



Do They Have a Future?



And will we be able to meet the Aichi Targets?

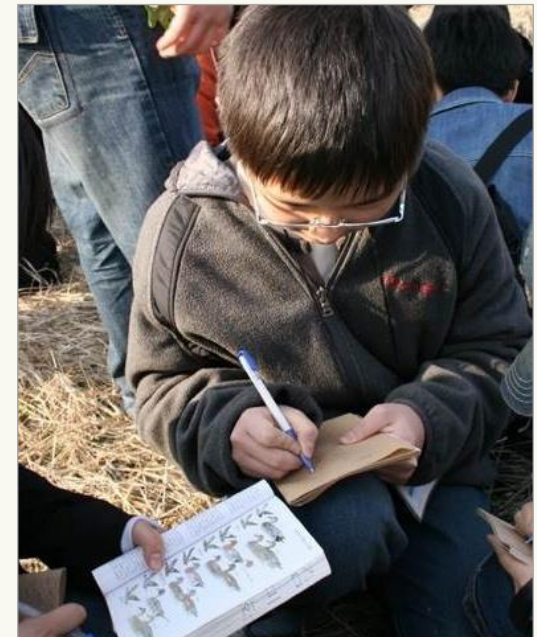


Birds Korea 새와 생명의 터

A specialised NGO based in the ROK

Conservation through:

- ❖ Research,
- ❖ Planning & Design,
- ❖ Education & Public Awareness



BIRDS KOREA 새와 생명의 터

Conserving birds - Conserving habitats





The CBD and Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Targets agreed to by all member nations of the CBD, including the ROK

Target 5

By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats...is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced

Target 12

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained

Target 19

By 2020, knowledge...relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied



Status of Birds, 2014

1. Is based on the premise that conservation of biodiversity is an essential component of sustainable development; of economic well-being; and ultimately, of human survival
2. Organizes 365 most regularly-occurring bird species into **Grey**, **Red**, **Amber** and **Green** Lists, based on conservation status and population change between 1910-2009 and 1990-2014
3. Organizes information on five main habitats
4. Identifies major drivers of decline and highlights conservation priorities and solutions
5. Provides 20 recommendations towards attaining the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets



Waterbirds & Wetlands

While species of all five main habitats are in decline, our analysis confirms that waterbirds comprise the majority of threatened and declining bird species in the ROK

This finding is in accordance with other recent regional and global analyses

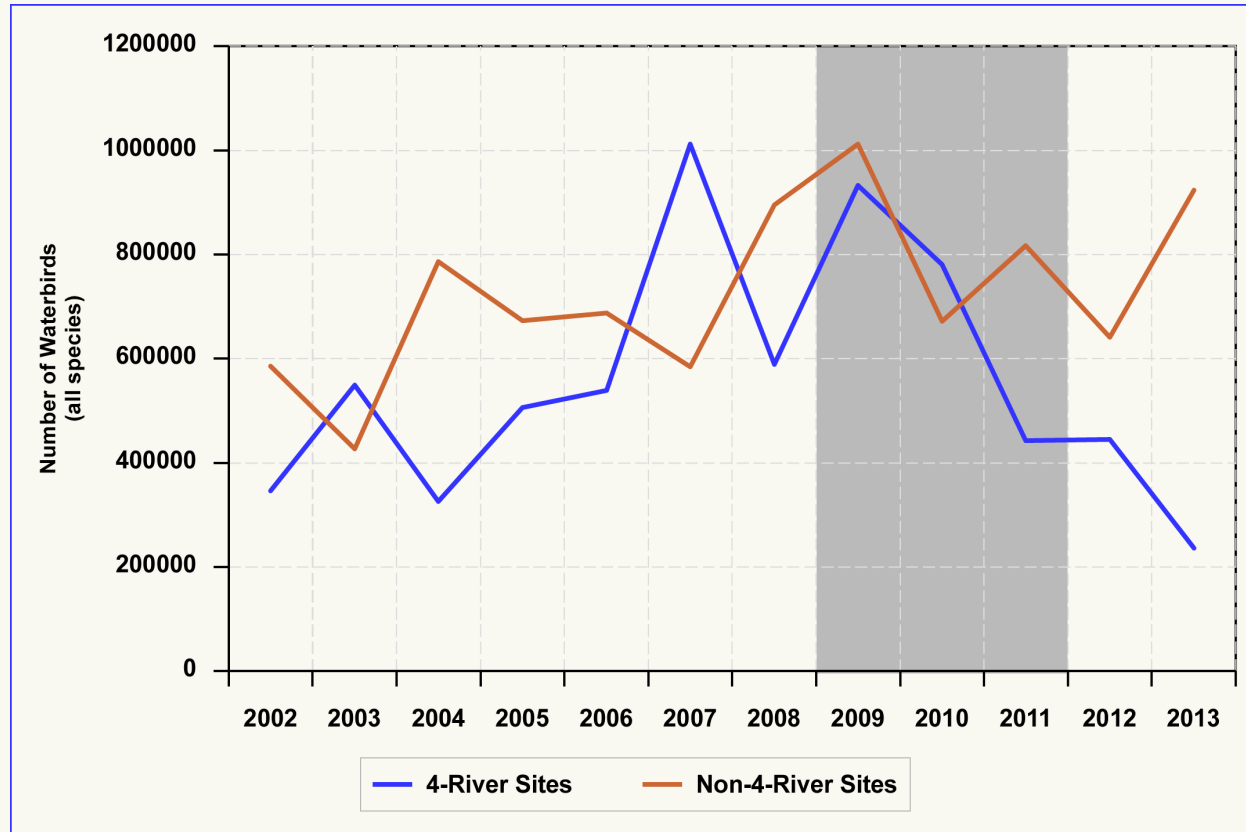
Only 143 out of 365 Regularly-occurring Species in the ROK are waterbirds (39.2% of total)

