

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
South Korea: Traditional Rural Landscape “Maeul”			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC); Kaoru Ichikawa (UNU-IAS), ed.			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
Agriculture, secondary forest, abandonment			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>		March 2012	
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5448/SEPL_in_Asia_report_2nd_Printing.web.pdf		

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
Republic of Korea									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
https://www.google.com/maps/@35.7982131,125.6303186,7z									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other <i>(Please specify)</i>			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
While the northern part of South Korea, which extends from north to south, has a cold climate with little rain, the southern part, situated in the temperate zone, is warm and has a high rainfall regime affected by the ocean. Agricultural land accounts for about 18% of the national land, distributed mainly in the southwestern part of the country, and 60% of it is accounted for by paddy fields.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
In South Korean rural areas, land use is characterized by a mosaic of secondary forests, cultivated land, paddy fields, streams, irrigation ponds, and so forth, and such rural landscapes, including the settlements, are called “maeul”. The South Koreans have believed in <i>feng shui</i> since ancient times, and maeul is also strongly influenced by <i>Feng-Shui</i> theory.									

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	03/2012
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed</i>)			
This study was commissioned to be included in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia".			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study</i>)			
This chapter provides an overview the traditional "maeul" agricultural landscape of the Korean Peninsula.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Literature review, field observation.			
Results			
Due to the rise in demand for labor in the industrial sector during the period of economic growth that began in the 1960s, people moved from rural villages to urban areas, substantially reducing the agricultural population. The villagers as tourist home operators have economically benefited from the tourism boom, but the truth is that this has not yet contributed to a rise in income for the farmers.			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i>)			
As described above, traditional rural landscapes in South Korea are being lost due to industrialization, urbanization, government-led development, and other factors. The landscape consisting of mountains, terraced rice fields, private houses, terraced rice fields, and the sea arranged in this order was recognized as a rural landscape and traditional cultural resource.			
Key messages			
Even today, agricultural land in South Korea is continuing to decline mainly for such reasons as the conversion of agricultural land due to urbanization and industrialization and an increase in the area of cultivated land that is abandoned.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities (<i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i>)			
This case study originally appeared in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia". *This Summary Sheet was produced by UNU-IAS alone.			
Funding (<i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i>)			
This study was commissioned by UNU-IAS.			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	■					■			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
■							■	●	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

	■						■	
	■	■			■			