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# Development Plan for GCIDA (Summary)

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2025. 08



## 1. Introduction

- Jeju Island was designated by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve in 2002, a World Natural Heritage Site in 2007, and it was designated a Global Geopark in 2010, which only became a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2015. In addition, Mulyeongari Oreum was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2006. These overlapping Internationally Designated Areas (IDAs) have resulted in the need for sustainable management strategies.
- The role of IDAs has been further emphasized in the context of international environmental conservation policies such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (K-M GBF).
- Since the adoption of the “Resolution on the Establishment of an Integrated Management System for Internationally Designated Areas” at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), held on Jeju in September 2012, UNESCO has been exploring ways to improve the management of IDAs, including Multi-Internationally Designated Areas (MIDAs).
- Based on a proposal by Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (JSSGP) in 2016 for the ‘Development of an Integrated Management Model for Multi-Internationally Designated Areas and the Establishment of an International Networking Centre’, the Korean government worked for the establishment of the Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas (GCIDA) under the auspices of UNESCO. This initiative aims to contribute to sustainable development and environmental conservation by providing research and training programmes to strengthen the conservation and management capacity of MIDAs in a coordinated and integrated manner. Key milestones include: approval of the centre’s establishment at the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference (June 2019); signed agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and UNESCO (February 2024); GCIDA Foundation established (April 2024); opening ceremony for the centre (April 29, 2025).
- The objective of this study is to establish a medium- to long-term vision and development strategy that aligns with the status and role of GCIDA as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre<sup>1)</sup> (C2C). A C2C is an institution established under

an agreement between a Member State government and UNESCO that is mandated to undertake research, training, and capacity building in specific fields, and to support UNESCO's global programmes at regional and national levels. This study further seeks to identify detailed implementation tasks for key strategic projects and to establish organizational and financial strategies to enhance the execution of the centre's medium- to long-term strategies.

## **2. Current Status of GCIDA**

### **2.1. Major Milestones**

- 2012. 09. Adoption of the resolution on establishing an integrated management system for IDAs at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju
- 2015. 04. International workshop on the development of an integrated management model for MIDAs → Proposal for the establishment of an international network and centre (JSSGP)
- 2016. 06. Proposal for the establishment of a UNESCO C2C related to IDAs (JSSGP → Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment (MOE))
- 2019. 06. Site inspection mission to Jeju conducted by UNESCO.
- 2019. 06. Resolution adopted approving the establishment of GCIDA in the Republic of Korea (JSSGP) (40th UNESCO General Convention)
- 2021. 09. Implementation of a pilot training programme for managers (JSSGP)
- 2023. 03. Establishment of the GCIDA Preparatory Task Force (MOE)
- 2023. 12. GCIDA establishment plan approved at the Cabinet Meeting of the Government of the Republic of Korea.
- 2024. 02. Signing of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and UNESCO
- 2024. 04. Establishment of the GCIDA Foundation
- 2025. 04. Official GCIDA opening ceremony

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1) A UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) is an institution established under an agreement between a Member State and UNESCO. It conducts research, training, and capacity- building in specific fields, and serves as an institutional mechanism to support UNESCO's global programmes at regional and national levels.

## **2.2 Organization and Budget Status**

As of July 2025, the organizational structure of GCIDA comprises a top-level decision-making body including the Board of Directors an auditor and an advisory committee as well as an executive branch consisting of the Center Director and three functional teams Planning and Administration Research and Development and Training and Exchange. The executive branch operates under the authority delegated by the decision-making body.

The organization is staffed by a total of 12 employees, including one Centre Director two, Team Leaders, and nine Team Members.

The allocated budget for 2025 is KRW 1.215 billion.

## **3. International Trends in Internationally Designated Areas**

### **3.1 Status and Trends of IDA/MIDA Designations<sup>2)</sup>**

IDA is a term that refers to an area that has been internationally recognized through global or regional certification. These areas are designated under frameworks such as the World Heritage Convention, the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme, and the Ramsar Convention (IUCN, 2016).

