



## State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO Economic Cooperation and Development

---

# Value Accounting of Tropical Forest Environmental Resources in China

### 1. Background

This project is co-financed by Switzerland through the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). It is a globally important and pioneering project given its focus on the development of a theory and methodology by which tropical forests environmental values may be incorporated into the national economic accounts. The wise use and management of natural resources are becoming key concerns for most governments.

This stemmed out of Agenda 21, approved by the UN Environmental Development Conference in 1992, which demands bringing the accounting of socio-economic and biological values possessed by trees, forest and forest land in line with the national economic accounting system. Agenda 21 also demands to conduct research aiming at adopting and strengthening a national plan of accounting economic and non-economic values of forests. With this project, China intends to meet these demands of Agenda 21, by taking into account the forest environmental values in its socio-economic development policies.

**Duration**

December 2000 - December 2003

**Project Budget paid by seco**

USD 200,000

**Project partners and Beneficiaries:**

- Chinese Academy of Forestry
- Provincial departments of the above State administrations

**Implementing Agencies:**

The Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)

### 2. Overall goal

The overall goal of the project is to develop the theory and the methodological system of tropical forest accounting. This will consist in bringing the comprehensive economic and environmental values of tropical forests in line with the national economic accounting system in a bid to improve environmental policy of sustainable management of tropical forests. The underlying presumption is that these values are currently set at zero or at least below their true level.

### 3. Objectives

(1) To develop a theory and methodology for the accounting of tropical forest environmental values.

(2) To propose a plan of bringing the value of tropical forests into the national economic accounts.

The beneficiaries of the project are, in addition to government agencies, academia, and other international organisations, local people with forest rights of various kinds. Through the exchange of information, other producer member countries of ITTO will benefit from the Chinese experience on the approach of national accounting of tropical forest environmental values.

#### 4. Activities

The project is implemented by CAF. The main activities consist in reporting on resource stock, research on the theory and method of tropical forest environmental accounting, reporting on case studies, and organising an international symposium on environmental policies on tropical forest environmental accounting.

#### 5. Contacts

##### **Chinese Academy of Forestry**

Prof. Hou Yuanzhao  
Institute of Scientific and Technical Information,  
Wan Shou Shan, B  
Beijing 100091 P.R. China  
Tel.: +86 10 62889731  
Fax: + 86 10 62884836  
Email: [houyuanzhao@163.net](mailto:huyuanzhao@163.net)

##### **State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (seco)**

Mr. Daniel Birchmeier  
Effingerstrasse 1,  
CH-3003 Bern - Switzerland  
Tel.: +41 31 324 09 14  
Fax: +41 31 322 86 30  
Email: [Daniel.Birchmeier@seco.admin.ch](mailto:Daniel.Birchmeier@seco.admin.ch)

##### **Embassy of Switzerland**

Sanlitun Dongwujie 3,  
Beijing, 100600 P.R. China  
Tel.: +86 10 6532 2736  
Fax: +86 10 65324353  
Email: [vertretung@bei.rep.admin.ch](mailto:vertretung@bei.rep.admin.ch)

##### **Swiss Organization for Development and Cooperation (Intercooperation)**

Dr. James K. Gasana  
Maulbeerstrasse 10,  
CH-3001 Bern - Switzerland  
Tel.: +41 31 382 08 61  
Fax: +41 31 382 36 05  
Email: [Jgasana@intercooperation.ch](mailto:Jgasana@intercooperation.ch)

[Back to overview Examples of projects](#)

Contact: [info@seco-cooperation.admin.ch](mailto:info@seco-cooperation.admin.ch)

Last updated on: 10.03.2004

Author:

---

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, Economic Cooperation and Development  
[Contact](#) | [Legal framework](#)

---

<http://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch/projekte/00710/index.html?lang=en>

