

**Report to
the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF)**

**on
Japan's Implementation of
IPF/IFF Proposals for Action**

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JAPAN

This report, which is submitted to the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF), describes the recent major development in Japan and Japan's assistance to developing countries' efforts with regard to the implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action. Among the numerous actions proposed by the IPF/IFF this report highlights some activities related to the agenda of the second substantive session of the UNFF to be held in March 2002. Please note that to give a clear and concise view to readers, it does not necessarily explain in detail all the aspects of the reported actions.

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Executive Summary

Japan has been promoting sustainable forest management in order to manage various forest resources, acknowledging the importance of forests as an ecosystem, based on the fundamental laws such as *the Forest Law* enacted in 1897 and *the Forestry Basic Law* in 1964 and other instruments. *The Forest Law* aims to contribute to the conservation of the national land and the development of nation's economy by stipulating the Forest Planning System and the Protection Forest System for the purpose of conserving the forest and increasing its productivity. In contrast, *the Forestry Basic Law* has aimed to clarify the objectives of forestry policy and to lay down the fundamental policies to attain such objectives in order to ensure forestry development, to better the position of workers, and to ensure improvements in forest resources and national land conservation.

In recent years, the people have come to seek more intently than ever to have forests perform comprehensively its various functions to conserve the land and water resources, produce timber, and provide opportunities for recreation and forest/environmental education. Furthermore, in relation to global warming, it is essential to maintain forests as a carbon sink and to use wood as a renewable resource.

Recognizing such a trend, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries formulated *the Fundamental Principle for Forest Policy Reform* in December 2000, in an effort to clarify the significance of the forest and

forestry in the 21st century to the society and demonstrate the guidelines of Japan's forest management in the future. In addition, Japan restructured its National Forest Programme by completely revising the Forestry Basic Law in July 2000, and enacting in its place *the Forests and Forestry Basic Law*. This is a policy change to further promote multiple functions of the forest so that the forest in the country would be appropriately managed in coming years reflecting the people's demands for forests and changing circumstances surrounding forests and forestry with the times.

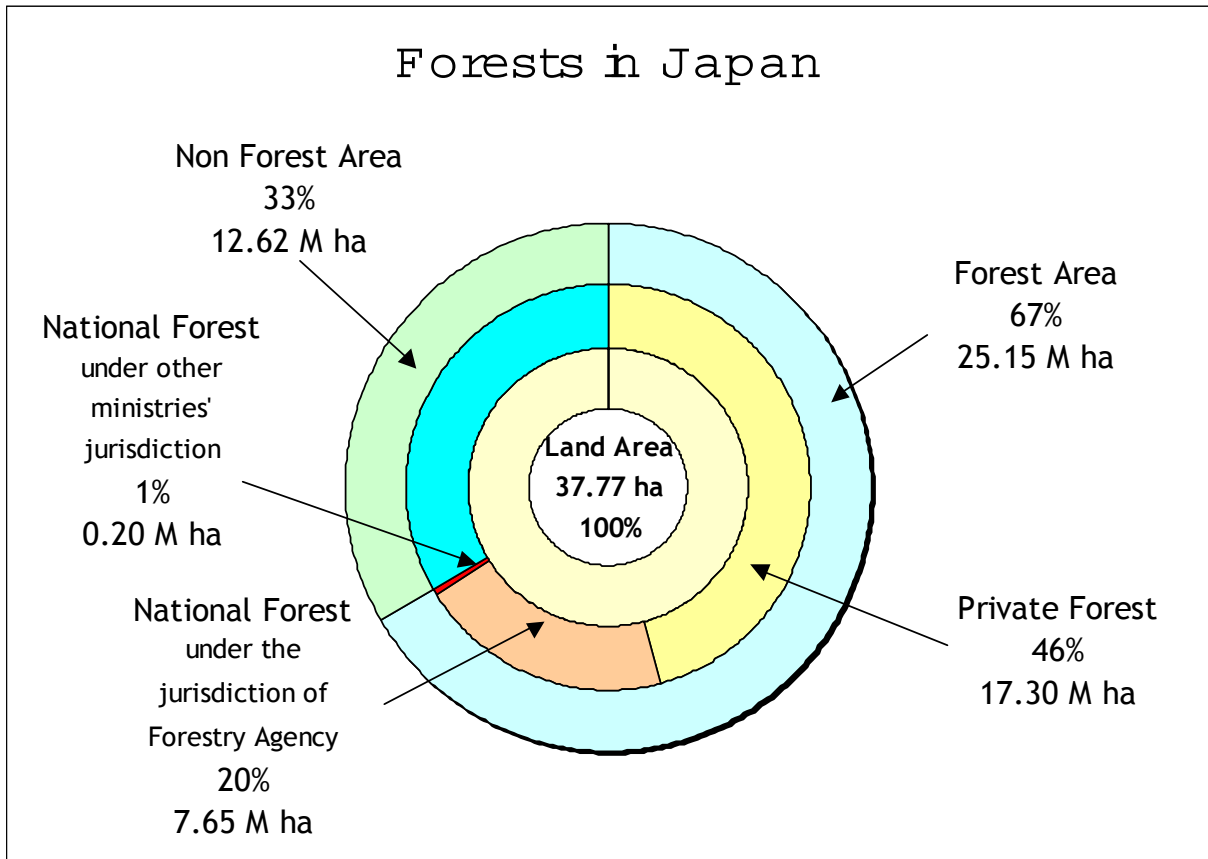
Also, based on *the Forest and Forestry Basic Law*, the Ministry launched *the Forest and Forestry Basic Plan* in October 2001, which classifies the country's forests by three zones according to the principle functions. The introduction of this new National Forest Programme is an indication of the strong commitment of the Government of Japan to conserve, maintain and manage forests in Japan in a sustainable manner to pass on this great forest resources to future generations under cooperation and understanding of various stakeholders including the people, forest owners, and the prefectural and municipal governments.

