

Kyoto-Osaka District National Forest Office Overview



View of *Kodajiyama* National Forest from the "Stage of *Kiyomizu*"

November, 2009

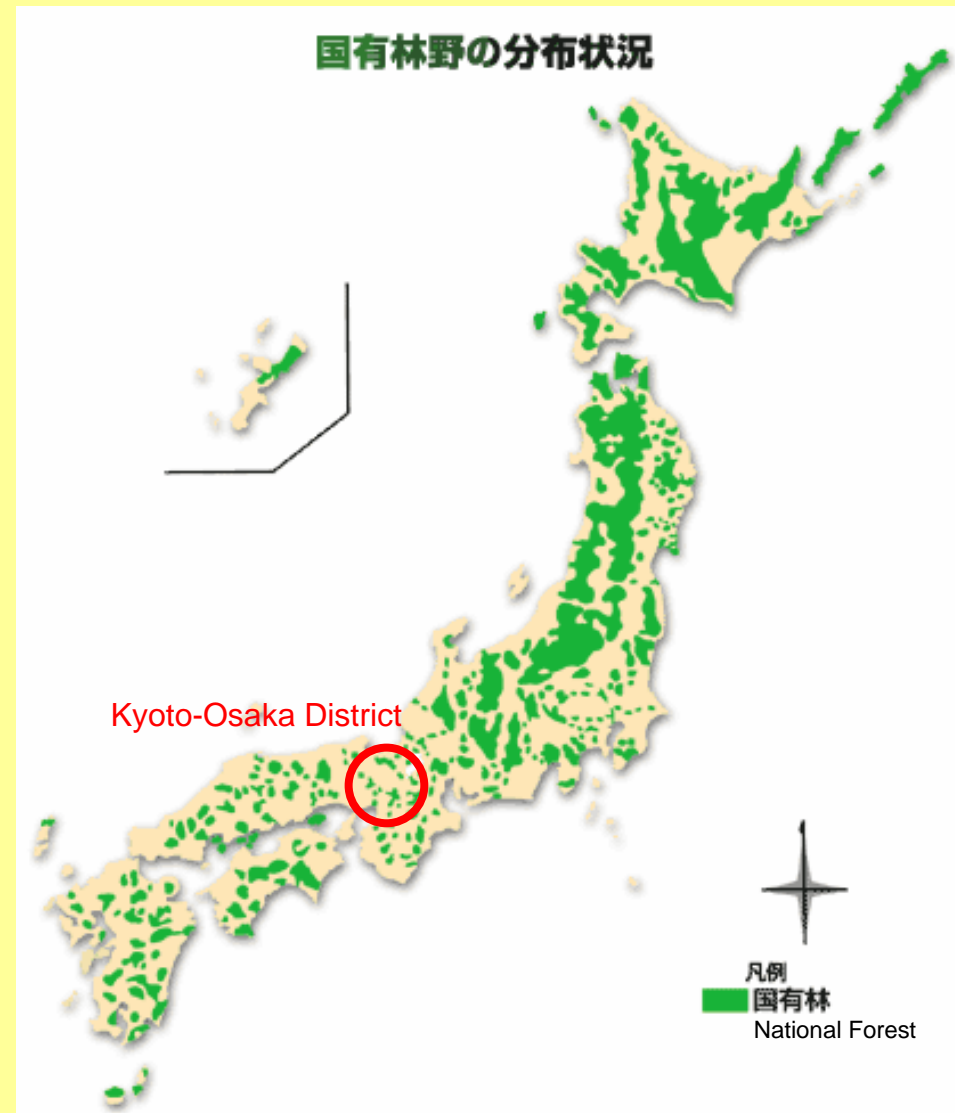
Jun FUKUDA

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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

