

Case Study: “Guideline on Climate Change”

- **Audit Project:**

Evaluation of Impact of Key Ecological Forest Construction on Ecological Environment

- **Audit Objective:**

Effect of ecological forest on ecological environment was evaluated by investigation on capital inflow of governments at all levels as well as on management and protection of the forests by governments, collectives and foresters. Assessment was also made on attention and awareness of governments and public on ecological forest construction, and its effect on improvement of local environment and derivation benefit after improvement of local environment. Investigation was made on effect of ecological forest construction on income of foresters.

- **Audit Methods:**

1. Accounts check. Including appropriation, receive and delivery, as well as use of expenditures management of key ecological forest construction funds.

2. Discussion and questionnaire inquiry. Discuss with part of foresters and rangers .Questionnaires issued to partial foresters.

3. Audit sampling. Check ecological forest area by sampling investigation on sub compartments.

4. Field monitoring. Set up field spots to measure aero-anion concentration and humidity according to the demand of ecological benefit evaluation.

● **Audit Contents:**

1. Appropriation and use of compensation fund. Whether full amount of compensation fund were appropriated on time, accounted and administrated by special account, allocated on time, and used according to stipulations.

2. Management of ecological forest. Including: the areas of key ecological forest, the arrangement of professional administrative institutions and workers, the fulfillment of objective-responsibility system, the set-up of forest rangers administration system, the forest fire protection system and pest control measurement , the completion of fire-prevention forest belt construction, the transformation of conifer forest to broad-leaf forest, the change of wild flora and fauna, the payment of compensation fund, and etc.

3. Evaluation of the effect of ecological forest on ecological environment. Effect of ecological forest on climate change, bio-diversity, water and soil erosion, geological disasters and forest tourism.

● **Audit Results:**

Audit result showed that key ecological forest construction had played an important role in the improvement of ecological environment.

1. Compensation system was established. Eco-compensation funds of province, cities and counties are listed as annual financial budget. Compensation funds have increased year by year according to economic development. Compensation fees received by foresters have formed time increase mechanism.

2. Better management of forested area. After determination of ecological forest division, responsibility papers were signed between various levels of governments on forest felling, protection, fire prevention and pest control. 19400 rangers and 2323 inspectors were employed around the province. Remote video monitoring systems were established to effectively combine manual work with video monitoring. Global Information System for ecological forest was established to control the position and movement of key ecological forest.

3. Evident ecological benefits. Investigation on 1.97 million of ecological forest in 2007 by forestry research institutions demonstrated that it could increase aero-anion concentration and humidity, play an active role on climate change control and water quality improvement. There are 20 and 8 provincial nature reserves and wetlands distributed in different ecological forest of the province, reserving and breeding lots of endangered wild flora and fauna. “Bulletin of Monitoring on Water and Soil Conservation” issued by Water Resources Department and Water and Soil Conservation Committee reported that areas of water and soil erosion in 2005 taking 15.38% decrease compared to 2000. The

ecological forest construction had also brought in opportunities to tourism.

4. The audit demonstrated deficiencies of funds, management and benefit besides visible effects, such as, some government did not appropriate compensation funds in time according to stipulation; fire disaster area of key ecological forest remained, and there was also damage of pine wilt disease and over felling; because of the relatively small area of ecological forest, the large proportion of conifer , and the low quality of forest structure, the effect of improvement could not reach the speed of environment pollution caused by economic development.

● **Audit Suggestions:**

1. Increasing ecological forest areas and enhancing environment improvement. Countermeasures were offered such as increasing ecological forest area to 3,333 million hectares, decreasing air and water pollution.

2. It is time to increase compensation fee to foresters. It is necessary to increase compensation fees(10%/year) for foresters in order to increase personal income and meet the demands of local economic development. Besides, compensation funds are proposed to be allocated by provincial government to decrease financial burden of mountainous counties.

3. Establishing management team for ecological forest. It is suggested to enhance the strength of key ecological forest management and distribute according to the district and forest coverage, while

strengthen the training on pest control and forest fire prevention, give prominence to emergency procedures to safety the key ecological forest.