However, waterbirds comprise

- ❖ **32 out of 53 Red-Listed Species (60.4%)**
- ❖ **31 out of 72 Amber-Listed Species (43.1%)**
- ❖ **2 out of 5 Grey-Listed Species (40.0%)**



Freshwater Waterbird Declines & The 4-Rivers Project (2009-2011)

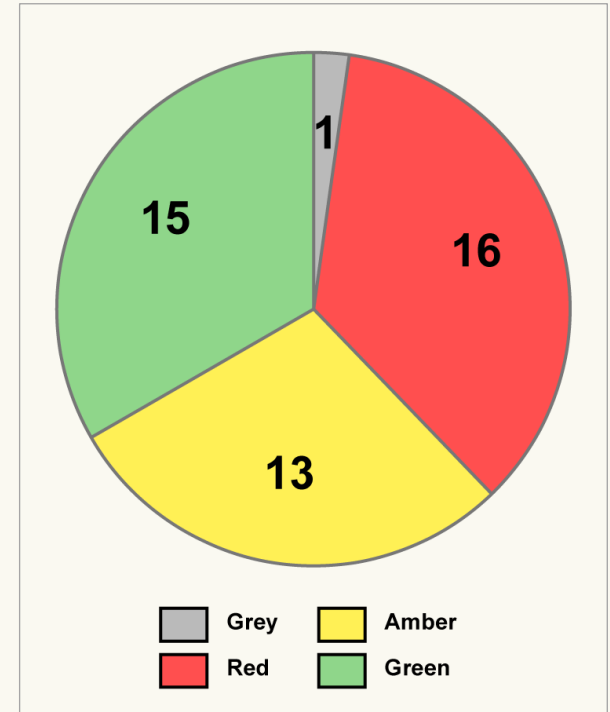


1. Count data from Ministry of Environment National Winter Bird Census (2002-2013)
2. Blue line shows annual counts of waterbirds at the 48 MOE Census sites considered likely to be most affected between 2009-2011 by the 4-Rivers Project (sites listed on Pp. 16-17 of Birds Korea 2010 Preliminary Report on the 4-Rivers Project)
3. Brown line shows annual counts of waterbirds at the remaining 149 sites, likely unaffected by the 4-Rivers Project



