

The Harvest Quota: Impacts on Incentives for Sustainable Collective Forest Management

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Introduction

- After 1985, the Chinese government set quotas for forest logging operations
- Harvest quota is an important tool of forest resources management
- Timber harvest should not be greater than forest growth
- The State determines harvest quotas every 5 years and monitors forest logging to ensure that it is within the quota
- Local people must apply to the harvest quota to cut their own trees

Purpose

- Identify impacts of the quota on communities
 - Overview of the history of the harvest quota
 - Review the implementation of the harvest quota over time at the village and county levels
 - Identify how the quota is calculated and administered
- Recommendations to Chinese policymakers

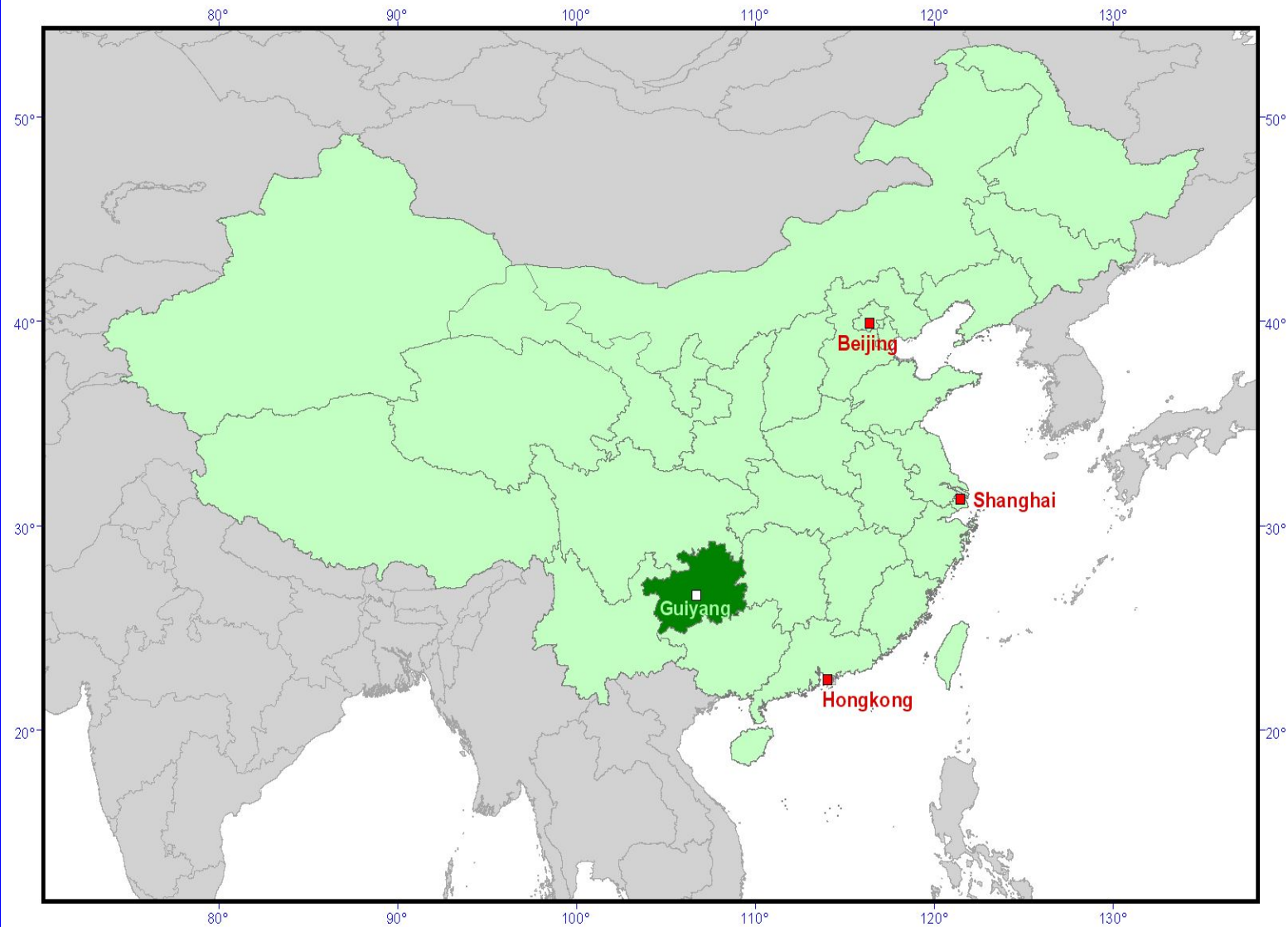
Methodology

- Literature review
- Household survey
- Group discussion
- Personal interviews
- Data analysis

Research site

- In Guizhou Province, 92% of forests are collective forests
- Before the logging ban in 1998, the harvest quota was approximately 1.6 million m³ per year
- After 1998, the harvest quota was 210,000 m³ per year
- Tageba Administrative Village is a Hmong ethnic minority and forest dependent community

