

**Country Report of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

(22nd Session of MAB-ICC)

MAB National Committee of the DPRK
2010. 4

1. Activities of the MAB National Committee

The DPR Korea MAB National Committee has exerted its effort to implement the MAB programme and Madrid Action Plan agreed at the 3rd World Congress of Biosphere Reserves which was held in Madrid in February 2008.

In recent years, many successes have been achieved in the national economy and the struggle for the powerful nation building towards 2012 under the guidance of the government.

Recognizing the importance of eco-environmental conservation, the government of DPR Korea has taken the measures for the conservation of nature and eco-environment.

The constant performance of the existing plans including 10-year afforestation, restoration of destroyed ecosystem and gardening together with the newly developed plans in this field have resulted great achievements.

As the MAB National Committee is consisted of the representatives from the ministries and agencies related with the conservation of nature and environment, it plays the key role in addressing the issues arising in the field of environment at national and international level.

First of all, MAB National Committee has greatly contributed to the policy making and the preparation of legal framework for the nature and environment.

Last year, thanks to the strenuous activities of the state policy making agency and the National Committee, “Law on Nature Reserve in DPRK” was adopted which led the completion of legal framework in in-situ conservation of CBD.

DPRK is the contracting party of CBD, UNFCCC and CCD, and these conventions are implemented in a close relation with the activities of MAB National Committee.

The MAB National Committee has actively participated in the development of 3rd National Report of Biodiversity, 2nd National Report of Climate Change and 2nd State of Environment of DPRK, and through this, it contributes to the policy making by correctly analyzing and evaluating the current state of the country and involves itself in the implementation of research projects for the investigation and assessment of biodiversity and adoption or mitigation of climate change.

The National Committee has actively involved in the national stocktaking of forest and animal resources for 2 years and the results of the forest and animal resource stocktaking are bringing together now.

The wild animal investigation had started in July 2008 by the government measure and the committee played a leading role in the national wild animal investigation such as developing the detailed plan and outline for investigation and training of investigators.

The experiences and investigation results gained in the investigation will greatly contribute to the conservation and management of the wild animals in the country.

The workplan for the implementation of Madrid Action Plan has developed and the successful performance of this workplan becomes the important task of the National Committee. In view of the target of Madrid Action Plan, the biosphere reserve plays the important role in every country.

In order to develop the workplan for the implementation of Madrid Action Plan, the Committee has organized the working group and preceded it through wide discussion and participatory procedures with the stakeholders and beneficiaries.

It can be said that the participatory approach contributed to not only the planning itself but also the capacity building to have the correct understanding on the biosphere reserve.

According to the workplan, the following activities are on going for the implementation of Madrid Action Plan

Target 2: Increased cooperation and coordination of biosphere reserves with existing international programmes and initiatives

The research projects done so far in Mt. Paektu, Mt. Kuwol and Mt. Myohyang Biosphere Reserves had provided the scientific base for the development of 3rd National Report of Biodiversity and the updating of NBSAP.

The National Committee tries its best to coordinate and collaborate the activities for the conservation and management of the biosphere reserves by working closely with the authorities including MLEP responsible for the implementation of CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD at the national level.

Target 3: Integrated information & communication strategy.

The activities for e- database of flora and fauna in the reserves including Mt. Paektu, Mt. Myohyang and Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve which will be started from May with the support from UNESCO Beijing Office will have great significance in the conservation and management of BRs and public awareness rising.

Target 6: Communication strategy for each biosphere reserve

The development of communication strategy for biosphere reserves through Biodiversity CHM is now in reviewing.

Target 7. Functional MAB National Committees in each country, managed in a manner assuring adequate representation of biosphere reserve coordinators and key stakeholders.

The structure and role of the National Committee have been reviewed and the development of its strategy and action plan is now in promotion.

Target 13. Functional zonation in biosphere reserves established, particularly with regard to the transition area and the development function

The guideline for the designation of reserves was developed in August last year and the zonation was included as one of its content. It is planned to review and identify the boundaries and zonation of biosphere reserves on the basis of this guideline.

