

# China's Report on the Implementation of the Forest Instrument

## Foreword

The issue of forests is the focus of environment and development in today's world and is closely related with various challenges faced by mankind. With the deepening of the globalization process, the issue of forests has evolved into a global significant issue that transcends national boundaries and sectors and influences mankind's sustainable development. More and more practices prove that promoting sustainable forest management, expanding the area and improving the quality of forests is the strategic measure and effective approach to break the dilemma of mankind's sustainable development.

The *Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests* (or the *Forest Instrument*) adopted at the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly in 2007 is an outcome document with milestone importance in the inter-governmental negotiations on forests. It fully embodies the shared political will of national governments on promoting forestry development and reflects the consensus of the international community on enhancing global forest governance.

In China, the forestry sector shoulders the important responsibility of forest protection and development, land desertification control, wetland protection and restoration and biodiversity preservation, and plays an indispensable role in ensuring the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the country. The implementation of the *Forest Instrument* is not only a concrete action taken by the Chinese government to fulfill its international responsibilities, but also a strategic requirement for achieving sustainable development in China. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the implementation of international treaties by establishing an expert supportive mechanism and carrying out trainings on various levels, including the training for the implementation of the *Forest Instrument* for officials from developing countries.

The establishment of pilot sites is a strategic step taken by the

Chinese government to implement the *Forest Instrument*. According to forest types, ownership structures and development levels in different localities in China, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) selected 12 sites, including Qingyuan County of Liaoning Province, as the pilot sites for the implementation of the *Forest Instrument*. Based on these pilot sites, we will establish experiment and demonstration bases for China's sustainable forest management (SFM), set up an exhibition for China's achievements and build an international platform for experience exchanges.

We appreciate the UNFF and the FAO for their great support during China's implementation of the *Forest Instrument*. We also look forward to close cooperation with all countries and related international organizations in the future in order to contribute more to promote SFM in the world.

## **I. Policies and Measures for China's Implementation of the *Forest Instrument***

In recent years, the Chinese government has been seriously implementing the *Forest Instrument*. We incorporated forestry development into major national economic and social development strategy, formulated the mid-and-long term forestry development plan, promoted balanced and coordinated development of ecological forestry and forestry for people's livelihood, continuously and steadily increased investment to forestry ecological protection and restoration, and strengthened cross-sectoral cooperation, realizing the Chinese government's political commitment on the implementation of the *Forest Instrument*.

### **(I) Incorporating Forestry into Major Reform and Development**

#### **Plans of the National Economy**

As an important part of national economic sustainable development, in recent years, forestry has been incorporated into various major reform and development plans of the national economy: 1. In 2013, *Decisions of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Several Major Problems on Comprehensively Intensifying the Reform* stated to draw the red line of ecological protection, stabilize and expand the range of the Conversion of Cropland to Forest Program (CCFP) and improve

the collective forest tenure reform. 2. Major actions of forestry were incorporated into *National Plan of Economic and Social Development (2011-2015)*, which states to implement major ecological restoration projects, strengthen achievements made in natural forest protection and the conversion of cropland to forests or grassland, accelerate to build ecological compensation mechanism, intensify protection and management for important ecological function zones, enhance the capacity of conserving water sources, water and soil, and wind prevention and sand fixation, and biodiversity conservation, as well as promote the collective and state-owned forest tenure reforms. 3. Forestry and ecological construction were integrated into *China's Outline of Alleviating Poverty through Development in Rural Areas (2011-2020)*. It proposes that by 2015, the forest coverage in poor areas should increase by 1.5 percentage points and that by 2020, 3.5 percentage points than that in the end of 2010. Major ecological restoration projects such as the CCFP, water and soil conservation, natural forest protection and shelterbelt construction should be implemented continuously in poor areas. The government should establish ecological compensation mechanism, and focus more on poor areas, strengthen ecological compensation level for major ecological function zones, and pay attention to biodiversity conservation in poor areas.

## **(II) Developing and Implementing National Forestry**

### **Development Plans**

According to demands of forestry and national economic and social development, China developed a series of national forestry plans to promote the development of ecological forestry and forestry for people's livelihood. In recent years, the following major plans on forestry were developed: 1. In 2011, SFA developed *Forestry Development Plan (2011-2015)*, deciding basic principles, principal objectives and major tasks for forestry sustainable development. 2. In 2013, SFA formulated *Outlines on Promoting Ecological Civilization (2013-2020)*, proposing medium and long term forestry development strategies and major actions, such as drawing red lines of ecological protection and construction of key functional zones of ecological protection, planning to increase forest coverage to over 23%, forest stock volume to over 15 billion m<sup>3</sup>, forestry output to 10 trillion RMB and compulsory tree planting rate to 70% by 2020, in order to construct a firm ecological security system, an efficient ecological economic system and a prosperous ecological cultural system, and to undertake historical missions for forestry endowed by ecological civilization construction. 3. In 2014, SFA issued *National Plan for Poverty Alleviation through Forestry* and plans for poverty alleviation

through forestry in 11 zones, further strengthening forestry's contribution to poverty alleviation. 4. SFA formulated *Construction Plan of National Timber Strategic Storage and Production Bases (2013-2020)*, planning to complete 14 million ha (equivalent 210 million mu) of timber forest construction, including 4.5146 million ha of intensive plantations cultivation, 4.9717 million ha of existing forests transformation and cultivation and 4.5137 million ha of young-and-middle-aged forests tending within 8 years. China emphasizes on fostering and conserving domestic precious tree species and germplasm resources, and strives to create and develop fast-growing-and-high-yielding forests and rare large-diameter timber forests, forming a timber resources system for back-up with basically proper mix and relatively optimized structure of tree species, in order to initially reduce the imbalance between supply and demand of domestic timber.

### **(III) Promoting Cross-Sectoral Cooperation**

In order to meet the demands of forestry reform and development, in recent years, China has carried out cross-sectoral cooperation in various fields, including laws and regulations, climate change and poverty alleviation with forestry, generating different channels for cross-sectoral cooperation and greatly promoting policy implementation. 1. SFA coordinated Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee of National People's Congress (NPC), Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation Committee of NPC, Legislative Affairs Commission of NPC Standing Committee and Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council to amend *Forest Law (amended)* and *Wildlife Conservation Law (amended)*, etc.. 2. As a member of National Leading Group for Addressing Climate Change, SFA participated in strategies formulation and negotiation on addressing climate change through forestry together with China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Land and Resources and Ministry of Environmental Protection to integrate the objectives of increasing forest area by 40 million ha and forest stock volume by 1.3 billion m<sup>3</sup> from 2005 into *National Plan on Addressing Climate Change (2014-2020)*. 3. SFA worked with 36 departments, including General Office of the State Council, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and People's Bank of China, to form the Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development of the State Council, participating in drafting guidelines, policies and plans of economic development of poor areas related to forestry, giving full play to forestry's strengths and strengthening support for poor areas in funds and projects. Early 2014, SFA issued *National Plan for Poverty Alleviation through Forestry* and

plans for poverty alleviation through forestry in 11 zones, cooperated with the Ministry of Water Resources to alleviate poverty in stony desertification zones in Yunnan, Guangxi and Guizhou provinces, coordinated with Ministry of Agriculture, the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, Ministry of Commerce, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology and All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives to carry out income generation of characteristic industries in poor areas, and published *Implementation Plan on Income Generation of Characteristic Industries* to promote income increase of characteristic industries and improve self-development capacity for poor areas.

#### **(IV) Implementing Major Ecological Protection and Restoration**

##### **Projects of Forestry**

The Chinese government has been seriously implementing the *Forest Instrument* and achieved a lot in increasing and protecting forest resources. The following are obvious breakthroughs in recent years: 1. In 2012, Phase II of Natural Forest Protection Program was launched, with construction period from 2011 to 2020 and total capital investment over 240 billion RMB, aiming to increase 78 million mu of forest area, 1.1 billion m<sup>3</sup> of forest stock volume and 416 million tons of forest carbon sink. 2. In 2014, a new phase of CCFP was launched to convert steep slope cropland to forests and in serious desertification areas to forests in important and ecologically vulnerable areas. 3. According to requirements of *Outlines for Ecological Civilization Construction of Forestry*, the red lines for forestland and forests were drawn, i.e. the national forestland area no less than 4.68 billion mu, forest area no less than 3.74 billion mu, and forest stock volume no less than 20 billion m<sup>3</sup> in order to maintain the national ecological security. 4. The government strengthened forest management and promoted forest tending. From 2007 to 2013, 48.6207 million ha of young-and-middle-aged forests were tended in total. Since 2009, the central government has increased subsidies for forest tending. From 2009 to 2014, the central government arranged 24.9 billion RMB and set a 228 million mu target for forest tending. 5. From 2011 to 2014, the central government invested 2.31 billion RMB for pest control for forests and 30.479 million ha of forests were under control.

#### **(V) Promoting Collective Forest Tenure Reform**

On June 28, 2008, the State Council issued *Opinions on Comprehensively Promoting Collective Forest Tenure Reform*. On June

22, the State Council held the central government's forestry work conference, comprehensively deploying the collective forest tenure reform and proposing to basically complete the task of clarification of property rights and contracting forestland to households within 5 years. On this basis, through deepening the reform, improving policies, perfecting services and regulating management, the government generally formed sound development mechanism for collective forestry, and realized objectives of growing resources, increasing farmers' income, and building sound ecology and harmonious forest zones.

By the end of 2013, 29 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), except Shanghai and Tibet, had identified forest tenure with an area of 2.702 billion mu, accounting for 99.05% of the area integrated into the reform. The area that has been issued with tenure certificates throughout the whole country reached 2.641 billion mu, accounting for 97.65% of the area with tenure identified. 90.7694 million households had been issued with certificates, accounting for 60.53% of the households involved in the reform. By the end of 2013, 147,500 forestry cooperative organizations had been established across China, with more than 24 million households participating, accounting for 16% of all households involved in the reform. The area of forestlands managed by those cooperative organizations was 247 million mu. Among those cooperative organizations, there are 47,400 forestry cooperatives, with 7.5646 million households and the area of forestland managed by those forestry cooperatives is 109,418,400 mu.

Based on the collective forest tenure reform, China will also carry out the reform in state-owned forest areas. The reform of state-owned forest areas will identify functions and positions of state-owned forest areas, straighten out the government's social functions in managing the forest areas and forest resources management mechanism, separate management and utilization of forest resources, improve policy supporting system, cease commercial logging in natural forests in key national-owned forest areas generally, and establish a management system of state-owned forest areas conducive to protecting and developing forest resources, improving ecology and people's livelihood, boosting forestry development vigor and unifying rights, responsibilities and interests.

## **(VI) Strengthening Forest and Biodiversity Protection**

In recent years, the Chinese government has taken measures to protect wildlife and construct reserves in order to strengthen forest and biodiversity protection. 1. The government promotes biodiversity protection through laws and regulations. The Chinese government has issued a series of laws on biodiversity conservation, including *Wildlife*

*Conservation Law, Forest Law, Grassland Law, Animal Husbandry Law, Seed Law and Law on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine*, and enacted a series of administrative regulations including *Regulations on Nature Reserves, Regulations on Wild Plants Protection and Regulations on Administration of Import and Export of Endangered Wild Animals and Plants*. 2. The Chinese government formulated related development plans, such as *National Development Plan for Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves Construction during 12th Five-Year Plan*, proposing to conserve over 60 wild animal species and 120 wild plant species and construct 51 national-level nature reserves with priority. 3. Through implementing National Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves Construction Project, the government carried out in-situ conservation and saving and breeding for rare and endangered species, established national monitoring and prevention and control system for epidemic sources and diseases of terrestrial wild animals and released *National Action Plan for Forest and Trees Genetic Resources Protection and Sustainable Utilization* to strengthen genetic resources (germplasm resources) protection. 4. China has strengthened cooperation on law enforcement and conventions implementation, combated wildlife trafficking and improved level of protecting of endangered forestry resources with actions including “Cobra Action”, “Public Destruction of Confiscated Ivory”. 5. We also formulated *National Construction Plan of Pest Prevention and Control in Forestry (2011-2020)*, building a system of monitoring and early warning, disaster control through quarantine, and disaster reduction through pest prevention and control, in order to enhance the protective capability against pests, protect forest resources and improve forest health.