Furthermore, Japan has been promoting sustainable forest management not only at home but also abroad. Japan has promoted international cooperation in the forests and forestry sector through various schemes including the official development assistance. To support the UNFF's activities, Japan has hosted a country-led initiative in support of UNFF entitled International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on the Progress toward Sustainable Forest Management to contribute to the development of the discussion at the new forum.

Preface—Japan and its Forests

In Japan, the life of the people and the forests have been closely related to each other from time immemorial. They have made good use of the forests and the timber resources in their life. On the Japanese archipelago, volcanic activities are extensive; there are many mountainous districts where geological features are complex and steep, and big natural disasters occur frequently due to localized torrential rain brought about by the summer seasonal rain front, typhoons, and extensive snowfall. Our ancestors who had lived in such areas knew from experience that erosions and floods were often caused by the decrease and deterioration of forests, and the supply of water so indispensable for farm production and their everyday life would become unstable with the destruction of the forest. As for the wood obtained from the forest, it is used for various tools, daily necessities, dwellings, and fuel, and forest products such as mushrooms, nuts, and mountain herbs as well as charcoal supported the people's lives.

At present, two-thirds of Japan's land is covered with forests. This is not only because of natural conditions that are suitable for the growth of trees, but also as a result of the steady attempts to grow and maintain the forests successively passed on to by our ancestors. When we look back upon the history of Japan, there have been several times when they faced a crisis of the forest disappearing, but every time our ancestors prevented the forests from being destroyed by restricting and prohibiting logging, and the promotion of afforestation. It is our mission to pass our valuable forests to the next generation in even better shape.



1. National Forest Programme (1):

Basic Framework for Sustainable Forest Management

Since the end of the nineteenth century Japan has established a legal framework for forests and forestry and has continued to promote sustainable forest management up to the present day. The following is an overview of three laws that constitute the essential legal and systemic framework for sustainable forest management in Japan: *the Forest Law*, *the Forests and Forestry Basic Law*, and *the Law of Administration and Management of National Forest*.

Forest Law

This is the most fundamental law governing forest management in Japan. It establishes a system for forest planning, a system of forest preserves, and sets forth other basic matters related to forests, and is designed both to conserve national land and promote economic development through efforts to sustainably manage forests and increase forest productivity. This law has been revised several times since it was originally enacted in 1897.

Forest Planning System

Japan's forest planning system sets forth principles and goals for comprehensive long-term policies on forests and forestry at the national, regional, and municipal levels (Nationwide Forest Plan, Regional Forest Plan, and Municipal Forest Improvement Plan respectively). The system also lays out guiding principles for forest management implemented by forest owners and others. These plans are revised every five years in

accordance with changes in economic conditions and the state of the forests, as well as other circumstances. In order to encourage forest owners to implement forest management in accordance with the established principles, the system requires advance notification of felling and reporting of post-harvest reforestation, and also requires forest owners to submit forest management plans for approval.

Protection Forest System

The Protection Forest System provides an arrangement under which the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and prefectural governors can designate specific areas as protection forests (17 types) for the purpose serving public interests, such as conserving water resources, preventing natural disasters, creating or protecting environments for living, and providing places for healthy recreation. These areas are protected through the imposition of specific restrictions, such as systems requiring approval for the felling of trees, and in this way the Protection Forest System ensures public benefits from those designated forests. At present protection forests account for approximately 8.93 million hectares (actual area), or about one-third of all the nation's forests (as of March 31, 2001).

Protection forests designed to protect water resources comprise approximately 70 percent of all Japan's protection forests, while those designated for the purpose of preventing erosion, as a means of preventing natural disasters, account for another 20 percent. The remaining 10 percent consists of protection forests intended for the creation or protection of environments for living or the provision of places for healthy recreation.

In addition, in order to ensure that protection forests can be provided on an emergency basis, the Protection Forest Improvement Plan is underway for the designation of protection forests based on *the Temporary Measures Law for Protection Forest Improvement*. Furthermore, to ensure that protection forests serve their respective purposes, forest conservation facilities are established and actions to improve forest conditions are carried out when necessary.

Forest Land Development Control System

Forests other than protection forests also play roles beneficial to the public, such as conserving water resources, preventing natural disasters, and protecting the environment. For this reason, it is necessary to ensure that, when development activities are carried out in forests other than protection forests, the actions taken do not hinder the roles that these areas play in serving the public benefit. A system requiring approval for development in forest areas is therefore in place, under which the approval must be obtained from the prefectural governor for development activities exceeding a specified level in privately owned forests.

