

SOUTH KOREA

RAMSAR CONVENTION CAME INTO FORCE 1997

NUMBER OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED (at 31 August 2005) **3**

AREA OF RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED (at 31 August 2005) **969 ha**

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY FOR RAMSAR CONVENTION

Global Environment Office, Ministry of Environment

RAMSAR DESIGNATION IS:

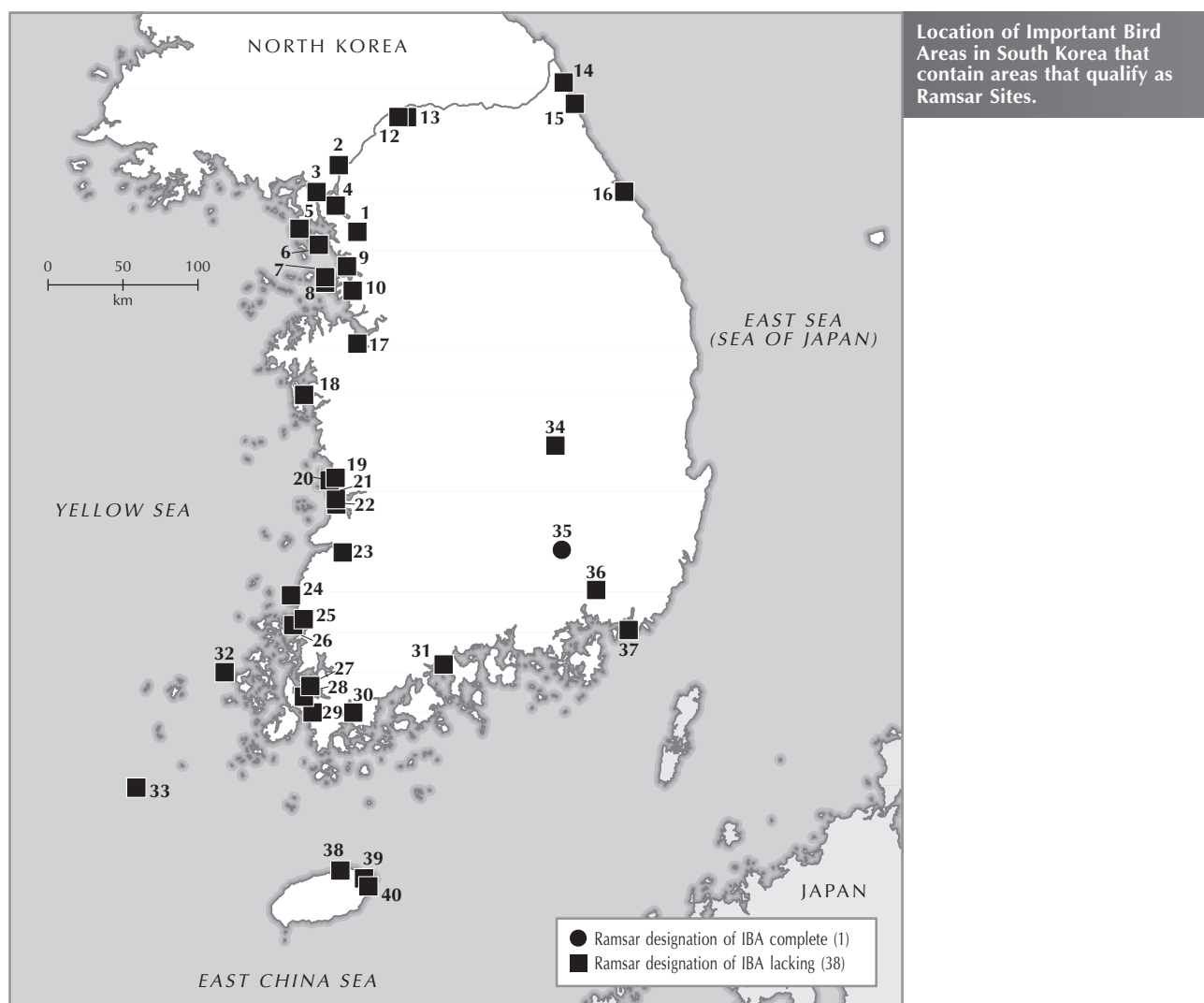
Complete in 1 IBA

Lacking in 38 IBAs

The Yellow Sea wetlands around the west and south coasts of South Korea support vast numbers of migratory waterbirds on passage and in winter, including the threatened Spotted Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*, Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* and Saunders’s Gull *Larus saundersi*, and almost the entire global population of Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* winters in South Korea. However, despite their global conservation importance, the inter-tidal flats in South Korea are currently under heavy development pressure, particularly at Saemangeum (Mangyeong and Dongjin estuaries: IBAs 21 and 22). Large numbers of the threatened White-naped Crane *Grus vipio* and Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis* occur on passage

and in winter around the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and islands at the western section of the DMZ are the most important breeding ground of Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*. The Korean Wetlands Alliance has published an inventory of 63 important wetland sites in South Korea (Moore 1999).

Three Ramsar Sites have been designated in South Korea, only one of which overlaps with an IBA, and an additional 38 potential Ramsar Sites have been identified there. Most of these potential Ramsar Sites are around the Yellow Sea on the west and south coasts, where the improved protection of inter-tidal wetlands is a high priority, including through the designation of new Ramsar Sites.



Summary of Important Bird Areas that contain areas that qualify as Ramsar Sites in South Korea.

Ramsar designation of IBA complete (1 IBA)

IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar Site name	Ramsar Site area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
