

**The Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Rivers**

**Adopted by Decree No. 3436 of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly on**

**November 27, 2002,**

**Amended and supplemented by Decree No. 507 of the Presidium of the Supreme**

**People's Assembly on June 24, 2004**

**Chapter 1. Fundamentals**

**Article 1.** The Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Rivers is intended to contribute to utilizing rivers in a comprehensive way and laying out the land in a beautiful way by establishing a strict system and order in improving, conserving and utilizing rivers.

**Article 2.** Rivers consist of rivers, streams, brooks and their conservation facilities.

Rivers are owned by the State only.

**Article 3.** Rivers are categorized into large, medium and small rivers according to their sizes.

Categorizing rivers shall be undertaken by the central land and environment conservation guidance organ.

**Article 4.** Improving rivers properly is a major guarantee for preventing flood damage and creating favorable ecological environment.

The State shall ensure that investment in river improvement is increased and rivers are improved in a long-term way.

**Article 5.** Conserving rivers is an important undertaking to prevent pollution of water and damage and destruction of the facilities in and on rivers.

The State shall ensure that a system of conserving rivers is established and organs enterprises, institutions and citizens actively participate in river conservation.

**Article 6.** Utilizing rivers properly is essential for developing the economy and affording convenience in the people's everyday life.

The State shall ensure that plans for utilizing rivers are formulated and rivers are utilized in a

comprehensive way.

**Article 7.** The State shall develop exchange and cooperation with various countries of the world and international organizations in the field of river management.

**Article 8.** This law shall be applicable to the organs, enterprises and institutions that improve conserve or utilize rivers.

If a treaty has been concluded with a foreign country on improving, conserving and utilizing a border river, the treaty shall prevail.

## **Chapter 2. Improvement of Rivers.**

**Article 9.** River improvement is a precedent process in river conservation.

The State planning organ, land and environment conservation organs and relevant organs, enterprises and institutions shall formulate long-term plans for improving rivers by their water system and plans for improving rivers by year and execute them accurately.

**Article 10.** Large rivers shall be improved by the land and environment conservation organs, and the medium and small rivers by the organs, enterprises and institutions that have been assigned for improving them. But, the large rivers in the central area of Pyongyang shall be improved by the city management organs.

Organs, enterprises and institutions shall ensure the quality of embankment, shore-improvement, breast-wall, riverbed-dredging and water course-straightening projects in the sections of rivers whose management is assigned to them.

**Article 11.** Organs, enterprises and institutions shall survey regularly the section of rivers whose management is assigned to them, and record the result in registration books.

The registration books shall be recorded with the names and sizes of the rivers, the state of their improvement, objects and details.

**Article 12.** The designing for improvement of rivers shall be undertaken by the river designing organs and other relevant designing organs.

The river designing organs and other relevant designing organs shall undertake the designing

in a scientific way in accordance with the river improvement plans and their technical tasks.

The designs worked out shall be approved by the State construction inspection organs.

**Article 13.** The organs, enterprises and institutions that improve rivers shall fully meet the demand of the designs and ensure quality in their work.

River improvement shall not be undertaken without designs.

**Article 14.** The organs, enterprises and institutions that improve rivers shall improve first the sections of rivers vulnerable to damage by water and the sections of rivers adjacent to the residential and industrial areas and farmland.

**Article 15.** Organs, enterprises and institutions shall improve rivers in a concentrated way in the general mobilization periods for land management. In accordance with the general mobilization plans for land management, local power organs and land and environment conservation organs may enlist to the improving of rivers the labor, equipment and materials of the organs, enterprises and institutions that have not been assigned to river management.

**Article 16.** Organs, enterprises and institutions shall report the result of implementation of river improvement plans to the land and environment conservation organs or other relevant organs monthly, quarterly and yearly.

Report on other result of implementation of river improvement plans in the general mobilization periods for land management shall be submitted immediately after the end of the periods.

### **Chapter 3. Conservation of Rivers**

**Article 17.** Conserving rivers properly is an important requirement in preserving rivers in their normal state.

Organs, enterprises and institutions shall regularly get an understanding of the state of the sections of rivers assigned to them.

**Article 18.** The organs, enterprises and institutions that have been assigned to managing rivers

shall establish a system of maintaining and repairing rivers and regularly maintain or repair embankments, breast-wall, anti-erosion dams, flood-gates and other river protection facilities.

The riverbeds that have risen shall be dredged in time.

**Article 19.** Relevant organs, enterprises and institutions shall keep soil, sand and stones from flowing into rivers by installing erosion-control facilities and creating watershed-protection forests.

Felling is prohibited in the watershed-protection forests.

**Article 20.** The organs, enterprises and institutions that have been assigned to river management shall build up banks with stones or plant *Iris palasii*, lawn grass or bush clover on them, and create bank-protecting forests on rivers.

Constructing buildings or facilities, planting crops, removing stones or digging earth on banks is prohibited.

**Article 21.** The organs, enterprises and institutions that have been assigned to river management shall survey those that are vulnerable to flood and take measures against flood damage.

