



IUCN
The World Conservation Union

arborvitæ

The IUCN/WWF Forest Conservation Newsletter

13

January 2000

Contents

- 2-5 News from around the world**
No need to buy products from ancient forests, deforestation in the Amazon etc
- 6 WWF News**
New climate change scenarios
- 7 IUCN News**
Forest conservation in Russia
- 8 News from the Forest Floor**
Kalimantan - after the rice project
- 9 Feature**
WWF-World Bank Alliance
- 10 Protected areas**
Beyond the Trees – WWF Conference on Forest Protected Areas
- 11 Feature**
IUCN in SE Asia
- 12 Feature**
Trees that survived the millennium
- 13 Feature**
Forests fires and the IUCN/WWF Firefight programme
- 14 Certification**
Progress in Australia
- 15 Meetings and courses**
The Albertine Rift Conservation Society
- 16 Reviews**
Forests for the Future and more

This newsletter has been edited by Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton of Equilibrium Consultants. Managing editors Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud of WWF International and Bill Jackson of IUCN, the World Conservation Union. Design by Helen Miller, HMD UK. Funding for the newsletter has been provided by the German development cooperation ministry BmZ and the Netherlands government.

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Writing from Switzerland, it is sometimes easy to forget that for a significant proportion of *arborvitæ* readers, January 1st 2000 is not the start of a new millennium. Yet as **Claude Martin**, Director General of WWF, wrote recently: *“arbitrary as the date might be, it is an opportunity to look back over what has indisputably been the most destructive century in human history. In terms of forests, what was once unthinkable has become an annual debacle.”*

Picture: © Edward Parker, from his book *Ancient Trees* (see page 12)

There is certainly some bad news. The earth has lost a third of its natural wealth in the last 25 years according to WWF's recently released Living Planet report. At least 25 per cent of the world's mammals are identified as being under threat in a new IUCN report. The Hadley Centre for Climate Change in the UK has stated that in 1998, due to deforestation and fires, the world's forests became net producers of carbon dioxide for the first time.

However, we start the new century with some signs of hope as well. The environment is still firmly on the international agenda. Many stakeholders are desperately frustrated by the lack of action. As centralised political power declines, civil society is emerging as an important counterweight to global industry, politicians and corporations, which now have to justify their actions to an increasingly well informed and vocal public.

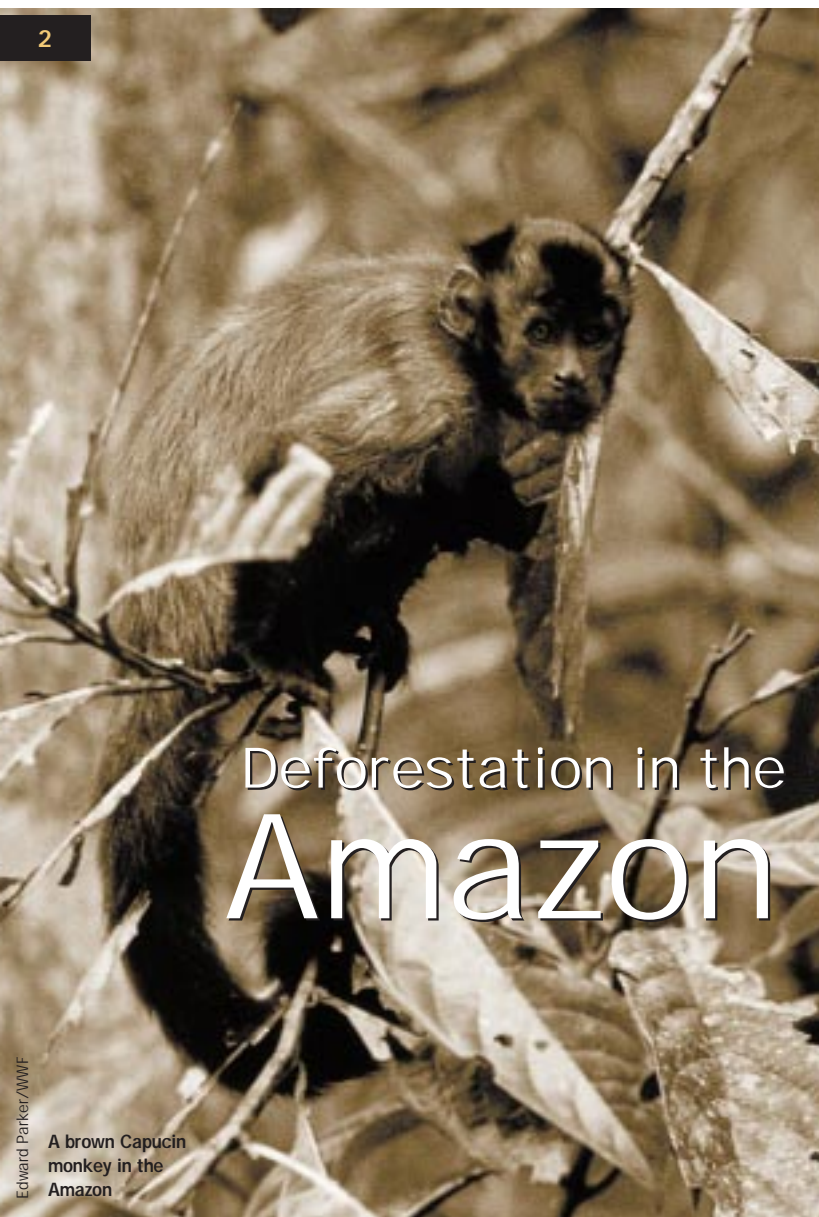
The collapse of the WTO trade talks is symptomatic of a general dissatisfaction with intergovernmental processes that are widely seen as going nowhere. The result may well have set the tone for future negotiations, where non-governmental organisations will be full participants and not simply observers.

The year 2000 is, then, a real moment for greater engagement by civil society in issues relating to forest conservation. The current processes, such as the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, are widely acknowledged to have run out of steam. There is an urgent need for a new, proactive approach to forest conservation and sustainable forest management – an approach that acknowledges and builds on the progress being made, that mobilises the full range of stakeholders from the local to global level and emphasises effective action on the ground. Such an approach will encourage and reward leadership. It will also help to break the logjam of pessimism and promote a 'culture of success'. In the coming year, IUCN and WWF will work actively with a broad range of partners to develop such an initiative, as a contribution towards the achievement of our global goal – to halt and reverse the loss and degradation of forests and all kinds of woodlands.

Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud Head of Forests for Life Programme

The next issue of *arborvitæ* will be produced in April/May (copy deadline end of March 2000). If you have any material to send or comments please contact: Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton, 23 Bath Buildings, Bristol BS6 5PT UK. Telephone and fax: +44-117-942-8674
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Deforestation in the Amazon

A brown Capucin
monkey in the
Amazon

Major landowners involved in illegal deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon are being identified through information collected from satellite photographs. Ibama, the federal organisation in charge of the environment, is publishing the information in an attempt to focus public attention onto the problem. **Rodolpho Lobo**, Chief of Ibama's National Control Department, said: "a new stage begins in the control of deforestation". Eight out of the ten people involved in the largest amount of deforestation are cattle breeders. Ibama officers face regular resistance in their work and within the last year one has been killed and another seriously injured in the area.

Meanwhile, WWF has warned that a new law proposed by the Federal Government could cause the greatest environmental damage ever seen in Brazil. The Brazilian Government's proposal will make it possible to convert natural forests into agricultural land with no official control and encourage the replacement of native forests by eucalyptus and other exotic species, especially in small rural properties in the Amazon and in the Cerrado. Furthermore, it will allow forest exploitation on steep slopes and riverine areas that are presently protected.

The proposed bill is the result of heavy lobbying by the National Council for Agriculture, a farmer's organisation, without any public participation. According to **Robert Buschbacher**, of WWF-Brazil, the law will change the entire environmental legal framework in Brazil. The bill disregards the Technical Chamber of the National Environment Council (CONAMA) that was created to review the 1965 Forestry Code, which was set up to assure democratic participation of all sectors of Brazilian society. The government's proposal also goes against international treaties already signed by Brazil.

