

# 2025 WCC MIDAs Forum

Improving the Conservation Outlook of MIDAs

2025. 10. 11. | 16:00 ~ 17:00  
ADNEC, 2025 WCC JEJU Pavilion



# SESSION OVERVIEW

**Date** 2025. 10. 11. 16:00 ~ 17:00

**Venue** ADNEC (2025 WCC JEJU Pavilion)

**Organizer** Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, IUCN World Heritage Team, GCIDA

## Objectives & Rationale

*As IDAs expand globally, integrated management of Multi-International Designated Areas(MIDAs) is becoming increasingly essential. This session begins with Jeju's exemplary MIDA management, illustrating effective approaches to coordinating multiple designations. It then introduces key findings from the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4, offering evidence-based insights into major governance issues and good practices for MIDAs. The session concludes with GCIDA's global vision and priority actions, outlining strategic directions to advance MIDA governance through research, capacity-building and international collaboration.*

## Programme

Session	Speaker
▶ Opening Remarks	Sunju Kim
▶ Presentation ① - (Jeju) MIDA in Jeju	Sunju Kim
▶ Presentation ② - (IUCN) WH Outlook 4.0	Lisa Aylett
▶ Presentation ③ - (GCIDA) GCIDA's Vision	Chansol Ko
▶ Panel Discussion: Solutions for Creating Synergies in MIDAs	(Moderator) Tim Badman
▶ QnA	(Panel) Suk-kyung Shim, Hag-young Heo, Mohammand Khalid Pasha
▶ Closing	Tim Badman



# Jeju's Efforts and Achievements for MIDA Management

S u n j o o   K i m



## Jeju, a Multi-Internationally Designated Protected Area Efforts and Achievements for Sustainability

Sun Ju, Kim

Jeju Special Self-Governing Province  
Team Leader, Environment Policy Division

# CONTENTS

1. Jeju Island, Republic of Korea
2. Jeju's MIDAs
3. [**Biosphere Reserve**] Jeju's Integrated Management
4. [**World Natural Heritage**] Jeju's Integrated Management
5. [**Unesco Global Geopark**] Jeju's Integrated Management
6. Integrated management plan

# 1. Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

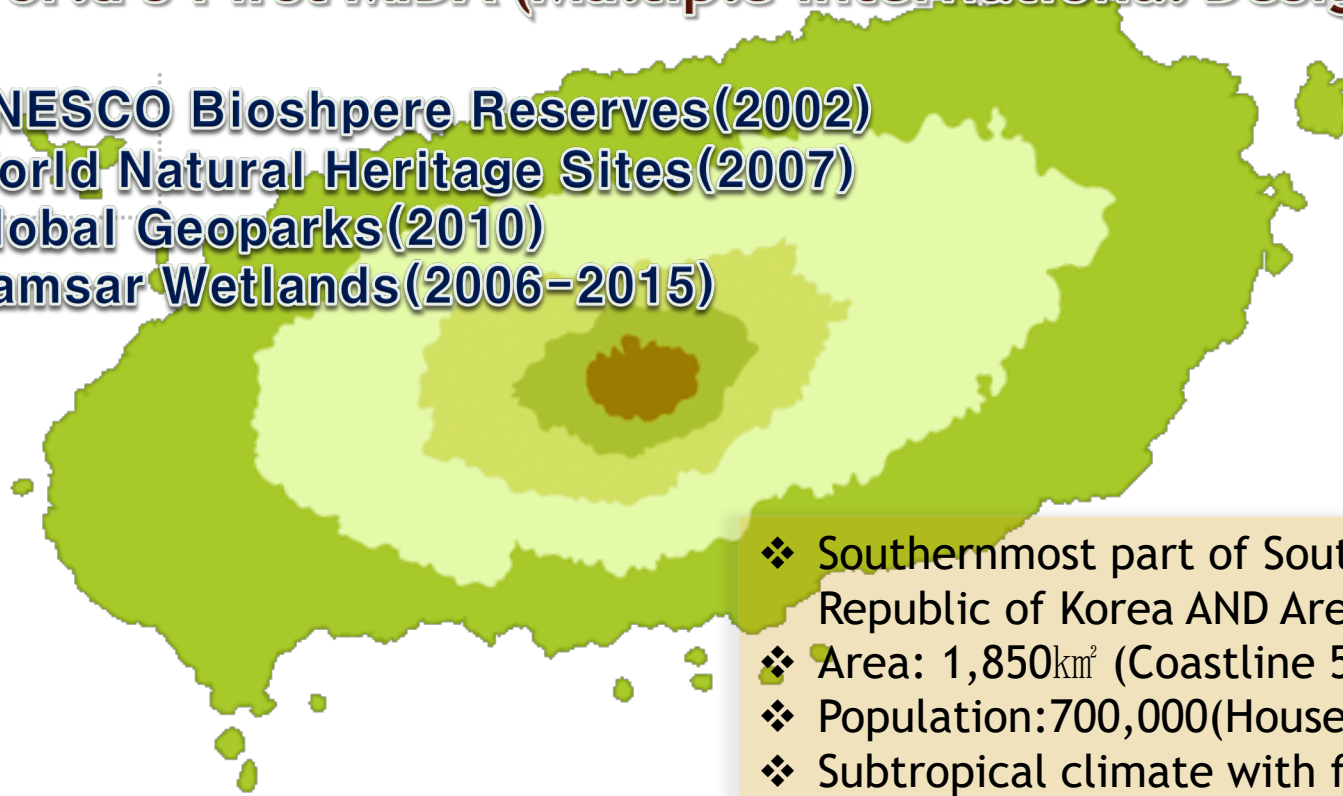
## World's First MIDA (Multiple International Designated Area)

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves(2002)

World Natural Heritage Sites(2007)

Global Geoparks(2010)

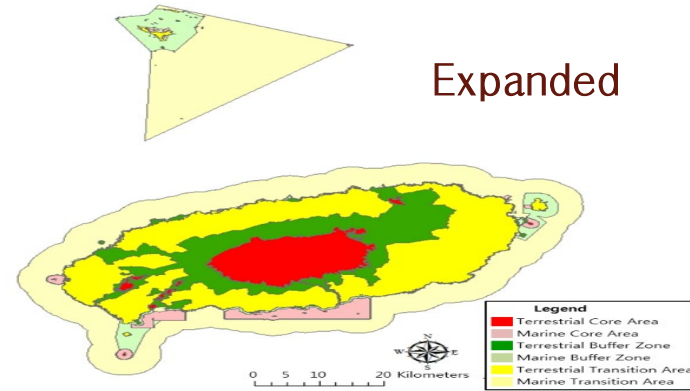
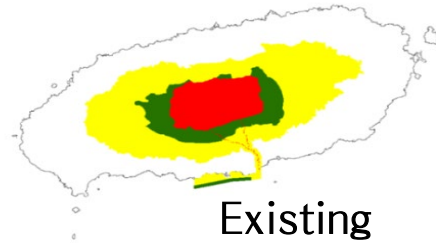
Ramsar Wetlands(2006-2015)



