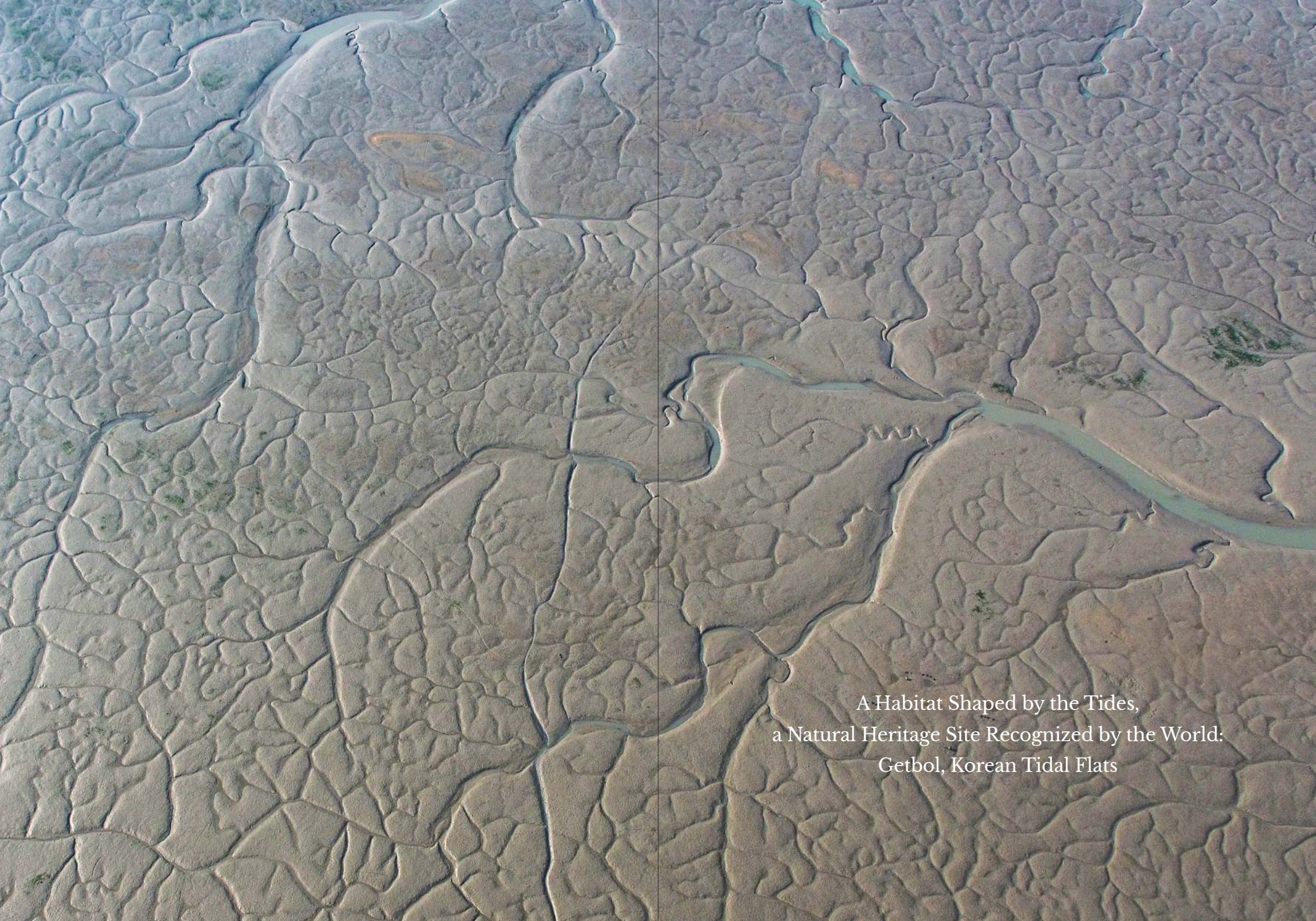


Getbol

Korean Tidal Flats



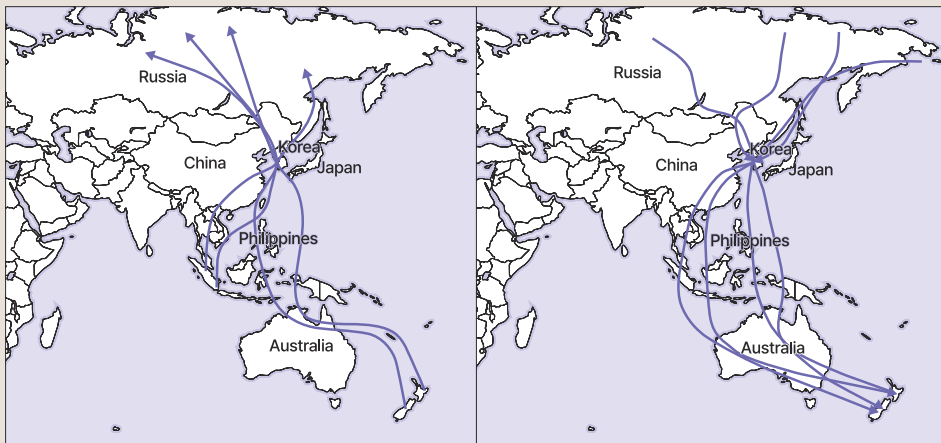


A Habitat Shaped by the Tides,
a Natural Heritage Site Recognized by the World:
Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats

A Wondrous Cradle of Life: Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats – a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site