Meanwhile, MIDAs are areas where two to four IDA designations overlap, either partially or entirely. While each IDA requires its own management standards and operational framework, overlapping designations within the same geographic space may lead to inefficiencies and potential confusion in management. Therefore, MIDAs necessitate a harmonized and integrated management approach that minimizes overlaps and conflicts while generating synergistic benefits

#### **3.1.1 World Natural Heritage**

- Purpose : The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, commonly known as the World Heritage Convention, integrates the concepts of nature conservation and cultural heritage preservation into a single document. Cultural heritage created by humanity and natural heritage shaped by nature possess Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The Convention aims to identify, protect, conserve, and present both cultural and natural heritage to ensure

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2) Reference : IUCN, (2016) Managing MIDAs: Harmonising the management of Multi-Internationally Designated Areas

their transmission to future generations.

- Main objective : Identify and conserve natural and cultural sites possessing Outstanding Universal Value.
- History : The idea of an international movement for the protection of cultural heritage emerged after the end of World War I. This convention developed by merging two distinct movements, one focused on the conservation of cultural sites, and the other on nature conservation. Ultimately, a single text was drafted and agreed upon by all relevant states. The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference on November 16, 1972. It officially came into force in 1975, following ratification by the initial 20 States Parties.
- Legal framework : The World Heritage Convention is a legally binding instrument for international cooperation aimed at identifying and conserving the world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage. It outlines the obligations of States Parties to identify potential heritage sites and the roles they must undertake to protect and preserve them.
- Administrative arrangements : The World Heritage Convention and the corresponding World Heritage List are managed by the World Heritage Centre, which operates under the Culture Sector of the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.
- Total participating Countries (State Parties) : 196
- Total number of inscribed countries : 168
- Number of World Natural Heritage Sites (as of May 2025) : 231

### **3.1.2. Biosphere Reserves**

- Purpose : UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme is an intergovernmental scientific initiative aimed at establishing a scientific basis for improving the relationship between humans and the environment. The MAB Programme integrates natural and social sciences, economics, and education to enhance human livelihoods and equitable benefit-sharing while protecting both natural and managed ecosystems. It promotes innovative approaches to economic development that are socio-culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.
- Main objective : Biosphere reserves listed in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the MAB Programme seek solutions that reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Considered as "science for sustainability support sites", they function as interdisciplinary testing sites to understand and manage changes and interactions between social and ecological systems.

- History : The MAB Programme was established by UNESCO in November 1971 and endorsed at the 1972 United Nations Conference<sup>3)</sup> on the Human Environment. Originally developed as an intergovernmental research initiative focused on the interactions between humans and the environment, the MAB Programme has served as a critical source of scientific knowledge for policymakers striving to manage natural resources sustainably. Biosphere reserves originated within the frame of Major MAB Project Area No. 8 (among 14 other Major MAB Project Areas) entitled “Conservation of natural areas and the genetic resources they contain”, before moving to the centre of the MAB Programme following the designation of the first sites in 1976.
- Legal framework :Biosphere reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the respective countries in which they are located. Their status is internationally recognized. The Director-General of UNESCO designates biosphere reserves within the framework of the MAB Programme following the decisions of the intergovernmental MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC). In 1995, the UNESCO General Conference adopted the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves and the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the latter serving as a soft law mechanism for the development and official recognition of biosphere reserves. Any of UNESCO’s 194 member states or 9 associate members may propose nominations for designation.
- Administrative arrangements : The MAB Programme and its associated World Network of Biosphere Reserves are managed by MAB Secretariat, which is established within the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences under the Natural Sciences Sector at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
- Total number of inscribed countries : 136
- Number of World Natural Heritage Sites (as of May 2025) : 759

### **3.1.3 UNESCO Global Geoparks**

- Purpose : UNESCO Global Geoparks are designated sites recognized for their geological significance that seek to protect geological heritage, promote sustainable development, and ensure effective management. Beyond conservation, UNESCO Global Geoparks emphasize enhancing local revenue and fostering regional economic growth through active community involvement.

