

THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TASKED 60.000 SOLDIERS WITH THE NEW MISSION OF PLANTING TREES TO CREATE NEW FORESTS

The State Forestry Administration of the Chinese Government announced that China will plant new forests covering an area of 84,000 square kilometers during 2018. In order to achieve this goal, a large regiment from the People's Liberation Army have been withdrawn from their posts near the northern border to work on the task. The Government of China has therefore tasked 60,000 soldiers with a new mission: planting trees to create new forests.



This impacting news published in February 2018 by [Asia Times](#), and the [World Economic Forum website](#) is being widespread in the international press.

The heavily polluted Hebei Province, which encircles Beijing, has pledged to raise its total forest coverage to 35% by the end of 2020, and the majority of the troops will be dispatched there for afforestation. This Province is often blamed for producing the fumes and smog that cover Beijing and northern China.



This initiative to enhance the reforestation process by involving 60,000 soldiers to plant trees is part of [the plans of the Chinese Government to grow 6.66 million hectares](#) of new forest in 2018, having already created 33.8 million hectares (338,000 square kilometers) of forest in the past five years.

According to information of the State Forestry Administration, [published by China Daily](#), as a key measure initiated by the State Council after severe floods hit the valleys of the Yangtze River and Songhua River in 1998, natural forest protection project was implemented in 16 provinces, including Heilongjiang, Jilin, Hebei, Yunnan, Hunan and Liaoning. Logging of natural forest has been completely banned in these regions.



China's total forested area is now around 208 million hectares. Boasting the fifth largest forest area in the world, China aims to expand its forest from 21.7% in 2016 to cover more than 23 % by 2020 to combat climate change and soil erosion. Then from 2020 to 2035, China plans to further boost the percentage of forest coverage to 26 percent.

To know more

[Article in Asia Times](#)

[Article in World Economic Forum website](#)



[Article in independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk)

[Article in ecowatch.com web site](http://ecowatch.com)

[Article in news.vice.com](http://news.vice.com)

[Article in dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk)

[Article in mother nature network website](http://mother-nature-network.com)

[Article in theguardian.com website](http://theguardian.com)

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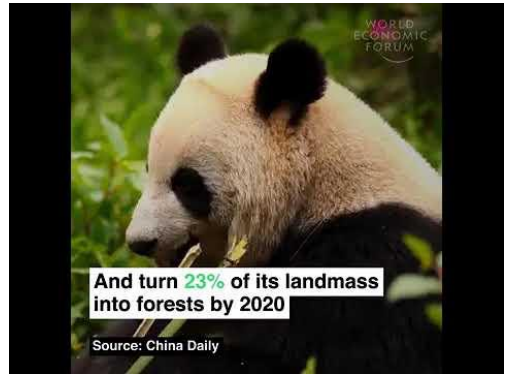
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[Article in lefigaro.fr website](http://lefigaro.fr)

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And turn **23%** of its landmass into forests by 2020

Source: China Daily

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