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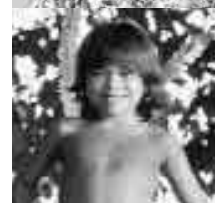
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Sustaining Livelihoods?



There has been increasing discussion in recent years about the link between conservation and human livelihoods, gathering momentum since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Despite the long period of dialogue and the perceived high level of dependence of many people on forests, the linkages between forest conservation and livelihoods remain controversial. Some conservationists have concluded that when one attempts to integrate conservation and development, biodiversity tends to lose out. Equally, some development thinkers see such integration as an unnecessary distraction from the real challenge at hand – to lift poor people out of poverty – and argue that the best conservationists have to offer is the option of sustainable poverty.

Both of these viewpoints find support in Sven Wunder's¹ conclusion that there exists limited scope for synergies between conservation and development and that each lobby should not diverge from its core business. Proponents of integrating conservation and development have not helped themselves by making exaggerated claims as to the extent of the win-win prize that is purportedly there for the taking. Wish lists have been drawn up, disappointment has ensued.

A degree of honesty and conceptual clarity is now required. To start with, those who want to see a workable marriage between development and conservation must better articulate what a livelihood emphasis means within a conservation programme. They need to develop a convincing case which distinguishes between those livelihood elements where synergies with conservation exist, e.g. environmental and food security, rural risk management strategies, and those elements where synergies are more limited or very site specific, e.g. additional income generation.

Such a framework would then provide a more reliable basis on which to work with intended beneficiaries in the design of integrated conservation-development interventions. It would also allow us to be more rigorous in testing the underlying assumptions of the intervention: are we using conservation as a means to improve livelihoods, or improving livelihoods as a way to achieve conservation aims? Once that is understood, we can be clearer and more realistic about what can be achieved, and better placed to be thorough in our monitoring and lesson-learning.

Undoubtedly part of the emerging scepticism comes from the failure of those projects that promised to maximize both conservation and development outcomes. Proponents of integration need to shift their attention away from the myth of win-win and concentrate on understanding how land-use trade-offs can be equitably balanced. Equally opponents of integration should seriously consider whether their preferred option of splitting into separate development and conservation camps is really that feasible given the complexities of land use and property and access rights.

Bob Fisher and Stewart Maginnis

¹See Wunder, S. 2001. *Poverty alleviation and tropical forests – what scope for synergies?* World Development 29.

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Back issues of *arborvitæ* can be found on the WWF/IUCN Forest Innovations website, at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/forests>

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



Development **V** Conservation in Ecuador



The construction of a pipeline to pump crude oil from the Amazon to Ecuador's Pacific coast has caused considerable controversy both locally and internationally. Gonzalo Oviedo gives the key issues some perspective and highlights the dilemma of balancing development objectives and conservation in a country facing an unprecedented economic crisis.

The decision by the Ecuadorian Government to approve an oil pipeline, the route of which will affect directly or indirectly 11 protected areas and reserves including the Mindo Nambillo Cloudforest Reserve, has been the subject of criticism from environmental NGOs. Ecuador's environment is outstandingly rich and the cloud forest reserve affected provide habitat for some 450 species of birds, 46 of which are threatened with extinction. Unfortunately, the country's ecological riches are not matched economically. Ecuador is in deep economic crisis, with a large external debt, no money to invest in social services, rampant inflation and a very weak manufacturing base. Oil exports account for 14 per cent of GDP and 49.5 per cent of government revenue, and the authorities consider the pipeline, which will allow oil production to double, as vital to reinvigorate the economy and maintain social services fundamental to meet the needs of a population suffering from aggravated poverty.

Although there has been considerable debate about the proposed pipeline route, the reality is that all the options present a threat to Ecuador's forests, and some alternative routes may have greater socio-cultural impacts. Thanks to its protected status the biological resources of Mindo reserve are well documented. Other areas not currently protected are likely to be just as rich but are relatively unstudied. It is also true that the opening of new oilfields once the pipeline

capacity is increased may have consequences for other protected and unprotected old growth forests and indigenous communities. However, even without the pipeline these areas are unlikely to face a secure future in a country on the verge of economic collapse. The dilemma for environmentalists is therefore how to ensure that Ecuador's economic future does not permanently destroy its ecological richness: a dilemma that is faced by just about every other country facing a situation of acute economic crisis.

Looking at the underlying problems provides some clues for a way forward. Although the process of agreeing the pipeline route incorporated environmental impact assessment and some public consultation, there was no clear political will to ensure that all required steps and measures were taken, and the government rushed into reaching a final decision without proper consideration of all the options. There is also a serious lack of technical capacity in the country to undertake environmentally sound infrastructure development and monitoring.

