

# Forest and Land Management in Imperial China

Nicholas K. Menzies

*Ford Foundation*

*Beijing*

**M**

St. Martin's Press

# Contents

<i>List of Maps</i>	viii
<i>List of Tables</i>	ix
Introduction	1
1. Forests in China	7
Forest Vegetation	7
Transforming the Environment: Land Clearance and Deforestation	10
North and North-West China	15
North-East and South China	19
The Circuitous Paths of Deforestation	20
Forces acting directly on the forest	21
Forces outside the forest	24
Value systems and cultural perceptions	25
2. Forest Stability and Decline: A Delicate Balance	35
The Problem of Deforestation	35
The Conservation of Natural Resources	39
The Conditions for Forest Management in China	45
Defining the resource	46
Boundaries and compliance	47
Sustainability	50
Summary	52
3. The Mulan Weichang Imperial Hunting Enclosure	55
Hunting, the Manchu Identity, and the Symbolism of Legitimation	57
Preservation of Nature as Political Imperative	61
The Demise of the Hunting Preserve	62
Conclusion	63
4. Temple and Monastic Forests	65
Secluded Mountains: the Landscape as a Resource	66
Normative, Coercive, and Remunerative Enforcement	68
Conclusion	72

5. Clans, Communities and Commons
  - Clan Lands
  - Communities and the Commons
  - The Setting for Communal Ownership
  - Management of Collective Lands
  - Clan and Village Forests and the Theory of Common Property
  - Conclusion
  
6. Trees in Agricultural Systems
  - Trees and Agriculture in South China
  - Market Linkages
  - Management of *Cunninghamia* and Pine
  - Ownership and Control of Trees
  - Forestry and Ethnic Minorities
  - Why Plant Trees: Enforcement or Incentives?
  
7. Beyond Timber: Fuelwood, Sericulture and Fungi
  - Fuelwood and Charcoal
  - Silk and Edible Fungi
  
8. In the Depths of the Mountains: Logging the Old Growth
  - Bandits, Logging, and the Pacification of the Wilderness
  - Economic Links: Markets and the timing of Logging Operations
  - Control and Enforcement
  - Constraints on Settlement and Conversion
  
9. Discussion and Conclusions
  - Enforcement and Compliance
  - Deforestation or Forest Management - some Issues
    - The need for forest products and services
    - The capacity for control
    - Adaptability and responses to change over time
  - Conclusion

*Contents*

vn

<i>Appendix</i>	139
Methods Used in the Study	139
Sources	140
<i>Notes</i>	143
<i>References</i>	155
References in Western Languages	155
References in Chinese and Japanese	165
Local and Temple Gazetteers	171
Personal Communications	171
<i>Index</i>	172

# List of Maps

- 1 Systems of forest management in late imperial China 5
- 2 The vegetation of China and adjacent regions  
(from Wang Chi-wu 1961) *i*
- 3 The vegetation zones of China  
(from Hou Xueyu et al. 1982) 11
- 4 The forest zones of China

# List of Tables

1	The vegetation zones of China	12
2	The forest zones of China	13
3	Forms of compliance in complex organisations	50
4	Forms of compliance in the six case studies	126