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For Nature

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The World Conservation Union

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The IUCN/WWF Forest Conservation Newsletter

December 1998

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Mine adjacent to World Heritage site, Australia

All protected areas, according to the IUCN definition, should be "especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity". However, the World Commission on Protected Areas recognises the wider social and environmental importance of protected areas and that many also support the needs of human communities. In addition to strict conservation, scientific research and wildlife habitat, many have great value in watershed and soil protection, carbon sequestration, recreational benefits, defining indigenous territory and the maintenance of cultural and spiritual values. Protected areas are therefore becoming more flexible in their aims and management. WCPA argues for a range of protected area management categories to reflect these different objectives of management, while stressing that all protected areas must have a strong biodiversity conservation emphasis.

This more inclusive strategy has many practical conservation benefits. Some early protected areas – where in extreme cases human communities were evicted from their traditional lands to make way for nature protection – have failed. People who are alienated from the land will often invade the protected area for illegal hunting and logging. More collaborative methods are usually far better, both for people and nature. This broader approach is particularly well-reflected in two of the six recommended protected area categories: Categories V (Protected Landscape/Seascape) and VI (Managed Resource Protected Area).

There have recently been attempts to argue that land within IUCN category V and VI protected areas can be used for large-scale industrial activities. This is a serious misunderstanding of the concept of protected areas. All categories of protected areas are intended to be permanent designations which provide long-term protection to biodiversity and other values. The use of such categories, which envisage a degree of human presence and sustainable resource use, does not mean abandoning protection in these areas.

To clarify the situation: WCPA believes that large-scale commercial activities such as clearcutting, plantation establishment and other forms of industrial management, unrestrained tourism and other major infrastructure projects are not compatible with any protected area designations. As far as mineral extraction in protected areas is concerned, WCPA is currently developing a policy for IUCN: this will make clear that large-scale mineral extraction is also incompatible with protected area objectives. Though greater flexibility in the development of protected area approaches is urgently needed, the adoption of a wider range of categories than hitherto should not be used to compromise the distinctive nature of protected areas – as places where protection can be assured.

Professor Adrian Phillips, Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas

The next issue of the newsletter will be produced in May 1999 (copy deadline mid-April).

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news

from around the world

John Mackinnon/WWF-UK



Logging ban in China expected to cause increased imports

Deforestation is being blamed for some of China's worst ever floods during August 1998. The government has now banned further logging in some watersheds. However, there are fears that this will just export the problem, as China's industry seeks timber from neighbouring states.

Although the Chinese government officially put most of the blame for flooding onto the El Niño climatic event, many government employees referred to the role played by deforestation and the associated soil erosion and river siltation. The floods killed more than 3000 people and caused US\$ 20 billion of damage. In August, over 300 dissidents called on the government to abandon "misguided" and "environmentally disastrous" policies that led to deforestation and flooding. The petition, released by the New York-based group Human Rights in China, accused the government of "blindly following the concept that man can conquer nature." As a result of the severity of the floods, the Chinese government has since banned logging along rivers like the Yangtze and Yellow River, to aid reforestation, turning its back on policies that have been in place for fifty years. Although the change appeared to be abrupt, some commentators believe that it was inevitable, because marketable trees had become increasingly less accessible, leading to rising costs and falling output. While most environmental organisations have welcomed the move, there are fears about "knock-on effects in neighbouring countries like Tibet and Mongolia", and further afield. The ban is expected to contribute to a 45 million m³ timber shortfall by 2000. One result is that China expects a sharp increase in exports from the USA, Canada, Russia, Southeast Asia and West Africa and the government is intending to set up lumberyards in neighbouring countries.

Sources: *Boston Globe* 17 August, *Baltimore Sun* 29 August, *New York Times* 27 September, *Economic Information Daily* 30 September 1998

Impacts of aid in tropical forests

European Union aid programmes have often led to "environmental damage and the disruption of traditional societies" according to a recent report from the UK-based Rainforest Foundation. The authors report that EU projects have resulted in the eviction of communities from traditional lands in Uganda, banning traditional farming techniques in indigenous areas of the Philippines, increased logging because of road improvement near protected areas in Cameroon, and increased timber exports from Ghana. Unlike other international agencies, the EU has not changed significantly since the 1992 Earth Summit and still operates with considerable secrecy, with requests for information such as environmental impact assessments being routinely refused. Consultation with local communities is rare. Internal reports carried out for the European Commission have repeatedly warned of serious shortcomings of the European Union's aid programme, particularly with respect to the environment. Whilst the report focuses on tropical forests, the authors believe that the results are more widely applicable within the EU aid programme.

Source: *Out of Commission: The Environmental and Social Impacts of European Union Development Funding in Tropical Forest Areas*, compiled by Tim Rice and Simon Counsell: rainforest@gn.apc.org

Central American hurricane crisis

Clearcut logging, plantation establishment and "rampant" housing development are being blamed for increasing the impacts of Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. At least 11,000 people are believed to be dead and millions are homeless; there are fears of epidemics in the aftermath of the storm due to breakdown in sanitation services. Peace Corps volunteers report that clearcut areas were devastated by mudslides, while heavily forested areas in central Honduras were "relatively unscathed". In Honduras, 33 per cent of the forest has disappeared since 1960, mainly being replaced by cattle ranches and plantations. Banana plantation companies have laid off workers and offered them loans until plantations begin producing again. Meanwhile a representative of one company, Chiquita, was reported as saying that insurance received because of the damage has provided "an opportunity" to invest in new plant and infrastructure. Profits are not expected to decline because of a rise in the price of bananas. Meanwhile the West's rescue package of aid for the disaster was less than one thirtieth that recently agreed to bail out a teetering bail fund in Wall Street – and the equivalent of less than a month's debt servicing amongst the four poorest countries.

Sources: *Boston Globe* and *Mail* 11 November 1998, *The Guardian* 7 and 18 November 1998

Korean pine near Khabavovsk, Russia

Fires burn in temperate regions as well

Since the last arborvita^e, forest fires have burned out of control in Israel, Iran, Florida and Russia.

An assessment by the United Nations states that fires in Russia represent an emergency of international significance, with the number of fires being increased by unprecedented drought, exacerbated by human interference and the economic and political crisis that has delayed responses. Over a thousand fires have been reported in Khabarovsk Krai in the Russian Far East, with 85 per cent being caused by human interference. Additional threats are being caused by people forced to forage in the forest for non-timber forest products as a result of the economic situation. Fires are also affecting Sakhalin Island with reports of two thirds of the forest being affected. The UN described the fires as a disaster on a scale similar to that seen in Latin America and Asia. Fires also affected at least 250,000 hectares of forest in Florida. Native American groups specialising in forest fire fighting, including the Caddo Nation from Oklahoma, led many fire fighting teams. In Iran, reports suggest that fires are threatening the Arasbarn forests, one of the country's main nature reserves. And in Israel, many fires were ascribed to political activists.

