

# Kyoto-Osaka District National Forest Office Overview



View of Kodaijiyama National Forest from the “Stage of Kiyomizu”

October, 2009

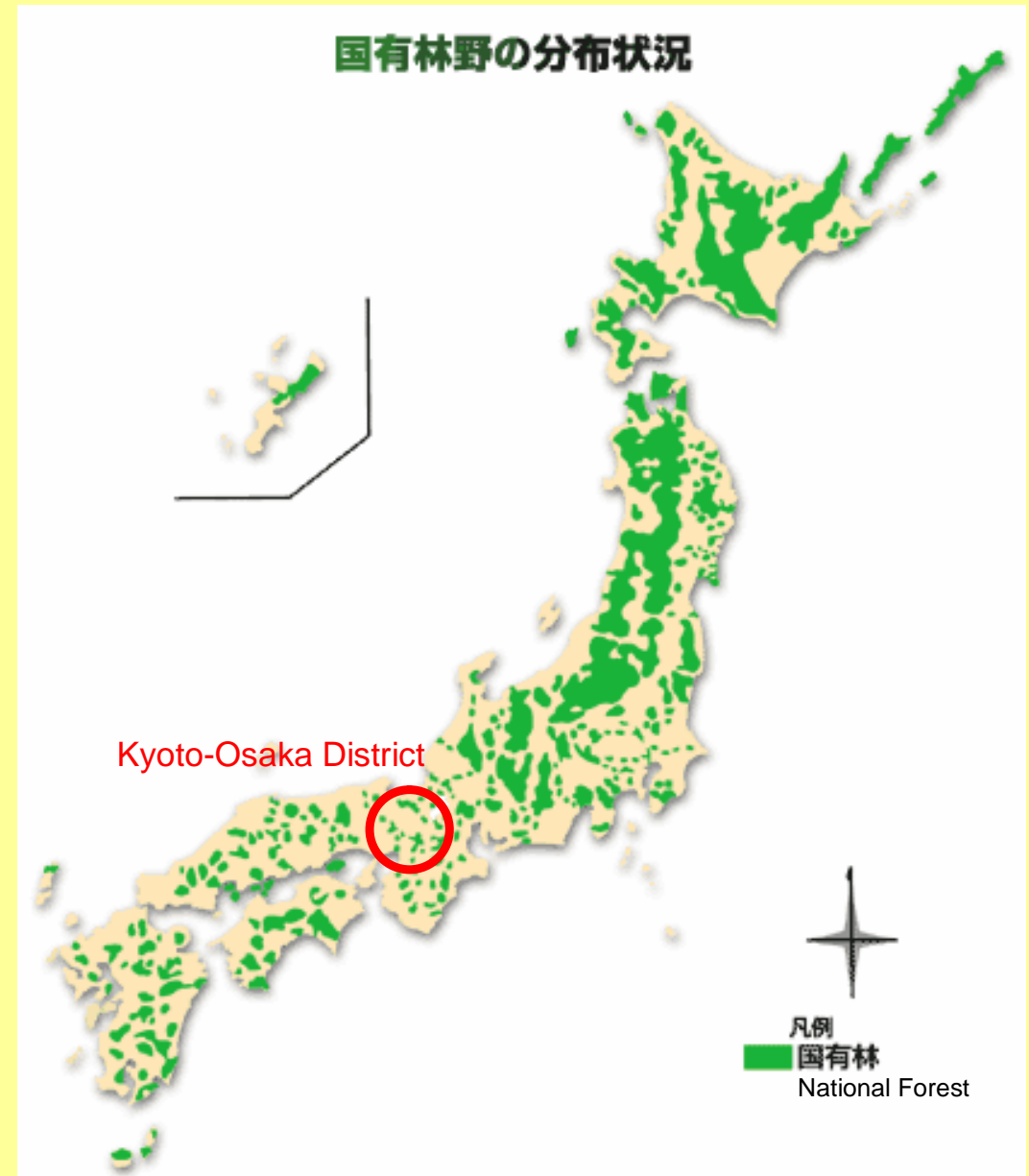
Jun FUKUDA

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# 1. National Forest in Japan

- 2/3 of Japan's land covered with forest.
- 1/3 of Japan's forest is "National Forest."
- Therefore, 20% of Japan's land is "National Forest."
- Ratio of National Forest differs among regions: higher ratio in the north and lower ratio in the west.



