



**Hanns  
Seidel  
Stiftung**

**Workshop on Nature  
Conservation and Biodiversity  
for Transboundary Cooperation**

28-29 August 2024  
Incheon, Republic of Korea



# **NEASPEC survey in Rason in 2014 and its aftermath**

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**Hanns-Seidel-Foundation Korea Office**

**UN-ESCAP Workshop on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity**

**August 28, 2024**





# Hanns-Seidel-Foundation in Rason since 2009



**Agricultural Consulting**



**Support for school**



**Support for  
International  
Catholic  
Hospital  
Rason**



**Visit to  
Rason  
International  
Trade Fair**

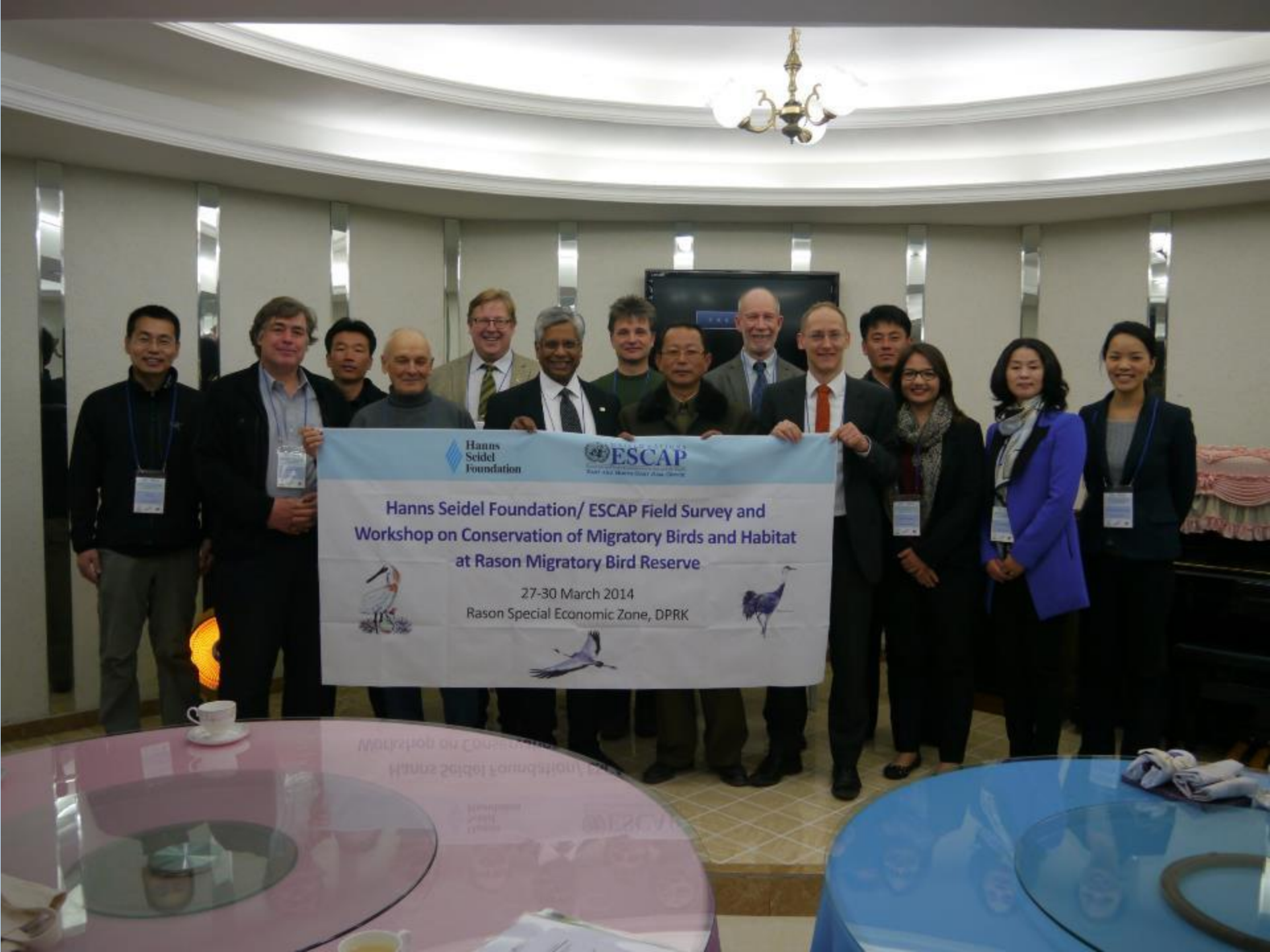


**Aquaculture  
research project**



## 2. It all started in Rason 2013-2014...





Hanns  
Seidel  
Foundation

ESCAP  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Hanns Seidel Foundation/ ESCAP Field Survey and  
Workshop on Conservation of Migratory Birds and Habitat  
at Rason Migratory Bird Reserve

