

NATIONAL REPORT
ON
UNCCD IMPLEMENTATION IN DPR KOREA

May, 2006

Pyongyang, DPR Korea

Table of Contents

1. Summary	1
2. National Plans and Strategies	3
2.1 National Socio-economic Development Policy and Plans	3
2.2 National Environmental Action Plans.....	4
2.3 National plans to combat land degradation	7
3. Institutional measures	10
3.1 Institutional arrangement.....	10
3.2 Legal Status	11
4. Participatory process in support of preparation of National Action Plan	14
5. Consultative process.....	16
6. Measures taken and planned to combat land degradation	17
7. Financial allocation	18
7.1 internal resources	18
7.2 external resources.....	19
8. Benchmark and indicators	20
9. Scientific and technical activities to combat land degradation	20
10. Conclusions.....	22
Annex: Proposal on organization of awareness raising study tour for the implementation of UNCCD NAP	23

Acronym/Abbreviations

ALGAS	Asia Least-cost Greenhouse-Gas Abatement Strategy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IMO	International Maritime Organization
LUPAM	Land use planning and management
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MLEP	Ministry of Land and Environment Protection
NAP	National Action Plan
NCCE	National Coordinating Committee on Environment
NCSA	National Capacity-needs Self-Assessment
RAP	Regional Action Plan(Programme)
RCU/UNCCD	Regional Coordinating Unit
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation Agency
SRAP	Sub-Regional Action Plan(Programme)
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP-CO	UNDP-Country Office
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Summary

Democratic People's Republic of Korea has ratified the UNCCD in December 2003 and is acting as a party to the convention since April 2004.

1.1 National Focal Point and lead implementing agency of UNCCD

The National Coordinating Committee on Environment (NCCE) is designated as a national focal point to UNCCD and the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry Industry are major agencies responsible for management of national land and natural resources and environmental protection.

Name of NFP: National Coordinating Committee on Environment (NCCE)
Address: Zhungsong-dong, Central District, Pyongyang City, DPR Korea
E-mail: ri.hyong.chol@undp.org
Tel: +85-02-3818370
Fax: +85-02-3814660
Contact Person: Mr. Kim Yun Hum

Name of lead implementing agency: Ministry of Land and Environment Protection
Address: Kwangbok-dong, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, DPR Korea
E-mail: guktodae@co.chesin.com
Tel:
Contact Person: Choi Sang Ho

1.2 National Action Programme to implement UNCCD.

The DPR Korea has prepared the final draft of NAP to implement UNCCD

This draft is subject to final review in validation workshop which will be held in June 2006. The NAP will be then submitted to the Cabinet for its adoption. Although the NAP is not enacted yet, the process of its preparation involving all relevant stakeholders since June 2005 contributed to the consideration of its contents in national and sectoral development plans and their implementation.

1.3 There are now 4 NGO type social organizations which take part in the process of NAP formulation and UNCCD implementation including KNCU and the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea.

1.4 There are a number of laws relating to the land degradation:

List of most relevant laws

No	Title of the law	Date of adoption
1	Land Law of DPRK	1979.4.29

2	Environmental Protection Law of DPRK	1986.4.9
3	Forest Law of DPRK	1992.12.11
4	Agricultural Law of DPRK	1998.12.18
5	Tideland Law of DPRK	

However, most of laws including those mentioned above have no direct relation to the purpose of UNCCD implementation since they were adopted ahead of it. Thus they have yet to be revised and updated by reflecting the concept, principles and provisions of UNCCD.

1.5 The consultative process

In relation to UNCCD implementation, there has been a consultative process with the GEF and UNEP within the framework of GEF OP15.

	Official title of partnership	Donor(s)/international organization(s)	Date of expected conclusion
1	Capacity building and Demonstration in Integrated Land Use Management	UNEP/GEF	Expected to be approved for implementation by 2006

List of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation

	Name of consultative meeting	Date/year	Donor countries involved	International organizations or agencies of UN system involved
1	National Awareness Workshop on the development of framework for NAP & UNCCD implementation	June 15~17/2005		UNCCD Secretariat
2	Capacity building and Demonstration in Integrated Land Use Management	October 9/2005		UNEP/GEF

1.6 List of projects currently under implementation which are directly or indirectly related to UNCCD

Name of project	Project implemented within	Timeframe	Partners involved	Overall budget
-----------------	----------------------------	-----------	-------------------	----------------

		the framework of ...			(US\$)
1	Suan Sloping Land Management project	Koeran-Swiss Agricultural Programme	2004~2006	Switzerland	300,000
2	Crop Rotation	〃	2005~2006	〃	120,000
3	Integrated Pest Management	〃	2005~2006	〃	400,000
4	Conservative farming	FAO	2006	FAO	1100,000
5	Improvement of Soil analysis and fertilization	Emergency support	2006		1,000,000
6	Sustainable rural development and integrated Agro-forestry management	〃	2006		2,000,000
7	Prevention of land degradation through cultivation of green manure crops	〃	2006		700,000~1,000,000
8	Agro-forestry and silvo-pastoral combined integrated land management	Korean-Swiss Agriculture Programme	2003~2006		300,000

2. National Plans and Strategies

2.1 National Socio-economic Development Policy and Plans

The DPR Korea is pursuing constantly the policy of socio-economic development which has a vision to build self-reliance national economy and socialist national culture relying mainly on its own resources.