Location of National Forest

# 1. National Forest in Japan

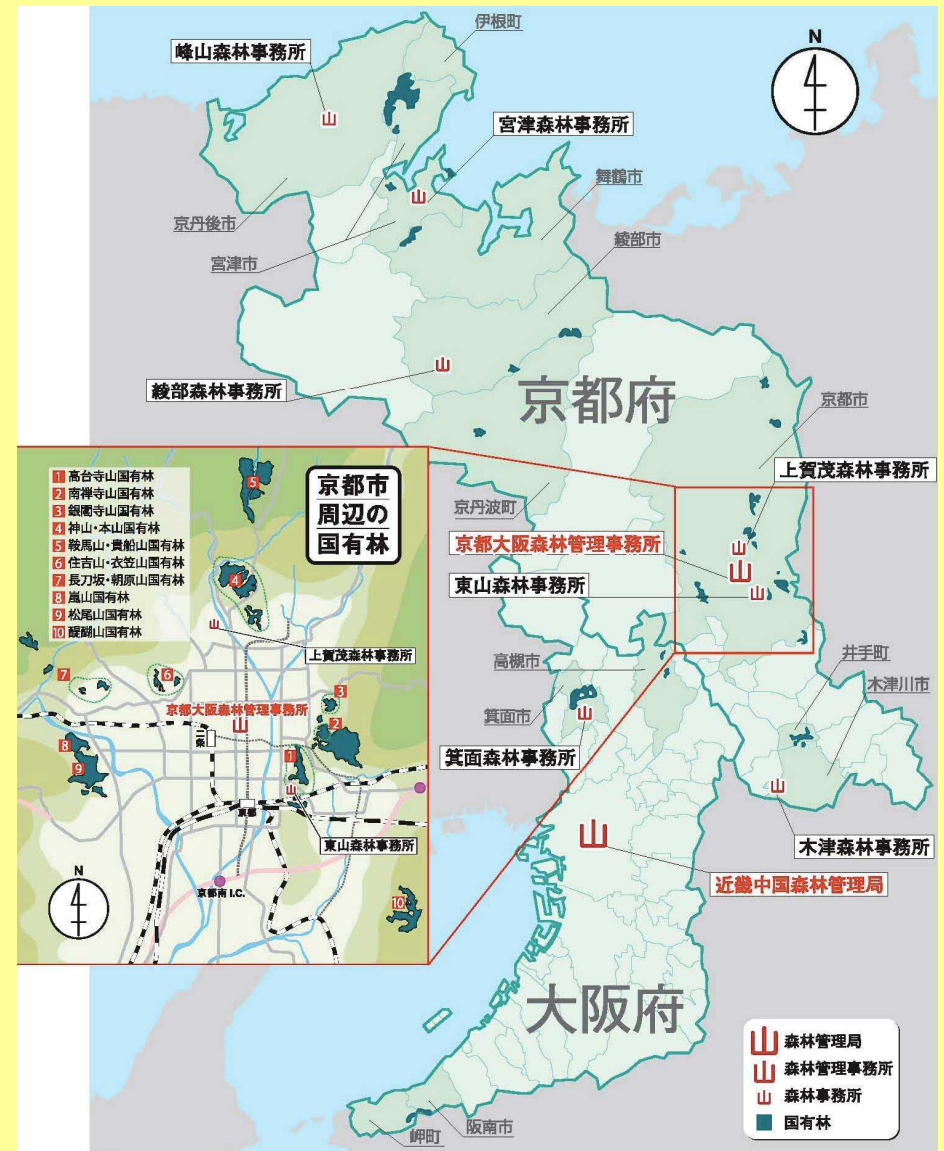
- Three origins of Japan's National Forest:
  - forest owned by former feudal government (bakufu / han),
  - forest owned by temples and shrines,
  - forest owned by local communities.
- Ownership of these forests were transferred to the new Meiji Government during the Meiji Revolution in 1870s.
- National Forest is managed by the Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- Organization: Forestry Agency – seven Regional National Forest Office – 120 District National Forest Office



## 2. Kyoto-Osaka District National Forest Office

### (Overview)

- A branch of Kinki-Chugoku Regional National Forest Office, Forestry Agency.
- Manages **5,700 ha of national forest** in Kyoto and Osaka prefectures, comprising 1% and 2% of total forest area respectively.
- National forest areas **scattered around**.
- In Kyoto City, national forests located in the neighborhood of historical temples and shrines. These national forests are **former temple/shrine forests**.



National Forest in Kyoto & Osaka Prefectures

## 2. Kyoto-Osaka District National Forest Office

### (Forest Resources)

- 54% of national forests managed by the Office “**planted**,” while 46% “**natural**.”
- Major species of planted forests: **sugi** (45%), **hinoki** (36%), **matsu** (15%), and others (2%).
- Age of planted forest centered around 40 years. Still maturing.

### (Legal Regulations)

- 51% of national forests under the control of some legal regulations, incl. **Forest Law**, **Urban Area Planning Law**, **Historical City Preservation Law**, or **Cultural Asset Preservation Law**. Multiple regulations imposed.
- Each regulation sets the maximum ratio of logging, according to its objective.