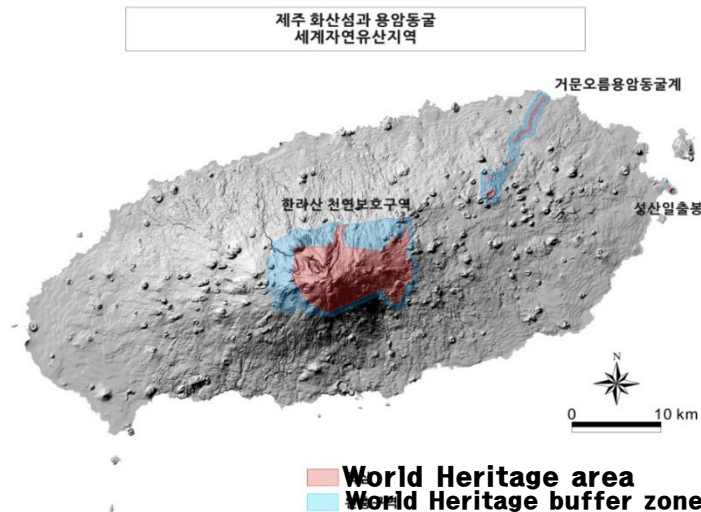
- ❖ Southernmost part of South Korea, A strategic location connecting Republic of Korea AND Area
- ❖ Area: 1,850km<sup>2</sup> (Coastline 551.7km)
- ❖ Population:700,000(Household 614,663)
- ❖ Subtropical climate with four distinct seasons, About 9,000 species of biological resources

## 2. Jeju's MIDAs

### 2-1. UNESCO Bioshpere Reserves(2002)



### 2-2. World Natural Heritage(2007)



- Heritage area : 188.5km<sup>2</sup>(Jeju Island about 10%)
- Core area 95.2km<sup>2</sup>
- Buffer zone 93.3km<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Jeju's MIDAs

### 2-3. UNESCO Global Geopark(2010)



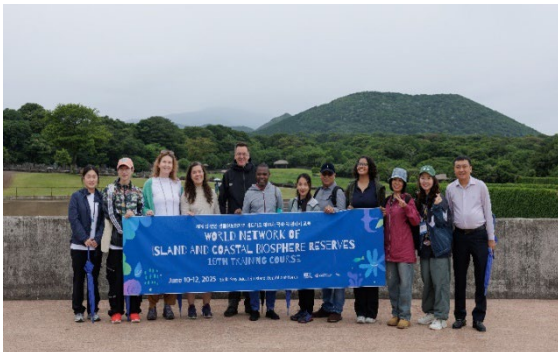
### 2-4. Ramsar Wetlands(2006-2015)



Category	date of designation	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )
Mulyeongari-oreum Ramsar Wetland	'06.11.18	0.31
Muljangori Oreum Ramsar Wetland	'08.10.13	0.63
1100 Highland Ecological Wetland	'09.10.12	0.13
Dongbaek Dongsan Ramsar Wetland	'11. 3.14	0.59
Sumeunmul Baengdi Ramsar Wetland	'15. 5.13	1.17

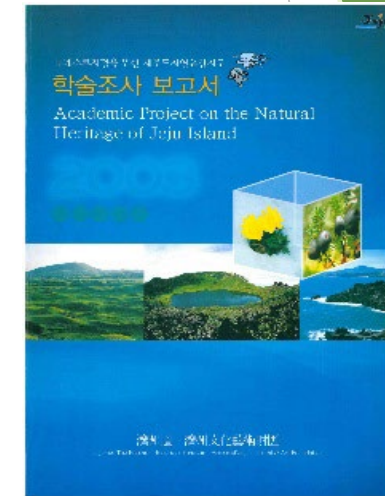
### 3. [Biosphere Reserve] Jeju's Integrated Management

- Overseas Biosphere Reserve managers training operation  
✧ 25year 6month, 9th training conducted(Jeju Island area)
- World island·coastal Biosphere Reserve Network meeting held  
✧ 12th World island·coastal Biosphere Reserve Network meeting(25year 9month China General Assembly planned linkage)
- joint research project(UNESCO cooperative project)
- island·coastal Biosphere Reserve sharing relevant information, newsletter publication etc.



## 4. (World Natural Heritage) Jeju's Integrated Management

### 4.1. Regular monitoring to assess environmental changes, Research and Exchange on the Academic Value of World Heritage Sites.



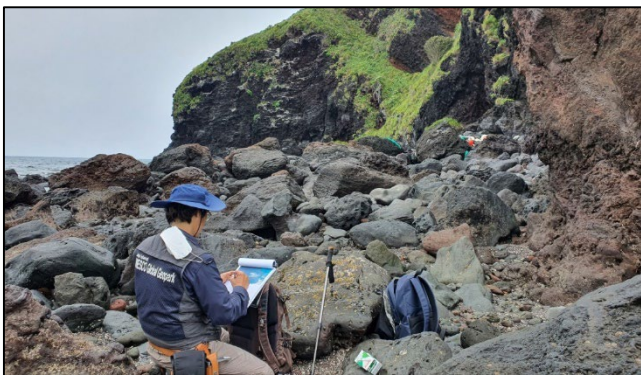
### 4.2. Implementation of UNESCO's Recommendations

- Acquire privately owned land within the designated area.
- Efficiently manage tourist and commercial activities within the designated area.
- Prohibit above-ground agricultural activities that damage the subsurface in the buffer zone of the Geomunoreum Lava Tube System.
- Manage the significant volcanic features distributed across a wide area of Jeju Island and maintain their biodiversity value.
- Consider designating additional significant lava tube systems and volcanic features on Jeju Island as World Heritage Sites.

Implementation of recommendations  
(Private land purchase 442ha 71% 621ha)