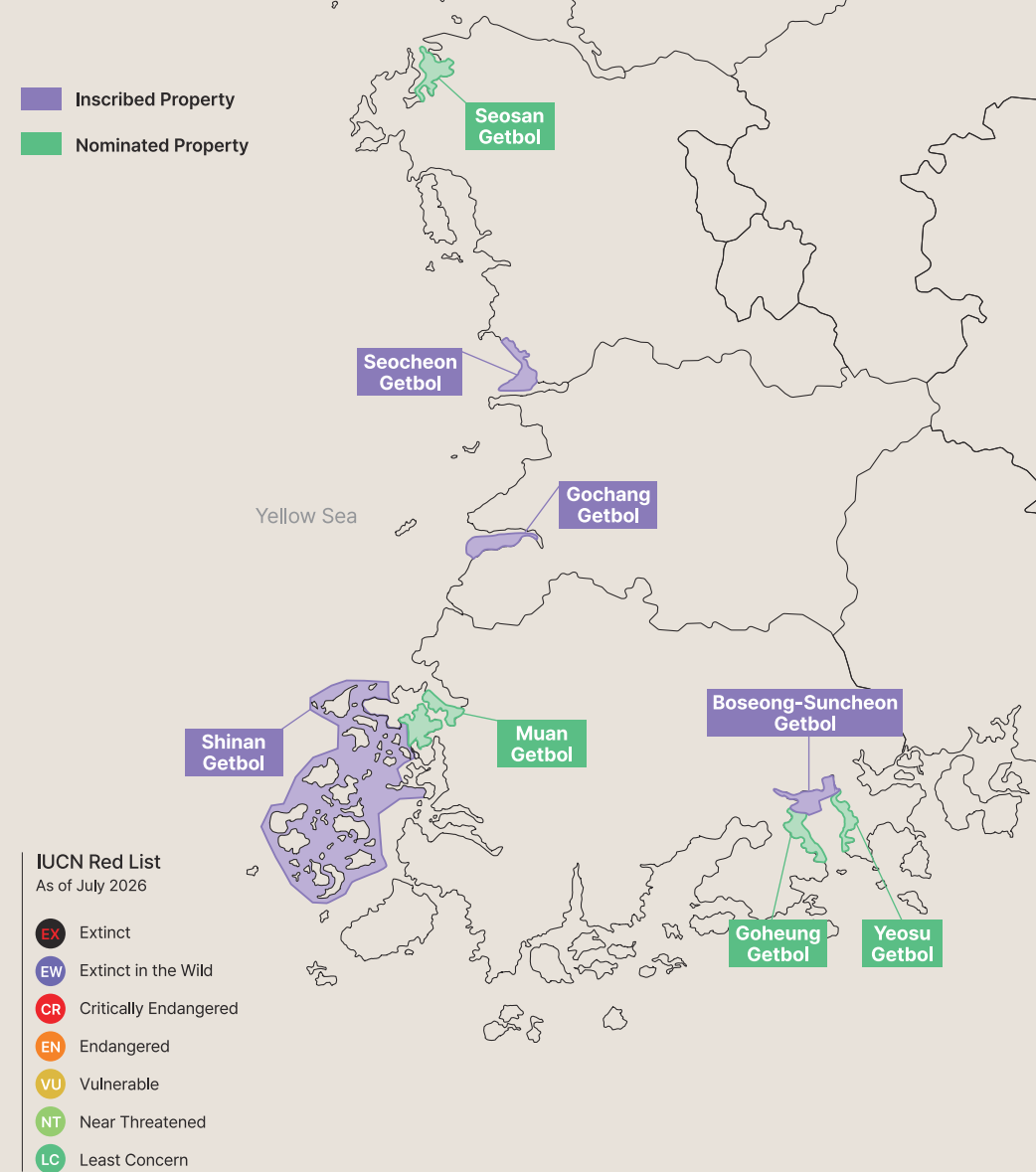
Located along the southwest coast of the Korean Peninsula, Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats is one of the world's most important sites for biodiversity conservation. With a rich variety of sedimentary environments, including mud, sand, and rocky substrates, the tidal flats boast one of the world's highest levels of biodiversity, supporting approximately 2,446 species, including 1,349 species of macrobenthos and 114 species of waterbirds. In recognition of their environmental significance, the tidal flats of Seocheon in Chungcheongnam-do Province, Gochang in Jeonbuk State, and Shinan and Boseong-Suncheon in Jeonnam-Gwangju Special Metropolitan City were officially inscribed as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in July 2021.