Intertidal Wetland: Korea's Most Threatened Habitat

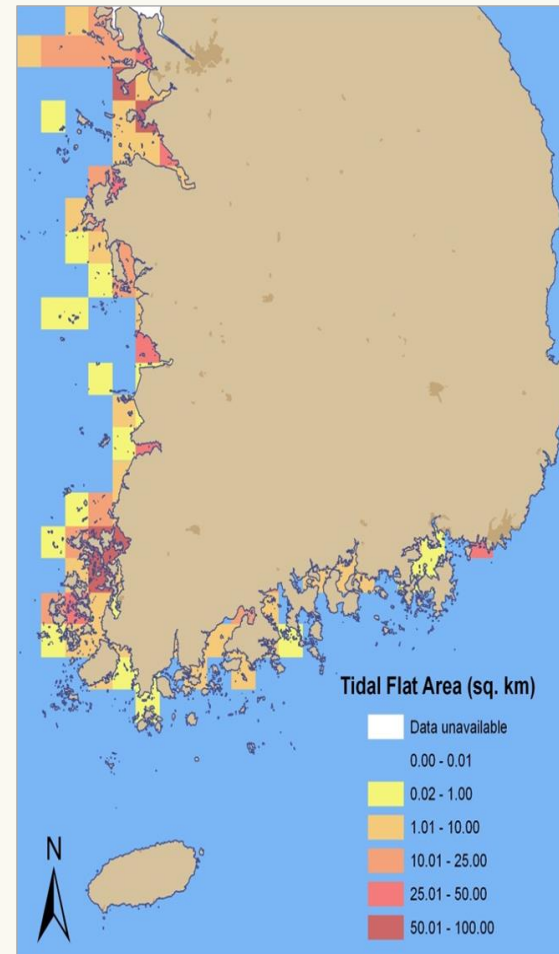
- ❖ 75% of the nation's Tidal-flats have been destroyed by reclamation already; ~30% of the remaining area is threatened by development, including for tidal power-plants
- ❖ Intertidal Wetland now represents little more than 1% of the ROK's national land area; yet it supports 30% of the nation's Red-Listed bird species
- ❖ Intertidal Wetland is the only one of the five major habitat types in the ROK supporting more Red- and Amber-Listed (29) than Green-Listed species (15), identifying the habitat type itself as a major conservation priority



Number of species ecologically-dependent on Intertidal Wetland divided by Grey, Red, Amber and Green Lists.



Research by Birds Korea confirms that <110,000ha of tidal-flat remained nationwide by 2010: a 75% loss of historical tidal-flat area





Meeting the Aichi Targets?

Saemangeum, 2006





Meeting the Aichi Targets?

