

Our Work in 2017

In Forestry

HSF Korea supports the process of reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. In South Korea, this includes regional development, in which the border region (DMZ) is especially focused upon. In North Korea, HSF attempts to contribute to the peaceful development in the region through activities aiming for international integration and cooperation of the DPR Korea in the field of environment.



Forest Landscape Restoration - Workshop in Pyongyang

In June 2017, a workshop on forest landscape restoration took place in Pyongyang, co-organized by the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection (MoLEP), the International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea (HSF). Welcome remarks opened the workshop and outlined the scope of cooperation between MoLEP and IUCN in the field of forest conservation. Basic concepts of landscape restoration, the Bonn challenge (an inter-

national commitment on forest landscape restoration) and the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) were introduced. The presentations were followed by group discussions of case studies for North Korea, and a discussion of further steps of cooperation.

**EU Food Security Office -
Project monitoring**

After almost 3 years of implementation, the EU-funded Project was concluded in October 2017. A project visit with Peter Ross, Team Leader of the Food Security of Office (FSO) by the EU in Pyongyang, took place. All practical project sites were visited and involved staff were interviewed to assess the project. During a visit to the Central Tree Nursery in Pyongyang, the Training Centre for Sustainable Forest Management was visited. The training facility is one part of the project and serves as a hub for daily lectures for North Korean foresters. The staff of the site also manages the newly established “Hwanggeumsan” (Golden Mountain) web portal. The website is accessible within the North Korean intranet and provides latest publications on forestry, online lectures and news on forestry topics, and has more than 150 daily accesses.

A visit to the model reforestation site in Sangseo-Ri, Taedong-Gun, Pyongan- Namdo, gave the opportunity to assess the outcome of another part of the project. The site was reforested and today more than 80 hectare of mixed forest covers a formerly barren landscape. The site was established under scientific criteria with the support of foreign consultants and is used now to share best-practice examples on successful

reforestation efforts in North Korea. The site also provides additional ecosystem services to the local population, such as the prevention of erosion through an improved soil formation, flood regulation, and food supply from valuable tree species, such as Aronia and Chestnut Trees.



While the practical sites most obviously show the outcome of the project, the main part of the project focused on capacity-building. 24 forest experts from North Korea visited a total of 4 trainings in Mongolia and China and the trainings were used to introduce best-practice examples and topics, such as tree nursery management and forestry inventories.

More than 190 participants attended international workshops in Pyongyang on four occasions.

Experts from European countries, including Germany and Sweden, gave lectures on topics such as Pest Control Management, practical lessons at the training facility in Pyongyang and at the model reforestation in Sangseo-Ri and served as consultants for the implementation of the project.

The lessons learned from trainings abroad and international workshops were then provided to more than 630 participants during local trainings, organized and implemented by the North Korean project partners with the guidance of local experts. HSF Korea also supported the publication of textbooks on topics such as “Questions and Answers on Tree Nurseries” and “Suitable Tree Species for Reforestation”.





2nd Training in China

After two trainings in Mongolia and one training in China, the final training was conducted in May 2017 in Beijing and the Yanbian Province. A delegation with members of the Forest Management Research Institute (FMRI) and MoLEP visited China for a training on comparative perspectives for afforestation.

Meetings with universities and organizations active in the field of forestry were held in Beijing. These meetings were held to provide an overview of reforestation efforts in the past, challenges and current efforts regarding nature conservation and rehabilitation in China. They also served to strengthen institutional cooperation in the field of forestry.

During a meeting with John D.

Liu and Kosima Weber Liu of the Environmental Education

Media Project (EEMP), the experience and long term potential of integrated Landscape Restoration was explored and deepened with the participants. A field visit to the Miyun Reservoir, one of the main drinking water sources for Beijing was organized to show a successful process of national and international cooperation. In the city of Yanji, the Yanbian University hosted the delegation. The city is the pre-

fectural seat of the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, which is located at the border to North Korea and Russia.



A one-day workshop introduced different topics of major importance in the region and related to forestry to the delegation, such as transboundary nature cooperation, the status of the ecosystem, land use and forest cover in the Yanbian Prefecture.

The delegation was also able to visit the different departments of the university. Subsequent field visits lead to forest tree nurseries near Yanji, where the forestry experts received an insight in seed and seedling production. Another field visit introduced the ecosystem of the Golden Triangle, the area directly located in-between the border with Russia and North Korea.



Traineeships in Mongolia

Two trainees were educated at local and international organizations in Mongolia. Among others, the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Mongolian Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the Forest Resource Development Centre (FRDC) supported the training. While the training focused on the National Forest Inventory that is currently implemented in Mongolia, in-depth knowledge about the Mongolian forestry sector, and expertise about a wide variety of topics was shared with the trainees. Theoretical lectures at GIZ Mongolia were extended by practical field visits to projects dealing with soil carbon estimations, sustainable forest management and the system of forest user groups. The traineeship serves as an example how contacts that were established during two field visits to Mongolia during the project now lead to an expansion of the forestry cooperation of Mongolia and North Korea.



At the end of the traineeship, representatives of HSF Korea

visited Mongolia for a Monitoring Workshop with the trainees. Organizations that were involved in the activity assessed the outcome and future possibility for further exchanges.



Aside from gaining practical experience, the training sessions offered a platform for exchange and opened new perspectives for cooperation with international and regional institutions and expanded existing networks, for example with representatives of the Asia Foundation and the Forest Resource Development Center (FRDC) in Mongolia, as well as various other scientific institutes, such as the National University of Mongolia or the Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre.

5th International Forestry Seminar

In September 2017, the 5th International Seminar in Pyongyang took place – it was the final activity that took place before the end of the project. The workshop with the title “Forestry Experiences in Mongolia” was attended by more than 70 representatives of the North Korean forestry

sector. Two Mongolian forestry experts shared their knowledge on a variety of topics, such as Tree Nursery Management, Forest Pest Control, the National Forest Inventory, including legislation, planning and implementation. The speakers shared the respective knowledge of their experiences working in the Mongolian forestry sector.



The workshop was complemented by a field visit to the training facility of the EU-funded project and the model site on sustainable reforestation in Sangseo-ri, Taedong-gun. The experts were introduced and gave advice on the implementation of the project.

Although the project was officially concluded in October 2017, HSF Korea continues its efforts for international cooperation and environment conservation on the Korean Peninsula and beyond.



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