27-30 March 2014

Rason Special Economic Zone, DPRK







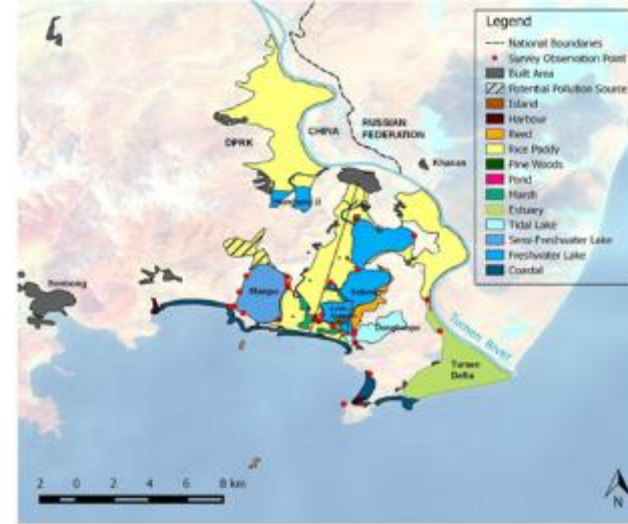


# RASON MIGRATORY BIRD RESERVE : BIRDS AND HABITATS

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA



Figure 2  
Habitats of Rason Migratory  
Birds Reserve\*



## Annex

Bird Species and Numbers Recorded during the Survey  
Rason, 26-31 March 2014

| Common Name                  | Number seen (in 2014) | Scientific Name                | Status   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| ➊ Hooded Merganser           | 1 (14/3/2014)         | <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>   | SI       |
| ➋ White-headed Duck          | 1 (29/3)              | <i>Thalasseus</i>              | SI       |
| ➌ Tundra Swan Goose          | 1 (14/3/2014)         | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      |          |
| ➍ Lesser Swan Goose          | 1 (29/3)              | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      |          |
| ➎ Greater White-necked Goose | 1 (29/3)              | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      |          |
| ➏ Harlequin Duck             | 1 (29/3)              | <i>Cluella vanilla</i>         |          |
| ➐ Pink-billed Duck           | 1 (14/3/2014)         | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      | SI, I    |
| ➑ Lesser Wigeon              | 1 (29/3)              | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      | SI, I, C |
| ➒ Mute Swan                  | 1 (14)                | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      | SI, I, C |
| ➓ American Wigeon            | 1 (29/3) (14/3/2014)  | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      | SI       |
| ➔ Whistling Swan             | 1 (14)                | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      |          |
| ➕ Mallard                    | 1 (29/3)              | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      |          |
| ➖ Lesser Tattler             | 2 (29/3)              | <i>Limosa limosa</i>           | SI, I, C |
| ➗ Greater Scaupbill          | 1 (14/3/2014)         | <i>Platya leucosticta</i>      | SI       |
| ➘ Great Knot                 | 1 (14/3/2014)         | <i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i> | SI       |
| ➙ Masked Rail                | 1 (29/3)              | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>      | SI, C    |
| ➚ Harlequin Duck             | 1 (29/3/14)           | <i>Cluella vanilla</i>         |          |



### 03 Recommendations

The recommendations are included with the overall goal to enhance conservation management of the reserve in all fields within the Rason Migratory Bird Reserve. It is further advised that all the stakeholders be consulted together rather than in separate items.

➊ **Strengthen Risk Management** - DPK Central government has to consider the importance of the habitat and establish the Reserve since 1956. However, it is another matter about climate change adaptation and a specific management plan has been developed for the Reserve.