Getbol, Korean tidal flats was inscribed under Criterion (x) as 'an important and significant habitat for the conservation of threatened species and biodiversity'. Located along the narrowest bottleneck of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), which stretches from Australia and New Zealand to Siberia and Alaska, the tidal flats provide an essential stopover site for migratory birds on their long journeys. They also support at least 24 threatened species on the IUCN Red List, including the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, of which only 400 to 600 individuals remain worldwide, and the Tiger Crab (*Orithya sinica*), an endemic species of Yellow Sea.



Flyway of Spring Migration

Flyway of Winter Migration



Furthermore, Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats is currently pursuing a Phase II extension to strengthen habitat protection and the connectivity of its migratory waterbird flyways, with a target of July 2026. The initiative seeks to add Seosan Getbol in Chungcheongnam-do Province, as well as Yeosu, Goheung, and Muan Getbol in Jeonnam-Gwangju Special Metropolitan City to the existing property and will be crucial to further highlighting the ecological importance of Getbol, Korean tidal flats. Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats is a living heritage where people and nature coexist, and a place of outstanding universal value to be safeguarded for future generations.

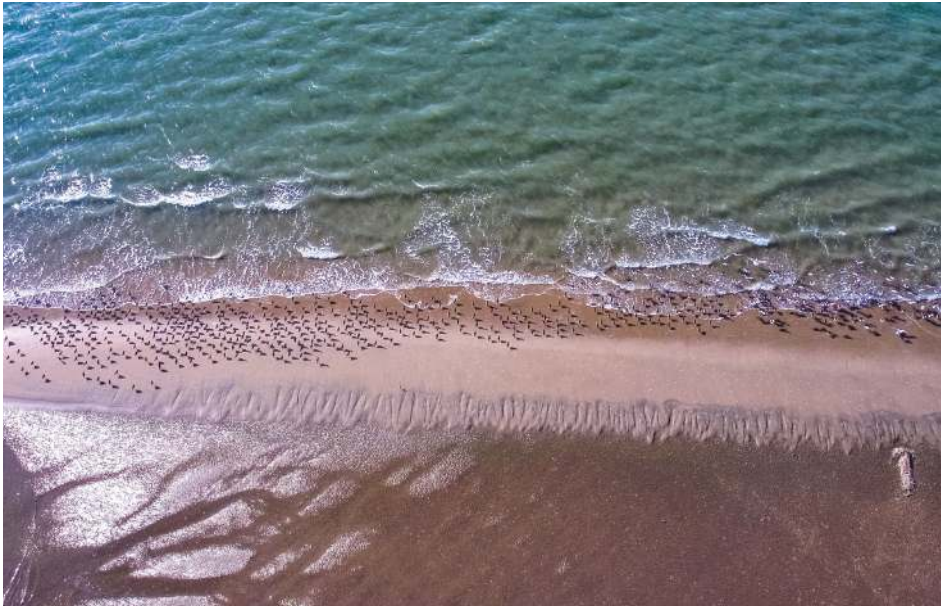
Inscribed Properties:

The Beginning of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Seocheon Getbol, A Migratory Bird Haven Linking East Asia and Australasia

Thanks to the abundant nutrients and sediments carried in by the Geum River, the Seocheon Getbol has the highest average primary productivity of the component parts. Due to this ecological advantage, it supports approximately 900,000 waterbirds of more than 77 species each year. Fourteen of these species are listed on the IUCN Red List, including the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR), for which the Seocheon Getbol is its largest Korean habitat.

Yubudo Island, Seocheon Getbol



The Phase I property, inscribed as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in 2021, consists of the tidal flats of Seocheon in Chungcheongnam-do Province, Gochang in Jeonbuk State, and Shinan and Boseong-Suncheon in Jeonnam-Gwangju Special Metropolitan City. It is one of the most critical natural habitats in the world for biodiversity conservation, meeting World Heritage Criterion (x). Encompassing a diverse range of tidal-flat environments, the property supports a rich marine ecosystem home to 1,783 species. Located at the narrowest bottleneck of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), it serves as an irreplaceable stopover site essential to the survival of globally threatened waterbirds.

Gochang Getbol, A Cradle of Endemic Species and Home to the Unique Sandy Chenier

The Gochang Getbol is a rich habitat that is home to approximately 194 species of benthic diatoms, with thriving populations of shellfish such as Manila Clams and Surf Clams. It is also Korea's largest habitat for Tiger Crab, a Yellow Sea endemic species, that is the only one of its genus in the world. The Gochang Getbol supports a yearly population of around 200,000 waterbirds of over 80 species, including 13 threatened species on the IUCN Red List, and is widely known as Korea's largest wintering site for Oriental Stork (EN). The chenier formations here remain above the tide, providing waterbirds with safe resting and roosting grounds.

Gochang Getbol Chenier



Shinan Getbol,
Home to Korea's Largest
Tidal Flats with Deep
Sedimentary Layers and
Exceptional Biodiversity

Due to its archipelagic nature, the region is sheltered from strong waves, allowing active sedimentation to form vast mudflats with sediment layers exceeding 25 meters in thickness. The Shinan Getbol supports 142 species of macroalgae and 730 species of macrobenthos. It also sustains approximately 170,000 waterbirds of 80 species, including 12 threatened species on the IUCN Red List such as Far Eastern Curlew (EN), Great Knot (EN), and Siberian Sand Plover (EN), which are regularly observed around the region. The numerous uninhabited islands provide important habitats for these waterbirds, serving as ideal breeding and roosting grounds.

