

Summary of the Main Paper

28 Jun. 2013

A Study on the Methods of Conservation and Use of Private Wooden Areas in Japanese Historical Districts —For Coexistence of Historic Scenery Conservation and Fire Prevention—

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Summary of the Main Paper

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the functions of private wooden areas in Japanese historical districts for both historic scenery conservation and fire prevention, and to discuss the challenges of maintaining such areas.

In chapter 1, the wooden areas in 24 cities were found to have potential firebreaking ability in the sites of temples or former samurai districts. And it became clear that some wooden areas have been felled in the past 30 years.

In chapter 2, potential firebreaking ability was analyzed from shapes and sizes of the wooden areas. It became clear that city officers evaluated vaguely their function about fire prevention and recognized the first reason why they still survive was due to owners' effort, but the cost and their advanced age were the challenges.

In chapter 3, section 1, the methods of fire prevention written in the Historic Scenery Maintenance and Improvement Plans were analyzed. It became clear that even though, the national government intends that cities should consider cultural properties and their surroundings in both landscape preservation and disaster mitigation, the cities didn't necessarily incorporate them in the plans.

In chapter 3, section 2, national systems for conserving private wooden areas were evaluated from the standpoints of both scenery conservation and fire prevention. It became clear that these two highly regarded systems were implemented only a little for these purposes.

In chapter 3, section 3, an institutional approach, incorporating participation of owners, communities and local governments to conserve private wooden areas, was proposed and verified. It became clear that it is important for all these tripartite communities to properly understand the public benefit of the wooden areas.

The result of this study revealed that the national systems and the proposed measures should be selected properly with sufficient consideration of the wooden areas' condition and surroundings in order to conserve them for the future.