The socio-economic development process of the country was, however, impeded by external pressure, repeated natural disasters and their resulting economic stagnancy since mid 1990s. And through the endeavours for last several years to revitalize the socio-economic development, there are now gradual improvement in economy and social development.

The overall strategic goal of the government is to build socialist powerful and prospering state by giving prior emphasises on key industrial sectors such as energy, agriculture while, at the same time, ensuring the improved environmental protection and sound cultural development.

The immediate objective of national development policy is to ensure the food security through rehabilitation of agricultural production and overcome the energy constraints in the near future of several years.

- Strategic direction by key economic sectors

- Set the priority of focus to the agriculture and concentrate all potential forces onto agricultural production;
- Decisively boost up the electricity, coal mining, metal industries and the railway transport sector;
- Lay a solid material and technical basis as well as increase the production in mining-, machinery-, chemical-, building materials industries and forestry;
- Promote the light industry, construction of public and dwelling houses;
- Mobilize the whole public mass in land and environment protection management and convert the country to the socialist fairy landscape.

- Strategic direction of socialist cultural development

- Bring about a new turn in educational work;
- Promote the scientific and technical revolution to solve the scientific and technical issues raised in the process of building powerful and prosperous state;
- Reinforce the public health services and develop rapidly the medical sciences;
- Promote the development of literature and art, preserve and further develop the cultural traditions and good manners and customs of the nation;
- Actively unfold the mass cultural activities and popular physical culture/sports;
- Establish in the whole society the habits of book-reading and manage the streets and villages in a modernized and cultured way.

Based on these strategy and plans, the government is developing now both the energy development strategy and agricultural development strategy. The other sectors are also going to prepare their strategic development plans.

2.2 National Environmental Action Plans

2.2.1 Global environmental agreements and national obligations

The DPR Korea is committed to the global environmental protection and sustainable development by joining the multilateral environmental agreements. The government has signed the UNCBD and UNFCCC in June 1992 and became membership to these conventions since October. 1994. It has ratified the UNCCD in December 2003, joint to the convention in April 2004.

And recently it also acceded to the Kyoto Protocol related to climate change and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Following to the accession to multilateral environmental agreements, the government has made efforts to fulfill its obligations by implementing a number of commitments; for example, prepared and submitted to relevant international agencies the ALGAS report, first national communication to UNFCCC, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), UNCBD first national report and national SoE report.

2.2.2 The “DPRK's National Action Plan for Implementation of Agenda 21”

The “DPRK's National Action Plan for Implementation of Agenda 21” which was adopted in May 1993 highlighted the following points related to land management;

-Use and management of land resources

- ① Establishment of land resources protection management center for the effective and sustainable management of land resources.
- ② Consolidation of national institutional system for the comprehensive assessment and effective utilization of land resources.
- ③ Strengthening of research and studies related to land resources.
- ④ Improvement of public awareness, training and education on conservation of land resources and encouragement of public participation including women and youth in the protective management of land resources.
- ⑤ Establishment of regular communication and information sharing related to land management
- ⑥ Promotion of technical transfer and international cooperation.

-deforestation

- ① Multipurpose forest management to increase the multiple functions and services of forest ecosystems
- ② Curb deforestation and rehabilitate the degraded forest lands.
- ③ Improvement of productivity of forest lands.
- ④ Capacity enhancement of forest management planning.

-Management of fragile ecosystems, combating deforestation and droughts

- ① Introduction of drought resistant tree species and establishment of irrigation system.
- ② Establishment of protective forests in coastal and drought prone areas.
- ③ Development and use of non-combustible renewable energy sources.
- ④ Build up of databases.

-Promotion of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

The actions envisaged in the national agenda 21 couldn't satisfactorily be brought into practice because of the economic difficulties and repeated natural disasters in mid 1990s.

2.2.3 Climate change and biodiversity

The Asia Least-cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy or ALGAS project and the Initial National Communication which were implemented in the late 1990s within UNFCCC addressed strategic issues related to agriculture and forest sectors.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan(NBSAP) and first National Report on CBD implementation which were terminated by 1998 proposed strategic plans for rehabilitating degraded forest lands and conserving the agricultural biodiversity.

The relevant topics from the reports above are as follows;

In the climate change action plans;

- Capacity building in planning and sustainable management of the forests
- Protective and sustainable forest management
- Strengthening of public awareness raising , education and training related to forest management
- Reduction of methane emission from rice paddy fields
- Introduction of non-combustable renewable energy sources and enhancement of the efficiency of fuel combustion in rural areas

In the biodiversity action plan;

- Establishment, expansion and management improvement of the protected areas
- Rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems
- Forestry development from the point of view of biodiversity conservation
- Protection of agricultural biodiversity and development of material circulating agriculture
- Sustainable medical plants cultivation
- Control of pollutions threatening to biodiversity.