Sources: UNDAC Assessment 16 October, *The Guardian* July 6 and *Greenwire*

Forests and culture – mystical tree poles, used as fertility symbols in springtime ceremonies, exist throughout Europe. In England, dancing around the “maypole” traditionally takes place on the first of May. In northern Sweden, spring comes later and the pole (illustrated here) appears on Mid-summer Day in late June



News in brief

Everglades restoration

The Clinton administration is proposing a US\$8 billion “rescue plan” for the Florida Everglades “aimed at restoring the fragile ecosystem over the next two decades”. This calls for restoring natural water flow over tens of thousands of square miles by tearing down levees, filling canals, developing water storage facilities, and anti-pollution efforts. Clinton is expected to present the proposal next summer; however, the funding for the scheme is still in doubt.

Source: *Greenwire* 7 October

Fall in tropical hardwood production

The Asian financial crisis has led to “complete chaos” in tropical timber production, according to the timber committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The market for tropical forest products is in decline, with production and export down 25 per cent on 1997, despite a halving of the price of some products due to devaluation of currencies.

Source: UNECE

Ten year decline in European Union forests confirmed

A European Commission survey, carried out with the UN Economic Commission for Europe since 1987, shows that the proportion of trees with moderate or severe defoliation has more than doubled over ten years. Decline has continued despite reduced air pollution over much of Europe and the Commission suggests that a long-term decline in soil quality, caused by drought, acidification and heavy metal leaching, is a contributory factor.

Source: *Greenwire*

Illegal logging a growing problem

Research by WWF has found evidence of illegal logging in over fifty countries around the world, particularly in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the former Soviet Union. This illegal activity often focuses specifically on pristine forest and protected areas, thus posing a particular conservation threat.

Nigel Dudley

Mobil poised to re-enter uncontacted indians' territory in Peru

Mobil is reported to be about to enter remote rainforest, where two years previously it cut 659 km of tracks and detonated explosives in a search for oil. The forest is known to be home to three groups of indians, all of whom have actively resisted attempts by outsiders to contact them. Peruvian law states that the groups have the right to be left alone, but this is apparently being ignored.

Source: *Survival International Urgent Action Bulletin* August 1998

Argentina encourages plantations

New laws aim to encourage foreign investment and establish 200,000 ha of plantations per year from 2000-2009. Companies in Chile, New Zealand, Germany and Finland are interested. The Anglo-Dutch company Shell is reported to intend claiming credits for greenhouse gas emissions from plantations in Argentina.

Source: *World Rainforest Movement Bulletin* 17

Measures of naturalness in Austria

Austria has carried out a nation-wide survey of the extent to which forests have been altered by human activity. Forests have been divided into five classes on the basis of almost 5000 sample plots: fully natural (3 per cent), semi-natural (22 per cent), moderately altered (41 per cent), altered (27 per cent) and artificial (7 per cent).

Source: *Naturnahe Osterreichischer Walder – Bildatlas*

Private conservation initiatives in Chile

WWF is collaborating in efforts to develop private protected areas in the unique temperate forests of Chile. [Jessica Brown](#) and [Brent Mitchell](#) report.



Chile is a country rich in biodiversity and endemism. Yet legal and illegal forestry and agricultural practices threaten much of this richness. The government estimates that 120,000 ha of native forest is affected each year by these activities and 45 percent of mountainous country suffers serious erosion.

Government efforts to protect natural areas began over a century ago, and the first nature reserve was established in 1907. Today over 14 million ha is protected in 92 units, representing nearly 19 per cent of the country's land area. This large area is difficult to manage however, and conservation objectives are compromised by ineffective legislation and by illegal extractive activities such as logging and cattle ranching inside protected areas.

Private citizens have helped support the national protected areas system by securing funding allocations for management, defending State protected areas against damaging activities, supporting new designations, and sponsoring environmental education. But, seeing profound changes in areas outside of the national system, they are now doing more: buying land to create private protected areas. The movement began with the 1990 purchase of 500 ha of forest to protect habitat of the endangered Chilean Huemul (the South Andean Deer, *Hippocamelus bisulcus*) by the

National Committee for the Defense of Fauna and Flora (CODEFF). In 1991 a North American citizen acquired 275,000 ha to create Pumalin Park. Another NGO, Lahuen Foundation, purchased 500 ha of Araucaria forest. In the coastal range a forestry company set aside 754 ha as Oncol Park. Other private owners have dedicated part of their properties for conservation, and protected land for tourism.

In 1997, with the assistance of WWF, a Network of Private Protected Areas (RAPP) was established to facilitate exchange, provide training and information, input into new legislation, and guide other individuals and groups wishing to protect land. The network also hopes to direct conservation efforts to areas of high conservation priority, identify opportunities for adding new areas, and generally promote the use of private approaches to protecting natural areas.

Today the network links 50 owners and 59 properties, covering 295,630 ha. Though it currently protects less than 0.5 per cent of the total land area of the country (and this figure is dominated by one property), the network is an important step in private land conservation, and is working to develop new laws and incentives for conservation. Distributed across half the country, Chile's emerging system of private protected areas is spreading the message of conservation to communities and local authorities.

This article draws on information contained in a report to WWF from Hernan Verscheure, about a project supporting the Network of Private Protected Areas of Chile

Two new Gifts to the Earth

The President of Mexico, **Dr Ernesto Zedillo**, has announced plans to protect forests affected by fires in Mexico. A total of 188,000 hectares have been identified, covering 85 priority sites in 21 states. The forests are to be designated as "Sites of Ecological Restoration". And the head of the Komi Republic in **Russia** has announced the protection of Pechora-Ilych forest, representing 16 per cent of the area of Komi, equal roughly to the size of the Netherlands.

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New reserve planned in the Amazon

The French Prime Minister, **Lionel Jospin**, announced in November that France plans to open a national park in its territory of **French Guiana** by the year 2000, covering "thousands" of hectares. It will be run in co-operation with Brazil and could be used in part to facilitate research aimed at preserving the Amazon rainforest.

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IFF2

The Second Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF2) met in Geneva on August 24-September 4, 1998. [Carole Saint Laurent](#) gives a summary of what happened.

Substantive discussions were conducted on: trade and the environment; forest related work of international and regional organisations and existing instruments; implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF); and technology transfer. In preparation for IFF3, preliminary discussions were also held on a range of issues including monitoring and evaluation, financial resources, international instruments and other issues from the IPF requiring further clarification. All items remain open for negotiation until IFF4.

Many people felt disappointed about how much time was spent on a tired rehashing of old debates. However, the issues of key importance to WWF and IUCN continue to be

amongst the most dynamic: protected areas, trade and legal instruments. As consideration of these issues shifts to intersessional events, the main IFF process becomes less important to many conservation organisations. Some NGOs voiced concerns that the outcome of these meetings may be held hostage to a decision being made on whether or not to negotiate a global forest convention. For example, would any good proposals for action that emerged from the protected areas meetings be held up until convention negotiations began?