					2	4	5	6
35	Upo swamp	854	Woopo Wetland	854	✓	✓	✓	✓

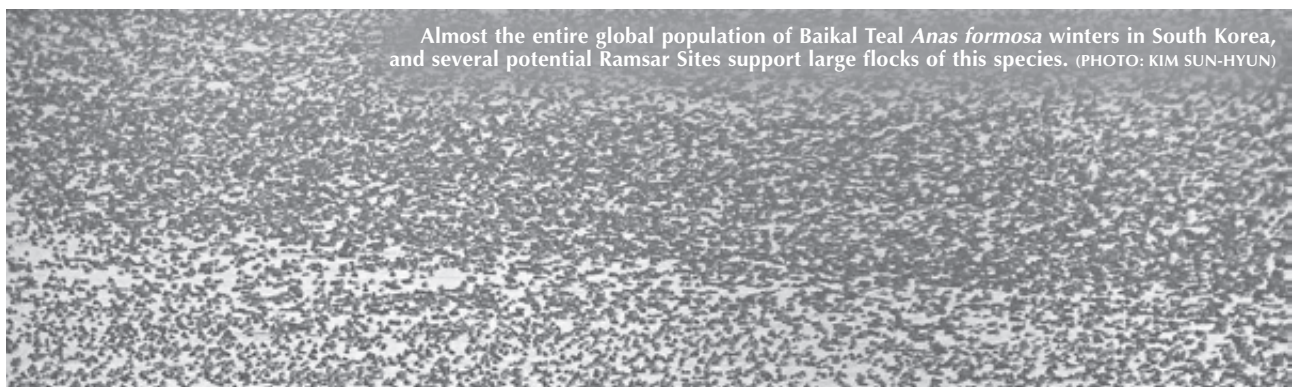
Ramsar designation of IBA lacking (38 IBAs)						
IBA	IBA name	IBA area (ha)	Ramsar criteria			
			2	4	5	6
1	Han-gang river	2,020	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Daeseongdong and Panmunjeom marshes	1,700	✓			
3	Yu-do islet	7	✓			
4	Han-gang estuary	2,620	✓	✓		✓
5	Tidal flat area of southern Ganghwa-do island	7,662	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Tidal flat area of Yeongjong-do island	4,620	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Yeongheung-do and Sonje-do islands	4,000	✓			
8	Daebu-do island	8,000	✓	✓		✓
9	Sihwa-ho lake	5,650	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Namyang Bay	6,675	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Yeonchon	40	✓			
13	Cheolwon basin	4,332	✓	✓		✓
14	Hwajinpo-ho lake	182	✓	✓		✓
15	Songji-ho lake	64	✓	✓		✓
16	Gyeongpo-ho lake	100	✓	✓		✓
17	Asan Bay (including Asan-ho lake and Sapgyo-ho lake)	7,316	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Cheonsu Bay	15,584	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Geum-gang river and estuary	12,000	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Yubu-do island	420	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Mangyeong estuary	9,010	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Dongjin estuary	8,032	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Donglim reservoir	256	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Baeksu tidal flat	4,000	✓	✓		✓
25	Hampyeong Bay	2,004	✓	✓		✓
26	Muan tidal flat	3,500	✓	✓		✓
27	Yeongam-ho lake	4,286	✓	✓		✓
28	Geumho-ho lake	2,330	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Gocheonam-ho lake	649	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Gangjin Bay	370	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Suncheon Bay	5,000	✓	✓		✓
32	Chilbal-do island	4	✓	✓		✓
33	Kukul-do island	4	✓	✓		✓
34	Gumi Haepyeong	910	✓	✓		✓
36	Junam reservoir	814	✓	✓		✓
37	Nakdong-gang estuary	9,560	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Bukchon	5		✓		✓
39	Hado-ri	77	✓	✓		✓
40	Seongsanpo-ho	154	✓	✓		✓