As the decision to construct the pipeline is unlikely to be reversed, efforts should be concentrated on minimising actual and possible environmental and social impacts. The multinational consortium licensed to construct the pipeline has provided a US\$50 million guarantee to cover any environmental damage incurred during construction or operation of the pipeline. To ascertain damage however it is necessary to monitor condition. The Environmental Protection Directorate of the Energy Ministry has proposed setting up a monitoring network involving local communities and NGOs along the route of the pipeline, and has been trying to raise funds to provide the infrastructure and training necessary to gather information on impacts. It is critical to ensure that this is adequately set up and supported.

WWF's Associate in Ecuador, Fundacion Natura, has been actively involved in the process, and has constantly demanded that environmental impact assessments and management plans are prepared in a more responsible way. Cognisant of the weaknesses of the Government's provisions related to monitoring and demanding compliance with standards and regulations, Fundacion Natura has been working with other environment and development organisations as well as local communities, to better channel and strengthen their participation in monitoring impacts during the crucial phase of the pipeline construction and its subsequent operation.

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European Russia the last forests

Using satellite images backed-up with fieldwork, a team of experts has created maps of the few remaining forest wilderness areas in Europe.

The last intact forest landscapes of northern European Russia, summarises an assessment co-ordinated by the Global Forest Watch (an initiative of the World Resources Institute). The main finding is that only 14 per cent or 31.7 million ha of the boreal forests of European Russia (including the Ural Mountains) remain intact (i.e. essentially undisturbed by human development with an area of at least 50,000 ha).

The vast majority of these areas are located in the most remote areas of the far north, as no intact forest landscapes remain in central and southern European Russia. The remaining untouched forests have been protected by their remoteness and their low productivity – 56 per cent have a standing inventory of less than 100 m³ per ha. As not all of the forests are protected by federal or local laws there is a risk that even isolation and low productivity will not be enough to protect them from exploitation. The report's authors, however, conclude that "our last remaining examples of wild nature can be protected even under the very restrictive Russian budget for nature conservation". This is the first in a series of reports on the remaining forest landscapes of Russia to be published during the coming year.

IUCN's CIS office facilitated the introduction of Global Forest Watch (GFW) in Russia in 1999. A number of NGOs, including Greenpeace Russia, Socio-Ecological Union, Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Sakhalin Watch and Friends of Siberian Forest are actively involved in the GFW assessments in Russia.

Source: www.globalforestwatch.org/english/russia/maps.htm

Indonesian log ban: Proposals for a logging ban in Indonesia were raised at World Bank/WWF Alliance workshops on illegal logging and law enforcement in 2000. Finally, on 8 October 2001, Indonesia instituted an indefinite log export ban, following recommendations by an International Tropical Timber Organisation mission. The mission made proposals to minimise illegal logging and to restructure the forest industry. Mission leader Dr Freezailah said that the situation in Indonesia is 'extraordinary' and required 'extraordinary measures'.

Source: ITTO

Insurers see more climate-related disasters due to global warming: Thomas Loster of Munich Re, speaking at a UN climate change conference, said that major weather disasters have increased four-fold since the 1960s. The working group of 180 banks and 90 insurance companies, set up by UNEP, supports the Climate Convention's Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: Reuters, November 2, 2001

Russian ultimatum: The Russian environmental protection system has collapsed since the demise of the State Environmental Protection Agency in May 2000 (see *arborvitae* 15), according to the 'For Nature!' forum. Following pressure from the leaders of the forum (SEU International, WWF and Greenpeace Russia), the deputy head of administration Mr Surkov has promised to give the Ministry of Natural Resources, which took over the role of the Agency, three months to solve the most serious problems highlighted. If the Ministry fails Mr Surkov will ask the government to consider restructuring the state's environmental management system.

Source: *Russian Forest Update*, # 20 (74), December 2001

Controls on eucalyptus plantations: The State Parliament of the Brazilian state of Espirito Santo has passed a law that bans eucalyptus plantations in the state until an agroecological mapping exercise, which will determine where eucalyptus can and cannot be planted, is carried out.

Source: *World Rainforest Movement Bulletin* number 52

Expert Meeting on Forest Related Definitions: Both WWF and IUCN attended the meeting at the FAO in Rome, from 23-25 January 2002. Hosted by FAO, IPCC and CIFOR, the purpose of the meeting was to start a process to review, improve and harmonise forest related definitions. Terms under discussion included 'afforestation', 'reforestation', 'deforestation', 'forest degradation' and 'devegetation', and the need for 'biome-specific forest definitions'. This process and its outcomes will have important implications for work on forest conservation and how forest-related activities are included in the first and subsequent commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol. A background paper, and report with conclusions and recommendations from the meeting will be available shortly. The process will continue via an interim task force, with a follow-up meeting provisionally planned for June 2002.