## **(VII) Promoting International Cooperation**

Through bilateral, multilateral and nongovernmental channels, forestry has made significant contribution to accelerating forestry development in China by investigations, scientific and technological communication and project cooperation. 1. We introduced assets, technologies and international advanced ideas. Since the 1980s, the Chinese government has implemented almost 1,000 international cooperation projects on forestry, introduced non-reimbursable assistance over 1 billion USD and obtained nearly 1.5 billion USD of concessional loans from international financial institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, effectively alleviating the insufficiency of development assets for forestry at that time. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has also positively introduced advanced technologies and learnt from international advanced concepts, comprehensively promoting forestry governance capacity. 2. The competitiveness of forestry has been

enhanced. Since the beginning of 21st century, under the background of economic globalization, China's accession to the WTO and the implementation of natural forest protection project, China's forestry enterprises have entered into the global market. The international competitiveness of China's forestry has been remarkably strengthened and the industrial development space has been effectively expanded, making China the global largest timber importer, artificial board exporter and forest product trader. 3. China has positively participated in global forestry governance processes. SFA leads other institutions in China for the implementation of *CITES*, the *Ramsar Convention*, *UNCCD* and the *Forest Instrument*, and is also engaged in the implementation and negotiation for *UNFCCC*, *UNCBD* and the *International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants*. In recent years, China's domestic implementation mechanism has been continuously improved, convention-related resolutions have been effectively carried out, and the capabilities of participating in the negotiation of conventions and related processes, coordinating and promoting to establish just and reasonable international forestry governance system have been recognized gradually by the international society. 4. China has made achievements in promoting cooperation with overseas NGOs. At present, SFA has established steady cooperation and communication relationship with 18 overseas NGOs, such as WWF, TNC and IUCN. Through the establishment of annual negotiation mechanism, the cooperation has been strengthened, playing a positive role in protecting China's forests and wildlife. 5. INBAR, the first intergovernmental organization with its headquarter in China, was founded the in 1997. APFNet was initiated and established in 2009.

### **(VIII) Promoting Technological Research on Sustainable Forest**

#### **Management**

In recent years, the Chinese government has strengthened support on technological development and research promotion for SFM. 1. *The Scientific and Technological Development Plan for Forestry during 12th Five-Year Plan* was enacted, planning to basically establish the national forestry science and technology innovation system suitable for modern forestry development through development during the planning period, obtaining major breakthroughs in research fields such as new species development and forest management, obviously strengthening forestry innovation, achieving comprehensive scientific development of forestry, increasing the contribution rate of scientific and technological progress of forestry to 50%, major scientific and technological achievements reaching 2,000 in total and doubling the number of forestry patents. 2.



*The National Plan for Establishing the Forestry Science and Technology Promotion System (2011-2020)* was formulated, further promoting the establishment and improvement of the forestry science and technology promotion system, building capacity for forestry science and technology promotion institutions at various levels, and improving their infrastructure, technical equipment and promotion service. In 2013, 2,822 scientific commissioners was assigned, over 500 new technologies were promoted, more than 600,000 person times of grass-root key technical staff and forest farmers were trained, and more than 30,000 scientific and technological demonstration households were assisted and guided. Till now, about 10,388 scientific commissioners have been assigned, realizing the objective of assigning 10,000 scientific commissioners within 5 years in advance. 3. The government has increased investment on science and technologies and promoted forestry research. In 2013, the total investment on science and technologies for forestry reached 1 billion RMB, approximate 9 times higher than 159 million RMB in 2007. 4. In order to improve forest quality and advance SFM, the Chinese government launched the construction of China Forest Certification System in 2001, issued and implemented 2 national standards—*Forest Management of China Forest Certification, Production and Marketing Supervision Chain of China Forest Certification* and 14 industry standards and technical regulations. Since then, China's forest certification system has been established, and realized international mutual recognition with PEFC in February 2014. Through experiment and comparison research, the effect of forest certification has been shown in regulating forest management activities, improving forest management level and protecting ecological environment. 5. According to the status quo of China's forest resources, in terms of characteristics and main problems of forest resources, in order to accelerate sound development of forest management with the core of forest tending, SFA organized to amend technical standards, regulations and rules, such as *Regulations for Forest Tending* and *Technological Regulations for Transformation of Low-efficient Forests*, organized to carry out forest land quality classification and evaluation and related basic researches, including key technologies for forest management, preparing to advance comprehensively sustainable forests management in terms of technologies.

### **(IX) Relieving Poverty**

The Chinese government set the development of forestry for people's livelihood as the objective of forestry development, in addition to implementing the poverty alleviation policy related with major projects and policies of forestry, it also cooperated with corresponding

departments and formulated poverty alleviation policies and plans through forestry. 1. We formulated *National Poverty Alleviation Plan through Forestry* and made plans for 11 zones, arranging major projects of forestry for concentrated poor areas with priority, and continuously strengthening support for projects and assets. We constantly held various training classes for forestry management staff, technical staff and farmers in poor areas in order to expand their channels of shaking off poverty and achieving prosperity. We led regional development and poverty alleviation for stony desertification zones in Yunnan, Guangxi and Guizhou, positively gave full play to industrial strengths, and provided support to 19 related counties in terms of projects, assets and talent exchanges. 2. The Chinese government has been advancing the collective forest tenure reform, generally improving farmers' property of forestlands. 3. The Chinese government has been carrying out major projects such as natural forest protection, CCFP and transforming shantytowns, achieving a win-win result in ecological improvement and poverty alleviation.

### **(X) Promoting Food Security**

Forestry plays an irreplaceable role in maintaining food security. In recent years, the Chinese government has made great efforts in developing characteristic economic forest products and facilitating camellia oleifera industry in order to maintain food security. 1. In order to improve ecology and people's livelihood, maintain national grain and oil security and optimize the dietary structure, the Chinese government has paid a lot of attention to the development of economic forest industry, and brought economic and ecological benefits of economic forests into full play. We issued the *Development Plan of National Advantageous and Characteristic Economic Forests (2013-2020)*, vigorously developing economic forest planting and processing industry such as woody grain and oil, woody food, characteristic fruits, woody spices and woody herbs. 2. The *National Camellia Oleifera Industry Development Plan (2008-2020)* was enacted, vigorously promoting food security. For five years, the total investment in camellia oleifera industry reached 27.1 billion RMB. At present, the total area of camellia oleifera forests in China stands at 57.5 million mu, the output increased from over 200,000 tons in 2008 to 450,000 tons in 2012, and the output value raised from 11 billion RMB to 39 billion RMB. According to statistics, there are 1,216 enterprises in 14 provinces and autonomous regions involved in camellia oleifera industry development, with 1.34 million farmers, 1,747 cooperatives and 215,300 households. 3. Through CCFP and the construction of shelterbelts, including the three-north shelterbelts, the Chinese government has made efforts to construct shelterbelts on croplands in order to increase or stabilize the yield and ensure national

food security.

## **II. Achievements**

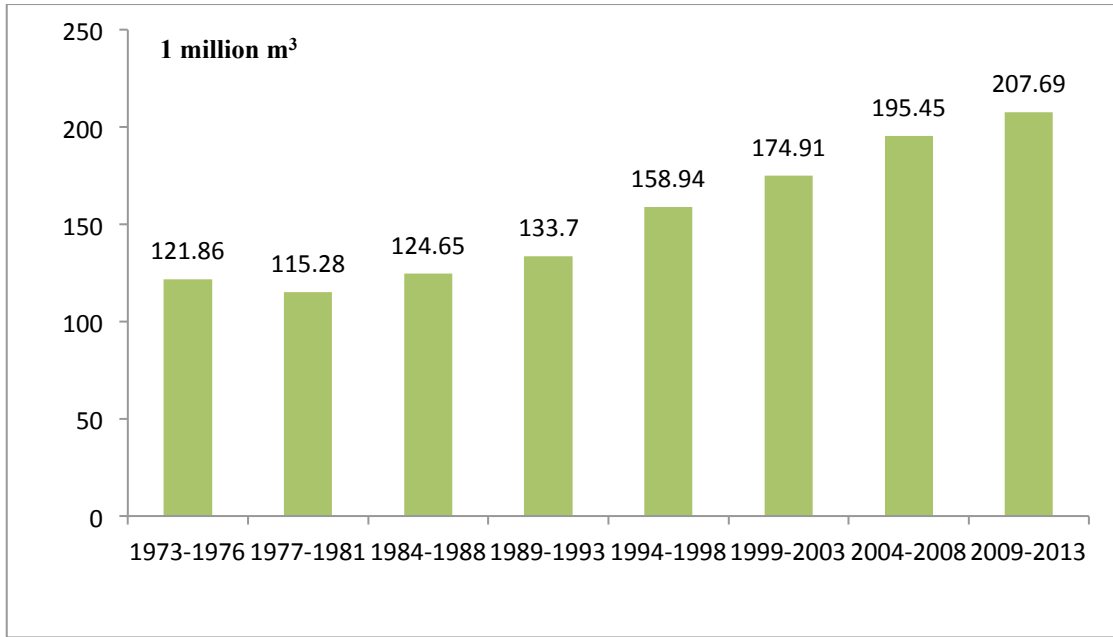
Since 2007, China has seriously implemented the Forest Instrument. Through promoting and carrying out a series of major forestry reform and development policies and plans, we have substantially increased investment in forestry, and made important contribution to promoting the four Global Objectives on Forest (GOF) and UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

### **(I) GOF 1**

**Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.**

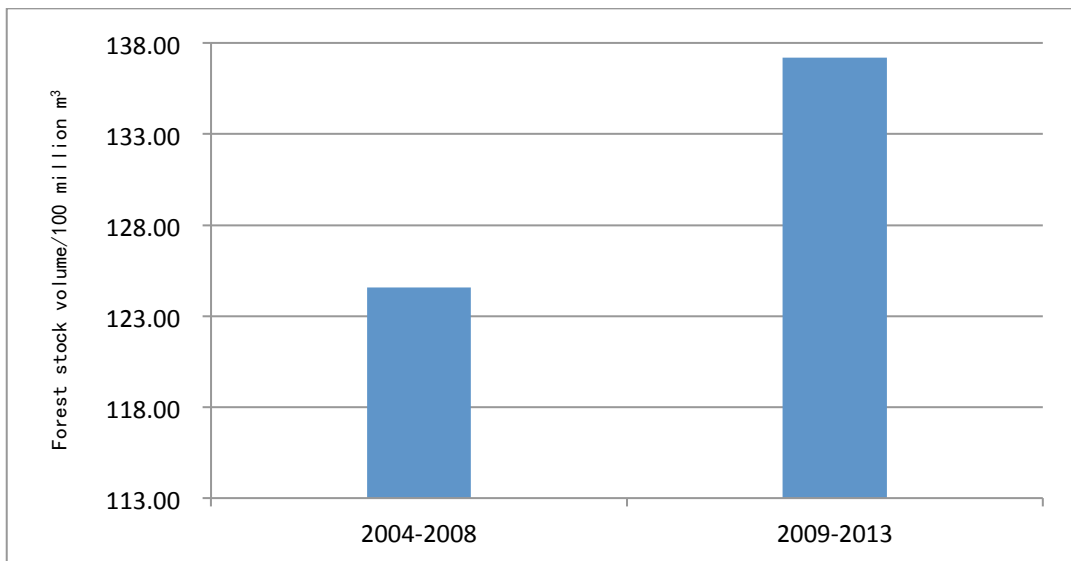
#### **1. Realizing Growth in Forest Area and Stock Volume**

Since 2007, the Chinese government has been implementing the forestry development strategy with the core of ecological construction. Through carrying out a series of major ecological restoration projects such as natural forest protection and CCFP, launching nationwide compulsory tree-planting activities, and strengthening forest resources management and biodiversity conservation, China realized continuous growth of forest area and stock volume, became one of the countries with the fastest growth of forest resources in the world, and played an important role in turning around the trend of forest cover loss around the world, preventing forest degradation and protecting biodiversity. In 2013, the national forest area was 208 million ha, stock volume 15.137 billion m<sup>3</sup> and coverage reached 21.63%. From 2004 to 2013, the net increase of China's forest area was 20.543 million ha (Figure 1); the forest stock volume increased by 1.265 billion m<sup>3</sup> (Figure 2), in which the area of plantations increased rapidly, with a net growth of 8.0385 million ha; and the forest coverage rate raised by 2.15 percentage points (Figure 3).