2.2.4 National Capacity Building Action Plan for Implementation of global environmental conventions.

The DPRK Action Plan on capacity building for implementation of multilateral global environmental conventions developed at the end of NCSA project(2004-2005) has set the following cross-cutting priority areas of capacity building; 1) Improvement of national institutional framework for the implementation of Rio Conventions; 2) Strengthening of international exchange and cooperation for the technical transfer in environmental field; 3) Strengthening the capacity of integrated watershed management and its demonstration; 4) Improvement of infrastructure for knowledge and information collection, dissemination and sharing in environmental field; 5) Training of experts and capacity building of reeducation in the field of environment; 6) Public awareness raising on Rio Conventions.

For the area of land degradation, the priorities of capacity development identified are;

- a) Demonstration of integrated, community-based land management and rational, sustainable use of natural resources in rural areas
- b) Strengthening of institutional capacity for the development and implementation of National Action Plan and its regular update in accordance with the UNCCD requirements
- c) Capacity building for the establishment of integrated database and information sharing in relation to the land degradation
- d) Technical transfer and demonstration of advanced sustainable farming methods

including eco-farming to prevent degradation of agricultural lands while ensuring the safe and sustained agricultural production to meet the food demands

- e) Establishment and operation of training/awareness center on land degradation and sustainable land management to promote public awareness and dissemination of advanced technologies
- f) Demonstration of solving energy problems and improving livelihood in rural areas through introduction of new energy sources including solar and wind energies
- g) Capacity-building for establishing early-warning systems and pre-responsive action plan to encounter with flood and drought

<conclusions>

- It might be important to build technical and financial capacities to support the implementation of various national action plans developed.

2.3 National plans to combat land degradation

Recent government policy and plans related to land management and prevention of land degradation are as follows.

The DPRK Cabinet has adopted in May 2003 the resolution on strengthening the management of mountains and rivers and is promoting its execution.

The main contents of the resolution are;

- To prevent the deforestation and forest degradation and realize the reforestation and greening of the whole country,
- To improve the river and stream management,
- To Promote the public participation in land management activities,
- To strengthen the scientific research and studies on mountains and river management as well as on forest sciences,
- To improve the state leadership and reinforce the supervision and control on the land management practices.

During last few years, the government has adopted several laws such as land development planning law, tideland law, meteorological law, environmental impact assessment law and the law on pollution control of Taedong River to consolidate the legal environment supporting the prevention of land degradation.

After ratification of UNCCD, the government has drafted National Action Plan (NAP) to combat the land degradation. The NAP draft has set strategical orientation and focuses on the capacity building and demonstration in addressing the land degradation for the timeframe of 2006-2010.

In the process of NAP preparation a number of stakeholders including Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forest Industry at the level of central governmental organization, and local agencies, scientific institutions and social organizations were participated.

The strategic goal of the NAP are as follows;

- 1) Development and implementation of rationale and sustainable land use and management plan which harmoniously keeps the balance between forestry-agriculture(including livestock breeding)-water resources,
- 2) Encouragement of public participation for enhancement of ecological, economic and social values of all land resources,
- 3) The rehabilitation of degraded lands in combination with the sustainable rural development, and
- 4) The managerial and technical capacity building for monitoring and assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management.

Immediate objective (2006~2010)

- 1) To lay basis for integrated and sustainable land management at national and local levels through the capacity building activities, and
- 2) To promote the technical transfer and dissemination on preventing land degradation and implementing the sustainable land management in order to increase the effectiveness of rehabilitation activities of degraded lands and land management practices.

The NAP consists of two parts; i) capacity building, and ii) sectoral and cross-sectoral technical transfer and dissemination. (see table below)

Capacity building	sectoral and cross-sectoral technical transfer and dissemination		
	Forestry	Agriculture	Cross-sectoral
1. capacity building at national level ➤ public awareness raising, education and training ➤ build up GIS-based information and database for assessment and monitoring of land degradation process and information exchange ➤ creation of enabling environment for sustainable land management ➤ foster the scientific researches and studies on preventing land	3. development and dissemination of technologies in rehabilitation of degraded forests and establishment of firewood forests ➤ assessment of degraded forest lands and identification of rehabilitation technologies ➤ rehabilitation of degraded forest lands through reforestation ➤ rehabilitation of degraded forest lands through assisted natural regeneration ➤ development and dissemination of agro-forestry technologies 4. prevention of forest land degradation through sustainable forest management	6. introduction and dissemination of conservation farming technologies in sloping arable lands ➤ introduction and dissemination of conservation farming methods in sloping dry fields ➤ soil and water conservation in sloping orchards 7. technical transfer and dissemination	8. technical transfer of watershed management approach for integrated and sustainable land management ➤ survey and assessment of watershed areas and identify priorities ➤ demonstration of participatory watershed management ➤ technical transfer of watershed management

