

2019-2022 Work Program under the United States-Republic of Korea Environmental Cooperation Agreement

On May 14, 2019, the United States-Republic of Korea Environmental Cooperation Commission (ECC) adopted this Work Program pursuant to Articles 3.2 and 4 of the United States-Republic of Korea Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA). This Work Program updates the 2016-2018 Work Program. The Governments intend to review progress toward achieving the goals contained in this Work Program and may modify the goals and activities in future consultations on environmental cooperation. Implementation of the activities in this Work Program is subject to the availability of funds.

I. Background

On January 23, 2012, the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea signed an ECA. The ECA identifies environmental issues of mutual interest to the Governments and establishes a mechanism through which the Governments can pursue cooperative activities. In the ECA, the Governments establish their intent to engage in bilateral activities, including with the private sector and civil society organizations, and, where appropriate, in regional activities to promote cooperation on environmental protection, sustainable management of natural resources, and strengthening environmental law enforcement.

II. Mutually-Identified Goals and Related Activities

In accordance with the ECA, the Governments have identified the following goals and activities to pursue during 2019 through 2022, noting that bilateral and regional efforts may complement each other in many cases. Below each goal are examples of activities that are currently underway, in the planning stages, or proposed:

- 1) Strengthen implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, including supporting efforts to combat illegal trade in environmentally sensitive goods.**
 - Conduct bilateral and regional training and technical exchanges for investigators, prosecutors, police, customs officials, and judges on investigating and prosecuting wildlife trafficking and illegal logging cases.
 - Exchange information and best practices on implementing measures to combat illegal logging and associated trade.
 - Conduct bilateral and regional technical exchanges on effective implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution

from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and other mutually agreed multilateral environmental agreements to which both countries are party.

- Promote region-wide involvement in environmental compliance and enforcement networks, including the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN), the wildlife enforcement working groups under the auspices of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE)-Seaport Environmental Security Network (SESN).

2) Protect wildlife and sustainably manage ecosystems and natural resources.

- Continue or expand existing technical exchanges within regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and elsewhere, including through regional training workshops, to facilitate a holistic fisheries management approach involving, inter alia, measures to promote sustainable fisheries; minimize bycatch; promote long-term conservation of species at risk such as sharks and marine mammals; address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; implement port state measures; improve support for science-based fisheries management; strengthen monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems; and develop robust data-collection and traceability systems for fish and fishery products.
- Participate in regional initiatives on preventing marine litter, in particular through APEC, ASEAN, and G20 initiatives aimed at recycling and environmentally sound management of waste. Enhance collaboration on cooperative activities with third countries, including exchanging information on priority aid projects.
- Facilitate exchanges between the two Governments and industry regarding the advancement of scientific knowledge and technologies related to environmentally sound aquaculture, including data exchange, information on regulatory systems, and enhanced disease detection and response measures.
- Collaborate in research and data-gathering related to the impact of ocean acidification.
- Participate in regional initiatives on preventing the spread of potential invasive alien species (IAS), including exchanging information related to eradicating, controlling, and preventing the transmission of IAS, practical decision-making tools for IAS management, evaluating the trade impacts of IAS, and preventing damage from ballast water.

- Conduct information exchange and dialogue about effective wildlife management, with an emphasis on the preservation of water birds (including birds that migrate between the United States and the Republic of Korea, and threatened and endangered species of birds) and their habitats, and habitat restoration, including, if appropriate, information exchanges on cooperative opportunities in furtherance of the Ramsar Convention.
 - Engage in technical exchanges on various aspects of protected area management, including cooperation on Healthy Parks/Healthy People, management effectiveness, visitor safety and management, search and rescue, and interpretation/environmental education.
- 3) **Strengthen environmental protection, improve air quality, and promote sustainability.**
- Collaborate on research and data-gathering related to the impacts of air pollution on regional air quality to better understand changes in composition and pollution trends, and build capacity to improve the scientific and applied use of data collected by both U.S. and Korean air quality and ocean color satellites (e.g. GOCI, GEMS, TEMPO, GOC1-2).
 - Collaborate and exchange information on air quality management, and seek opportunities to help officials in the Asia Pacific region improve air quality.
 - Collaborate and exchange information on marine litter and clean water and seek opportunities to protect oceans and coastal economies in the Asia Pacific.
 - Participate in regional efforts to monitor atmospheric mercury concentrations and develop monitoring and assessment capacity and best practices.
- 4) **Share best practices on the development and application of cleaner sources of energy, sustainable water technology, and the use of innovative environmental technology.**
- Further cooperate in advancing sustainable energy goals by participating in energy efficiency and green growth initiatives, as appropriate, through the OECD, APEC, and the G20.
 - Continue bilateral clean energy research and development under the DOE-MOTIE Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in the Area of Clean Energy Research and Technology.
 - Continue cooperation on energy efficiency, smart grids, and clean energy under the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), including further cooperation on smart grids through the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN), a CEM initiative and International Energy Agency Technology Cooperation Programme, and the APEC Smart Grid Initiative.

- Promote bilateral cooperation in the water technology through joint projects, exchange of visits of experts and scientists, joint research and development, etc.
- Promote regional cooperation in water management, including through the Asia Water Council.

III. Benchmarks, Monitoring, and Evaluation

As the Governments implement activities under the Work Program, they intend to identify performance indicators and benchmarks to measure progress in furthering the goals of these activities, and to facilitate public reporting of that progress. The Governments intend to encourage input from a variety of agencies and civil society groups regarding potential activities and evaluating the effectiveness of activities, and to make information on activities available to the public on a regular basis.