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Saving the tiger and leopard: China's Jilin Province has established the Jilin Hunchun nature reserve along the border with Russia's Primorski Krai, to provide habitat for the endangered Siberian tiger and Far Eastern leopard. A second protected area in the Wandashan Mountains of Heilongjiang province, another key area for tigers in northeast China, is under consideration.

Source: Environmental News Service, September 7, 2001, www.ens-news.com/

Cambodian Victory

In 1999, the Asian Development Bank described the Cambodian forestry sector as being in 'total system failure'. As Global Witness reported in December 2001, the subsequent review of operations led to the announcement by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen of the suspension of all logging operations from 1st January 2002.



Jack HURD

The dramatic suspension of logging operations in Cambodia was the consequence of a review of forest concession management by the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries. The review was called after the Asian Development Bank demanded that concessions face termination unless they

undertook radical reforms by 30 September 2001 – reforms that included the production of social and environmental impact assessments and long-term forest management plans. Initially 16 concessionaires from 12 companies, covering just over 2.4 million ha of forest land, were cancelled. The remaining 17 concessions agreed to redevelop their forest management plans and renegotiate

their existing contracts by the end of 2001. However, no concessionaire was able to fulfil this requirement or deadline and logging operations were ordered to stop until the requirements were satisfied. For this suspension to be meaningful, logging companies that have committed serious contractual breach, particularly with regard to illegal logging, should not be allowed to resume activities.

“Foreign logging companies have been plundering Cambodia for years, with the collusion of corrupt officials and politicians, and at the expense of the country and its people”, said Rosie Sharpe of Global Witness. “Illegal logging has been steadily increasing since late 1999 with the majority of cases being committed by the legal concessionaires” she went on to say. Global Witness has been calling for suspension and cancellation of concessions since 1996, when mounting evidence showed that such companies were responsible for the destruction of the country’s forests. Since 1999, Global Witness has been working with the government as the independent monitor of the forestry sector and has reported cases of illegal activity by all the concessionaires.

In 2000, Cambodia experienced the worst flooding in 70 years. The UN cited deforestation as a major underlying cause for the scale of flooding and estimated the floods cost the country US\$156 million. This compares to the total of US\$92 million of government revenue generated by the forestry sector between 1994 and 2000.

Source: Global Witness, www.globalwitness.org, Email: mail@globalwitness.org

News in brief

PA Representation: A study by US Geological Survey biologists shows that the US has selectively protected lands that lack commercial, agricultural or other human values, leaving entire ecosystems unrepresented. The authors divided the lower 48 states into three broad ecological domains and then combined soil productivity data with elevation and land management information to identify 35 potential soil and elevation classes. They found 63 per cent of the nature reserves have soil productivity classifications of four and five, the two poorest classifications on a scale of one to five.

Source: *Ecological Applications*, August 2001

First Nations' forest company's management recognised as a Gift to the Earth: lisaak Forest Resources Ltd, a native-controlled company operating in Clayoquot Sound, British Columbia, has been recognised by WWF for outstanding environmental and social commitment. The company is establishing a linked network of ecologically sensitive areas and First Nations cultural zones, including setting aside valleys of pristine old growth, before identifying where careful logging can occur. lisaak was formed after clashes between loggers and environmentalists, and earned FSC certification in July 2001, following co-operation with WWF Canada.

Contact: Steven Price: tel, +1-416-489-4567, ext: 256

Logging moratorium in Russian Far East: The Russian forestry enterprise Terneiles has announced a two-year moratorium on logging of some 650,000 ha of old-growth forests in the Ussuri taiga, Samarga River basin in the Russian Far East. During the 1980s the area was included in a planned system of protected

areas; however the plans never went ahead and a logging licence for the whole area was eventually sold to Terneiles. The company has also announced an intention to work towards FSC certification for some of its holdings.

Source: *TRN Boreal Bulletin*, www.taigarescue.org/news_update/news.php3

FSC trails other systems in temperate countries: According to data from the UN Economic Commission for Europe, covering both Europe and North America, while the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) remains dominant in the marketplace it now represents less than a third of the total area certified by various schemes. Figures for summer 2001 are Canadian Standards Association 5.4 million ha, Sustainable Forestry Initiative 12.4 million ha, FSC 24.1 million ha and the Pan European Forest Certification Scheme 36.8 million ha.

