



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MUTUAL COOPERATION

for the Purpose of
Conservation and Management of
Tidal Flat Ecosystems and UNESCO World Heritage Sites

THE MINISTRY OF OCEANS AND FISHERIS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
and
THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE PROTECTION OF
THE WADDEN SEA

Esbjerg, Denmark, 15 May 2023



Getbol,
Korean Tidal Flats

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MUTUAL COOPERATION

for the Purpose of Conservation and Management of Tidal Flat Ecosystems and UNESCO World Heritage Sites

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea

and

The Trilateral Cooperation on the Protection of the Wadden Sea

Hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”

RECOGNIZE that the tidal flats of the Wadden Sea in the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark, and the Republic of Korea constitute the largest tidal coastal flats worldwide with high ecological and socio-economic values, a high biodiversity and a global importance for the migration of bird populations;

RECALL the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Korea and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation in March 2009 and the intense exchange and collaboration between public authorities, scientists, and NGOs on policy, management, science, monitoring, and communication at both sites involving over 500 participants and reaching out to over 3,000.

RECALL that both the Wadden Sea and Korean Tidal Flats (hereafter referred to ‘Getbol’) were inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2009 and 2021 respectively, in the recognition of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of areas’ high levels of biodiversity and critical habitats for migratory bird species.

RECOGNIZE that the World Heritage inscription requires an enhanced involvement of a stakeholders and communities to maintain and enhance the OUV for present and future generations.

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, resulting also in a loss of biodiversity and increasing pressure from disturbance and pollution such as marine litter;

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, 27 October 2008, jointly organised 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 Wadden Sea 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 the Republic of 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 to

- 1.1 Work together for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of intertidal wetlands;
- 1.2 Raise awareness for a coherent conservation of tidal flats at an ecosystem scale;
- 1.3 Establish and expand networks of experts, authorities, local communities, scientists, and NGOs to exchange knowledge and experiences concerning the management of tidal flats and natural World Heritage Sites.

2. Action for Arrangements

The Participants intend to

- 2.1 Share knowledge and experiences of conservation, restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable use of tidal flats; to protect and maintain the OUVs of both World Heritage Sites;
- 2.2 Extend the collaboration with partners in charge of protection and management of the OUV including local communities, scientists, and NGOs from both sites
- 2.3 Designate liaison officers to serve as a focal point for communication between the Participants;
- 2.4 Exchange experts to carry out specific projects and to provide finances for these activities, as appropriate;
- 2.5 Hold educational and academic joint workshops and symposia and to invite representatives of the Participants to workshops and conferences in relevant fields;
- 2.6 Initiate joint scientific and management projects where necessary and possible;
- 2.7 Inform relevant international conventions, organisations, other World Heritage Sites, such as the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, UNESCO World Heritage Committee, IUCN, EAAFP, World Heritage Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China 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 of Understanding 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 conservation, management, and sustainable use of tidal flats, technical and financial supports will be provided within the possibilities of the Participants through consultation and agreement between Participants;
- 3.4 This Memorandum of Understanding shall only be amended by a written agreement signed by the authorised representatives of both Parties;
- 3.5 The cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding should start when signed by the respective Representatives from each Participant;
- 3.6 A Participant may request to amend or terminate this Memorandum of Understanding with a 90 days' written notice to the other Participants.

Signed in Esbjerg, Denmark, 15 May 2023

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF OCEANS AND FISHERIES OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**



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Mr. Jae Young Shin,

Director, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea

**FOR THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE PROTECTION OF
THE WADDEN SEA**



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Ms. Anne-Marie Vægter Rasmussen,

Chairperson Wadden Sea Board