<p>degradation</p> <p>➤ active participation in international cooperation related to land degradation</p> <p>2. capacity building at local level</p> <p>➤ capacity strengthening of cooperative farm management committees in land management</p> <p>➤ capacity strengthening of county-level forest management boards in forest management</p> <p>➤ capacity strengthening of industrial forest management boards in forest management</p>	<p>➤ formulation of national forest programme and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management</p> <p>➤ sustainable management of industrial forests</p> <p>➤ community-based forest management approach</p> <p>➤ development and dissemination of multi-purpose forest management approaches</p> <p>5. improvement of management of eco-environmental protection forests and protected areas</p> <p>➤ improvement of setting protection forests and their management techniques</p> <p>➤ improvement of setting protected areas and their management techniques</p>	<p>of eco-farming and organic farming methods in plain agricultural lands</p> <p>➤ introduction of eco-farming methods in plain arable lands</p> <p>➤ introduction of organic farming methods in plain arable lands</p>	<p>monitoring</p> <p>9. technical transfer for disaster reduction management</p> <p>➤ risk analysis against natural disasters</p> <p>➤ strengthening of technical capacities for hydro-meteorological forecasting and early warning system</p> <p>➤ development of disaster preparedness and response strategy and action plan</p>
---	--	---	--

The priorities of international cooperation for implementing the NAP are as follows;

1. Establishment of GIS-based, integrated national database on land use and management and development of strategy and action plan for sustainable land management
2. technical transfer and dissemination of technologies in rehabilitating the degraded forest lands and establishing sustainable firewood forests,
3. technical transfer of sloping land management and agro-forestry technologies,
4. strengthening of capacity of cooperative farm management committee in sustainable arable land management and its demonstration,
5. technical transfer and demonstration of watershed management approach (capacity building and demonstration in participatory watershed management and sustainable rural development)
6. development of national forest programme and demonstration of capacity building of county-level forest management boards and industrial forest management boards,
7. capacity building in early warning system related to disaster reduction and preparation of response plan
8. public awareness raising on combating land degradation and human resources development

<Conclusions>

- The international consultation is important and much appreciable in effective implementation of the NAP under the condition of programme prepared.
- The first project related to CCD, namely the “land use planning and management (LUPAM)” project which was developed through PDF-A, needs to be approved by international agencies and implemented as soon as possible.

3. Institutional measures

3.1 Institutional arrangement

In the activities to prevent land degradation are involved not only the main governmental land management or supervisory authorities but also all stakeholders, who utilize, directly or indirectly, the land resources, and the public.

- The government established National Coordinating Committee on Environment(NCCE) in 1994 to coordinate national activities related to global environmental issues including the liaison with GEF, etc.

NCCE is composed of representatives from concerned ministries and scientific institutions such as Ministry of Land and Environment Protection(MLEP), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forest Industry, Ministry of City Management, Ministry of Electricity and Coal Mining Industry, Ministry of Road and Marine Transport, Ministry of Fishery and the State Hydrometeorological Administration. It has also standing secretary.

The NCCE is the coordinating body and, at the same time, national focal point in implementing the national obligations to UNCCD.

After accession to UNCCD, the government has taken measures to strengthen the existing institutions and their functions in land management and related international cooperation.

- The Ministry of Land and Environment Protection(MLEP) created on 23 October 1962 is a main governmental authority responsible for management and supervision of county's natural and environmental resources. The MLEP, with its branches at province and county level, plays important role in policy making, legislation and its enforcement related to natural resources and environmental management. There include in its obligation the development of land use master plan, allocation of natural resources among stakeholders and supervision, environmental monitoring and controlling. By dealing with the management and use of land and environmental resources including forest, land, water, coastal areas as well as the pollution issues, it contributes to the sustainable development of the country. The MLEP plays the role of secretariat in implementing the UNCCD.
- Governmental agencies much concerned with the land use and management are Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forest Industry. There are arable land supervisory department and

forest department in Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forest Industry respectively to deal with the land degradation.

- There are several scientific institutions related to land management under State Academy of Sciences, Academy of Agricultural Sciences and MLEP, respectively, and they are in particular the Institute of Geography, Institute of Remote Sensing and Geometrics, Institute of Soil Sciences, Forest management Institute, Land Development Planning Institute and Environmental Protection Institute.

The State Hydrometeorological Administration has also scientific institutions associated with water resources such as Hydrological Institute and Meteorological Institute.

Under the coordination by NCCE and via the secretariat's services, there have been linkage and collaboration established to some extent between scientific institutions to share knowledge and information on land degradation and related issues, contributing to enhancing their roles and laying important foundation for further partnership in implementing the CCD-NAP.

- The relevant social organizations in DPR Korea are the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea and the Korea Nature Conservation Union. They have all their members in every sectors and stakeholder agencies related to land and are focusing on the awareness raising among them. In particular, the Korea Nature Conservation Union has subordinate associations such as land protection association, forest protection association and water conservation association, etc. to promote the public awareness raising and dissemination of technologies and best practices on preventing land degradation. Their involvement in CCD implementation activities process are being encouraged since the membership to the convention.
- The scientific and technical advisory group (STAG) on combating land degradation is now under organization and the working group on NAP and national reporting involving representative experts from stakeholder agencies is taking the role of STAG for the time being.

<Conclusions>

- It is necessary to establish the national coordinating body and strengthen the capacities and functions of key agencies.

- There are now technical and financial constraints facing the institutional capacity.