Tidal Flats near the Shinan Purple Bridge



Suaeda japonica Communities and Hooded Cranes

Boseong-Suncheon Getbol,
Home to the Finest-Grained Mudflats
and Korea's Largest Sanctuary for
Hooded Cranes

The Boseong-Suncheon Getbol features the finest-grained mudflats among all the serial component parts, with broad salt marshes and halophytes communities stretching across the estuaries where freshwater from rivers flows in. This fertile environment supports 188 species of benthic diatoms, 23 species of macroalgae, and 482 species of macrobenthos, providing refuge for more than 270,000 waterbirds across 82 species, including 16 on the IUCN Red List such as Common Pochard (VU). Notably, the flats serve as Korea's largest wintering site for the Hooded Crane (VU) and have recently



Mudskippers

been confirmed as a breeding ground for the globally threatened Black-faced Spoonbill (VU). It is also a vital habitat for various threatened tidal flat organisms, including Common Mud-flat Crab (*Chasmagnathus convexus*), Red Mittens Sesarmid Crab (*Sesarmops intermedius*), and Chinese Midas-ear Snail (*Ellobium chinense*).

Nominated Properties for Phase II Extension: Strengthening Ecological Connectivity and Value

Yeosu Getbol, A Prime Waterbird Habitat and Haven for Legally Protected Species

Located on the eastern side of Yeoja Bay, the Yeosu Getbol offers an optimal ecological environment for waterbirds, driven by its abundant silt sediments. It supports high population densities of six legally protected species—including Common Mud-flat Crab, Red Mittens Sesarmid Crab, and Finless Porpoise—which is the highest number of such species among all inscribed and nominated properties, excluding bird species. Furthermore, 9 of the 18 globally threatened bird species that visit Yeoja Bay are found here, such as Black-faced Spoonbill (VU), Hooded Crane (VU), and Nordmann's Greenshank (EN). This demonstrates that Yeosu Getbol makes a significant contribution to the conservation of globally threatened waterbirds within a single ecosystem of Yeoja Bay.

Far Eastern Curlew



The proposed Phase II extension encompasses Seosan Getbol in Chungcheongnam-do Province, as well as Yeosu, Goheung, and Muan in Jeonnam-Gwangju Special Metropolitan City. This extension seeks to enhance habitat connectivity for migratory waterbirds and strengthen the overall conservation framework for tidal flats along the Yellow Sea coast, thereby reinforcing the ecological continuity of the existing Phase I property. Through this process, the World Heritage property, Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats, will further enhance its value as a shared heritage of humanity.

Goheung Getbol, Home to Thick Fine- Grained Mudflats and Highest Diversity of Macroalgae

As the ultimate accumulation zone for silt and clay sediments within Yeoja Bay, Goheung Getbol features thick, fine-grained mudflats that serve as a habitat for a rich diversity of 726 species. This healthy ecosystem includes 552 species of macrobenthos and 54 species of macroalgae—the highest macroalgae diversity among all nominated properties. Goheung Getbol and the surrounding areas also serve as a wintering site for approximately 2.3% of the global population of Saunders's Gull (VU). Furthermore, it plays an essential role as a stopover site for globally threatened birds, including Far Eastern Curlew (EN) and Nordmann's Greenshank (EN), during their long-distance migratory journeys.

Japanese Mud Crabs and Mudskippers



Muan Getbol,
Closely Linked to Shinan
Getbol and Rich in
Halophytes Diversity

The Muan Getbol encompasses diverse habitats, including salt marshes, mudflats, mixed flats, sand flats, and rocky shores, and consists of the Muan Tandoman Getbol and the Muan Hamhaeman Getbol. The Muan Tandoman Getbol is ecologically connected with the adjacent Shinan Getbol and serves as a habitat for waterbirds that utilize both areas, supporting 1,318 species of tidal flat organisms. The Muan Hamhaeman Getbol is home to 17 globally threatened bird species, including Black-faced Spoonbill (VU) and Chinese Egret (VU), and has the highest diversity of waterbirds (94 species) and halophytes (94 species) among the component parts.