The IFF ended with several reports incomplete. Governments could not agree to text on *Trade and the Environment, Technology Transfer, and Financial Measures to Implement the IPF Proposals for Action*. Long-standing differences of opinion on finance and technology transfer were revisited and relate to the ongoing concerns of developing countries about declining levels of official development assistance.

The UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) established the IFF in 1997 as a follow up to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests that operated from 1995-1997. The IFF is a subsidiary body of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to which it will report in April 2000.

Climate Change Convention delays action on the Kyoto protocol

Decisions relating to forest management were postponed by the Fourth Conference of Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, meeting in Buenos Aires in October.

[Jennifer Sekula](#) of IUCN summarises the events.

Clarification of important points in the Kyoto Protocol were delayed until a special report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is published some time in 2000. This includes definitions of deforestation, afforestation and reforestation in article 3.3 and rules and guidelines clarifying the issue of land use change and forestry activities that affect sources and sinks under article 3.4. In the meantime, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) will continue its work on the development of methods for counting carbon stocks at its 10th session.

A fairly contentious issue at the COP was whether forests should be expressly considered in the Clean Development Mechanism. NGOs are split on this issue; some expressed concern that it would encourage Annex 1 countries to avoid reducing domestic emissions and to remove existing forests in favour of monospecific tree plantations, among other perverse incentives. Others feel that with carefully crafted guidelines, CDM activities could improve the management, health and extent of existing forest in Non-Annex 1 countries.

Research in Brief

New publications continue to appear on options for measuring natural composition and the impacts of disturbance.

In Montana, USA, research has focused on the influences of pre-1900 fires on old-growth ponderosa pine and western larch stand structures (*Intermountain Research Station, Research Paper INT-RP-495*).

In Latvia, a 35-year research project on impacts of drainage for forestry has charted changes in flora (*Baltic Forestry 3*, 26-34).

A new model for estimating the natural composition and diversity of forest mosaics has been developed in Quebec (*Laurentian Forestry Centre Research Note 4*).

A paper on options for assessing the impact of forest disturbance on tropical invertebrates (*Journal of Applied Ecology 35*, 458-460) has sparked considerable debate, both about the reactions of insect population and more generally about the use of species-abundance models as indicators (*Journal of Applied Ecology 35*, 461-469, various authors).

Meanwhile, despite the depressingly long list of tree species estimated to be at risk of extinction by IUCN and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (see last issue), new species are being discovered all the time, with recent additions from Brazil, Java and Irian Jaya (*Kew Bulletin 53*).

Lastly, a new book collects together essays on indigenous knowledge and socio-cultural aspects of trees and forests in non-European cultures (*Nature is Culture*, IT Publications, London).



Forestry and Finance Initiative launched



WWF has launched a campaign to persuade investors to back sustainable forest management. [Rachel Crossley](#) and [Jonathan Points](#) report.

Although all forest services are important, the production of commercial timber is one of the few that are priced and traded. This is the root cause of many environmental problems. Poorly structured concession agreements effectively subsidise forest companies and corruption means that environmental regulations are often flouted.

International attempts to protect forests have been largely unsuccessful.

Studies confirm a relationship between good environmental performance and profitability. Some forest products companies have suffered considerable losses after media exposure of poor environmental management. In view of the liability *and* opportunity that the environment creates, it increasingly seems that fiduciary duty could require assessment of companies' environmental performance.

The forest industry has been a poor performer for the last decade; many companies barely cover the cost of capital and generate little free cash flow. However, analysis shows that forest management and tree harvesting is profitable. The explanation of poor performance lies in other parts of integrated businesses; paper and pulp mills are capital intensive, the industry is fragmented and, because they trade in an undifferentiated commodity, companies find they have little pricing power. The industry has responded by seeking economies of scale and faster-growing overseas markets. However, these strategies cannot address two major structural problems: the right to operate and the selling of a largely undifferentiated commodity.

Surveys show that consumers are very concerned about forest issues. Industry responded at first with "self certified" claims of sustainability, which were largely disbelieved. New systems have emerged that address this problem. The one with the largest market share, and backing from most major environmental groups, is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). An increasing number of companies are using the FSC (see page 13). Four "groups" of benefits can be identified. First, benefits in quality, productivity and the right to operate, including assurance of long-term sustainability. Second, companies gain from better market share, sales and prices; there is good evidence that companies that have been certified by the FSC can tap consumer demand to increase market share. Third, companies can improve their reputation with consumers, employees and local communities, enabling them to focus their efforts away from environmental conflicts. Lastly, reduction in risk means that companies enjoy lower costs of capital and insurance.

Source: *Investing in Tomorrow's Forests*, contributing authors Kirsti Thornber and Frank Dixon, editor Jonathan Hollow, WWF International, Gland

News in brief



Oil palm plantations established in place of secondary forest in West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Nigel Dudley

Forest campaign in Germany

WWF Germany is running a forest campaign from October 1998 to May 1999. It aims to reach the public through press conferences, media events, study presentations and calls for change. Newspaper ads, a TV commercial and a nation-wide poster campaign will encourage political and financial support for WWF's work. The campaign will start by renewing public interest in the threat to forests and highlighting areas of success for WWF, before focusing on sustainable forest development and the role of the Forest Stewardship Council. The campaign started with a media event that launched a study on how expansion of oil palm plantations caused catastrophic forest fires in Indonesia last year. WWF has also publicised its "Gift to the Earth" – one million hectares of forest in Kamchatka/Russia that have received protected status.

Alois Vedder (vedder@wwf.de)

Protected areas brochure a new publication

Forest Protection: WWF's Global Forests for Life Campaign has been published, detailing those countries that have pledged to WWF's protected areas target.

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Integrating Conservation and Development

The DGIS-WWF Tropical Forest Portfolio project has published an annotated bibliography, *Issues and Approaches to Integrating Conservation and Development*, compiled by **Suad Newby**. The publication summarises the latest information on community-based natural resource management and is free of charge.

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Staff changes in Gland

Several new staff have joined the forest team at Gland. **Stewart Maginnis** has started as senior forest officer, having previously worked in Africa and Central America. **Rodney Taylor** has joined International's staff from WWF-US, to act as co-ordinator for the WWF-World Bank Alliance; originally from Australia he also has field experience in Papua New Guinea. **Mark Aldrich** is also joining from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, UK, as Forest Officer, to co-ordinate the development of the WWF Forest Information System. In the European Programme, **Harri Karjalainen** has moved from WWF Finland to run the European Forest Hotspots campaign. Meanwhile **Steve Howard** and **Anders Lindhe**, formerly from WWF UK and WWF Sweden, are respectively co-ordinating work on buyers' groups and certification in a new Forests and Trade Initiative that also involves **Justin Stead** and **Vanessa Sequeira**.