Especially, it needs primarily to undertake the technical training for coordinating body and secretariat members. The contents of the training may include the coordinating skill, strategy and action planning, development, monitoring and evaluation of the project, etc.

3.2 Legal Status

There are a number of laws related to land management in DPR Korea.

The list of major relevant laws is given below;

No	Title of the law	Date of adoption
1	DPRK Land Law	April 29, 1977
2	↗ Environmental Protection Law	April 9, 1986
3	↗ Land Development Planning Law	March 27, 2002
4	↗ Forest Law	December 11, 1992
5	↗ Law on Agriculture	December 18, 1998
6	↗ Law on Water Resources	June 18, 1997
7	↗ Law on River and Streams	November 27, 2002
8	↗ Law on Protection of Scenic Spots and Natural Monuments	December 13, 1995
9	↗ Law on Fruit Culture	December 4, 2002
10	↗ Law on Fishery	January 18, 1995
11	↗ City Planning Law	March 5, 2003
12	↗ Law on City Management	January 29, 1992
13	↗ Land Lease Law	October 27, 1993
14	↗ Law on Management of Capital City Pyongyang	November 26, 1998
15	↗ Law on Kumgansan Tourism Area	November 13, 2002
16	↗ Law on Ra-Son Economic Trade Zone	January 31, 1993
17	↗ Law on Kaesong Industrial Area	November 20, 2002
18	↗ Tideland Law	July 20, 2005
19	↗ Civil Law	September 5, 1990

The most important laws are as follows;

1) DPRK Land Law

The DPRK Land Law was elaborated personally by Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and adopted on April 29, 1977 by Supreme Peoples Assembly. The law specifies the provisions on land tenure, land development master planning, land protection and development as well as on the management and supervision of land resources.

The law stipulates a number of provisions regarding the protection, management and use of land resources, in particular, it specifies on; survey and inventory of forest resources, rivers and streams; their management and procedures of their development; land protection against environmental pollutions; completion of irrigation system in agriculture; the general principles and procedures in development and use of land resources including road and industrial constructions and settlement area development; integration of land development and protection into land development master plan and; public participation in land management activities.

2) The DPRK Environmental Protection Law was adopted on April 9, 1986 in Ordinance No.5 of Supreme People's Assembly.

The law specifies on the basic principles of environmental protection, preservation and promotion of natural environment, environmental pollution and its control measures.

3) The DPRK Land Development Planning Law was adopted on March 27, 2002 in Ordinance No. 12 of Supreme People's Assembly

Based on the definition that land development plan is an integrated, comprehensive and prospective plan aiming at managing the land and environmental resources in a strategic way, the law describes about the provisions on the principles of land planning procedures and methodologies. The law stipulated that the land development planning/activities should take into consideration the following principles of, namely, the preservation of existing arable land resources; promotion of reforestation and stream/river management to protect the land resources; avoidance of development of oversized urban areas; consideration of local specific climate and natural conditions and; the prevention and improved management of environmental damages.

4) The DPRK Forest Law was adopted on December 11, 1992 in Ordinance No. 9 of Supreme People's Assembly.

The forest law provides general regulations on forest resources management comprising definition of forest land resources, reforestation/afforestation, protection and use of forest land resources.

In the law, the forest lands are classified into five forest types, e.g, the special protection forests, common protected forests, timber production forests, forests with economic value and firewood forests. The law stipulates that the forest lands should be managed based on forest development master plan and according to each classified forest types, the public participation should be encouraged in reforestation and forest protection activities and etc.

5) The DPRK Law on Agriculture was adopted on December 18, 1998 in Decree No. 290 of Standing Committee of Supreme People's Assembly.

The agricultural law has the provisions on the diversified development of agriculture, completion of irrigation system and its management, protection of agricultural lands against natural disasters and on the prevention of land degradation.

6) The DPRK Water Resources Law and Law on Rivers and Streams

The water resources law was adopted on June 18, 1997 in Resolution No. 86 of Standing Committee of Supreme People's Assembly and the law on rivers and stream adopted on November 27, 2002 in Decree No. 3436 of Standing Committee of Supreme People's Assembly, respectively.

Water resources law deals with the survey, development, conservation and use of water

resources, in particular, includes provisions that water resources should be preserved through nationwide and public involvement, the good quality and enough quantity of water resources should be conserved to make effective use for human life without any loss of them.

The river and stream law classifies the rivers and streams of the country into large-, medium- and small sized ones, stipulates regulations on river treatment, procedures and methodologies of river management. It addresses the following issues such as; the construction, conservation, embankment and use of centrally and locally managed rivers and streams, the distribution system of responsibilities for managing rivers, identification of flood prone areas and urban and agricultural land protection projects to improve the water management in those areas, etc.

In addition, other laws including land lease law, city management law, road law, underground resources law, etc, have also been enacted to contribute legally to the sustainable land management.

On the other hand, the land management policies of the country are also reflected in the presidential orders.