Source: *Forest Certification Update for the ECE Region, Summer 2001* by Laura Vilhunen, Eric Hansen, Heikki Juslin and Keith Forsyth, UNECE and FAO

Anil Agarwal

We are sorry to report the death of Anil Agarwal, who will be known to many readers of *arborvitae*. Anil was the founder and chair of the New Delhi based Centre for Science and Environment, which set a benchmark for excellence amongst NGO environmental researchers with its series of *State of India's Environment* reports, the *Down to Earth* magazine and many other publications. Anil, who was 54, had been in ill health for many years but continued writing and editing, producing over 20 books on India's environment. We offer condolences to his family and friends and regret the passing of a unique personality.

PA Management Effectiveness

Marc Hockings, Vice-Chair of the WCPA's 'Improving the Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas Theme Programme', provides a brief overview of WWF and IUCN's work on management effectiveness

Left: Discussing the *Enhancing our Heritage* project at Baghmara Community Forest, Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal



Right: Participants at the Pan African RAPMe workshop



Improving the management effectiveness of protected areas has been a major area of activity within both IUCN and WWF in the last few years and several regional offices of both organisations have been involved in either testing or developing methodologies for assessing protected area effectiveness.

In order to provide a consistent approach WCPA, after wide consultation, has developed a broad framework and guidelines for evaluating management effectiveness based on currently available best practice. The GTZ/IUCN/WWF Forest Innovations project funded by BMZ (*arborvitae* 17) was involved in raising funds for the consultation process, field-testing elements of the framework in Central Africa, funding associated work in Central America and in the development of the final version of the Framework (www.iucn.org/forests/).

The WCPA Framework aims both to provide overall guidance in the development of assessment systems and to encourage basic standards for assessment and reporting. The framework can help in the design of systems, provides a checklist of issues that need to be measured and suggests some useful indicators. The framework is based on the idea that the process of management follows six distinct stages, or elements; it begins with establishing the **context** of existing values and threats, progresses through **planning** and allocation of resources (**inputs**) and as a result of management actions (**processes**) eventually produces goods and services (**outputs**) that result in impacts or **outcomes**. *Evaluating Effectiveness: A framework for assessing management of protected areas* has been published as part of the IUCN/Cardiff University Best Practice Series. A summary of the framework and some of the most established assessment methodologies has been produced by IUCN in English, French and Spanish (www.wcpa.iucn.org).

The Forests for Life programme at WWF International has supported the design and testing of a Rapid Assessment and Prioritisation Methodology (RAPMe). By providing data about the threats, security, status and management practices of each protected area, RAPMe can provide a snapshot of the

overall effectiveness of an entire protected area network. RAPMe assessments are underway in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, in the Yangtze Ecoregion of China and in Bhutan (www.panda.org/parkassessment).

Assessments are also being carried out by WWF and the World Bank to monitor the World Bank/WWF Forest Alliance commitment to bringing 50 million hectares of poorly managed protected areas under more effective management by 2005.

In Russia, WWF, IUCN Temperate and Boreal Forest Programme and IUCN Office for the CIS are working together on an assessment of management effectiveness across all federal-level protected areas. IUCN has also evaluated in more detail the 'Russian North' national park which, according to the WWF rapid assessment in the north-west region of Russia, was classified as the most threatened protected area in the region. An action plan for improving management has now been drafted. For IUCN this is part of a larger joint Russian-Canadian project entitled *Building Partnership for Forest Conservation and Management in Russia* that is being carried out with the financial contribution of CIDA – the Canadian International Development Agency (contact: Xenya Cherny, Email: xenia.cherny@iucn.org).

IUCN is also working with the United Nations Foundation and UNESCO on a major 4-year project to improve the management of World Heritage sites through the development of better monitoring and reporting systems and the application of the results of these assessments to enhance site management. *Enhancing our Heritage: monitoring and managing for success in natural World Heritage sites* is working in ten sites in Africa, Asia and Latin America. A toolkit of monitoring and assessment methodologies, addressing each of the six elements of the WCPA Framework, has been developed and is being tested in each of the field sites (www.EnhancingHeritage.net).

Management effectiveness is also now one of the six theme programmes of the WCPA. Each theme will be the focus of a workshop and field visits at the Vth World Congress on Protected Areas, to be held in Durban in September 2003.

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...on the way to Johannesburg

The international events calendar for 2002 is rich with opportunities on forests. Carole Saint-Laurent reviews the key events.