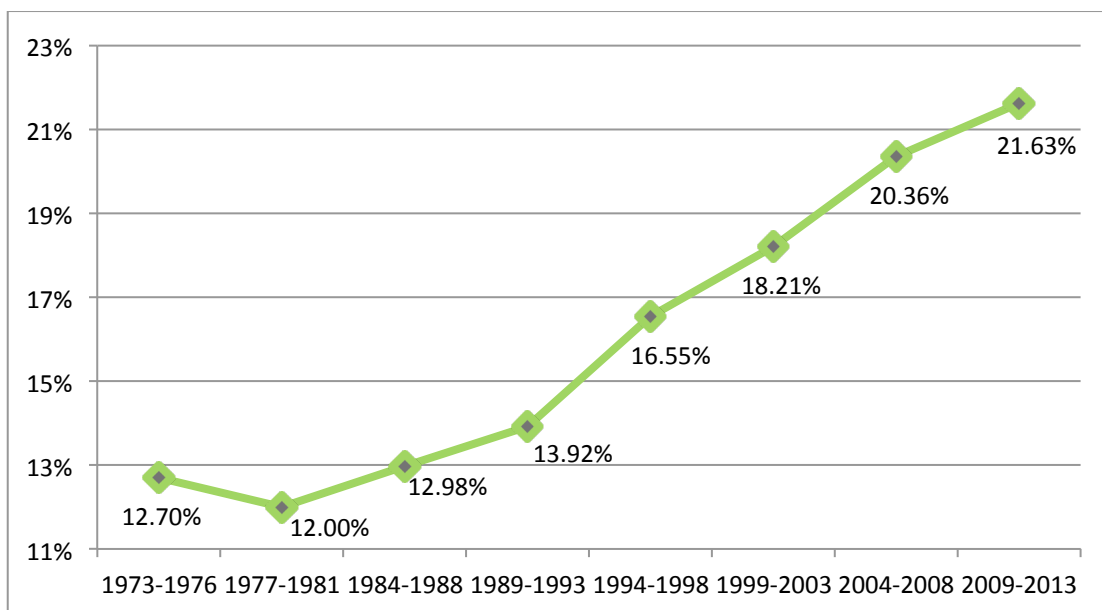
**Figure 1-Changes of China's Forest Area from 1973 to 2013**

(Data source: Overview of China Forest Resources - 8<sup>th</sup> National Forest Resources Inventory)



**Figure 2-Changes of China's Forest Stock Volume from 2004 to 2013**

(Data source: Overview of China Forest Resources - 8<sup>th</sup> National Forest Resources Inventory)



**Figure 3 Changes of China's Forest Coverage from 1973 to 2013**

(Data source: Overview of China Forest Resources - 8<sup>th</sup> National Forest Resources Inventory)

## 2. Forest Tenure Tending to be Explicit and Stable

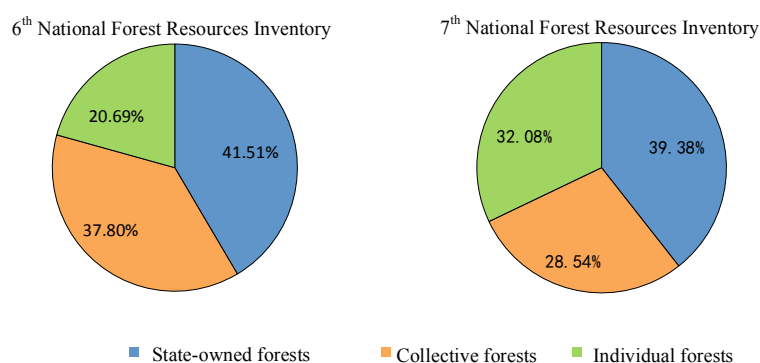
Since 2007, in order to safeguard the rights and interests of forest farmers and arouse the enthusiasm of forestry producers and the whole society in investing in SFM, the Chinese government has carried out collective forest tenure reform and endowed property rights with hundreds of millions farmers, resulting in explicit and stable forest tenure. According to 7<sup>th</sup> National Forest Resources Inventory (from 2004 to 2008), the area of state-owned, collective and individual forest land accounted for 39.38%, 28.54% and 32.08% respectively (Table 1). Compared with the results of 6<sup>th</sup> National Forest Resources Inventory (from 1999 to 2003), the area proportion reduced by 2.13 percentage points for state-owned forestland and 9.26 percentage points for collective forestland and increased by 11.39 percentage points for individual forestland. The area ratio for state-owned, collective and individual forestland changed from 41:38:21 to 39:29:32 (Figure 4). The subjects of collective forest management became diversified and the area of individual forested land increased substantively. The increasingly explicit and stable forest tenure mechanism and supporting forest insurance policies became important mechanisms to advance continuous growth of forest resources in collective forest zones.

**Table 1-Changes of China's Forest Area, Categorized by Forest Tenure**

Area and proportion of forested land categorized by forest tenure (Unit: 10,000 hm <sup>2</sup> , %)			
Items	State-owned	Collective-owned	Individual-owned

	2004-2008	1999-2003	2004-2008	1999-2003	2004-2008	1999-2003
Area of forested land	7143.58	7016.39	5176.99	6389.39	5817.52	3496.15
Ratio (%)	39.38	41.51	28.54	37.80	32.08	20.69

(Data source: National Report of China's Sustainable Forest Management)



**Figure 4-Changes of China's Forest Ownership (1999 - 2008)**  
(Data source: National Report of China's Sustainable Forest Management)

## (II) GOF 2

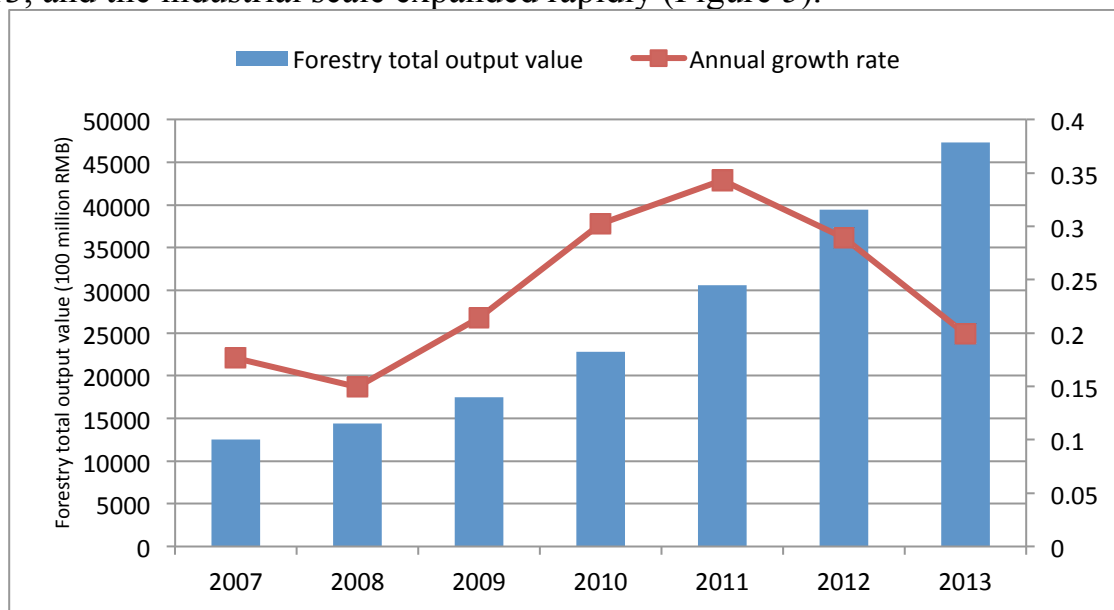
**Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.**

While increasing forest resources and improving ecology, the Chinese government has attached great importance to the development of forestry for people's livelihood in order to make forestry an important channel to increase employment and generate income, so that contribute more to national economic and social development.

### 1. Obvious increase in forestry output value

Forestry is one of the ten green economic departments identified by UNEP in 2011. The Chinese government has vigorously developed forestry, which has played an important role in promoting sustainable economic and social development. With the rapid development of afforestation and timber processing industry, the total output value of forestry has increased obviously since 2007, from 1.25 trillion RMB in 2007 to 4.73 trillion RMB in 2013, by 277.51%. The average annual

growth rate of total output value of forestry reached 23.92% from 2007 to 2013, and the industrial scale expanded rapidly (Figure 5).

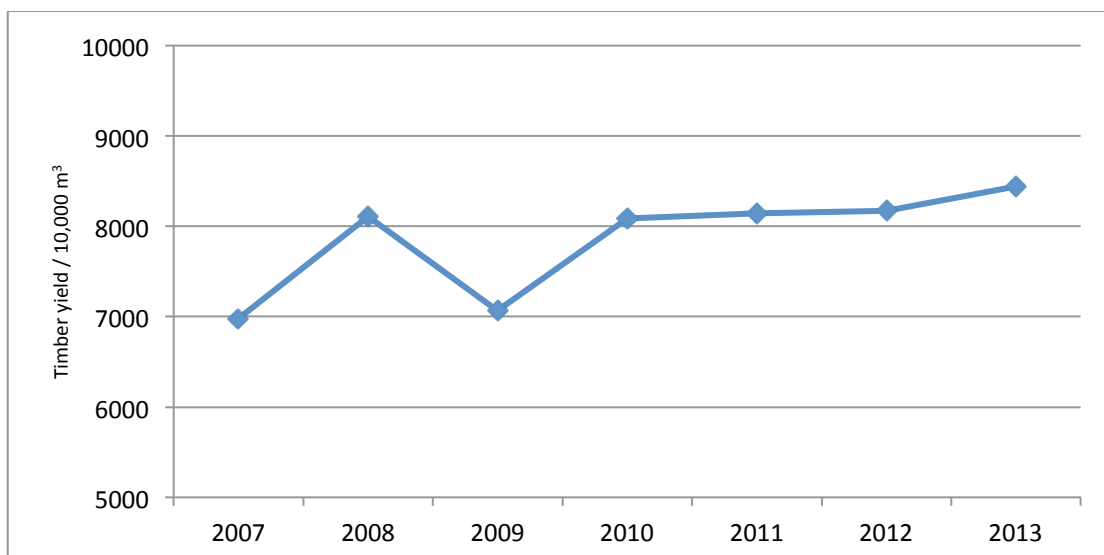


**Figure 5-Total Output Value and Growth Rate of China's Forestry 2007-2013**

(Data source: Chinese Forestry Statistic Annual)

## 2. Growth in Timber Supply

Since 1998 when the NFPP was implemented, the logging in natural forests has been substantially reduced in China. However, due to the large-scale afforestation, construction of fast-growing-and-high-yielding forests and the strengthening of SFM, the timber output in China continuously increases, providing precious resources for national construction, people's livelihood and downstream processing industry. The timber output increased to 84.385 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2013 from 69.7665 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2007, with a growth rate of 20.95% (Figure 6). In recent years, due to continuous reduction of timber output for major state-owned forest zones in northeast China and Inner Mongolia, the provinces with large timber output are concentrated in collective forest zones, including Guangxi, Guangdong, Hunan, Fujian, Yunnan and Anhui.



**Figure 6-Changes of Timber Output in China 2007-2013**

(Data source: Chinese Forestry Statistic Annual)

### 3. Development in Non-Timber Forest Products Production

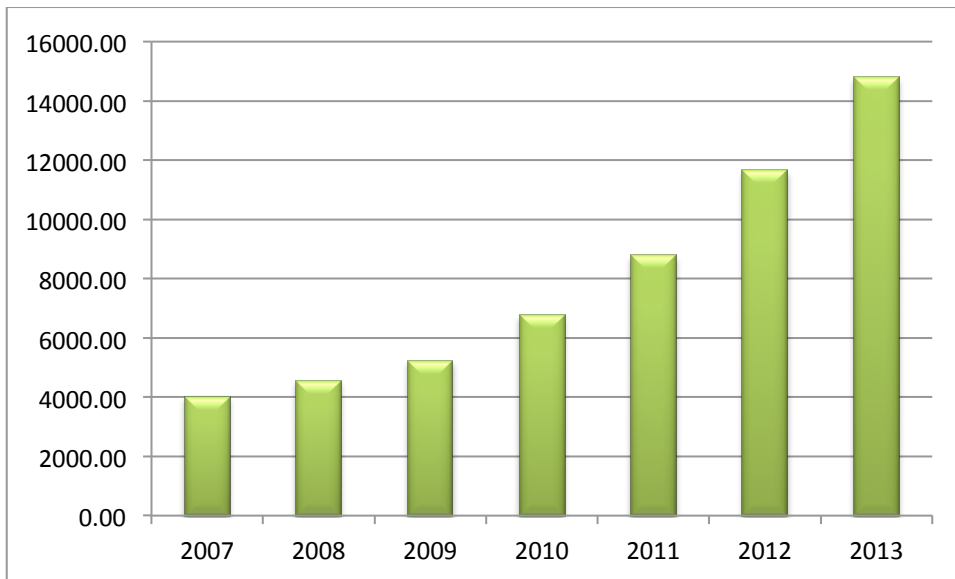
In recent years, China has integrated woody grain and oil and characteristic economic forest industry, under-forest economic industry, flowers, plants and seedlings industry and the wildlife breeding and utilization industry into ten green and enriching industries. Under strong financial support of governments at various levels and rapid growth of social investment, the non-wood forest product (NTFP) industry has been developed rapidly, and its total value presents the trend of continuous growth. In 2003, the total value of NTFP (planting and collection of economic forest products, planting of flowers and other ornamental plants, breeding and utilization of land wildlife, processing and manufacturing of NTFP) was 1.4797 trillion RMB, an increase of 268.26% from 401.805 billion RMB in 2007<sup>1</sup> (Figure 7).

