



American Hardwood Export Council Southeast Asia and Greater China

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www.ahec-china.org



US Hardwood Industry Demonstrates Legal And Sustainable Credentials

Full study can be accessed on the
homepage:

www.ahec-europe.org



Generally describe how US forests are managed in relation to sustainability



**A: There are three compliances including :
Federal Statutes, State Statutes and Non-
Regulatory Initiatives.**



- a) Federal environmental laws and statutes government federal and management have either a direct or indirect impact on forest practices.

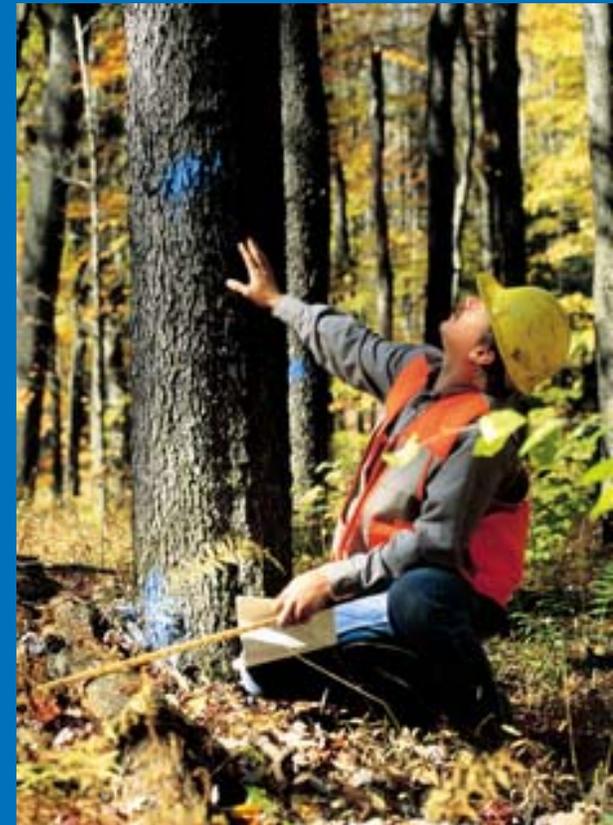




As a general rule, these laws allow for several penalties too be imposed on violators. At the federal level, major environmental laws that regulates activities on public and private level forest land include:



- endangered species act
- clean water act
- clear air act and
- federal insecticide, fungicide and rodenticide act
- Federal programs contribute to protecting unique or special environments, encouraging conservation, promoting environmental education, supporting environmental related research or otherwise enhancing environmental values.





As result, all federal timber management activities require some form of environmental assessment or impact analysis. The available data indicate a high level of compliance and aggressive prosecution of violations of federal environmental, labour and worker safety law.



- b) Compliance with State Statutes

A large number of state agencies have jurisdiction over various aspects of sustainable forest management in the hardwood producing region.





These state agencies employ more than 4500 natural resources professionals responsible for implementing forestry programs which are regulatory in nature focusing on forests which are considered to be extensively or moderately engaged in regulatory programs in the hardwood region.



Every state in the hardwood producing region has a regulatory or voluntary program to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs). Many states sponsor educational and training sessions for landowners and timber harvesters.



- C) Non-regulatory Initiatives

This deals with forest ownership predominantly private. About 70% of the US hardwood forestland is owned by small private ownership.





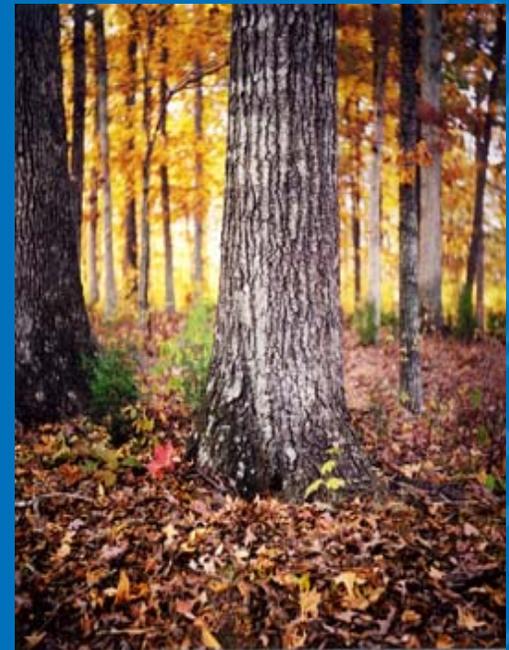
The federal and state governments are engaged in various programs of a voluntary or incentive-based nature to encourage conservation, protection of water quality, wildlife habitat, forest retention and other sustainable forestry practices.



These programs influence forest practices included technical assistance, education, fiscal incentives and funding for protection of areas with important conservation values. Many landowners avail themselves of federal and state program.