Source: *Veja Magazine* and <http://www.panda.org>

Klester Cavalcanti and Alexandre Mansur's article in *Veja Magazine*, Thicket of the Jungle, describing Ibama's work, was one of the eight regional winners in the new Reuters-IUCN Media Award presented in November 1999.

News in brief

Carbon sinks

Planting trees may not be as effective at slowing global warming as proponents claim according to research from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. So-called "carbon sink" forests could quickly become saturated with carbon and become net emitters. This casts doubt on the provision of the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, that allows countries to offset industrial emissions by planting trees, at home or abroad.

Source: *New Scientist*, October 1999

Tajikistan protection

The forests and fauna of Tajikistan have suffered badly as a result of the 1991-1992 civil war and subsequent illegal cutting of forests and poaching. In response, the Association on Protection of Forest and Wild Animals in Tajikistan, a non-governmental, non-profit organisation has been set up.

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US roadless area protection

In October, President Clinton announced steps to protect 40 million acres (16 million hectares) of federally owned roadless forests, in blocks of 5,000 acres or more. Clinton asked the Forest Service whether 15 million pristine acres still being inventoried should also be protected. However, NGOs are concerned about whether helicopter logging, livestock grazing and mining might still be allowed. Furthermore, some valuable forests, for example the Alaskan Tongass, might be omitted.

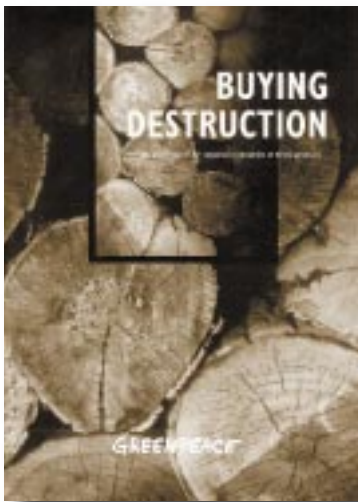
Source: *TRN Bulletin*, no 5, 1999.

Biodiversity and logging

A new species of damselfly (temporarily named *Cebu rectionemis*) has been discovered in a rainforest threatened by logging in Cebu, an island province of the Philippines.

Source: *Environmental News Service* 18/10/99

Protecting ancient forests



A new report from Greenpeace International, *Buying Destruction*, names over 150 companies producing or trading in forest products coming from ancient forests, in Canada, Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, Chile, Russia, Cameroon, Gabon, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Of the top 20 companies profiled, seven are Canadian-owned, four

fully or part-owned by Malaysia, three by France and two by the US. In all the report suggests that at least 7.2 million ha of frontier or other ancient forests are logged each year and in total 72 per cent of "frontier forests" are threatened by logging. Most of the annual loss is from clearcut operations in Canada and Russia. In 1996, Canada was the second-highest producer of industrial roundwood after the US, accounting for 12 per cent of global production, with up to 90 per cent of logs cut coming from ancient forests in some regions.

Although the report presents a bleak picture, there are some signs of change. In Russia, a moratorium on old-growth logging in Karelia and the Murmansk Oblast has been supported by an increasing number of Finnish and Swedish logging companies since its inception in 1996, although attempts to expand this to the old-growth forests of Arkhangelsk and Komi have been less successful. Following a two-year campaign run by the Rainforest Action Network, the US company Home Depot, the world's largest DIY store, announced in August 1999 that it will stop selling goods made from wood cut in ancient forests and other ecologically sensitive areas by 2002. Since then a number of other companies announced similar commitments, including Wickes Lumber, HomeBase, 3M, Dell, IBM, Kinko's, Levi-Strauss, Mitsubishi Motors America, Mitsubishi Electric America, and Nike. A second Greenpeace report, *Re-Source: Market Alternatives to Ancient Forest Destruction* explores the alternatives to old-growth destruction that are currently being pursued by companies in the USA, Europe and Japan.

Sources: *Buying Destruction* and *Re-Source: Market Alternatives to Ancient Forest Destruction* are available on the web at <http://www.greenpeace.org/~forests>.

To order a copy contact: The Forest Campaign, Greenpeace International, Keizersgracht 176, 1016 DW Amsterdam, Netherlands, Fax: +31-20-523-6200
E-mail: forests.publications@ams.greenpeace.org

The Finnish Forest Industry in Russia on the Thorny Path Towards Ecological and Social Responsibility (ISBN 951-97204-3-X) by O Ovaskainen, M Pappila, and J Potry may be ordered from the Taiga Rescue Network office for the price of EURO 14/US\$15.

Contacts: RAN: Michael Brune: mbrune@ran.org. Web: <http://www.ran.org>

Timber trade changes

Trade and prices in tropical timbers continued to fall in 1998, following the 1997 Asian financial crisis, with imports in Thailand plunging by 70 per cent. Preliminary indications are that they recovered somewhat in 1999. Imports continue to increase into China. Secondary wood products consumption rose, especially in the EU and USA. Japan remains by far the largest roundwood importer, with North American consumption increasing and official Russian removals falling heavily in 1998.

Sources: *Tropical Timber Update 9* (3), 1999, *Forest Products Annual Market Review 1998-1999*, UN Economic Commission for Europe and FAO, 1999

Mountain biodiversity at risk

A briefing from the International Development Research Centre focuses on the role of mountain environments in maintaining food crop stability. Six of the 20 plants that supply 80 per cent of humanity's food originate in mountains and diversification – the breeding of new varieties – continues in these areas. As diversity of agricultural crops declines on the plains, the mountain regions are becoming an increasingly important resource, although here as well biodiversity is increasingly at risk.

Source: IDRC briefing number 2, www.idrc.ca

Consumer preferences

Most consumers remain reluctant to pay more for environmentally superior products, but instead expect these to be available at comparable costs, according to a recent report from the UN Economic Commission for Europe Timber Section. However, as costs of competing products approach equality, consumers may be swayed by perceived environmental benefits.

Source: *Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Paper 16*, info.timber@unece.org

Claims on national park

The Pataxo indigenous people in Brazil are laying claim to the territory of the Monte Pascoal National Park. The Pataxo were expelled from the territory of the protected area and from surrounding land that has been converted into a number of cattle ranches. The national park is part of the Mata Atlantica forest, currently the forest region of Brazil under the most extreme threat.

Source: *World Rainforest Bulletin 28*

Illegal logging in Indonesia's National Parks

A new report from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and Telapak-Indonesia catalogues the problems of illegal logging in two of Indonesia's protected areas – Tanjung Puting and Gunung Leuser National Park. The report concludes that illegal activities are out of control in the park – threatening biodiversity as a whole and orangutans in particular.

Source: *The Final Cut: EIA and Telapak*

Contact: EIA, tel: +44-171-490-7040. E-mail: eiakug@gn.apc.org

Importing threats

Agriculture officials in New Zealand are warning of the threat posed by the painted apple moth (*Teia anartoides*), thought to have arrived in a shipping container from Australia's southeastern mainland or Tasmania, to New Zealand's billion-dollar forestry industry, orchards and some native trees.

Source: *The Dominion* 05/10/1999

Global Witness Appointed Independent Monitor of Forestry Sector

The British environmental and human rights group Global Witness has been appointed as the official independent monitor of Cambodia's forestry sector.

The need for independent monitoring was identified at the 1999 Consultative Group (CG) meeting in Tokyo, made up of Cambodia's donors, to ensure the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) compliance with promised forestry reforms. The IMF's re-engagement, and the World Bank's new Structural Adjustment Credit were conditional on the signing of the deal.

The project, funded by DfID and AusAid, will allow Global Witness to open an office in Phnom Penh and take on local staff. According to Patrick Alley of Global Witness, "This role gives us a direct formal feed into the enforcement process, and full access to timber related RGC and concession records. If we report forest crime, the RGC has to act. This means there is a chance that illegal loggers might actually get arrested. The RGC's actions will be reported to Hun Sen, through the Council of Ministers, and to the quarterly meetings of the international donors. Forestry reform has a long way to go, but the fact that the RGC have accepted us, a thorn in their side for years, as the monitor, is an indication of the new mood in government."

