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The editors and authors are responsible for their own articles. Their opinions do not necessarily always express the views of WWF or IUCN.

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At the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in May, the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* highlighted growing dissatisfaction amongst many government delegates: "It was evident from the level of debate that a sense of lethargy was pervasive... Many delegates were frequently seen exiting the plenary and working group discussions shaking their heads in despair. The heavily bracketed text in a large number of documents symbolises the lack of progress at this meeting."

The IFF was charged with the task of taking forward the decisions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and developing additional proposals for action. However, almost two years into the process, many observers are concerned that the IFF process is moving backwards. One government participant at IFF 3 remarked that the IFF has been "downhill all the way" while another referred to delegates as looking like "stunned mullets" as negotiations floundered. Although several governments were prepared to demonstrate leadership, particularly with respect to protected areas, their proposals were often not included in the text being negotiated even though they received broad support. Furthermore, the results of time-consuming and expensive intersessional meetings were largely sidelined, including those on protected areas and underlying causes of forest loss. Meanwhile, other governments seemed content to renegotiate elements of *Agenda 21* as if decisions had not been taken seven years ago.

Despite the expenditure of vast amounts of time, money and goodwill, the rate of deforestation in many parts of the world is increasing and forest quality continues to decline. Old debates and approaches, and a focus on institutions and instruments rather than on what needs to be done now, are hampering intergovernmental efforts to deal with forest loss and degradation.

Meanwhile, the greatest progress is being made outside the intergovernmental process, for example, a rapid increase in the independent certification of forest management practices, successful experiences with local community management of forests, and commitment to new protected area networks in many countries.

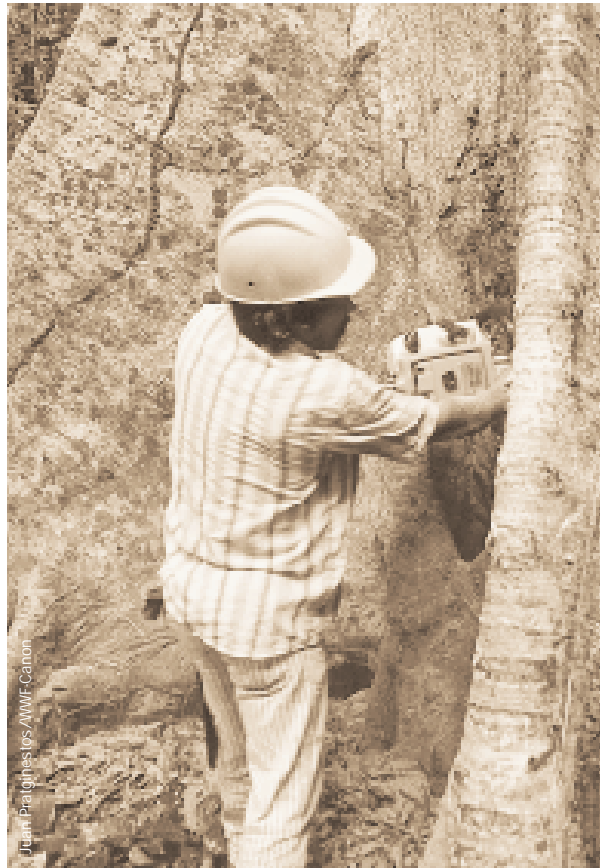
There is an urgent need for international political support for these types of forest conservation and management actions. In other words, an approach is needed that emphasises immediate action and builds on the progress being made on the ground, while supporting the positive outcomes of intergovernmental processes. Such an approach needs to bring together individuals, indigenous and local communities, non governmental organisations, the private sector and governments in a partnership that will ensure the conservation and sustainable management of the world's forests.

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

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Para State, Amazon. An ancient, hollow tree being cut for plywood, despite little of it being of commercial value

Amazon destruction

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon increased by 27 per cent in 1998. Preliminary figures from satellite monitoring showed 16,800 km² of land cleared last year, which means that since 1972, a total of 532,086 km², 13.3 per cent of the entire Amazon region, has been lost. Even these figures could be an underestimate as the monitoring only spots deforested areas of over 6 ha. The rate of deforestation is backed up by a new report from the Woods Hole Research Centre that found forest loss running at more than twice the rate reported by the Brazilian authorities. According to Daniel Nepstad: "Our field studies of wood mills and forest burning across Brazilian Amazon show that logging crews severely damage 10,000 to 15,000km² a year of forest that are not included in deforestation mapping programs, while surface fires burn additional large areas of standing forest".

According to WWF measures to curb deforestation announced by the government in January 1998 have not worked. Those measures included new restrictions on the use of fire to clear jungle - a move that was later effectively vetoed by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso - and new legislation for the forestry industry that has yet to take effect. A plan to protect 10 per cent of the Amazon rainforest, announced by President Cardoso in April 1998, was finally signed in March 1999 and US\$300,000 of World Bank funding is available to finance a preparation project.

Source: Reuters Ltd. 1999 and Environment News Service (ENS) 1999
Contact: Regina Vasquez. Email: regina@wwf.org.br

Fires update

Prepared in collaboration with [Peter Moore](#)

Tanzania Villagers and soldiers put out fires on Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania in mid-February. The fires destroyed 70 ha of forest and hundreds of hectares of other vegetation. It is suspected that some of the estimated 10,000 squatters living in the protected areas and natural forests on the mountain started the fires. A fund has been set up for investment in fire fighting equipment and strategies.

Source: Environment News Service 1999.

Nepal & Bhutan Natural forest was reported to be burning in different parts of Nepal in mid-March including in the Langtang National Park. Experts estimated that at least 200 ha were affected. Exceptionally dry weather is thought to be a major factor. In Bhutan, it is reported that nearly 8,000 ha of broadleaf and pine forests have been destroyed, and that the haze resulting from the fires has caused major problems.

Source: WWF Nepal and WWF International.

Protection Bureau: <http://flame.doacs.state.fl.us/Suppress>.

Mexico & Central America As a result of the devastation caused in 1998, President Ernesto Zedillo has issued a decree that identifies 85 priority forest sites affected by fire, where changes in land use are now prohibited and the regeneration of natural vegetation is to be encouraged. These areas cover 188,000 ha, about 120,000 of which are already within established protected areas.

Satellites recorded several active fire signals in Mexico and Central America in late April. Several potential fires were detected in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

Sources: WWF Mexico: Tel: +525-286-5631, E-mail: GCastilleja@wwfnet.org and the Global Fire Monitoring Centre - <http://www.ruf.uni-freiburg.de/fireglobe>

China In January-February, 126 forest fires occurred in Yunnan province, burning 1,539 ha, over twenty times the area that burned in 1998. In Guangdong province 263 fires have burned so far in 1999 and in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region 30 forest fires occurred in January, burning 2,110 ha and killing 2,570,000 seedlings. Two forest fires occurred in Yulong Snow Mountain Nature Protected Region in Yunnan in early March, and three police officers were killed while fire fighting. Forest scientists plan to establish firebreaks throughout China by 2010. Tree species are being selected for their ability to resist fires and to regenerate quickly following burning. It is hoped that these could replace traditional fire suppression methods. The Global Fire Monitoring Centre has warned of early spring fires in the southern temperate-boreal Asia. Below-average snow fall in the Himalayan Region and the northern-boreal forest of North China and Mongolia indicate that the 1999 spring fire season may be early and very severe.

Sources: Environment News Service and Global Fire Monitoring Centre - <http://www.ruf.uni-freiburg.de/fireglobe>

Brazil Researchers at the Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazonia in Belém, Brazil, and the Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts, predict that unusually low rainfall in 1998 has increased the fire-vulnerable forest area to over a million square kilometres, or one third of the Amazonian forest. The researchers calculate that more than one half of this drought-stressed forest (700,000 km²) had depleted all available soil water to five-metre depth by the end of September.

Source: Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazonia (IPAM)

Greece Last summer, more than 7,500 ha of forest burned on Mount Penteli, near Athens, a popular suburban area. In February, the government announced reforestation and protection measures for only 2,500 ha, leaving the remaining 5,000 ha to be developed for housing and other activities. Following a campaign by WWF Greece, the Minister of Environment "ordered" the local authorities to change the measures and include all the burned area in reforestation plans.