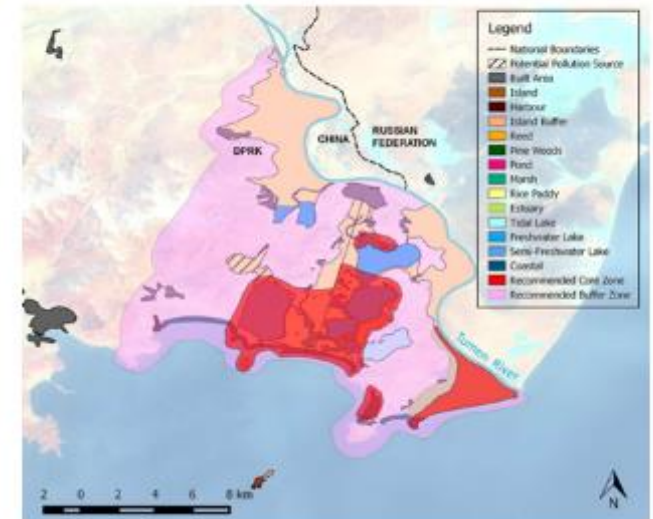
➋ Development of a formal comprehensive management plan to integrate nature conservation with local development.

Development, control systems, water works to protect area, but an O-200000, etc., to avoid that a wild disaster the habitat, and explore the possibility of cooperation along on the water-land corridor for the Reserve (see Figure 2) to protect from the effects of the bird survey to support development of the management plan.

➌ **Highlights (SI) area** as well as the habitat for migration birds and requires a high level of protection with the local community and less disturbance of human activities, and also other conservation measures such as to build a buffer zone or the area to be located and controlled to have activities can be done, for example, for farming and so on, and to make an area that is less densely connected to the surrounding area both outside the high level of protection, such as built a buffer zone to be less densely connected to the surrounding area.

The planning of regional development will undoubtedly affect the area. It is essential that development and activities in the area should be done in a way that will not be a hindrance to the area that is less densely connected to the surrounding area.

Figure 3  
Sketch Map of Recommended  
Zonation in Rason Migratory  
Bird Reserve



# Follow up: Rason Summer Bird Survey July 2016

- 5 days, more than 125 bird species
- New/ renewed evidence of breeding species (Gadwall, four kinds of grebes, Eurasian Bittern, Spectacled Guillemot etc.)
- in 2016-2019, all in all 7 short (3-5 days) bird surveys were carried out in all seasons
- a number of important species were found, including one species new for the Korean Peninsula (Surf scoter), Stellar's Sea Eagle etc.

The species mix makes Rason interesting for bird tourism, in particular from China.





**Example: Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*),  
last breeding record by Jankowski (1898)**





# Alsom – breedings site of alcids and other seabirds





# The Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands in the DPR Korea

## - Outcome

- **Reintegration into International Environment Networks:**

MoLEP became a member to IUCN, DPRK acceded the Ramsar Convention and the EAAFP, leading to international cooperation naturally

- **Capacity Building:**

Trainings abroad and in the DPRK supported the environmental sector in the DPRK and lead to an improvement of skills and knowledge.

- **Ramsar Sites, EAAFP and IUCN Accession**

Commitment by DPRK to sustainable management and conservation of Mundok Ramsar Site, Rason Ramsar Site, and Kumya EAAFP Network Site – potential for international cooperation





# The Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands in the DPR Korea

## Outcome

- **National Wetlands Inventory:**

Publication in October 2018 and site surveys along the East and West Coast

- **Awareness Raising:**

Awareness-raising activities (e.g. translation of Ramsar Convention and handbooks, celebration of International Environment Days) for a better understanding for healthy ecosystems

- **Enhanced Networks:**

Regular participation of representatives of the North Korea in international meetings, conferences, and workshops, as well as representatives from more than 10 international organizations paying visits to North Korea





# Do you sell these birds?



# Coming challenges in Rason

- Management plan and management training for the new Ramsar site (e.g. reedbed management, new threats)
- Climate change and afforestation
- Eco-tourism to attract attention, gain international recognition and generate local income
- ...reaching beyond the borders?