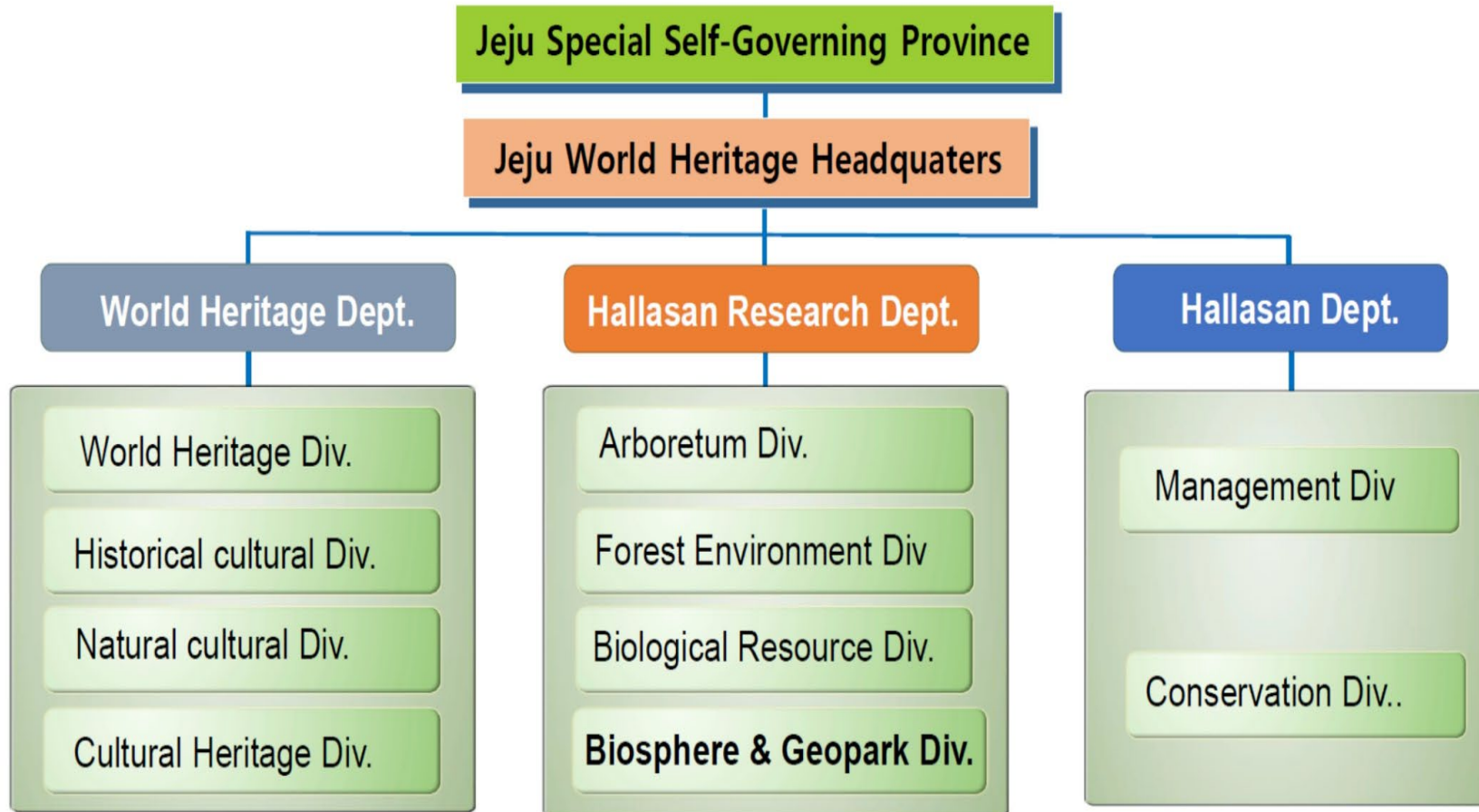
# 5. (Unesco Global Geopark) Jeju's Integrated Management

- PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT (Infrastructure, monitoring)
- PUBLIC AWARENESS OF GEOPARK
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



# 4. Jeju's Integrated Management

- Management organization establishment(2016.7)





# World Heritage Outlook 4.0

: A conservation assessment of all natural World Heritage sites

**Lisa Aylett**

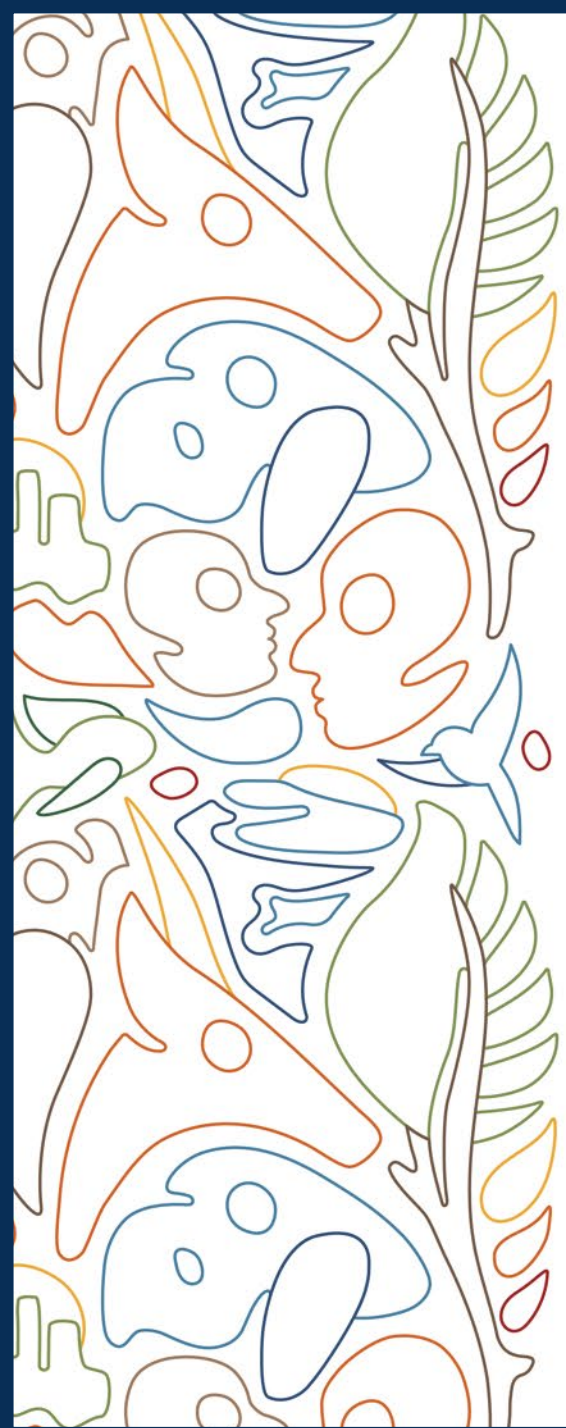
# IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4

A conservation assessment of all natural  
World Heritage sites



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World  
Conservation  
Congress  
*Abu Dhabi 2025*





# Natural World Heritage sites...

- ...are some of the most significant natural areas on Earth.
- ...must meet the high standards of the World Heritage Convention.
- ...are a lens through which to view successes and gaps in global conservation.
- ...can overlap (partial/complete) with UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar sites, UNESCO Global Geoparks and or Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