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3) The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, is widely regarded as the starting point of modern international environmental governance.

- Main objective : UNESCO Global Geoparks protect and utilize geological heritage in connection with all other aspects of that area's natural and cultural heritage. They aim to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society in the context of the dynamic planet on which we live.
- History : The concept of geoparks emerged in the mid-1990s in response to the growing need to conserve and enhance areas of geological significance in Earth's history. Landscapes and geological formations are key witnesses to the evolution of our planet and determinants for future sustainable development. In 2004, with the support of UNESCO, 17 member countries of the European Geoparks Network and 8 Chinese geoparks jointly established the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). At its 38th session in 2015, the UNESCO General Conference agreed to establish all existing Global Geoparks within the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) as UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Legal framework : UNESCO Global Geoparks are designated and managed in accordance with the Operational Guidelines approved at the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference. Any of UNESCO's 194 member states or 9 associate organizations may propose sites for designation.
- Administrative arrangements : UNESCO Global Geoparks belong to the IGGP, an international initiative jointly managed by UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The programme is administered by the Secretariat of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme Secretariat, within the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences under the Natural Sciences Sector at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
- Total number of inscribed countries : 50
- Number of World Natural Heritage Sites (as of May 2025) : 229

### **3.1.4 Ramsar Site**

- Purpose : The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, commonly referred to as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- Main objective : The conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.
- History : The Ramsar Convention is the oldest of the modern intergovernmental

environmental agreements worldwide. During the 1960s, concerns over the loss and degradation of wetland habitats for waterfowl prompted negotiations among governments and non-governmental organizations. The convention was adopted in February 1971 in the city of Ramsar, Iran, and came into force after UNESCO, the depositary organization, recognized Greece as the seventh Contracting Party.

- Legal framework : The Ramsar Convention is a legally binding instrument embodying the commitments of its Contracting Parties to conserve and maintain the ecological characteristics of wetlands of international importance, and to plan for the “wise use”, or sustainable use, of all wetlands within their territories.
- Administrative arrangements : Ramsar is not administered within the United Nations system. It is managed by a stand-alone secretariat located in Gland (Switzerland) and is hosted under contract by IUCN. UNESCO acts as the depositary for the convention.
- Total number of inscribed countries : 172
- Number of World Natural Heritage Sites (as of May 2025) : 2,538

### **3.1.5 MIDAs**

MIDAs is a term to refer to an area with overlapping IDAs, including double, triple, or quadruple designations. Unlike specific IDAs, MIDAs do not have standardized purposes for establishment, histories, legal frameworks, or management systems. As of October 2015, there were 263 MIDAs. While all information on individual IDAs has been digitized, as MIDAs lack clear classification criteria, there has been no systematic organization of MIDA-related data.

## **3.2 Key Global Strategies and Implications Pertaining to IDA/MIDA**

### **3.2.1 International Policy Frameworks**

#### **I. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The SDGs encompass 17 global goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. The core goals directly related to GCIDA are Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 14 (Life Below Water), and Goal 15 (Life on Land). Specifically, the targets under Goal 15 include the conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and soils; protection of endangered species; management of invasive species; and integration of biodiversity values into national planning.

This implies that IDAs/MIDAs under the purview of GCIDA must go beyond a simply preserving landscapes or geological values and also perform functions related

to climate regulation, ecosystem services management, and restoration. Therefore, GCIDA is required to incorporate the implementation of the SDGs into the management plans of each area and to share management outcomes with the international community by utilizing global monitoring indicators, such as protected area coverage and management effectiveness.

## II. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)<sup>4)</sup>

The CBD recognizes protected areas as key instruments for biodiversity conservation. A timeline of the Convention and its strategies is outlined below.