Target 17. Trained biosphere reserve manager and other relevant stakeholders

The short-term training course for the capacity building of the BR managers and relevant stakeholders was held in 9-13, Nov. 2009.

The MAB National Committee will work more closely with the government and the relevant authorities and enhance the cooperation with UNESCO to fully implement its obligation as a party by overcoming the constraints for the successful implementation of Madrid Action Plan.

2. Activities in Biosphere Reserves

There are 3 biosphere reserves in DPRK, including Mt. Myohyang Biosphere Reserve nominated last year by active collaboration of

UNESCO Beijing Office. The MAB National Committee tries to successfully implement the national workplan for MAP in all biosphere reserves of DPRK.

DPRK MAB National Committee makes good efforts to protect and manage Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve at high level, designated in October, 2004.

The comprehensive study on plant, animal and ecosystem in Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve had been jointly performed by several research institutions including the Institute of Botany, Institute of Zoology, the Research Center for Biodiversity and Eco-engineering under the Biology Branch, State Academy of Science, Environment & Development Center, Ministry of Land & Environmental Protection and the enough data base had prepared for the scientific conservation and management of Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve.

Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve has few public awareness materials compare with Mt. Paektu Biosphere Reserve and Mt. Myohyang Biosphere Reserve. The book “Conservation of Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve and Sustainable Use”, the brochure and CD “Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve”, published and distributed with the support from UNESCO Beijing Office, contributed to the understanding of the local peoples and managing staff. The publication of the book “Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve” on the topic of the scenic spots, plants and animal, historic relics of Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve makes a great advance in the protection and management of the reserve.

The implementation of MAP through newly established Mt. Myohyang Biosphere Reserve has been discussed and considered in several ways. One of them is the long term observation of forest ecosystem to adapt the climate change at Mt. Myohyang Biosphere Reserve.

If this observation is conducted through the comparative study with the reserve in China at the same latitude, the capacity to adapt the climate change will be improved in national and regional level.

3. Cooperation with UNESCO

Several projects were successfully implemented with the support from UNESCO Beijing Office.

✧ Nomination of the new biosphere reserve.

As mentioned above, Mt. Myohyang Biosphere Reserve was nominated as third international biosphere reserve in DPRK with the support from UNESCO Beijing Office.

◇ Development of public awareness materials on Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve

The brochure and CD “Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserve” were made and distributed, and it helped the understanding of the local people and tourists on the conservation and sustainable development and the functional implementation of the reserve.

◇ Development of ATLAS of Biosphere Reserve Network of DPRK.

In cooperation with UNESCO Beijing Office, the ATLAS of Biosphere Reserve Network of DPRK was developed by several related institutions including Biology Branch, Institute of RS&GIS, Institute of Geography, Institute of Geology, the Department of Mt. Paektu Biosphere Reserve of Forestry Branch under the State Academy of Science and Hydro-Meteorological Bureau.

The atlas can provide the necessary information on the conservation and management of Mt. Paektu and Mt. Kuwol Biosphere Reserves to the relevant agencies, officials and local people.

◇ MAB Young Scientist Award

The project for 2007 MAB Young Scientist Award was successfully implemented and 2009 MAB Young Scientist Award is now on going.

◇ The book “Inventory and Impact Assessment of Alien Plant in DPRK” was published in 2009.

The publication of this book which described 226 species of alien plants and their impacts contributed to the regular and detailed monitoring and assessment of the alien plants and the scientific conservation and management of valuable plant resource of the country.

◇ Four participants attended in 3rd EABRN-UNESCO Training Workshop on “Remote Sensing and GIS for Biosphere reserve management to adapt Climate Change” held in CEODE, China from March 30 to April 10 , 2009, and it can contribute to protect and

manage the biosphere reserves on the scientific basis.

- ✧ The activities for the successful implementation of the project “E-database for flora and fauna in the reserves of DPRK” which will be started from May 2010 are now under preparation.