Forests and Forestry Basic Law

Originally enacted in 1964, *the Forestry Basic Law* that provided the basis for Japan's policies on forestry, was revised in July 2001 and reenacted as *the Forests and Forestry Basic Law* (See Chapter 2 for further details).

Law of Administration and Management of National Forest

The goals of the administration and management of national forests as embodied in this law are to protect national land and maintain and improve the functions of national forests that benefit the public, continuously and systematically provide a supply of forest products, and, by utilizing national forests, help promote industry and improve the welfare of residents in regions where these forests are located.

Under this law, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries formulates a basic 10-year plan for the administration and management of national forests (the Basic Administration and Management Plan) every five years, and the Director Generals of Regional Forest Offices draw up a five-year plan for the administration and management of each planning unit of national forests (the Regional Administration and Management plan) every five years, in accordance with the Basic Plan.

2. National Forest Programme (2): Forestry Policy Reform

Enactment of the Forests and Forestry Basic Law

In 1964, in an effort to expand forestry and improve the status of those involved in forestry, as well as to protect the nation's forest resources and conserve land, the Government of Japan promulgated *the Forestry Basic Law* that clarifies policy goals regarding forestry, which set forth some basic measures to help achieve those goals. The Government subsequently formulated and unveiled the Basic Plan on Forest Resources and the Long Range Demand and Supply Projection on Important Forest

Resources.

In July 2001, in order to clarify the basic concept of the importance of forests and forestry to Japanese society in the twenty-first century and develop appropriate new policies, the government thoroughly revised *the Forestry Basic Law* for the first time in its 37-year history. These reforms produced a new law, *the Forests and Forestry Basic Law*.

The reforms that were implemented represented Japan's awareness of the major changes that had occurred since 1964, when *the Forestry Basic Law* was enacted, and its firm intention to pursue a more up-to-date approach to sustainable forest management befitting current circumstances.

The Forestry Basic Law, reflecting the social and economic trends of the era when it was enacted, was designed to help increase forestry productivity and improve the standing of those involved in forestry. It was established as a means of illuminating the path Japan's forestry industry should follow, and as such it produced positive results.

The public needs for forests, however, have grown more diverse and more intense, bringing into play a broad range of functions—conservation of land and natural environment, timber production, mitigation of global warming, and utilization of forests as places for recreational and educational pursuits. The need has arisen for a unified effort by the international community to advance the cause of sustainable forest management. Accordingly, Japan revised its *Forestry Basic Law* and enacted *the Forests and Forestry Basic Law*, shifting to a policy promoting further sustainable performance of the multiple functions of forests, in order to ensure appropriate management of Japan's forests in the future in response to the needs of its citizens.

Deliberations on a new basic policy began in 1999. A private advisory body to the Director-General of the Forestry Agency, the Advisory Committee for Policy Review on Forests, Forestry, and the Forest Products Industry, was established, setting forth some basic tasks for forest management. The committee's findings were considered by the Forestry Policy Council made up of a broad range of stakeholders.

Summary of the Forests and Forestry Basic Law

1. Basic principles
 - (1) Performance of multiple functions of forests
 - (2) Healthy and sustainable development of forestry
2. Forests and Forestry Basic Plan
 - (1) The government formulates a basic plan in order to advance comprehensive, systematic measures related to forests and forestry.
 - (2) Items set forth in plan
 - (3) Revisions generally every five years, in response to changing circumstances and the results of the assessment of the policy effectiveness
3. Measures undertaken to perform multiple functions of forests
 - (1) Promoting the improvement of forests
 - (2) Ensuring the conservation of forests
 - (3) Developing and disseminating technology
 - (4) Promoting settlements in mountain areas
 - (5) Promoting voluntary activities by citizens
 - (6) Interaction between major cities and mountain communities
 - (7) International cooperation and contribution
4. Measures to ensure health and sustainable development of forestry
 - (1) Establishment of desirable forestry structure
 - (2) Securing and training personnel
 - (3) Measures related to labor engaged in forestry
 - (4) Promotion of activities by forestry industry organizations
 - (5) Compensation for losses arising from damage to forests
5. Measures concerned with ensuring the supply and use of forest products
 - (1) Healthy development of forestry industries
 - (2) Promoting the use of forest products
 - (3) Measures concerned with imported forest products
6. Other

Vigorous deliberations were subsequently held among government officials, and based on these discussions the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries compiled the basic details of the new policy in *the Fundamental Principle for Forest Policy Reform* in December 2000. This principle has provided the guiding principles for future forest management and for the new basic law. Citizens' views were widely solicited via the Internet and by other means in an effort to ensure that their views were reflected in the formulation of this outline.

Revisions of the Forest Law

The establishment of *the Forests and Forestry Basic Law* was accompanied by a revision of *the Forest Law*. The forest planning system was revised in order specifically address the functions of forests that produce public benefits and promote forest-related projects specifically intended to maintain and improve those functions. New measures were instituted to ensure forest regeneration, including measures related to reforestation subsequent to the felling of trees, which were added to the requirements for advance notification of felling.