<sup>1</sup>In 2007, the output value of NTFP only included planting and collection of economic forest products, planting of flowers and other ornamental plants, and processing and manufacturing of NTFP, excluding breeding and utilization of land wildlife.

<sup>2</sup> The figure only includes forest parks.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through

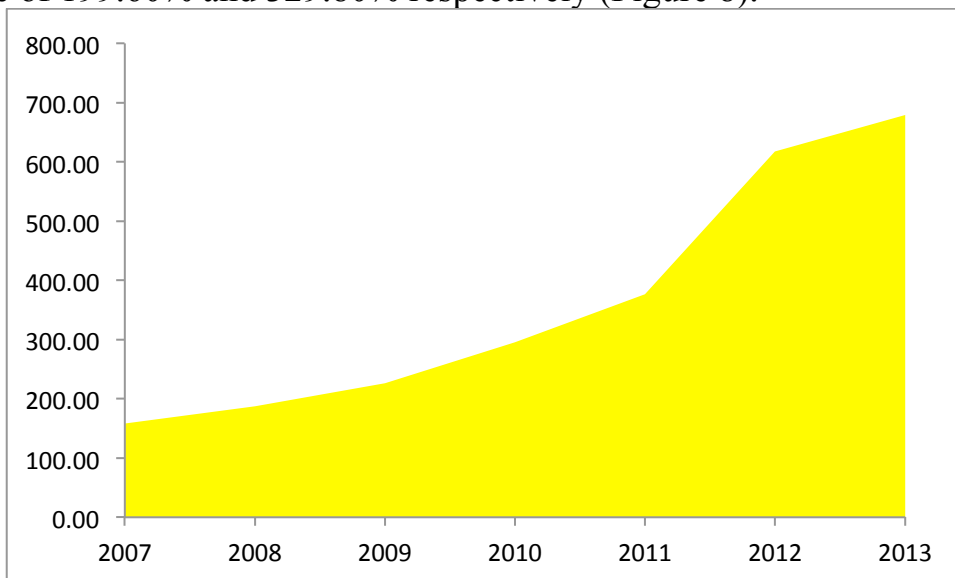




**Figure 7-Output Growth of NTFP in China 2007-2013**  
(Data source: Chinese Forestry Statistic Annual)

#### 4. Rapid Growth in Forest Tourism<sup>2</sup>

As China's national economic income improves, from 2007 to 2013, the forest tourism in China was under rapid development, and the number of forest tourists and output of forest tourism increased substantially. In 2007, the number of forest tourists was 247 million and the output was 15.798 billion RMB. By 2013, the number of forest tourists increased to 740 million and the output increased to 67.9 billion RMB, with growth rate of 199.60% and 329.80% respectively (Figure 8).



**Figure 8-Growth of Forest Tourism Output 2007-2013**  
(Data source: State forest park department, SFA)

<sup>2</sup> The figure only includes forest parks.

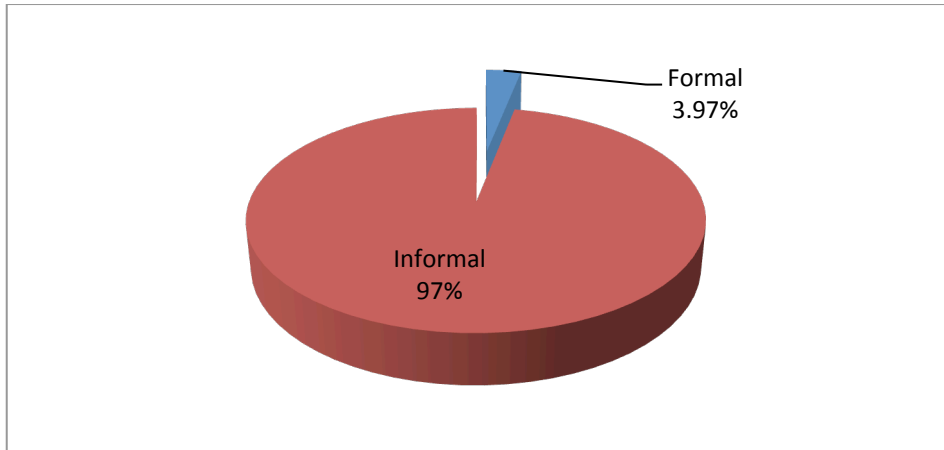
## **5. Collective Forest Tenure Reform Effectively Generating Income for Farmers**

The collective forest tenure reform involves 150 million households and 577 million farmers. According to available statistics of 29 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), in 2013, the annual income per capita for counties involved in the reform was 8,724.88 RMB, among it, 1,607.51 RMB was from forestry, accounting for 18.42% of the total income, and 531.95 RMB from under-forest economy, accounting for 33.09% of income from forestry.

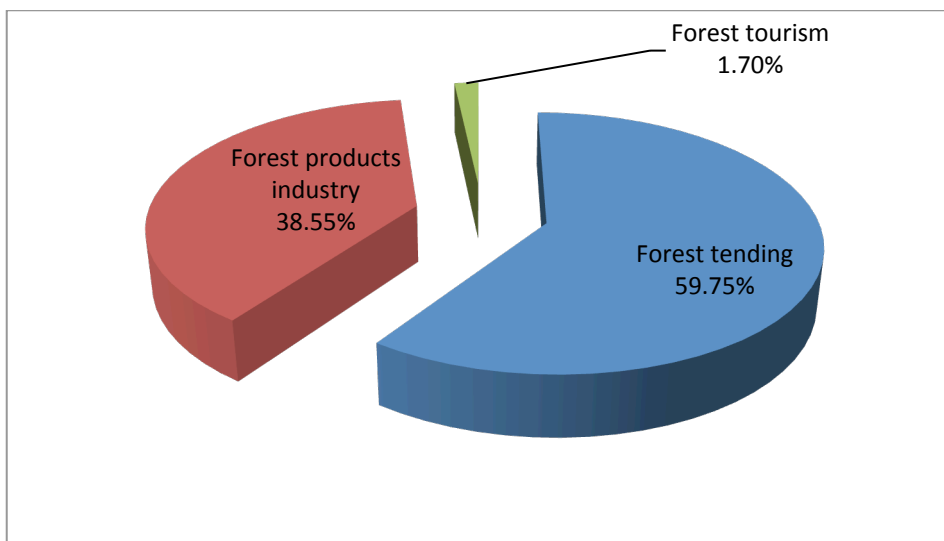
## **6. Forestry's Huge Potential in Promoting Employment**

The forestry employment is featured with a wide range, green and huge potential. The forestry employment covers the primary, secondary and tertiary industries, with a long industrial chain and a wide range. On one hand, the national government attaches significance to the roles of forestry in construction and maintenance of the ecological system, food and energy security and climate change, and continuously increases investment and strengthens policy support. On the other hand, forestry has a huge potential in satisfying residents' increasing recreational and cultural demands. Emerging industries keep taking shape, the industrial chain keeps extending and the private investment keeps increasing. Under the influence of the government and the market, new employment opportunities are being created and employment in forestry has a large potential of growth. Meanwhile, more than 80% of jobs in forestry are seasonal jobs taken by farmers, which can contribute to poverty relief in rural areas. Afforestation, collection of economic forest products and forest tourism are green. There is also potential for woody herbs and biomass energy in the construction of ecological civilization.

In 2012, forestry provided employment opportunities for 52.47 million people in China. Among it, there were 1.62 million formal staff and 50.85 million informal working positions in full time equivalence, accounting for 3.09% and 96.91% respectively, which means, forestry provided more than 50 million job opportunities for farmers (Figure 9). Categorized by industries, there were 31.24 million staff in forest tending, 20.16 million in forest product industry and 890,000 in forest tourism, accounting for 73.03%, 27.35% and 2.62% of the employment in forestry respectively (Figure 10). Among the jobs in forest tourism, local farmers took 430,000 directly.



**Figure 9-Classification of China's Forestry Employment in 2012**



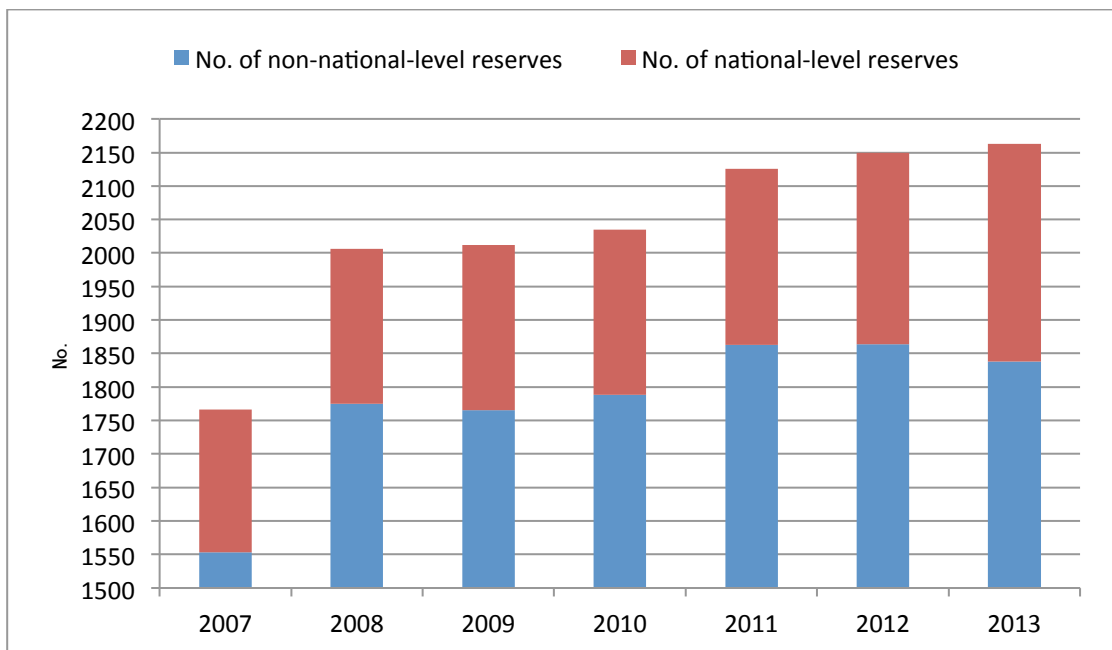
**Figure 10-Distribution of Industries for China's Forestry Employment in 2012  
(Data source: Statistics division, SFA)**