Source: Global Witness; Tel: + 44 171 272 6731; e-mail: mail@globalwitness.demon.co.uk; http://www.oneworld.org/globalwitness

Research in Brief

As WWF and IUCN launch a major new study on forest restoration, **arborvitæ** presents an overview of recent research on this topic, including highlights from a major conference on forest restoration in Puerto Rico – an island that has undergone major forest regeneration due to agricultural abandonment. A series of research projects around the world show clear links between overall ecosystem quality and the potential of forests to regenerate. Wild animals account for a large proportion of native trees seed dispersal in tropical forests (*4th Annual Puerto Rico Forestry Conference* p 126). In Madagascar, lemurs are needed for successful regeneration of many tree species due to their role in seed distribution (*Conservation Biology* **13**, 794-804). Studies of abandoned montane pasture, dominated by exotic grass species, in Colombia have shown that natural colonisation or controlled grazing are far more effective restoration strategies than grass cutting and planting (*Puerto Rico conference* p 39). Some of the accepted wisdom in restoration is also increasingly being questioned. In Japan, studies of the impact of selective logging on regeneration in sub-boreal forests found that establishment sites around canopy trees influenced the establishment of saplings rather than the gaps caused by selective logging (*Journal of Forest Research* (Japan) **4**, 41-45). In other areas, the ecology has been modified so much that continued interventions are needed to maintain or restore forests. Decline of endangered juniper communities in France has been linked to agricultural abandonment, in that juniper is being gradually replaced by oak and other forest species; here human and livestock actions are needed as part of the restoration process (*Biodiversity and Conservation* **8**). Meanwhile, a new study shows that rising demand for wood fuel is likely to lead to net forest loss in many countries, emphasising the need for further restoration (*Ambio* **28**, 592-594).



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The WTO – A Comment

The Seattle meeting of the World Trade Organization – much hyped beforehand as the crowning moment of globalisation – famously collapsed in disagreement, acrimony and, on the streets of the city, in violence and anarchy. The US saw the largest civil protests since the Vietnam War and the WTO woke up, finally, to the depth of feeling about the whole process of globalisation and free trade. In the following synthesis piece, [Nick Mabey](#), [Aimee Gonzales](#) and [David Schorr](#) provide a guide to the issues.



The failure of the WTO Ministerial talks in Seattle to launch a new round of trade negotiations has graphically exposed long-standing flaws in the process of global trade negotiations. Developing countries were marginalised, bullied and ignored – a strategy which eventually backfired on the USA and the European Union.

The negotiations were mainly carried out in a closed process of only 20-30 countries of the 134, the countries being chosen by the chair – the US trade representative – and were dominated by US-EU negotiations. At stages, some NGOs were better informed of what was happening than many governments. This brought about a crisis in legitimacy with groups of African, Latin American and Caribbean countries publicly denouncing the way that decisions were taken.

The inability of even the most developed countries to agree on issues because of their scope and complexity highlighted the fact that poorer countries had little chance of participating in the talks effectively due to lack of capacity and expertise. The fact that those developing countries were nevertheless able to prevent agreement in the final hours shows that the WTO is a more genuinely multilateral body than in the past – something that the US and EU have yet to come to terms with.

Disputes about environmental issues remained at the heart of the negotiations, demonstrating that the WTO must finally start to take its environmental responsibilities seriously. Towards the end of the negotiations, the environmental agendas of the EU and the US clashed, leading to proposed trade-offs that would have cancelled out any advances in this direction. This shows that environmental NGOs will have to develop enhanced

monitoring, advocacy and negotiating capacity to use the greater access they have secured in negotiations more effectively. In particular, there is a need to build linkages with groups in developing countries.

Indeed, the greater access for NGOs to both texts and officials was a striking feature of the negotiations and approached that seen at the UN. Increased public scrutiny also changed the character of the talks. NGOs were instrumental in keeping many developing countries, hitherto confined to the periphery of negotiations, informed of events. NGOs also kept journalists informed about the complex moves within the negotiations, thus ensuring that news stories focused on the skewed, power-dominated process of deal-making inside the WTO. The traditional closed-door nature of the negotiations is widely agreed to be unworkable in the future.

The pressure for reform generated from Seattle will now have to be turned into real changes in WTO rules and processes in the context of a limited-liberalisation agenda. Other intergovernmental institutions and processes – long overshadowed or sidelined by the WTO – (e.g. UNCTAD, UNEP, CSD, multilateral environmental agreements and the OECD) offer opportunities to offer a reform agenda that may be stronger given the collapse at Seattle. For now, the following policy options are suggested:

Oposing new round negotiations until such time as a formal period of reflection and review of the WTO has been undertaken

Mainstreaming, the Built-in-Agenda of negotiations on agriculture and services will unfold in any case. Environment must be mainstreamed in both these sectors and some of the gains made in Seattle, but apparently lost when the negotiations collapsed, should be explored again.

Institutional reform to focus on both the processes of the WTO and the appropriate scope of issues to be included in the institution.

Interface with multilateral environmental treaties (MEAs) needs to be clarified, with the initiative for this passing to various MEAs following the WTO collapse.

Reform of the EU negotiating process to avoid future conflicts between Member States and the Commission over environmental issues; the role of the European Parliament also needs to be clarified.

Capacity building for developing countries is especially important, particularly for environment ministries.

The Monteverde Cloud Forest has had an increasing number of 'dry days' since the 1970s, reducing mist frequency. These climate changes have restricted the habitat for many of the 50 montane frog species present in the forest. By the 2050s, 'dry' winters will become up to twice as frequent and 'warm' winters will occur in between 50 and 100% of years, seriously damaging this unique mountain habitat for amphibians and cloud forest lizard species.

Paul Wilkin/WWF



New Climate Scenarios

The WWF Climate Campaign has released a set of 15 climate change scenarios for major countries and regions around the world.

The countries and regions covered are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Spain and Portugal, Indonesia, Japan, Mesoamerica, Northern Andes, Philippines, Russia and the USA. This is the first time that a comprehensive set of climate scenarios has been produced for many of these countries, and the work was carried out for WWF by the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia in the UK – one of the world's leading climate research centres. The scenarios cover 90 per cent of the likely climate change outcomes in the next century and highlight many significant threats to global biodiversity.

These include:

- Forest fires in the Amazon, Indonesia, Alaska, Canada and Russia.
- Flooding in the Pantanal (Brazil), the Everglades and the Chesapeake Bay (USA)
- Drought in Wolong (China), Iguazu national park (Venezuela) and Monteverde (Costa Rica), Kariba National Park (Zimbabwe)

The scenarios represent the Climate Campaign's most comprehensive effort to date to provide credible climate change information for use at the national level and by the ecoregional teams.

Further information can be found at <http://www.panda.org/climate/>
The scenarios can be downloaded from <http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/~mikeh/research/wwfscenarios.html> or contact the climate campaign on tel: +1-202-861-8388, fax: +1-202-331-2391, e-mail: climate.change@wwfus.org

News in brief

Professor Ruud Lubbers, the former Prime Minister of the Netherlands (1982-1994) is to be the new President of WWF International. The announcement came at the WWF International 1999 Annual Conference in Sabah, Malaysia. The conference also saw the commitment of a new Gift to the Earth from the Sabah Chief Minister, who announced his government's commitment to fully protect 27,000 ha of the lower Kinabatangan floodplain as a wildlife sanctuary.

A new publication, *The Yaoundé Forest Summit: making a difference*, has been published by the WWF Forest Campaign. The pamphlet, which is in English and French, outlines the key results and decisions of the summit of six African heads of state in March 1999, that discussed options for forest conservation in the region. A seven minute video of the challenges facing the region, and of the summit, is also available.
Contact: Tori Lyall: tlyall@wwfnet.org

Green money, two new reports released by WWF in December 1999 reveal a positive correlation between environmental performance and stock market returns in the forest products industry. The reports, part of WWF's Global Forestry and Finance Initiative (GFFI), seeks to influence institutional investors and persuade them to invest in forest product companies with good environmental performance. In particular, WWF is calling on pension funds to use Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification as one of their criteria for investment decisions.