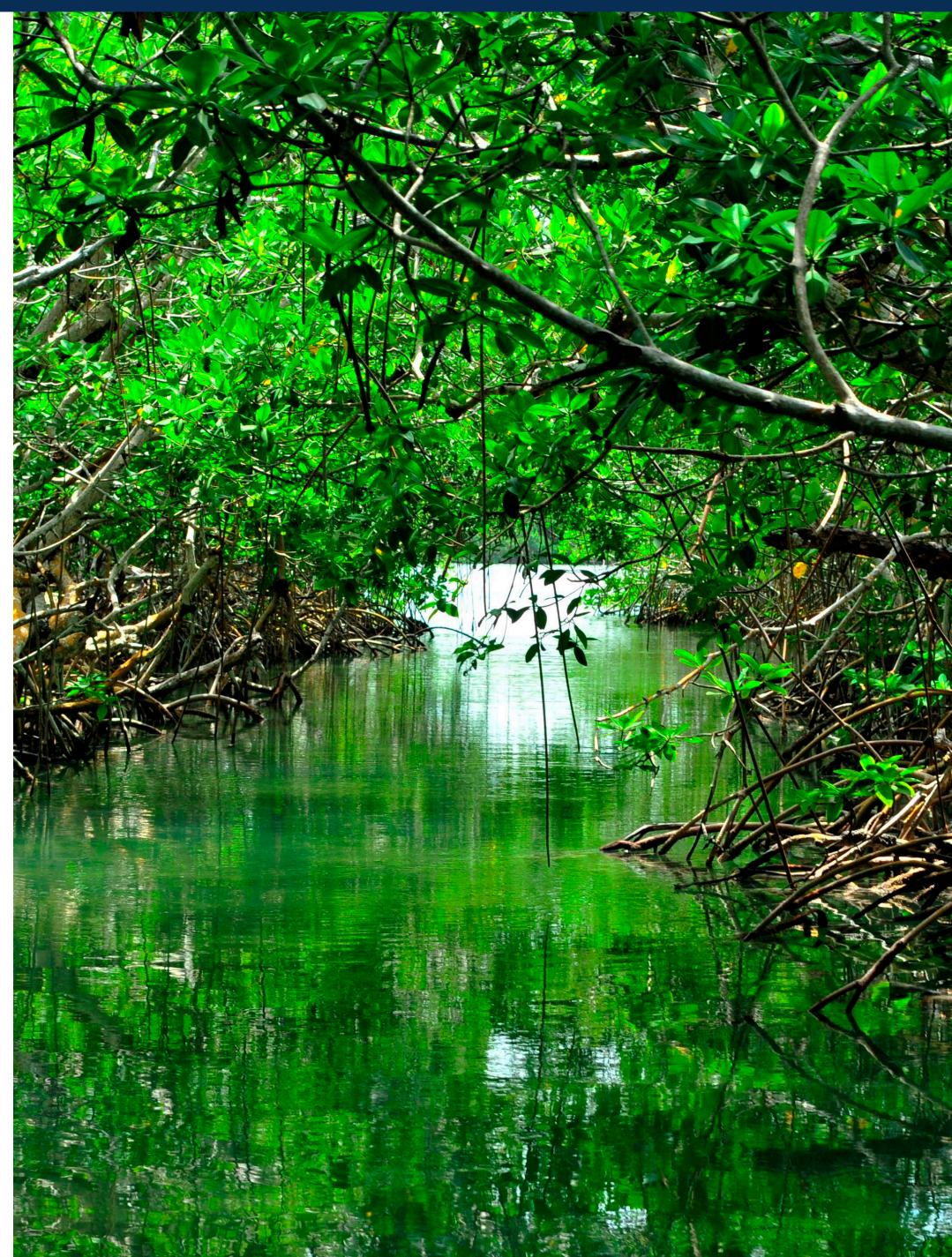
# MIDAs context

- Total 395 MIDAs within which there are 1,198 internationally designated areas (i.e. a third of all IDAs are MIDAs)
- Over half of natural WH sites (153) overlap with other international designations

Type of designation	Total number of IDAs	Number of IDAs in MIDAs	Percentage of MIDAs to IDAs
Ramsar Sites	2543	531	20.9%
World Heritage Sites (natural)	276	153	55.4%
Biosphere Reserves	759	363	47.8%
UNESCO Global Geoparks	229	96	41.9%
GIAHS	95	26	27.4%
ALL	4014	1198	29.8%

# IUCN World Heritage Outlook

- Independent, global, snapshot evaluation of all natural World Heritage sites - in 2014, 2017, 2020 and now 2025.
- Consistent methodology.
- Objectives:
  - **Track the state of conservation** of all natural World Heritage sites over time,
  - **Recognise well-managed sites**, encourage the transfer of good management practices,
  - Identify the most pressing **conservation issues** and actions needed to remedy these,
  - Understand and communicate the **benefits of World Heritage** sites.

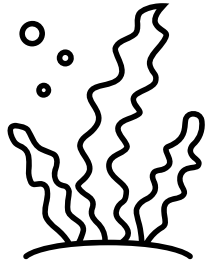




# Methodology

- Standardised methodology developed 2011 by an IUCN- led technical advisory group.
- Draws on a wide range of existing methodologies for protected area assessments.
- Underlying assessment framework has remained the same since 2014 - consistency and comparability of data between cycles.
- The Conservation Outlook Assessments provide a projection of whether a site is likely to maintain its World Heritage values and associated key attributes over time.
- Following the 2020 assessment cycle, the methodology was further refined based on feedback during the assessment cycle and from the Methodology Review Group:
  - Other important values
  - Update of threat categories
  - Alignment with IUCN Green List Standard
  - Overlapping designations
  - Indigenous Heritage Values

# Conservation Outlook Assessments



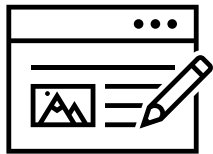
## Values

Good | Low concern | High concern | Serious concern



## Threats

Very Low | Low | High | Very high



## Protection and management

Highly effective | Mostly effective | Some concern | Serious concern



# Consultation & review

- Gathering available information sources
- Involvement of a range of knowledge holders
- Assessment update and expert peer-review
- Site manager feedback
- Regional Review Groups
  - Africa, Arab States, Asia, Europe, Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, North America, Oceania, South America
- IUCN World Heritage Panel



# Outlook website

Explore natural sites  
Advanced search

2020 Conservation Outlook

- Good
- Good with some concerns
- Significant concern
- Critical
- Data deficient
- Coming soon

See all (253)

Good

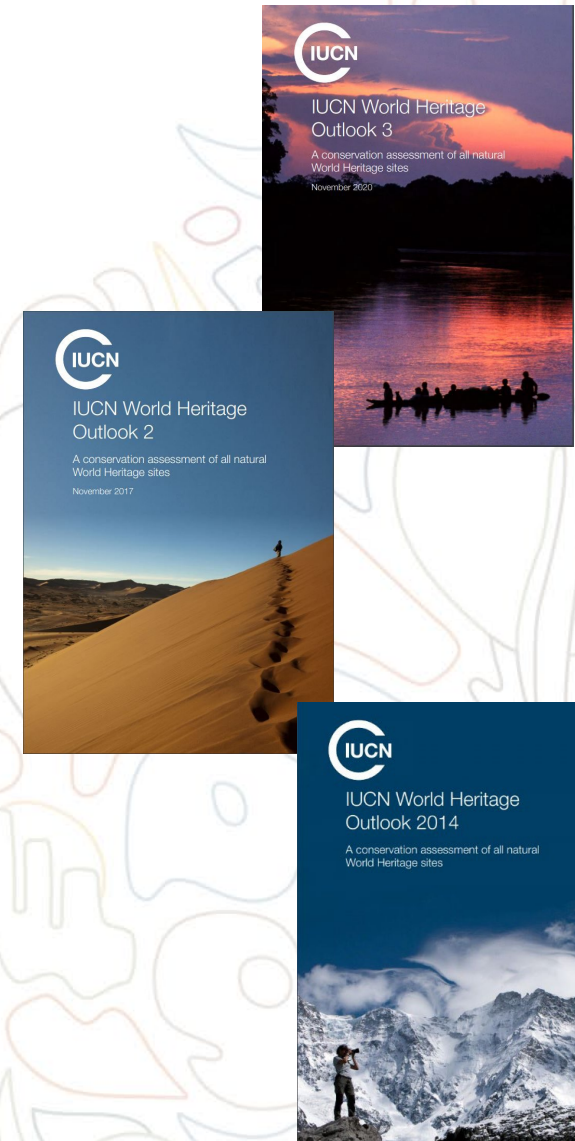
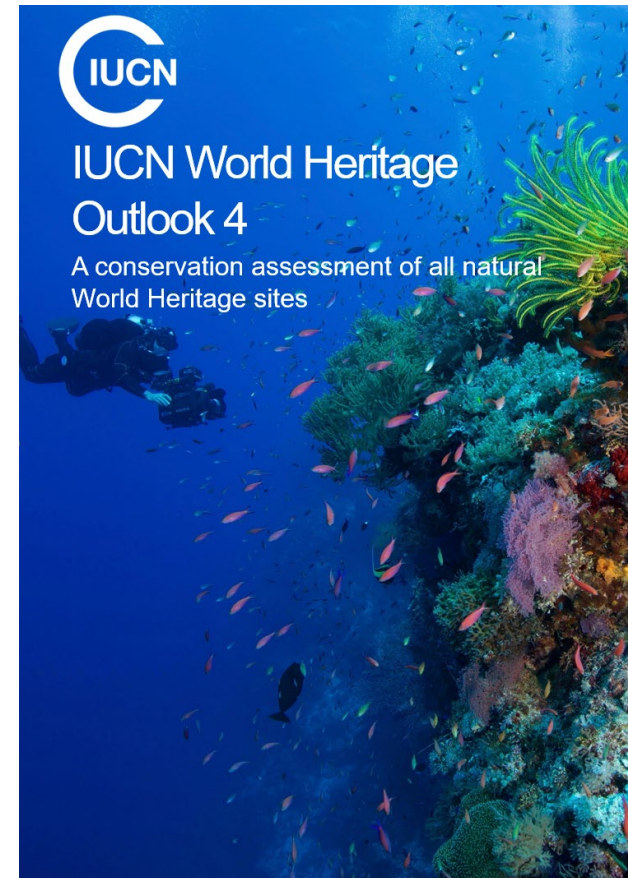
High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago

FINLAND, SWEDEN  
Inscribed in 2000

Read more

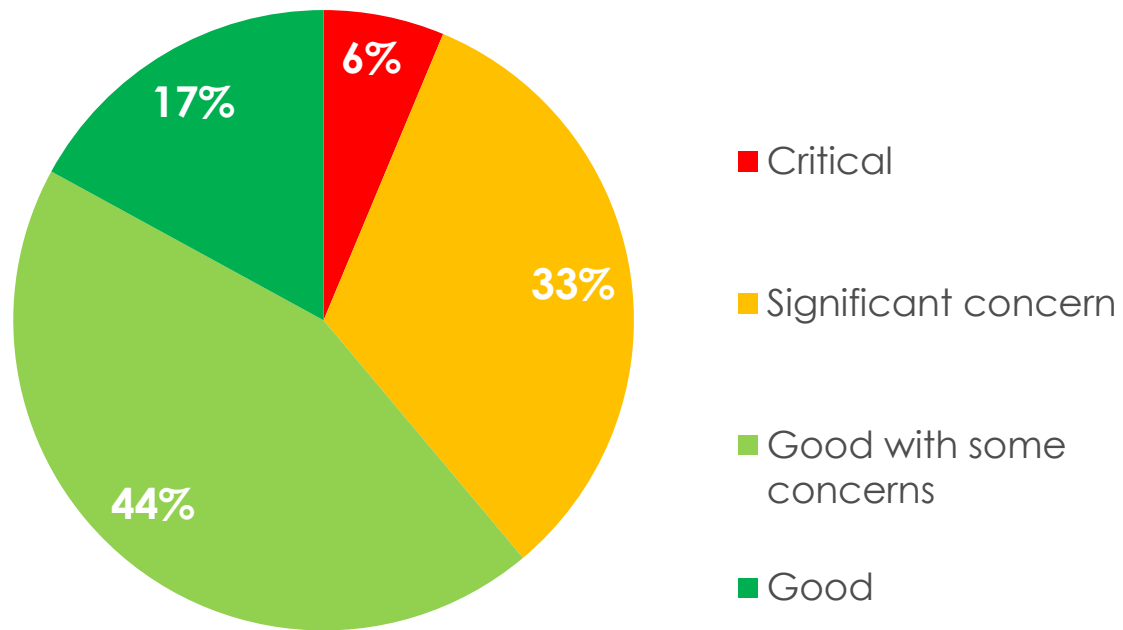
worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org

# Global report

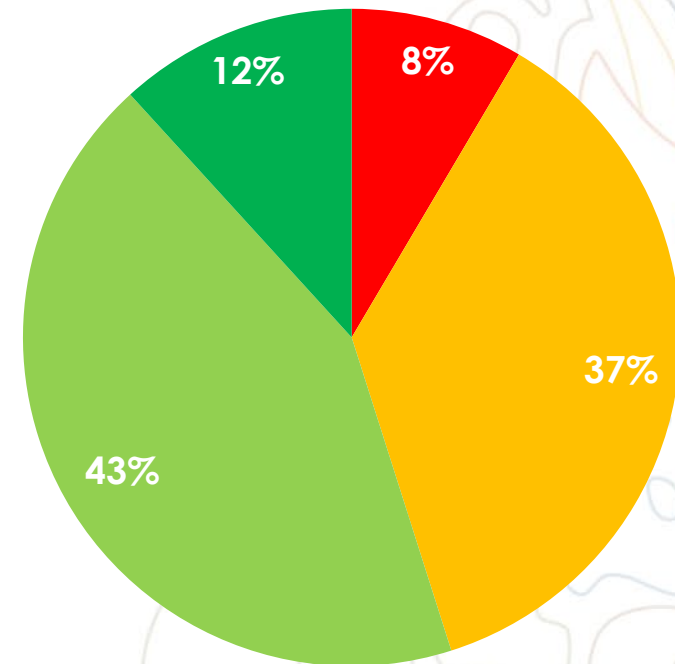


# Conservation Outlook

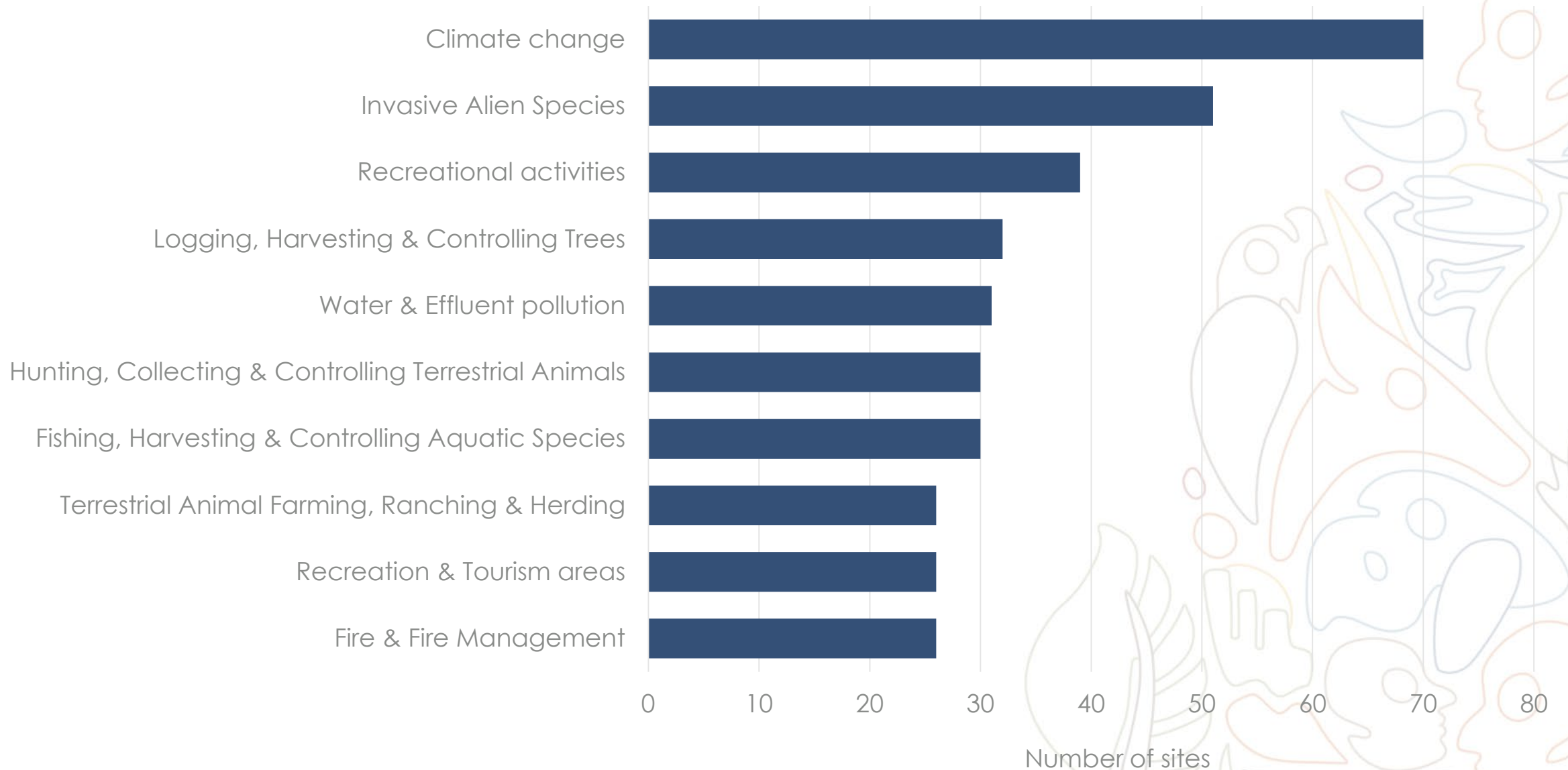
Conservation Outlook for 271 natural World Heritage sites