Japan has three levels of governmental administration—national, regional (prefectural), and municipal levels. Revisions to the Forest Law in 1998 conferred authority over forest management on the administrative entities closest to the citizens, those at the community level, while providing for technical support from the regional administrative institutions under the control of the prefectures, in an effort to ensure that the legal system governing these matters is responsive to citizens' needs.

Formulation of the Forests and Forestry Basic Plan

In order to lend concrete substance to the new concepts embodied in *the Forests and Forestry Basic Law* and steadily advance the individual measures it prescribes, the Forests and Forestry Basic Plan was formulated in October 2001. The Plan presents tasks for the parties involved in the form of long-term guidelines for forests, forestry, and the timber industry in the twenty-first century. It provides targets for performing the multiple functions of forests and for the supply and utilization of forest products, and it outlines measures to be comprehensively and systematically taken by the government. To ensure that citizens' views would be reflected in the formulation of this plan, opinions were solicited via the Internet and by other means, and meetings were held in rural areas to permit exchanges of views with members of the Forest Policy Council. Thus, the Plan was created in a manner that enabled citizens' views to be incorporated into national policies.

In accordance with the Forests and Forestry Basic Plan, forest planning is being revised at each national, regional, and municipal level, and new measures will be advanced in FY2002 (April 2002) based on the new plan. Please refer to Chapter 3 for information on the provision of forests under the new Plan.

Reform of the National Forest Management

Japan's National Forest Management oversees the administration of the national forests that account for approximately 30 percent of all Japan's forest areas (and cover approximately 20 percent of its land). In

October 1998 the legal framework for the National Forest Management was revised and radical reforms were enacted, based on a fundamental intention to thoroughly rationalize and scale back the organization and its staff and shift to an emphasis on the functions of forests that produce public benefits, in order to ensure that Japan's national forests, which are the common property of its citizens, are appropriately and efficiently managed in the future.

Notable among these reforms is a transformation of the organization's administrative orientation, from an emphasis on the role of the timber production to an emphasis on the functions of forests that produce public benefits. Since 1992 national forests have introduced zoning system, preceding private forests, in accordance with various functions of forests. The new reforms changed zoning methods once again, reorganizing the scheme to produce three categories of forests: forests protecting land or water resources, forests enabling people to coexist with nature, and forests providing renewable resources. "Forests for Public Benefit"—those in the first two categories—account for from 50 to 80 percent of the total area covered by national forests. The new zoning arrangement is designed in conformity with *the Forests and Forestry Basic Plan* (See Chapter 3).

In order to ensure that national forests are administered in a manner that provides broad public access, the planning system that provides the basis for administrative internal rules is being revised to create a legal system setting forth basic administrative policies at the national and regional level. Extensive input from citizens and the residents of various regions is being incorporated into formulation of a draft plan (See Chapter 7).

Continuing efforts are being made to ensure efficient, straightforward operations, through rationalization and structural reorganization.

3. Management of Natural and Planted Forests

Forest Management to Date

In the mid-1940s, nationwide reforestation has been started to rehabilitate degraded lands particularly caused by intensive harvesting during and after the WWII. Later, to meet the increased demand for lumber for rapid economic development and reconstruction of the country, reforestation and afforestation with fast-growing species have been promoted to produce timbers with good quality, creating planted forests, which increased the forest cover and increased forest resources. However, forestry has become less and less profitable due to the falling price of lumber, which discouraged forest owners to continue their forestry activities, and, as a result, investment in the forestry sector including tending and thinning, which could be a threat to forest health and performance of the multiple function of forests. On the other hand, as already mentioned, people's expectations from forests are becoming more and more diverse and complex. In response to this trend, such measures as the planting of deciduous trees including mixed planting of deciduous and coniferous trees in planted forest as well as properly and sustainably managing forest resources have become critical.

Forest Management through Zoning by Principle Function

One of the pillars of forest policy reform as mentioned before is the establishment of a new forest management plan that promotes sustainable forest management. The new Forest and Forestry Basic Plan requires zoning of forests into three categories in accordance with their principle functions and forest management carried out in line with each of those categories.

When managing forests to meet the ever-diversified expectations of the Japanese people, it would be effective to envision what functions are expected of each forest based on the condition of the forests and the needs of the people in the region and to how to effectively manage and maintain forests in line with such expectations. This would enable (1) efficient and effective forest management to demonstrate multiple functions of forests, (2) forest owners to choose desirable measures to manage their forests, and (3) better understanding of forests among the people. Therefore, under the Forests and Forestry Basic Plan established in 2001, forests have been put into the following three categories with due consideration paid to such factors as the natural and social condition of Japan and the states of the forests, and similarities among forest management policies and what is expected of forests by the Japanese people so that forests will be managed as desired in accordance with the categories:

Forests for water and soil conservation

The focus of these forests is on water resource conservation, prevention of natural disasters as well as protection of life and property of the Japanese people

Forests for the people

These forests will promote preservation of natural resources with importance placed on the enrichment of our lives, preservation of the living environment and maintenance of public health.

Forests for cyclic use

The expected main function for these forests is the production of wood products.

Forests help mitigate global warming and preserve biodiversity. It is also of importance to ensure that these functions be properly demonstrated.