See the certification page (14) for more details of the two reports – the *Future of the Forest Sector: Maximising Environmental Benefits and Stock Market Returns* and *Sustainable Forestry Pays*.

For more information, contact Alison Lucas at WWF's Forest For Life Campaign
Tel: +44-1483-419-266.

The Future of Forest Conservation in Russia

Russia's forest sector is of global importance because of its size, carbon-storage capacity, biodiversity, and extent of its forest products (timber and non-timber). It is equally important nationally for its contribution to the gross domestic product, export earnings, and employment, as well as for its vital role in the lives of indigenous peoples.

Russia is too large and the forest sector too diverse to be adequately considered solely at the national level. IUCN therefore conducted a series of participatory workshops across the country, bringing together local, national and international NGOs, government officials, and scientists and donors active in each region. The workshops employed participatory methods to enable the Russian stakeholders to articulate what they saw as the major obstacles and opportunities facing forest conservation and sustainable development in each region. After generating a list of 'urgent forest issues', the participants prioritised these and developed strategies for addressing each priority in the region's context (see box).

These workshops were followed by a national level workshop designed to synthesise the results; verify that the workshops had identified relevant issues for the regional and national levels; examine the feasibility of the strategies developed; and finally, identify next steps for IUCN and other partners.

Based on the results of this series of workshops, it is clear to IUCN that our potential niche in forest conservation and management in Russia revolves around our ability to serve as a catalyst and a convener.

The first potential role for IUCN is as a networker. As a global Union, IUCN has the ability to mobilise technical expertise in other countries as well as the expertise of a small but growing network of IUCN institutional members and individual commission members within Russia, which can be brought to support forest conservation in Russia. The second role is to function as a facilitator in helping to build new partnerships with an increasingly mobilised civil society within Russia, as well as with organisations outside of Russia. And finally, a third potential role is to make the connections between policy and practice by learning from field experiences in Russia and sharing the lessons learned with Russian stakeholders and the rest of the world. This may be particularly valuable to IUCN members and partners considering or reconsidering how best to deploy their financial and technical resources for conservation in Russia.

Based on the results of these workshops, and further meetings with Russian partners, IUCN is currently developing a forest conservation programme in Russia, with several component projects. The next steps will consist of refining these project proposals with potential technical partners inside and outside of Russia, fundraising and implementing the programme. IUCN is also developing a Memorandum of Understanding for co-operation with the Federal Forest Service of Russia.

IUCN's Temperate and Boreal Forest Programme has identified Russia as the first priority for the development of a country-level programme to promote conservation and sustainable forest management initiatives in temperate and boreal countries. **Andrew Deutz**, **Danielle Cantin** and **Victor Teplyakov** summarise the development of the programme.

IUCN has published a report of the workshops along with a specially commissioned paper on the state of Russia's forests by the All-Russian Research and Information Center for Forest Resources. *The Future of Forest Conservation in Russia*, edited by A Deutz, D Cantin, A Laletin, A Teplyakov and V Moshkalo can be obtained from IUCN in Canada, tel: +1-514-287-9704, fax: +1-514-287-9057, email: poste@iucn.ca, or IUCN in Moscow, tel: +7(095)-190-7077, fax: +7(095)-490-5818, email: iucnmos@interset.ru. A Russian-language version will soon be available. The report is available on the web at: <http://www.iucn.ca/english/Programme/BorealForest/Index.html>

For the Russian Far-East:

- The lack of efficient methods for preventing and extinguishing forest fires.
- The need to incorporate ecological values into forest inventory systems.
- The need to diversify forest product use, especially non-timber forest products.
- The need to diminish the biodiversity impacts of logging in forest ecosystems, including the use of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management.

For Siberia:

- Reduction of ecological and economic damage from forest fires.
- Inventory and conservation of old-growth forests.
- Adapting criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management to Siberian conditions.
- Improving public awareness of ecological values.
- The impact of rocket fuels on forests.

For the European-Urals region:

- Problems with developing regional legislation and co-ordinating with federal forest legislation.
- Extension of the Specially Protected Natural Areas network and development of the ECONET forest programme.
- Finding workable solutions to forest fire problems.
- Restoration of radioactively polluted forests and modification of its traditional use to protect local communities.
- Developing partnerships between state bodies and public organisations.
- The need to balance the ecological, economical, social, and cultural aspects of sustainable development and to find solutions to the problems of the forest sector at the political level.

Kalimantan – after the rice project

Indonesia's infamous Mega-Rice Project has finally been scrapped. Yet what may come next could be even worse. Jack Rieley of University of Nottingham reports.

On 13th July 1999 President Habibie ended one of the most unsavoury and unsuccessful episodes in the history of land development in Indonesia. The Mega Rice Project initiated by former President Suharto in 1995, which had been put on hold since shortly after his downfall in 1998, was consigned to the scrap heap. An ill-conceived attempt to convert one million hectares of peat wetland in Central Kalimantan into rice paddies was put to rest. In the course of its implementation three trillion Indonesian Rupiah were squandered and all the swamp forest within the area was removed or degraded. No productive rice has been grown and one million hectares (the size of Northern Ireland) lies devastated and useless. Its biodiversity has gone. The natural resource functions have been disrupted, probably irreparably, by more than 4,500 kilometres of drainage channels, excavated for irrigation and to prevent flooding. After only two years the main channels are losing water and silting up. People are nonetheless still using them to gain access to the interior. All remaining timber is being removed and, in the process, debris is set alight and the surface peat catches fire, generating more of the dense, unhealthy haze that has beset Southeast Asia in recent years.

Prospects for the future?

This new decree provides formal recognition of the failure of the Mega Rice Project but also creates the mechanism for another land development disaster that could be even greater in extent and environmental damage. Future development of the area has been rolled up into a new 2.8 million ha economic development zone. The over-riding premise is land conversion to food crops and plantations, especially oil palm and rubber. There is little reference to environmental protection.

The decrees and other legal instruments governing these changes contain some provisions that are potentially good, and others that are certainly bad for the environment and socio-economic condition of the people.

The positives are:

1. No direct mention of rice cultivation.
2. Reduced emphasis on food production.
3. Multiple use visualised.
4. Land should be developed and managed according to wise use sustainability principles.
5. Land development projects must have EIAs undertaken before their acceptance according to procedures established by the Indonesian Government Agency for land use.
6. The key is supposed to be ecological planning.

The negatives are:

1. Main emphasis is on economic development for a wide range of possible activities.
2. Vague references to sustainability and wise use.
3. Lack of understanding of, and provision for, environmental and natural resource functions of tropical peatland and peat swamp forest.
4. No mention of wildlife conservation in large wilderness areas.
5. Areas designated for hydrological, peat and wildlife protection are fragmented and are not sustainable because of their proximity to, and the magnitude of, development project areas.

Separation of responsibility for the former rice project area, between the Provincial Government of Kalteng for land with peat less than 3 metres thick, and the Department of Forestry for land with peat more than 3 metres thick, is a recipe for disaster. There is inadequate staff with appropriate expertise to cope with these new responsibilities. If all peat less than 3 metres is developed it will be impossible to protect areas with peat more than 3 metres thick, which in any case have been impacted by the excavation of the channels.

At present there is a vacuum in terms of political and administrative action. No one wishes to make important decisions and there is major opportunity for business interests to step in with proposals for large plantations, especially of oil palm and rubber.