Green Laver Harvesting in Muan



Seosan Getbol,
A Prime Habitat Chosen
by Spotted Seals and
Rare Birds

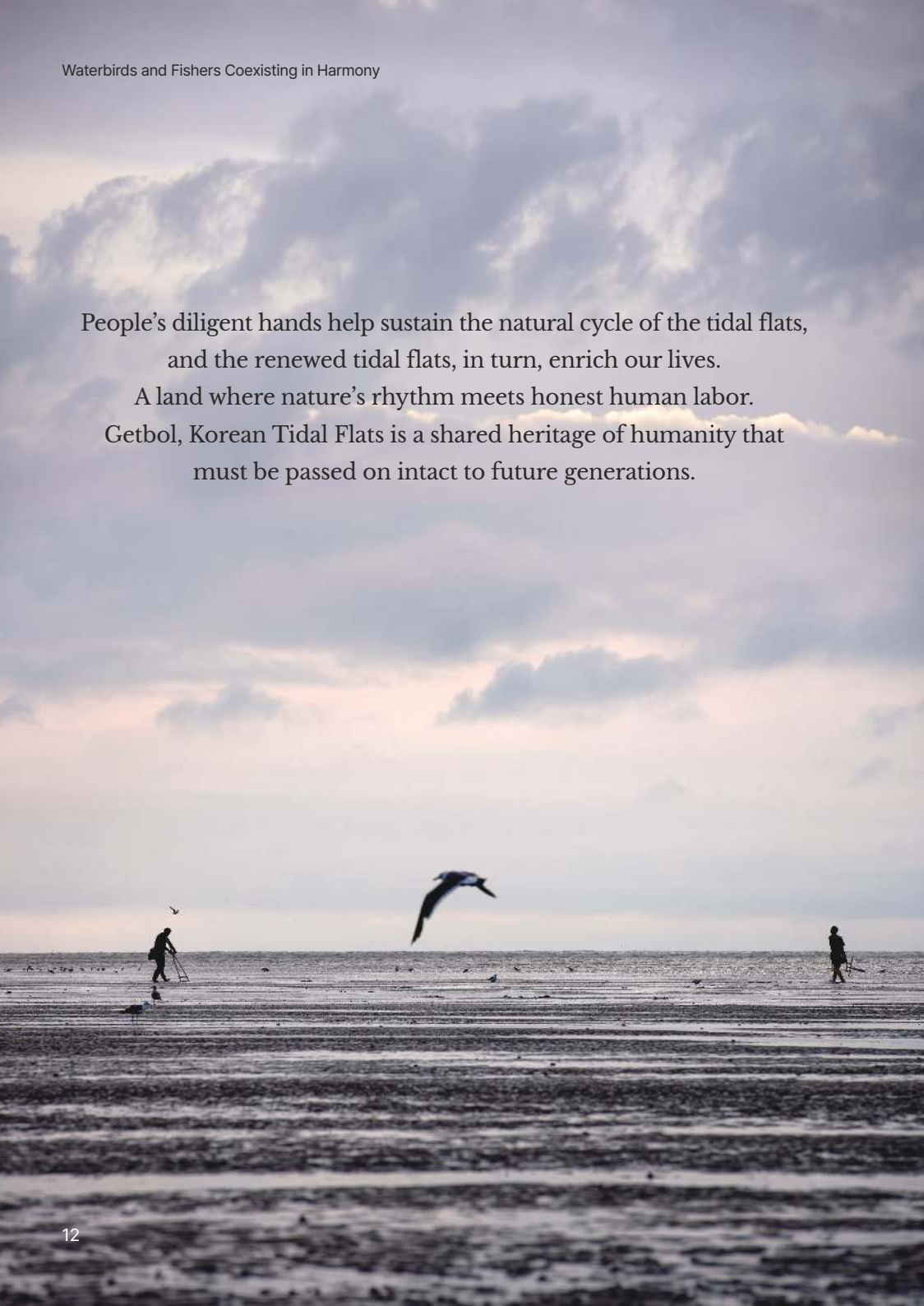
Located in Garorim Bay, the Seosan Getbol is the northernmost area among the sites nominated for Phase II extension. It is home to 11 endemic species-the highest number among the nominated properties-and seven legally protected species, while serving as a habitat for the spotted seal, an apex predator in the marine ecosystem. A total of 174 bird species have also been observed, showing the highest avian diversity of all nominated sites. In addition, the site supports more than 1% of the global populations of the Black-faced Spoonbill (VU) and Far Eastern Curlew (EN). The Chinese Egret (VU), specifically, represents more than 5% of the global population, with a flock of over 180 individuals.