- 2002-2010 Strategic Plan : The Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) set the goal of expanding terrestrial and marine protected areas.
- 2011-2020 Strategic Plan (Aichi Targets) : By 2020, conserve 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas as protected areas (Target 11).
- 2022-2030 K-M GBF : "30 by 30" target adopted to conserve 30% of Earth's terrestrial and marine areas by 2030

GCIDA should adopt these international goals as strategic benchmarks for the management of IDAs/MIDAs and, in particular, work to strengthen management capacity in line with the global shift toward both quantitative expansion and qualitative management. Rather than merely maintaining International Designated Area, IDA/MIDAs need to explore approaches that combine community participation, scientific monitoring, and sustainable use. Additionally, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which is linked to the CBD, serves as a key hub for science-policy integration. GCIDA should position itself as a major partner of the IPBES for policy advice and collaborative research.

### 3.2.2 UNESCO

#### I . UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2029)

UNESCO's highest-level strategic document, the Medium-Term Strategy 2022– 2029 (41 C/4), emphasizes international cooperation in education, science, and culture in connection with the SDGs. The main strategic objectives are as follows:

- Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Education for All

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4) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted in Rio in 1992, is an international environmental treaty with three primary objectives: the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. It currently serves as a central framework for global biodiversity governance.

- Building a Sustainable Society through Expanded Scientific Collaboration (Including Climate Change and Biodiversity)
- Ensuring Human Rights, Cultural Diversity, and Freedom of Expression
- Promoting Social Change through Digital Technology and Innovation

The area most directly relevant to GCIDA is “building a sustainable society through scientific cooperation.” UNESCO defines IDAs as "living laboratories" and emphasizes their role as key sites for addressing climate crises, conserving biodiversity, and managing water resources. Accordingly, GCIDA should align with UNESCO’s strategic direction by expanding pilot projects, youth capacity-building initiatives, and citizen science programmes in collaboration with IDAs.

Additionally, UNESCO has identified Africa, gender equality, Small Island Developing States (SIDS)<sup>5</sup>, and youth as global priorities. By leveraging the unique characteristics of island regions, including Jeju, GCIDA can propose international cooperation models targeting SIDS. In particular, there is a pressing need to develop international cooperation programmes focused on youth and gender equality.

## II . UNESCO Programmes and Budget (42 C/5, 2024-2025)

UNESCO considers IDAs strategic assets and encourages their development as region-specific experimental and learning hubs.

- Geoparks and biosphere reserves serve as experimental platforms for climate change adaptation and ecosystem service conservation
- Introduction of low-cost digital technologies (such as TinyML) and citizen science.
- Strengthening international research collaboration (including UNESCO Chairs and the UNITWIN Network).

GCIDA’s stature can be enhanced by proactively participating in these programmes and strengthening its role as a policy, research, and education platform within UNESCO’s international network.

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5) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) refer to a group of small island countries designated by the United Nations that share common economic and geographic vulnerabilities. These states typically have a limited land area, population, and resources, making them especially susceptible to climate change, sea-level rise, and natural disasters. Internationally, SIDS are recognized as a priority group for targeted support in sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

### III. Partnership and Funding Strategy

UNESCO is expanding its influence through digital transformation, collaboration with the private sector and NGOs, and the utilization of national commissions. GCIDA should work closely with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO to serve as a hub for domestic and international networks. Additionally, through international projects linked to support for Africa and SIDS, GCIDA can secure opportunities for international funding.