To promote this policy, the country's administrative bodies need to work together with stakeholders including forest owners, the people in the region, and the prefectural and municipal governments in promoting sustainable forest management.

4. Forest Conservation and Protection of Unique Types of Forests

Forests provide multiple functions such as conservation of national land and water resources, preservation of the natural environment and public health, mitigation of global warming, and provision of wood products. In Japan where economic and cultural activities are carried out on narrow plots of steep-sloped national land, forests have often been utilized in various ways and, therefore, for a long time there have been many laws and other instruments related to conservation and protection of

forests.

Based on these laws and instruments, Japan has been managing its forests appropriately, with due adjustments made between their functions according to the surrounding natural condition, and the needs of the region. For instance, in the case of the Protection Forest System, protection forests have been established systematically.

Major Protected Areas for Natural Environment in Japan	
	Area (thousand ha)
Protection Forests	9,545
Protected Forests	539
National Parks	2,051
Quasi-National Parks	1,343
Prefectural Natural Parks	1,958
Wilderness Areas	6
Nature Conservation Areas	22
Prefectural Nature Conservation Areas	74
Wildlife Protection Areas	3,568

Nature Conservation System

Nature Conservation Areas

Japan endeavors to protect natural environment. Based on the Nature Conservation Law and relevant ordinances by local governments, Japan designates areas where human treatment is hardly provided or where outstanding nature is maintain as "Wilderness Area", "Nature

Conservation Area” or “Prefectural Nature Conservation Area”. In these areas, certain regulations are imposed on some activities, such as prohibition of logging.

Natural Parks

Japan also endeavors to protect natural environment in such areas as where the people enjoy outstanding natural landscape. Based on the Natural Parks Law and ordinances by local governments, Japan designates those areas as “National Park”, “Quasi-National Park” or “Prefectural Natural Park” and utilizes these parks for the people’s enjoyment with the nature. In natural parks, certain regulations are imposed on some activities, such as permission of logging.

Wildlife Protection Areas

Wildlife Protection Areas also designated to ensure conservation of wildlife, where various activities, such as logging, require permission.

Protected Forest System and Green Corridor

In national forests that are widely distributed deep in the mountains, there are many rich forests, each with its own ecological system, such as the World Heritage Sites of Yakushima Island and Shirakami Mountain District, in which precious wild animals and plants live. Therefore, these precious forests are currently designated as protected forests in the National Forest Management. The Protected Forest System was established in 1915 for the protection of wild life and preservation of scenic beauty, as well as for academic study. This System was revised in

1989 and protected forests are classified into seven categories, such as Forest Ecosystem Conservation Regions and Plant Colony Conservation Forests. In the new function-based category for forest management briefly explained in the Chapter 3, protection forests are all appropriately managed as Forests for People.

In addition to the Protected Forest System, the Green Corridor, which links protected forests according to the Administration and Management Basic Plan, has been established since 1999 to secure free movement of wild animals as well as to expand their territory. The purpose of the Green Corridor is not only to provide routes for wildlife movement but also to allow better use of the functions of forests and, at the same time, to protect and conserve the forest ecosystem as a whole. Criteria for setting up the Green Corridor and its management policy were established in December 1999 with the help of experts, the administrative bodies of the region, and NGOs and with the voice from the people. A committee has been also set up including experts, the administrative bodies of the region, and NGOs, to discuss the location, maintenance and management of the Green Corridor.

5. Securing of Bio-diversity and Management of Wildlife

Bio-diversity

In Japan, the following existence, excluding sea weeds, has been confirmed: approximately 1,400 species of vertebrates, 35,000 species of invertebrates, 7,000 species of vascular plants, 5,500 species of algae, 1,800 species of bryophytes, 1,000 species of lichens, and 16,500 species

of fungi. The number of species in Japan is smaller than that in countries with rain forests but, compared with advanced countries, particularly those of European countries, it is much larger.

The feature of diversity of natural environment in Japan enables such existence of diverse forms of life, which are various climates such as sub-tropical and sub-arctic and its undulating land with large altitudinal differences. Japan consists of four major islands and over 3,000 smaller islands, some of which have endemic biota unique.

Conservation of forests is indispensable to secure bio-diversity. In Japan, however, rapid economic development in post WWII era and recent urbanization have caused decrease of natural forests and tideland and degradation of environment for lives. Consequently, the existence of many species becomes in danger. Recognizing the urgent need to preserve those species, under Convention of Biological Diversity, Japan currently reviews "National Strategy of Japan on Biological Diversity" adopted in 1995.

Management of wildlife

Certain wildlife such as deer have increased in number in specific regions or expanded their habitat distribution, causing agricultural and forestry damage and ecosystem disturbance. In such cases, Japan takes measures to reduce and prevent damage, namely, management of wildlife to keep the balance of forest ecosystem, aiming for conservation of species and population. For example, local governments develop "wildlife Management Plan" and "Specific Wildlife Management Plan" according to Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law and its amendment.

6. Combating Deforestation and Forest Degradation

International Cooperation to Combat Deforestation and Forest

Degradation

The Charter of Official Development Assistance (ODA), which was decided by the Japanese Cabinet in 1992, states environmental conservation as one of its basic philosophy and the first principle contained in the Charter is that “environmental conservation and development should be pursued in tandem.” Furthermore, Japan’s Mid-term policy on ODA issued in August 1999 puts environmental conservation in its priority issues.