### **(III) GOF 3**

**Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.**

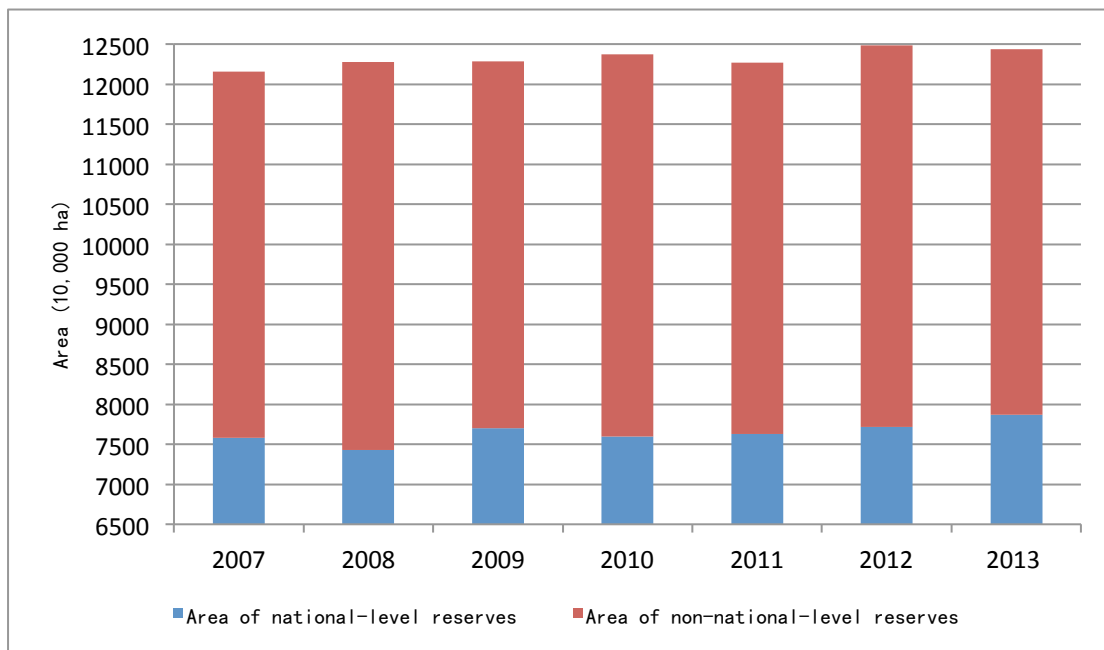
In recent years, the Chinese government has carried out in-situ conservation with emphasis on the construction of nature reserves. By the end of 2013, through project construction, there are 2,163 forestry nature reserves with various types and levels, with an area of 124 million ha, accounting for 13% of the national territory (Figure 11, 12). Among them, there are 325 national-level nature reserves, forming the nature reserve

network with reasonable layout, complete types and ample functions basically. Compared with 2007, the number of nature reserves in forestry increased by 397 and the area 2.8631 million ha. These nature reserves effectively protect 90% of terrestrial ecosystem, 85% of wild animal populations and 65% of higher plant communities in China, and cover 20% of primary forests, 50.3% of natural wetlands and 30% of typical desert regions, playing an important role in maintaining ecology and biological diversity and facilitating sustainable development. The sharp downward trend for national key wild animals and plants resources has been effectively controlled.



**Figure 11-Number of Nature Reserves in China's Forestry System 2007-2013**

(Data source: Chinese Forestry Statistic Annual)



**Figure 12-Area of Nature Reserves in China's Forestry System 2007-2013**

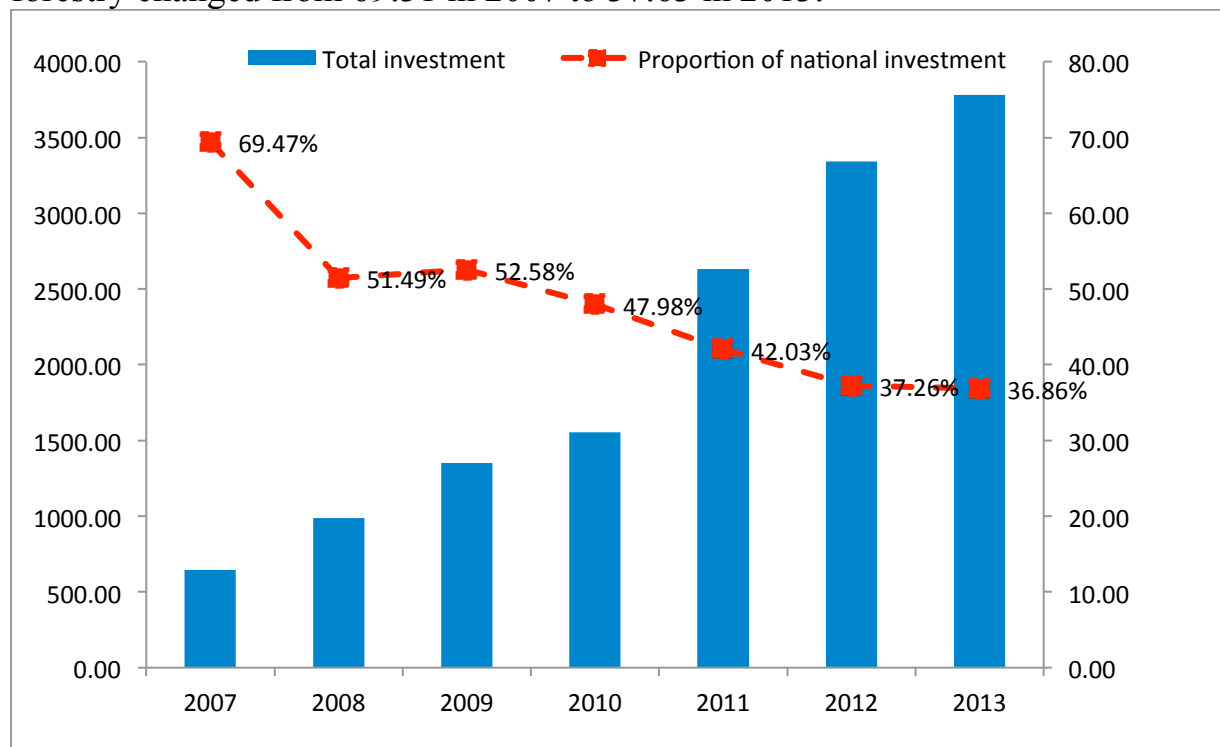
(Data source: Chinese Forestry Statistic Annual)

#### **(IV) GOF 4**

**Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.**

Promoted by the central government's importance attached and increasing demands for forest products, since 2007, the forest investment in China has been increasing continuously. The total investment to forestry increased from 64.575 billion RMB in 2007 to 378.227 billion RMB in 2013 by 485.72% (Figure 13). Meanwhile, advanced by the collective forest tenure reform, the enthusiasm of forest owners in forest management has been obviously enhanced and the investment to afforestation increased rapidly. With economic globalization of forestry, industries like forest products processing, wood pulp papermaking and furniture manufacturing have attracted a large amount of domestic and foreign investment. The rapid development of emerging forestry industries, such as biomass energy and camellia oleifera industry, further

increases social investment to forestry. Under influence of the above factors, China's forestry investment structure has changed obviously, with the proportion of national investment declining and that of social rising. The ratio between national investment and social investment in forestry changed from 69:31 in 2007 to 37:63 in 2013.



**Figure 13-Growth of China's Investment in Forestry and Changes of National Investment Proportion**

(Data source: Chinese Forestry Statistic Annual)

### III. Cases on the implementation of the *Forest Instrument*

In order to pragmatically implement the *Forest Instrument*, improve forestry policy and carry out experiment and demonstration of SFM within the landscape dimension, in May 2012, SFA selected 12 institutions based on forest types, structure of ownership and economic and social development level, formally launching the construction of demonstration sites for the implementation of the *Forest Instrument*. Qingyuan County, Liaoning Province is one of the demonstration sites for the implementation of the *Forest Instrument*. Since 2012, when it became the demonstration site, Qingyuan has made a lot of progress in balancing forest resources protection and utilization and promoting win-win situation between ecology and industry.

#### (I) Basic Information

Qingyuan Country is located along the Changbai Mountain in

northern China and administered within Liaoning Province. The total area is 3,921 km<sup>2</sup>, population 350,000, forest area 280,600 ha, and forest coverage 71.4%. It is an important base of commercial forest and water conservation forest in Liaoning province.

## **(II) Principal Actions**

First, Qingyuan carried out trainings and improves participants' awareness of SFM. Second, it implemented five local forestry construction projects, namely the protection of ecological public-welfare forest, natural forest protection, the construction of nature reserves and national forest parks, closing hillsides for forest tending in ecologically vulnerable sections and nationwide afforestation, building an ecological protection framework. Third, Qingyuan launched forest zoning by dividing forest resources throughout the whole country into four management types i.e. strict protection, key protection, protection management and collective management and 30 forest management types. It implemented classified operation and management, zonal policy-implementation, scientific organization and strict regulation of forest management activities. Fourth, it scientifically made county-level forest management plans and different forest management solutions for villages and towns, forest farms and countryside. Under the framework of country-level plans and solutions, Qingyuan formulated management solutions for 10 state-owned forest farms, 14 villages and towns and 58 private forest farms, as well as simple management solutions for 186 countries. Fifth, after the collective forest tenure reform, it positively explored mixed management model and guided forest farmers to develop economy of forestland. Sixth, it improved policies related to forest resources management, including forest logging management. Seventh, it carried scientific research on forest management with the focus on SFM.

## **(III) Major Results**

First, the total volume of forest resources continuously increased, the quality of forest stand improved obviously and the under-forest economy took a preliminary shape. Growth was witnessed in stock volume, from 25.21 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2006 to 27.52 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2012, with a net increment of 2.31 million m<sup>3</sup>, stock volume per unit area by 5.4 m<sup>3</sup>/ha, the forest coverage by 0.6% and the area of forestland economy by 32,000 ha. Second, multiple mixed management models were explored. By 2012, the developed area of under-forest economy reached 81000 ha, with an involvement of 38,000 households, accounting for 50% of the total, and the farmers' economic income of forestland accounted for 48% of their total revenue.

## **(IV) Challenges and Prospects**

At present, main challenges related with SFM faced by Qingyuan County include the following: the idea of SFM has yet been popularized,

policies for SFM is not satisfactory, the technical model for SFM is not mature, subjects of forest management is severely fragmented, and town and countryside technical staff for forest management are insufficient.

In order to further improve SFM, in the future, Qingyuan County will make more efforts on the following aspects: reforming and improving various policies and systems, paying more attention to trainings and building capacity, enhancing scientific and technological support, increasing investment and improving forest management capacity at the grass-root level and further improving and popularizing various mixed management models.

#### **IV. Summary of Experience**

Since 2007, the Chinese government has been seriously fulfilling the four Global Objectives on Forests and 25 forestry policies identified in the *Forest Instrument*. While promoting China's forestry development, China has also gained implementation experience in line with China's national conditions and forest situation. It can be mainly reflected on the following aspects:

**(I) The effective implementation of the *Forest Instrument* should be taken into consideration with national forestry development plans, and in line with national conditions and forest situations.** Different national conditions and forest situations in various countries decide different forestry development strategies and plans. China's practices prove that only when countries formulate practical national development plan and corresponding forestry development plans based on their own conditions, carries out the idea of SFM and improving livelihood in forest zones as well as management concepts identified in the *Forest Instrument* through specific forestry policies, can they effectively implement the *Forest Instrument*.

**(II) Independent and powerful forestry administrative institutions are necessary guarantee to promote SFM.** China's practices show that promoting SFM requires relatively independent and powerful forestry administrative institutions to carry out cross-sectoral coordination, apply for assets, improve legislation and strengthen law enforcement. China has relatively independent and systematic forestry administrative institutions from central to local governments at various levels, playing an important role in formulating and implementing related forestry policies and becoming the necessary guarantee to promote SFM.

**(III) Cross-sectoral cooperation and whole-society involvement can effectively promote SFM.** Establishing a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism and strengthening cooperation of related departments in forest protection and SFM can effectively improve the efficiency and effects of related forestry policies. Through cross-sectoral cooperation, the country



can take multiple methods, strengthen popularization and education, raise the awareness of governments and the public on forest protection and SFM and formulate a series of supporting policies to encourage the whole society to participate in forestry development. According to successful experience in China, the whole-society involvement can effectively promote SFM.

**(IV) Government investment plays a significant role in the initial stage of forestry development, while the social investment is the main driving force to realize SFM.** As forests have a long-term production period, require a large investment in the initial stage and present the public feature of ecological benefits, the initial investment in forestry development mainly depends on governments. However, SFM must rely on participation of the whole society and social investment, which can not only apply for more assets for SFM, but also provide investment channels for a large amount of unemployed social capital. At the same time, the social participation can also ensure SFM be carried out in a long term.

**(V) Sound forest governance system requires a complete legal system and clear tenure.** China's complete legal system, strict legislation and powerful law enforcement teams on forestry contribute to establish a sound forest governance system and play a crucial guarantee role for SFM. Furthermore, through the collective forest reform and practices of clarification of property rights and contracting forests to households, the Chinese government arouses enthusiasm of a number of small households to participate in forest management, establishing a guarantee system for SFM in collective forest zones, which accounts for a half of the national forest area.

**(VI) International cooperation plays an important role in implementing the *Forest Instrument*.** Through strengthening international cooperation, China learns from advanced ideas and best practices regarding forest resources management, SFM, community forestry, forest certification, ecological management and compensation to promote forestry reform, improving China's forestry governance system and enhancing the governance capacity comprehensively. Positive participation and implementation of international conventions have positive effect on protecting forests and wildlife in China and can also promote legislation and law enforcement in terms of desertification combat, import and export management of endangered fauna and flora, and wetland conservation, achieving substantive progress. Besides, through the construction of demonstration sites for the implementation of the *Forest Instrument* and carrying out related international trainings, China's technologies and experience in SFM will provide reference for more and more developing countries.