### 3.3 Implications for GCIDA Tasks

- **Strengthen IDA Management Capacity:** There are disparities in IDA management capabilities across regions and countries. Accordingly, GCIDA should implement tailored capacity-building programmes for diverse stakeholders, including field managers.
- **Develop an Online Information-Sharing Platform for MIDAs:** Although information on individual IDAs is accessible through UNESCO or the Ramsar Secretariat, it is managed in a fragmented manner, causing difficulties in accessing comprehensive data on MIDAs. Therefore, GCIDA needs to establish an integrated information-sharing hub to provide centralized access to MIDA-related information.
- **Establish a MIDAs Network:** While networks under specific IDA mechanisms are relatively active, exchange and collaboration between MIDAs remains insufficient. Therefore, GCIDA should establish a MIDAs network and organize regular forums to foster a platform for communication and cooperation among MIDAs stakeholders worldwide.
- **Develop an Integrated Management Approach for MIDAs:** With the increasing occurrence of overlapping designations, various issues, such as management inefficiencies, have emerged. Therefore, GCIDA should conduct research on integrated management strategies for MIDAs and promote their international adoption.
- **Strengthen Collaboration with UNESCO:** As a UNESCO Category 2 Centre, GCIDA must closely align with UNESCO's strategies and initiatives. To this end, research and training programmes should incorporate UNESCO's priorities, such as gender equality and youth empowerment. Additionally, there is a need to design projects that are directly linked to UNESCO's programmes.

## 4. GCIDA Mission, Vision, Values and Key Tasks

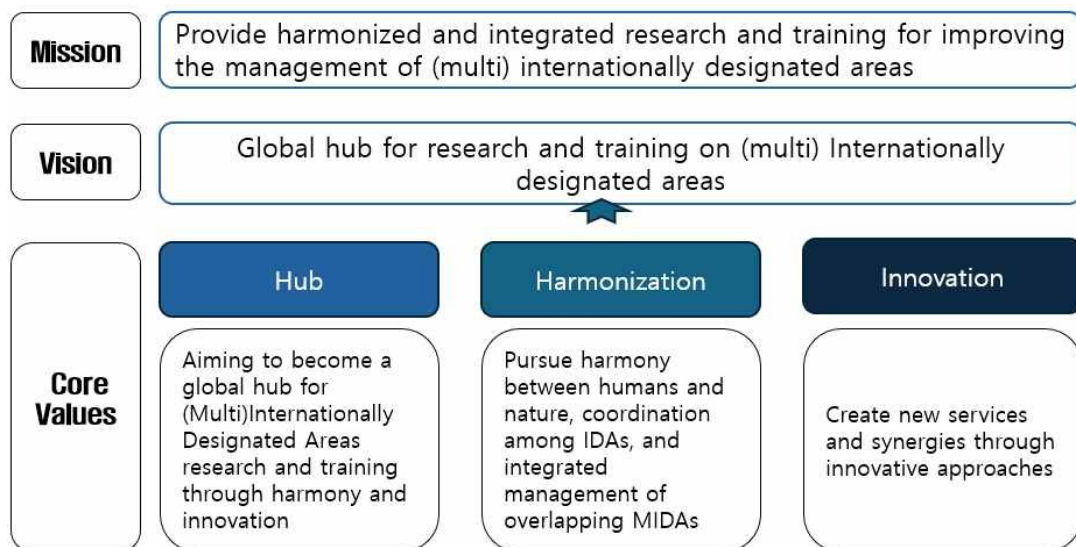
### 4.1 GCIDA Mission, Vision

I . Mission : “Provide harmonized and integrated research and training for improving the management of (Multi) IDAs”

II . Vision : “Global hub for research and training on (Multi) IDAs“

III. Core Values

- Hub : Establish a global hub for (Multi) IDAs research and training through harmony and innovation
- Harmonization : Pursue harmony between humans and nature, coordination among IDAs, and integrated management of overlapping MIDAs
- Innovation : Create new services and synergies through innovative approaches



<GCIDA Mission, Vision, and Core Values System>

### 4.2 GCIDA Mid-Long Term Key Tasks

The personnel and budget required for the implementation of GCIDA’s mid- to long-term core tasks are expected to gradually increase in response to the growing global demand for the management of IDAs and MIDAs.

