

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL**

Country:	Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea
Project Title:	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Report to the COP
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Country Eligibility:	Convention ratified 26 October 1994
GEF Financing:	US \$ 299,250
GEF Implementing Agency:	UNDP
National Executing Agency:	National Coordinating Committee for the Environment (NCCE)
GEF Operational Focal Point:	NCCE
CBD Focal Point:	Ministry of Land and Environment Protection (MLEP)
Estimated Starting Date:	February 1997
Project Duration:	11 Months

Background:

1. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) occupies an area of 122,762.338 sq. km in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. The DPRK encompasses a wide range of bio-geographic variations. 80 % of the country is mountainous and steep while most of the flat terrain is found on the western side with large plains such as the Pyongyang. DPRK has a long coastline with a total length of 2,495 km which includes numerous inlets, coves and intertidal flats (DPRK Mission Report, 1994). The DPRK joins the Asian mainland in the north where its borders with China and the Russian Federation are delineated by the Amnok and the Tuman rivers.

2. The range of bio-geographic variations in DPRK have in turn created a diverse flora and fauna. So far 8,785 species of plants have been recorded of which 401 are endemic, and 900 species have been identified as having medicinal uses. Limited field studies confirm the presence of at least 1,434 species of vertebrae and 7,788 species of invertebrates as well as approximate 410 species of birds, including large populations of internationally protected species which use the Korean Peninsula as their main migrating route (DPRK Release, 1996). The seas of the Korean mainland contain important marine biodiversity, although ecological information is sparse, the presence of at least 600 fish species in the Korean east sea and 220 in the west sea, has been confirmed.

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3. DPRK's environmental policy is designed to protect and enhance natural resources while consolidating the base of the national economy and promoting development. To this end DPRK enacted laws and regulations to provide environmental protection and which indirectly cover biodiversity. These are; the Land Law, 1977, Environmental Law of 1986, Forestry Law, 1992, Construction Law, 1993 and most recently in 1996, the Law of Fishery. In addition DPRK has established a network of protected areas covering about 2,430,000 hectares, or 19.7% of the total land area.

4. Since 1964, DPRK has developed National Land Plans which outline the means to develop and use natural resources for national economic development. On the basis of the National Land Plans sectoral projects for the construction of cities and industrial areas and natural resource uses such as agriculture, forestry, and coastal area management are designed and implemented. After UNCED in 1992, DPRK has paid increased attention to the protection of biodiversity and has increased the scope of environmental management projects in the National Land Plans.

5. Although DPRK's environment has remained relatively intact as a result of these initiatives, threats are emerging in the form of industrial pollution as well as deforestation and soil erosion wrought by a agricultural system which has been steadily intensified to feed DPRK's large population. In 1995 and 1996 large parts of the country including tracts of protected ecosystems were devastated by a disastrous flood. DPRK's ability to counter these trends has been hampered to a large extent, by the lack of in-country expertise in environmental and biodiversity management, policy and related fields, the low level of institutional capacity, limited access to recent developments in natural resource management and use outside the country and the lack of financial resources to devote to overcoming these gaps. This has resulted in disparate cross sectoral plans which do not foster co-operation in dealing with environmental issues and a general lack of environmental initiatives.

6. DPRK has therefore attached priority to developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) through GEF assistance, which will reinforce its existing legislation. The preparation of a BSAP and submission of a national report to the Conference of the Parties will allow DPRK to fulfil its obligations as a signatory to the Convention on Biodiversity. Accordingly, the National Coordinating Committee for Environment (NCCE) which coordinates environmental policy making has submitted a request for enabling activity assistance. The DPRK is also simultaneously participating in the GEF/ALGAS project through which it will prepare its first communication to the FCC, inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and sinks.

Project Objectives and Short Description

7. This enabling activity project will allow DPRK to formulate a BSAP and national report to the COP. The BSAP will identify the current status of, pressures on, options for and actions to ensure the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. The project will build on the existing knowledge base and strengthen in-country capacity to develop the BSAP through a process of participatory planning and stakeholder consultations.

The project will be executed by the National Coordinating Committee for the Environment (NCCE) which will establish a steering committee to supervise preparation of the BSAP. The steering committee will

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The project will be executed by the National Coordinating Committee for the Environment (NCCE) which will establish a steering committee to supervise preparation of the BSAP. The steering committee will establish a work plan and provide overall direction and policy guidance, meeting as

and when necessary. Members of the steering committee will be drawn from the full range of stakeholders¹.

