

# **Recommendations for Achieving Nature, Peace and Local Development in the DMZ and Adjoining Areas**

## **Framework For Action**

We the participants at the International Conference on Conservation and Peaceful Use of the Korean DMZ - Nature, Peace and Local Development, held at the DMZ Museum, Goseong, Republic of Korea, November 11-13, 2010 endorse in principle the elements of this *Framework for Action* as a mechanism for moving forward proposals to achieve the mutual objectives of conservation, sustainable use and peace in the DMZ.

In so doing we call upon the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK), working with international and domestic stakeholders, to adopt this *Framework for Action* to guide conservation and sustainable use efforts and to further secure the necessary financial and other resources toward this end.

International Conference on Conservation and Peaceful Use of the Korean DMZ, November, 2010. Goseong, Republic of Korea.

Hosted by Ministry of Environment, Gangwon Province, Gyeonggi Province, UNESCO, IUCN. Organized by Korea National Park Service, Gyeonggi Research Institute, Research Institute for Gangwon, Korea DMZ Peace Forum, IUCN (WCPA, ARO, Korean National Committee), Korean National Commission for UNESCO

## **A Framework for Action**

Ten guiding principles are put forward for the planning and implementation of future conservation and sustainable use actions in the DMZ and adjoining areas:

### **1. TOWARD A SHARED VISION FOR CONSERVATION AND PEACE IN THE DMZ**

A shared vision must be established through an inclusive and consultative process to embody the unique opportunity to use the DMZ as a tool for conservation and a symbol of peace and reconciliation, recognizing the diverse perspectives of all Korean people on the peninsula. This vision should be developed initially in the ROK and shared as early as possible with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The shared vision should be simple and consistently reinforced.

### **2. A DMZ MASTER PLAN FOR CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE USE**

To realize this vision a DMZ Conservation Master Plan on the conservation and sustainable use of the DMZ and adjoining areas should be prepared and coordinated by the ROK Government. To accommodate diverse conservation and other objectives a range of options should be employed across the DMZ and adjoining areas, taking into account existing proposals and initiatives. Decisions on which type of conservation option is best suited to differing parts of the DMZ should be based on a thorough understanding of the relative values of natural and cultural resources within the area.

Transboundary conservation and Peace Park proposals should not be advanced too far without acceptance from DPRK. However, it is important that a coherent plan is in place and sanctioned by the ROK Government and the ROK Government should be ready when rapid change take place on the peninsula. The Master Plan should be open and flexible to change as DPRK is progressively engaged.

### **3. ADOPTING A STEPWISE APPROACH TO ACHIEVE A LARGER VISION**

A stepwise approach must be taken to progressively implement action toward the broader vision initially in the ROK and subsequently in the DPRK. This could include establishing protected areas as defined by the range of IUCN categories; other protected landscapes and seascapes such as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves; ecological zones, and ecologically sustainable productive land-uses. For example this could include the proposed designation of new national parks across the southern portion of the DMZ to protect areas of high value and ensure conservation connectivity. Such an approach should consider regional balance in the Eastern, Central and Western Yellow Sea parts of the DMZ and adjoining areas.

Whilst opportunities to support transboundary conservation could be explored in a number of areas, it is logical to focus on a pilot Peace Park such as Kumgang – Seorak-san as part of the Baekdu Daegan Mountain System. This is further reinforced given the similarities between these two protected areas and the cooperation already established through the inter-Korean economic cooperation initiative.

#### **4. PEACE PARK FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT 평화공원 타당성 평가**

The feasibility of establishing pilot Peace Parks should be examined including consideration of conservation interventions in neighboring areas such as within the Civilian Control Zone (CCZ).

For example the feasibility of a specific Kumgang – Seorak-san Peace Park will need to address in detail a wide number of factors such as ensuring adequate baseline knowledge; legal and governance coordination frameworks; assessment of values and benefits; joint capacity building; strategies to mobilize the support of influential opinion makers, guide development of sustainable tourism, rationalize land tenure and achieve sustainable financing.

#### **5. TRANSPARENT, EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION THAT DRIVES CHANGE FROM DIFFERENT LEVELS**

A multi-pronged strategy should be used to further transboundary conservation, sustainable use and peace efforts in the DMZ. The approach should be a combination of site based approaches pursued in parallel with ongoing inter-Korean initiatives and high level advocacy for DMZ conservation and sustainable use. Opportunities should be explored to engage DPRK at all levels and at ongoing stages of the process.

Principles of inclusiveness, transparency and equity should guide the implementation of actions under the Master Plan. Input should be sought from a wide range of stakeholder groups including all levels of government and government departments across all sectors, academia, IGOs, NGOs, private sector, research institutes and local community groups. A multi stakeholder platform, such as the proposed Ministry of Environment DMZ Eco Leadership Centre, should be developed and play a leadership role to ensure coordination among all stakeholders.

## **6. ENGAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND EXPERTISE**

International experience and learning from transboundary conservation should be incorporated into proposals within the DMZ and adjoining areas. Expert input should be drawn from IUCN, UNESCO, UNEP, CBD Secretariat, Ramsar Secretariat and the World Bank.

Consideration should be given to engaging an international organization to facilitate and broker cooperation between ROK and DPRK.

## **7. SUPPORTING ROK LOCAL NEEDS**

A strong and evolving programme of communication with local communities should be developed in connection with conservation and sustainable use initiatives in the DMZ and adjoining areas to assist in improving human well-being. Initiatives should be developed that support and provide benefits for local people. Programmes should be developed to raise capacity, environmental

awareness and to create incentives for local people to support conservation and sustainable use. Programmes should also focus on reducing and eliminating the negative humanitarian and socio-economic impact of landmines.

## **8. SUPPORTING DPRK CAPACITY NEEDS**

A parallel approach should be taken to support the capacity needs of DPRK to a point where gradual engagement can occur in specific transboundary conservation proposals as and when appropriate. Similar programmes as noted above should also be developed for local communities in DPRK.

DPRK have a well-developed protected area system, however, the country faces many challenges regarding environmental degradation and human impact. Requests to support capacity development needs and engage DPRK with international best practice should be explored to build trust and to pave the way for future transboundary cooperation. Efforts should focus on study tours and exchange visits to expose DPRK protected area specialists to other examples of transboundary conservation cooperation.

## **9. TIMEFRAMES AND MILESTONES**

The Framework for Action including DMZ Conservation Master Plan and specific Kumgang – Seorak-san Peace Park initiatives will require the development of realistic timeframes. Planning and announcements should recognize milestone international event opportunities. For example the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress which will be hosted on Jeju Island in Korea and the 2014 VI<sup>th</sup> IUCN

World Parks Congress. Both events are relevant to these initiatives and the DMZ issue should be placed on the agendas of both to showcase significant progress.

## **10. AN ADAPTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

The nature of relationships between the two Koreas argues for a continuously adaptive approach to the Framework for Action. The approaches outlined above should not limit the need to change course in response to changing circumstances.