The future direction of the former one million hectares project is only a part, and not the most important part, of the environmental problems in Central Kalimantan. A higher priority is protection and sustainable management of the wilderness of peat swamp forest remaining between Sg. Sebangau and Sg. Katingan. This 1 million ha area is the last large area of undeveloped and relatively non-impacted peatland rain forest in western Indonesia. It is home to many orang utan and countless other animals and plants and is worthy of designation as a National Park, a Ramsar peatland site and a World Heritage site. But it is under threat of complete destruction within five years from illegal logging, fire, hunting, settlement and bureaucratic incompetence, inactivity and collusion. In a recent aerial survey 66 locations were observed, out of a total of 160, where the infrastructure for illegal logging was in use (logging skids, small canals and huts) inside the production forest. On this basis 40 per cent of this wilderness forest is being logged illegally at a time when most official concessions have ended. The regrowth trees for the next official timber crop are being stolen, no one is stopping it, few people care and this forest is dying.

What should be done?

In the present situation there is a state of general apathy and antipathy. The current situation is so desperate that crisis measures are needed. While it is accepted that the new Decrees provide the framework for some environmental protection, evaluation and management, the reality is that much more of the pristine ecosystem will disappear before new systems can be put in place and implemented.

In April 1998, WWF joined forces with the World Bank to form an alliance based around two forest conservation targets: helping to create 50 million hectares of new forest protected areas by 2005 and achieving 200 million hectares of independently certified forests by the same date. Eighteen months on, the Alliance is working in 22 countries and collaborating with over a dozen major governments, funding agencies and research bodies around the world. As the international Alliance advisory council meets for the first time, Rod Taylor provides an overview of progress to date.



WWF-World Bank Alliance

Through the Alliance, the two organisations are enhancing their combined convening power, international presence and technical skills to promote forest conservation and best practices in forest management. The World Bank is the largest provider of development assistance in the world, lending approximately US\$30 billion a year for projects and programmes aimed at reducing poverty in the world's poor countries. WWF is the world's largest independent conservation organisation, sponsoring more than 13,000 projects in 157 countries and with a network of 27 national organisations.

To achieve its targets, the Alliance is forging links with local and international 'agents of change'. During 1999 three governments – the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland – funded Alliance activities and Norway and Finland have also promised support in 2000. These funds were used to develop projects that attracted additional funding, including several Global Environment Facility proposals for the management of protected areas in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and Colombia. For example, in Liberia the Alliance supported the Society of Conservation of Nature in Liberia and other organisations to initiate planning for conservation and natural resource management of the highly threatened Cestos-Senkwehn forests.

Support for independent certification is at the centre of the Alliance's priorities. Where market conditions warrant, this may lead to the labelling of products as being from a certified source. Elsewhere, supportive public policies will be needed to create conditions and incentives for managing to internationally accepted standards. There are other settings – in parts of South Asia for example – where alternative systems of verification may suffice to ensure that best practices are being followed. In Indonesia, for example, the Alliance has joined with GTZ, Germany's



technical development organisation, to support collaboration between the Indonesian ecolabelling institute (Lembaga Ekolabel Indonesia), the Forest Stewardship Council and its accredited certifiers in the development of internationally acceptable criteria and indicators.

The Alliance is also applying its influence, leverage and resources to support the efforts of governments and NGOs to tackle politically sensitive issues such as perverse subsidies, illegal practices and conversion of forest lands to agricultural uses. For example, in the Mekong Basin countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Thailand, the Alliance organised a symposium on law enforcement, sponsored by the government of the Netherlands, to address widespread forest crime in the region. The symposium identified a range of responses, including the need for bilateral arrangements between countries to control smuggling and regional co-operation in training and capacity building. As a follow-up, support is now being sought for in-depth bilateral negotiations among the participating countries on specific border issues and the government of Cambodia has been helped in setting up a forest crime monitoring programme.

The Alliance has also sponsored research into critical issues relating to forest conservation, including research into global sources of timber supply and threats to forest protected areas (see *arborvitae* 12 for a description of the latter). One result of the protected areas research is that a new target has been set: that the Alliance will secure 50 million hectares of threatened protected areas under effective management by 2005.

Finally, in collaboration with other groups, the Alliance is developing a global vision for 2050 – a vision that sees a shift in the balance from forests as a source of fibre production to forests managed to meet the needs of local communities, as well as for their environmental and aesthetic values.

The Alliance's first annual report has just been published. Contact WWF for details.

Contact: Rod Taylor: rtaylor@wwfnet.org

Beyond the Trees An International Conference on

the Design and Management of Forest Protected Areas

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Date: 8-11 May 2000

The Conference, organised by WWF's Forests for Life Campaign, will focus on the themes of protected area system design and management effectiveness of forest protected areas.

Since their inception the triennial United Nations Lists of Protected Areas have consistently revealed an exponential rise in both the number and extent of protected areas around the world. Many people in the protected area community around the world are, however, questioning whether the growth in the reserve network is really delivering the benefits that the figures would imply.

Two of the major causes for this concern are that:

1. the "right" areas may not be included in the system leading to inadequate protection of species or ecosystems or gradual erosion of conservation values within ineffectively designed reserves;
2. despite the best efforts of managers, existing protected areas may be ineffectively managed and unable to face the threats and pressures to which they are subjected.

The Conference is an opportune moment to look ahead to The Fifth World Congress on Protected Areas - 'Benefits Beyond Boundaries' (WPC 2002) to be held in September 2002 at Durban, South African. WPC 2002, a once-a-decade global gathering of some 2-3,000 individuals, will examine all aspects and types of protected areas.

It is proposed that WWF, working together with the WCPA Task Force on Management Effectiveness, will develop the two main themes from the Bangkok conference as workshops at WPC 2002.

The Conference will initiate the process of preparing for a WPC 2002 workshop on protected area design and management effectiveness by:

- increasing awareness amongst decision makers, opinion formers and politicians of the current state of forest protected areas worldwide;
- preparing a publication summarising current knowledge, experiences and issues surrounding system design and management effectiveness;
- endorsing a process for developing and testing a rapid system for assessment of protected area management effectiveness;
- developing a comprehensive Conference website with all papers and discussions.

For more details: Contact Devendra Rana at WWF on devendra.rana@wwfnet.org

News in brief

New reserve in the Russian Far East

A 65,000 ha forest reserve (zakaznik) was established at Vostochny on Sakhalin Island in July 1999, bordering the Okhotsk sea and protecting two spawning rivers. Management includes a logging ban and heavy restrictions on thinning, regeneration felling and sanitary logging, while sustainable collection of non-timber forest product is still allowed. This is a change in policy for zakaznik reserves, where previously people were banned from collecting NTFPs, but logging operations remained legal.

Contact: Sakhalin Environment Watch, E-mail: watch@sakhalin.ru

Expanding the protected areas system of Vietnam

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has proposed to increase the area of Special-Use Forests areas in Vietnam from 1.3 to 2 million ha, thus creating the opportunity to redress some of the imbalance in coverage of the present network.

Source: *BirdLife International Vietnam Programme Quarterly Report April to June 1999*. Contact: Quoc Nguyen at BirdLife International Vietnam Programme; Tel/Fax: (844) 851-7217; Email: quoc.birdlife@netnam.org.vn

Another site in danger

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee added the Ruwenzori Mountains in Uganda to its List of World Heritage in Danger in November. The Ugandan Ruwenzori Mountains has been occupied by rebels since 1997, preventing any conservation activity. The List of World Heritage in Danger now includes 27 sites.

Source: UN

New Park for Madagascar

A new 31,160 ha national park, Andringitra, was dedicated in Madagascar in October 1999. It lies between Ranomafan and Isalo National Parks, and includes a range of habitats from moist forests to dense montane forests and high mountain prairies. Inhabitants from the nearly 200 villages in the area have participated in making the decision to conserve and develop the park.

Source: Environment News Service, 8/10/99

Assessing Canada's National Parks

The Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks was set up by the Secretary of State (Parks) in 1998 to:

- Identify and define issues, threats and challenges pertaining to ecological integrity.
- Examine and assess present approaches, methods and programmes developed by Parks Canada and their effects on ecological integrity.
- Explore the applicability of new, additional or alternative approaches and methods.
- Recommend to the Minister on actions to improve the performance of Parks Canada and ensure long-term maintenance/restoration of ecological integrity in Canadian National Parks.

