 39°36'N 125°25'E Altitude 0–8 m Area 8,000 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus monacha</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Otis tarda</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Anser fabalis</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus monacha</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i>				
<b>20</b>	<b>Dok-do island</b>			Protected	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 38°49'N 125°08'E Altitude 0–85 m Area 18 ha Habitats Coastline ■ Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i>				
<b>21</b>	<b>Onchon field</b>			Unprotected	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 38°50'N 125°15'E Altitude 6–24 m Area 50,000 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus monacha</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Otis tarda</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i>				
<b>22</b>	<b>Taedong River estuary</b>			Unprotected	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Pyonganbuk-do Coordinates 38°43'N 125°15'E Altitude 0–9 m Area 11,500 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Anas formosa</i> , <i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Larus saundersi</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Cygnus olor</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i>				
<b>23</b>	<b>Anbyon field</b>			Protected	■ A1 ■ A4i
	Admin region Kangwon-do Coordinates 39°03'N 127°31'E Altitude 5–20 m Area 1,000 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Grus japonensis</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Grus japonensis</i>				

Table 1 ... continued. Important Bird Areas in North Korea.					
<b>24</b>	<b>Lake Tungjong and Lake Chonapo</b>	Partially protected	■ A1	■ A4i	
Admin region Kangwon-do Coordinates 39°07'N 127°45'E Altitude 0–2 m Area 2,010 ha Habitats Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Cygnus olor</i>					
<b>25</b>	<b>Mount Kumgang</b>	Protected	■ A1	■ A3	■ A4i
Admin region Kangwon-do Coordinates 38°39'N 128°08'E Altitude 50–1,638 m Area 25,000 ha Habitats Forest ■ Threatened species <i>Grus japonensis</i> ■ Biomes AS03: North-east Asian temperate forest ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Grus japonensis</i>					
<b>26</b>	<b>Lake Samilpo</b>	Partially protected	■ A1	■ A4i	
Admin region Hwanghaenam-do Coordinates 38°41'N 128°18'E Altitude 1–2 m Area 160 ha Habitats Forest; Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Cygnus olor</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i>					
<b>27</b>	<b>Unryul Kumsanpo</b>	Partially protected	■ A1	■ A4i	
Admin region Hwanghaenam-do Coordinates 38°35'N 125°04'E Altitude 2–10 m Area 1,400 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i>					
<b>28</b>	<b>Daedong Bay</b>	Partially protected	■ A1	■ A4i	
Admin region Hwanghaenam-do Coordinates 38°35'N 125°07'E Altitude 1–10 m Area 3,500 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Sea; Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Grus monacha</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Otis tarda</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i> , <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Anser fabalis</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i>					
<b>29</b>	<b>Mount Kuwol</b>	Protected		■ A3	
Admin region Hwanghaenam-do Coordinates 38°31'N 125°11'E Altitude 60–954 m Area 1,100 ha Habitats Forest ■ Biomes AS03: North-east Asian temperate forest					
<b>30</b>	<b>Ongjin Bay</b>	Partially protected	■ A1	■ A4i	
Admin region Hwanghaenam-do Coordinates 37°51'N 125°15'E Altitude 5–30 m Area 3,500 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Anser fabalis</i> , <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Charadrius placidus</i> , <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>					
<b>31</b>	<b>Kangryong field</b>	Unprotected	■ A1		
Admin region Hwanghaenam-do Coordinates 37°54'N 125°36'E Altitude 5–20 m Area 1,200 ha Habitats Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Egretta eulophotes</i> , <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> , <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>					
<b>32</b>	<b>Chongdan field</b>	Partially protected	■ A1	■ A4i	
Admin region Hwanghaenam-do Coordinates 37°58'N 125°56'E Altitude 2–50 m Area 2,500 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial); Wetlands ■ Threatened species <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Platalea minor</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Charadrius placidus</i> , <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> , <i>Tringa guttifer</i>					
<b>33</b>	<b>Panmun field</b>	Unprotected	■ A1	■ A4i	
Admin region Kaesong City Coordinates 37°50'N 126°37'E Altitude 10–50 m Area 8,000 ha Habitats Artificial landscapes (terrestrial) ■ Threatened species <i>Anser cygnoides</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus monacha</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i> ■ Congregatory waterbirds <i>Anser albifrons</i> , <i>Grus vipio</i> , <i>Grus japonensis</i>					

Dok-do island (IBA 20) has breeding colonies of the threatened Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* and Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*. (PHOTO: CHONG JONG-RYOL)