As the result, when considered along with regulatory initiatives, non-regulatory programs contributes to a legal and institution framework that places a high importance on sustainable forestry and helps to ensure the legality of US supplies.





The Facts of Sustainability of US Hardwoods

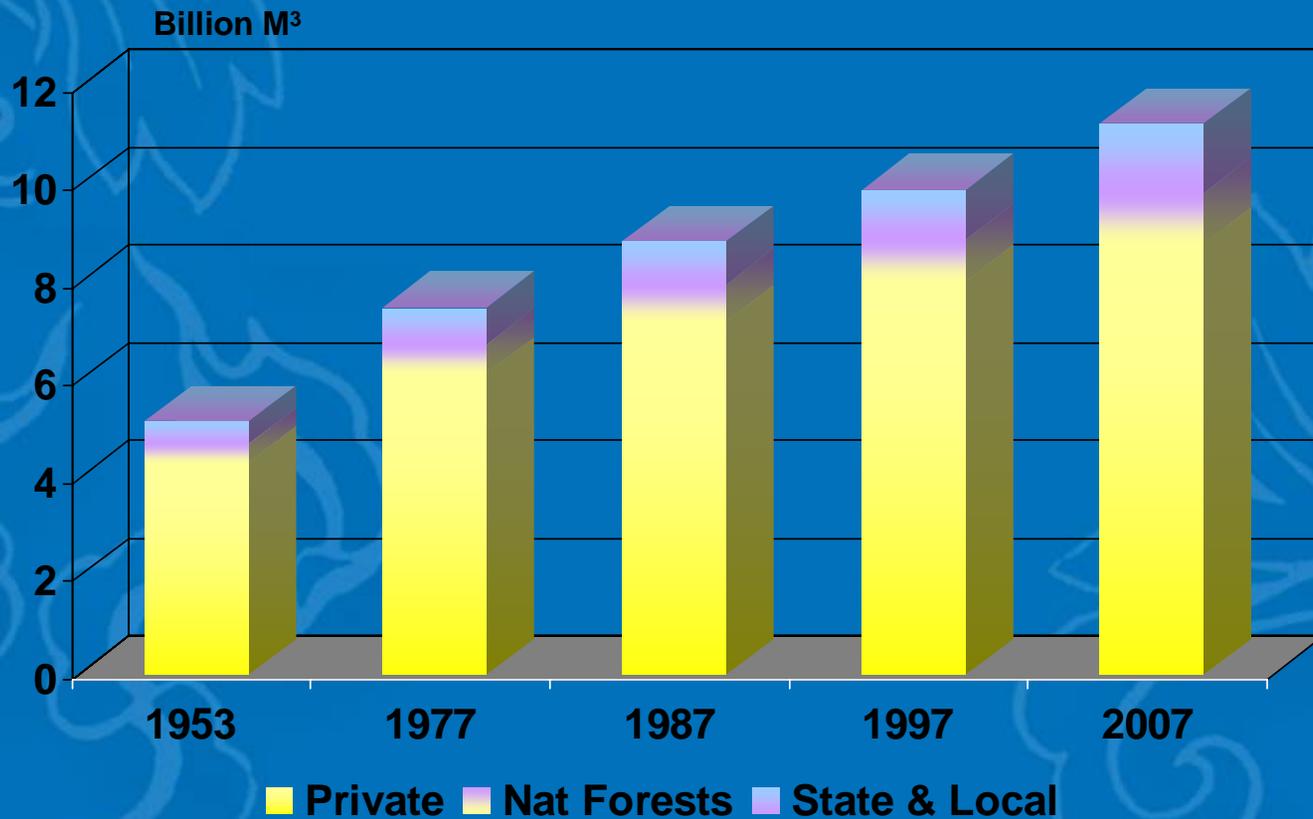
At 304 million hectares, the area of forest in the US has remained stable over the past five decades. Despite development pressure and cropland needs, forest land area actually increased by 4.7 million hectares between 1987 and 2007



Hardwood species represent 43% of the growing stock in the US; over the past five decades the US hardwood inventory has more than doubled (Figure 1)