The Panel's report, which is due to be released in December 1999, will be reported in the next issue of *arborvitae*.

Source: Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks, <http://ecolog.org>

Deforestation and forest degradation together represent the two principal threats to the forests of South and South East Asia – the average deforestation rate for Continental SE Asia, 1.6 per cent per annum, remains the world’s highest. [Andrew Ingles](#) and [Sameer Karki](#) report on IUCN’s Forest Programmes activities in the region.

IUCN’s Forest Programme in South and Southeast Asia

Many of the basic underlying causes of forest decline are shared across the region. They arise from weak governance, poor or short-sighted economic planning, inequitable access to decision-making and the benefits of development, lack of incentives for responsible private sector behaviour, market failure, poverty, lack of skills, knowledge and resources to do things better, and unclear decision-making processes. Conflicting, unclear or inadequate law and policy are also a major concern. Many national protected area systems are inadequate and designated protected areas are poorly managed or mismanaged. Land use and tenure conflicts and insufficient local participation are additional issues for forest conservation.

Although large forest rehabilitation programmes are under development in many Asian countries, there are inadequate technical packages and implementation capacity, and substantial gaps exist in forest policy and guidelines related to such schemes.

IUCN’s forest related activities in the region

About half of IUCN’s portfolio of work in the region is related in some way to forest conservation. This includes the work being carried out in country and regional thematic programmes (such as the regional forest, biodiversity and sustainable use programmes). Activities include, or have included, the development and implementation of conservation strategies and associated policy instruments, regulatory mechanisms, national planning procedures, protected area systems, species action plans, environmental impact assessment procedures and education curricula that impact upon forests. In addition, field projects have been designed and implemented for identifying and assessing the biological diversity of forests, and protecting endemic and endangered species. This has included flora and fauna surveys, assessments of

conservation status, updating lists of rare and threatened animals, and the development of indicators for habitat conservation. IUCN is also involved in supporting the collaborative management of protected areas; the development of conservation management plans for specific forest areas of high priority; addressing policy issues related to rehabilitating degraded forests in the Lower Mekong Basin; and, facilitating policy reform for mitigating damage caused by forest fires. Field projects in Lao PDR and Vietnam are developing and testing incentives and systems for the sustainable use of non-timber forest products.

These efforts are significant and useful, but there are some gaps in their geographical coverage, in the issues or problems being addressed, and in the range and intensity of approaches being used. The planning, monitoring and evaluation cycles for the different country and regional thematic programmes have yet to be harmonised and brought under the region’s overall strategic framework, and both the mandate from stakeholders and the financial support for forest conservation activities need to be strengthened. These are the challenges that the regional forest programme, based in Bangkok, is now addressing.

Future Directions

The central themes of the current programme include: the assessment of forest biodiversity; establishment and management of forested protected areas; promotion of collaborative forest management; development of models for the sustainable use of non-timber forest products; and sustainable use of forests outside of protected areas. In addition, it will be necessary to assess the impact and relevance of programme activities and to do more to learn and disseminate important lessons from IUCN’s work.

New activities are likely to address forest rehabilitation and restoration; mitigation of the negative impacts of forest fires; identification of critical forest ecosystems; understanding the impacts of climate change; capacity to prepare national and regional positions for key policy events; trade in forest products; and trans-boundary forest and watershed management. The programme could also expand geographically to include more activities in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, India and the Philippines.

The success of the programme depends on achieving integration and coherence of the secretariat’s forest related activities in the region. It will involve consulting and engaging commissions, members and partners in the development and implementation of programme, articulating the vision and capacity of IUCN to donors; and, receiving the required support for implementing the programme.

The role of the regional forest programme is to:

- Support the functioning of the Asia Regional Directorate and the integration of regional thematic programmes
- Support the development and management of Country ‘forest programmes’
- Facilitate learning and communication of forest conservation lessons
- Influence and test forest policy
- Develop and manage regional forest conservation projects
- Contribute to the objectives and outputs of the Global Forest Programme.

Contact: Regional Forest and M&E Programmes, 302, Outreach Building, AIT, P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand. Fax: +66-2-524-5392, E-mail: iucn@ait.ac.th

As many of us prepare to enter the third Millennium since the birth of Christ, some of the world's oldest and most impressive inhabitants have already begun their fourth, fifth and even seventh. In the White Mountains of California some bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*) are approaching 5,000 years old, while a number of Europe's venerable olive trees (*Olea europea*) were almost certainly growing at the time of Christ and the largest Italian Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) could be over 4,000 years old. In woodland in the west of England, a small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*) has already celebrated its 6,000th birthday, while the common yew (*Taxus baccata*) growing at Fortingall in Scotland, may be an astonishing 9,000 years old. It seems likely, as more research is carried out into the true ages of ancient trees, that there could be individual trees alive today in some remote wilderness that are over ten thousand years old!

Since the earliest of times mankind has had a special fascination with ancient trees. Around the world many large, slow-growing trees have been and still are the objects of deep respect and often, religious reverence, making them sacred and setting them apart from other trees.

However, many of the world's ancient trees and the environments that support them are under threat. In California, for example large numbers of ancient coastal redwoods, many over a thousand years old, have been felled during the 1990's. In Amazonia the rate of



deforestation has been accelerating over the past decade at a time when pioneering research has been discovering that several species live to well over a thousand years. And in Chile, although protected by both national and international law, ancient monkey puzzle trees are being damaged as a by-product of harvesting *Nothofagus* timber.

Ancient trees can perhaps be placed into three broad categories: those in urban settings, those in semi-wild situations and those in wildernesses, such as the great old-growth forests. Ancient trees in urban settings are often locally famous and are provided with some sort of protection. The same is not necessarily true about trees in semi-wild situations especially on private land. However, public pressure has been successfully brought to bear in some examples such as the "Dodders" of Windsor Park and one of the last untouched areas of coastal redwood forest on the Pacific Coast of USA.

Although ancient trees are just one of the myriad of components that make up a living forest ecosystem it is becoming increasingly apparent that they are both vital to, and indicators of, the proper functioning of many different types of forest. Recent research has shown that a significant proportion of a forest's stored carbon is contained within ancient trees and their destruction will have a proportionally greater effect than felling plantation trees. In addition ancient trees often support a vast array of other living organisms and are a vital in the maintenance of biodiversity.

Work carried out by Niro Higushi of Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia, Manaus and Dr Jeffrey Chambers, University of California, Santa Barbara has revealed that ancient trees exist in the Amazon rainforest. In their pioneering work they followed logging operations in the Amazon forest around the city of Manaus and carbon dated samples taken from the stumps of felled trees. To their surprise they found that a number of Amazonian tree species live to great ages and that four species attained ages of between 1,000 and 1,400 years old. In the past it was thought unlikely that rainforest trees would reach great age because of the sheer biological vigour of the surrounding environment and in particular the rapidity with which nutrients are recycled.

The discovery of trees over a thousand years old in the Amazon will have a profound effect on our understanding of the rainforest. The fact that it is now known that there are natural cycles in operation that occur over hundreds and thousands of years will have an effect on concepts of sustainable harvesting and conservation. In addition the grouping of ages around 1,000, 1,200 and 1,400 years old implies that it may be possible to date environmental catastrophes such as major El Nino events and enhance our historical understanding the Amazon.

Ancient Trees - Trees that live for a thousand years by Anna Lewington and Edward Parker. Published by Collins and Brown Ltd. ISBN 1-85585-704-9. Price £25.00. Available from most book stores. (e.g. Amazon.com, Dillons etc.)

WWF and IUCN's Global Programme Firefight has just confirmed further funding for a major project on forest fires in South East Asia. Peter Moore, Stewart Maginnis and Bill Jackson give an overview of the programme aims and of progress to date within the regions.

Firefight

The Global Programme

Fire is a natural and ecologically necessary component in many of the world's forests. However, its frequency, intensity and seasonality have been so altered by human actions as to affect the lives of millions of people, severely degrade some important ecosystems and increase global warming by contributing to atmospheric carbon. Recent studies have documented losses relating to human health, indigenous people's territory, biodiversity, industrial production and economic development, agriculture, foreign investment and trade, timber production, and long-term climate change. In Indonesia alone, the 1997 forest fires were responsible for losses totalling some US\$4.5 billion, exceeding the damages assessed in the Exxon Valdez and Bhopal disasters combined.