Japan intends to achieve sustainable development in global basis through its assistance to developing countries’ efforts, including efforts in combating deforestation and forest degradation. Japan has been promoting sustainable forest management in developing countries, making technological and financial cooperation as well as financial contribution to multilateral organizations under “Initiative for Sustainable Development Toward the 21st Century (ISD)”, which was announced by the Japanese Government during the UNGASS in June 1997. Action Plan under ISD expresses to strengthen promotion sustainable forest management and cooperation for prevention of desertification.

Recognizing the importance of performing multiple functions of forests through international cooperation, the new *Forests and Forestry Basic Law* prescribes promotion of international cooperation in this regard.

Under the same principle, the new *Forests and Forestry Basic Plan* stipulates promotion of forest management and conservation in developing countries through international cooperation.

In addition, from the viewpoint of conserving global environment, the Basic Environment Law stipulates Japan to take necessary measures to promote international cooperation for conserving global environment. Also, the Basic Environment Plan call for Japan to assist developing countries for their efforts of integrating environment into development and to implement various international cooperation to this end.

Followings are Japan's recent activities.

Cooperation through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

As of April 1, 2001, through JICA the Government of Japan is carrying out 20 project-type technological cooperation in 15 countries such as management of natural forests planted forests including in tropical countries, prevention of forest fires, and promotion of social forestry. For instance, on-going projects include afforestation in China, research for rehabilitation and conservation of natural forests in Brazil, social forestry in Nepal and Kenya, and prevention of forest fire and biodiversity conservation in Indonesia. As of April 1, 2001, Japan is also carrying out development studies in eight countries jointly with experts from those countries such as forest resources assessment and the establishment of a forest management plan.

To support developing countries' efforts toward forest rehabilitation and sustainable forest management, Japan is dispatching experts in each field and also accepting trainees. In 2001 various kinds of training courses were taken for trainees from developing countries in areas such as

conservation of wetland environment and bio-diversity, sustainable forest management, information systems for bio-diversity, and wild life protection and management in the African region.

Grant aid and loan assistance

Japan has been providing developing countries with grant aid in the area of forests and forestry. In 1998, Japan expanded the area of such aid to afforestation and management afterwards, which were not subject to the aid until then. So far four projects of grant aid in afforestation area have been implemented.

Regarding loan assistance, Japan has been providing developing countries with such assistance in areas such as afforestation since 1997 at the most favored annual low interest of 0.75% with a repayment period of 40 years.

Cooperation through international organizations

In recent years, the Government of Japan has been providing various forms of assistance through international organizations including the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in support of the UNFF. For example, the Government of Japan is presently assisting the FAO by contributing an amount equivalent to about 20% of its regular budget, contributing to trust fund projects such as field projects in developing countries for sustainable forest management, and actively participating in policy dialogues, as well. The Government of Japan, while actively taking part in the activities of ITTO such as preparation of Guidelines for the Management of Secondary Tropical Forests and Restoration of Degraded Tropical Forests and Tropical Forest Lands, is

making contributions to various projects for the promotion of sustainable forest management in developing countries.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in 1991 under the cooperation among World Bank, UNDP and UNEP as one of major funding mechanisms for addressing issues, such as preservation of bio-diversity in developing countries. GEF, currently in Phase 2 with its operational fund of US\$27.5 billion for four-year period starting in July 1998, implements grant aid for projects proposed by developing countries. Financing 20% of the new funding of GEF, Japan actively contributes to GEF, through its participation in the council, which is a substantial body for decision-making. Japan also makes financial contribution to the UN Environment Fund and the Trust Fund for Technological Cooperation of International Environment Technology Center under UNEP. Furthermore, Japan provides various contributions to other CPF member organizations, including World Bank and CIFOR, in terms of finance, technology and human resources.

Promotion of Afforestation in China and Cooperation Activities of the Forestry Agency

In November 1999 a committee for providing support for Japan's private groups that promote afforestation in China was set up with Japan's contribution of 10 billion yen. In 2000 Japan assisted 23 afforestation and greening projects that were applied and selected from the public. Afforestation was implemented in areas that the Chinese Government selected as areas of importance, such as Yangtze and Yellow River Basins, peripheral regions around Beijing, as well as regions where desertification is underway.

The Forestry Agency itself promotes its own international

cooperation activities including the support for private bodies' activities such as NGOs to assist developing countries' efforts in sustainable forest management, including afforestation activities, the support for forest policy planning that reflects the state of forest degradation by utilizing satellite data, and the support for improving forests and forestry conservation and management techniques.

Assistance for public sector activities related to environmental conservation

The Global Environment Fund was established in Japan in 1993 based on the contribution from public and private sectors. With the amount of ¥13.5 billion in FY 2001, the Fund provides private organizations in and out of Japan with grants for their activities in developing countries regarding forest conservation and greening, prevention of desertification and dissemination. The Fund granted 20 projects in 16 developing countries in FY 2001.