The Presidential Order No. 1 entitled “on the reinforcement of the nature conservation activities” dated July 26, 1973, put emphasis on the following issues; the preservation and improved management of forest resources through public participation; the construction and management of rivers and streams for safeguarding the land resources; proper selection of nature reserves, animal reserves, plant reserves, sea-bird reserves and marine resources protected areas in order to conserve the animal and plant resources; reinforcement of scientific researches and studies related to nature conservation of the country and; strengthening of awareness raising to promote the public participation in nature conservation activities.

Another one was the “Rules on protection and proliferation of marine resources” issued by Presidential Order No. 7 on October 24 1976.

It specifies the regulations on; controlling and checking the release of waste mucks from coal and mineral mining into rivers and seas; the protection of rivers and seas from pollution by various toxic substances and; prohibition of uncontrolled extraction of aquatic resources from rivers and seas.

There are also others including the order on reinventory and proper management of land areas.

<Conclusions>

- The laws mentioned above have been adopted previously to the country’s accession to the UNCCD, thus they lack to reflect the contents and requirements of the convention and needs further improvement and revision.

4. Participatory process in support of preparation of National

Action Plan

The preparation of National Action Plan (NAP) has been started since June 2005 in DPR Korea.

The NAP preparation has been proceeded with involvement of relevant governmental administrative agencies, scientific institutions and social organizations.

The National Awareness Workshop on the development of framework for NAP & UNCCD implementation held between 15~17 June 2005 with the support from Asia RCU/UNCCD had provided important opportunity for the participation of various actors concerned.

For the organization of national workshop a preparatory working group consisting of 5 persons was created. In the workshop, the status of country's land degradation and government policies on land management were discussed and stakeholder agencies involved identified.

The workshop has produced scheduled plan for formulating the NAP and has made necessary assignments and arrangement including the establishment of working group consisting of 7 representative experts from different stakeholder agencies.

The active and key actors in the process of NAP preparation have been Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Ministry of Forest Industry, State Hydrometeorological Administration and State Statistic Bureau.

The NAP preparation working group has gathered, compiled, analysed the data necessary for NAP preparation through consultation with various central and local stakeholder agencies.

Consultation topics included i) the status of land degradation of the country, review and check of data gathered; ii) defining the scope and frame of NAP and its contents and; iii) identification of priorities of action and priority project proposals. The consultation processes included the working group meetings, sectoral and synergic consultations. Once the NAP draft was elaborated, there was a preliminary meeting on organization of final validation workshop on NAP and reached consensus on the NAP contents. In the coming June 2006, the National NAP Validation Workshop is expected to be convened (also expected the participation from Asia RCU/UNCCD) to agree finally the NAP.

<Conclusions>

- The Ministry of Land and Environment Protection which has the responsibility on the management and supervision of natural and environmental resources overall the country has taken the lead in operation of NAP preparation working group and increased the effectiveness of stakeholder participation.
- Among stakeholder agencies, the focus was mainly given on key land management and use agencies and less attention was paid to other land use sectors.
- It is necessary to provide trainings to the working group members in order to enhance their skill and techniques in promoting the participatory process.

5. Consultative process

Most of the consultation processes in implementing national environmental action plans is coordinated by NCCE.

The NCCE conducts itself the consultations with relevant international environmental agencies and also consultation with UNDP-CO Country Programme.

There are also opportunities for consultation on bilateral cooperation.

As the NAP is now under preparation, it is apparent not to pay attention on the consultation process in support of the implementation of the NAP. However, after adoption of GEF OP15 in relation to UNCCD implementation, concept papers on preventing land degradation and implementation of integrated sustainable land management were prepared and submitted to UNEP, and based on them, UNEP has approved project development grants for PDF-A prodoc on Capacity building and Demonstration in Integrated Land Use Management. Based on this, the consultation process on PDF-A project development was made with success. However the project document developed through PDF-A is yet to be approved by UNEP.

The National Awareness Workshop on the development of framework for NAP & UNCCD implementation has provided important opportunity of consultative process in support of UNCCD implementation.

Although the workshop was not aimed at seeking the donors, it played positive role in laying foundation of international consultations through promotion of the NAP preparation and priority project development processes.

There was consultation with UNDP Country Office between January 18~20 2006, on the priority cooperation areas for the formulation of UNDP-DPRK Country Programme.

The consultation process considered the environmental issues as one of four priority areas of cooperation for the period of 2007~2009, and they are;

- improvement of environmental legislation and awareness raising on environment (donor agency: UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO)
- improvement of waste/pollutants management (donor agencies: UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO)
- improvement of ecosystem management (donor agencies: UNEP, UNESCO, IMO, FAO, UNDP-GEF)

There was also consultation with Switzerland in relation to preventing land degradation, even though it was proceeded outside the context of UNCCD or NAP implementation process.

Through the consultation with Swiss Development Cooperation Agency(SDC) the Koeran-Swiss Agricultural Programme was developed and the third phase of its programme (2005-2006) is now under implementation. The total investment budget accounts for about 1.5 million €. The Korean-Swiss Agricultural Programme includes the projects addressing land degradation such as Suan Sloping Land Management project, Crop Rotation project in agricultural lands and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project.

<Conclusions>

- the consultative processes in support of NAP preparation and UNCCD implementation were not enough and needs to be activated further.
- it is necessary to seek not only GEF sources but further the multilateral and bilateral funding sources including Global Mechanisms(GM).