Spotted Seals



People's diligent hands help sustain the natural cycle of the tidal flats,
and the renewed tidal flats, in turn, enrich our lives.

A land where nature's rhythm meets honest human labor.
Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats is a shared heritage of humanity that
must be passed on intact to future generations.



About the World Heritage Promotion Team of Korean Tidal Flats

The World Heritage Promotion Team of Korean Tidal Flats oversees the conservation and management of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats. To ensure the scientific management of tidal flat ecosystems, the Promotion Team conducts annual integrated monitoring to gather systematic data on waterbird migration patterns, marine species, habitats, and potential threats.

The team also works closely with leading international organizations and institutions such as the Yancheng Heritage Center, EAAFP, and RSPB, taking an active role in conserving the populations of globally threatened bird species.

Furthermore, by successfully spearheading the Phase II extension nomination, the Promotion Team serves as an ecological bridge, ensuring that this irreplaceable shared heritage, where people and nature coexist, is preserved for generations to come.



A bridge ensuring that humanity's precious heritage is passed on to future generations.

Key Activities

Getbol Conservation & Management

Conservation of the heritage value of Getbol through the systematic data collection and scientific analysis on tidal-flat ecosystems.

Establishment and operation of an integrated monitoring system for waterbirds, marine species, habitats, threat factors, and heritage management; detailed breeding monitoring of waterbirds; and the development of World Heritage Impact Assessment guidelines.



Raising Community Awareness

Enhancing the understanding of World Heritage values among local communities and stakeholders, and expanding their engagement in conservation through communication, education, and participation.

Development of CEPA Action Plans; organization of domestic and overseas study visits for local residents to benchmark best practices; awareness-raising workshops for heritage managers; and the operation of Young Leaders Forums and educational programs for future generations.



Promoting World Heritage Values

Development of related brands, exhibitions, content, and ecotourism programs to promote the value of Getbol and communicate with the wider public.

Implementation of World Heritage utilization projects; production and distribution of VR content, promotional videos, and information boards; advertisements in the press and other forms of mass media; operation of promotional booths; and the organization of plugging activities.



International Exchange and Cooperation

Expansion of World Heritage conservation networks through active partnerships with international organizations and stakeholders.

Cooperation with international bodies and key stakeholders; the hosting of and participation in international forums; participation in major conferences; and the exchange of overseas best practices.



Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats and International Cooperation

By working together with other international organizations connected by the Yellow Sea, we share the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats with the world. Through cross-border dialogue and close cooperation, we will continue to expand our network for sustainable conservation and management.



MOU with the Yancheng Wetland Heritage Center



The 10th Our Ocean Conference (OOC)

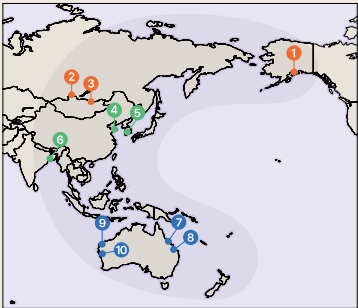


The 12th Meeting of Partners of EAAFP (MOP12)