Conservation Outlook 2025 for 153 WH-MIDAs

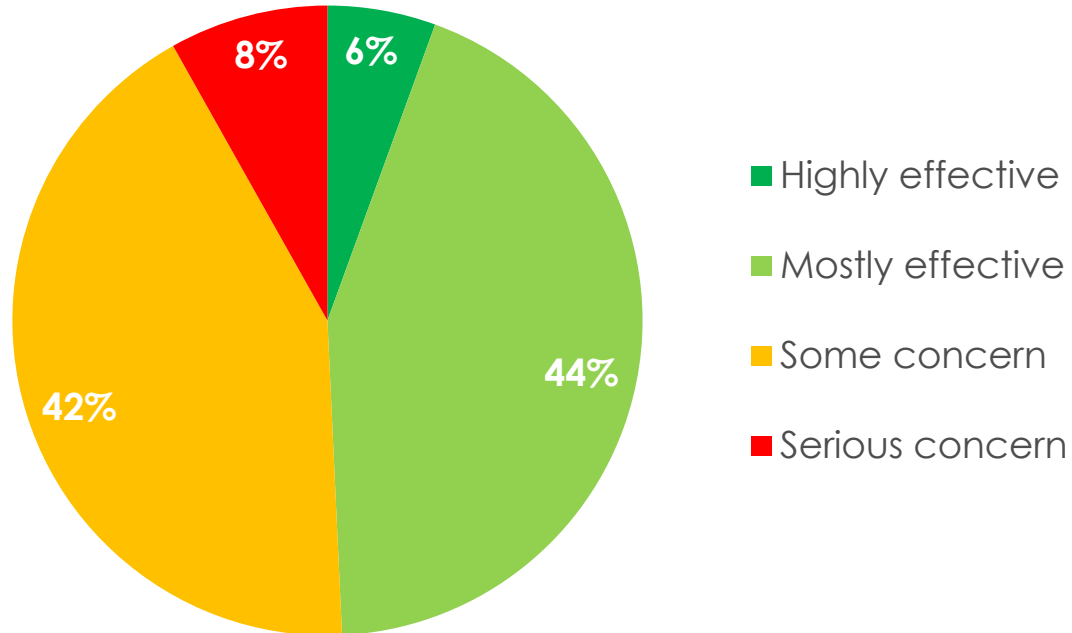


# Top threats for WH-MIDAs

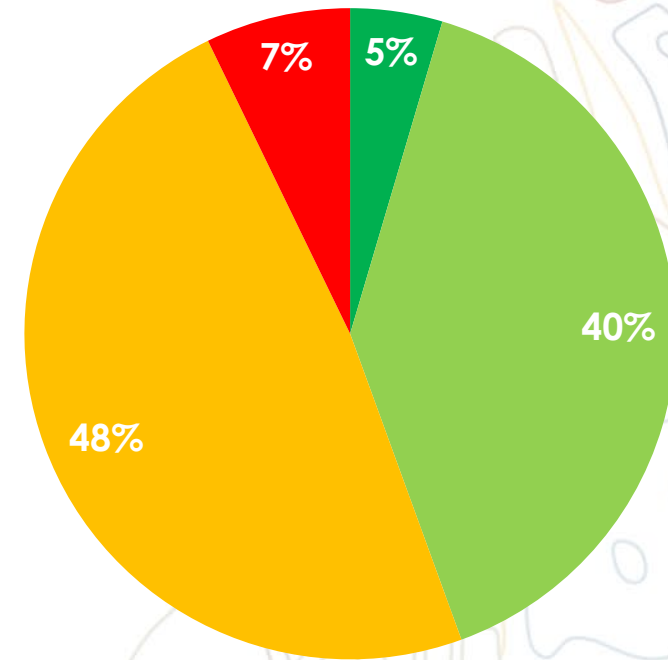


# Protection & Management

Protection & Management for 271 natural World Heritage sites



Protection & Management for WH-MIDAs



# Opportunities & Challenges

- **Highly effective**

- Research
- Legal framework
- Boundaries

- Monitoring more often rated as effective in WH- MIDAs vs. all assessed sites

- **Serious concern**

- Effectiveness of management system in addressing threats outside site boundaries
- Sustainable finance
- Effectiveness of management system in addressing threats inside site boundaries

- Tourism and sustainable use key issues
- Governance rated lower than on average when including all 271 sites
- Data deficiency is a problem



# Coming soon!

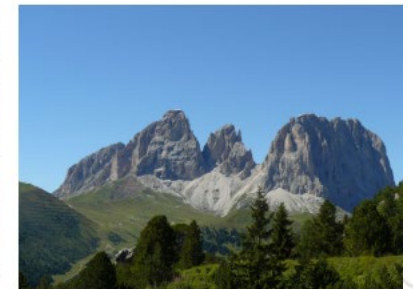
- The 2016 IUCN guidance identified benefits, challenges, and recommendations to improve MIDAs management.
- Gaps remain in implementation, and the global policy landscape has evolved.
- Managing MIDAs 2nd Edition assesses the 2016 recommendations' continued relevance, explores MIDAs' contributions to global conservation and equity goals, the interactions between IDAs' values, collaborative and effective planning and implementation strategies.
- Overall goal: raise awareness of MIDAs and strengthen their global impact on biodiversity conservation.