IUCN Forest Workshops in The Russian Federation

IUCN has just completed a series of four participatory workshops on forest conservation in the Russian Federation, in the Russian Far East, Siberia and European Russia, followed by a national level synthesis workshop in Moscow in October. Andrew Deutz, Vladimir Moshkalo and Andrei Laletin report.

Boreal forest in a protected area near Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka

IUCN has identified the Russian Federation as the national priority for the development of a country-level programme to promote conservation and sustainable forest management initiatives in temperate and boreal countries. The long-term goal of IUCN's Temperate and Boreal Forest Programme in Russia is to help develop constituencies for the conservation and sustainable management of Russia's forests, both within and outside the country, and to enhance the capacity to achieve shared objectives.

The workshops each brought together 30-40 people representing a cross section of local and national NGOs, local and federal government officials, and donor agencies and foundations. The objectives of the regional workshops were to identify priority forest conservation and sustainable management issues in each region; develop strategies to address these; and forge partnerships to implement the strategies.

The priority issues identified at the workshop were:

Russian Far East

- 1 Lack of efficient methods for preventing and extinguishing forest fires.
- 2 The need to expand the use of ecological values into forest inventory systems.
- 3 The need to diversify forest product use, especially non-timber forest products.
- 4 Lessening the biodiversity impacts of logging in forest ecosystems.
- 5 The elaboration and introduction of regional criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

Siberia

- 1 Reduction of ecological and economic damage from forest fires.
- 2 Inventory and conservation of old-growth forests.
- 3 Adapting criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management to Siberian conditions.
- 4 Improving public awareness of ecological values.
- 5 Impacts of rocket fuel and launch debris on forests.

Euro-Urals

- 1 Developing an integrated approach to forest fire management.
- 2 Developing a representative system of Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNA) and forest zone ecological network (ECO-NET).
- 3 The need to develop forest legislation in the regions and co-ordinate it with federal forest legislation.
- 4 Improving the use and management of radioactively contaminated forests.
- 5 Mobilising high-level political will for more balanced forest use representing all aspects of sustainable development (i.e. ecological, economic, and social).
- 6 The need to recognise the multiple uses and interests in forests through institutional checks and balances (transparency) and partnerships between state and non-state actors.

The national level, synthesis workshop then brought together a broader group of individuals, including several participants from the regional workshops. The workshop was addressed by Amirkhan Amirkhanov, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection, and by Victor Teplaykov, Head, Department of Science and Technology of the Federal Forest Service of the Russian Federation. The objectives of the final workshop were to verify that the regional workshops had identified relevant issues for the regional and national levels; to evaluate the feasibility of the strategies that had been developed at the regional workshops; and to identify the next steps for IUCN and for other partners.

IUCN is now working with conference participants, other partners, and donor agencies to develop a series of projects to implement the programme and strategies that emerged from the workshops. IUCN's Office for the CIS is also developing a co-operation agreement with the Federal Forest Service of the Russian Federation.

Conference reports and background papers are available in Russian and in English from: Vladimir Moshkalo (iucnmos@aha.ru), Andrei Laletin (andrei@public.krasnet.ru) and Andrew M. Deutz (adeutz@iucn.ca)



Wood yard near Kribi, Cameroon

Mapping the Congo Basin

WWF, IUCN and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre have been collaborating on a unique exercise in the Congo Basin, to develop a series of forest maps showing the status of protected areas, areas under threat from logging and mining activities and potential conservation opportunities [Mark Aldrich](#) and [Wale Adeleke](#) report.

Information needs are of critical importance to many conservation projects, both in terms of planning field projects and policy development. The project described below used maps as a quick way of summarising the knowledge and expertise of a large and diverse group of people. The first version of a map showing the forests of the Congo Basin, illustrating their importance and the opportunities for conservation, was produced following a two-day workshop hosted in Yaoundé by WWF. The map was prepared by WCMC in collaboration with Emma Underwood of WWF-US Conservation Science Programme. Drawing on initial data held by WCMC, specialists from WWF and partner organisations around the region pooled their knowledge to create the most accurate map yet of the Congo's forest cover, status and threats.

During the workshop, attempts were made to assess the status of existing protected areas with respect to management, current ecological status (intact, disturbed, degraded) and threats. In addition, other known and suspected priority areas requiring protection were marked on template maps.

Logging concessions were also mapped for Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon and the Congo, and coded (where information is available) with respect to whether they are active or inactive. Infrastructure was represented wherever possible including roads, rail, rivers and oil

pipelines. Participants also marked point locations of mines on maps. During the plenary session there was discussion on the difficulties of depicting amounts and extent of bushmeat hunting.

In addition to the maps, a considerable amount of information was recorded on a site by site basis, including details of ecological and management status of existing protected areas, and for other priority sites.

An initial version was presented to forest ministers at the second conference of the Brazzaville Process in Bata, June 1998 (see last issue for a report) and included in a book on *The Congo Basin* published by the Netherlands Committee of IUCN. It has also been used to help develop a WWF/IUCN vision for the conservation of forests in the Congo Basin and as a contribution to the WWF-US Africa Ecoregions Assessment work. The WWF/World Bank Alliance regional co-ordination group has already been using the information gathered to facilitate the prioritisation of its work programme in the region.

During the Cameroon workshop, participants recommended that the map should be the first stage in a longer-term process, and that the information gathered during the workshop should be maintained and kept updated. Further information was collected at a recent meeting of the WWF Africa Forest Forum in Abidjan and plans are being made to carry out similar activities in different sub-regions. For the Congo Basin National maps are being planned and the information will also be presented as a series of overlays so that key data can be highlighted.

For further information contact Mark Aldrich (+44-1483-419-266, maldrich@wwfnet.org) or Wale Adeleke (+237-21-51-10, aadeleke@wwfnet.org). The first phase of this project is supported by WWF Netherlands.



Right: Secondary forest, Congo Basin

Fighting forest fires in Greece

Fires are a critical problem for forest management in Greece. WWF is launching a two-year campaign to combat forest fires and encourage sustainable forest management. [Aristotelis Papageorgiou](#) reports from Athens.

Forest fires are one of the most common environmental catastrophes in Greece. Most forest fires are started intentionally and occur near to urban areas or to development projects, where land is, or is potentially, of high value. Land developers seek to take advantage of vaguely worded legislation and an absence of land use and tenure maps. At the same time, the forest service and other relevant authorities are unable or unwilling to control illegal development activities in forests. At a central level, the government has not shown the political will to take the tough, yet necessary, decisions which will clarify legislation and establish an effective forest fire protection policy.

This summer was one of the worst for forest fires in the last few years, with more than 150,000 ha of forest burned and six people killed. In addition to the forested areas around Athens, forest fires have destroyed large parts of forests with high biodiversity value, such as on Taygetos (a major Mediterranean "Hotspot") and in the Olympus mountains (a national park).