Country: China\_\_\_\_\_

Date of submission: 8 December 2014\_\_\_\_\_

## **Voluntary National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

### **Background**

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. The UNFF11 will, *inter-alia*:

1. Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
2. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of national reports by UNFF Member States on the above items will provide a crucial input to the Secretary-General's analytical, consolidated report to UNFF11 on the progress and trends in the above-mentioned areas, as well as to the Forum's deliberation on the future of the IAF.

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum<sup>3</sup>, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

The UNFF11 reporting format is presented in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of the MDGs.

To the extent possible, the information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources. (United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the Tenth Session -8 to 19 April 2013, E/2013/42 \_E/CN.18/2013/18, Page 6)

supplemented with quantitative data, *inter alia*, from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) – FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

## Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national report **electronically (in MS Word) in English, French or Spanish to [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), by 30 September 2014**, at the latest. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical, consolidated Secretary-General's report to UNFF11. Please note that the MS Word file of the reporting format can also be downloaded from the UNFF website at: [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11\\_reporting\\_template.doc](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11_reporting_template.doc)
2. Submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official, signed letter conveying their submission from their respective Ministry, or a note verbale from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
3. Submit any graphic elements included in their national report, as separate electronic files.
4. Check all boxes that apply to questions that have multiple-choice components. In addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers, countries are encouraged to provide brief descriptive narratives, as this provides context and background. Please also note that space provided for the descriptive information is limited to 250 words per question.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents are encouraged to consult with experts from relevant national ministries to complete the reporting format, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. Respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document are consistent with the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and Definitions FRA 2015": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf>

### Abbreviations

C&I	Criteria and Indicators processes
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FRA	FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment
GOF	Global Objectives on Forests
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NFP	National Forest Programme
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SFM	Sustainable forest management
UN	United Nations
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests

## General information

### UNFF national focal point

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### Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point

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**PART I:**  
**Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,**  
**including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)**

1. Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:

	New	Amendment of existing
Forest policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National forest programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide further information on these and/or other actions:

Since 2007, China has taken a series of measures and policies to constantly enhance sustainable forest management. 1. In 2011, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) of China developed *Forestry Development Plan 2011-2015* and laid down basic principles, key targets and priorities for sustainable development of forestry; 2. In 2013, SFA formulated the *Guidelines for the Plan on Building Ecological Civilization 2013-2020*, which specified the mid and long-term forestry development strategies and major actions, such as ecological protection red lines and establishing key functional zones of ecological protection; and, 3. In early 2014, SFA published *National Plan on Poverty Alleviation through Forestry* and the detailed plans for poverty alleviation through forestry in 11 areas, making more contribution to poverty alleviation by the development of forestry.

To what extent have these actions been effective in advancing implementation of the Forest Instrument?

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



tenures

Other actions

Please provide 2-3 examples of effective actions in support of the Forest Instrument and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case 1: The Forestry Development Plan 2011-2015 was implemented smoothly and the targets have basically been met. The forest area increases from 195 million ha in 2009 to 208 million ha in 2013, a net increase of 12.23 million ha; the total output of forestry climbs from 1.25 trillion RMB in 2007 to 4.73 trillion RMB in 2013, an increase of 277.51%; and total investment on forestry also rises from 64.575 billion RMB in 2007 to 378.227 billion RMB in 2013, an increase of 485.72%.

Case 2: Forest tenure reform has basically been accomplished in terms of tenure clarification and rights identification, the main task of the reform. By 2013, the forest area with rights identified in China reached 2705 million mu, accounting for 98.97% of the total area of the collective forest tenure reform, among which, 1,819 million mu belongs to household contract operation (including 391 million mu for private use, 1,251 million mu evenly distributed to every household and 177 million mu contracted by groups of households), accounting for 67.23% of the identified area, 617 million mu belongs to collective operation (including 416 million mu of collective share-holding operation and 201 million mu of collective unified operation), taking up 22.81 % of the total area and 269 million mu belongs to other forms of operation (including 123 million mu contracted by big households and 146 million of other forms), occupying 9.95% of the identified area.

Case 3: The full implementation of forest tending policies not only improves the quality of forests, but also creates more job opportunities. In 2009, the Ministry of Finance and SFA initiated the pilot program subsidized by the central government targeting at young and middle-aged trees. The total subsidy stood at 500 million RMB, covering 5 million mu in 13 provinces and 201 pilot institutions. Later, the subsidy and scale of the pilot program were expanded to 5,676 million RMB in 2012 and 51 million mu respectively, covering the whole country. In natural forest protection project, the subsidy standard was raised from 100 RMB to 120 RMB per mu and central government input accumulated to 13.276 billion RMB. Besides, the tending objects owned by individuals and collectives extended from key public welfare forests to all public welfare forests. This became another major forestry construction project subsidized by the central government since the project of natural forest protection, returning farmland to forestland and compensation of ecological benefits.

Related research results indicate that the forest tending policy creates job opportunities and increases income, bringing about sound economic and social benefits. The farmers who participated in it saw their income increasing more significantly compared to those who didn't. Meanwhile, it also increases the labor income, and creates job opportunities for farmers. With the policy going deeper,

the quality of forests in the policy-affected regions will be greatly improved, so will the ecological environment.

**2. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?**

- New legislation
- Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- Export controls
- Import controls
- Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- None
- Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships.  
Please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case 1: In terms of countering illegal logging and timber trade, China has made considerable achievements. As the president of APEC panel for countering illegal logging and related trade, China advanced the establishment of a regional timber legality recognition mechanism; under the framework of US-China Strategic Economic Dialogue, China started a bilateral forum in this regard with the US; China held the second conference on China-Australia task force on countering illegal logging; and facilitated the work concerning the *Guidelines for Chinese Enterprises on Overseas Utilization of Sustainable Forest Management* and *Guidelines for Chinese Enterprises on Overseas Trade and Investment of Sustainable Forestry Products*.

Case 2: China conducted "Operation Cobra" to combat illegal wildlife. In 2013, this operation was witnessed in Asia and Africa. This was the first time that China took the lead in transnational and cross-sectoral combating of endangered species smuggling. It was also the first such operation cooperated among major countries in regions and regional inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement agencies, and supported by inter-governmental international organizations. 22 national customs, public security and wildlife conservation agencies participated in this law enforcement operation. According to available statistics, China dispatched 10,000 police person times, investigated 80 cases of trafficking, arrested over 90 criminals, and confiscated 200 kg of ivory and its products, 10 rhino horns, 4 products made of rhino horns, almost 50 kg of pangolin scales, 60

kg of dendrobe, 76 stolen hornbill beaks, 25 boas and other wildlife and related products. The number of investigated cases and arrested suspects accounted for over one third of the global total during the operation.

Case 3: In the afternoon of 6 January 2014, SFA and the General Administration of Customs conducted Destruction of Confiscated Ivories in Dongguan, Guangdong Province. This was the first time that China destroyed confiscated ivories in public, demonstrating the resolve of the Chinese government opposing and combating the illegal trade of wildlife and their products. During this event, 6.1 tons of ivories were crushed in total. It reflected the firm stance and clear-cut attitude of the Chinese government in conserving wildlife, fostering this concept among the public and dealt a heavy blow to criminals who stole, smuggled and traded wildlife.

**3. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?**

- Forests/SFM are now included in national development plans/strategies
- Forests/SFM now have a higher priority in national development plans/strategies
- The contribution of forests/SFM to poverty eradication, food security, water security, employment is an ongoing subject of discussion
- Other, please list below:

Have these steps resulted in:

- More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities
- More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- Other, please list below:

Please describe these steps, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case 1: In 2013, *Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Some Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening the Reform* put forward the ecological protection redline, stabilized and expanded the scope of Conversion of cropland to forests and improved the collective forest tenure reform. As our national development strategy, sustainable development runs throughout all areas of China's economic and social development, reflecting the right choice of development and emphasis on ecological development made by the Chinese nation. In June, 2009, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) convened the first forestry conference, where Premier Wen Jiabao, on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, pointed out the significance of forestry in implementing our sustainable development strategy, the prioritized role of forestry in ecological development, its basic role in the western development strategy and its special role in addressing climate change. Vice Premier Hui Liangyu mentioned that forestry should be taken as a major measure to realize scientific development, as a prioritized task to build ecological civilization, as a strategic choice to combat climate change and as an important means to solve the issues of agriculture, rural development and farmers' livelihood. The central forestry conference identified four new positions and missions of forestry. They are scientific conclusions based on the analysis of our new situation and new global challenges by the central government, laying a solid foundation for the scientific development of our modern forestry, establishing a position of forestry in the grand picture of national development and granting more prominent historical missions to forestry in economic and social development strategy.

Case 2: The key forestry actions are incorporated into China's 12th five-year plan: implementing major ecological rehabilitation projects, consolidating the Natural Forests Protection Program(NFPP), Conversion of Cropland to Forests Program(CCFP), accelerating the establishment of ecological compensation mechanism, enhancing protection and management of key ecological functional areas, boosting the capacity of conserving water and soil and preventing wind and sand, conserving biological diversity and pushing forward the reform of collective forest tenure and state-owned forest tenure. In 2009, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council pointed out new tasks and targets for forestry development, in line with the current severe threats of climate change during the central forestry conference, namely increasing the forest area by 40 million ha and the forest stock volume by 1.3 billion cubic meters by 2020 compared to 2005.

Case 3: Forestry and ecology have been included in *Guidelines on China's Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development 2011-2020*. By 2015, the forest coverage in impoverished areas will be increased by 1.5 percentage points compared to 2010 and by 2020, 3.5 percentage points compared to 2010. In the poverty stricken areas, we will continue to implement the key ecological rehabilitation projects, such as Conversion of Cropland to Forests Program, conserving water and land, protecting natural forests and setting up shelter belts.

We will establish the ecological compensation mechanism and pay more attention to poor areas. We will step up ecological compensation in key functional areas and give importance to biodiversity conservation.

**4. Since 2007, has your government taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM?**

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify which ministries and/or departments are involved and how effective these measures have been in implementing SFM:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

China conducts cross-sectoral cooperation in the fields of laws and regulations, climate change and poverty alleviation on forestry-related issues, and improves the effectiveness of related policies.

Case 1: China actively coordinates the efforts of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee National People's Congress (NPC), Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee NPC, Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee and the Office of Legislative Affairs of the State Council to amend the *Forest Law (Amended)* and the *Law of Wildlife Conservation (Amended)*.

Case 2: As a member of the steering group of national efforts to fight climate change and realize energy conservation and emission reduction, the SFA cooperates with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development Reform

Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Land Resources and Ministry of Environment Protection to jointly participate in the formulation and negotiation over strategies of combating climate change through the development of forestry and incorporated the target of increasing forest area and forest stock volume by 40 million ha and 1.3 billion m<sup>3</sup> respectively based on the 2005 level into the *National Plan on Addressing Climate Change 2014-2020*.

Case 3: The SFA, along with 35 departments, including the General Office of the State Council, the General Political Department, NDRC, MoF, Ministry of Agriculture and People's Bank of China, formed a steering group of poverty alleviation of the State Council, participating in the drafting of related principles, policies and plans concerning economic development in poor areas by giving play to the industrial advantages and constantly intensifying support for the poor regions in terms of projects and funds.