Research on tropical forest degradation

Since 1990, with the view to resolving global environmental issues, Japan has been conducting research activities, including research on forest degradation, particularly about rain forest, gathering all talents of scholars, experts and researchers from public and private sectors under the Global Environment Research Fund. By 2001, 12 research projects have been implemented with total expenditure of approximately ¥1.5 billion. These include research on ecological system of rain forests and on sustainable management of rain forests.

7. Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting

Active Participation in the Montreal Process

Japan has actively participated in the activities of the Montreal Process, which represents efforts, by 12 non-European countries with temperate forest zones, to form standards and indices, since the Process was launched. We held the 4th meeting of the Technological Advisory Committee, in Tsukuba, in June 2000, and we participated in annual sessions of the Working Groups, contributing to compilation of the "Technical Note," which summarized the thinking about measurement methods regarding standards and indices. Further, Japan currently contributes to the development of discussions on preparation of the 1st Montreal Process Forest Report, which is planned to report the state of forests in individual countries in 2003 (the so-called "Year 2003 Report"), by introducing Japanese efforts for the measurement of indices and the like.

In particular, Japan greatly contributed to discussion of methods for reporting indicators of conservation forests, by explaining the forest management system designed for water and land conservation in Japan and giving our views on index report cases, at the Ability Development Workshop held in August 2001 to support efforts to prepare the "Year 2003 Report."

Monitoring Forest Resources

As to Japan's own efforts, we have been monitoring, analyzing, and evaluating the state of forest ecological systems, etc., in accordance

with the criteria and indicators (C&I) of the Montreal Process, with regard to two domestic water systems at regional levels, since 1996, thereby studying desirable methods of forest development and monitoring part of indices. Since 1999, further, Japan has initiated monitoring its forest resource, designed to determine and evaluate the states of forests and trends of their changes based on nationally unified methods, with consideration given to reciprocity and exchangeability with the standards/indices of the Montreal Process. This monitoring is carried out by setting grids, at 4-km intervals, throughout the area of the country, and enforcing sample study at about 15,700 points that fell under forest areas, among the intersection points of the grids. It is aimed at measuring the geographical conditions, vegetation, plants, birds/animals, and the state of soundness in round plots of 0.1 ha surrounding the fixed spots, analyzing collected data, and reflecting the analysis results in forest plans. This measurement, at all of the fixed spots, is to be repeated every five years. To analyze data on the state and trends of forests to be obtained from this survey, and to conduct overall evaluation of forest condition including its contribution to biodiversity, as well as carbon circulation, we are promoting experts study of specific steps for the purposes.

Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) at the international level—International Expert Meeting in Support of UNFF

Japan has been reporting to various international organizations and bodies including CSD upon their request on its activities toward sustainable forest management.

Strongly recognizing the importance and the need of monitoring,

assessment and reporting (MAR) on the progress toward sustainable forest management and on the progress in implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action, Japan hosted the expert meeting in support of UNFF entitled the International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on the Progress toward Sustainable Forest Management in November 2001 in Yokohama. The governments of Australia, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Norway and the U.S.A. co-hosted the Meeting, while some CPF member organizations including FAO, ITTO, UNDP, the World Bank and CIFOR technically supported the meeting organization. More than 100 participants from 31 countries, 9 international organizations and regional C&I processes and 4 international NGOs intensively discussed key issues regarding MAR within the UNFF context. As a result, the Meeting adopted a report summarizing various opinions and suggestions such as reporting important and measurable indicators based on each country's C&I and reporting country's progress according to the agenda of each UNFF session. The report was officially submitted to the UN and is expected to contribute to the deliberations at the second session of the UNFF. Japan is going to actively participate in and contribute to the MAR activities.

Basic Research for Natural Environment Conservation (Green National Census)

To reveal the present condition of the natural environment, including forests, based on the Natural Environment Conservation Law, Japan has continually implemented natural environment conservation basic surveys (green national census) since 1973. Thus far, Japan has prepared existing vegetation diagrams of 1/25,000 of all the national land. Results of these surveys are steadily renewed as basic information determining time series changes of nature from a long-range viewpoint,

and they are planned to be used for utilization of various plans, etc.

8. Promoting Public Participation

Information for the Public

Along with the recent development in information technologies, information on forests and forestry have been provided more through internet in addition to the traditional media such as printed publications. For instance, the Forestry Agency, a governmental body responsible for forests and forestry, established its website in the late 1990s to provide a variety of information on forests and forestry to the public besides its traditional publications including the white papers and brochures on various forests and forestry projects/programs. In the National Forest Management, each Regional Forest Office established its own website to promote "Forests for the People" by introducing its forests and forestry within respective jurisdiction, providing information on how to utilize national forests in the region and on events, and hearing public comments and questions on the National Forest Management.

Promoting Public Participation in Policy Planning Processes

On the occasion of the amendment of *the Forest Law* in October 1998, a system to make regional and municipality/town/village-level forest plans available for perusal by the local people was introduced, to have the opinions of residents reflected during the formulation of such plans.