WWF Greece, one of the few NGOs in Greece with "hands-on" experience and capacity on forest conservation issues, is launching a campaign against forest fires in Greece. The campaign "Forests For Ever" ("ever" in Greek is "panda") was launched by WWF Greece at a press conference held recently in Athens. Extensive press coverage of the event confirmed once again the active interest of the public in this issue.

Activities

The campaign includes three main activities:

- 1 Present and secure an institutional background for the long-term protection of forests from fire.
- 2 Establish an effective and functional fire prevention plan in selected forest areas.
- 3 Contribute to the restoration of forests surrounding Athens.

WWF Greece will compile all relevant information and analyse the legal pitfalls linked to forest fires in Greece.

A report will be produced including WWF's proposals for long term solutions to these problems and will be presented to relevant state authorities and other stakeholders in both national and international (EU) fora. Key issues include



identification of gaps in legislation, encouraging the production of accurate land tenure maps and addressing the problems of responsibility for forest fires being split between four ministries. Next, WWF will focus on the organisation of forest fire prevention in six selected forests, such as Olympus, Taygetos and areas around Athens and will present an operational fire prevention plan for each of the areas. At present, no Greek forests have fire protection plans, despite the importance of the threat. Once the plans are completed WWF will push for their effective implementation. WWF will also organise two model reforestation activities in areas that have been affected by fire, in order to promote the restoration of burned forests and achieve the participation and awareness of the public. WWF will commit itself to caring for these sites over a long period of time, effectively "adopting" them. Maximum media coverage will be sought, in order to secure the interest of the broad public and increase political pressure on the government. It is hoped that the reports can be launched at a major conference in Greece in May 1999. This will be the first time that a large environmental NGO has presented a comprehensive package of proposals for fighting the underlying causes of the problem of forest fires in Greece. Although WWF does not expect to resolve these complex issues overnight, it will make specific steps in the right direction, contributing effectively to the long term solution of the problem.

Organisation of the campaign

The campaign will be executed by the WWF "forest team", which includes three foresters, an environmental scientist and four research assistants (volunteers). The team possesses extensive experience in the field of forest fires and forest policy. It will be co-ordinated by the forest officer of WWF Greece.

Contact: Aristotelis Papageorgiou. Tel: +30-1-331-4893
Fax: +30-1-324-7578. E-mail: a.papageorgiou@wwf.gr

Next issue will include a detailed report of IUCN's work on fires in Central America

Right:
Large parts
of Greece's
richest forest
on Mt Taygetos
burned last
August



Reforestation
by volunteers
and members
of WWF Greece
on a burned
forest area
near Athens

T. Nantisou, WWF Greece

meetings and courses

10

Sacred trees are found throughout Estonia. Although sometimes incorporated into the Christian tradition, Estonians were apparently identifying certain trees as "sacred" before the advent of Christianity. Cloths were tied on as "prayers"



Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud



Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud

Taiga Rescue Network

The fourth of TRN's international conferences on boreal forests focused on *Integrating Cultural Values into Local and Global Forest Protection*. Hosted by the Estonian Green Movement, the meeting took place in the historic town of Tartu in Estonia, 5-10 October 1998. Presentations

covered both cultural issues (see article on page 11) and a series on papers on underlying causes of forest loss.

Contact: Taiga Rescue Network (taiga@jokkmokk.se) or Taimo Puura, Co-ordinator Estonian Green Movement (forest@erl.tartu.ee)

Courses

Seventh Tropical Dendrology Course in Costa Rica
8-20 March 1999 (Spanish)
21 June-3 July (Spanish)

Contact: Dr Humberto Jiménez Saa,
Tropical Science Center, Apdo
8-3870-1000, San José, Costa Rica
Fax: +506-253-4963
E-mail: hjimenez@sol.racsa.co.cr
Cost of course, two weeks US\$1800

International Model Forest Network

The International Model Forest Network, which is supported by the Canadian government, has held two international workshops, in Oregon, USA and Tokyo, Japan. These brought together specialists from many countries to discuss and share information about sustainable forest management and provide a variety of (mainly government) perspectives from both tropical and temperate countries.

Contact: imfns@idrc.ca

Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Europe

A variety of NGOs, academics and government representatives met in Bonn in October 1998 to discuss issues relating to Europe's impact on forests, both within the continent and throughout the world. A series of country case studies looked at issues relating to east and west Europe – where conditions and threats remain very different – while other papers discussed wider issues of aid and trade.

Contact: Saskia Ozinga on saskia@gn.apc.org

...and Africa

A similar meeting on underlying causes of forest loss in Africa took place in Accra, Ghana, in October 1998. Over fifty people from 17 countries met and heard case studies from Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, Kenya, Gambia, Benin and Ethiopia. The NGO community was well represented along with people from government, development agencies and the World Bank.

Contact: 'Wale Adeleke: aadeleke@wwfnet.org

Africa Forest Forum in Côte d'Ivoire

A meeting of WWF's Africa forest officers took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in October 1998. The meeting drew up a paper identifying *Forest Conservation Priorities for Africa and Madagascar* and identified priority ecoregions for the area, with the Congo Basin appearing as a continent-wide priority for WWF.

Contact: 'Wale Adeleke (aadeleke@wwfnet.org)

PAN Parks workshop in Hungary

The PAN Parks organisation is a marketing and communications tool intended to support associated nature reserves in Europe. The initiative welcomes tourism as a basis for sustainable nature. In September 1998, a workshop on the WWF PAN Parks project took place in Baja, Hungary. The meeting discussed how PAN Parks might be certified, basic requirements, brand recognition and options for future development.

Contact: Zoltán Kun (zkun@freemail.c3.hu)

The Web and The Weaver

Conservation organisations need to look at more than simply the science of forest management. In a personal viewpoint, [Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud](#) and [Sally Jeanrenaud](#) examine issues related to spirit in culture, culture in nature and spirit in nature.

In this article we explore an important reflexivity between cultural values and forest management. We affect and inform nature, just as nature works on and in us. Simon Schama, for example, sees landscapes as “cultural memory”, and illustrates how each society uncovers something essential about its cultural temperament through the way forests are managed. We suggest that more holistic forms of forest management will depend upon our own growth.

Until relatively recently trees and forests held an important place in the human psyche, being seen in many cultures as archetypes or symbols of the world and of human existence. For example, the great World Tree is a potent symbol in many cultures. In Scandinavia the ash tree, Yggdrasil was the guardian tree of the gods, with roots stretching into the realms of the gods, the giants, and the dead. The Green Man is a common symbol throughout Europe, symbolising irrepressible life. Trees figure as phallic symbols that in Britain have become maypoles, around which the young people of the village dance. The function of the tree at the centre was to join heaven and earth, a kind of mystical lightning conductor channelling divine life-giving energies into the earth.