8. Under the supervision of the steering committee a planning team of 6 experts will be constituted, tapping into relevant in-country expertise in environmental management and planning, environment and public policy, public participation. The planning team will undertake the work of the enabling activity with the support of 2 national consultants. 2 international consultants will be recruited to provide training and facilitate the development of a sound BSAP. To overcome institutional and cultural differences, one international consultant will have experience in intra-governmental relations and negotiation as well as experience in environmental policy and planning. The other consultant will be a biodiversity and planning specialist.

9. The 2 international consultants will initiate the project during the first month, during which time they will ensure that the planning process is on track for the project. In view of the extremely limited in-country capacity in the DPRK, the international consultants will need to work closely with the planning team and national consultants and impart training in participatory methods, strategic planning techniques, biodiversity analysis and dissemination methods and facilitate review of WRI/IUCN/UNEP "Guidelines for the Preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Following the training Biodiversity related information in the DPRK is widely scattered throughout disparate central and local ministries, agencies, libraries and field locations. During the stocktaking the planning team and consultants will investigate and compile this information and prepare reports summarizing it.

10. These reports will be presented at the first national workshop conducted by the planning team, national and international consultants. The workshop will bring together about 70 participants drawn from 13¹ government agencies and ministries, each of the 9 provinces in the country and the 3 main cities, research institutions, universities and NGOs such as the National Conservation Union, Scientific and Technology Union, Biology Center and the Center for Nature Conservation. Initially, brief orientation sessions on biodiversity will be conducted to familiarise participants with the value of biodiversity, causes and mechanisms for its impoverishment as well as the potential for conservation and integration with economic development. Following the familiarisation, participants will analyse and review the results of the stocktaking to identify key issues and options, important actors and priority biodiversity areas for further analysis

11. After the workshop, the planning team and national consultants will carry out a detailed analysis of the issues and options which were identified during the workshop. As part of this process 4 short term national consultants will be recruited to assist in conducting wide ranging consultations and study tours in priority biodiversity areas with local communities, civil and government institutions and industry representatives. The consultations will assess issues and options by region to identify the needs of local communities and identify local/regional issues and strategies which will fit into the BSAP. The consultations will be carried out primarily by the short term consultants with assistance from the national consultants and planning team.

¹ A preliminary list of stakeholders includes the State Planning Commission, Agricultural Commission, Construction Commission, Academy of Sciences, Commission of Science and Technology, Education Commission, ministries of land and Environmental Protection, Forestry, Fisheries, Public Health, City Management, Bureau of Tourism, industry and local communities. This list will be narrowed down by the NCCE to select appropriate representatives to the steering committee.

12. The results of the analysis and consultations will be drawn together into a preliminary BSAP by the planning team and 2 national consultants with assistance from 1 international consultant. They will then conduct a second national workshop which will be held in Pyongyang. During the second national workshop, the results of the analysis and consultations will be reviewed and analysed and feedback provided on the draft BSAP. If necessary, new alternatives and options will be developed but a broad consensus will be established prior to finalization of the details of the BSAP.

13. The BSAP will be disseminated widely within the DPRK and the planning team and 1 international consultant will prepare a national report to the COP of the Convention on Biodiversity which will also be disseminated.

Coverage Without Duplication

14. The DPRK has developed some national laws and policies for environmental protection which together with sectoral plans afford limited coverage for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (see background section). The BSAP will address this gap and develop a link between biodiversity conservation and national multi-sectoral strategies and plans. During the BSAP stocktaking, cross-sectoral plans will be analysed to ensure integration with the BSAP, scattered research and environmental reports of ministries, commissions and research agencies will be consolidated and compiled into a biodiversity database and reports will be prepared for workshop participants. This will aid in analysing and assessing the present status of biodiversity and relevant issues.

Time Plan and Sequencing

15. Activities will begin in Jan 1997 and proceed for 11 months, a national report will be prepared and submitted to the COP by Jan 1, 1998.

Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Establishment of steering committee and planning team	x										
Training of planning team and national consultants (4 weeks)	x	x									
Stocktaking and inventory		x	x								
First national workshop				x							
Identification and analysis of options, regional consultations, preparation of draft BSAP				x	x	x	x	x			
Second national workshop									x		
Preparation of biodiversity strategy and action plan, dissemination									x	x	
Preparation of final report, submission to the COP											x

Best Practice

16. The project will follow methodology recommended in the "Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity" (IUCN, 1994) and the "Guidelines for Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" (WRI/IUCN/UNEP). As recommended in these guidelines the project will strengthen in-country capacity to facilitate development of a country driven and participatory BSAP. This is essentially DPRK's first step towards developing integrated strategies and plans and there is little previous work to rely on. Therefore the international consultants will train the national planning team and consultants in planning methodologies and guide an intensive consultative process to encompass all stakeholders.