## Managing MIDAs

Harmonising the management of Multi-Internationally Designated Areas: Ramsar Sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks

Thomas Schaaf and Diana Clamote Rodrigues



# Thank you!

Lisa Aylett

IUCN World Heritage Outlook Coordinator

[Lisa.kopsieker@iucn.org](mailto:Lisa.kopsieker@iucn.org)



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# GCIDA's Vision

## : Global Hub for MIDAs

**Chansol KO**



**gcida**  
Global Research and Training Centre  
for Internationally Designated Areas  
유네스코 국제보호지역 글로벌 연구 훈련센터

# GCIDA's Vision

## Global Hub for MIDAs

**Chan-sol KO**

**GCIDA**

**Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas**

# • IDAs (Internationally Designated Areas)

- ▶ **A natural area that** is internationally recognized through global or regional designation mechanisms.
- ▶ **key spatial and institutional frameworks** that integrate ecological conservation with sustainable development to address global crises.

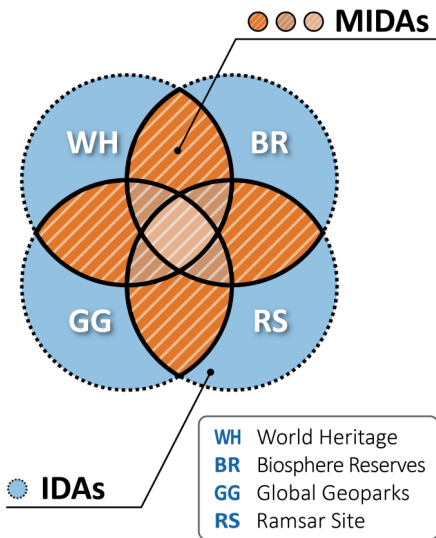


- **World Heritage** sites are designated under the World Heritage Convention to identify, protect, conserve the Outstanding Universal Values of natural and cultural properties, and to ensure their transmission to future generation(GCIDA is dedicated to natural heritage).
- **Biosphere Reserves** are designated under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme(MAB) to promote strategy where people and nature coexist in harmony, simultaneously advancing conservation, sustainable development, and knowledge-sharing through research and capacity-building.
- **Global Geoparks** are recognized under the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), in partnership with the Global Geopark Network(GGN). These are managed with an integrated approach that combines the conservation and sustainable development of significant geological heritage.
- **Ramsar Sites** are designated under the Ramsar Convention to conserve wetlands of international importance and to ensure their wise use.

- ▶ Every IDA is characterized by **its unique values**, yet they converge on a **common mission: to ensure sustainability through conservation.**

# • MIDAs (Multi-Internationally Designated Areas)

- ▶ Areas where two or more IDAs fully or partially overlap, resulting in double, triple, or even quadruple international designations.
- ▶ Areas holding the richest and most outstanding conservation values on Earth.
- ▶ However, overlapping designations also bring both diverse **opportunities** and distinct **challenges**



## Opportunities

**Enhanced Visibility** Increases site recognition and creates new opportunities.

**Strengthened Legal & Institutional Protection** offers a robust framework for conservation and a stronger defense against threats.

**Diverse Funding Opportunities** Unlock a wider range of funding for research and capacity building.

**Exemplifying Multifunctional Approaches** Serve as a model for integrating conservation with sustainable use, governance, and cultural values.

## Challenges

**Fragmented Governance** creates management difficulties and confusion among stakeholders.

**Conflicting Management Priorities** creates conflicts in planning and operations

**Inefficiency from Redundant Management** leads to a duplication of effort and cost inefficiencies

**Reduced Visibility & Uniqueness of Each Designation** creates confusion for public and dilutes the unique value and purpose of each individual designation.

## • **Harmonizing MIDAs:** Answering a Global Call for Harmonization

- ▶ The growing number of MIDAs has prompted the international community to agree on the need for a harmonious approach and to begin formulating strategies in response.
- ▶ This led to a growing recognition that MIDAs require coordinated management, robust cooperation, and focused research and training.

- At the IUCN WCC, Jeju Island proposed a global solution for harmonized MIDA management. This led to Resolution WCC-Res-052, a formal call to action for the international community.

- An international partnership was forged between Jeju, IUCN, UNESCO, and the Ramsar Secretariat. This joint effort produced the foundational “Managing MIDAs” report (2016), establishing a unified, consensus-based framework for conservation.



# • Establishment of GCIDA



## Resolution Adopted

September 2012

Resolution adopted at WCC Jeju for the establishment of an integrated management system for IDAs



## Establishment Proposal

June 2016

Jeju province proposed establishment of a UNESCO Category 2 Centre to the Ministry of Environment



## Agreement Signed

February 2024

Agreement signed between the Republic of Korea and UNESCO



## Centre Establishment

April 11, 2024

GCIDA foundation established

## Status of Operations

- ✓ **Organization:** 3 Teams, 12 Staff (Planned Expansion to 24 by 2030)
- ✓ **Budget:** KRW 1.215 Billion (USD 875,000)

# • Early Achievements

## Research Projects

- Developed Mid- to Long-term → 9 Key Strategic Tasks
- Researching on the Establishment of a MIDAs Information Hub
- Researching on Customized Support Program for IDA/MIDAs

## Training Projects

- **Co-hosted the IDA Managers Capacity-Building Workshop**  
-2024: 40 Korean Managers Participated  
-2025: 14 Foreign Managers, 20 Korean Managers Participated
- **Co-hosted Academy for Future Generations on Protected Areas**  
-2024: 29 University and Post graduate Students Participated  
-2025: 28 University Students Participated
- **Hosted the MIDA Interpreters Workshop**
- **Hosted Youth Vision Forum**

## Exchange and Cooperation

- Visited to UNESCO, IUCN, and Ramsar Convention Headquarters
- Participated in the UNESCO Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserve Manager Training Course
- Participated in the IUCN Leaders Forum
- Joined Asia Protected Areas Partnership



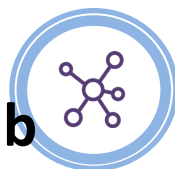
# • The Vision and Core Values of GCIDA

Vision

**A Global Hub** for Research and Training on IDAs and MIDAs

Core Values

**H**ub



a **global hub**  
for research and training  
on IDA and MIDAs through  
**h**armonization and  
**i**nnovation

**H**armonization



Promoting harmony  
between people and nature,  
across IDAs management  
systems, and within MIDAs  
through integrated and  
collaborative approaches