The scale and intensity of the 1997 and 1998 fires show that harmful forest fires can no longer be considered solely the product of a long dry season, human carelessness, or smallholder land preparation. The inability of governments to control such fires questions the assumption that effective control requires only early warning and adequate fire-fighting equipment. Instead, fire-related behaviour of a whole range of stakeholders must be addressed and attention should be focused on fire prevention through policy reform and the removal of perverse economic incentives.

IUCN and WWF are running a major programme aimed at securing such policy reform. The primary target groups will be national governments, intergovernmental agencies and the private sector. Secondary target groups include civil society, especially ordinary citizens and local forest-dependent communities. Non-governmental organisations will play a key role in disseminating information, awareness raising, mobilising campaigns and training. The World Bank/WWF Alliance provides an opportunity to seek support from the World Bank and Regional Development Banks. The programme will also develop collaborative partnerships with UNDP, FAO and UNEP and will contribute to their respective fire related programmes.

The programme purpose will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- Enhanced knowledge and skills of key stakeholders concerning fire management and, where necessary, changed attitudes;

- Economic incentives and market mechanisms that improve fire control and forest management and the elimination of perverse incentives that encourage harmful fire-related behaviour.
- Policies and legislation that safeguard forest areas from the harmful effects of fires and a high level political commitment towards their adoption.
- Regularly collated, properly funded and regionally compatible, fire information that informs and shapes national and regional fire management policies and strategies.

The programme will last five years and will develop, support and co-ordinate six regional initiatives in Asia, Central and South America, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Russian Federation and the Mediterranean. The global programme will provide linkages and exchange information between the components.

Regional progress to date

Programme Firefight has established its first regional project in South East Asia. Working within the 10 member states of ASEAN, the project seeks to bring together regional experiences, analysis and information, and to facilitate targeted lobbying and advocacy. Effective and positive relationships have been established with the ASEAN Co-ordination and Steering Unit for Implementing the Haze Action Plan and fire experts from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. The project has compiled an inventory of fire-related activities within the region and established contact with many key stakeholders. As one of the main problems is that middle-ranking managers have failed to co-ordinate, the project has started to plan a management policy and planning course in collaboration with RECOFTC (Regional Community Forestry Training Centre), Thailand. It is anticipated that such a course will bring together some of the disparate actors involved in fire-related issues and mobilise their combined efforts in fire management. The project has also worked with regional organisations to quantify and analyse the environmental, social and economic impact of the 1997/98 forest fires in Asia and to identify traditional community-based fire management strategies, along with the conditions necessary for their successful implementation.

In collaboration with regional organisations, the global programme has also started planning a major forest fire initiative for the countries of the Mediterranean basin. Mediterranean forests tend to be fragmented and at risk from major disturbance such as fire. It is estimated that at least 1 per cent of Mediterranean forest burns each year and while governments continue to pursue expensive fire fighting strategies they do little to address the underlying causes.

A major report that summarises the response of governments and the international community to the last global fire crisis of 1997/98 shows that although many pledges of action were made, little in the way of progress has been made on the ground. The report will be released early in 2000.

FSC trial in Australia

The recently elected Labor government in the State of Victoria, Australia, campaigned on a platform that supported assisting an FSC trial in an area of the State's forests. The Minister for the Environment and Conservation, **Ms Sherryl Garbutt**, has confirmed the new government's intentions for the trial project.

WWF-Australia's Resource Conservation Programme Leader, **Michael Rae**, said, "WWF believes the FSC system offers great scope to improve forest management in Australia's native forests and plantations. The Federal and State governments' Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) completed thus far have failed to gain community support because the forest reserve boundaries and the logging practices the RFAs enshrine are widely believed to be inadequate to protect the environmental, social and economic values of the forests."

"Ms Garbutt's decision is commendable. The Minister has supported the idea of a trial of the FSC system in Victoria to see if it can offer the same benefits in solving forest disputes it has in other countries," Mr Rae said.

WWF's intention is to hold discussions with environmental groups, local timber companies, and other stakeholders with a view to conducting a trial along similar lines to the FSC trial held in Sweden.

Source: Michael Rae, email: MRae@wwf.org.au

Certification news in brief

NGOs have expressed concern about the on-going FSC certification process of areas of eucalyptus plantations run by Aracruz in Brazil. Locally, over 50 civil society organisations in Bahia and Espirito Santo are monitoring the process and point to various problems in the procedures being adopted by the certifier SCS.

Contact: Saskia Ozinga, Fern/ WRM, www.gn.apc.org/fern, tel: 44-1608-652895, fax: 44-1608-652878

Russian Certification

Issue no 20 of *Russian Conservation News* (RCN) is dedicated to forest conservation and certification. Views on certification are given from all sectors – including a negative article from Evgeny Kuzhmichov, Associate Director of Russia's Federal Forest Service. Special focus is given to voluntary certification with reports from Khabarovsk Krai, Komi and Karelia.

To obtain a copy of this issue, contact Stephanie Hitztaler, rcn@glasnet.ru or tel: +7 -095-332-40-66.

Certification in Romania

The first formal meeting of the Romanian Working Group on Forest Certification took place in Brasov in September, 1999. A second meeting was held in October to discuss the creation of a web page on certification in Romania.

Contact: Ioan Abrudan, e-mail: abrudan@unitbv.ro

Certification on the air

A series of TV programmes to promote forest certification in Latin America were aired in November 1999. The series is produced by Televisa, the world's largest Spanish-speaking television network, and covers certification activities in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, including interviews with local communities, landowners, loggers, sawmill owners, national regulatory agencies, and NGOs.

Contact: Paulo Lyra, e-mail: paulo.lyra@wwfnet.org



WWF's Global Forestry and Finance Initiative

WWF launched the Global Forestry and Finance Initiative (GFFI) in 1998, in response to the continuing loss of forest area worldwide and the related negative impacts which have placed increasing pressure on forest product companies.

Aimed at institutional investors, GFFI seeks to highlight the benefits of investing in forest product companies with good management practices. Specifically, it argues that the globally recognised Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification scheme is one of the best indicators of sound environmental management in the forestry sector.

Under GFFI, WWF is committed to providing investors with the latest evidence on the impact certification is having on forest product companies. Two recently released reports reveal a positive correlation between environmental performance and stock market returns: *The Future of the Forest Sector: Maximising Environmental Benefits and Stock Market Returns and Sustainable Forestry Pays*.

Key findings in the reports:

- While the results are not yet conclusive, the reports found that investors in forest product companies can expect better returns on their investments by focusing on companies that have been certified to FSC standards.
- Companies embracing the voluntary certification scheme enhance their competitive edge in the marketplace, as well as their overall value.
- The benefits of FSC certification for forest companies are many, including product differentiation, price premiums, maintaining market access, improved forest productivity and stakeholder relations, reduced insurance and capital costs, and increased value of their key assets—mainly the forests.
- Companies adopting high standards of forest management are better placed to expand their business and generate positive results for investors.
- Improved forestry management in the short-term may result in higher costs. Yet this is often offset under a longer-term perspective by improved sales potential, a lower risk premium and superior stock returns.

Contact: Chris Elliott on CElliott@wwfnet.org or see WWF's web site on www.panda.org.

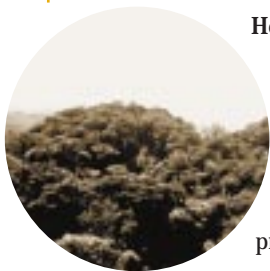
Regional framework for effective conservation of Albertine Rift montane forests, Africa



A priority-setting workshop, organised by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), was held in Kampala, Uganda in July 1999. The workshop brought together NGO and government

representatives, who despite the region's political instability, work towards the conservation of montane forests in the Albertine Rift region (the area along the western branch of the Rift Valley crossing western Uganda, eastern D R Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and northern Zambia).

