



MIDAs Guidebook and MIDAs Network

Phase 1



1. Background and Introduction



Background

MIDAs are areas where at least two international designations overlap. With more than 380 such designated sites worldwide, these sites embody unique environmental and cultural values. Yet today, these treasures face growing threats from a multitude of increasing pressures. To safeguard the hearts of the Earth, urgent and proactive action is needed.

Since 2022, UNESCO, Ramsar Secretariat and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province have jointly advanced MIDAs projects with funding from Jeju Province, GCIDA, jointly established by UNESCO, the Ministry of Environment of Korea, and Jeju Province, joined these efforts for MIDAs from 2025.

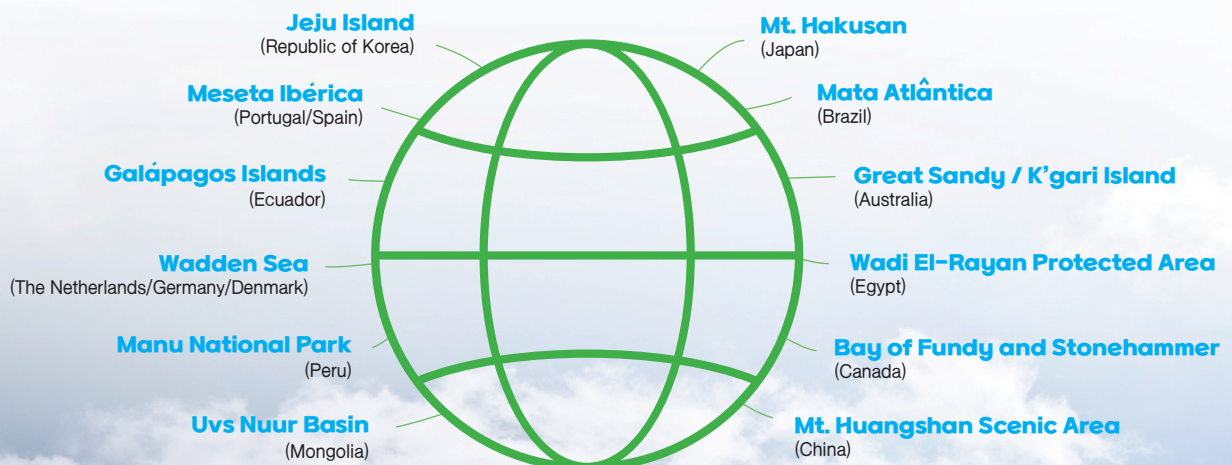
Together, partners are building the guidebook and the network to link local leadership with global sustainability.

Introduction: MIDAs Guidebook and MIDAs Network

UNESCO, Jeju Special Self-Governing province and GCIDA are jointly preparing **the first MIDAs Guidebook** to share voices from MIDAs around the world.

The first MIDAs Guidebook will be published this year featuring local voices passionate about sustainability for MIDAs. With the publication of the MIDAs Guidebook, full-fledged efforts will begin to establish the MIDAs Network for exchange and cooperation among MIDAs worldwide..

Sites selected for the MIDAs Guidebook (so far)



2.Future Initiatives for MIDAs

We are committed to preserving MIDAs as living landscapes where people and nature thrive together. To achieve this, we are advancing future-oriented initiatives that combine local voices with global collaboration.

● MIDAs Guidebook Project Bottom-up content by local experts

- Starting with this year's first Guidebook, the project will continue to expand.
- Process:
 - The first Guidebook content will be uploaded to the MIDAs Information-Sharing Hub.
- In the future, interviews with all local experts across MIDAs will be expanded and the related information will also be uploaded.
- Each site expert can update information directly.

● MIDAs Network & Annual Forums Strengthening collaboration across MIDAs

- Launch an international MIDAs network
- Annual forums with UNESCO, IUCN, Ramsar secretariat, MIDAs site managers, and experts
- Annual forums rotate between Jeju (odd years) and representative regional locations (even years)

● MIDAs Information Hub Integrated Information Clearinghouse for MIDAs

- Build and operate an online platform for MIDAs-related data, knowledge, and resources
- Share MIDAs statistics, management status, and improvement measures
- In parallel with the Guidebook publication, showcase each MIDA with site introductions, sustainable projects, and management structures

● Management Manual for MIDAs Towards harmonized management

- In the longer term, publish the MIDAs Management Manual based on the outcomes of these projects and IUCN's Managing MIDAs 1.0 (2016) and 2.0 (ongoing).
- Develop and disseminate a practical manual to guide site managers and policymakers in the harmonized management of MIDAs.

MIDAs

MIDAs are areas where at least two of four major international designations—Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Sites, Global Geoparks, and Ramsar Sites—overlap.

There are over 380 MIDAs worldwide, representing some of the planet's most iconic areas, where human life coexists with natural and cultural heritage.

The number of MIDAs continues to grow, offering us valuable opportunities for promoting biodiversity and sustainable development. This also presents challenges, such as management inefficiencies. Now is the time to jointly reflect and unite for the harmonized management of MIDAs worldwide

Support the MIDAs Guidebook and MIDAs Network



Looking ahead, new tasks for MIDAs are on the way – and we warmly invite your cooperation and support.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at the emails below.

※ Please get in touch if you are already operating a designated site network within your region



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