Many of these meanings have been suppressed or forgotten in the recent past. A more materialistic culture has achieved dominance. The imperative to serve the capitalist philosophy of “unlimited growth” has influenced the way we utilise the space around us. We can see this in the prevalence of monocultures and clearcut harvesting. It has shaped what passes for our “knowledge” about trees and forests, and to what is taught in forestry schools and universities. It has put planning and decision-making processes in the hands of “experts”, often beyond the control of wider society. The dominant paradigm is also reproduced through our every day choices, and works at the level of “desire” for particular products, reinforced by advertising. Although there are always non-conformists who find ways of getting their voices heard, alternative perspectives have been largely suppressed as a result of this dominance, including the ecological and bio-ethical and the human rights and social justice movements.

So called post-modern thinkers have challenged the ideas of progress and development, and many question the belief that life can only get better as a result of access to more material goods. The sociologist Peter Inglehart identifies a current of post-materialism moving through industrialised countries, in which people are redirecting their lives according to new values and social

commitments. There is a burgeoning literature reclaiming local values and goals that challenges the idea that modernity and development are progressive, liberating forces. It comes as no surprise that there is a growing interest in more holistic approaches such as alternative medicine, new ecology, and organic agriculture. The old paradigm is no longer adequate for our needs. Because in the words of the poet TS Elliot: We “... are no longer at ease in the old dispensation”.

So, what might this new dispensation look like? We would argue that it is already beginning to take shape in our midst, but that this should not be cause for complacency. We are at a crossroads and must make conscious, individual choices to nurture this new beginning. It should be clear that although in one sense we are only a part of the web of life we are also co-weavers.

If we take up this challenge, the new paradigm could be an expression of a transformed way of being, based on compassion and understanding, and founded on mutual respect. It would be further strengthened through collaboration, partnership and shared vision; building on full participation in decision-making, at both policy and project levels. The forests of the future could provide for the needs of all, both humans and nature, not just for the few who enrich themselves at the expense of nature and the rest of humanity. Future forests would celebrate natural diversity and encompass a plurality of cultural meanings.

The spiritual imperative of the present era is therefore, to “be” rather than to do. In order to *do* better we must *be* more. This should not be an excuse for passivity and inaction; rather it is a call for the intensification of action; but at an interior level. This is the paradox of action. If our thinking is holistic, healthy and holy then our resulting actions will bring about positive change. It is surely more than just a coincidence that holistic, healthy and holy, all have a common etymology. Through the transformation of our inner being and the liberation of the hidden Self, outer renewal will occur.

This article is excerpted from a presentation given at the conference of the Taiga Rescue Network in Tartu, Estonia, in October 1998. Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud is Head of WWF International’s Forests for Life Programme and Sally Jeanrenaud is a consultant on environment and development.

A complete copy of the paper is available from WWF.
Contact: abjorvik@wwfnet.org

Small-scale forest management in Vernon, British Columbia

Forest management in British Columbia is all too often a tale of woe, as large companies clearcut ancient forests. However, in other areas local communities are organising to manage their forests sustainably, for profit and people. [Mark Poffenberger and Steve Selin report.](#)

By 1993, public concern about the visual impact of clear-cutting in British Columbia and the loss of jobs as large industries started squeezing out small operators resulted in the establishment of the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program by the provincial government. The project targeted the Vernon Forest District and aspired to develop alternatives to clear-cutting and methods to enhance community income from wood-based enterprises. The project's broader goal was to develop sustainable forest management systems that combined old forestry values with new objectives of environmental protection and ensuring community economic and social stability. Greenpeace was elected as an independent, third-party evaluator to conduct Canada's first forest certification process. The evaluation sought to determine "whether alternative silviculture practices that did not use clear-cutting techniques could protect the integrity of the forest at the landscape level and among stands of trees"

Under the programme, 65 small cutting contracts were made with local operators, resulting in 161,000 m³ of wood harvested between 1993 and 1996. Special arrangements allowed small timber processors to purchase needed timber, often a problem in typically larger volume sales. A variety of alternative cutting methods were used including selective felling, clear-cuts with reserves, small clear-cuts, shelterwood systems and seed tree systems. From an environmental perspective, these generated benefits. Visual quality was enhanced, and the ecosystem was better protected in terms of soil and water conservation, management of diseased species and in creating habitat for wildlife.

From a social standpoint, the results of the programme were also successful. Foresters from the Ministry of Forestry involved in the project were very sensitive to the community's input into decision making regarding the laying out of timber sales and determining the felling methods. Although the alternative felling techniques were 18 to 42 per cent more expensive than conventional clear-felling, the approach protected forest integrity for other economic enterprises like

recreation, while enhancing the future availability and quality of timber. Furthermore, the use of more sustainable logging techniques allowed the project to access 10 to 20 per cent more land, without citizen protest, than would not have been possible if clear-felling had been used. Alternative logging also employed more individuals than clear-felling methods. Finally the alternative methods allowed the logs to be certified, adding to their market ability.

An important aspect of the project was the experience with alternative methods for selling timber from the project sites. Unlike typical sales, where the timber is sold on the stump, in the Vernon project the timber was sold after it had reached the wood yard. This allowed smaller wood-products manufacturers easier access to the materials and increased financial returns on wood sales. By holding the timber in the log yard, more elaborate and profitable sorting systems could be developed, including woods for acoustic guitars, logs for home construction etc. However, due to constraints on Greenpeace staff time, only 3 per cent of the total volume felled in Vernon was certified and only half of this has sold. And companies have yet to pay a premium for the certified timber.

Overall, the Vernon project has been a financial success. The Ministry of Forestry originally estimated a \$1 million profit but in May 1995 Price Waterhouse reported a net profit of

\$2 million, approximately twice the income that would have been realised with conventional clear-felling, with fewer associated costs from environmental damage. The value added through more intensive sorting is estimated to range from 11 to 42 per cent. The Vernon experience is important in illustrating how environmental concerns can be met through more sustainable logging practices without sacrificing economic performance. Furthermore, alternative logging actually expanded the harvestable timber base by allowing light felling in more sensitive areas. These practices are estimated to generate 3-4 jobs per 1000 m³ of timber produced, verses only one half-time job under conventional clear-cut logging methods.

The preceding article has been extracted from Communities and Forest Management in Canada and the United States, a regional profile of the IUCN Working Group on Community Involvement in Forest Management.

For more information contact Mark Poffenberger (+1-510-525-3084, mpoffen@aol.com) or Simon Rietbergen (+41-22-999-0258, SPR@hq.iucn.org).



certification

Principle 9 agreed

After long debate, a new formulation for Principle 9 of the Forest Stewardship Council's Principles and Criteria covering maintenance of high conservation value forests, has been agreed by the working group. [Anders Lindhe](#) was in the group that met in Chetumal, Mexico, in September 1998.