**5. Does your government's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme contain time-bound and quantified targets related to the forest area?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The targets of sustainable forest management identified in the Guidelines on Forestry Ecological Civilization in 2014:

		2015	2020
Forest area (million ha)	309		312.3
Forest coverage (%)		21.66	>23
Forest stock volume (hundred million m <sup>3</sup> )	151		158
Carbon storage by forest vegetation (hundred million tons)		84	88
Area proportion of forestry nature reserves in national territory (%)		13	15
Area proportion of forest parks in national territory (%)		2	3
Conservation rate of endangered wildlife species (%)		90	95
Total output of forestry industry (trillion RMB)		6	10

<http://www.forestry.gov.cn/main/58/content-629504.html>

**6. Since 2007, what activities has your government undertaken to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests? Please specify:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Afforestation	26,548,800	ha
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reforestation	2,401,630	ha
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restoration	6,129,380	ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

- Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation and or reforestation
- New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation and/or reforestation
- New legislation and actions aimed at conservation and protection of forests
- Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- Subsidies for forest protection
- Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- Other, please list below:

Please describe, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case 1: China implemented the policy of forest tending subsidy and reaped marked results. In recent years, the Chinese government scaled up its efforts in forest management, and advanced forest tending. Forest tending centered on the tending of young and middle-aged forests marched forward steadily. From 2007 to 2013, the area of such tending was 48.6207 million ha nationwide. From 2009 to 2013, the total fund from the central government for this purpose reached 24.9 billion RMB. The forest tending subsidy is a policy that benefits the forest and the people, serving as a landmark in the history of China's forestry development. It signifies the transformation of forestry development model from afforestation and greening to the combination of afforestation, greening and forest management. In the past five years since the launching of this policy, initial results have been witnessed. It effectively changed the backward situation of forest management in China, reduced the historical burden on forest tending, improved the forest structure and quality, took advantage of the production potential of forests, thus providing a huge number of job opportunities for forest farmers and foresters, increasing their income, driving the development of emerging industries feeding on the tending residues, that of under-forest and that of regional economy, nurturing a group of professional forest tending technicians and elevating the level of forest management.

Case 2: In 2012, China launched the second phase of NFPP, focusing on

protecting and cultivating natural forest resources and ensuring and improving people's welfare. In 2014, China rolled out a new round of CCFP, with an emphasis on the voluntary participation of farmers to intensify the ecological rehabilitation of degraded land.

Case 3: China unveiled and implemented the National Plan on the Construction of Timber Strategic Reserve Production Base 2013-2020. It is planned that in 8 years, we will cultivate 14 million ha of timber forests (equivalent to 210 million mu), among which 4.5146 million ha belong to intensive plantations, 4.9717 million ha of transformed current forests, 4.5137 million ha of young and middle-aged forests. We aim to cultivate and preserve national rare trees germplasm resources, develop fast-growing-and-high-yielding forests and rare timber forests with a large DBH, so that we can have a resources system with reasonable arrangement of tree species and optimized structure, thus initially relieving the tension between timber demand and supply in China.

**7. What types of mechanisms are currently in place for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation?**

- Roundtables/committees have been established which meet regularly
- Forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an *ad hoc* basis as issues affecting them arise
- Other, please list below:

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest workers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):



Case 1: In the process of collective forest tenure reform, we fully encouraged the participation of stakeholders in policy formation, planning and implementation. Take Wuwei County of Anhui Province as an example, it carried out the system of distributing tenure to households in four steps: firstly, under the unified arrangement of the county-level and village-level tenure reform working group, staff from administrative villages or villagers' groups went to the field to investigate and identify the tenure, verified the areas of forest of each household, clarified the boundaries and ownership, registered for the households and released the result to the public; secondly, the contract-issuing party of collective economic organisations worked with farmers to improve or sign the forest contract; thirdly, the results of tenure as well as the contract with farmers were reported to the township government for examination; fourthly, the township government reported the above information to the county-level forestry bureaus and governments for registration, and if no disagreement was raised after the two announcements, tenure certificates would be granted.

The villagers' meeting composed of villagers aged 18 or older. In line with the *Organization Law of Villagers' Committee* and *Law of Rural Land Contracting*, there are two forms to convene a villagers' meeting to discuss the contracting schemes. One form is the participation of two thirds of the villagers aged 18 or more; the other is the participation of representatives of two thirds of households of the collective economic organization. The village congress is organized according to the *Organization Law of of Villagers' Committee*. It elects villager representatives in relatively densely populated or scattered villages and discusses and decides on the matters mandated by the villagers' meeting. The village representatives consist of members, each of whom are selected among every 5 to 15 households or recommended by the village groups. The village congress generally applies to village and township-level economic organizations where there is a large polulation living in a scattered manner and therefore face difficulty of convening villagers' meetings.

<http://www.ww.gov.cn/channel-cms-view-239-26120.html>

Case 2: The cooperation mechanism between Chinese forestry departments and international NGOs. By 2014, the SFA established annual consulting mechanism with 6 influential international NGOs (WWF, TNC and IUCN, etc.), discussing bilateral cooperation areas, identifiing cooperation projects and signing memorandums on cooperation. Besides, every year, SFA convenes exchange conferences with international NGOs in China, listening to their thoughts and suggestions concerning the development of China's forestry and their participation in the policy-making.

**8. To what extent do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly-owned forests?**

Completely

- Partially
- None
- Not applicable

Please provide 2-3 examples how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

In recent years, government departments at various levels attached great importance to the sharing of non-timber forest products and services of local residents, and introduced related policies to encourage farmers to develop under-forest economy and forest tourism. For example, in compiling management plans, state-owned forest management institutions stress the benefit sharing of local residents and allow farmers to enter the state-owned forests to harvest non-timber forest products and participate in forest tourism operation.

Case 1: Forest tourism spurs the local catering development, such as rural home inns, thus increasing farmers' income. In 2012, forest tourism created 431,600 direct job opportunities for surrounding farmers, accounting for 48.52% of the total number of people working in forest tourism.

Case 2: Chinese farmers get job opportunities and income revenues from the production and service of non-timber forest products. In 2013, the planting and collection output of China's commercial forest products topped 924.037 billion RMB. Among them, the forest-grown food, such as mushroom had a planting output value of 88.004 billion RMB and the collection value of forest products was 84.253 billion RMB.

**9. Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?**

- Yes       No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- Other, please specify:

These strategies take into account:

- Domestic public funding
- Domestic private funding

- Public international (including ODA and REDD+)
- External private funding

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case 1: According to Forestry Development Plan 2011-2015, China will continue to scale up investment on forestry development. By 2013, the investment accomplished was 263.26 billionRMB, 334.21 billion RMB and 378.23 billion RMB respectively in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Among them, the state investment was 110.66 billion RMB, 124.54 billion RMB and 139.42 billion RMB respectively. The investment volume kept rising with each passing year. As to the investment areas, the proportion of investment in the areas of ecological construction and protection, forestry supporting and guaranteeing, forestry industrial development, forestry livelihood projects and other areas from 2011 to 2013 were 49:11:20:0:19, 48:7:25:7:31 and 49:6:28:5:11 respectively.

Case 2: Through collective forest tenure reform and improving the tenure mortgage loans and forest insurance policies, we have rolled out a series of measures, such as promoting the fair, equal and regulated operation of tenure transfer, regulating the tenure transfer and trading, developing professional rural forestry cooperatives, nurturing new-type forestry management actors, developing rural forestry industry and under-forest economy, encouraging and guiding industrial and commercial capital to manage modern forestry legally. We aim to cultivate sound investment environment and advance and encourage social investment in forestry. When the national investment increases, the social investment also shoots up. In 2013, non-government investment in forestry was 238.806 billion RMB, taking up 63% of the total investment, an increase of 32 percentage points compared to the 31% in 2007. With the promotion of forest tenure reform, in 2013, the forest areas under the mortgage loans nationwide were 70.1509 million mu and the loan was 116.6 billion RMB.

**10. Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services (PES) provided by forests?**

- Yes       No

If Yes, please specify, and, if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:

- Watershed protection/water supply      USD
- Carbon storage (including REDD+)      USD
- Nature conservation      USD
- Other, please list below:      USD      43,550,311,674  
(NFPP+CCFP+ecological)

compensation, 2007-2013)

In recent years, the government paid increasing attention to China's ecological construction and protection, and gradually established an ecological compensation system covering multiple areas. Every year, we allocated a large sum of money for the NFPP, CCFP, ecological compensation, controlling the logging of natural forests at the root, compensating the small rural households for the restoration of forests which used to be slope farmlands or wild mountains and waste lands, and ecological protection of key ecological public forests. We not only provide national compensation for the whole forest ecology, but also encourage compensation by local governments to ecological important areas.

Please provide 2-3 examples of PES and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case 1: Based on protection policies of NFPP Phase One, in 2011, NFPP Phase Two was kicked off, and additional 11 counties in the Danjiangkou reservoir region were incorporated into the project. The implementation involved Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Chongqing, Hubei and Tibet, the upstream of the Yangtze River (with the Three Gorges Reservoir as the boundary), Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi and Henan, the up and middle-stream of the Yellow River, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Heilongjiang (including the Greater Khingan Mountain), Hainan and Xinjiang (including Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps), the key national forest zones in Northeast China and Inner Mongolia, as well as the projects in the upstream of the Yangtze River and up and middle-stream of the Yellow River. We continued to ban the commercial logging of natural forests, added 4.66 million ha forest tending tasks of state-owned young and middle-aged forests. In the key national forest zones in Northeast China and Inner Mongolia, the timber output in the first three years of the 12th five-year plan reduced to 4.025 million m<sup>3</sup> from 10.941 million m<sup>3</sup>, the cultivated young and middle-aged forests covered an area of 12.9333 million ha and reserve forest resources of 3.26 million ha.

Case 2: We continued to intensify efforts to implement the compensation subsidies. According to the *Measures on the Division of Key Ecological Forest Zones* released by SFA and the Ministry of Finance, among the nearly 4.3 billion mu of forest zones in China, the key ecological forests cover an area of 1.867 billion mu (including 972 million mu of non-NFPP zones and 895 million mu of NFPP zones) based on the verification by the two departments. The area mainly cover seven important ecological zones, namely the important sources and banks of rivers, national nature reserves with the type of forests and land wildlife, forests, wetlands, reservoirs listed as the World Heritage, forests, desertified areas and areas exposed to serious loss of water and soil 10 km within the national borders connected by the roads or waterways, as well as key forests along the coastal shelter belts, mangrove forests and forests on the first ridge of the western coast of the strait. The area of key ecological forests occupies 37 %

of the national forestry area. In 2004, we officially established the central government forestry ecological compensation mechanism, with the central government funding reaching 2 billion RMB and the compensation area 400 million mu, spreading to the whole country from simply 11 provinces (autonomous regions). In 2013, the compensated area of national ecological forests was 800 million mu, and that of local ecological forests 388 million mu. In 2014, the central government continued to arrange the compensation fund at the level of 14.93 billion RMB.

**11. Since 2007, has your government been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM? If yes, please specify sources:**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2013</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic public funding	USD 7,235,675,806	USD 22,487,225,806
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding	USD 3,209,435,944	USD 28,877,633,080
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+)	USD 36,530,000	USD 47,130,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External private funding	USD 58,065,000	USD 642,450,000

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds:

In recent years, international public funding received by China has decreased annually.

**12. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?**

- Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
- Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)
- Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to SFM
- Other; please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case 1: Stabilizing collective forest tenure and promoting forest investment and tenure transfer. Collective forest tenure reform gives farmers 70 years of tenure over the forestland. This policy mobilizes the enthusiasm of forestland owners for managing the land. In 2013, forest tenure mortgage loans have been carried out in 26 provinces (cities and autonomous regions) in China. The area involved was 70.1509 million mu with loans 116.6 billion RMB, an increase of 47.16% from last year and 1662.13 RMB per mu. Among them, the area with loans given to farmers was 35.0064 million mu with loans worth of 51.768 billion RMB , an increase of 49.53% from last year and 11,700 RMB per household.

Case 2: Carrying out forest insurance and supporting collective forest reform. In 2013, forest insurance was carried out in 24 provinces (cities and autonomous regions), covering 1364 million mu. The insurance value totaled 657.184 billion RMB, with premium of 1.720 billion RMB and policy subsidy of 1.481 billion RMB.

Case 3: Logging policy reform. To consolidate results of collective forest tenure reform, we innovated forestry governance mechanism, gave management rights and property disposal rights to forest farmers, and mobilized their enthusiasm in afforestation and forest tending and protecting, promoting forest resources management in a scientific way. In May 2014, SFA released *Opinions on Further Reform and Improve Logging and Management of Collective Forests*, stipulating on implementing the logging quota distribution system in a more scientific and transparent way, simplifying approval procedures for logging, improving logging oversight and facilitating the combination of logging management and scientific operation in collective forests.

