

# ***A Study on Environmental Protection in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the System of Nature Reserves***

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## **Summary**

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) the system of nature conservation, including ecology, began on 9 April 1986 with the promulgation of the "Environmental Protection Law". The "Environmental Protection Law" is a law that unified clauses regarding various past laws and ordinances on the environment, and aimed to effectively make a system to deal with environmental destruction. In 1992, for the first time a clause on the environment was incorporated in the amended constitution as Article 57. With that it was stipulated that "the nation will set up measures for environmental protection in advance of production, protect and improve the natural environment, prevent environmental pollution, and create a cultural and hygienic living environment and work conditions for the people", and through that the constitutional basis was achieved in the law for environmental protection and environmental protection-related matters. Subsequently, the DPRK continuously formulated a great many laws relating to the protection of the natural environment. The major laws include: the "Law on the Forests of the DPRK" (12 December 1992); the "Fisheries Law of the DPRK" (18 January 1995); the "Law of the DPRK on the Protection of Scenic Spots and Natural Monuments" (13 December 1995); the "Marine Pollution Prevention Law of the DPRK" (22 October 1997); the "Protection of Useful Animals Law of the DPRK" (26 November 1998); the "Law on Rivers of the DPRK" (27 November 2002); and the "Law on Nature Reserves of the DPRK" (25 November 2009). Through this for the time being a comparatively complete environmental protection system was formed.

In this paper I consider the DPRK's environmental protection system, taking the environmental protection clauses of the "Environmental Protection Law" and the "Law on Nature Reserves of the DPRK" as my basic data sources, and undertake an evaluation and comparative study with a number of related bills in China of the same time.

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