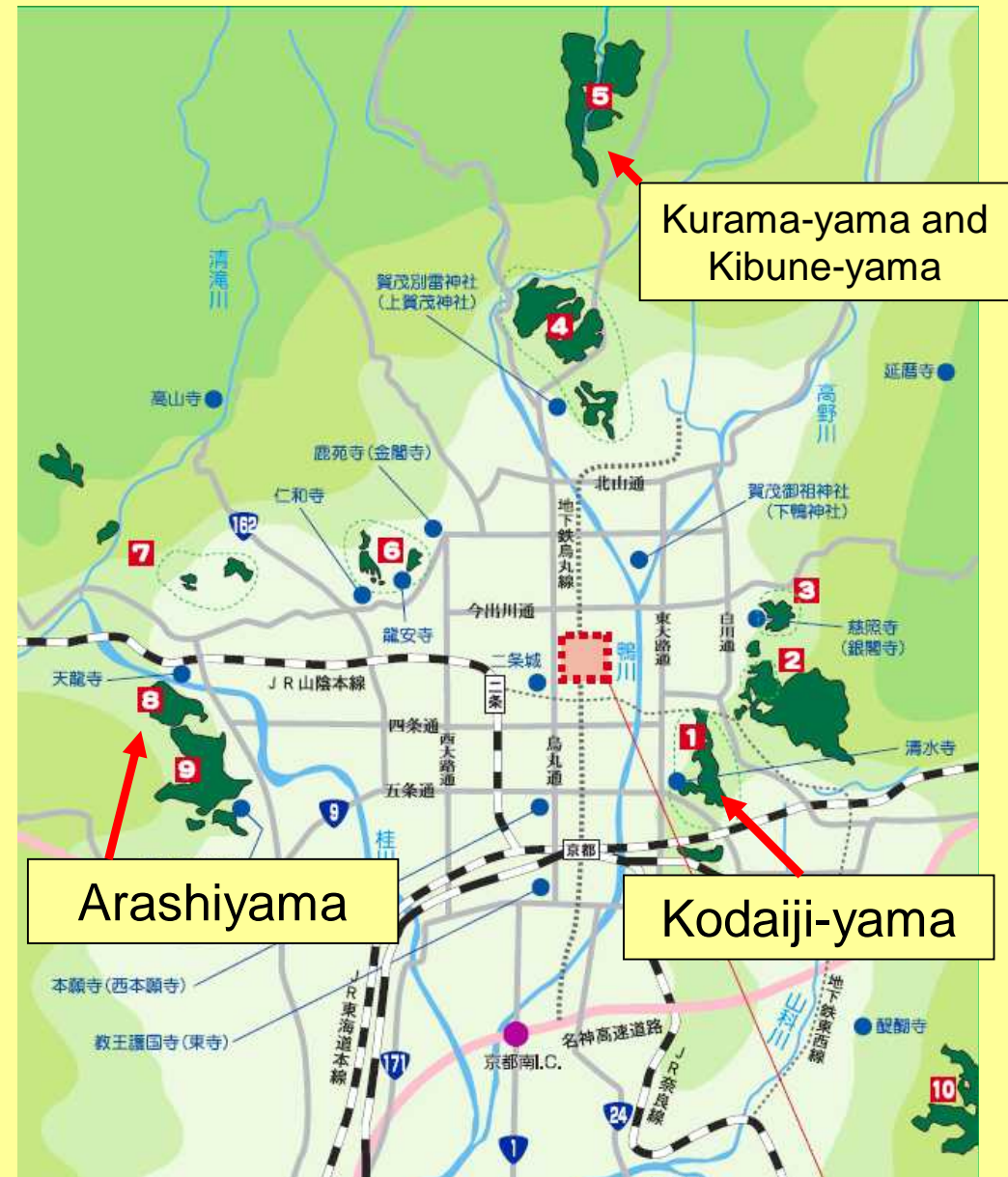
## 2. Kyoto-Osaka District National Forest Office

(Forest Management)

- Each national forest area categorized into three functional types: “land and water conservation forest” (49% for K-O), “forest and human co-existence forest” (38%), and “sustainable resource use forest” (13%).
- “Thinning” is the most important treatment.
- Pest treatment is an emerging issue.

### 3. National Forests in Kyoto

- Kyoto city surrounded by mountains in three directions: north, east, and west.
- National Forests also exist in three directions.
- Most of national forests in Kyoto city were **once owned by temples and shrines**, but transferred to the government during Meiji Revolution in 1870s.



