

# State of the Environment



**DPR  
KOREA**



**2003**



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# DPR KOREA : State of the Environment 2003

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# FOREWORD

DPR Korea has been endowed with vast environmental resources in the form of water, forest, long coastline with important maritime resources and rich heritage of biodiversity. Environment and natural resource management has been one of the major development priorities. A series of natural disasters during the mid 1990s has emphasized the pressing need of the environmental consideration for the sustainable livelihood in the country. DPR Korea has engaged with the global community as being a partner in managing environmental resources towards promoting the sustainable development.

Since the establishment of the UNDP country office in Pyongyang in 1980, a strong partnership has been forged between Government and UNDP towards the environmental conservation. Environment has been considered as one of major priority areas in the first (1997-2000) and second (2001-2003) Country Cooperation Framework (CCF), which is basis for UNDP's Cooperation with DPRK. The first Common Country Assessment (CCA) carried out by the UN system for DPRK has also identified Environment and Energy as one of seven thematic groups.

UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer visited Pyongyang in November 2000 to strengthen programmes of UNEP in DPR Korea. A partnership was forged with UNDP to assist DPR Korea in strengthening capabilities on environment assessment and monitoring, including the preparation of the State of the Environment (SoE) report 2003.

UNEP is mandated to assess regularly the major environmental developments and trends at global level. The publication of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) series involved participatory assessment process to review the state of the world's environment and to chart a new process for global environmental policy. GEO process entails vertical integration of information from national, regional to global. Data and indicators at the national, subregional and regional level are a quantitative base for GEO reports.

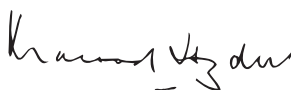
The present report is the first SoE report of DPR Korea. The report covers the five priority issues pertaining to environment: forests, water, air, land, and biodiversity. The issues were identified in consultation with Ministry of Land and Environment (MLEP) and analysed following the Pressure-State-Impact-Response Framework.

The National Coordinating Council for Environment (NCCE) was the National Focal Point responsible for overall implementation of the project, where as MLEP was the Implementing agency. MLEP has played a pivotal role in facilitating the participatory process as well as soliciting input from various line ministries of the government and other agencies. Around 20 agencies and 60 individuals were involved in the process of preparing the SoE report.

We hope that this report will be a valuable document for all concerned with environment and development. The report will also be helpful in formulating environmental action plan, policy setting, resource allocation and decision making.



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National Coordinating Committee for Environment (NCCE), DPR Korea

## **National Implementing Agency**

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