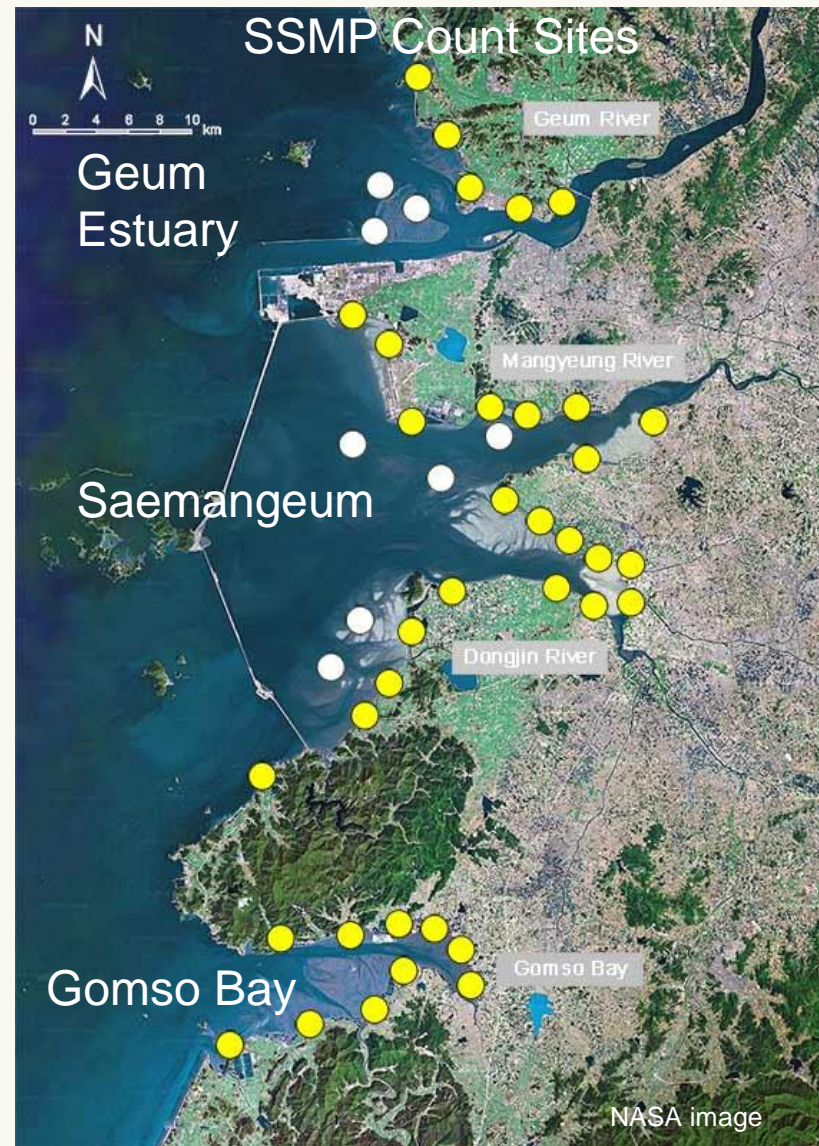
Future Plan for
Saemangeum





Impact of Saemangeum Reclamation on Shorebirds

- SSMP (Birds Korea & AWSG)
- April-May 2006-2008
- Saemangeum and adjacent Geum Estuary & Gomso Bay
- Meshed with National and International surveys

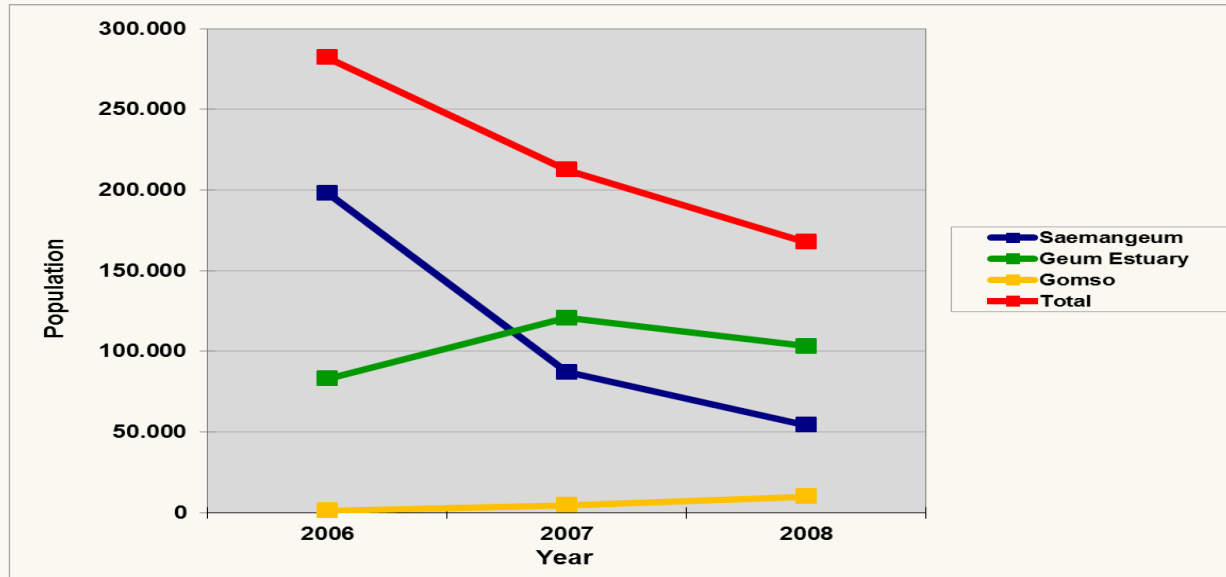


From: Moores *et al.* (2008), Moores (2012)



Meeting the Aichi Targets?

Changes in shorebird numbers recorded by the SSMP (2006-2008)



Birds Korea & AWSG Count Data (2006-2008)

Data suggest nationwide >50% decline in shorebirds 2000-2010:

Northward Migration 635,000 ->300,000 (1999-2010)

Southward Migration 443,000 ->107,000 (1999-2010)



Meeting the Aichi Targets?

IUCN (2012):

- **“ Significant concern” over loss of Yellow Sea Tidal-flats (including Saemangeum)**
- **“Fisheries and vital ecological services are collapsing and ecological disasters increasing, with concomitant implications for human livelihoods”**
- **“Declines of waterbird species of 5–9% per year (and up to 26% per year for Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper) are among the highest of any ecological system on the planet”**



Concluding Remarks

1. To maintain bird populations; to meet Aichi Targets 5 and 12; and to fulfill existing obligations held under Ramsar, all tidal-flat reclamation in the ROK and Yellow Sea should be suspended pending review;
2. In accordance with the Precautionary Approach, developments likely to impact important intertidal areas should be cancelled;
3. To meet Aichi Target 15, impounded intertidal areas need to be restored in the near-future - through increased tidal exchange;
4. A stronger bridge needs to be built between various players and stakeholders; and larger organisations need to support smaller ones. A regional ESBA workshop might help to bridge multiple existing conservation initiatives in the ROK and the Yellow Sea.