Source: Aristotelis Papageorgiou, E-mail: a.papageorgiou@wwf.gr

USA The dry April weather has so far contributed to 2,772 wildfires in 1999, burning more than 97,560 ha in Florida. Lightning caused most of the wildfires. A fire in the Apalachicola National Forest forced people from their homes.

Source: Environment News Service 1999, Global Fire Monitoring Centre

South East Asia The large wildfires of 1997-98, extensive forest degradation and spread of "alang-alang" (*Imperata cylindrica*) grasslands, facilitate uncontrolled fires. The Meteorological Service of Singapore reported on 26 April 1999: "The region continues to be clear of significant forest fires and smoke haze. Only isolated and occasional hot spots and small smoke haze areas are being detected over central and northern parts of Sumatra".

Forests and Culture

The Kenyan coastal kaya forests fulfil twin roles as spiritual sites and important conservation areas. They are currently under threat and, with the co-operation of local communities, have been declared national monuments.



Indorayon: An end in sight?

Following years of debate about deforestation, plantation establishment and pollution, and as a result of public pressure, President Habibie has temporarily halted Indorayon's paper and rayon pulp factory near the town of Porsea, near Lake Toba in North Sumatra. President Habibie also pledged to issue an immediate presidential decree declaring Lake Toba and 300,000 ha of surrounding land as a World Heritage area. The factory's future will be decided by an environmental impact assessment. Lake Toba is a major tourist attraction and an important source of food and water. It also has cultural values for the Batak people.

Source: Otto Miettinen, email: om@sil.fi

Oil drilling in Guatemala

In December 1998, Basic Petroleum International Ltd. (a subsidiary of Union Pacific Resources) installed a drilling platform in the country's largest protected tropical forest without prior knowledge or consent of the community. A concession has been granted around El Carmelita and Uaxactun, inside the 16,000 km² Maya Biosphere Reserve. The communities harvest "xate" (*Chamaedorea* sp.), "chicle" (chewing gum, *Manilkara achras*) and pepper (*Pimenta dioica*). According to locals: "The oil workers drove in ... and installed the platform in the soccer field right in the middle of the community...In a few years (they) could destroy the forest that we're counting on to feed our families for at least 25 years".

Sources: Witness for Peace and Oilwatch Mesoamerica, Email: oilwatch@guate.net

The world's largest chip mill planned in Chile

A giant pulp mill, planned by Boise Cascade Corporation and Maderas Condor S.A. in Ilque Bay, threatens over 2 million ha of forest. The company's environmental impact study covered only the mill site itself although it will "double the demand for wood chips in Chile and hence double the rate of forest destruction", says Adriana Hoffmann of Defenders of the Chilean Forests. A 1995 study by Chile's Central Bank predicted that at current exploitation rates all unprotected native forests will be gone in 20 years. Already, less than 40 per cent of the temperate rainforests remain. The forests near the planned mill are home to the pudu, the world's smallest deer, and 40 other endangered mammals.

Source: Global Response Action, USA. Tel: +1-303-444-0306, Web: <http://www.globalresponse.org>

Spanish Forest Strategy

Spain's first national forest strategy is likely to be approved this year, including proposals for a reforestation programme, a new national forest management council and forest certification, and a commitment to investigate the devolution of control to local councils. Esperanza Lopez of Ecologists in Action criticises the strategy's principle of compensation that she said would "allow the felling of ancient or mature woodland in exchange for new and non-native plantations elsewhere". WWF pointed out that only 5 per cent of woodland has sustainable management plans and that the strategy does not specify how initiatives are to be funded - new tax approaches and a re-use of Common Agricultural Policy funds are both required. The proposals are also not well enough integrated into the EC's RED NATURA 2000 initiative.



Hurricane Mitch

Hurricane damage in a Miskito Indian village

Research is increasingly linking the worst impacts of last year's Hurricane Mitch in Central America with areas that had previously undergone deforestation. The IUCN office in Central America is going to undertake a study into this issue.

Contact: IUCN/ORMA web site <http://www.iucn.org/places/orma>



Sweden: Land rights conflicts threaten Sámi culture

A number of Swedish Sámi communities have been sued by private landowners who refuse access to reindeer on their forested land. The Sámi could lose traditional winter grazing rights and will then be forced to give up reindeer herding in areas where forests are owned by private landowners. On state land, and in forests owned by large forestry companies, the grazing rights are fully respected. However, no boundaries distinguish these areas, making it impossible to keep reindeer away from private land.

Source: Taiga Rescue Network web site: <http://www.snf.se/TRN>.
Email: taiga@jokkmokk.se

News in brief

Illegal logging in Cambodia

In 1997, forestry revenues returned less than \$13 million to the Cambodian national budget, whilst losses from illegal logging were estimated at \$184 million, according to NGO Global Witness. The World Bank warns that Cambodia's forests could be commercially logged out in five years. Preceding an aid donor's meeting in February 1999, Cambodian PM Hun Sen ordered a crackdown on illegal logging, but only a month later, logs were being exported from Cambodia's Stung Treng province to Thailand via Laos. Logs were also seen heading towards Vietnam.

Source: gwitness@gn.apc.org; <http://www.oneworld.org/globalwitness>

Privatisation of forests in Canada

The government of British Columbia plans to transfer ownership and cutting rights on public land worth an estimated Can \$83.7 million (US\$55.7 million) to forest giant Macmillan Bloedel. As part of the deal, MacBlo will receive 30,000 ha of Crown land, containing timber worth at least Can \$263 million. In return, it will drop a lawsuit stating that protected area creation on Vancouver Island has affected harvesting rights. Due to ownership being transferred, the land will be exempt from the Forest Practices Code. Some of the land is subject to First Nations Treaty negotiations and community land-use planning by groups that have engaged in the provincial Land Resource Management Plan.

Source: Sierra Legal Defence Fund, Tel: +1-604-685-5618, www.sierralegal.org.

Burma facing forest crisis

According to research by the World Resources Institute, the rate of deforestation in Burma has more than doubled since the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) took control of the country in 1988. This has mainly been due to a rapid increase in logging in border areas, and timber exports have helped maintain the regime through doubling the size of the army. Some indigenous groups and foreign companies have also been involved in the logging. Satellite images show that commercial logging is responsible for almost half the forest degradation.

Source: Logging Burma's Frontier Forests: Resources and the Regime by Jake Brunner *et al*, World Resources Institute.

A new Global Forest Watch initiative

The World Resources Institute has launched a new, independent, world-wide forest monitoring network, Global Forest Watch. GFW combines advanced satellite technology, geographic information systems (GIS) and data gathered on the ground, to monitor development (i.e. logging and mining) within the world's remaining "frontier" forests. WRI is currently working on pilot projects in Cameroon, Canada, Gabon and Indonesia.

Source: gfw@wri.org

Kenyan students protest for the forests

Students protesting at the destruction of Kenya's forests clashed with riot police in Nairobi in February. The conflict began when the police tried to stop the planting of tree seedlings in a forest area on the outskirts of the city that has been sold for luxury housing development.

Source: *The Guardian*, 1/2/99

Intersessional meetings of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

A series of side meetings in the first half of 1999 have sought - sometimes in vain - to reach agreement on important forest issues. An **Experts Meeting on Protected Areas** took place in Puerto Rico in March, hosted by the USA and Brazil. The meeting generally gave backing for the IUCN definition and categories of protected areas - an important recognition given recent attempts to dilute definitions to allow large-scale industrial activity within protected areas. It also supported the role of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in establishing systems for assessment of management effectiveness in protected areas. WCPA prepared a commissioned paper on mechanisms for protection, and papers on the economics of protected areas and protected area classification systems. IUCN and WWF also worked with the World Bank to prepare a commissioned paper on options for assessing management effectiveness. The Australian government also published a substantial paper on forest protected areas,

co-authored by Don Gilmour, former head of the IUCN of forest programme. The **Canada-Costa Rica Initiative**, in San José in February 1999, was less successful in reaching consensus on the need for legal instruments on forests, drawing forthright criticism from governments and NGOs about both the approach and a perceived bias towards a convention. Another Costa Rica meeting, the culmination of a series of regional meetings on **Addressing the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation** took place in February - the final report is reviewed on page 15. Several regional offices of WWF and IUCN contributed papers to this process. A meeting on **The Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management** took place in April, in Santiago, Chile and is assessed on page 11. Finally, a planned meeting on trade has been postponed and may now not take place.

