

## **The Forest Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

*Adopted by Ordinance No.9 of the Supreme People's Assembly on December 11, 1992, and amended and supplemented by Decree No.383 of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly on February 4, 1999, and amended and supplemented by Decree No.1012 of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly on September 10, 1999, and amended and supplemented by Decree No.2626 of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly on October 18, 2001.*

### **Chapter 1. Fundamentals**

**Article1.** The Forest Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is intended to contribute to forests by implementing the State policy on establishing a strict discipline and order in planting and conserving forests and utilizing forest resources.

**Article2.** Forests of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea consist of forest lands and animal and plant resources in them.

Forests are owned by the State only.

**Article3.** Forests are divided on their mission into forests for special conservation, forests for general conservation, forests for timber production, forests of economic value and forests for firewood production.

**Article4.** The master plan for forest planting is a unified and comprehensive plan for planting, conserving and managing forests in conformity with the development of the national economy and people's well-being and for utilizing forest resources in a rational way.

The State shall ensure that an active and dynamic master plan for forest planting is formulated and implemented accurately.

**Article5.** It is a consistent policy of the State to enlist all the people in forest planting.

The State shall ensure that all the people are actively engaged in forest planting and that the organs specializing in forest planting enhance their role.

The State shall ensure that forest areas are allocated to organs, enterprises and institutions and that they plant in them and manage them in a responsible way.

**Article6.** The State shall establish a forest conservation system and intensify education in socialist patriotism among the people so that they conserve forests on their own accord.

**Article7.** The State shall establish an efficient order for the utilization of forest resources and ensure a comprehensive and rational use of them.

**Article8.** The State shall step up with the undertaking to put the forest management on a modern and scientific basis through active introduction of the results of up-to-date science and technology and increase the investment in the sector of forest management in a systematic way.

**Article9.** The State shall positively develop scientific and technological exchange and cooperation in the field of forest management with foreign countries.

## **Chapter 2. Planting of Forests**

**Article10.** Forest planting is a nature-harnessing undertaking for the prosperity of the country.

The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and the organs, enterprises and institutions that have forest areas in their charge shall undertake forest planting in such a far-sighted way as to improve forest scenery, enhance economic effectiveness of forests and increase per-unit accumulation by constantly enlarging the forest areas of such good kinds of trees as acacia.

**Article11.** The State shall designate a tree-planting month in order to plant forests in the right season through a mass drive and in a concentrated way.

The Cabinet shall designate the tree-planting month.

**Article12.** The State planning organ shall draw out substantial plans for planting trees and tending the trees planted and accurately transmit them to relevant organs, enterprises and institutions.

The organs, enterprises and institutions that have received the plans for planting trees and tending the trees planted shall plant trees within the designated period and tend the trees planted in a responsible way.

**Article13.** The designing for planting trees shall be undertaken by forest designing organs and other relevant designing organs.

The forest designing organs and other relevant organs shall survey and analyze the features, climate and soil conditions in the areas to be afforested and make a design for tree planting in such a way as to change useless forests into forests of good kinds of trees and thus form forests for timber production, fiber materials production and firewood production, forests of oil-bearing trees and fruit trees, and grass fields.

**Article14.** The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and the organs, enterprises and institutions that have forest areas under their charge shall establish a proper system of seed selection and production, and the production of saplings by building up sapling production bases.

Procurement of tree seeds shall be undertaken by the land and environment conservation organs and forestry organs.

**Article15.** The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and forestry organs and the organs that have forest areas under their charge shall examine seeds and saplings to be used in forest planting.

Saplings and seeds which have not passed the examination shall not be used in forest planting.

**Article16.** Tree planting shall be carried out in accordance with the tree planting designs.

Organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall plant trees as required by the tree planting designs.

**Article17.** The organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens that are planting trees shall ensure the stipulated rate of rooting of trees by efficient tending of the trees planted or supplementary planting of trees.

**Article18.** The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and relevant organs, enterprises and

institutions shall increase forest resources by planting and tending medicinal herbs and edible herbs in a planned way in the forest areas of their responsibility.

### **Chapter 3. Conservation of Forests**

**Article19.** Efficient forest conservation is an important undertaking for increasing forest resources.

Organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall take part in forest conservation as befits masters and with close interest in forest conservation.

**Article20.** The State shall designate forest fire prevention period in order to prevent damage by forest fire.

The Cabinet shall undertake the designation of forest fire prevention period.

**Article21.** Organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall obtain permission from relevant organs in case they intend to enter forest areas or make fire in forest regions or their surrounding areas for the purpose of using forest land or exploiting forest resources.

Unless permitted, no one shall enter forest areas with matters which can cause a fire.

**Article22.** The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and relevant organs, enterprises and institutions shall prevent forest fire from breaking out by drawing forest fire arresting lines, managing them well and establishing a forest fire watching system.

Those organs, enterprises and institutions situated in the areas where forest fire has broken out shall compulsorily mobilize necessary personnel, equipment and means and extinguish forest fire in time.

**Article23.** The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and relevant organs, enterprises and institutions shall establish a forest pest observation system and control pests in time.

Things like trees, grass and soil shall not be taken out of the pest-stricken forest areas without permission of relevant organs.

**Article24.** The forest science research institutes and relevant organs, enterprises and institutions shall develop and introduce chemicals, biological methods and sophisticated technical equipment efficient for controlling forest pests.

