


Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

The process for preparing the report

This report has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment(MOE) in consultation with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries(MOMAF), Korea Forest Service(KFS), the National Institute of Environmental Research(NIER), the National Parks Authority(NPA), and the Korea Forest Research Institute(KFRI).

Materials which were used as a basis for the report

1. 'Environmental White Book of 2002' published by MOE
2. 'Green Korea 2002' published by MOE
3. 'Research on Implementation Strategy on Nationwide Ecological Network 2002' published by MOE

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?				
a) High		b) Medium	<input type="radio"/>	c) Low
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?				
a) no				
b) in early stages of development		<input type="radio"/>	<p>The Republic of Korea has designated and managed various protected areas such as Ecosystem Conservation Areas, Wetland Conservation Areas, Natural Parks, Designated Islands etc. according to the acts related to the conservation of natural environment.</p> <p>Republic of Korea also has conducted Research on Establishment and Implementation Strategy on Nationwide Ecological Network in 2002, setting a master plan to establish and implement the network from 2003 to 2012 for comprehensive conservation of national biological diversity.</p>	
c) in advanced stages of development				
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process				
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?				
a) no				
b) an assessment is being planned for		<input type="radio"/>	<p>Once the network is established, the assessment of national biological state and the identification of areas which need restoration or protection will be carried out through the network.</p>	
c) an assessment is being undertaken				
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made				

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?		
a) no		
b) in early stages of development		
c) in advanced stages of development		
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents	○ The Republic of Korea has various kinds of protected areas to conserve bio-diversity, which are established and managed by different acts.	
	Protected Area	Relevant Act
	Ecosystem Conservation Area	Natural Environment Conservation Act*
	Wetland Conservation Area	Wetland Preservation Act
	Protected Island	Special Act on the Ecosystem Preservation of Island such as Dokdo Island
	Natural Park	Natural Parks Act*
	Protected Area for Wild lives	Act relating to Protection of Birds, Mammals and Hunting
	Genetic Resources Protection Forests and Reserved Forest	Forest land Management Act (into force from Oct. 1, 2003)
	Natural Monument Protection Areas	Protection of Cultural Properties Act*
	Marked(*) acts are attached in English, and the others are only in Korean.	
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?		
a) no		
b) in early stages of development		
c) in advanced stages of development		
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets	○ The criteria and targets for selection, establishment and management of protected areas are included in each act. (Refer to attached copies)	

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	<input type="radio"/> <p>In case of designating Ecosystem Conservation Area and Wetland Conservation Area, the government supports the local government to build facilities, which can attract Eco-tourists, such as ecological pavilion, eco-parks etc. in the context of benefit sharing with indigenous people.</p> <p>The National Parks collect entrance fees from visitors and spend a portion of them for the neighboring communities such as paving roads, building village-halls, swage treatment facilities, establishing computer networks, etc.</p>
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	<input type="radio"/> <p>All of National Parks and most of the protected areas have been assessed periodically by their management authorities such as regional environmental offices or regional NPA offices. In many cases, alien species have appeared as major threats to biodiversity.</p>
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	<input type="radio"/> <p>Based on the National Biodiversity Strategy, various types of protected areas have been designated to best serve their biological function.</p>
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	

9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives /management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	<input type="radio"/> Protected areas vary in their management objectives, management regimes and scales under different acts. For instance, national parks management conducted by NPA, puts stress on sustainable use, while the management of ecosystem conservation areas and wetland conservation areas conducted by MOE puts stress on the conservation as they are.
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	<input type="radio"/>
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	

11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	<input type="radio"/>
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	<input type="radio"/> Though the Republic of Korea is on the beginning stage to establish nationwide ecological network, the human, institutional and financial resources, at present, do not seem to be adequate for fully managing individual protected areas.
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	

a) no	
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	<input type="radio"/> GEF/UNDP-Conservation of Globally Significant Wetlands in the ROK(PDF B) National Institute of Environmental Research, 2001.10-2003.5, \$350,000

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	<input type="radio"/> Only for National Parks, there was research on the constraints to implement and management.
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	<input type="radio"/>
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	

16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	<input type="radio"/> A study for the methodology of economic value assessment for natural resources has been conducted in 2001, and a couple of protected areas' economic values are assessed. The economic value of Woo-Po swamp, one of ecosystem conservation area, was estimated as 33 million ~ 47 million USD, and Dong-River, another ecosystem conservation area was estimated as about 90 million USD.

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	<input type="radio"/>
b) yes (please provide details)	
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	<input type="radio"/>
c) information is not available	
19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	<input type="radio"/>
	Information is not available.
b) yes	
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them. :	According to the Article 2 of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Woo-Po swamp and Yong swamp have been registered in Ramsar List. Copies of the reports are attached.
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	<input type="radio"/>
b) yes (please provide details)	

Further comments

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