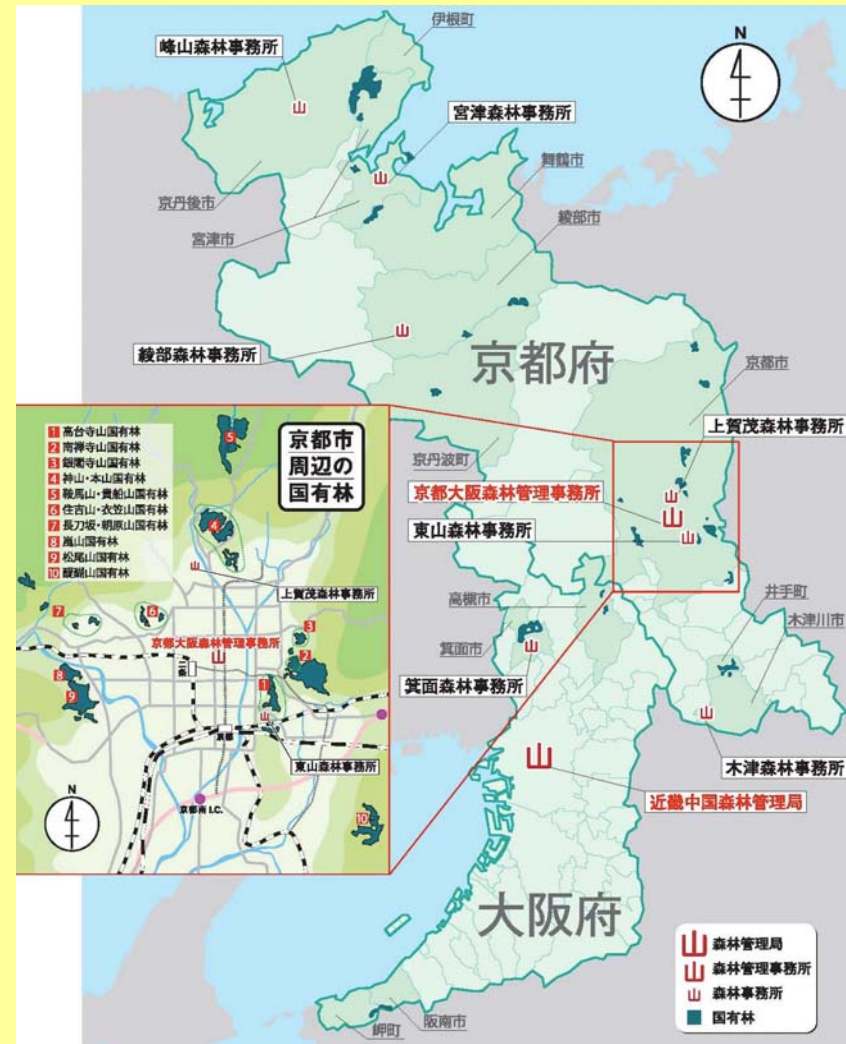
1. National Forest in Japan

- 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**.



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.