Research in Brief

A long-term research project assessing the tree growth and mortality of over 600,000 individual trees in the humid tropics, the humid Neotropics, humid lowland Neotropics and Amazonia, suggests that mature Neotropical forest biomass may be a significant carbon sink (*Science* **282**, October 1998). Ozone is reducing tree growth in Southern Sweden by between 3-10 per cent according to research carried out by the Botanical Institution at Gothenburg University and the Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL). The greater sensitivity of northern forests to ozone appears to be due to the relatively damp climate and longer daylight hours in summer that increases susceptibility to damage (*IVL Report B1306*, www.ivl.se). A new paper from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), *How Sustainable Are North American Wood Supplies?*, casts doubts on whether supplies are sustainable. The US harvests more than 500 million cubic metres of timber a year. The government's Forestry Service says this amount could be increased by more than 40 per cent by 2040. But, the report states, national data on wood supplies takes no account of government commitments to maintain tree cover, protect against erosion and sustain biodiversity in forests. Forestry scientists simply work out how much timber is growing and assume it can all be harvested. In Canada official statistics still refer to a 1985 study of timber growth. The authors believe this is an overestimate by as much as 40 per cent in some provinces and that the rate of harvesting in Canada is now approaching twice the rate of replanting. (www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/FOR/).



Nigel Dudley

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations; "This Summit can help us make the necessary adjustments, and point us in the proper direction: towards implementation of forest laws to reduce illegal logging; towards tax reforms and other changes in economic policy that promote sustainable forest management..."

Commonwealth Secretary-General, HE Chief Emeka Anyaoku CON; "This Summit meeting on forests in the Congo Basin is evidence that there is a willingness to confront the problems and search for the solutions at all levels: local, national, regional and international..."



Devendra Rana reports on the Summit of Central African Heads of State on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forest (the Yaoundé Summit) which took place on March 17 1999.

The Summit was the largest ever meeting of African heads of state to discuss forest conservation. It was attended by Heads of State (or their representatives) of Congo Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Gabon and Chad, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Executive Director of UNEP representing the Secretary General of the UN, Deputy Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity and the Vice President for Environment of The World Bank. It was hosted by President Biya of Cameroon and co-chaired by HRH Prince Philip (President Emeritus of WWF).

At the end of their deliberations the Heads of State signed the Yaoundé Declaration. This sends a strong political signal that forest conservation is an important issue in Central Africa. The declaration makes specific reference to the need for a trans-frontier network of protected areas, as well as the importance of improving the management of existing areas. It refers to the need to work with local communities to conserve forests, and expresses support for forest certification. There was also a clear recognition of the threats posed by the illegal bushmeat trade and illegal logging, and the need to crack down on these problems.

Contact: Devendra Rana. Email: drana@wwfnet.org

News in brief

New WWF International Publications

Living Planet Index: The *Living Planet Report* highlights the rapid decline of the world's natural ecosystems and the human pressures of resource consumption and pollution that they currently face. The report presents the Living Planet index, a measure of the change in the health of the world's natural ecosystems since 1970. The *Living Planet Report* will be produced annually with the next issue due later in 1999.

Contact: Jonathan Loh Tel: +41-22-364-9505, Email: jl@wwfnet.org

The World Bank/WWF Alliance has produced a short booklet detailing the alliance's targets and key projects.

Contact: Bruce.Cabarle@wwfus.org or Rod Taylor, Tel: +41-22-364-9018
Email: rtaylor@wwfnet.org or <http://www.esd.worldbank.org/wwf>

Palm oil in Indonesia: Oil palm plantations already cover 2.4 million ha of Indonesia and the government plans to double this by 2005. A report from WWF-Germany - *Lipstick Traces in the Rainforest* - notes that Germany is the world's fifth largest importer of crude palm oil (494,000 tonnes in 1997), with more than half coming from Indonesia. Research by WWF-Indonesia blames plantation companies for up to 80 per cent of 1997's forest fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan. The government plans to continue expansion of palm oil plantations. WWF - Germany calls on companies to disclose their palm oil trade figures and to seek sustainable land use options in Indonesia. The report is available free of charge, in German and English.

Contact: Markus Radday, Tel: +49-69-617-221, radday@wwf.de

New Staff

Melody Mobley has joined the Conservation Science Program at WWF-US, coming with 21 years of experience with the USDA Forest Service.

Contact: melody.mobley@wwfus.org.

WWF Sweden has a new head for the Forest Program, Stefan Bleckert. Stefan comes directly from the Swedish National Board of Forestry.

Contact: stefan.bleckert@wwf.se

Obituary

Jos Beerlink of WWF Belgium, Caroline Dubois of WWF-Cameroon and Samuel Ndoumbe Manga of Yaoundé University died in a car accident in Cameroon in February. They will all be greatly missed by colleagues and friends. The WWF Forest Network will miss them and offers condolences to their families.

WWF Brazil's Campaign On Protected Areas

March saw the launch of WWF-Brazil's nation-wide campaign on protected areas. The **Protect the Brazilian Parks** campaign aims to help address the problems facing the country's national parks and reserves. Only 1.85 per cent of Brazil's land area is protected and, according to a technical report recently released by WWF-Brazil, 75 per cent of the 86 protected areas created over 6 years ago are under threat. The campaign thus seeks to inform, raise awareness and mobilise different segments of Brazilian society to support national parks and federal reserves, help improve their implementation and make them less vulnerable.

The campaign will last until Environment Week in June 2000. A large part of the problem facing Brazil's protected area network appears to be financial. In order to meet budget targets set with the International Monetary Fund, the Brazilian government radically cut many environmental programmes. For instance, the Programme for Expansion and Consolidation of Protected Areas in the Brazilian Amazon Region received a 100 per cent cut and the Pilot Programme for Conservation of Brazil's Rainforests was cut by 89.6 per cent.

Contact: Regina Vasquez. Email: regina@wwf.org.br

World Bank Review

The World Bank is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of its controversial 1991 forest policy. It is attempting to develop an integrated strategy for all its activities that impact on forests in order to promote sustainable forest management and enhance the role of forest resources in alleviating poverty. The review will put the spotlight on mainstream World Bank activities such as structural adjustment and infrastructure lending and will cover not only policy, but also the World Bank's implementation strategy, which many observers consider to be the main problem area. Details of the process are available at the World Bank's web site: <http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/essd/forestpol-e.nsf/mainview?openview>.

IUCN has committed itself to take on two distinct roles in the review: process and substance.

On process, IUCN has agreed to join the World Bank in a limited partnership for the duration of their FPIRS to advise the World Bank on how to conduct a global review process that will be open to a broad range of stakeholders and run in a transparent manner.

On substance, IUCN will participate as a stakeholder in the review process in order to advocate substantive positions on the existing forest policy and forthcoming strategy, to the extent that these affect our mission of promoting environmentally sustainable and socially equitable development.

IUCN will maintain a strict internal division between these two roles. To maintain this division, IUCN has obtained assurances that the limited partnership with the World Bank will not imply IUCN endorsement of any of the products of the review and that IUCN will maintain independence to publish and present its own views on the substantive issues. In this regard, IUCN's challenge is to assist the World Bank in strengthening the environmental and social safeguards applied to its operations impacting on forests, while at the same time developing a more pro-active agenda to ensure

Dagmar Timmer describes the co-ordination process to support IUCN members, Commissions and the Secretariat in advocating substantive positions on the World Bank's Forest Policy Implementation Review and Strategy (FPIRS)

that their interventions contribute to achieving their poverty alleviation and environmental conservation objectives.

IUCN will facilitate the involvement of its members in the World Bank's regional consultation process (September to November 1999). IUCN will convene meetings with regional members and partners to develop strategies and recommendations, ensuring that local and regional experiences are fully expressed. IUCN will also work to ensure that the key regional issues are clarified and case studies identified which support these issues.