# Reedbed management





# Threats to wetlands in Rason





# Towards eco-tourism development in



# Trial Rason Eco-Trip with Shanghai birders in March 2019



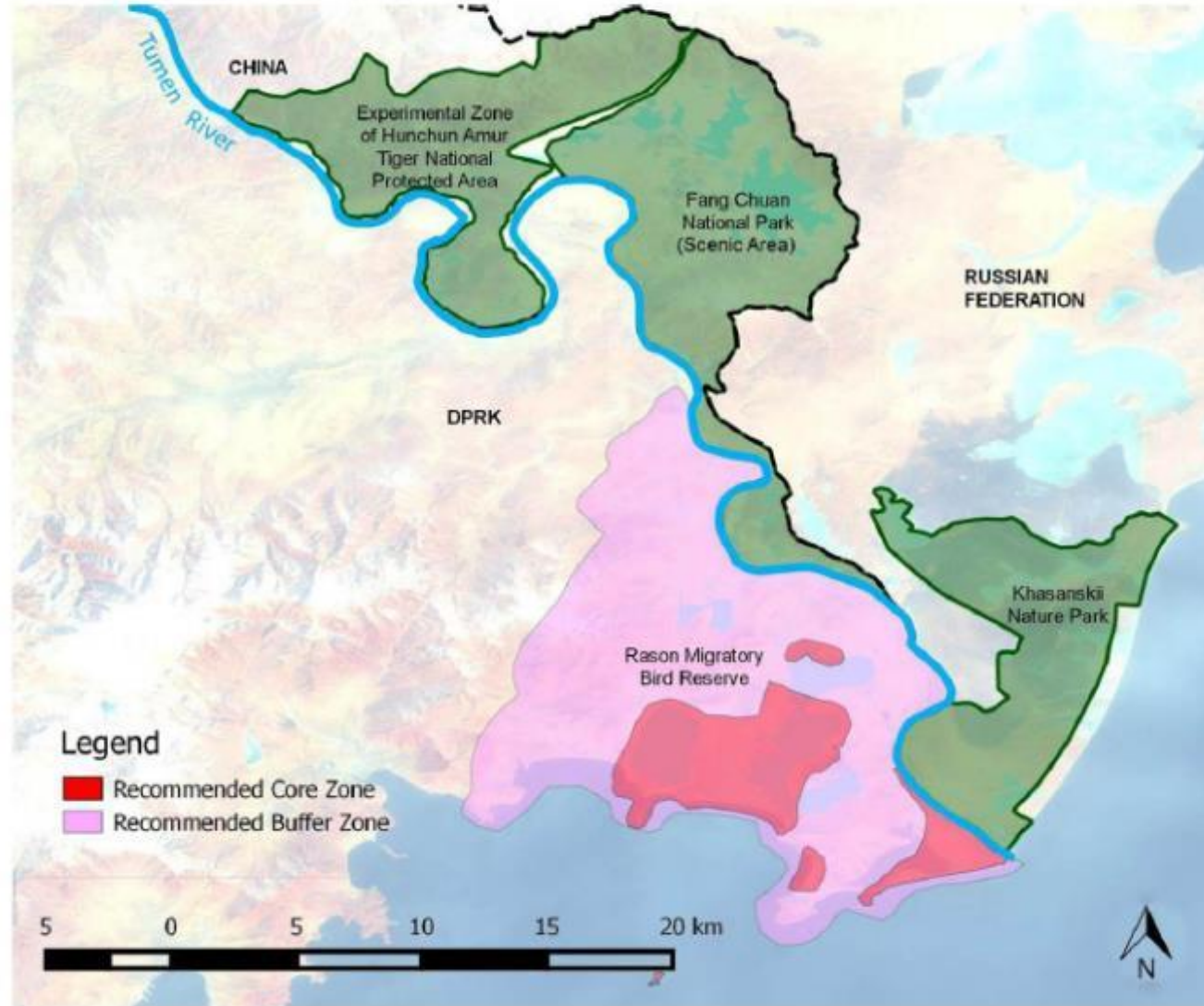


Cooperation with Russia and China  
on Tiger conservation?



**Figure 4**  
Wetlands and Key Protected Areas in China, DPRK and the Russian Federation at the Tumen River Delta

## Towards international cooperation in the Tumen Delta





# Problems of longer-term cooperation

- Appropriate partner necessary (now: Rason city, plus Rason Ramsar Site management board, plus local farms)
- Sanctions as a problem (no material aid possible)
- Securing financial means necessary (no problem for occasional activities, but for long-term cooperation)

# Towards a wetland center in Rason?





고맙습니다

Thank you very much  
for your attention!

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