In order to manage forest resources properly for a long time, a forest planning system is necessary regardless of ownership. The forest growth is governed primarily by the natural condition, but how to manage or utilize it depends on social and economic factors. Moreover, social demands for forest resources are changing. Under such situations, we must meet the demand for sustainable timber production and provide various public benefits. Our main research topics are the forest planning system, legal systems relating to forest management, and sustainable forest tourism.

### Forest planning system

Social demands for forest resources are multiple and changing. The most recent change is the increase of forest management problems related to global warming. To solve these current problems, we are conducting research to change the forest planning system and forest survey methods to include a broader range of public benefits.

### Laws relating to forest management

The development of legal systems is necessary for forest management because the forest resources are connected to various public benefits. In our laboratory, the following laws relating to the forest are being examined: Forest Law, Basic Forest and Forestry Law, National Forest Management Law, Law to Promote the Modernization of the Rights for the Common Forest.

### Sustainable forest tourism

The national forest has a protective forest system. The area of protective forest and the surroundings also have importance from the point of tourism. Protection forest for scenic beauty and recreational use are contributing to tourism. We conduct research on how to develop sustainable forest tourism.
Keywords

*forest planning system, forest statistics, forest law, forest product demand and supply, forest tourism, global warming issue and forestry, restricted forest, national forest, common forest*

Recent Publications

Matsushita, K. (2012) Recent problems and new directions for forest producer cooperatives established in common forests in Japan, in Jorge Martin-Garcia and Julio Javier Diez eds., *Sustainable Forest Management: Case Studies*, InTech, Croatia, 161-182