Also on the occasion of national forest reform in 1998, it was arranged for the operational/management basic plans, designed to decide basic matters regarding the operation and management of national forests, to be publicly announced and made available for perusal by the general public, for 30 days, and that the basic plans would be formulated through the Forest Policy Council, after hearing opinions of residents. Regarding local operation/management basic plans, further, it was decided, as with the operational/management basic plans, to conduct public announcement on the plans, and make them available for perusal for 30 days, and to work them out after hearing the opinions of not only local residents but also the governors of prefectures concerned, and mayors and town/village heads. Moreover, it was decided to publicly announce the status of the operation/management of national forests, each fiscal year, to enable the general public to check if the operation/management is being implemented appropriately based on the plans prepared after citizens' opinions were heard.

As stated above, in addition, consideration was given to having the opinions of the Japanese people more extensively reflected in the enactment of the Forest/Forestry Basic Law, last year, and in the preparation of forest/forestry basic plans and national forest plans, based on the law.

Promoting Public Participation in Forest Conservation and

Improvement

National land afforestation activities

Conventionally, Japan has promoted national land afforestation by

holding National Arbor Day, National Tree-Care Festival, and other national land afforestation activities. Japan has also brought about greater popular understanding of the need for coexistence of forests and people, and the role of forest in mitigating global warming by actively supporting forest improvement through participation of volunteers and other people with the utilization of "Green Fund" and "National Fund for Forest Greenery and Waters."

Educational utilization of forests

To promote forest/forestry experience activities designed to foster children's "strength for life," the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has implemented the "Forest Children Activity Promotion Project, to provide opportunities for experience activities, such as afforestation, grass-mowing, woodwork, and charcoal-burning, since fiscal 1999, jointly with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. In fiscal 2000, a total of 180,000 persons participated in such activities, held at 507 cities, towns, and villages throughout the country.

In this connection, further, projects to help establish forests and related facilities for use as places of forest/forestry experience study, or lifelong study are being implemented. Additionally, the Japanese Government is pushing for the preparation/spread of common programs regarding forest environment education, holding of nationwide symposia, and condition improvement of receipt setups.

Conservation and improvement of forests through volunteer activities

Against the backdrop of rising interest in environmental problems in recent years, activities for voluntarily involvement in forest

conservation and improvement have gained momentum in Japan. As of 2000, there are 581 volunteer organizations engaging in forest conservation and improvement throughout Japan. This total is about 300 more than the figure for 1997. Such volunteer activities have played a major role in getting urban residents' better understanding of forests, forestry, and mountainous villages. Considering that *the Forests and Forestry Basic Law* newly calls for the promotion of volunteer afforestation activities by the citizen, the Japanese Government intends to further accelerate forestry-related volunteer activities, and to generate a national consciousness to support forest conservation and improvement by society as a whole.

In terms of the ownership of forests for such volunteering activities, though private forest is the most, forests owned by administrative organizations are playing a role in such activity. In national forests, for instance, activity areas and technical consultations have been offered, to meet requests for contact with forests and participation in forest improvement activities. Since fiscal 1999, the Forestry Agency has been planning to offer a "forest for contact," where a volunteer group will manage the forest based on its initiative, in each District Forest Office.

9. Wood Products Trade

Illegal Logging

Contributions to international conferences

Japan, as a major wood importing country, aggressively participated in various international conferences regarding illegal logging

problems, based upon a fundamental idea that illegally harvested timber should not be used.

For example, Japan participated in the "Forest Law Enforcement and Governance: East Asia Ministerial Conference" held in Denpasar, Indonesia, in September 2001, and contributed to discussion upon illegal logging problems in cooperation with other G8 countries. Japan also participated in the "Scoping Meeting: Development and Introduction of Improved Methods to Identify Commercial Timber and its Origin" held in Hamburg, Germany, in November 2001, and contributed to discussion upon the technical possibility of development of methods to identify timber and its origin by chemical and genetical analyses for identification of illegally harvested timber.

Financial contribution to ITTO projects

Japan has been addressing illegal logging problems including illegal trade through contribution to ITTO. In particular, Japan has contributed funds to ITTO activities to combat illegal logging problems, including study and analysis of trade data on tropical timber products, which was agreed in the 31st ITTC, and, through ITTO, to the producer member countries' projects against illegal logging problems, including the development of the timber statistics and information system which tracks the commercial flow of harvested timber and the improvement of human resources and institutions.

Domestic communication

Japan assisted the establishment of a committee consisting of various stakeholders in order to raise domestic concern for illegal logging

problems including illegal trade.

Japan assisted the establishment of a private-sector committee focusing upon illegal logging problems, consisting of wood processing industry, wood products importing companies, consumers, researchers, and NGOs, to discuss illegal logging problems with NGOs in Russia and Indonesia and to hold an international symposium to enhance domestic understanding of the problems.

Trade and Environment

Japan is now conducting an impact analysis of trade liberalization in forest products sector upon sustainable forest management.

Japan is now conducting a model analysis of forest products trade and a research upon forest resources endowment and forest policy implementation in major exporting countries, for the evaluation of environmental, social, and economic impacts of trade liberalization in forest products sector. This study will be concluded in 2003. Japan is also contributing funds to an FAO project assessing the impact of forest products trade on sustainable forest management..

Promotion of lesser used species

Japan is contributing funds to an ITTO projects to make a comprehensive database of tropical industrial lesser used species. The objective of this project is to build a database which will enable governments and wood products industry to access various kinds of data and information upon tropical industrial lesser used species on a website for the promotion of those species.