**Article25.** If not permitted, organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall not construct roads buildings, facilities and the like, nor fell trees in forest areas nor hinder forest conservation by clearing mountains, quarrying stones or digging earth in forest areas.

**Article26.** The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and relevant organs, enterprises and institutions shall undertake erosion control work in a planned way and keep erosion control facilities in good repair in order to protect forests from such natural calamities as heavy rain and landslide.

**Article27.** The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and relevant organs, enterprises and institutions shall preserve the traditional forest ecological zones in the forest areas for nature conservation, and protect and increase rare animal and plant resources.

In case it is necessary to protect and increase animal and plant resources in the forest areas other than for nature conservation, they may designate off-limit mountain areas and prohibit grazing domestic animals, hunting

animals and exploiting plants in relevant forest areas for a certain period.

*Article28.* Organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall create conditions in forest areas for useful animals and plants to grow well, actively protect them, and increase their number.

#### **Chapter 4. Utilization of Forest Resources**

*Article29.* Rational utilization of forest resources is an important requirement for accelerating socialist economic construction and improving people's living.

The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs shall survey and hold grip of the red conditions of forest resources in detail and ensure their planned and effective utilization.

*Article30.* Permission to utilize forest land shall be granted by the Cabinet or relevant land and environment conservation organs.

The Cabinet or relevant land and environment conservation organs shall grant permission to utilize forest land after examining the purposes and scope of the utilization.

*Article31.* Cyclic felling is a rational way for increasing timber resources and putting timber production on a normal footing.

Relevant organs shall formulate a master plan for cyclic felling based on the data of prospected forest resources and ensure its accurate implementation so as to constantly increase timber production.

*Article32.* Permission for tree felling shall be granted by the land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs.

The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs shall grant permission for tree felling only to the units which have received tree felling plan from the State.

The felling plan may not necessarily be required when granting permission for felling trees for the purposes of forest planting and management, scientific research into forests or affording some convenience in the local people's life, like the supply of firewood.

*Article33.* Trees shall not be felled without permission.

The organs, enterprises and institutions which have obtained the permission to fell shall meet the demands stipulated in the tree felling permission.

*Article34.* Trees felled shall be taken out only with a pass for carrying them out issued by relevant organs.

Round timber to be supplied according to the Stated plan may be carried out without the pass.

*Article35.* In case or turfs are to be transplanted, or medicinal herbs or wild fruits picked, permission from relevant organs shall be obtained and stipulated period, place, method, and amount shall be observed.

*Article36.* Organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall utilize permitted forest land and trees felled according to the State plan in conformity with stipulated purposes and refrain from handing them over to other organs, enterprises, institutions and individual citizens.

*Article37.* The organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens that intend to hunt wild animals and birds shall

obtain permission from the land and environment conservation organs and observe stipulated order for hunting.

**Article38.** In case organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens intend to export or import timber and its first-stage processed goods, wild animals and birds, seeds and specimens of wild plants, they shall obtain permission from relevant organs.

## **Chapter 5. Guidance and Control over Forest Management**

**Article39.** The unified guidance of the State over forest management shall be undertaken by the Cabinet. The Cabinet shall establish a proper system of guidance over forest management and give regular control and guidance over forest management of the whole country.

**Article40.** The State shall ensure that forest management is carried out according to the master plan for forest planting.

The approval for the master plan for forest planting in the whole country shall be given by the Cabinet.

**Article41.** The land and environment conservation organs, forestry organs and relevant organs shall survey forest resources, regularly record the situation of their utilization and changes, and organize and control utilization of forest resources.

The organs, enterprises, institutions that manage forests by themselves shall submit in time the data required to relevant organs.

**Article42.** The State planning organ, labor administration organs, materials supply organs, agricultural guidance organs, financial and banking organs and local power organs shall consolidate the material and technical foundations of the forestry sector and provide labor, equipment, materials and funds needed for forest planting, conservation and management.

**Article43.** The educational institutes and scientific research institutes in the forestry sector and relevant institutions shall train a larger number of well-qualified personnel equipped with science and technology, and intensify scientific research and actively introduce the latest successes of science and technology so as to solve the scientific and technical problems arising in forest planting, conservation and management.

**Article44.** Supervision and control over forest management shall be undertaken by the land and environment conservation organs and relevant supervision and control organs.

The land and environment conservation organs and relevant supervision and control organs shall regularly supervise and control the planting of forests on the principle of felling one tree and planting ten trees, the preventing of damage caused by forest fires, pests, landslides, clearing of forest land and illegal random felling, and the strict observing of the order of utilization of forest resources like utilization of forest land, tree felling and timber production.

**Article45.** In case of the failure to implement the plans for planting trees and tending the trees planted and to ensure the rate of rooting of the trees planted, the utilization of forest resources shall be stopped.

**Article46.** In case of clearing mountains or felling trees without permission those to blame for it shall be forced to rehabilitate, forests to their original state or be fined or to compensate for the damage, and illegally obtained

products and the instruments and means used in the illegal acts shall be confiscated.

*Article47.* In case organs, enterprises, institutions have caused grave consequences through the breach of the order of planting, conserving and utilizing forests owing to their failure to implement the tree planting plans, or to ensure the rate of rooting of the trees planted, or to illegal felling or exploiting of forest resources, or to making forest fire without permission, their senior officials or individual citizens guilty of the same offence shall be subjected to administrative or criminal punishment depending on the seriousness of their offences.