Forest Harvest Policy in China

China National Forestry Economics and Development Research Center (FEDRC)

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Forest Coverage (%) in China
Sandstorms occur regularly in north China

Sandstorm in Beijing - 2000
Drought and floods occur every year.
History of Harvest Regulation Policy

Strict harvest regulation started in the 1950’s

- Mandatory application for permission to harvest
- Over-logging in state-owned forests
- Establishment of monitoring organizations
Harvest regulation decreased during the Cultural Revolution from 1966-1976

- Institutions and organizations were dissolved and re-organized
- Forest resources were heavily degraded
- Control of management was re-instituted during the Cultural Revolution
Harvest Quota Was Implemented After the Reform and Opening in 1978

- Pilot test of the Forest Law in 1979, the planned forest harvest was implemented nationwide
- The Forest Law was formally promulgated in 1984
- Harvest quota system started in 1987
- Amendment of the Forest Law in 1998 - adjustment of the harvest quota system
Forest Area and Standing Volume

Trends of Chinese Forest Area and Volume

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Area (100 million ha)</th>
<th>Volume (100 million m³)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973-1976</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-1981</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-1988</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-1993</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-1998</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Average Volume per Hectare

Volume/Area (m³/ha)

Annual Forest Total and Net Growth, Actual Harvest, Harvest Quota

Forest Growth, Harvest and Harvest Quota

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>million m³</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


- **Total Forest Growth**
- **Net Forest Growth**
- **Estimated Forest Harvest**
- **Harvest Quota**
Determination & Implementation of the Harvest Quota

State Council

State Forestry Administration (SFA)

Forestry Bureaus of Province, Regions

County Forestry Bureaus

Forestry Bureaus, Forest Farms, Agriculture Farms, Plants and Mills

Collective Forests and Trees

Farmers’ Trees

Trees planted on contracted lands
Problems Caused

- Excessive harvesting widespread (over the quota limit)
  - especially in natural forest areas
- Decline in forest quality
- Infringes on forest owners’ benefit and disposal rights
Reform Trends

- Harvest Quota will be
  - maintained in areas zoned as public-benefit forests (both state and collective forests)
  - gradually removed in areas zoned commercial forests (both state and collective forests)

- Monitoring will be improved
  - focusing more on area-based control, harvesting technology + reforestation management
  - forest management plans will be required and submitted to local authorities, used as a basis for monitoring and evaluation
Thank You!