The 2nd session of the UN Forum on Forests in New York March 4-15, 2002, will deal with progress in implementation on combating deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation and protection, conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover, and rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, as well as with common items for each session such as trade. In addition to this strong agenda for negotiation, UNFF-2 will include a ministerial segment to prepare input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), including the repositioning of forests in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods, and restoration of degraded forests.

UNFF-2 will be followed by the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in The Hague April 8-19, 2002. COP-6 will consider adoption of a new work programme of forest biodiversity based on the November 2001 recommendation of the 7th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA7). The draft work programme is a comprehensive list of activities that includes assessing the adequacy, representativeness and management effectiveness of forest protected areas; implementing restoration practices and systems in accordance with the ecosystem approach; maintaining and restoring forest biodiversity to mitigate impacts of climate change; and implementing forest fire prevention practices and plans. This is a marked improvement over the existing CBD work programme. However, in some cases the recommended activities fall short of commitments already secured in other fora. The CBD Secretariat will prepare a report for COP6 identifying, among other things, *potential actors and timeframes ... including preliminary suggestions on priorities, such as the conservation of primary forests.*

2002 will also see the 8th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and a meeting of its subsidiary bodies. Among other things, these events will follow up on decisions taken in previous sessions related to how forest-based sequestration projects will be implemented on the ground, including consideration of impacts they may have on or benefits they may generate for biodiversity and communities.

Meanwhile, preparations for the WSSD continue. Three global PrepComs will take place between January and June 2002 and the Summit will take place in Johannesburg August 26-September 4, 2002. The main themes emerging from regional and global preparations so far are: combating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods, reform of

consumption and production patterns, and protecting the integrity of ecosystems. Forests have emerged as a strong theme from the regional preparatory processes. However, other issues are receiving a great deal more attention, such as climate change and freshwater.

The WSSD will provide a platform for individual actors and partners to demonstrate leadership by stepping forward to announce new commitments and targets beyond anything that has been agreed by the international forest community. These could, for example, take the form of:

- Announcements of new Forest Landscape Restoration initiatives (to restore the full range of forest functions and services).
- New commitments by relevant actors to establish effectively managed networks of ecologically representative protected areas with social and economic benefits for local communities.
- Undertakings by governments to collaborate with communities, research organisations, NGOs and others to develop forest fire approaches focused on prevention, response and restoration, rather than on fire fighting as the primary strategy.
- Agreements by governments and international organisations to carry out and support climate change vulnerability assessments and to include adaptation strategies in National Strategies for Sustainable Development.
- Commitments to improve access of the rural poor to forest resources and provide innovative financing to reward environmental stewardship.

A successful 2002 for forests is within reach if the international community takes advantage of the opportunities available.

Contact: Carole Saint-Laurent. Email: CarSaintL@cs.com

Research in brief

Climate change has long been considered the cause of declining species in the Costa Rican cloud forests. However, new research may suggest a more local cause: cumulus clouds no longer form due to agricultural conversion of lowland forests, leading to drier, warmer conditions in the mountains (*Science* **294**, 584-587). And a study on the impacts of edge effects on lizards and frogs in another Costa Rican forest found responses to be highly dynamic in terms of both species and seasons, with taxa responding to different components of edge effects according to their particular biological requirements (*Conservation Biology* **15**, 1079-1090). In the Amazon, studies show that secondary forest regains primary forest species more rapidly if deforestation is not followed by use as pasture before abandonment (*Journal of Ecology* **89**, 528-537). Use of radar imagery in the highly fragmented Atlantic forests of Brazil avoided cloud cover problems that hamper the use of satellite data, providing a valuable tool for conservation planning (*Conservation Biology* **15**, 867-875). Introduction of reduced impact logging in Malaysia showed positive gains for both biodiversity and sustainability of timber production, with for example a reduction in stand damage from 50% to 28% of original stems (*International Forestry Review* **2**, 33-39). Meanwhile, in the Mediterranean, genetic research has established that genuinely wild olive trees still exist in some forests, and it is proposed that these findings may have implications for conservation strategies in the region (*Nature* **413**, 700).



DGIS-WWF

Workshop on ICDPs



Over the last five years WWF has been implementing a programme of integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs) in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Development Agency (DGIS). The DGIS-WWF Tropical Forest Portfolio is composed of seven field projects in 6 countries in Africa (Gabon (2), Ethiopia), Latin America (Ecuador, Honduras), and Asia (Pakistan, Philippines). Since its inception in 1996, the DGIS-WWF Tropical Forest Portfolio has aimed to draw lessons on the effectiveness of the ICDP approach. In bringing the Portfolio to a close, WWF and DGIS sponsored a workshop in October 2001 on integrated conservation and development.