IUCN will provide critiques of the World Bank's regional assessments and analytical studies, on such topics as the role of plantations, poverty and forests, economic valuation, carbon and forests, and governance issues (for a list see the World Bank's web site). IUCN will prepare additional papers to re-think key issues such as how to address trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation and what tools can be brought to bear on rampant corruption in the forestry sector. IUCN aims to ensure that conservation perspectives and options grounded in science and in the best of current practice are available to the consultation process.

Following the regional consultations, the World Bank will conduct two meetings of the global Advisory Group (AG) to formulate the strategy (tentatively December 1999 and March 2000). IUCN will prepare position papers and recommendations for the AG meetings on the basis of IUCN's regional inputs and global analytical work.

For more information about IUCN's role in this process, or to contribute to IUCN's strategy, please contact: forests@hq.iucn.org (World Bank Substantive Input).

IUCN News in brief

Staff News

Danielle Cantin has joined the Temperate and Boreal Forest Programme, based in IUCN Canada, as the Assistant Co-ordinator. Danielle comes to IUCN from the North American Commission for Environmental Co-operation (CEC). Prior to joining the CEC, she spent several years working as a field biologist and was the co-editor of a book on the sustainable development of forests in Québec. Her graduate work was on the effects of climate change on Jack pine seedlings. She is fluent in English, French and Spanish.

Contact: dcantin@iucn.ca

Dagmar Timmer has joined the international secretariat as a junior programme officer to work on the World Bank FPIRS and the Working Group on Community Involvement in Forest Management. Most of her previous experience has been with environmental and youth organisations, particularly those concerned with influencing policy. She holds an MA focused on public policy and environment.

Contact: dtimmer@iucn.org

Community Involvement in Forest Management in Europe

An IUCN working group is compiling a European profile on community involvement in forest management (CIFM). The European experience with CIFM is particularly rich and diverse and could provide valuable lessons on opportunities and constraints.

If you are involved in CIFM in Europe (practice, policy or research) and would like to collaborate with the project, contact Sally Jeanrenaud: Tel. +41-22-368-2072
E-mail: s.jeanrenaud@span.ch

New Publication: *Non-timber Forest Products - Value, use and management issues in Africa, including examples from Latin America*

Edited by S A Crafter, J Awimbo and A J Broekhoven
Papers from a workshop on use of non-timber forest products, comparing experience from Africa and Latin America - a unique compilation of information.

Contact: IUCN Forest Conservation Programme, IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office, PO Box 68200, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: +254-2-890606,
E-mail: mail@iucn.unon.org

Guatemala

As Guatemala emerges from a long and brutal civil war, conservation organisations are working with local communities to protect a series of forest habitats. This special *arborvitae* feature charts the progress of two important IUCN projects.

Laguna Lachua

Laguna Lachua is in many ways a classic protected area: dense primary forest surrounding an oval lake with a wealth of wildlife species. The water is so warm that it steams and visitors can swim in dense shoals of young fish. Indeed, the area was originally designated for aesthetic reasons. But it has also, until recently, been in the middle of a war zone and extreme social problems exist alongside conservation needs. Issues such as biodiversity protection must inevitably take their place alongside other priorities and as a result conservation professionals often find themselves addressing issues far removed from traditional wildlife management.

The protected area covers 14,000 ha in the north of the country and is surrounded by a mixture of farmland and secondary forest that is itself under increasing exploitation

pressure. Nineteen villages exist near Laguna Lachua and there are a total of 45 in the vicinity. Some are settled illegally, often by refugees returning after the fighting and many people are still reliant on food supplies from the UN High Commission on Refugees. Although the fighting has stopped, fears and suspicions remain and the area is suffering from years of neglect. Many people have no adequate access to land.

In such circumstances, conservation will only work if local people see positive benefits in having a protected area. The IUCN project therefore focuses on both the reserve itself and on the welfare of surrounding local communities. It has supplied capacity building and infrastructure to park officials, including equipment and educational displays. Research is being carried out to record the species present and IUCN has helped develop a management plan. In Central America as a whole, 78 per cent of protected areas have no management plan. Partly as a result of these efforts, the protected area itself still remains relatively untouched; there is some encroachment to the north, cardamom planting in the west and a certain amount of illegal logging of valuable mahogany, mainly by outsiders. A major extension of the protected area was agreed a few years ago. However, the buffer zone has been heavily exploited and the edge of the reserved area is currently marked by an abrupt transition from farmland to forest.

Outside, IUCN has worked with local officials and communities to ensure that sustainable livelihoods are possible without further damaging biodiversity. This includes developing agroforestry systems, including experiments with new strains of rice and chilli, the introduction of cash crops such as cocoa and the provision of support for efforts to raise corn, beans and cardamom. IUCN project officers also work with a local family in an experiment to establish a captive-breeding colony of a wild mammal that provides an important source of protein. Crucially, IUCN also provides advice and resources to help communities establish legal land tenure rights, thus increasing security of land use and giving local communities the incentive to maintain the entire landscape.

Efforts have also been made to develop the lake for ecotourism; a well-made path runs through the forest from the road and a boat can take visitors around the lake to a lodge on the shore. Access from the settled areas of the south currently involves either a lengthy road trip or a flight, although road links are likely to improve.

In Laguna Lachua, ecotourism is being encouraged by the construction of lodges and educational material.

Sue Stolton



Pacific mangroves

IUCN's second major project in Guatemala could hardly be more different. The ***Sustainable Management of the Associated Resources to the Mangroves of the Pacific of Guatemala***, covers the whole Pacific coast but concentrates its activities on mangrove areas and on local communities who are using mangrove resources. The project's aims are twofold: to contribute both to the conservation and protection of mangroves, including in some cases restoration, and to the economic, social and cultural development of local communities.

In Monterico, a local mayor recently constructed an illegal canal straight through the mangrove reserve and illegal tourist lodges are starting to be developed.

One focus of the project is to support the administration of the Monterico Natural Reserve and Multiple Use Area, an area administered by CONAP, the Conservation Studies Centre of the Universidad de San Carlos, where IUCN is working with CONAP, the National Commission for Protected Areas. Monterico is a vibrant community, with five villages within the 2,800 ha protected area. Here ecotourism - or perhaps more accurately tourism with an ecological content - is already well established. But the pressures on the land are even greater and the local peoples' general goodwill towards the environment is balanced by pressing needs for land and money. The protected area is also coming under increasing pressure from outsiders.

Although the area was originally established to protect marine turtles, the IUCN project focuses on the whole area, well beyond the borders of the reserve. The mangrove habitat is deteriorating as a result of both changes in land use and timber extraction. Mangroves are destroyed to create shrimp farms, tourist developments (frequently illegal), as a result of agrochemical pollution and through extraction of timber. Until recently, there was relatively little recognition of the importance of the mangroves and the area was regarded as worthless scrub.

The IUCN project aims to both educate people about the role of mangroves (for example in maintaining fish stocks) and to provide alternative livelihoods for local people. On a larger scale, it aims to develop a collaborative management plan for the whole area. Conservationists are not arguing that the entire reserve should be set aside, but that much of the area should continue to be used, albeit within the framework of an agreed sustainable management plan.

The project started by developing a portfolio of land-use options and farming techniques to take pressure off the mangroves. Neem trees (*Azadirachta indica*) are being grown to provide a safe pesticide to replace polluting agrochemicals. Bamboo is being cultivated, in a joint venture with a local farmer, to provide supports for the local cultivation of loofah (*Luffa aegyptiaca*) used as a body scrubber; a hectare of loofah production could take up to 1200 mangrove stems. Local villagers are collaborating directly in the restoration of mangroves through



Nigel Dudley

establishment of a nursery where trees are planted out after 8 months. Technical innovations are also being encouraged, for example in bee keeping.

More traditionally, the reserve is also running a captive-breeding programme with cayman and iguana. The iguanas are released back to the wild each year on the 5th June - World Environment Day - as part of a festival for the local children. In addition, people collecting turtle eggs for sale along the whole Pacific coast are being asked to make a voluntary donation of 20 per cent of the eggs to one of 14 local turtle egg breeding centres for incubation to increase survival rate. There is estimated to be a 95 per cent success rate in this voluntary system and its long-term sustainability is currently being researched.