Figure 1: US Hardwood Inventory, 1953 - 2007



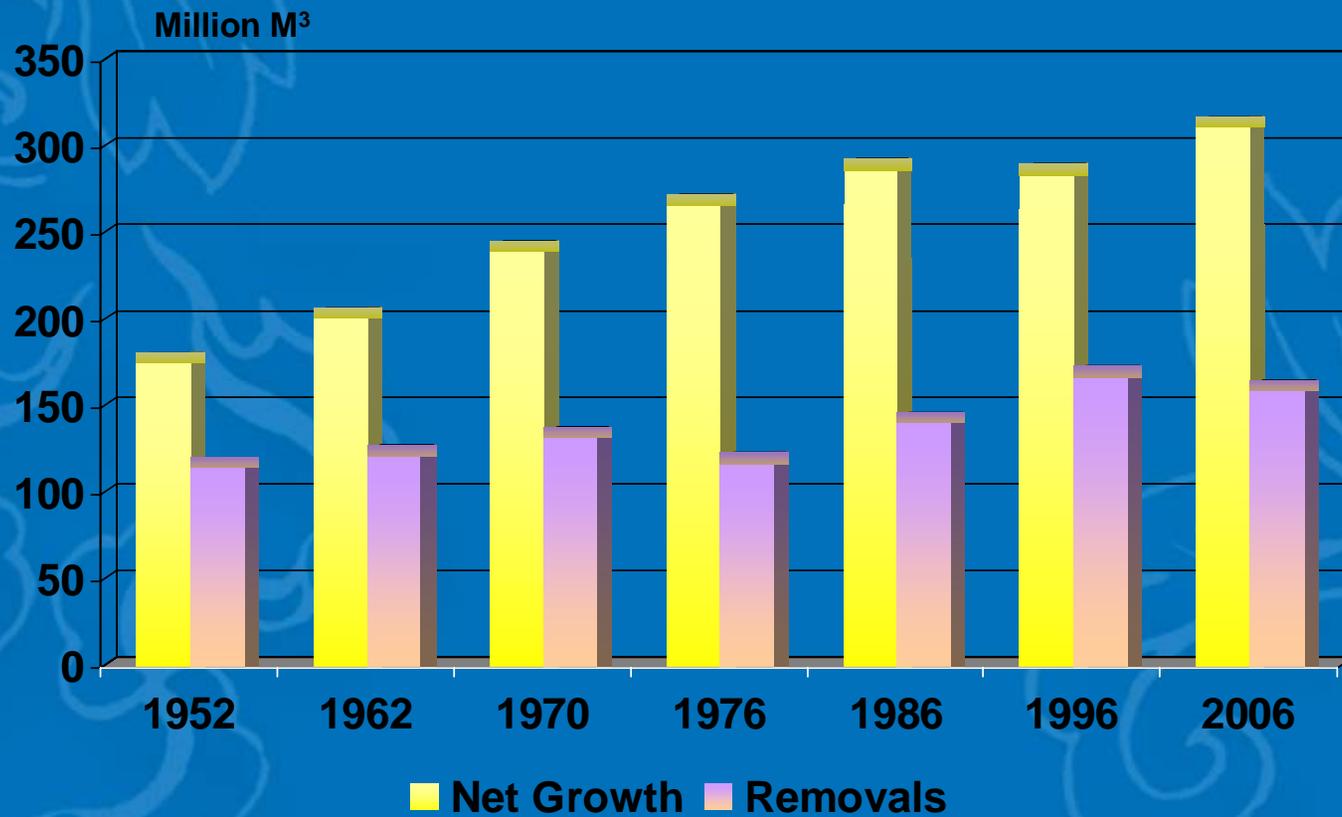
Data from US Forest Service, Forest Resources of the United States, 2007



Hardwood growth exceeds removals nationally as well as in each hardwood-producing state and for each of the major commercial hardwood species, including highly valued cherry and walnut in 2006, hardwood growth exceeded removal by a factor of 1.9, meaning that almost two cubic meters of hardwood grew in American forests for every one cubic meter that was harvested or died. Net annual hardwood growth has exceeded hardwood removals continuously since 1952 (fig.2)



Figure 2: US Hardwood Growth and Removals, 1952 – 2006



Data from US Forest Service, Forest Resources of the United States, 2007



For CoC, it is the various certification bodies (FSC, SFI) and their accredited auditors that develop and enforce the standards. In this issue, AHEC plays no role in this.

AHEC's Response to the Increasing Global Demand for Verified Legal and Sustainable Forest Products:

- The American hardwood industry has commissioned the study led by Seneca Creek Associate and has released the findings of the study "Assessment of Lawful Harvesting and Sustainability of US Hardwood Exports.
- The study confirms that US hardwoods derive from legal and well managed forests and it concludes:



- There is a very low risk that US hardwoods derive from illegal sources.
- There is high confidence that US hardwoods procured from the US are low risk in all categories of the FSC controlled wood standard.
- National and State forest programs in the US are responsive in promoting and ensuring sustainable forest practices.
- sustainable credentials.



- Preliminary indications are that the AHEC funded risk assessment study combined with the new AHEC Responsible Procurement (RPP) for Exporters will be accepted as meeting Japan's demand for illegally – sourced wood products.
- With the result of the third study AHEC also believe the legality study and RPP will play an important role in Europe and Japan. We believe the study and the RPP together will underline the low risk nature of US hardwoods and reassure the wood chain as to their



Thank You!