All twelve working group delegates attended the meeting, which was facilitated by James Sullivan from the FSC. The final text proposals were voted upon in plenary, with almost everything being agreed through full consensus. Changes were also agreed to principles relating to conversion and plantations, consistent with the overall philosophy of the discussion. These now need to be voted on by the FSC membership.



EU logo proposed

WWF has criticised the European Commission's forestry strategy released in November, calling its proposal to create an EU logo for environmentally certified timber as "the last thing we need". The Commission's paper was produced following a request from the European Parliament for an EU strategy on forestry. However, the main new proposal was to develop an EU logo for forest products certified as coming from sustainable sources – in effect creating direct competition with the FSC. The European paper manufacturers' body, CEPI claimed to have worked closely with the Commission's agriculture and industry departments "to ensure that the strategy takes account of certain key principles," including the need to improve the competitiveness of the EU forestry industry. CEPI gave a cautious welcome to the idea of an EU logo for certified timber.

Contact: Pierre Hauselmann: phauselm@cyberlab.ch

News in brief

Three new national certification standards have been agreed by the board of the Forest Stewardship Council, for Bolivia, the UK and Southwest USA.

Source: Pierre Hauselmann (phauselm@cyberlab.ch)

Over 85 per cent of certification is in natural forests according to an analysis of FSC certification by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. By 31 October 1998, 12,334,463 ha had been certified on sites in 27 countries. Six certifiers are involved, with 88.7 per cent of certified forests being classified as natural, 8.5 per cent as plantation and 2.8 per cent as natural/plantation.

Source: Mary Edwards, WCMC

Meyer International is backing certification: and has announced that it will only buy timber that has been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. WWF hailed the decision as "one of the most significant things to happen in the timber trade for decades".

Source: Steve Howard (showard@wwfnet.org)

Text proposals

13

Principle 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

- 9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.
- 9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.
- 9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.
- 9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes. High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:
 - a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (eg endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distributions and abundance
 - b) forest areas that are in or contain, rare threatened or endangered ecosystems
 - c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (eg watershed protection, erosion control)
 - d) forest areas fundamental to meet basic needs of local communities (eg subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

Addition to Principle 6

- 6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: entails a very limited portion of the Forest Management Unit; and does not occur on High Conservation Value forests; and will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the Forest Management Unit.

Addition to Principle 10

- 10.9 Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.

50 years of IUCN

IUCN celebrated fifty years involvement in global conservation, with a conference in Fontainebleau, France, in October 1998, involving politicians and experts from around the world.

The meeting was opened by Her Majesty **Queen Noor** of Jordan, IUCN's Patron, who called on IUCN to devote significant effort to linking environment and security. "The Middle East is typical of how environment-based issues can impact negatively on political and regional events," she said, noting that "we in Jordan made equitable water sharing a cornerstone of our 1994 peace accord with Israel." French Prime Minister **Lionel Jospin** highlighted two themes that emerged from the event. "The first is the need to change consumption patterns," he said, "and the second is the emphasis on the links between environment and security."

The ceremonies brought together leaders of the world's conservation movement, heads of state, scientists and business leaders. Some 300 IUCN members participated in twelve symposia, the results of which led to an "*Appel de Fontainebleau*," which proclaimed: "We have imagined tomorrow's world. It is a world that celebrates and nurtures the essential diversity of life, of cultures and peoples. It is a world in which we will embrace a new environmental ethic that recognises that without nature there is no happiness, no tranquillity, no quality of life. We seek harmony in nature and unity among peoples, for without these, life on earth is not sustainable."

The 50th anniversary events in Fontainebleau were marked by the launch of: the *Reuters-IUCN Media Award*, the first of its kind at a global level. The *IUCN Business Advisory Panel* was also launched. Senior corporate representatives will advise IUCN on partnership opportunities to promote sustainable development. The President of Volkswagen France, **Michel Le Paire**, announced that he had secured the support of BBD, the world's largest advertising agency, to help launch an international awareness campaign in favour of IUCN's goals to foster sustainable development.

The IUCN council, assembled at Fontainebleau, appointed Dr Maritta Koch-Weser as the organisation's new Director General, to succeed David McDowell in early 1999. Dr Koch-Weser, an anthropologist by training, has field experience in international development related to the

environment, along with management and financial skills derived from her extensive work in the environmental and social departments at the World Bank.

At Fontainebleau, IUCN reaffirmed its commitment to working towards forest conservation. Professor Jeff Sayer, former head of IUCN's forest programme and currently Director of the Center for International Forestry Research, gave a lecture on "Globalisation, localisation and protected areas". We reprint a summary below.

We live in a rapidly changing world. Processes of economic integration and growing economic influence of corporations are leading to greater efforts among people in all countries to protect the lifestyles and habitats that they value. Market forces will be the primary determinants of patterns of land use in the future, managers of protected areas ignore this reality at their peril. Globalisation challenges managers of protected areas in two ways. First, it forces us to realistically confront the trade-offs between global conservation values and local development needs, and to decide how we might address these tensions. Second, it requires us to look more carefully at the widely accepted paradigm of achieving conservation objectives through ecologically based local-area management. For conservation organisations, the first challenge is clearly defining objectives and priorities on what to conserve. This should be followed by mobilising the best available science and emerging techniques of working with local human communities to determine the most efficient way of achieving the agreed conservation goals at the least social cost. Greater transparency, objectivity and fairness must be essential elements in the process of allocating land for various purposes. For conservationists, the critical task is to determine the optimal extent, location and management of areas needed to achieve an acceptable balance between the development needs of local people and global biodiversity conservation needs. The inevitable trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and other uses of natural areas are more likely to be widely accepted if they are made in a transparent manner with the full participation of all people concerned, with related economic costs and benefits allocated in an equitable manner. IUCN needs to play a leadership role in helping people protect their land against global pressures and enable them to be fairly compensated for any costs they may incur when they live in areas whose biodiversity values are primarily global and not local.

IUCN held its celebrations at the historical centre of Fontainebleau, France

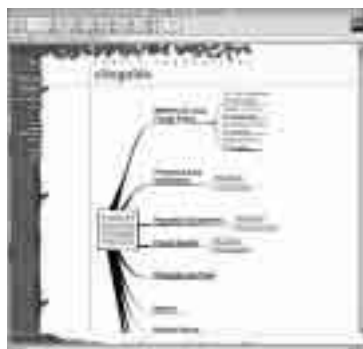


Staff changes at IUCN

There have been several staff changes within IUCN's forest programme. **Guido Broekhoven** has left Africa and is now heading IUCN's Non Timber Forest Product project in Vietnam. **Kherny Klubnikin** recently joined IUCN's US office as a forest officer.

Forest Innovations – From Theory to Practice

IUCN and WWF have just launched a new web site, covering their joint policy work. [Sue Stolton](#) describes what it contains.



