

IV. Typical Cases in Forest Conservation and Restoration

1. Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program (“Green Great Wall”)

Known as the “Green Great Wall,” the Three-North Shelterbelt Program is the largest afforestation project in the world. By large-scale tree planting, grassland restoration, and ecological resettlement, it has achieved the goal of “advancing greenery and retreating deserts.” The construction of the Saihanba Forest Farm has become an international models of ecological restoration. The Green Great Wall will be introduced in the Chapter Deserts.



Comparison of Saihanba forest before and after restoration by afforestation. Top: barren wasteland; Middle: work for afforestation in history. Bottom: current green oasis (Source: National Forestry and Grassland Administration; <http://www.isenlin.cn/> 06/16/2023; Xinhua news 10/30/1978).

2. National Parks and Forest Civilization

China's planned system of 49 national parks (10.3% of China's land area) protects over 80% of key species. Flagship animals like giant pandas, Tibetan antelopes, and Siberian tigers have seen population recovery. Programs such as wildlife damage insurance, community rangers, and ecological relocation ensure that conservation also supports local livelihoods. In Zhejiang's Qianjiangyuan National Park, villagers inscribed on a stone tablet: "*Everyone has work, every household has income.*" Local villagers join the scientific research, and local incomes have multiplied, while youth now choose to stay and start businesses instead of migrating.



Giant Panda National Park (Source: People's Pictorial; 01/31/2024).



Subtropical primary forest in Qianjiangyuan National Park (Source: ForestGEO website; 02/26/2020).



Stone tablet in Jin Xing Village, Kaihua County, Qianjiangyuan National Park (Source: Phoenix News; 08/08/2024).

3. Urban Forestry and Peri-urban Restoration

Efforts to expand urban forests and restore nearby suburban woodlands have improved air quality, mitigated the urban heat island effect, and promoted harmonious coexistence between people and nature, enhancing residents' overall well-being. In major cities, Beijing has increased 2.43 million mu forests, raising forest cover from 38.6% to 44.8%, and created over 1,000 parks, earning the title "City of a Thousand Parks." Residents now enjoy a park within a ten-minute walk. Similar initiatives are

taking place in smaller cities as well. For example, in Runan County, Henan Province, 46.55 hectares of new urban green space have been added, including the development of “pocket parks,” raising the green coverage to 41.95% and benefiting 24 local ethnic groups.



Western Hills and Beijing city (Source: Beijing Landscaping and Greening Bureau; 06/10/2024).



Early spring blossoms in Beijing suburbs.



Dongcheng Jiaoxiangyuan Pocket Park (Source: Beijing Landscaping and Greening Bureau).



Runan County public Ecological Civilization legal awareness campaign (Source: China Daily).



Tiangzhongshan Cultural Ecological Park, Runan County (Source: Trip.com).