

Abstract Overview: IASCP 2004

Abstract 1: Overview of the Chinese Collective Forest Sector: Policy and Institutional Dimensions. Author: Miao Guangping, China National Forestry Economic and Development Research Center (FEDRC).

This paper captures the latest and best available information on the policy and institutional dimensions of China's collective forests. Collective forestry property rights are defined and varying property rights schemes differentiated, one from another. The paper presents the national and provincial distribution of collective forests as well as characterizes those assets procured, emphasizing product type, supply by province, and volume and value trends. It puts collective forest production into the context of national and provincial production. The paper describes the demographics of the sector, in particular, investigating household and community participation, received benefits and existing business models. The paper expands on the impacts from legislative measures such as the National Forest Protection Program (NFPP), 'conservation forests' and the Forest Ecosystem Compensation Program (FECP). It concludes with recommendations regarding policy reforms that would strengthen the collective forest sector and increase their contribution to poverty alleviation and rural development.

Abstract 2: Implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Compensation Program: Impacts and Implications for Collective Forest Owners. Author: Zuo Ting, China Agricultural University (CAU).

The Forest Ecosystem Compensation Program (FECP) is a major new initiative in China designed to compensate the owners of critical forest ecosystems for the environmental services they provide. This paper first reviews the objectives and status of the FECP in China, the budgets, the targeting, the levels of compensation, and then focuses on implementation in Hunan Province. The paper assesses the impact of the compensation on incentives to maintain forests, comparing the level of compensation with alternative sources of income, such as sustainable commercial logging and non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection. The paper then assesses the equity dimensions of the program, identifying the distribution of benefits between public and private/collective lands, and how the funds are distributed within communities. The paper then draws lessons for the consideration of national policy makers and recommendations for improving the FECP.

Abstract 3: Company-Community Contracts for Forest Production in Sichuan: Examples and Lessons from Experience. Author: Gan Tingyu, Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences (SASS).

This paper first reviews the rise in company-community contracts in China – providing the available data on numbers of cases and communities involved. The paper focuses on the particular experience of Plantation Timber Products' (PtP) out-grower scheme from a community tenure rights perspective, examining the contracts, the distribution of risk, how and who negotiates the contracts (household, natural village, administrative village) as well as the role of the provincial and county forest departments in advancing the scheme. The paper concludes with a review of the advantages, disadvantages and risks to

participating in the scheme from a community perspective, and identifies lessons for industry and policy makers regarding how these schemes could be improved.

Abstract 4: Collective Forests and Fast-growing Plantations in Fujian: Experiences and Lessons for Communities, Industry and Policy Makers. Author: Li Nu Yun, State Forest Administration (SFA).

There is a dramatic increase in the establishment of fast-growing plantations in Southeast China – and many of the new plantations are being established on collectively owned forest land. This paper first reviews the scale of new plantations and private sector investment underway in the region. It then reviews the experiences of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank projects to encourage community production – identifying the types of contracts engaged by communities, how these contracts are structured, and the experience from a community perspective – including how risks are distributed and incomes earned by communities as well as the role of the provincial and county forest departments in advancing such schemes. The paper concludes with a review of the advantages, disadvantages and risks to participating in company-community schemes from a community perspective, and identifies lessons for industry and policy makers regarding how these schemes could be improved.

Abstract 5: Collective Forests and Expansion of Public Protected Areas in China: Loss of Land, Rights and Biodiversity? Author: Xu Jianchu, Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK).