Development of a management plan is still ongoing. Project staff explained the concepts to villagers, who then elected representatives to take part in the planning process. Several workshops have been held to date, involving first just the communities themselves, then outside stakeholders and finally a full planning exercise. The land has been zoned into four areas: intensive use areas, extensive use areas, restoration areas and special protection areas. Within the various areas rules are agreed collectively, within the framework of national legislation: guidelines are proposed, discussed and eventually voted upon. All the water areas are extensive use areas, except the special protection areas, in recognition of the importance of fishing to the local communities and mangroves themselves can sometimes be cut following an application to the protected area authority and a needs assessment.

Neither of these projects is perfect of course. Both suffer from lack of resources; for example there are only four wardens to patrol the whole of Monterico and it is almost impossible to control all illegal activities. On the other hand, both projects also show that protected areas are not inevitably in conflict with other land uses. Even in a poor country, with many political and social problems, sensitively managed conservation can go hand in hand with development.

This article is based on information supplied by Jorge Alberto Ruiz, Blanca Aragon, César Augusto Sandoval Garcla, Monika von Koschitzky and Raquel Siguenza de Micheo

meetings and courses

10

Rehabilitation of Degraded Land in the Lower Mekong Basin

IUCN Workshop, March 31 to April 1 1999, Bangkok

While conservationists struggle to protect remaining forests in some parts of the world, in other areas the wave of deforestation has already passed by and priorities are now to re-establish viable forests once again. The countries in the Lower Mekong Basin - Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos - are still in the process of losing their natural forests; the process is well advanced in Thailand and more recently dramatic forest loss has also affected parts of the other countries (see report on page 4). A collaborative IUCN-GTZ project is looking beyond the immediate problems, at how forests could be rehabilitated in the future. Following a series of country case studies, prepared in collaboration with IUCN country offices, a workshop was held at the Asian Institute of Technology to compare and discuss the results and plan the next phase of the project.

The workshop drew together senior forestry officials from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, along with researchers and academics. People had the chance to exchange experiences and to take part in workshops that examined

whether or not there was a common vision for forest landscapes in the region. Similarities between the three countries emerged, along with some important differences.

In all three countries, forests in the future likely to be part of a mosaic of land uses and a landscape approach to planning will become increasingly important. Given the economic problems of the region, any rehabilitation efforts will only work if they are also linked to providing secure livelihoods and in the future local people should be more centrally involved in decisions relating to forest management. Policy should be closely linked to grassroots implementation - a move from talk to action - and in particular there is a need to engage smallholders in forest rehabilitation. This in turn assumes that there will be greater security of investment, particularly relating to land tenure and indeed recognition of the importance of current efforts at land allocation ran like a thread through the whole discussion. New and more robust forest management techniques will be needed, including the incorporation of environmental guidelines and perhaps also greater emphasis on natural regeneration. The developments will also rely upon fundamental changes in institutions and a more flexible outlook towards policies, along with better investment and support such as capacity building, training and extension.

Calendar of Events

Forest Biotechnology: Into the Next Millennium

July 11-16, Oxford, UK

Contact: M M Campbell, University of Oxford, Dept. Plant Sciences, South Parks Road, Oxford, UK

Tel: +44-1865-275-135

Fax: +44-1865-275-074

E-mail: malcolm.campbell@plants.ox.ac.uk

Web site: <http://ifs.plants.ox.ac.uk>

Forestry Scenario Modelling in Risk Analysis and Management EFI, FFRI and IUFRO, International Seminar and Summer School

August 5-13, Joensuu, Finland

Contact: Brita Pajari, European Forest Institute, Torikatu 34, FIN-801000, Joensuu, Finland

Tel: +358-13-252-0223

Fax: +358-13-124-393

E-mail: pajari@efi.fi

IUFRO Biodiversity Conference: impact of logging on biodiversity

October 18-22, Hanoi, Vietnam

Contact: Rita Mustikasari, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Tel.: +62-251-622 622 ext.209

Fax: +62-251-622-100

E-mail: r.mustikasari@cgnet.com

Web: <http://www.cgjar.org/cifor>

IUFRO XXI World Congress:

Forests and Society: The Role of Research

7-12 August, 2000, Malaysia

Contact: IUFRO Congress Secretariat

Tel: +43-1-8770151

Fax: +43-1-8779355

E-mail: iufroxxi.csc@forvie.ac.at

Web: http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/congress/award_circ.htm

Courses

Managing Forests, Managing Change: A short refresher course for people who manage trees and forests

June 28 - July 16, NRI Kent, UK

Contact: NRI, University of Greenwich, Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4TB, UK

Tel: +44-1634-883-884

Fax: +44-1634-883-386

E-mail: j.pilcher@gre.ac.uk

Web site: <http://www.nri.org>

International Training Course in Community Forestry Extension

July 5-23, RECOFTC, Thailand

Contact: Regional Community Forestry Training Centre (RECOFTC), Kasetsart University, PO Box 1111, Bangkok 10903, Thailand.

Tel: +662-940-5700

Fax: +662-561-4880

E-mail: ftcss@nontri.ku.ac.th

Integrated Forestry Planning - Community Needs and Sustainable Management.

November 1 - December 10, ANUTECH, Canberra, Australia

Contact: ANUTECH Pty Ltd, GPO Box 4,

Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Tel: +61-2-6249-3811

Fax: +61-2-6249-5875

E-mail: anutach.courses@anutech.com.au

Web site: <http://www.anutech.com.au>

MSc Course in Tropical Forestry

September 1999 - Jan 2001, Wageningen, the Netherlands

Contact: Marijke Kuipers, Agromisa, PO Box 41, 6700 AA,

Wageningen, the Netherlands

Tel: +31-317-412-217

Fax: +31-317-419-178

E-mail: agromisa@worldaccess.nl

Plantations

Perceptions about tree plantations have changed dramatically over the last fifteen years. Large-scale plantation establishment has long been controversial in parts of Europe because of landscape and amenity impacts. On the other hand, in the 1980s many environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) saw plantations as a way of taking pressure off natural tropical forests and advocated increased planting. In the 1990s, disillusionment set in as massive tropical plantations started to appear and evidence emerged of associated human rights abuses and environmental problems. Many observers became convinced that plantations were actually encouraging forest loss by being established in the place of natural forest. Questions were also raised about the long-term sustainability of plantations. The World Rainforest Movement catalysed a debate and identified bad practice. Concern culminated in 1998 with the *Montevideo Declaration*, a joint statement from many NGOs advocating a halt to large-scale plantation development.

The blunt opposition caused ripples throughout a booming industry. During 1999, a series of reports have emerged, broadly supportive of plantations, which stress their benefits and call for increased planting.

The Australian government supported a study on the global outlook for plantations that calculated plantations could supply 46 per cent of industrial wood by the year 2040. The study estimated current effective area of plantations at around 94 million ha but pointed out that over 60 per cent of plantations in Asia and Africa were judged unsuitable for commercial wood supply due to low productivity, poor management and poor species selection.

The governments of Chile, Denmark, India, New Zealand and Portugal jointly sponsored an intersessional meeting of the IFF on planted forests in Santiago in April 1999. The report of the meeting was generally supportive of plantations, noting that "planted forests fulfil a complementary role to natural forests in the achievement of sustainable forest management". However, NGOs present at the meeting released a separate document criticising the results.

The UK government also released a document in time for the third Intergovernmental Forum on Forests looking at sustainability in plantations and written by another plantation enthusiast, Professor Julian Evans. The report concluded that: "measurements in yield in successive rotations of trees suggest that there is, so far, no significant or widespread evidence that plantation forestry is unsustainable in the narrow sense". This conclusion does not cover the biodiversity and social impacts of large-scale plantations and is not considered controversial as a consequence.

At the same time, the World Bank is reviewing its policy towards plantations as part of a wider review of forest policy. A technical experts meeting took place in May 1999 at IUCN to help this process, based around a paper by Pat Hardcastle.