National Forest in Kyoto City



## 3.1. Kodaiji-yama National Forest

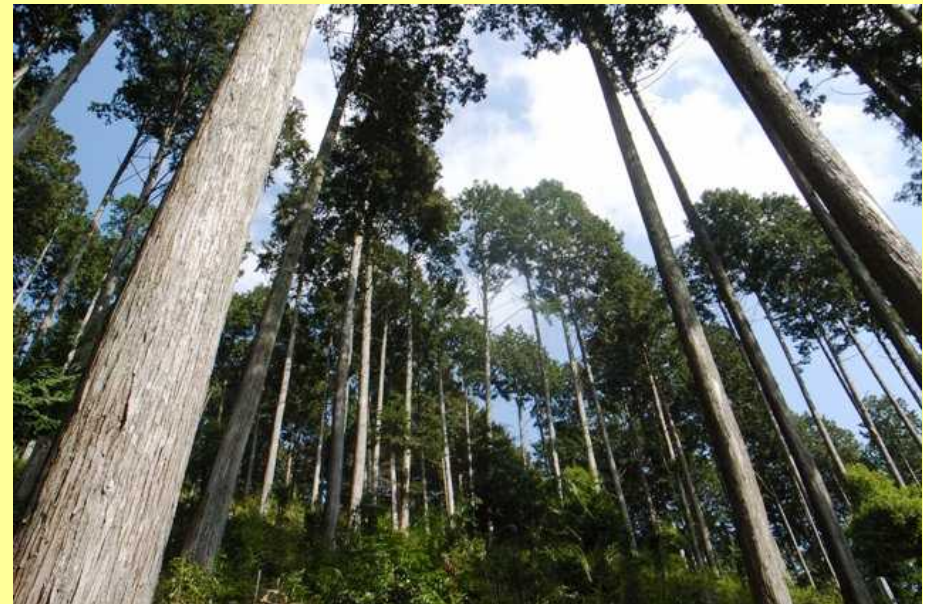
- Background of famous historical temples and shrines, incl. [Kiyomizu-dera](#), Yasaka-jinja, or Chion-in.
- Once [akamatsu](#) (*Pinus densiflora*) forest due to intensive local use. Since Meiji era, local use prohibited. Natural succession progressed to [shii](#) (*Castanopsis cuspidata*) forest.
- Serious damage by pinewood nematode and [Platypus quercivorus](#) (kashi-no-naga-kikui-mushi).
- Activity field of the “[Council for Kyoto Traditional Forest Culture.](#)”



Shii's flower in May

## 3.2 Kurama-yama and Kibune-yama National Forest

- Part of scenic landscape around [Kurama-dera temple](#) and [Kibune-jinja shrine](#) along Kibune-gawa river.
- Partly designated as “[Kyoto Ancient Forest](#)” for the production of large diameter timber.
- Developed [walking trail](#) around the “Kyoto Ancient Forest.”
- Serious damage by [deer bite](#).



Hinoki trees of 100 yrs old in “Kyoto Ancient Forest”

### 3.3. Arashiyama National Forest

- Famous for **cherry blossoms (sakura)** and **pine trees (matsu)** for more than one thousand years.
- **Planting sakura** for scenic conservation, in cooperation with local community.
- Steep slope & many sightseers. Prevention of **falling rocks** important.
- Initiated **discussion with local community** on the direction of forest management.



Arashiyama in Spring

## 4. Current topics

4.1. Council for Kyoto Traditional Forest Culture

4.2. “Kyoto Ancient Forest”

4.3. Combating Forest Pests



## 4.1. Council for Kyoto Traditional Forest Culture

- In 2007, the Council established for the management of the Kodaijiyama National Forest, through the **participation of various stakeholders**: incl. temples, shrines, researchers, local communities, NGOs.
- Council receives **financial / human assistance** from local “**supporters**” for the implementation of forest management.
- Initiated **experimental logging of shii trees** for the transformation of shii-dominating forest.
- Discussing the future direction of forest management



Shii logging ceremony in March 2009



## 4.2. “Kyoto Ancient Forest”

- Large diameter timber used for traditional wooden buildings in Japan, but becoming scarce all over world.
- In 2002, “Kyoto Ancient Forest” designated in Kuramayama National Forest, with the **management period of hundreds of years.**
- Looking forward to providing **large diameter timber for repair of traditional wooden buildings** in the future.
- Developed **walking trail** surrounding “Kyoto Ancient Forest.”



Trail opening ceremony in April 2009

## 4.3 Combating Forest Pests

- Small insects called **Platypus quercivorus** (kashi-no-naga-kikui-mushi) damage shii, kashi and nara species, spreading harmful fungi in wood cells, when they dig into standing trees.
- Since 2005, the insects putting many standing trees into death in Kodaiji-yama NF. Recently, **damage spreading around Kyoto city**.
- Prevents from massive death of forest, through **logging dead trees** and **fumigating with chemicals**.



Platypus quercivorus (left), logging of dead trees (right)

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