There has been a dramatic increase in the establishment of public protected areas over the last several decades and this expansion has often come at the expense of indigenous and other community rights. There is growing awareness of this tension between public goals to preserve biodiversity and the human rights of indigenous peoples, who often live in the world's biodiversity hotspots. At the same time, there is growing recognition of the integral role indigenous people have had historically, and continue to have, in effectively managing landscapes and protecting biodiversity – often with better success than public protected area agencies. This paper examines this issue in China and focuses particularly on the Province of Yunnan – one of the most biologically and ethnographically diverse areas on earth. The paper begins with an overview of the status of the public protected system in China, its targets for expansion, and experiences to date. The paper then presents all available data on the known livelihood impacts of this expansion, the amount of land area lost by communities to the protected area system, the number of households, as well as the known due process to incorporate community land and compensation paid to communities for their loss of rights. The paper focuses particularly on the case of Yunnan and identifies particular issues that merit attention by policy planners. In addition to examining the legal and social dimensions of this problem, the paper examines the empirical evidence of whether public goals for biodiversity protection are better achieved under public, or private collective forest tenure. The paper concludes with recommendations for further research and reflection by China's policy makers, environmental groups and community advocates at the international, national and provincial levels.

Abstract 6: The Design and Implementation of the Harvesting Quota: Issues and Options from a National Perspective. Author: Zhang Lei, China National Forestry Economic and Development Research Center (FEDRC).

In 1985, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) established the national logging quota with the aim to reduce over-harvesting and improve forest management. This paper first reviews the logic and goals of the policy and describes the official process of calculating the quota and administering it at the national, provincial, and local levels. The paper reviews the lessons from experience, including how the SFA has changed or adopted the policy over time, the evidence that the quota has limited harvesting or led to improved forest management, and what changes are now under consideration by the SFA to reconsider or improve the policy today.

Abstract 7: The Harvesting Quota: Impacts on Incentives for Sustainable Collective Forest Management. Author: Yang Congming, Guizhou Forest Department.

In 1985 the State Forestry Administration (SFA) adopted a national regulation prescribing an annual allowable cut (harvesting quota) for all forest management units – regardless of size or ownership. The implementation of the quota has been widely critiqued and is seen as one of the largest distortions in the Chinese forestry sector. This paper begins with a quick overview of the history of the quota in China. The paper then reviews the actual implementation of the quota over time at the county and village levels – drawing on empirical evidence from Guizhou Province and assesses the impacts of this regulation on incentives for sustainable forest management. The paper reviews the history of the allocation of the quota at the county and village levels, identifies how this quota is calculated and administered by local SFA authorities, compares the annual quota with annual forest production, as well as the level of annual demand by community households, for fuelwood and household construction requirements. The paper also identifies the financial impact of the quota on communities – the loss of income from implementation of the quota. The paper then draws on other literature to review the types of regulation by which other major forest nations have approached the harvesting quota issue, and presents recommendations to Chinese policy makers for their consideration in re-evaluating the harvesting quota in China.

Abstract 8: Sustainable Forestry as an Alternative to the Logging Ban: Findings from Policy Experiments. Author: Zhao Yaqiao, Center for Community Development Studies (CDS).

In 1998, the Chinese government banned logging in most of upland China. Although originally inspired by overcutting on public lands, the ban was extended to collective forests – which constitute some 60 percent of all forests in China – without due process and without compensation to the millions of collective forest owners, in contradiction to Chinese land law. This paper begins with an overview of the logging ban and its implementation, presenting data on the extent and known socio-economic impact on

communities. It then presents the known evidence of cases where provincial authorities have allowed 'policy experiments', exemptions to the ban. The paper focuses on a particular experiment in Shigu Township, Lijiang County, Yunnan Province. In this case, it describes the history of collective forest management in the area, community rules and governance structure, how the logging ban has affected the attitudes and incentives of the communities to manage their forests, and the new rules being piloted in the context of the 'policy experiment.' The paper then describes how this 'experiment' came to be allowed by government forestry officials, and current plans to extend the 'experiment' to other areas – with provincial support. The paper examines the implementation of the logging ban from the perspectives of the community and the provincial forestry department and proposes an alternative regulatory scheme to the Ban to encourage sustainable collective forest management. The paper also includes a reflection on the role of policy experiments in designing and refining government policy, and suggests steps to establish a more conducive environment for policy experimentation in China. The paper concludes with a set of recommendations for the consideration of Chinese government authorities on an alternative regulatory scheme to the logging ban and steps towards encouraging more policy experiments in China.