It is clear that the debate about plantations is far from over. Critical questions focus on the broader social and environmental impacts of the largest plantations rather than on any narrow sense of their sustainability in terms of yield.



still
making
waves

The costs and benefits of tree plantations have been debated for years. Debates within the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the ongoing World Bank Forest Policy Review have focused attention on the issue again.

Nigel Dudley reviews a range of new publications.

Most governments now support the principle that plantations should not be established in place of natural forests (although this does still happen); however much of the "waste land" identified in national or international surveys as being suitable for plantations is actually occupied by human communities. Whether or not plantations alleviate poverty for surrounding communities (rather than creating more wealth for an already wealthy minority) is a subject of intense and sometimes bitter debate.

Over the following months and years, it is clear that some key questions still remain to be resolved with respect to plantations. A first listing, suggested by IUCN and WWF, might read as follows:

- Under what circumstances do plantations alleviate poverty?
- Under what conditions do plantations conserve biodiversity?
- Under what conditions do plantations protect natural forests?
- How can detrimental social and environmental side effects be minimised in plantations?
- How much land is available for plantations without disrupting human communities?
- Do plantations make economic sense if the owner has to pay or compensate for full environmental and social costs?
- How can plantations be integrated into a landscape approach to forest quality?

None of the material published so far has conclusively answered these questions. It is to be hoped that the fresh interest sparked off by the IFF and the World Bank review will result in filling in some of the gaps in our understanding.

Sources: *Pulping the South* (1996); Ricardo Carrere and Larry Lohmann, Zed Book, London. *A Study on the Global Outlook for Plantations*, Commonwealth of Australia (1999); (<http://www.abare.gov.au>). *International Experts Meeting on the Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management* (1999); Corporación Nacional Forestal, Ministerio de Agricultura, Chile. *Sustainability of Forest Plantations: The Evidence* (1999); Julian Evans, Department of International Development, UK (epd@dfid.gtnet.gov.uk).

protected areas

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Plan for Protection of Northern Ontario

The Ontario government has announced plans to designate 378 new parks and protected areas totalling 2.4 million hectares of public lands and waters throughout the province's commercial forest zone.

This concludes the contentious land use planning process Lands For Life, with the signing of an accord between major forest companies, the Ontario government and several conservation organisations including WWF Canada. The accord agreed immediate protection for 12 per cent of the Lands for Life region, and a process for making future additions. The accord is premised on no long-term loss of timber volumes or net increase in delivered wood costs, and on not prejudicing Aboriginal land claims. The consensus was achieved by the forest industry focusing attention on maintaining volume (of logs) rather than area (of harvest). One part of the agreement still causing concern is that the accord also permits what the province calls "environmentally sensitive mineral exploration" in some areas identified for protection.

Source: Arlin Hackman. E-mail: ahackman@wwfcanada.org

Protected Areas News in Brief

This page is produced in co-operation with the World Commission on Protected Areas

Russia: Level of protection in Karelia questioned

The Republic of Karelia has 2,281 million ha (12.7 per cent of total area) of "territories with a conservation status" - a total regarded as a great conservation achievement. However, a report from Greenpeace Russia and the Biodiversity Conservation Center concludes that only 1.4 per cent of Karelia has limitations on forest use that ensures the protection of biodiversity and forest ecosystems. Most "protected areas" (58.3 per cent) are "group I forests excluded from counted forest usage", consisting of recently established park areas that serve recreational, hydrological and fishery protection functions. They also include huge clear-cuts from the 1930s-70s and felling and restoration regimes may reach levels similar to commercial forests.

Source: Greenpeace Russia and the Biodiversity Conservation Centre

New Biosphere Reserves

The MAB Bureau has approved the following biosphere reserves with significant forest habitat: Nanji Islands Biosphere Reserve (China); Pays de Fontainebleau Biosphere Reserve (France); and Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve (South Africa). The following new transfrontier biosphere reserves: were also approved: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania/Ukraine); Vosges du Nord/Päzzerwald Biosphere Reserve (France/Germany); and East Carpathians Biosphere Reserve (Poland/Slovakia/Ukraine).

New World Heritage Sites

UNESCO has announced World Heritage status for several forest areas. The Forest of the Cedars of God (*Horsh Arz el-Rab*) is the last fragment of the famous Cedars of **Lebanon**. Three areas in the Golden Mountains of Altai in **Siberia**, totalling 1,611,457 ha, form important snow leopard habitat. The region is the major mountain range in western Siberia and the source of the Ob and Irtysh rivers. The southern third of Rennell Island, in the **Solomon Islands**, is the world's largest raised coral atoll. The densely forested site is under customary land ownership and management.

Source: <http://www.unesco.org/whc/news/>

World Commission on Protected Areas

South Africa has been chosen as the venue for the 5th World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas in September 2002. This will increasingly become the main focus of the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas and WCPA for the next two years. The opportunity and the challenge is to use the event to shape a vision for protected areas for the whole of the century.

Contact: E-mail: das@hq.iucn.org

Protected areas in the USA

The Nature Conservancy is spending US\$35.1 million to buy 75,000 ha of remote Maine forest. The Conservation Fund has made a deal with Champion International Corp that involves buying areas in which 70 per cent is "working forests" with guaranteed public access, while 30 per cent is totally protected due to its ecological sensitivity. The agreement cost US\$13 million, although this could be partially offset by timber rights sales. State and federal governments will pay the Pacific Lumber Co. \$480 million for the 3,023 ha Headwaters redwood forest in California. The agreement follows a decade of negotiation and imposes 50-year cutting restrictions on 35,400 ha of redwoods still owned by Pacific Lumber. The company also agreed to strict environmental protection on the rest of its property in Humboldt County.

Sources: *The Sault Star*, Canada, 5 Jan 1999 and *The Calgary Herald*, USA, 3 March 1999

Clayoquot Sound nominated as biosphere reserve

The BC Environment Minister has applauded more than 800 people arrested at Clayoquot Sound. The minister recognised that her former adversaries played a significant role in persuading the government to apply to have Clayoquot Sound designated an international biosphere reserve. The proposal for the 350,000 hectares reserve is being submitted to UNESCO.

Source: *Globe and Mail*, 29-1-1999

East Africa

In Kenya, 7 sacred forests, totalling some 400 ha, have been gazetted as National Monuments. The Kaya Diani was saved from de-gazettment and subsequent exploitation by the swift action of WWF staff. In Tanzania, 7,106 ha of Lowland Coastal Forests, managed by local communities, have also been gazetted as new reserves.

Source: Deborah Snelson, email: DSnelson@wwfnet.org, Paul Siejel and Peter Sumbi, E-mail: tzrep@raha.com

Ecuador: PA oil exploitation banned

The Government of Ecuador has issued two decrees declaring the territory of Tagaeri (773,220 ha) in the Yasuni National Park and the zone of Imuya in the Cuyabeno Reserve (435,000 ha) as protected areas in perpetuity. The parks are home to various indigenous peoples, including the Huaorani, the Tagaeri, the Taromenare, the Sionas, and the Secoyas. The decrees imply the banning of oil or other mineral extraction.

Source: Oilwatch, 5/2/99.

Support for FSC confirmed in Europe

WWF Germany's Forest Economy 2000 Symposium, held in April, attracted 300 participants from more than 30 countries. The symposium, to discuss ways to conserve forests through good forest management in the next millennium, coincided with a move by European NGO's to reject the European forest owners' associations new Pan European Forest Certificate (PEFC).

At a meeting in Benediktbeuren, the Forest Movement Europe (FME) unanimously agreed not to support the PEFC eco-label. As Martin Kaiser of Greenpeace, speaking for the FME, explained at the WWF press conference. "The PEFC will not have a positive impact on forest management in ecological and social terms ... the PEFC plan does not guarantee equal participation of all interest groups - decisions are made by the forest owners' associations

themselves, for example. The PEFC is restricted to Europe and ignores forestry problems in the rest of the world. Last but not least, this label does not consider the consumer's right to a credible eco-label since it does not include a 'chain-of-custody' control - a clear monitoring of the wood from the forest to the end product."

At the end of the three-day symposium, WWF Germany concluded that the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the only wood certificate of the future. "We call on the forest owners' associations to cancel their plans for a purely European label," said Heiko Liedeker, WWF Germany's forestry expert. "Their label will not improve forest management ecologically."

