

Sustainable forestry as an alternative to the logging ban: Findings from policy experiments

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Introduction

- The logging ban, as a national forestry protection policy, was implemented in 1998 in the upper Yangtze River and the mid-to-upper Yellow River.

Introduction

- Logging ban is a policy of the Natural Forest Protection Program (NFPP)
- Commercial logging banned in upriver Yangtze River and mid-to-upriver Yellow River
- Farmers' self-use wood (for construction and firewood) can be applied for from the harvest quota administered by the Forestry Department
- In Yunnan Province, 66 counties and 17 national forestry farms (58% of the provincial land area) affected

Project Purpose

- Overview of the logging ban
- Present socio-economic data of the impacts of the ban on communities
- Case study of the policy experiment in Shigu Township, Lijiang County, Yunnan Province
- Recommend alternatives to the logging ban

Methodology

- Review of policy documents and literature review
- Farmers' household interview
- Farmers' group discussion
- Local government interview

Results

- The Naxi nationality in the study site has a strong tradition of sustainable forest management (SFM)
- The logging ban halted this traditional management
- People have lost confidence in policy and policymakers

Results

- Local people have stopped traditional management and started illegal logging
- Local government foresters have more difficulties managing forest resources

Results

- SFM was recognized as a future strategy by the State Forestry Administration (SFA), but the meaning is still unclear
- Nationally, related experiments and research are increasing

Problems

- How to improve local traditional management?
- How to improve the existing forest situation?

Objectives of the experiment

- Strengthen traditional forest management
- Develop a tool for monitoring forest activities
- Recommend alternatives to the logging ban

Activities of the experiment

- Develop PCI for the villages based on villagers' knowledge
- Develop participatory village-level forest management plans

Recommendations

- Abandon the existing quota control system
- Adopt participatory SFM in the villages
- Develop SFM from farmers' knowledge and ability
- Use PCI for monitoring by community members and local technicians
- Explore best-management practices as an alternative

Thank you

Welcome to Yunnan Province!
P. R. China