The aim of the workshop was to address the question: 'what is the appropriate role for ICDPs?'. Workshop presentations and posters explored a number of cross-cutting and thematic issues (e.g. scales of effectiveness, biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation and livelihoods, policy environment, institutional constraints, capacity, governance, etc.).

The workshop identified a series of conclusions about the value of ICDPs as a conservation methodology. ICDPs will remain contentious in their method of implementation between development agencies and conservation agencies due to the wide number of definitions and applications of the concept. In the implementation of ICDPs there are a number of aspects that have been poorly addressed in the past and have resulted in ICDPs as a conservation tool being discredited. Specifically:

- There is a need to set clear biodiversity conservation and development goals, objectives and targets. These need to be made clear to partners and stakeholders from the outset.
- A learning process/methodology (e.g. adaptive management) must be an integral part of the process.
- ICDPs cannot be all things to all people. Trade-offs between biodiversity, economics and societies have to more realistically acknowledged.
- Policies, laws and institutions are critical components of an effective ICDP approach.
- Stakeholders are an important aspect of ICDP planning and implementation. It must be acknowledged, however, that it is NOT possible to include all stakeholders in an ICDP.
- Given the differences between views of what ICDPs are, it is important to understand the conditions under which one is operating to ensure that the actions taken and tools used are the ones most appropriate to reach the desired outcomes.

The results of the DGIS-WWF Tropical Forest Portfolio will be further elaborated in a book edited by Thomas McShane and Michael Wells (working title: *Integrating conservation and development practice: Its current state and directions for the future*, Columbia University Press) that brings together the papers presented at the workshop with a synthesis of the discussions and results. This will be complemented by a seminar hosted by DGIS in The Hague to presents the results of the Portfolio and workshop to decision-makers at DGIS, the EC and other bilateral aid agencies in March 2002.

For the full workshop report, please contact: Astrid-Tine Bjørnvik, Email: abjorvik@wwfint.org or fax: + 41-22-364-0640. The report will also be available at www.panda.org/forests4life under the publications section.

Meetings in brief

East African Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration: WWF and IUCN held a workshop in Mombasa, Kenya in November 2001, to bring together decision-makers and key stakeholders to discuss the importance of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and the wider East African region. Findings from four national studies (covering the existing key policies, projects and participants in efforts that relate to FLR) commissioned by the joint WWF/IUCN project Forests Reborn were presented and formed the basis of workshop deliberations. The outputs include four national working papers on opportunities for FLR, which represent a first step in the formulation of action plans for FLR in each country. A full workshop report including the national case studies and a full set of workshop recommendations is in preparation.

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New Conference date: The Certified Forest Products Council and WWF-US are holding their re-scheduled Certified Forest Products International Conference and Showcase, now renamed the *Forest Leadership Forum: Collaborative Pathways to Responsible Trade*, from 25-27 April, 2002 at the Cobb Galleria in Atlanta, Georgia. Workshops and a trade fair will focus attention on the issues shaping the market for responsible forest products in the 21st century.

Contact: Email: conferencequestions@certifiedwood.org, tel: +1-503-224-2205, www.forestleadershipforum.org



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Top: Besingi village in the buffer zone of Korup National Park, Cameroon

Right: A Seri woman from the Gulf of California, Mexico

Far right: Evenke people, Sakha Republic, Russian Federation



© WWF-Canon / Edward PARKER

Forests and Poverty Conservation

The international community is committed to eliminating poverty. International development targets to that end include a reduction by half in the number of people who are food insecure and a similar reduction in the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015. The Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the support of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), held an interagency Forum on the Role of Forests in Poverty Alleviation in September 2001. Sixty analysts from developing countries, representatives of multi and bilateral agencies, international research organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including WWF and IUCN, came together to share their experiences.

The objectives of the Forum were to focus on the issues that need to be addressed if forestry is to make a more effective contribution to the alleviation of poverty and to strengthen agency and institutional capacity to identify opportunities and constraints at the levels of both policy and implementation.

At a national level, there is a need to understand:

- Which national policies (both in and outside the forestry sector) have the strongest negative impact on the poor, or even increase poverty?
- What does it take to achieve more pro-poor forest policies?
- How can the share of forest benefits the poor have be increased, and how can their access rights be strengthened?
- What institutions and what fora can take these issues forward?

In applying policies, laws and regulations on the ground, there is a need to know:

- What local factors currently affect the implementation of pro-poor forest policies (this might include lack of capacity, lack of political will, power disparities amongst and within forest stakeholder groups)?
- What partnerships involving local actors (private sector, government, community groups) are likely to prove successful in reducing poverty through sustainable forest/tree management?
- What other means and approaches could be used to sustain and spread promising outcomes for the poor?