**13. Is your government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?**

Yes       No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

- Government
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Private sector/philanthropy
- NGOs
- Others

Type of cooperation:

- North-South

- South-South
- Technical
- Financial
- Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Other, please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case 1: Carrying out China-German forestry cooperation programs. China-German fiscal cooperation projects on afforestation are funded by both Chinese and German governments and carried out in poor regions in China. Up until now, 30 such programs have been implemented in over 110 counties of 17 provinces, cities and autonomous regions. German has provided aid of 188 million euros, of which 159 million euros without reimbursement and 28.57 million euros preferential loans. Combined with fund of Chinese governments at all levels and fund given to offset farmers' labor, overall input registered at 2.825 billion RMB. By the end of 2013, the programs have completed afforestation of 863,000 ha, managed forests of 104,000 ha, built 50 nurseries and forest roads of 23.19 million km, trained nearly 120,000 personnel times and benefited nearly 1.04 million people. The programs play a positive role in developing China's forestry, as in the following aspects: First, the programs bring in capital, promote forestry development in program areas and achieve pronounced ecological benefits. Second, they promote rural restructuring, increase farmers' income and facilitate regional economic development. Third, the programs bring in advanced management methods, put into practice on a large scale modern forestry program management methods which provide demonstrative examples for national forestry programs. Fourth, they bring in advanced international technologies and improve SFM. Fifth, through these programs, we learn from international ideas, e.g. participatory land use plans, reimbursement system

management and near nature forests, transforming old practices. Sixth, we train a large number of personnel for implementation and management of forestry programs.

Case 2: Carrying out south-south cooperation in forestry training. By the end of 2013, 128 training courses have been held with about 2,300 trainees from over 60 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Trainings covered bamboo processing and use, desertification combating, forest resources protection, forest law enforcement, biodiversity conservation, SFM and its implementation and protection of migratory birds. Especially since 2014, China has held training courses on implementing the Forest Instrument for developing countries, introducing China's experiences and practices in implementing the Forest Instrument. During these training courses, China shared experiences, technologies and models of forestry development with other developing countries, thus welcomed and well-received among participants.

Please list the key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:

The 8<sup>th</sup> National Forest Resources Inventory shows that the forest stock volume per unit area is still less than 70% of the world average. The forest stock volume of young and middle-aged forests account for 65% of the world average and monoculture forest 61%. Over-dense young and middle-aged forests cover 530 million mu, accounting for 33% of the total. Over-sparse middle-aged forests and near-and-over-mature forests cover 360 million mu, accounting for 14% of arbor forests. Annual average wood loss reaches 118 million m<sup>3</sup>. The stock volume of young and middle-aged forests is less than 40% of the total, but its forest loss accounts for 46% of the total. Plantations forest loss increased by 135%. The figures show that forest management in China is too extensive. Forest quality and forestland productivity are still relatively low. There is great potential in enhancing forest quality. Forest management should be strengthened.

Forestry development in China is still on the stage of rehabilitation. Insufficient forest volume, low quality, weak functions and uneven distribution remain unchanged. The conflict between insufficient ecological resources and increasing ecological and livelihood demand for forests is still pronounced. Eight characteristics feature in current forestry development in China. First, increased forest resources coexist with insufficient lumber supply. Supply-demand conflict of timber remains acute. Huge pressure remains for forest resources. Second, increased forest resources coexist with extensive forest management. There is a large potential to enhance forest quality, and forest management enhancement is urgent. Third, ecological improvement coexists with ecological degradation. Natural ecological system is still weak, and the total volume of ecological resources is still severely inadequate. Fourth, increased ecological demand coexists with inadequate capital input. Capital shortage still hinders forestry ecological development in China. Fifth, fast development of forestry coexists with livelihood issues in forest areas. It remains an uphill battle to develop green



industry that enriches people and improve people's welfare. Sixth, scientific and technological progress in forestry coexists with backward production technology. There is great potential for improving forestry quality and efficiency. Seventh, social concern coexists with ecological damage. It is still a difficult task to raise ecological awareness and curb ecological damage. Ecological issues have never been more closely linked with people's livelihood, never been more stressed by our country and our party and never been such a social concern before. The ecosystem has never been influenced so deeply by the economy than now. In particular, China is undergoing the largest-scale urbanization in the world. Forestland encroachment and wetland destruction are severe problems. Eighth, strategic opportunities coexist with grave challenges. Forestry sector face the tough test of using the opportunities and combating the challenges. These eight "coexistences" show great achievements, good opportunities, numerous difficulties and arduous tasks China's forestry is facing.

**14. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?**

Yes       No

If Yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

- Forest inventory systems
- Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
- Wood production for energy
- Wood processing technology
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Other, please list below:

Are these programs directed at:

- Forest owners
- Timber companies/forest products industry
- State agencies
- Local communities
- Indigenous communities
- NGOs
- General public

Since 2007, has funding for forest-related science and research increased?

Yes       No

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

In 2013, input for science and technology in forestry reached 1 billion RMB, an increase of 6 times from 159 million RMB in 2007. In 2013 scientific research input in forestry also increased. Its national budgets and departmental budgets reached 158 million RMB and 289 million RMB respectively. Input for scientific and technological promotion in forestry remained basically the same, with 430 million RMB of central fiscal funding, 100 million RMB for inter-regional promotion and demonstration programs and 330 million RMB of regional earmarked fund for promotion. Fund for annual agricultural research results transfer reached 12 million RMB. Fund for forestry standardization projects and forest products quality inspection accumulated 22.5 million RMB. Fund for building and operating forestry ecological stations, key laboratories, scientific and technological promotion stations and quality inspection agencies totaled 202 million RMB.

**15. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?**

- Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
- Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.
- Meetings with the general public
- Art events/Exhibitions
- Activities in support of the International Day of Forests
- Other

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Case1: 12 March is China's national Tree-Planting Day. National leaders lead and encourage the general public to participate in compulsory tree-planting activities on that day.

Case 2: 21 March is International Day of Forests decided by the UN. In 2014, China Greening Committee and SFA held a series of activities celebrating this day, including tree-planting program themed on *Green Dream and Shared Home* in Future Technology City of Changping district in Beijing.

Case 3: Major media in China has journalists exclusively responsible for covering forestry news including China Central TV (CCTV), China Radio International, Xinhua News Agency, People's Daily, Guangming Daily, Economic Daily and iFeng.com. Forestry programs include half-hour weekly feature, The Wizard of Oz on Youth Channel of CCTV, half-hour weekly feature Green Space on CCTV-7 and irregularly-timed program Green Ribbon that covers the

achievements of shelter belts in north China. The programs play an important role in publicizing forestry knowledge and development and in raising the general public's awareness of SFM.

Case 4: There are also newspapers and magazines that exclusively cover forestry news, including *Green Time* and *Green China*.

All the tree-planting days and celebrating activities and publicity from media and magazines offer various channels for China's public to understand the ecological benefits of forests.

**16. What sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:**

- National set of C&I
- Regional/international set of C&I (e.g. ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Taraporto etc.)
- Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. On 1 Dec 2002, China enacted *National Level Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management*. On 1 June 2010, China enacted regional industry criteria and indicators, including *Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management for Forests in Northeast China*, *Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management for Tropical Areas in China*, *Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management for Forests in Southwest China* and *Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management for Forests in Northwest China*.

<http://www.doc88.com/p-273181200502.html>;

<http://www.doc88.com/p-9015936167610.html>;

<http://www.doc88.com/p-09193692553.html>;

<http://www.docin.com/p-511774392.html>

2. On 1 June 2010, criteria and indicators of Montreal Process is put into use.

Are these C&I used to:

- Generate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
- Monitor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- Review and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
- Communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

China submits *National Report for the Forest Instrument* to UNFF, *Forest Resources Assessment* to FAO and *National Report on SFM* to Secretariat of

the Montreal Process.

- 17. Has your country translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?**

No.

- 18. Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests:**

China's success stories related to the effective implementation of the Forest Instrument are as follows:

1. The effective implementation of the Forest Instrument should be based on national conditions and forestry conditions; and national forestry development plan must be considered altogether.
2. Independent and strong forestry administrative agencies ensure the promotion of SFM.
3. Cross-sector cooperation and mobilizing the whole society can effectively advance SFM.
4. Government input plays an important role in the initial stage of forestry development, while social input is the major driving force for SFM.
5. Sound forest governance system needs a sound legal system and a clear tenure.
6. International cooperation plays an important role in implementing the Forest Instrument.

## PART II

### Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

#### **19. How have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?**

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

<b>By:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Improving livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Providing employment, including employment in informal economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Research finds that poor areas in China overlap with places covered by key forestry and ecological programs. On one hand, mountainous areas where poor people live are often places with concentrated forest resources. Mountainous areas account for 69% of China's overall territory and forest is an important resource for farmers' life and production. On the other hand, deserted area and loess plateau where a large proportion of residents are poor are major regions that key forestry and ecological programs (such as CCFP and the Desertification Combating Program) are carried out.

By carrying out forestry ecological protection and restoration programs and developing forestry and under-forest economy, China has produced large amounts of fuel wood and food, which has safeguarded food security and provided employment opportunities for farmers and employers working in forestry. It is estimated that in 2012, forestry in China produced a value of 3.95 trillion RMB. Various products from commercial forests reached 142 million tons. Flowers planted covered 969,100 ha. Commercial timber output accounted for 81.7487 million m<sup>3</sup>. Bamboos reached 1.644 billion logs. Forestry offered 52.47 million jobs and 50.85 million of them are seasonal for farmers and employers working in forestry. By 2012, a subsidy of 22.79 million RMB has been given to

over 13 million farmers in CCFP. In collective forest tenure reform, 2.604 billion mu of forestland has been given certificates, benefiting 89.8125 million farmers.

**20. How have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?**

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

<b>By:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Providing habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stabilizing soils and slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safeguarding water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sequestering carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Providing timber, energy and other products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

1. By the end of 2013, through project construction, 2163 nature reserves of various types and levels covering 124 million ha and 13% of national territory have been set up in the forestry system. Among them, 325 are of national level, which has formed a nature reserve network with reasonable layout, relatively complete types and functions. They protect 90% of China's terrestrial ecosystem, 85% of wild fauna and flora population and 65% of higher plants community and cover 20% of original forests, 50.3% of natural wetlands and 30% of typical desert regions, contributing to maintain ecology and biological diversity, to promote sustainable development and to control the decline of national key protected wildlife resources.

2. By implementing NFPP, forest coverage has increased by 150 million mu, forest stock volume by 725 million m<sup>3</sup>, forest carbon sink by 360 million tons and forest coverage rate by 3.7 percentage points. Soil erosion area in the Three Gorges Reservoir has been reduced by 1312.39 km<sup>2</sup> compared to 2000. Sediment concentration per m<sup>3</sup> in the Yellow River has been reduced by 1.92 kg from 2000. The project of returning farmland to forests has turned 9.0630 million ha of slope farmlands into forests, 15.8008 million ha of barren mountains and wastelands into forests and has tended forest with mountain closure of 2.6814

million ha.

3. Forest carbon sink equals 8427 million tons, absorbing air pollutants 38 million tons and holding dust of 5845 million tons annually.

**21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?**

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

<b>By:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fostering partnerships with the private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Through bilateral, multilateral and private channels and by means of visit and study, scientific and technological exchanges and program cooperation, great achievements have been made in China's forestry development. First, we bring in capital, technologies and advanced international ideas. Since 1980s, China has carried out nearly 1000 international cooperation programs in forestry, bringing in fund without reimbursement of over 1 billion USD. We acquired preferential loans of nearly 1.5 billion USD from international financial institutions such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank, effectively alleviating the lack of capital for forestry development. Meanwhile, advanced technologies and international ideas have been introduced to enhance forest governance capacity. Second, China's forestry has become more competitive. Since 21<sup>st</sup> century, economic globalization, China's accession into WTO and the project of natural forest protection have driven China's forestry enterprises to the global

market, which has made China's forestry more competitive and has expanded the scope for forestry development. China has become the largest timber importer, wood-based panel exporter and forest products trader in the world. Third, we have participated in the process of global forest governance. SFA is the leading institution to implement *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*, the *Ramsar Convention*, *UN Convention to Combat Desertification* and the *Forest Instrument*. SFA has also participated in the implementation and negotiation of the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*, the *UN Convention on Biological Diversity* and *International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants*. In recent years, China's implementation mechanism has been constantly improved. Resolutions from the conventions have been carried out effectively. The international community has generally recognized China's participation in negotiation and related processes, and coordination to promote to establish a just and rational international forest governance system. Fourth, fruitful results from cooperation with foreign NGOs have been achieved. SFA has now set up cooperative and exchange relations with 18 foreign NGOs including World Wide Fund for Nature, the Nature Conservancy and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The annual consultation mechanism has deepened cooperation and played a positive role in protecting China's forests and wildlife. Fifth, in 1997, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), the first intergovernmental organization with its headquarter in China, was set up. In 2009, Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) was set up.

**22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?**

Yes       No

If Yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

**MDG2: Achieving universal primary education**

**MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women**



**MDG4: Reducing child mortality**

**MDG5: Improving maternal health**

**MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**