6. Measures taken and planned to combat land degradation

As being a membership to UNCCD since April 2004, the DPR Korea has prepared its National Action Plan draft which expects to be validated in June 2006.

Therefore, it is difficult, at present, to review on the NAP implementation activities.

However, the NAP reflects the ongoing relevant activities pursuing the government policies set previously.

The main relevant activities are as follows;

6.1 Mountains and river management and realization of reforestation and greening of the whole country.

The deforestation is one of the main causes of land degradation in DPR Korea.

In this context, the government's policy for prevention of deforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests is to strengthen the improved mountain and river management and realize the reforestation and greening of the whole country. To implement this policy, the government launched general turn-out campaigns for land management monthly in spring and autumn every year. As a result of this effort, 130,000 ha of degraded forest lands are reforested annually, 900km of water courses are repaired and stabilized, and the capacity of producing annually 1 billion tree seedlings was created.

6.2 Measures to achieve the agriculture/food security against land degradation and droughts

The land degradation of agricultural lands occurs mainly in the form of erosion, drought, floods and water logging.

- The government pays great attention to tackling the constraints of water supplying for rice farming.

Entering the new millennium, the national projects to construct natural flowing water courses between Kaechon-Taesong Lake and Paekma-Cholsan were implemented, respectively, creating irrigation capacity for 130,000 ha of arable lands and, thus, contributing to the safe agricultural production.

- The government makes efforts to introduce conservation farming in order to prevent the soil erosion and ensure the safe food production.

The introduction of conservation farming methods in about 100,000 ha of sloping agricultural lands for 2~3 years are planned to be implemented as a national project. For the year of 2006, the 30,000ha will be allocated for the pilot testing.

- However, the weak technical and financial basis makes it difficult the wider replication of sustainable land management techniques and practices such as establishment of sustainable firewood forest, development of rural energy sources, organic farming and eco-farming methods. In addition, the eco-lag effects is one of the factors that hinders the rapid transfer of new technologies introduced in few project sites.

<Conclusions>

- The government policy and measures could strongly support the implementation of the NAP following its approval.
- It is necessary to strengthen coordination and review of implementation of the NAP after its approval.

7. Financial allocation

The financing mechanism is a critical matter in implementing the NAP.

7.1 internal resources

The financial budget of DPRK is divided in central and local budgets

The fund resources for UNCCD and NAP implementation will be also raised from central and local budgets.

In the past the activities to address the land degradation were financially supported largely by central budget while the local budgets at provincial and county levels also contributed significantly.

Recently, with its increasing concern on the land management activities, the government has set general turn-out campaign month for land management in spring and autumn every year and invested large amount of funds for the land management activities including reforestation and river and stream treatments.

For example, about 1.5 billion Won (US\$10 million) for forest rehabilitation, 800 million Won (US\$ 5million) for rivers and stream management and 2.5 billion Won (US\$16 million) for land readjustment and construction of irrigation water courses have been allocated each year from central budget.

There was also investment for introducing conservation farming methods in agricultural sector.

Regarding the local budget, the land management and planning agencies at provincial and county levels design their land management projects and finance them in a planned way and considering their own specific conditions.

The local budget allocation related to same activity items mentioned above is estimated to be about 4.5 billion Won (equals to US\$ 30million).

Considering the nature of land management, the government makes effort to increase the funding and its cost effectiveness, thus to promote the interests and participation of local agencies and residents.

7.2 external resources

The international resources are yet to be sought for the implementation of the NAP for combating the land degradation.

It is reasonable to attribute it to the fact that the NAP is not validated yet and the consultative process with the international agencies was not proceeded satisfactorily, but it is also noteworthy to relate it to the limited international resources because of the restriction on the accession to international financial mechanisms including World Bank and Asian Development Bank. In particular, the external pressure creates a bottleneck in smooth cooperation with international communities as well as bilateral cooperation and financial investment.

Currently, the potential international fund raising sources are;

- UNEP/GEF – GEF has provided US\$ 25,000 PDF-A grants for developing the project “Capacity building and Demonstration in Integrated Land Use Management”. The prodoc was now submitted to GEF for approval, and once approved, US\$ 800,000 would be available for the implementation of this capacity building project.

- UNDP – UNDP CO has prepared Country programme of support for the period 2007-2009 and it includes the environmental management issues. Some amount of this support fund could be available for addressing land degradation.

- The Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC) provides assistance within the framework of Korean-Swiss Agricultural Programme. About 200,000~230,000 € on average per year are allocated for the context of land degradation. Among the budget for the cooperation plan 2007-2009 which is expected to be finalized within this year, certain funds would be available.

- UN Food and Agricultural Organization(FAO) provides cooperation funds for the agriculture and forest sectors, some proportion of them are allocated to land degradation issues.

- As the implementation process of UNCCD has the close relationship with other global environmental agreements such as UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, UNCBD, etc, the development and implementation of the projects under those conventions would also contribute more or less to addressing land degradation. For example, the medium sized capacity building project entitled “Operational Methodologies and Tools for Global Environment Management in DPR Korea” includes activities related to land degradation.