In case there are damage from flooding, organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall be enlisted compulsorily to rehabilitating the damaged rivers at the orders of the flood control commands.

**Article 22.** Hydrometeorological organs shall accurately observe the water level of rivers, the volume of flowing water in them, expected amount of rainfall and the like.

The flood forecast shall be transmitted immediately to the land and environment conservation organs and other organs enterprises and institutions.

**Article 23.** The State shall designate river conservation districts especially protect the river shores, banks, water-quality and the like.

The work of designating river conservation districts shall be undertaken by the Cabinet.

**Article 24.** Organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall refrain from such acts as

releasing untreated sewage, noxious matters, animal corpses or waste materials into rivers, putting ship into rivers, or washing down animals or vehicles in rivers.

**Article 25.** The organs, enterprises and institutions that build dams, sluice gates, power stations, bridges, barrages or other facilities in rivers or manage them shall ensure that no hindrance is caused to the flow of water, navigation by vessels and floating of rafts.

Facilities necessary for the growth and protection of fish shall be built on the sluice gates, reservoir banks and the like.

#### **Chapter 4. Utilization of Rivers**

**Article 26.** Utilization of rivers is an important undertaking for fully meeting the demands of the economy and people's living for water resources and the land in river basins.

Organs, enterprises, institutions and citizens shall accurately calculate the demands for water resources and the land in river basins and utilize them in an efficient way.

**Article 27.** Permission shall be obtained for the following purposes of utilization of rivers.

1. When river water is going to be utilized as drinking, industrial or irrigation water.
2. When the land in river basins is going to be utilized as cropland or for sideline farming;
3. When dams, reservoirs, power stations, wharves, fish ponds, wading pools, bridges and the like are going to be built, transformed or scrapped in river basins;
4. When alluvial gold, sand, gravels, earth and the likes are going to be extracted in river basins;
5. When water courses are going to be changed;
6. When vessels are going to be put into rivers or rafts are going to be floated; and
7. When trees planted on rivers are going to be felled or changed by other kinds of trees.

**Article 28.** The organs, enterprises or institutions that intends to utilize river shall submit an application for river utilization to the Cabinet or relevant organs.

The application shall clarify the name of the organ, enterprises or institutions, the river to be

utilized, purposes, period and methods of utilization.

**Article 29.** The organs that have received an application for river utilization shall screen it, make a decision on approval or rejection and inform relevant organs, enterprises or institutions within 20 days of receipt.

The letter of rejection shall include the reason of rejection.

**Article 30.** The organs enterprises and institutions that utilize the land in river basins as cropland or for sideline farming shall record it in the land registration book and utilize it in accordance with the purposes. In this case, supplementary banks shall not be built.

**Article 31.** In case the land in river basins that has been utilized as cropland or for sideline farming is going to be done away with, organs, enterprises or institutions shall transfer it to the land and environment conservation organs or other relevant organs.

The organs to which the land has been transferred shall rehabilitate it to its original state.

**Article 32.** The organs, enterprises or institutions that have constructed buildings or facilities in the river basins shall receive final inspection of them by the State construction inspection organ.

The buildings or facilities that have not received final inspection or have not passed final inspection shall not be utilized.

**Article 33.** The organs, enterprises or institutions that have undertaken construction or extraction in river basins shall put their workplaces in order. In this case, the organs, enterprises or institutions that have been assigned to the task to manage the rivers shall fix for them the objects to be put in order and the period of putting them in order.

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

**Article 34.** Intensifying guidance and control over river management is essential for implementing to the letter the State policy on river management.

The State shall ensure that guidance and control over river management is intensified in

conformity with the developing situation.

**Article 35.** Guidance over river management shall be undertaken by the land and environment conservation guidance organ and relevant organs under the unified direction of the Cabinet.

The land and environment conservation guidance organ and relevant organs shall regularly get acquainted with the guide the improving, conserving and utilizing of rivers.

**Article 36.** The State planning organ, labor administration organs, materials supply organs, financial and banking organs and local power organs shall supply in time labor, equipment, materials and funds needed in improving and conserving rivers.

The labor, equipment, materials and funds allocated for improving and conserving rivers shall not be diverted to other sectors.

**Article 37.** Supervision and control over river management shall be undertaken by the land and environment conservation guidance organ and relevant supervision and control organs.

The land and environment conservation guidance organ and relevant supervision and control organs shall strictly supervise and control such acts as utilizing rivers without permission, polluting river water or destroying or damaging river conservation facilities.

**Article 38.** In case rivers have been polluted, river conservation facilities destroyed or damaged, or rivers utilized or water courses are changed without permission, those to blame for it shall be forced to rehabilitate them to their original state or compensate for it duly.

**Article 39.** In case organs, enterprises and institutions have brought grave consequences to improving, conserving and utilizing rivers in violation of this law, their senior officials and individual citizens guilty of the same offence shall be subjected to administrative or criminal punishment depending on the seriousness of their offences.