The IUCN/WWF *Forests for Life* strategy identifies the need for sustainable forest management at a landscape level. This includes developing an ecologically representative network of forest protected areas, carrying out sustainable management outside protected areas and sometimes also the planned use of tree plantations. Implementation relies on a partnership approach, building

links with non-governmental organisations, local communities, the private sector, aid agencies and government institutions. The current project, which has been funded for three years by the German government agency BMZ, aims to put these ideas into practice through a combined field and policy programme:

On the forest floor: the project is refining and testing a series of toolkits for planning and assessing progress towards the *Forests for Life* vision, including:

- A series of landscape-level forest quality indicators
- A method for assessing management effectiveness in protected areas (including options for verification)
- Social and environmental guidelines for tree plantations

Testing will initially focus on Central Africa and Central America, although other sites are being considered. Methods will undergo rigorous, participatory analysis before being further refined, and will be disseminated through electronic and paper publications, seminars, workshops and international policy processes. The project is actively collaborating with the World Bank, World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and many local NGOs.

Spreading the message: another component will plan and implement effective forest policy advocacy in line with the *Forests for Life* strategy, by:

- Prioritising key forest policy issues
- Identifying which existing regional and international initiatives can help promote these
- Implementing a focused policy programme to advance the aims of *Forests for Life*

Reports are currently underway on mining in forests, the role of logging in high biodiversity forests, illegal timber operations, new approaches to protected areas and the “paper park” phenomenon.

Regionalisation: frustration with international forest initiatives is partly offset by increasing optimism about

some regional forest initiatives, which have given more concrete results than their global counterparts. The collaborating organisations support a greater regional focus and the current project should, if successful, help advance these aims. It is working particularly closely with the Central American biological corridor and the Brazzaville Process in the Congo region. The offices of the partner organisations in the regions control how the project takes place in their own countries.

Partnerships: another underlying aim is to help further co-operation between IUCN, WWF, GTZ and BMZ on forest conservation issues. The project will actively search for additional research, industry and NGO partners during its development. Part of its wider aim is to facilitate greater collaboration between environment and development agencies.

The project is producing a great deal of information in the form of working papers, workshop reports and briefings. These will increase next year, when the IUCN/WWF global forest strategy is revised. To facilitate information flow, a web site has been established for the project, which is being carried out in collaboration with the German aid department GTZ. The web site is now up and running and can be found at www.forests.iucn.org. The site includes descriptions of the each of the project’s activities as well as working papers that will be regularly updated as the project progresses.

The WWF *Forests for Life* Campaign also has a web site at www.panda.org/forests4life, and IUCN has a web site at www.iucn.org.

arborvitæ

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Les Aires Protégées d'Afrique francophone

Gérard Sournia (ed.)

Editions Jean-Pierre de Monza, Paris, 1998, ISBN 2-908071-58-4

Price: 120 French francs

Two themes run through this book about francophone Africa's protected area networks: one is that protected areas cannot be managed in isolation from the surrounding landscapes and without the human populations depending on them, participating in and benefiting from their management. Many rural Africans depend on "bushmeat" from protected areas to meet their animal protein needs. The second is that the larger animal species are generally the most endangered elements of these ecosystems. Sournia reminds us of how entire populations of endangered species were wiped out during periods of violent conflict, and how many park guards lost their lives trying to protect these animals not from the poorest of the poor, but against well-armed and highly mobile poachers. Separate sections summarise the status of the major protected areas in each country and the support (or lack thereof) provided by the main international conventions concerned, and explain the use of IUCN's new protected area categories in selecting priority areas and assigning management objectives to them.

Simon Rietbergen

High Stakes: The need to control transnational logging companies – a Malaysian case study

World Rainforest Movement and Forests Monitor Ltd

Forests Monitor, 114 Broad Street, Ely CB7 4BE UK

Fax: +44 (1)353 669989 e-mail: fmonitor@gn.apc.org

(The report will soon also be available in Spanish, French and Malay editions)

The first in a projected series of studies into the impact of transnational companies on forest-dependent peoples; the report contains descriptions of all the key companies, ten country cases studies, detailed maps of concessions and many stories of human and environmental abuse. A model for the kind of detailed, hard-hitting reports that are needed to focus public attention on the abuses practised by powerful companies, and on the valiant efforts of many people to resist the destruction of their land.

Nigel Dudley

Biodiversity Conservation in Central Asia

Edited by Vladimir Krever, Olga Pereladova, Margaret Williams and Hartmut Jungius, WWF, Gland

A review of the current status and future opportunities for biodiversity conservation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Drawing on the experience of over 300 specialists from the region, this is the most comprehensive analysis that has ever been available in English. It includes a valuable introduction to the politics, ecology and existing environmental legislation in the area, then lists an initial investment portfolio for priority biodiversity conservation projects, giving a description of the problem, proposed action and estimates of funds required.

The Community Woodland Handbook

compiled by Donald McPhillimy, Reforesting Scotland,

21a Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF UK

Price: £4.50

This excellent booklet is aimed at people in Scotland, but deserves a larger audience. It explains how to organise, plan, inspire and manage community woodlands and is written by people with a wealth of experience; while practical details of legal structures and funding are Scottish, the wider lessons have universal applicability.

Nigel Dudley

Conservation Outside Nature Reserves

edited by Peter Hale and David Lamb, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland Qld 4072, Australia

A massive volume containing over 90 papers and articles based mainly on Australian experience but with wider applications. Of particular interest to *arborvitæ* readers, one section looks at production forestry and nature conservation, including management within commercial forests and biological diversity in plantation forests.

Olives: The life and lore of a noble fruit

Mort Rosenblum

Absolute Press, Scarborough House, 29 James Street West, Bath, Somerset Price: £14.95

In 1986, journalist Mort Rosenblum bought an old farm in Provence and discovered that he had acquired 150 ancient olive trees as well. This book is the result of a growing obsession, and looks at the lore, history and myth of the olive, related by means of a meandering travelogue as the author travels the Mediterranean and beyond in search stories about one of the world's oldest cultivated trees.

New Publications from IUCN

The IUCN Forest Conservation programme has published several important new publications. *Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Kyrgyzstan's Walnut-fruit Forests*, the proceedings of a seminar in Arslanbob, Kyrgyzstan, organised by the government, IUCN and Intercooperation. The volume contains both general papers setting the scene in terms of forest management, and a wealth of detailed information about walnut production and other aspects of forest management in this hitherto little known Central Asian state. *From Conflict to Collaboration: People and forests at Mount Elgon, Uganda*, by Penny Scott, is a detailed study of the relationship between people and forest conservation in an important protected area that straddles the Kenya-Uganda border. It documents local attitudes, the degree of dependence on the forest and the development of a collaborative approach. *Participatory Techniques for Community Forestry* by W J Jackson and A Ingles is a field manual that will be reviewed in detail in the next issue of *arborvitæ*. The Mesoamerican programme has a pamphlet, available in Spanish and English, on its programme from 1997-2000.