These forests are highly diverse, provide services for local people, watershed protection and climatic regulation. The forests are under increasing threat resulting from an expansion of human demands upon land and resources and from a lack of effective conservation measures.



Hon. Baguma Isoke, Minister of State for Lands, Water and Environment of Uganda, was the Guest of Honour and opened the workshop. He emphasised the importance of cross-border co-operation in conservation and welcomed the regional initiative promoted by ARCOS.

Participants recorded information on the conservation and management status of individual forest areas, along with details of ongoing and planned conservation initiatives, many of which are community-based. In addition the priority constraints to forest conservation were identified in each country. Future opportunities and priorities were discussed, and a shortlist of priority and feasible activities was prepared together with responsibilities for follow up, which will be co-ordinated by ARCOS. A focal group was established in each country to monitor effectively follow up activities.



The workshop developed a number of recommendations focusing particularly on the better understanding of the region's forests, provision of effective information, exchange of experiences, collaboration on conservation actions for critical sites and a biannual forum.



The workshop was supported by WWF/World Bank Alliance, FAO (TCDC/TCCT Experts Programme), Tropical Rainforest Programme of the Netherlands Committee for IUCN, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and The Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, UK.

A concise summary and final report of the workshop are available. For further information, contact ARCOS: c/o WCMC, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL, UK.
Tel: + 44(0) 1223 277314 Fax: + 44 (0) 1223 277136, Email: samk@wcmc.org.uk
Web Site: <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/arcos>

From top right corner: Nyungwe forest, East lowland gorilla, Lake Kivu and Hills above the Semliki river. Photographs courtesy of the ARCOS website.

Calendar of Events

Convention on Biological Diversity

5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
15-26 May 2000, Nairobi, Kenya

Contact: CBD Secretariat, World Trade Center, 393 Jaques St, Suite 300, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9
Tel: +1-514-288-2220
Fax: +1-514-288-6588
E-mail: chm@biodiv.org
Web: <http://www.biodiv.org>

Confédération Européenne du Liège

1st World Congress on Cork Oak and Cork

15-17 June 2000 (provisional), Parques das Nações, Lisbon, Portugal

Contact: Agro.Ges, Av da República, no 412, 2750-475 Cascias, Portugal
Tel/fax: +351-1-483-5743
E-mail: agrogres@mail.telepac.pt
Web: <http://www.agrogres.pt>

Kyrgyz-Swiss Forestry Support Programme

International Symposium: Management of Juniper Forests

6-11 August 2000, Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Contact: Irina Yunusova, LES-IC, P.O. box 2011, Central Post Office Bishkek, 720000, Kyrgyzstan, CIS.
Fax: +996 312 279 634; +996 312 279 057
E-mail: irina@lesic.elcat.kg

Taiga Rescue Network

Boreal Forests of the World V

18-22 September, 2000, Moscow

Contact: TRN, Box 116, S-962 23, Jokkmokk, Sweden
Fax: +46-971-17039
Email: taiga@jokkmokk.se
Web: <http://www.snf.se/TRN/>

Forests for the Future. Local Strategies for Forest Protection, Economic Welfare and Social Justice

Paul Wolvekamp (editor) in collaboration with Ann Danaiya Usher, Vijay Paranjpye and Madhu Ramnath

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"Any time you hear someone say there are 'no alternatives' to centralised state control of sensitive forest areas, reach for this book. Providing the sort of perspective that can come only from those closely engaged in the tough realities of local forest struggles, it both informs and inspires." Larry Lohmann, author of *Pulping the South*.

This book addresses the question: how can local and indigenous communities maintain the balance between their societies and their forest environments when faced with increasing external pressures, rising populations and growing demands for basic needs and cash. Causes of deforestation usually lie outside the forest. However, within communities who depend on forests, there frequently exists a wealth of knowledge about rational land use and environmental protection. The case studies in this volume come from all around the world and include tropical, temperate and boreal zones. They describe the positive efforts undertaken to consolidate or adapt local forest management systems to a changing environment.

One of the things that distinguishes this book is that its contributors belong to local groups involved in these efforts. The book presents their experiences and recommendations on how to re-establish community control over forest lands and preserve them for the future.

New publications from IUCN

Assessing the International Forest Regime

Edited by Richard Tarasofsky, IUCN Environmental Policy and Law Paper No. 37. Available from the IUCN Bookstore, price £13.50/US\$20 plus postage, Email: info@books.iucn.org
A series of case studies looking at legal aspects of international forest policy; the book argues that the existing forest regime still offers a great deal in terms of forest conservation, if it were implemented. Detailed chapters examine the implementation of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, the role of the Convention on Biological Diversity and an analysis of other international instruments.

Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage in the Management of Limestone Resources: Lessons from East Asia

Jaap Vermeulen and Tony Whitten, A World Bank and IUCN Report
Available from: The World Bank, Tel: +1-202-477-1234, Fax: +1-202-477-6391, E-mail: books@worldbank.org
Limestone is found in all East Asian countries and is of major importance in development, with the production of cement being used as a barometer of economic progress. Until now the emphasis of impact assessments of infrastructure projects has been on the project area itself or the cement plants. This report looks at limestone areas in more detail – at their rich biodiversity and cultural importance – and draws attention to two aspects of limestone resource management that could help minimise impacts: site election and site management during exploitation.

Books in brief

Saving the trees for the people

Available from: Minority Rights Group, 379 Brixton Road, London SW9 7DE, UK. Email: minority.rights@mrgmail.org
A new report, *Forests and Indigenous Peoples of Asia* edited by Minority Rights Group International discusses the growing mobilisation of indigenous peoples against environmental destruction and loss of livelihood. The report analyses recent changes in governmental policy towards indigenous peoples and forest-dwellers and offers an overview of relevant international agreements. It includes recommendations designed to safeguard and promote indigenous rights in the region.

A chance to learn

Available from: Department of Natural Resource Sciences and Co-operative Extension, Washington State University, PO Box 646410, Pullman, WA 99164-6410, USA
There are very few books in English describing the work and experiences of Russian Foresters. *A History of Russian Forestry and its Leaders* aims to fill this gap. After a brief review of forest history, use, policy and management the book looks at leading figures in Russian forestry from the 17th until the mid-19th century. The life and work of individuals involved forest science, soil science, forest ecology, valuation and management are reviewed chronologically building up a fascinating picture of how forestry in Russia evolved.

New Zealand logging scandal exposed

Available from: Craig Potton Publishing, New Zealand
Secrets and Lies a new book by Nicky Hager and Bob Burton, is an important contribution to the history of forest conservation politics. The book tells the story of how one company, Timberlands West Coast, used millions of dollars of state-owned enterprise money to lobby its own shareholders – the government – and orchestrate a political campaign to support its logging of the old-growth South Island beech forests and attack its critics.

New forest managers manual

Available from: Earthscan, 120 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JN, UK. Web: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>. £25.00
Based around the FSC's Principles and Criteria and the ITTO's Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, *The Sustainable Forestry Handbook: A practical guide for tropical forest managers on implementing new standards* is likely to become an important addition to every forest managers library.

Tropical forest series

Available from: ODI, fax: +44-171-393-1699
E-mail: c.wood@odi.org.uk
Recently published papers in a new series from the Overseas Development Institute, the European Union Tropical Forestry papers, include No.2, *Principles and Practice of Forest Co-Management: Evidence from West and Central Africa*, by David Brown and No.3, *Forestry Issues in the Guiana Shield Region: A Perspective on Guyana and Suriname*, by Philippa Haden.

The effects of population growth

The entire report can be down loaded from the web: http://www.populationaction.org/why_pop/forest/forest_index.htm
A new report titled, *Forest Futures: Population, Consumption, and Wood Resources*, by Population Action International looks at the accelerating loss of the world's forests and its relationship with the growth of human population to 6 billion. This publication examines the role of population in forest loss and highlights the value of population policies that simultaneously improve human well-being and brighten the prospects for conserving the world's remaining forests.