<Conclusions>

- The funding sources for addressing land degradation is quite limited due to the weak internal financial capacities and narrowed access to external sources.
- It needs more efforts to seek and raise fund resources and at the same time to take measures for effective resource flows and disbursement.

8. Benchmark and indicators

The benchmark and indicators are not yet correctly established in DPRK. The government has institutionalized monitoring and evaluation, and taking measures to improve the process of reviewing the results of general turn out campaign for land management which are launched in every spring and autumn. The cycle of review is 1 year. The indicators are results against plans. Representatives from relevant control and land institutions are participating in the process of monitoring and evaluation. Advantageous units used to receive various incentives according to results in review process.

In agriculture sector, survey and analysis of soils in arable lands are implemented according to 4~5 years cycle which contribute to further improvements of measures. On the other hand, the government is auditing land use status through reporting from local land management authorities every year round.

In forestry sector, forest resource assessment is launched in every 10 years which contribute to improvement of forest management.

There is now attempt to develop unified benchmark and indicators for assessment of status of land degradation of the country.

<Conclusion>

- Regular assessment on land degradation is necessary and an important component in environment monitoring and evaluation of the country. So development of benchmark and indicators is immediate task
- Social participation should be provided in the assessment of land degradation and it may be utilized as an opportunity for public awareness raising and knowledge dissemination.
- It needs to strengthen information and communication system related to the status of land degradation of the country and its rehabilitation.

9. Scientific and technical activities to combat land degradation

The NAP(draft) covers scientific research activities such as capacity building of soil research of Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Academy of Forest Sciences, and development of multidisciplinary researches to combat land degradation. It also includes application of

Geographical Information System, risk assessment against natural hazards, technological strengthening of early warning system and development of benchmark and standards in combating land degradation to enhance the role of scientific institutions in the field of sustainable land management. On the other hand, the participation of scientific institutions is considered as prerequisite in implementation of plans or projects related to sustainable agriculture and sustainable forest management.

The NAP including such scientific and technological activities will be submitted to State Academy of Sciences and integrated into National Scientific and Technological Development Plan. Although the NAP draft is still not validated, several topics of land degradation issue included in the NAP are registered and implemented as research project at national and ministry levels. There are scientific research activities in various scientific institutions related to land degradation.

The Institute of Soil Science under the Academy of Agricultural Sciences implemented projects such as fertility improvement of sloping land by soil erosion control, fertility improvement of pasture land and soil erosion control in various site conditions as national project and are applying the results into practices. Now the institute is implementing a study on land degradation prevention by application of conservation farming in arable lands as national project.

The Forest Management Institute under the Academy of Forest Sciences and the Central Forest Design and Technical Institute are implementing study on major river basin management as national project, the Institute of Geography under the State Academy of Sciences conducts study on rational use of sloping land, and the Environmental Protection Institute deals with the study on preventing soil contamination. The Meteorological Institute and the Hydrological Institute under the State Hydro-meteorological Administration is strengthening hydro-meteorological observation, implementing scientific research activities on enhancing correctness of observation and forecasting, assessment of climate change, long-term forecasting. On the other hand, research project is implemented to mitigate natural hazards frequently caused by climate change and socio-economic activities. But the research level is not high due to the lack of technology, finance and equipment.

<Conclusions>

- Scientific research activities are mainstreamed to National Scientific and Technological Development Plan as national projects. These activities mainly include soil erosion control, water resources conservation and mitigation of natural hazards, which are harmonized with requirements of UNCCD.
- These activities, due to lack of technical and financial capacities, are not covering assessment of over-all land degradation status of the country, establishment of data base and information system, benchmark and indicators, etc.

- There needs strengthening the researches on early warning system and preparedness measures.
- It is important that scientific research activities are linked with SRAP/RAP Process.

10. Conclusions

- UNCCD NAP (draft) is prepared and will be soon validated.
- It needs to give priority to institutional capacity building under the framework of NAP
 - Improved and strengthened NCB and its enhanced function is needed
 - Technical training for personal in major land management institutions is needed
- It is important to actively participate in SRAP/RAP process and have national activities compatible with international strategy to combat land degradation
- It is also important to accelerate development and implementation of international assistance projects through strengthened multilateral/bilateral consultations.

It is, at hand, recommended that the developed project of capacity building and demonstration for integrated land use management (LUPAM-Land use planning and management) is immediately endorsed from international agencies and implemented.

Annex: Proposal on organization of awareness raising study tour for the implementation of UNCCD NAP

1. Objective

The objective is to contribute to the implementation of national obligation on UNCCD through multi- sectoral awareness raising to strengthen institutional capacity building for NAP implementation.

2. Contents to study

Institutional arrangement and its capacity building for NAP implementation

Mainstreaming into national development plan/programme

Baseline and indicators in action to combat land degradation

Multilateral/bilateral cooperation

Activities in SRAP/RAP

3. Number of visitors and its composition

Number: 6 persons

4. Tentative time and duration

Time: October, 2006

Duration: 10 days or two weeks

5. Tentative country: China

6. Estimated budget: 13,000 US\$