



## **Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Integration of Biodiversity in Republic of Korea**

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## 1. Introduction

Republic of Korea reported<sup>1</sup> that Republic of Korea launched a domestic working group on the convention on biological diversity, with the participation of 10 relevant ministries as well as national and public research institutes, in order to formulate national biodiversity strategies and action plan and to draft a national report:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Ministry of Knowledge and Economy; Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Family Affairs, Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs; Rural Development Administration; Korea Forest Service; Korean Intellectual Property Office

The 2nd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which is now underway, includes various sectoral strategies, policies and some government projects that mainstream biodiversity considerations.

The report describes the texts of the Convention that incorporate aspects of biodiversity in each sector including agriculture, forest, fisheries, tourism, protected areas, and international cooperation, along with the efforts of provincial governments and corporations to safeguard biodiversity.

## 2. The central government

Strategy	Relevant provisions of the Convention
1. Effective conservation of major ecosystems and habitats (1) Protection of biodiversity of major ecosystems and habitats (2) Expansion and conservation of protected areas	- Articles 6, 8, and 9 of the Convention
2. Conservation of species diversity (1) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Strategies (2) Research on the status of threatened species and restoration	- Articles 8 and 9 of the Convention
3. Conservation of genetic diversity	- Articles 8 and 9 of the Convention
4. Sustainable use and consumption (1) Application of ecological approach (2) Implementation of CITES	- Article 10 of the Convention
5. Research and management of invasive alien species	- Articles 7, 8, and 9 of the Convention
6. Management of genetically modified organisms	- Article 19 of the Convention
7. Establishment of countermeasures to address the challenges of climate change	- Article 14 of the Convention
8. Maintaining the capacity of the ecosystem to deliver goods and services (1) Eco Tourism (2) Use of positive incentives	- Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention
9. Protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (1) Protection of traditional knowledge (2) Maintenance of socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities	- Paragraph 4 of Article 8 of the Convention
10. Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing	Article 15 of the Convention
11. Technology transfer and the provision of adequate resources (1) Technology transfer (2) Financial resources and system	Article 21 of the Convention

<sup>1</sup> Republic of Korea (2009). Fourth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, May 2009, 39 pp.

12. International cooperation and involvement of stakeholders	- Article 5 of the Convention
13. Communication, education and awareness (1) Communication and promotion (2) Education (3) Information Sharing System	- Articles 13 and 17 of the Convention
14. Monitoring and Assessment (1) Monitoring and Research (2) Global Taxonomy Initiative	- Article 7 of the Convention

### 3. Local governments

The conservation of biodiversity requires action according to national strategies and related legislation, and an increased awareness among stakeholders, including local governments, businesses, and NGOs on the importance of promoting biodiversity conservation through their actions. Policies and measures appropriate to provincial characteristics need to be taken into consideration.

The country is carrying out action plans through active cooperation with local governments, including the construction of a metropolitan ecological belt, the designation of species that need to be restored, the designation of protected areas, the establishment of a guideline for urban ecological belts, the protection of traditional knowledge and support for traditional activities, and the expansion of biotopes within urban regions, expediting the mainstreaming of biodiversity in regions.

In terms of policy measures for the conservation of biodiversity, local governments are committed to preserving indigenous species through the substantial management of major habitats and the control of alien species. Preliminary actions are being taken, such as the designation of endangered and protected species within each region, the creation of a biotope map, the designation and management of the habitats of those species as protected areas, as well as the integrated management among the governments of provinces vulnerable to the spread of foreign species.

Since the 10<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Convention, held in October 2008 in Changwon, Korea, public awareness of the importance of wetland related biodiversity and eco-tourism has greatly increased.

A wide range of activities have been carried out to raise public awareness, including monitoring birds at each major river basin, bird watching, tree planting, making ecological maps, hosting wetland forums and workshops with the participation of local residents, conducting related research, monitoring, and publishing education materials, and facilitating effective efforts to conserve local biodiversity by linking biodiversity to wetlands.

#### Private Sector Efforts

With the aim of developing an economic organization that aims to conserve the natural environment and biodiversity, Korea launched the Korea Association of Environmentally Friendly Companies, which involved 179 companies as of December 2008. This organization established an Environment Protection Fund Management Association in each metropolitan city, and changed its name to the Environmental Protection Association in 2000, promoting and supporting environmental protection projects in each metropolitan city.

The Association has set environmental targets for each company, such as assisting in habitat restoration projects of endangered species such as ibis, *Sericinus montela*, Pieridae, Horseshoe crab, and Korean rose bitterling, capturing alien species like nutria that disturb local ecosystems, creating eco parks, purifying river water, and looking after mountains in partnership with local organizations. In addition, it is coming up with a number of new initiatives to promote sustainable biodiversity for a better environment.

Since 2008, when some local companies made an agreement with the Environmental Office on the protection and management of some islands with good topography and geological features as well as beautiful views, the Association has been undertaking conservation activities like removing marine waste and alien plants from the islands.

Recently, when the major oil spill accident involving the Hebei Spirit occurred on the west coast of Korea in 2007, the entire country made a concerted effort to support cleanup operations, and many firms provided aid in the form of environmental technology donations, which in turn led to the early restoration of the coastal environment.