Intertidal mudflats at Suncheon Bay (IBA 31), one of the many potential Ramsar Sites on the Yellow Sea coast of South Korea. (PHOTO: PAE SEONG-HWAN)

Summary of the occurrence of globally threatened wetland-dependent bird species within the selected IBAs in South Korea.

IBA	Chinese Egret <i>Egretta ulophotes</i> VU	Oriental Stork <i>Ciconia boyciana</i> EN	Black-faced Spoonbill <i>Platalea minor</i> EN	Swan Goose <i>Anser cygnoides</i> EN	Lesser White-fronted Goose <i>Anser erythropus</i> VU	Baikal Teal <i>Anas formosa</i> VU	Baer's Pochard <i>Aythya baeri</i> VU	Steller's Sea-eagle <i>Haliaeetus pelagicus</i> VU	Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i> VU	Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i> VU	White-naped Crane <i>Grus vipio</i> VU	Hooded Crane <i>Grus monacha</i> VU	Red-crowned Crane <i>Grus japonensis</i> EN	Spotted Greenshank <i>Tringa guttifer</i> EN	Spoon-billed Sandpiper <i>Euryrhynchus pygmaeus</i> EN	Saunders's Gull <i>Larus saundersi</i> VU	Relict Gull <i>Larus relictus</i> VU	Japanese Murrelet <i>Synthliboramphus wumizusume</i> VU	Styan's Grasshopper-warbler <i>Locustella pleskei</i> VU	Total
1							✓													1
2		✓									✓		✓							3
3			✓																	1
4			✓	✓							✓									3
5	✓		✓										✓	✓	✓	✓				6
6	✓		✓													✓				3
7	✓																			1
8	✓																			1
9	✓										✓	✓				✓				4
10											✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			4
12											✓		✓							2
13										✓	✓		✓							3
14							✓													1
15							✓													1
16				✓																1
17						✓								✓		✓	✓			4
18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓			11
19				✓		✓								✓		✓				4
20			✓																	1
21	✓		✓			✓								✓	✓	✓				6
22	✓		✓			✓								✓	✓	✓				6
23						✓														1
24	✓		✓																	2
25	✓																			1
26	✓																			1
27		✓				✓			✓	✓		✓								5
28		✓	✓			✓														3
29		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓										5
30						✓														1
31												✓		✓		✓	✓			4
32																		✓	✓	2
33																		✓	✓	2
34											✓	✓								2
35		✓									✓	✓								2
36				✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓								6
37	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			10
39			✓																	1
40			✓																	1
Total	12	7	13	6	1	12	2	2	3	5	9	7	4	9	5	11	4	2	2	



Almost the entire global population of Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* winters in South Korea, and several potential Ramsar Sites support large flocks of this species. (PHOTO: KIM SUN-HYUN)