※ Implementation Measures for Organization, Personnel, and Budget to Support the Nine Key Tasks

Category	2024 ~	2027~	2030 ~	2040 ~
Stage	Capacity Building	Expansion	Advancement	Stabilization
Organization	3teams, 10 members	3teams, 15 members	3teams, 20 members	3teams, 30 members
Budget	USD1.2 ~ 1.8 Milion	USD2.1 ~ 2.7 Milion	USD3.0 ~ 3.3 Milion	USD4.0 Milion

#### 4.2.1 Implement Tailored Support Programmes for IDAs

To strengthen IDA management capacity, it is necessary to establish a tailored support system based on area-specific demands. GCIDA should develop an operational framework that incorporates both online and offline support methods, expert advisory groups, and online systems. Through pilot projects, these initiatives can be gradually expanded, providing customized consultation according to specific support needs. This approach aims to enhance the practical capabilities of IDA-managing organizations by improving management systems, supporting new designations, and preparing reports.

#### 4.2.2 Establish and Operate MIDAs Information Sharing Hub

There is a need to establish and operate an integrated online information-sharing platform that provides comprehensive data, information, and knowledge related to MIDAs (hereafter referred to as "information"). The MIDAs information-sharing hub aims not merely to aggregate information but to systematically archive relevant data and effectively deliver essential information to stakeholders.

To achieve this, an initial basic plan will be developed to establish the information archiving structure, cooperation frameworks among related platforms, and information management protocols. Subsequently, an online system will be developed and operated. Additionally, Content will be continuously expanded according to a system of classification to serve as a clearinghouse for MIDAs-related information.

Through this, the MIDAs information-sharing hub can enhance stakeholder access to MIDAs-related information, thereby contributing to strengthening the management capacity of IDAs. It will also serve as a platform to maximize the outcomes of GCIDA's other

projects. By building and operating the MIDAs information-sharing hub, GCIDA aims to advance as a central hub for MIDA-related data and information networks.

### **4.2.3 Research and Publish MIDAs Guidebook Project**

A research initiative is needed to introduce and promote global regions with MIDAs through collaborative research with UNESCO and JSSGP. Unlike conventional studies conducted in a top-down manner by international organizations or global experts, the content of the MIDAs Guidebook follows a bottom-up approach so that MIDAs are presented and promoted directly through the voices of locals.

To facilitate the dissemination of content, GCIDA will provide templates for introducing and promoting MIDAs regions in tandem with platforms such as the MIDAs information-sharing hub. This will enable local stakeholders to independently introduce and promote their MIDAs. Through this approach, on-the-ground information and issues related to MIDAs worldwide can be collected and updated from the grassroots, helping each region maximize the potential socioeconomic benefits of overlapping designations.

### **4.2.4 Establish MIDAs Network and Hold Regular Workshops**

A project is needed to establish a global network among MIDAs and to hold regular forums to facilitate exchange and cooperation. Led by GCIDA, the initiative aims to launch an international network targeting MIDAs regions to enhance interaction and collaboration among these areas. Additionally, an annual forum will be convened for MIDAs managers and representatives from international organizations such as UNESCO, Ramsar, and IUCN to discuss integrated management approaches for MIDAs and to set a global agenda.

The forums can be organized in collaboration with UNESCO and JSSGP, with the possibility of alternating venues: Jeju in odd-numbered years and regional locations in even-numbered years. In this way, GCIDA can establish itself as a central hub for MIDAs exchange and cooperation.

### **4.2.5 Establish Coordinated Management Framework for MIDAs**

A project is needed to develop an integrated management manual that respects the unique designation objectives of the four major international protected area categories while enabling interconnectivity for on-site managers and policymakers of each MIDA region.

The current international status of MIDAs management will be assessed by examining best practices and research on integrated management in addition to the tailored support projects for Internationally designated areas outlined among the GCIDA core tasks, including the MIDAs information-sharing hub project and the IUCN's Managing MIDAs initiative. Based on this assessment, appropriate integrated management approaches such as monitoring systems and governance structures will be identified to facilitate the harmonious management of MIDAs.

This will result in the development of a management manual applicable internationally, directly contributing to enhancing the global management capacity of MIDAs.

