

関連入試問題

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Forestry is the science of developing and managing woodlands and the water resources that sustain them. The purpose of forestry is to develop fuelwood (for fuel), sawlogs (for lumber), and pulpwood (for paper production) that can be extracted through logging. The production of fuelwood sawlogs and pulpwood grew (a) steadily between 1960 and 2000, rising from 62 billion cubic feet* in 1960 to 84 billion cubic feet in 1980, and 110 billion cubic feet in 1995. Global population growth increased demand for wood by 77 million cubic meters per year in the early 2000s. By 2005, production was expected to reach 122 billion cubic feet. About half the wood harvested each year is used for fuel.

Since forestry directly affects the environmental quality of every nation and involves the use of enormous amounts of public and private land, it is a focus of intense public debate in many countries. In most nations, the forest industry — which cuts timber — is also responsible for regenerating and maintaining the land. While intense worldwide debate continued over the extent and location of timber harvests, the forest industries of most major industrial nations have, for the most part, become more responsible and careful in their management of forest resources.

In some developing nations, overcutting of land to create farmland, ranchland*, or fuel continued to degrade the environment. While Southeast Asian nations producing tropical timber moved to check overcutting through regulation, taxation, and export bans, overcutting was said to continue despite safeguards. The loss of tropical rain forests in South America is a major example of this problem. Another problem was the (b) massive damage done in Indonesia from 1997 through 2002, when fires — some (c) deliberately set — ravaged* lands where timber had been cut or where forests were being cleared for agriculture. The burnings were supposed to help prepare or clear the land for agricultural purposes, but once the fires were out of control, they created intense smog and haze that affected the entire region for months. Monetary damages from the fires and the haze they caused were estimated at US\$4.4 billion in a study from the Economy and Environment Program for South East Asia (EEPSEA)* and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)*. (中略)

While forests exist in every nation on earth, the scientific management of forests tended to be concentrated in countries that produce large volumes of forest products although these countries did not necessarily have the most total forest area. For example, Finland and Sweden were leaders in forestry management and produced very high volumes of forest products yet did not rank among the top ten countries in terms of total forest area. Leading areas in terms of total forest cover were the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), North America, (中略) continental Europe, Southeast Asia, New Zealand, and Latin America. In Latin America several companies established highly productive plantation forests (artificially planted forests intended for harvest at a specific time), particularly in Brazil and Chile.

Forest policies around the world differed based on each country's political history. In the United States, the federal and state governments own forestland — especially in the West — but private own large woodland (d) tracts, particularly in the South. In other countries, forests were owned by the state, emerging (7) mark varying degrees. Mixed ownership of woodlands, like

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訳例・解答も収録しています。