



Image Atlas in Forest Health Protection

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(Report of the APEC Project)

2001

Completed by

Institute of Forest Resource Information Techniques, Chinese Academy of Forestry
Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Cosponsored by

Committee on Trade and Investment, APEC
Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation, PRC
State Administration of Forestry, PRC
Institute of Forest Protection, Chinese Academy of Forestry
General Center for Forest Pest Control of Anhui Province
General Center for Forest Pest Control of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
General Center for Forest Pest Control of Guangdong Province
General Center for Forest Pest Control of Zhejiang Province
General Center for Forest Pest Control of Liaoning Province

Published for
APEC Secretariat
438 Alexandra Road,
#14-00, Alexandra Point,
Singapore 119958.
Tel : 65-276-1880
Fax: 65-276-1775
E-mail : info@mail.apecsec.org.sg

APEC #201-CT-01.7.
ISBN 7-5031-2892-5/K·1342
300.00

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Committee on Trade and Investment, APEC

Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation, PRC

China Cartographic Publishing House

2001

图书在版编目（CIP）数据

森林病虫害影像图集=Image Atlas in Forest Health Protection /武红敢编著。—北京：中国地图出版社，2002.1

ISBN 7-5031-2892-5

I. 森... II. 武... III. 森林—病虫害—图集—英文

IV. S763-64

中国版本图书馆CIP 数据核字（2002）第000727号

Published for
APEC Secretariat
438 Alexandra Road
#14-00, Alexandra Point
Singapore 119958
Tel : (65) 276-1880 Fax: (65) 276-1775
Email:info@mail.apecsec.org.sg
Internet:http://www.apecsec.org.sg

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APEC # 201-CT-01.7.

ISBN 7-5031-2892-5/K·1342

By
China Cartographic Publishing House
3 Baizhifang Xijie
Beijing , 100054
China
Tel: 86-010-63557489
Fax:86-010-63571784

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Cover and Plate Designer Li Li

Preface

Since 20's in last century, airborne remote sensing has been used in forest resource inventory and monitoring. Ever since 1972, civilian Earth observation satellites of different origin and construction have been circling our planet and reporting regularly on its land and ocean surfaces. Remote sensing techniques are now used for innumerable practical and scientific tasks, and make significant contributions to our understanding of the manifold processes that take place on our home planet.

Forest insects and diseases have long been a serious kind of disaster and cause great damage every year. Remote sensing has the capacity of large scale data acquisition, and can be used in the monitoring of forest disease and insects. Our project is to probe into the techniques for remote sensing applications in forest disease and insect monitoring. The study has been carried out in northeastern China, central eastern China and southern China, and has gained great success. It has demonstrated that Landsat TM data can be used in monitoring and assessing damages caused by pine caterpillars in stand level. Videography and high resolution data such as IKONOS data can even be used to detect individual trees hampered by diseases and insects. Images and maps of various type used in our project are compiled into this atlas, and they can be a good demonstration of remote sensing potentials in forest protection.

It is to be hoped that this work will have a widespread readership, broaden interest in the possible uses of remote sensing, and enhance awareness of what China is capable of doing. To mitigate damages by forest insects and diseases through remote sensing is our final goal.

Wu Honggan