#### **4.2.6 Implement e-Campus and Accreditation System**

A project is needed to establish an online learning platform (e-Campus) and an expert certification system to enhance expertise in IDAs management. Through the provision of educational content, the creation of a graduate database, and the implementation of a certification system, expert competencies will be systematically managed. This initiative aims to improve educational effectiveness, strengthen expert networks, expand the applicability of policies and field practices, and enhance GCIDA's international standing and institutional credibility.

#### **4.2.7 Host UNESCO-linked Capacity Building Workshop for MIDAs Managers**

A project is needed to conduct practical, hands-on training workshops for MIDAs managers. In coordination with the capacity-building workshops of UNESCO Headquarters targeting priority partner countries, GCIDA will offer workshops tailored to MIDAs to reinforce professional skills.

Participants will be selected with consideration of UNESCO's priorities, including Africa, SIDS, and gender equality. The training will cover ecosystem management, community engagement, and application of international standards, complemented by field learning experiences.

Through participant interaction and case sharing, the workshops will foster international networking and contribute to domestic policy improvements. This initiative aims to substantially strengthen the problem-solving abilities and responsiveness of managers overseeing multiple international designated areas.

## 4.2.8 Develop Curriculum on IDAs for Future Generations

There is a need to develop an educational curriculum targeting youth and future generations that integrates the values of IDAs with key components of Global Citizenship Education (GCE). IDAs can serve as “sustainability classrooms” (Education for Sustainable Development, ESD), where learners can experience firsthand the values promoted by GCE, such as biodiversity conservation, climate change response, and respect for cultural diversity.

In collaboration with UNESCO Headquarters and relevant institutions within JSSGP (Jeju Provincial Government, Education Office, UNITAR), a workbook and experiential learning courses focused on achieving the SDGS through IDAs will be developed. Recruitment and certification procedures will be established and managed to enhance the curriculum’s effectiveness and recognition.

Through this initiative, the goal is to nurture the next generation of leaders, expand international exchanges, and elevate the international standing of domestic management systems.

## 4.2.9 Additional Core Tasks

### I. Establishing a Resource Diversification Strategy, Including the Development of Projects Linked to International Environmental Financing

The international community is mobilizing a range of concessional and non-concessional ODA resources, as well as public-private partnership programmes, to address climate change and restore biodiversity. GCIDA should actively promote research, education, and training initiatives that are linked to these funding mechanisms.

To this end, GCIDA should align its strategic initiatives, including tailored support programs, with major international environmental funding mechanisms and programmes such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF)<sup>6</sup> and the Green Climate Fund (GCF)<sup>7</sup>. This approach will help to diversify funding sources while also contributing to the Korean government’s efforts to expand its climate-related ODA commitments.

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6) The Global Environment Facility (GEF), established in 1991, is a multilateral environmental finance mechanism that provides funding to developing countries to address global environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and international waters management.

7) The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is an international fund established at the 2010 UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP16) to provide financial support to developing countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

## II. Establishing a System for the Regular Review and Formulation of Mid- to Long-Term Plans

UNESCO C2C are required to renew their establishment agreements every six years. In this context, GCIDA must develop a mid- to long-term planning framework aligned with the renewal cycle.

Every 12 years, GCIDA should formulate a new strategic plan that systematically reviews the alignment between the objectives and functions outlined in the agreement and the Centre's actual operational performance. This review should identify areas for improvement and ensure that GCIDA's vision, values, and strategic priorities are meaningfully incorporated into the revised agreement.

By institutionalizing this planning cycle, GCIDA can enhance the long-term continuity of its operations, improve the effectiveness of its programmes, and ensure that its organizational direction remains consistent with its international legal mandate.

## III. Strengthening International Collaborative Projects and Institutionalizing Evaluation and Feedback Systems

Domestic partner institutions of GCIDA, such as the Ministry of Environment and JSSGP, have been actively collaborating with various international organizations, including UNESCO and IUCN, through financial contributions and the implementation of joint projects. In this context, GCIDA should position itself as a core partner within these international cooperation and joint project frameworks, thereby enhancing the effective utilization of international funds and increasing both the visibility and impact of its own operations.