Project Financing

	Product	Process	Total
<i>Stocktaking and Inventory of Existing Information</i>	30,000		30,000
- 2 national consultants	8,000		
- 2 international consultants	12,000		
- documentation, misc.	10,000		
<i>Identification and Analysis of Options</i>	26,000	154,000	181,000
- national consultants	14,000	22,000	
- 2 international consultants	12,000	20,000	
- first national workshop		37,000	
- training		25,000	
- regional consultations		40,000	
- travel, misc.		10,000	
<i>Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan</i>	8,000	53,000	61,000
- 2 national consultants	4,000	4,000	
- 1 international consultant	4,000	4,000	
- second national workshop		32,000	
- travel, misc.		5,000	
- dissemination		8,000	
<i>First National Report</i>	6,000	8,000	14,000
- international consultant	6,000		
- publication/translation/participation		8,000	
<i>Country Office Costs (5%)</i>	3,500	10,750	14,250
TOTAL	73,500	225,750	299,250

Explanatory note to budget:

The first national workshop costs have been calculated as follows; 70 participants budgeted at an average of US \$ 500 per participant and US \$ 2,000 for materials and hall for a total amount of US \$ 37,000. The second national workshop has been calculated based on 60 participants at an average of US \$ 500/participant and US \$ 2,000 materials and hall for a total of US \$ 32,000.

These broad-based workshops are necessary given that this is essentially DPRK's first attempt at developing participatory biodiversity strategies. These workshops will be valuable in strengthening institutional cooperation at the local, provincial and national levels towards the reaching of a consensus on the options and specific actions to conserve biodiversity and use it sustainably.

Deviations from Criteria and Norms

The project does not deviate from GEF enabling activity criteria and norms.

Institutional Framework and Project Implementation

17. The National Coordinating Committee for the Environment will take the lead in implementing the project and will establish a steering committee. The steering committee will draw representatives from cross sectoral government departments, research institutions and the UNDP which will monitor the project. Guided by the steering committee, a planning team and 2 national consultants will carry out the work of the enabling activity. To overcome the barriers of limited in-country expertise related to biodiversity and participatory planning as well as cultural and institutional differences, 2 international consultants will be recruited to provide policy and planning training, facilitate the workshops and assist drafting the BSAP and national report.

References

Tortell, P. 1994. *Mission Report: UNDP Mission to DPRK*. INT/91/G31.

DPRK Release. 1996. National Coordinating Committee for the Environment.

Activity Matrix

Enabling Activity Commitment	Output Planning, Execution	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments
		Institutional Strength	Training		
Stocktaking and Assessment, based on Existing Information					
- biodiversity and biological resources	x				1
- cross-sectoral issues	x				1
- policy and regulatory framework	x				1
- institutional and human capacity	x				1
- analysis of root causes of BD loss	x				1
- technologies for conservation and sustainable use	x				1
- activities with adverse impacts	x				1
- existing measures and programs	x				1
- preliminary statement of objectives	x				1
- identification of gaps	x				1
- assessment of existing needs	x				1
Identification and Analysis of Options to Meet the Objectives of the CBD					
- strategies for conservation	x	x	x	x	2
- strategies for sustainable use	x	x	x	x	2
- strategies for benefit sharing	x	x	x	x	2
Planning and Preparation of a Strategy and Plan					
- national strategy	x	x	x	x	
- national action plan	x	x	x	x	
Preparation of First Country Report					
- interim report	x				
- first country report	x			x	

Footnotes:

1. No comprehensive overall assessment of the existing information on DPRK's biodiversity resources or relevant issues has ever been carried out. The UNCED report of 1992 provides limited background information on cross sectoral issues which will be used. In addition to gathering information from various commissions, research agencies, different ministries and government agencies, the planning team, national and international consultants will review existing cross sectoral plans, especially the National Land Plan.

2. The BSAP will be integrated with existing national development plans and the "Environmental Law of 1986" which guarantees environmental protection. The 2 international consultants will train the planning team and national consultants to advance the development of country driven strategies for biodiversity protection and to ensure stakeholder participation.