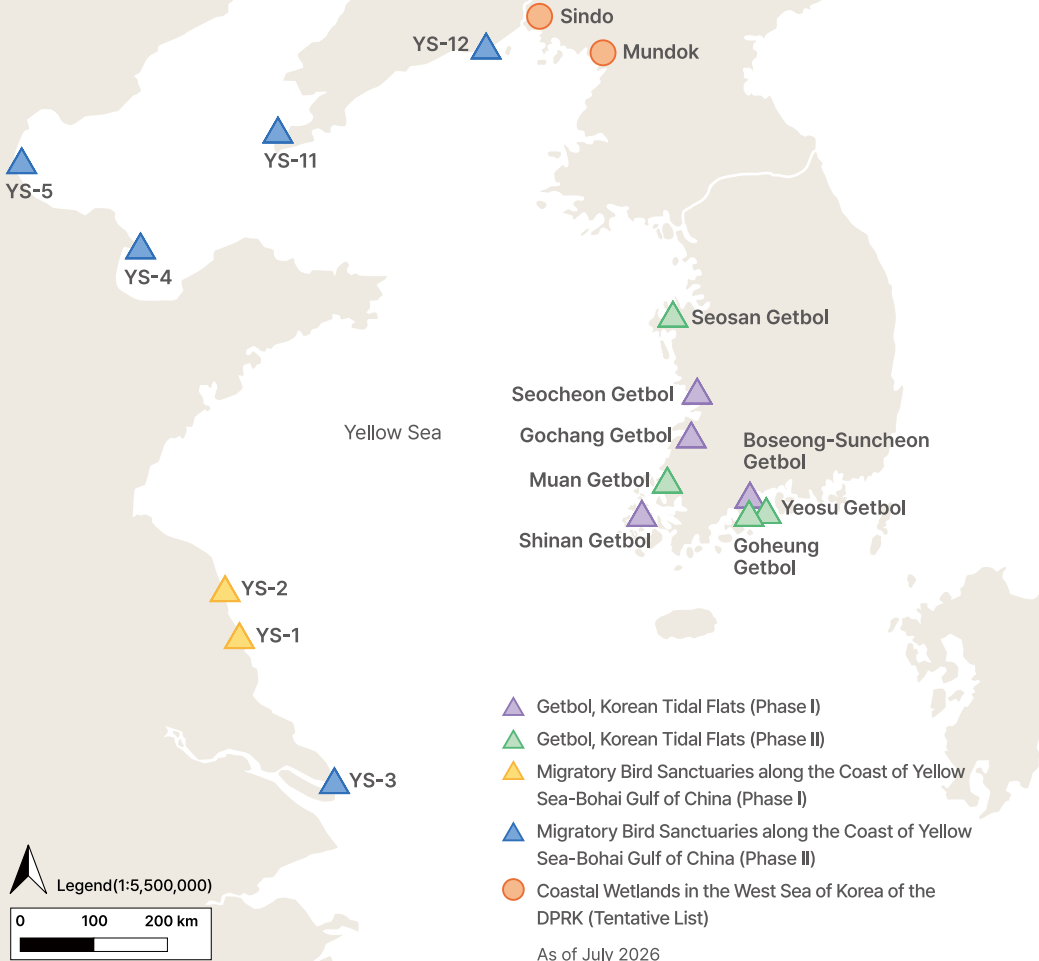


The 8th IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)

Getbol, World Heritage of the Yellow Sea Region



- World Natural Heritage Sites Related to Waterbirds and Coastal Habitats along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF)**
 Orange: breeding sites / Green: stopover sites / Blue: non-breeding sites
- 1 Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek
 - 2 Uvs Nuur Basin
 - 3 Landscapes of Dauria
 - 4 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China
 - 5 Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats
 - 6 The Sundarbans
 - 7 Wet Tropics of Queensland
 - 8 Great Barrier Reef
 - 9 Ningaloo Coast
 - 10 Shark Bay, Western Australia



World Heritage Promotion Team of Korean Tidal Flats

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