

# Introduction to the Japan's Forest and Forestry Today (part3)

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- ◆ At the Forest English Forum
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## 5. National Forests

### 5-1 The fundamental policy of the National Forest

- ◆ The National Forests are managed within the context of a fundamental policy for the people based on the classification of important functions through the sustainable forest management and a sound watershed management.

## Summary of classification by functions of national forest

Classification by Functions	Area 10,000 ha	principal	Management method
Conservation of water resources Utilization for public interests	<b>Coexistence of forest and people</b>	205 27%	Preservation of natural environments; Maintenance of the ecosystems; Protection of flora and fauna; Ensuring and promoting the aesthetic and recreational benefits of forest; Raising environmental awareness; Improving public health; Preserving cultural and spiritual values;
	<b>Conservation of soil and water</b>	410 54%	Disaster prevention in hilly areas; Water conservation; Protecting against degradation of the living environment;
	<b>Sustainable utilization of forest resources</b>	144 19%	Emphasizing effective timber production without serious negative impact on environments;
			Sustained and vigorous protection; Pre-servation of natural conditions; Care and tending of wildlife and enrichment planting if necessary; Landscape improvement; Establishment of recreational facilities; Encouraging eco-tourism and events ; Disseminating information about natural resources; Development of multi-storey forest and mixed forest ; Establishment of wind-breaks and vegetative or structural erosion control measures ; Identification of appropriate areas for establishment of timber production forests; Improvement of silvicultural systems; Appropriate research and development; Monitoring timber supply and demand;

## 5-2. The services of National Forest

The National forest management emphasizes offering public services such as land conservation, water conservation, and the preservation of natural environment.

### 5-3 The systematic and sustainable supply of forest products

- ◆ Measures to ensure the systematic and sustainable supply of forest products go hand-in-hand with long-term planning reflecting market demand and response to needs of consumers.

### 5-4 Contribution to the empowerment of rural and upland communities.

- ◆ Offering employment opportunities in forest related public work projects; supplying timber products for local people and the rental of national forest land for schools, roads, dams and other public uses.

# Local Use of National Forest

## Local Use of National Forest (March 2004)

Type	Number (100's)	Area (1000ha)	Proportion in total National forest (%)
Forest land rented	385	77	1
Profit sharing plantation	221	132	2
Communal use forest	15	1,478	20
Total	621	1,687	23

Note: Rented land is for agriculture, pasture, roads, facilities of electricity and communication etc.

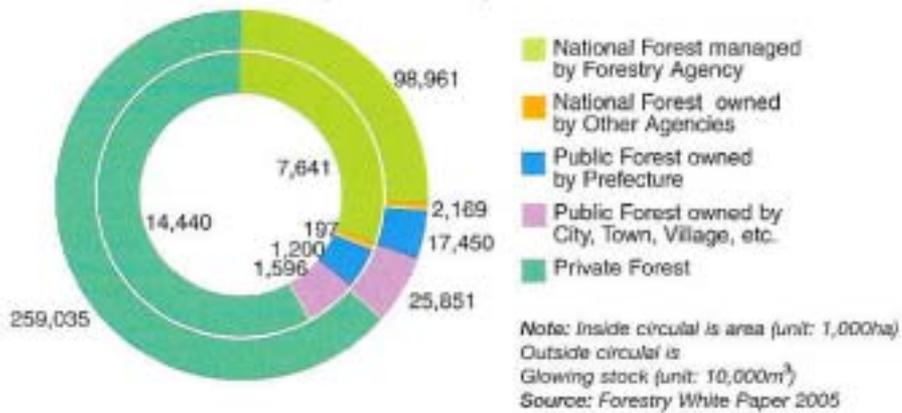
## 6. Forest Ownership and The Management Situation

### 6-1. Forests ownership in Japan

- ◆ Japan's forests are classified into national forests owned by the government, and non-national forests owned by private and local public bodies.

# Forest Resources by Ownership

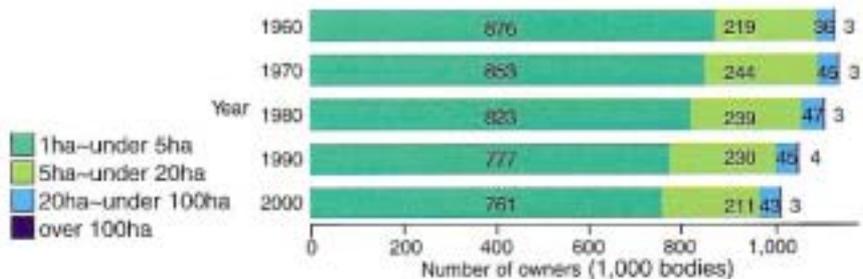
■ Forest Resources by Ownership (March 2002)



## 6-2. Small-scale individual forest owners comprise the majority

- ◆ Approximately 1.0 million private forest owners with more than 1 ha. Less than 1.0 ha, 1.5 million.

