

A range of activities conducted to protect Biodiversity

The biodiversity institute of the State Academy of Sciences has conducted a variety of activities to protect biodiversity.

It is now pushing ahead with the survey of endangered animal and plant species and major migratory birds in all parts of the country, as well as the projects for protecting and restoring their habitats.

Environmental protectionist had Mundok and Rason migratory bird reserves listed as the Ramsar wetland sites and solved sci-tech problems for preservation and management in conformity with the principles and requirements of the international convention.

They systematically conducted a regular survey, biodiversity assessment and prediction of changes in natural ecosystem in such international biosphere reserves as Mts Paektu, Kuwol, Myohyang and Chilbo contributing to preserving the ecological environment and biological resources in the region.

Now spoonbill, snipe and other birds fly to the area and ringed birds are also found there.

Especially, the Mundok and Rason migratory bird reserves are inhabited by endangered water-birds and the like, which account for one percent in international and regional numbers, namely Manchurian crane, spoon-billed sandpiper and white-naped crane and the number of settlers are on the increase year after year.

Experts made a field survey and general survey of ecology in the Mt. Kumgang area to scientifically find out the distribution of indigenous animals and plants and evaluate the biodiversity of wetlands in the area so as to take measures for their sustainable use and protection.

Thanks to their positive efforts, an undertaking is briskly under way to register the Mt. Kumgang area in the world heritage list.

In order to raise public awareness of biodiversity protection, the institute writes reference books and makes multimedia presentations on the basis of data, photos and video clips gathered by its environmental experts through field surveys.

The institute, which plays the function of the secretariat for the DPRK national committee of the MAB(Man & Biosphere), conducts exchange activities with foreign partners, especially the joint survey of endangered migratory birds with international and regional organizations like the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, New Zealand.

Supreme leader **Kim Jong Un** said in the New Year's address in 2018 that building on the success we achieved in the forest restoration campaign, we should properly protect and manage the forests that have already been created, improve the technical conditions of roads, conduct river improvement on a regular basis, and protect environment in a scientific and responsible manner.

For implementing the tasks set forth in the New Year's Address, the Maritime Administration of DPRK, being fully aware of the importance of their responsibilities and duties, has taken active measures to prevent the marine pollution from ships which may affect the natural reserves in the coast in close link with the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, Ministry of Fisheries and DPRK national committee of the MAB.