The symposium and accompanying FSC trade fair, which attracted 48 exhibitors of FSC products, confirmed the rapid expansion of interest in socially and ecologically well-managed forestry. The membership of the German buyers group 'GRUPPE '98', for example, has risen from 11 to 48 in just a few months - with AssiDomän AB, the largest European private forest owner, and TarkettSommer, the world's largest manufacturer and distributor of hard flooring, prompted to join the group during the symposium.

Contact: Heiko Liedeker, WWF Germany, Email: liedeker@wwf.de

News in brief

Certification reaches 16 million hectares worldwide

The multi-national Swedish forest Company, SCA (Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget) has had two million hectares of its forests certified. This brings the total FSC certified hectares worldwide to over 16 million hectares and marks a 50 per cent increase in area of certified forest in just six months.

Contact: FSC Tel: +52-951-46905, <http://www.fscoax.org>
SCA Tel: +46-60-19-33-81, <http://www.sca.se>

Certified forests and plantations double in Brazil

Mannesman Florestal Ltd has been awarded FSC certification for five eucalyptus plantations (total 242,286 ha) in the state of Minas Gerais. The total certified area in Brazil has now reached 624,101 ha. The certification will allow the Brazilian steel industry to use charcoal from well managed plantations instead of extracting charcoal from the Cerrado region, which is resulting in deforestation.

Contact: Regina Vasquez; Tel +55 61 248 2899; Fax +55 61 364 3057.

Buyers Groups

WWF's Global Forests and Trade Initiative was set up in September 1998 to promote an international network of Buyers' Groups. Nine groups operate in Europe, North America, and Australia and several countries - including France, Hong Kong, and Japan - are establishing Buyers' Groups this year. In March 1999, the role of the Swedish Buyers Group was expanded to provide a secretariat for a buyer's group spanning Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland. A newsletter, WWF's *Global Forest and Trade Initiative* is available.

Contact: Steve Howard, E-mail: showard@wwfnet.org

New Certification Organisation

The Institut für Marktökologie (IMO), based in Switzerland, has become the sixth certification organisation to be accredited by the FSC. IMO is active in 40 countries and has already certified forests in Germany and Switzerland.

Contact: IMO, Tel: +41-71-642-3616

Developments in South Africa

The Department of Water Affairs & Forestry (DWAF) has agreed that its Southern Cape office can pursue FSC certification, for the State-managed 40,000 ha indigenous Afromontane forest in the southern Cape. The Knysna forests, probably the only example of Afromontane forests reaching the coast, are considered a model for well-managed forests. Timber like yellowwood (*Podocarpus* spp) and the rare and valuable stinkwood (*Ocotea bullata*) is harvested mainly for furniture making. The Knysna forests represent the single largest bloc of continuous closed-canopy forest in the country. Two of South Africa's largest forestry companies, Mondi and Safcol, have already achieved FSC certification for their entire plantation-based operations.

NTFP certification update

Draft standards for brazil nuts, palm hearts, chicle and rubber have been developed by the FSC and field tests and evaluations for candidates seeking NTFP certification have been carried out. There have also been important discussions with several ethical and eco-labelling organisations to promote collaboration and avoid duplication. Since the publication of the FSC policy on certification and labelling of NTFPS, in April 1998, certification bodies have had authority to certify and label NTFPs, using the FSC trademarks.

Contact: FSC, Tel/Fax: +52-951-62110. Web site: www.fscoax.org

FSC house

The first prefabricated house built entirely with wood certified by the FSC has been launched in Brazil, produced with Amazonian hardwood including newly commercial species. Production is based in the city of Itacoatiara, in the Amazon region, and the project will be training local staff in a carpentry school.

Contact: Walter Sulter (FSC): Tel + 55-61-248-2899, E-mail walter@wwf.org.br

Creating a Sea Change

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Life began in the oceans at least 3.5 billion years ago, preceding terrestrial life by millions of years. However, humans are terrestrial beings and our relationship with the oceans has always been uneasy, based largely on ignorance. Their vastness - covering over 70 per cent of the planet - and their hidden depths, evoke awe and fear. We treat them as an infinite food supply, a bottomless pit for waste, and a common space on which to play and fight, available to all. Industrial and domestic development on coasts, overexploitation of marine resources, and burgeoning tourism all compete and interfere with oceans.

In late 1998, IUCN and WWF published a booklet, *Creating a Sea Change* which describes a joint policy to address the crisis now facing the marine environment. The goals of the policy, reflecting the missions of the two organisations, are to:

- maintain the biodiversity and ecological processes of marine and coastal ecosystems
- ensure that any use of marine resources is both sustainable and equitable
- restore marine and coastal ecosystems where their functioning has been impaired

Sue Wells of WWF and Charlotte de Fontaubert of IUCN report on a new joint marine policy initiative by IUCN and WWF and on how the two organisations are tackling the issues which relate to both the marine and forestry environments - mangroves.

The WWF/IUCN marine policy identifies five objectives for protecting the oceans and lays out activities to help international institutions, governments, conservation organisations including IUCN and WWF, industry, communities and individuals to implement them. The objectives are:

1. The establishment and implementation of a comprehensive, global network of ecologically representative, well-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) designed to conserve areas of high biological importance and productivity.
2. The conservation and recovery of threatened marine species.
3. The introduction of measures to ensure that fishing is carried out in a sustainable manner, in order to conserve genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.
4. The reduction and elimination of marine pollution from land-based and marine sources.
5. The promotion of integrated coastal management (ICM) as an underlying principle in the sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Mangroves

Efforts to fulfil this policy are well illustrated by work underway by both organisations to protect and sustainably manage mangroves. Over the last century, this important forest and wetland ecosystem, linked through a variety of ecological processes to adjacent marine and coastal habitats, has come under increasing pressure. Some 7500km² - or 4 per cent of the current total cover - has been lost since the early 1900s, and much of the remaining area has been degraded. Like other coastal wetlands, mangroves are subject to conversion to other uses (agriculture, aquaculture, residential and urban development etc). They are also intensively exploited both for their timber, which has a variety of uses, and for the numerous other species that live within them and provide food and other products of economic value.

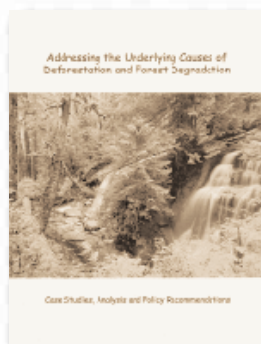
One of WWF's concerns is the impact that shrimp aquaculture is having on mangroves in many parts of the world. Ecuador, for example, has lost 14 per cent of its mangroves to shrimp farming. In Central America, WWF has been collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and the University of Rhode Island along the Miskito Coast of Honduras and Nicaragua and the Gulf of Fonseca in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. The project involves working with communities and NGOs to strengthen local participation in coastal resource management. In Honduras, where shrimp aquaculture has resulted in significant social, economic and environmental impacts, the work has

focused specifically on establishing criteria for zoning and shrimp farming concessions.

Similar projects are underway in other regions, and WWF will be working towards the development of guidelines for sustainable shrimp farming, developed through multi-stakeholder processes.

Mangroves are critically important resources for many coastal communities, and their participation in management is essential for long-term sustainability. In 1994, with assistance from Irish Aid, the government of Tanzania worked with IUCN to establish an ICM programme in Tanga Region, the northern-most coastal region of Tanzania. The aim was to improve the capacity of government and community institutions to help the local people use their near-shore fisheries, coral reefs, and mangroves in sustainable ways, including restoring degraded environments. The programme focuses on four main priority areas: coral reefs and reef fisheries management; mangroves, coastal forests, and wildlife; awareness, education, and training; and community development and participation. A pilot village programme, supplying support and advice to government officers and the communities of three fishing villages has had extremely positive results. Mangrove cutting has stopped, there is a voluntary mangrove replanting and weeding programme, and destructive fishing practices, including dynamiting, have declined, largely through the enforcement efforts of the villages themselves. The villagers are now much more aware of coastal conservation concerns and have the preliminary skills required to protect and use their resources sustainably.