Guizhou Province



Tageba Administrative Village

- 5 natural villages (hamlets)
- 216 households
- 1,034 people
- 330 ha forestland
- 20 ha wetland
- Long history of forest management, incl. timber
- In 1983, its forests were allocated to households or clan groups, though 35% of forestlands still belong to Tageba Admin. Village



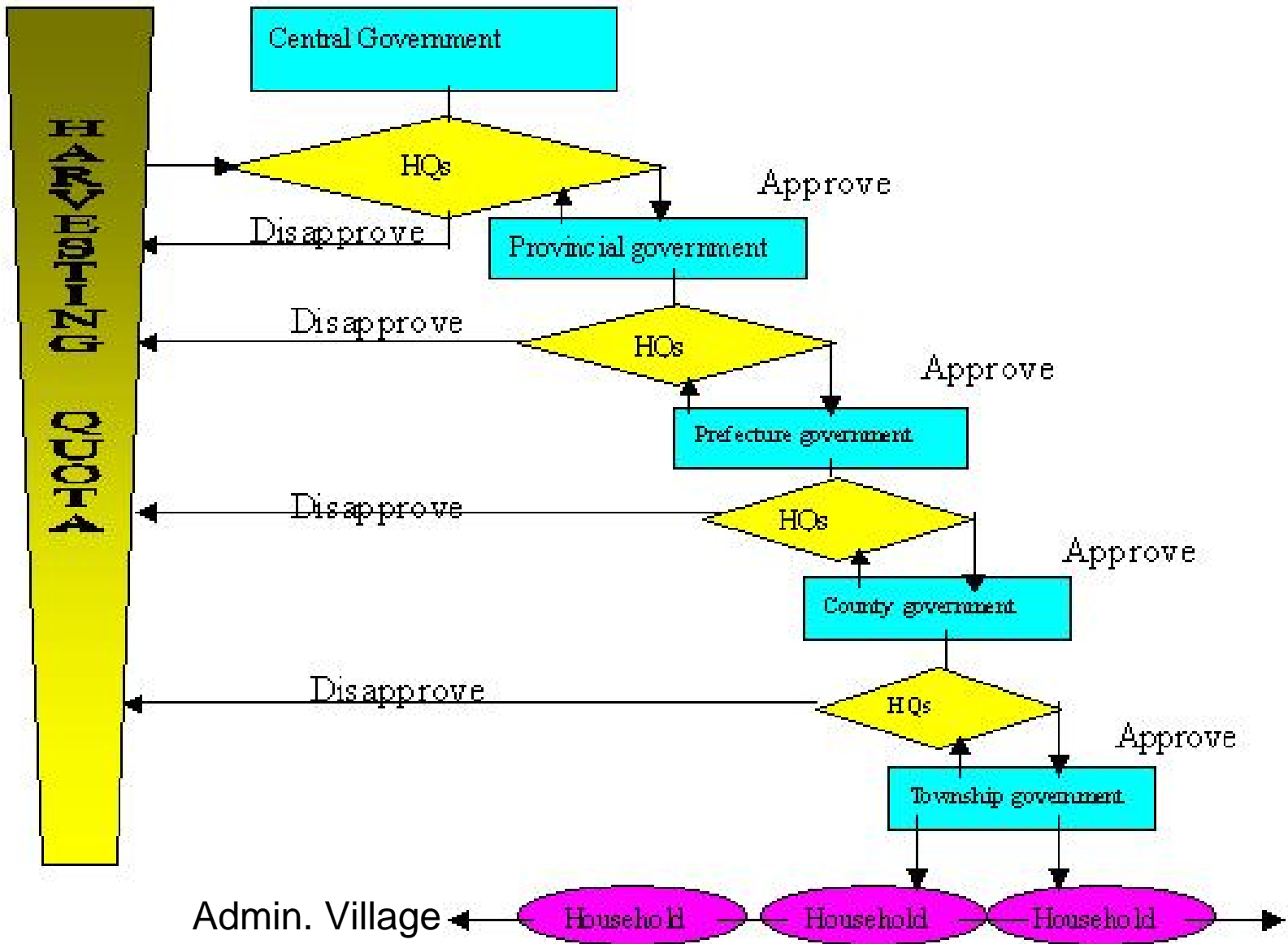
Forest Management in Tageba Village



Key Research Concepts

- Access to resources
- Local control of resources
- Sharing of benefits

Harvest Quota Distributive System

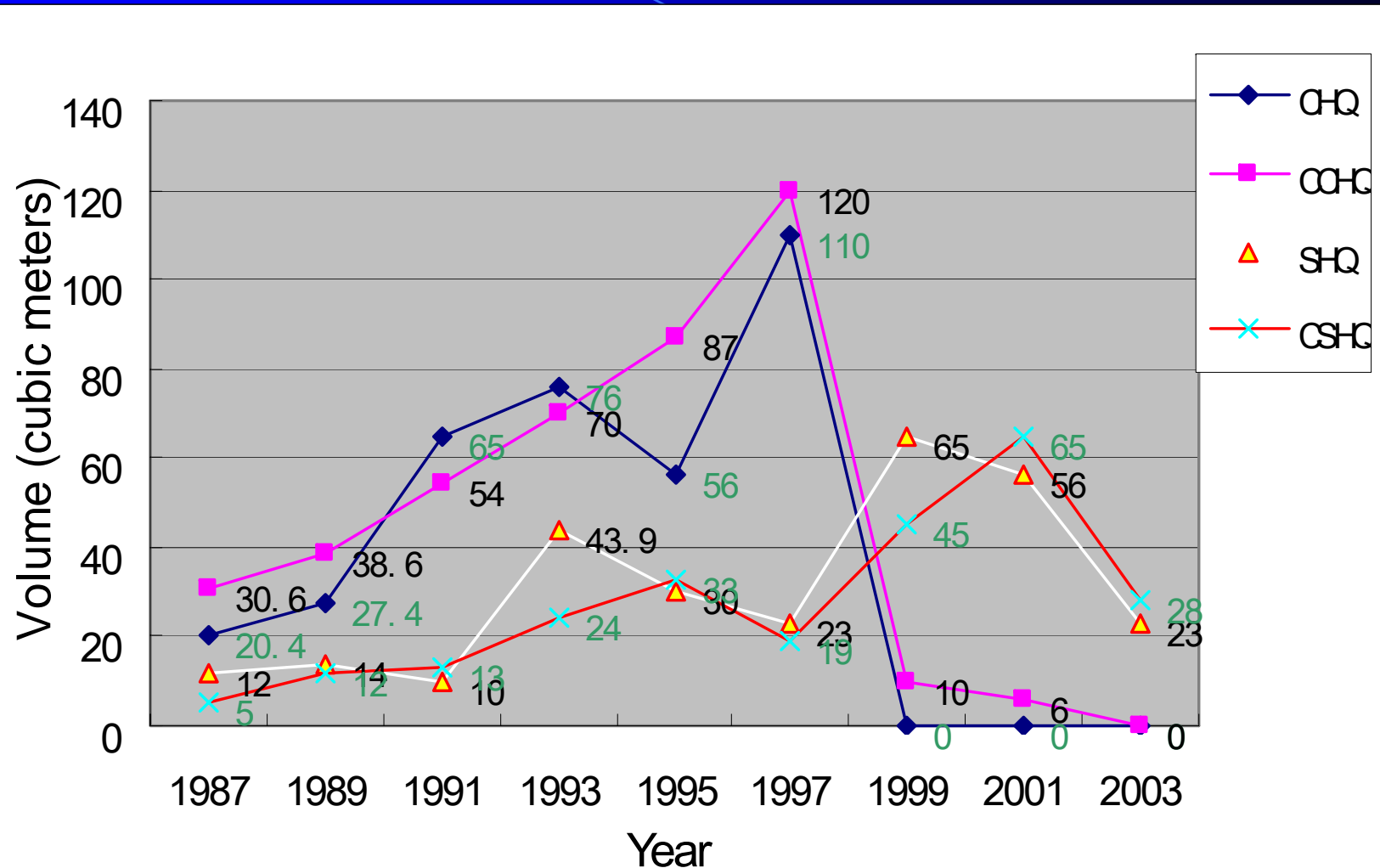


Village and Household Access to the Harvest Quota

- Social capital and relationships
- Clan ties
- Education
- Costs of applying for harvest quota
- Re-constructed productive units to access the harvest quota

- Local elites and middlemen get more benefits
- State-owned enterprises access the quota easily
- Poor households are marginalized
- Cadres take more responsibility to help others get quota

Tageba Community - Harvest Quota and Consumption



CHQ = commercial HQ
SHQ = self-use HQ

CCHQ = consumption of CHQ
CSHQ = consumption of SHQ

Impacts on Sustainable Forest Management

- ❖ Land use change from timber trees to fruit tree cultivation
- ❖ The common forest is not well-managed
- ❖ Social structure change – from clan to economical ties
- ❖ Frequent illegal harvesting
- ❖ Loss of traditional knowledge of forest management
- ❖ Access to valuable forest resources is limited

Impacts on Rural Development

- Decline in household incomes
- Reduced benefits from forests
- Reduced fees to community committee
- Fewer micro-enterprises and local businesses
- Shift from logging to animal husbandry

Results

- HQ is good for environmental protection but affects local socio-economic development in Tageba Community
- Farmers generally lose interest in managing forests for timber
- Local governments use the high demand for the harvest quota to generate more government income
- Restriction of forest producers' ability to generate maximum economic returns from their operations

- Farmers manage for faster returns, e.g. growing fruit trees rather than managing forests
- Harvest quota has an impact on local community sustainable development
- Farmers are involved in new earning activities, including raising livestock, off-farm activities and illegal logging

Recommendations

- Recognize and respect household decision-making rights over forest resources
- Decentralization of harvest quota management
- Pay subsidies to households for protecting forest areas
- Harvest quota or change the policy of forest management?
- Establish a benefit sharing system that fairly compensates households



Thank you!