Forests and trees play a more substantial role for those with little or no land – who draw more of their livelihood from forests – than for those who obtain most of what they need from their own resources. Yet in the past, their political powerlessness often made it hard for them to influence policy-processes. Now, the International Development Targets for 2015 have refocused attention on all aspects of the livelihoods of the poor, including the contribution that forests can make to them.

perspectives

Edmund Barrow from IUCN-EARO and Paul Toyne from WWF-UK, report on the FAO's Forum on the Role of Forestry in Poverty Alleviation.

The Forum offered participants interactive ways of working on these problems and their possible outcomes. IUCN and WWF were the only conservation groups represented. Our shared objectives were to ensure that the participants understood the balance and relationships between poverty, contributions of forestry, and the sustainable use and management of forest resources, particularly those coming from natural forests and woodlands, and to stress the importance of long-term, truly sustainable solutions rather than quick fix policy options that do little to secure livelihoods for future generations.

The Forum used country profiles developed for Bolivia, Honduras, Mali, Tanzania, Nepal and Vietnam as the basis for discussion and for identifying major issues and themes concerning forestry and poverty alleviation. The major product from the meeting was a 26 page policy brief '*How forests can reduce poverty*' which sets out an agenda for action. The key components are laid out below.

Agenda for Action – How forests can reduce poverty

1. Strengthening rights, capabilities and governance

- Support the poor's own decision-making power
- Strengthen forest rights of the poor and the means to claim them
- Recognise links between forestry and local governance

2. Reducing vulnerability

- Make safety nets not poverty traps
- Support tree planting outside forests
- Cut the regulatory burden on the poor and make regulation affordable
- Reduce unfair obligations in forest management

3. Capturing emerging opportunities

- Remove the barriers to market entry
- Base land use decisions on true value of forests
- Ensure that markets for environmental services benefit the poor
- Support associations and financing for local forest businesses

4. Working in partnership

- Simplify policies and support participatory processes
- Promote multi-sectoral learning and action
- Enhance interagency collaboration
- Make NGOs and the private sector partners in poverty reduction



Action is needed now to take advantage of the ways that forestry can help reduce poverty. Without action – without investment in people-centred forestry – other measures to tackle poverty and improve poor people's livelihoods will be undermined. Forests and trees can help. Forest resources contribute to food security. They can provide commercial opportunities and employment for the poor. They can be used as test cases for the development of good local governance.

A people-centred approach can further increase the impact of forests and trees in reducing poverty. What is needed is the removal of barriers that prevent forests and trees from contributing to the livelihoods of the poor as well as support for emerging opportunities.

Forests and trees have an important role to play in the struggle to reduce poverty. Initiatives based on sustainable local forest management, as part of rural development and sustainable livelihood strategies, can support good governance and increase benefits to the poor. The challenge now is to turn this potential into a reality.

Contact: Forum on the Role of Forestry in Poverty Alleviation,
Email: fonp-documents@fao.org, fax: +39-6-5705-5514

Building sustainable livelihoods on Sibuyan Island



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Jürgen FREUND

Tom McShane reports on the DGIS-WWF Tropical Forest Portfolio's project in the Philippines, which has shown how strengthening local institutions can play a role in improving livelihoods.

The demand for land on Sibuyan Island is high – with some 50,000 people living on about the same number of hectares. The DGIS-WWF Tropical Forest Portfolio project was specifically established to assist communities affected by the creation of the 16,000 ha Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park in the centre of the island. The project's aim was to improve social, political and economic conditions through: formation and/or strengthening of community organisations, improved land tenure and security, equitable sharing of economic benefits and the development of community-based livelihood enterprises that contribute to the reduction of destructive forest-based activities.

To do this the project undertook to:

- increase awareness and skills of target groups in resource management through training activities and study tours;
- extend credit for enterprise development and create partnerships with landowners and tenure holders for farm development;
- increase awareness of indigenous communities through the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Republic Act 8671);
- develop partnership with the European Union-supported National Integrated Protected Areas Programme (EU-NIPAP) on programme co-ordination and the National

Commission on Indigenous Peoples on joint research and land tenure issues; and

- create partnerships with NGOs for research, paralegal training and community organisation (i.e., Anthrowatch, Legal Center for Indigenous Affairs (PANLIPI), Philippine Association for International Development (PAFID) and the Evelio Javier Foundation).

The results of these activities to date have been numerous and encouraging.