The large number of important new books and reports published over the past few months have encouraged us to extend the reviews over two pages for this issue.



Addressing the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: Case studies, analysis and recommendations

Compiled by Hans Verolme and Juliette Moussa, Biodiversity Action Network.
Contact: bionet@igc.org
This volume is the final report of a major international consultation of the

Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, in this case uniquely led by non-governmental organisations. Regional processes commissioned country and topic case studies and discussed these in a series of workshops; the final results were then drawn up in a global meeting in Costa Rica. NGO led and NGO-dominated; it is notable that at the final meeting there were more than twice as many non-governmental representatives as those from governments and only 15 countries bothered to attend officially. Indeed, the whole future of the underlying causes initiative within the IFF is currently under debate following opposition by G77 countries at the recent IFF meeting. The workshop came up with a long array of recommendations and the document also contains abbreviated versions of over 60 case studies and issue papers. The breadth of involvement and the amount of work means that it is probably a unique consensus document of NGO thinking on forest issues at the end of the century.

The EU Tropical Forestry Sourcebook

Edited by Gill Shepherd *et al.* Overseas Development Institute, London and European Commission, Brussels.
Available from ODI, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DP
A large and impressive compilation of information about the role of EU countries in tropical forest research and conservation with, in passing, short accounts of the domestic forest histories of the countries concerned. The EC and Member States together contribute two thirds of the world's bilateral aid to tropical forests and the current volume offers advice and information to those in both donor and recipient countries.

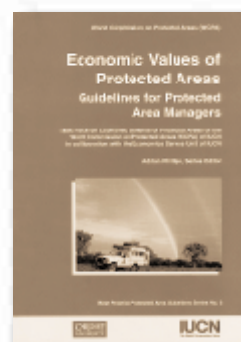


Social Sustainability of Forestry in the Baltic Sea Region

Edited by Marjatta Hytönen, The Finnish Forest Research Institute, Research Paper 704.
Contact: library@metla.fi

Proceedings of two workshops on sustainability forest management in the Baltic, including a valuable overview paper by the editor and

contributions from Scandinavia, the Russian Federation and the three Baltic states. The contributions provide an important insight into forestry in one of the least-known areas of Europe, where economies in transition are wrestling with economic hardship and rapid changes in ownership patterns, whilst possessing some of the most important forests from a conservation perspective. Other sections of the book look at issues related to recreation and the role of biosphere reserves as models for development. Recommended.



Economic Values of Protected Areas: Guidelines for Protected Area Managers

IUCN and the University of Wales, Cardiff.

Available from: IUCN Publications, Email: iucn-psu@books.iucn.org
These guidelines explain how economic values of protected areas can be assessed, with case studies. For example, Canada is expected to create C\$6.5 billion

in annual GDP from spending in wildlife-related activities; this sustains 159,000 jobs and annually creates C\$2.5 billion in tax revenue. In Costa Rica, about US\$12 million is spent annually to maintain the national parks but foreign exchange generated in 1991 was more than US\$330 million; park-generated tourism is the country's second largest industry.

Non-timber forest products on the internet

Voices from the Forest is the new web bulletin from the NTFP Exchange Programme in Southeast Asia, available on <http://www.NTFP.org>. The bulletin provides a platform for sharing forest community-based NTFP ideas and concerns through practical information and case studies.

The *NTFP-Biocultural-Digest* is also newly available. The list is free, moderated, issued as a single, indexed E-mail, about once a week. To subscribe send an E-mail to majordomo@igc.org, leave the subject line blank, in the body of the message put: subscribe ntfp-biocultural-digest <your E-mail address>.

The ethnobotanical project People and Plants initiative also has a newly designed web site at <http://www.kew.org.uk/peopleplants>.

Paper for arborvitae

One of the aims of *arborvitae* is to show the range of available quality printing papers made from alternative fibres and post-consumer recycled waste. Over the past five years we have printed the newsletter on paper made from hemp and two different papers made from recycled waste. We are now looking for a new paper for the next three issues. If you know of, or produce a quality printing paper of 115-120 gm weight which has high environmental credentials please contact the editors (see front cover for contact details).

Linkages in the Landscape

Andrew F Bennett, IUCN Forest Conservation Programme.

Available from IUCN Publications,

Tel: +44-1223-277-894; Email: iucn-psu@books.iucn.org.

This major new book from IUCN discusses the role of corridors and connectivity in wildlife conservation. Habitat fragmentation is one of the most serious threats facing many forests today; changing land use from farming, logging and road construction result in natural habitat becoming increasingly confined to small patches, isolated from each other and unable to maintain viable wildlife populations. In cultural landscapes, restoration of large natural forests is frequently now impossible. Another option being explored is finding ways of linking remaining habitats together through such configurations as corridors and stepping stones (patches of natural habitat that can act as stopovers for birds, insects and even plants). In this way a *network* of natural and semi-natural habitat may be able to survive even in intensively managed land areas. Bennett summarises some of the major debates and illustrates these with case studies from around the world. Connectivity makes sense in theory but there are still few long-term studies of how it works in practice. Some critics fear that losses may exceed gains, for example by corridors facilitating the spread of invasive species, disease and disturbance factors such as fire. Others argue that well designed links can increase the resilience of ecosystems, including under impacts from climate change. This book provides an excellent overview to a complicated issue, along with a wealth of references for people seeking further information. *Nigel Dudley*

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New Publications in brief

Reports from Africa

Available from brigitte.rieul@cirad.fr (documents are in French)

New from FORAFRI, the joint African forestry research programme of CIFOR, CIRAD-Forêt and the French Co-operation: two technical documents on forest management for timber production, on reduced impact logging in Cameroon (FORAFRI series 17) and on methodologies for analysing data from permanent sample plots (15). *Simon Rietbergen*

Reports from the Netherlands

Available from balie@ikcn.agro.nl

The recently published IKC-N (NL) working document *Approaches for successful merging of indigenous forest-related knowledge with formal forest management* (W-165) provides a conceptual framework and analysis of the main issues, and practical guidance for field practitioners. Earlier forest-related instalments in the series include *Tropical Secondary forests in Africa and Asia* (W-160), *Animal functions in tropical rainforests* (W-145) and *Incentives for tree growing and managing forests sustainably* (W-140). *Simon Rietbergen*

Cutting Costs: The Politics of Trees and Fees in BC

Fred Wilson, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

The full study is available on: www.policyalternatives.ca

BC's forest sector needs a sensible public policy, not more corporate concessions, according to this new report. The report states that 'The real threat to BC's forest sector comes from short term corporate decisions to close mills, the unending drive to maximise shareholder returns, and the long range problem of sustainable harvest levels'.

The SoundWood Guide to the Guitar

For details contact: SoundWood at Tel/Fax: +1-415-695-1956,

Email: soundwood@igc.org, Web site: <http://www.ffi.org>

Fauna & Flora's SoundWood project has published a new guide which details 19 companies making guitars in more ecologically benign ways, from those using independently certified sustainable wood to those using less threatened species or minimising wood waste.

Climate, Biodiversity and Forests

Paige Brown, World Resources Institute and IUCN

For details see: <http://www.wri.org/wri>

A valuable guide to the continuing debate about whether or not the Kyoto Protocol of the Framework Convention on Climate Change can help deliver forest conservation benefits by polluting countries paying to offset carbon dioxide through reforestation or protection. The report broadly supports using Clean Development Mechanism funding for forest conservation, with provisions.

A Review of Dipterocarps

Edited by Simmathiri Appanah and Jennifer M Turnbull, Center for International Forestry Research. Contact: cifor@cgjar.org

A multi-author volume looking at the taxonomy, ecology, silviculture and non-timber forest products associated with dipterocarps.

Islands Adrift?

Christopher LaFranchi, Greenpeace Pacific,

available from greenpeace.pacific@dialb.greenpeace.org

One of a series of Greenpeace reports drawing general lessons from detailed case studies. This paper compares industrial and small-scale economic options for the Marovo Lagoon region of the Solomon Islands. It concludes: *economic returns to small-scale uses... - even considering only those which can be quantified - compare favourably to the modest income gains afforded by logging and the proposed oil palm developments.* Important both for the methodology and for the results.