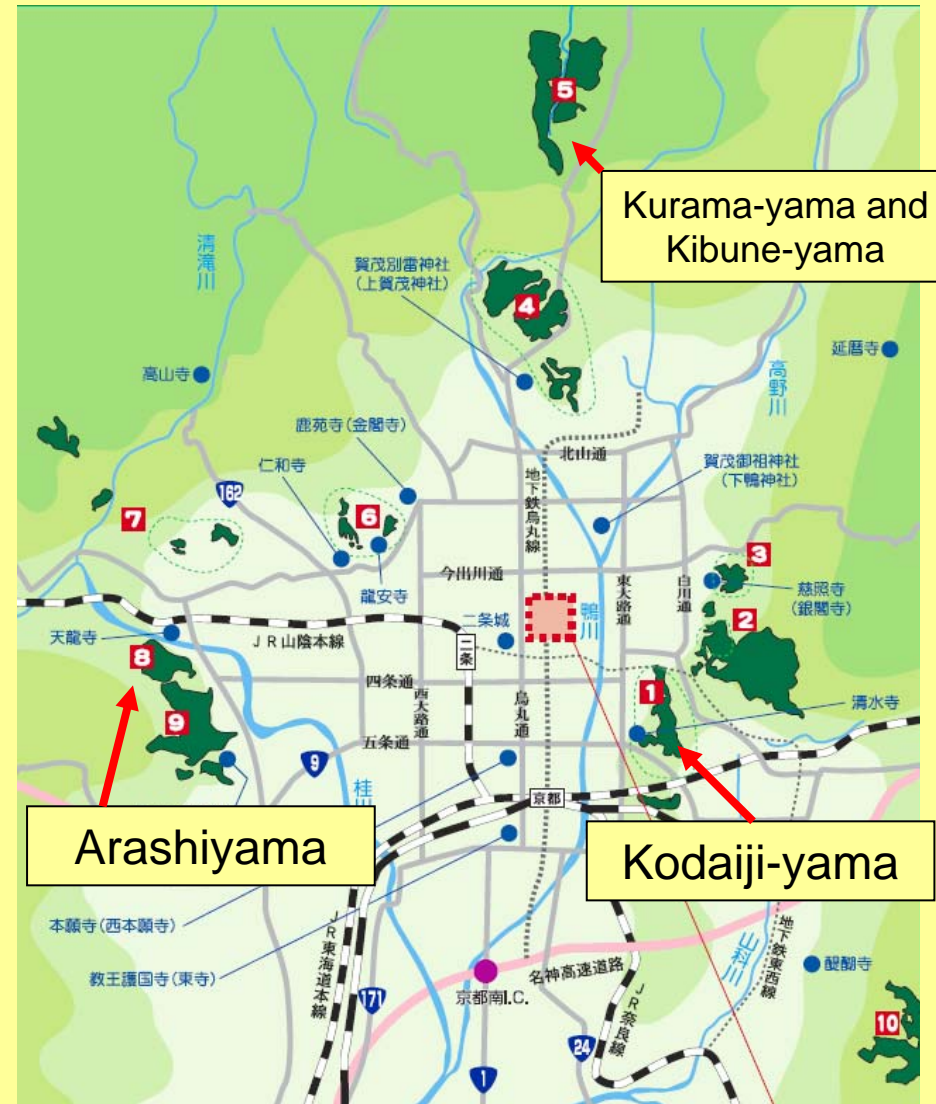
2. Kyoto-Osaka District National Forest Office

(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

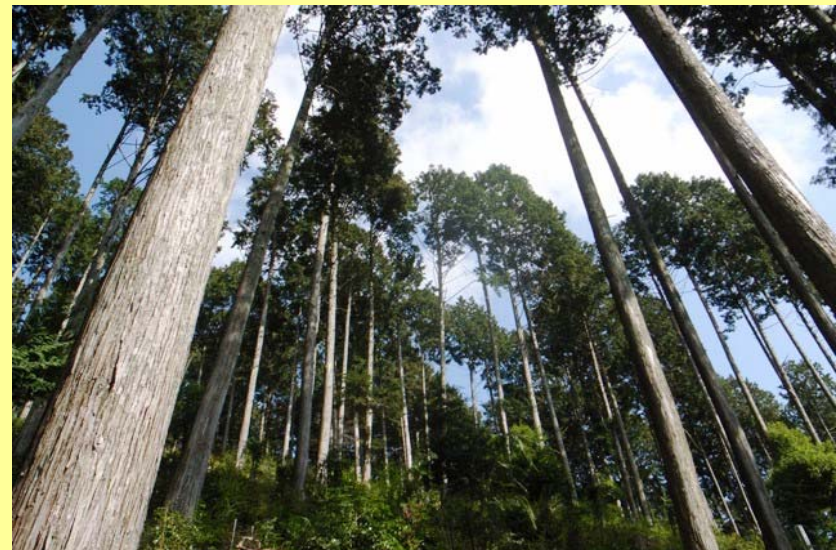
- Background of famous historical temples and shrines, incl. *Kiyomizu-dera*, *Yasaka-jinja*, or *Chion-in*.
- Once *akamatsu* (*Pinus densiflora*) forest due to intensive local use. Since Meiji era, local use prohibited. Natural succession progressed to *shii* (*Castanopsis cuspidata*) forest.
- Serious 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 *Kuramaya* 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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