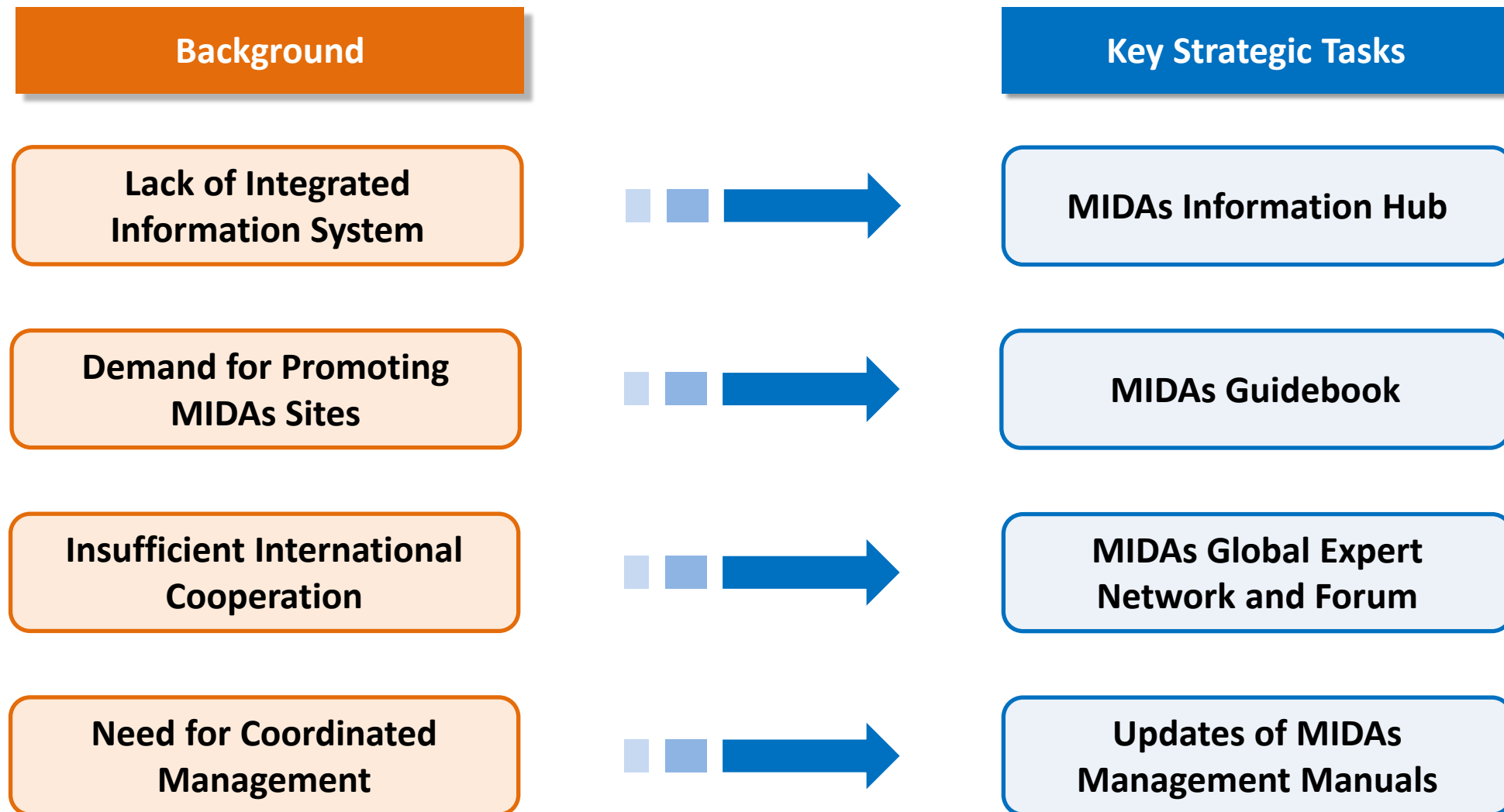
**I**nnovation



Creating new initiatives  
and generating synergies  
through innovative  
thinking and forward-  
looking strategies

**HI**. GCIDA

# • Addressing the Gaps in MIDAs



# • Key Strategic Tasks for MIDAs

## 1. MIDAs Information Hub

### 01 Overview

#### ✓ Provide Integrated Information on MIDAs

- Relevant Data, Status of Designations and Management, Management Solutions
- Introduction to MIDAs Sites and Case Study (Alongside MIDAs Guidebook)

### 02 Implementation Plan



**Establishing  
Master Plan**

2025



**Build an Online Platform  
and Launch a Pilot**

2026~2027



**Continuous  
Refinement**

2028~



## 2. MIDAs Guidebook

(In Consultation with UNESCO)

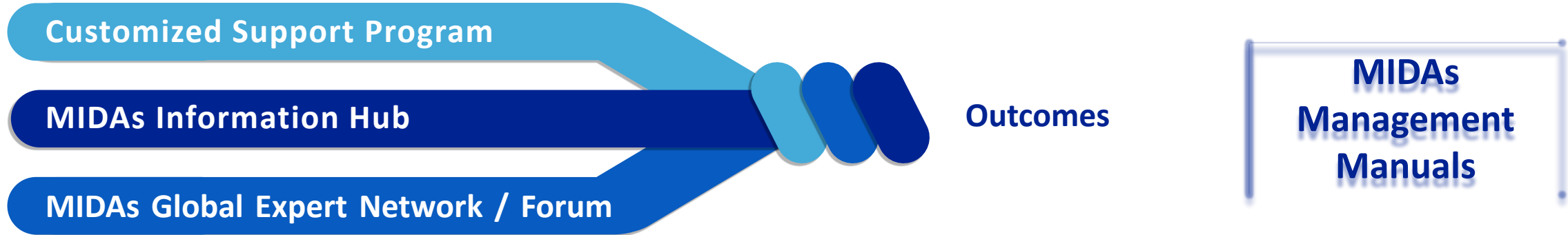
- ✓ Local experts introduce their MIDAs
- ✓ Enhancing the global recognition of individual MIDAs
- ✓ Writing the First Version on 13 MIDAs Sites with UNESCO
- ✓ Guidebook Contents → Upload to MIDAs Information Hub
  - Expand Interviews to All MIDAs Local experts
  - Allow Managers to Update Information Individually

## 3. MIDAs Global Network and Forum



- ✓ Fostering inter-institutional and inter-regional cooperation
- ✓ Leading the Discussion on key agendas for MIDAs

# 4. MIDAs Management Manual (Mid to Long Term Goals)



- ✓ Refer to IUCN's Managing MIDAs 1 (2016) and 2 (Ongoing)
- ✓ To be leveraged as foundational content for building capacity and providing solutions
- ✓ To contribute to the enhancement of global MIDA management capabilities

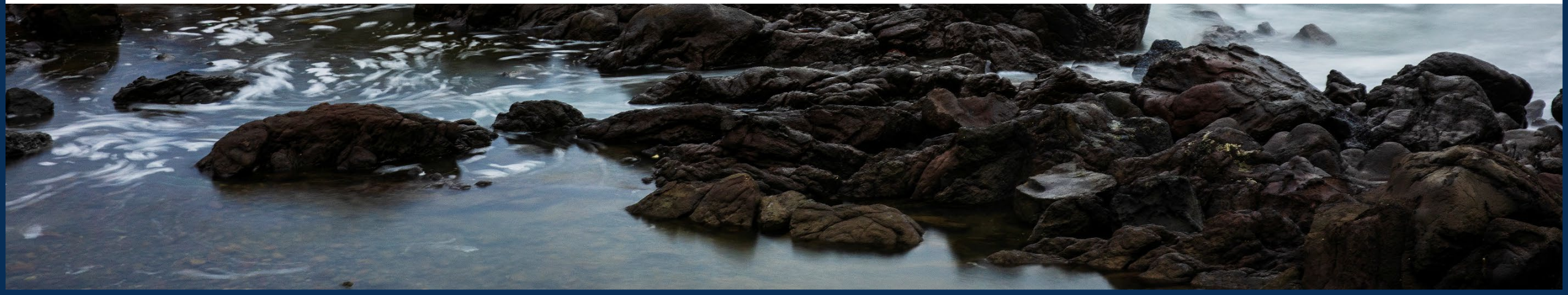




# Thank You!



Visit the GCIDA Website





Jeju