■ Private Forest Ownership by size



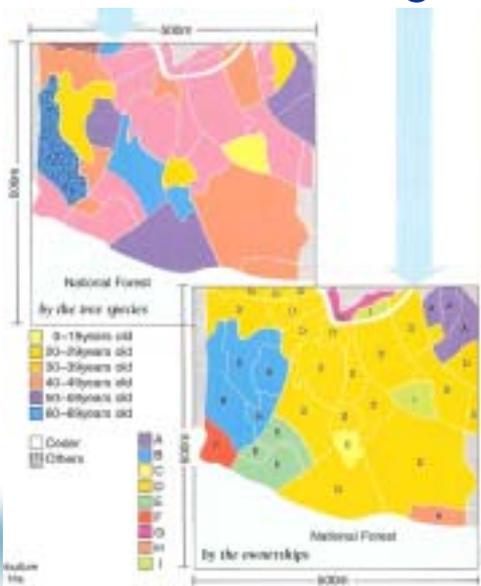
# Small scale management of forests



- ◆ Small scale operation
- ◆ Steep slopes
- ◆ Complex topography
- ◆ What is the solution?



# Small scale management of forests



Different owners  
Various age of forests  
Various species of trees

How do we solve problems?

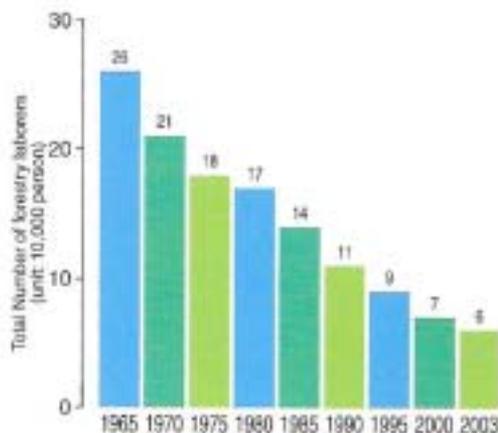


## 6-3. Depopulation and economic stagnation in upstream villages.

- ◆ Higher wages in urban areas lure away young workers.
- ◆ By depressed prices of timber and changes in the timber demand structure, the forest production activities have stagnated.
- ◆ About 1,000 “Forest Owners Cooperative” manage more than 70% of all non-national forests.

## Forestry laborers and aging trends

■ Total number of forestry laborers and aging trends

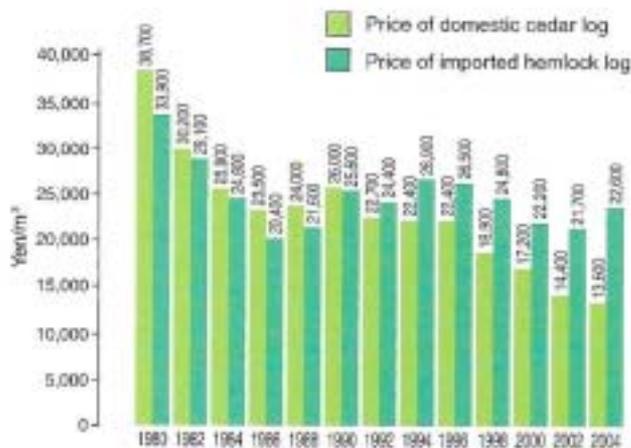


## 6-4. Declining prices of timber

- ◆ Higher wages have increased the costs of reforestation and plantation maintenance.
- ◆ Forest products from other countries provide most of the timber used in Japan.
- ◆ These factors have combined to push down prices of domestic timber and discourage investment in forestry activities.
- ◆ So there is no future in Japanese Forestry.
- ◆ Is it true or not true?

## The trends of log prices

■ Log Prices Delivered to Mill Site (Unit: yen/m<sup>3</sup>)



\* Timber price per one cubic meter delivered to mill site.

# Capability of employment of logging laborer

■ Capability of Employment of Logging Laborer by Stampage Price of 1m<sup>3</sup> Cedar tree (Unit: persons/m<sup>3</sup>)