- There have been a number of community-based training programmes on resource management, community organising and enterprise development, as well as visits to model sites.
- 36 enterprises have been supported through the credit programme (approved US\$70,000, released US\$54,000).
- 175 forest-dependent households have been supported through loans for small-scale livelihood development.
- Over 100 hectares distributed over 28 farms have been established to grow crops and trees, and provide much needed employment and generate income. The farms employ 400 people, 60 per cent of whom are women. Equal pay scales for men and women for farm labour have also been established.
- The project has been successful in ensuring gender equality.
- Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT), covering 7,905 hectares, have been signed by 335 indigenous households.
- There is heightened vigilance by indigenous people's groups to deter illegal logging in domain areas, with the result that the area is no longer a haven for illegal loggers.
- Market-based interest rates have been reduced from 5-7 per cent to three per cent per month on the island, thus extending credit to other groups.

Contact: Astrid-Tine Björvik, Email: abjorvik@wwfint.org

Poverty and livelihoods in brief

Biodiversity in Development Project: IUCN has been working with DFID and the European Commission on the collaborative Biodiversity in Development Project (BDP). The BDP focused on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within EC development co-operation policy and programmes, and aimed to mainstream biodiversity into the development agenda. Three recent publications detail this work. A review of the *Guiding Principles for Biodiversity in Development: Lessons from field projects*; a series of *Biodiversity Briefs* aimed to raise awareness of key policy, sectoral and background issues on biodiversity and development co-operation and a *Strategic Approach for Integrating Biodiversity in Development Cooperation*.

Contact: IUCN, tel: +41-22-999-0001. The documents can be downloaded from www.wcpa.iucn.org/wcpainfo/news/biodiversity.html. French and Spanish versions are being prepared.

People and Conservation: A Review of WWF Policies and Processes, by Gill Shepherd and Helen O'Connor of the Overseas Development Institute, looks at key elements of WWF's activities – including the Forests for Life programme and 'Gifts to the Earth' – to assess current social guidelines and suggest improvements. A full analysis will appear in *arborvitae* 20.

An alternative view: *Poverty alleviation and tropical forests - what scope for synergies?* by Sven Wunder of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) expresses scepticism about whether natural forests can significantly help to reduce poverty. Wunder points out that in many tropical countries increased *per capita* incomes and high deforestation rates go together. Wunder does not deny that conservation and development sometimes go hand and hand, but feels that such 'win-win' solutions are less common than many would like to believe.

Contact: Ambar Liano at: Email: a.liano@cgjar.org for an electronic copy of Sven Wunder's paper.

Gender and conservation: Engendering Eden is a two-year research programme funded by DIFD that aims to achieve a better understanding of the linkages between gender issues and Integrated Conservation and Development Projects (ICDPs), and indicate ways forward to achieve a more equitable and 'successful' conservation and development process. Launched in October, 2000, the programme is being led by The International Famine Centre, Cork in collaboration with partners including WWF; IUCN; CARE; Rhodes University, Grahamstown; TNC and IIED.

Contact: Fiona Flintan, International Famine Centre, Cork, Ireland. Email: flintan@eircom.net, tel: +353-21-490-4330.



Italy: traditional institutions & thriving communities

There are several long established traditions of communal forestry in the Italian Alps, in which communities jointly own and collectively manage the land. Sally Jeanrenaud reports on one example in Val di Fiemme.

Community forestry institutions - where they have survived - have helped provide a source of economic and social wealth in north east Italy. Political autonomy, combined with economic enterprise, strong social ties and interest in community welfare, have helped create and sustain robust and thriving communities. Although political, economic and social changes have undermined these institutions in many areas, regions with stronger social ties and financial resources, like those in the *Val di Fiemme*, have managed to resist the trends towards greater state control and privatisation of forests.

Most of the forests of the Val di Fiemme are owned and managed by a variety of community organisations. The valley covers nearly 50,000 ha of land, with forests of mainly spruce

(*Picea excelsa*) covering 60 per cent. After tourism, the forests provide the main source of income. One of these organisations, the *Magnifica Comunità* has a history dating back to 1111, when the community was granted relative autonomy, allowing the community to rule themselves according to their own customs and laws. This ancient autonomy has been endangered on many occasions, but in 1951 their rights and autonomy were codified in statute.

The community owns about 20,000 ha of land, including 11,000 ha of forest, with revenues from the forests used to provide public services. The inhabitants (*vicini*) of 11 townships share the possession of the estate - a *vicino* being a person who has lived in the valley for 20 years or who is a descendant of a *vicino*. The forests, managed by two foresters and nine wardens, provide about 46,000 cubic metres of wood per annum which is processed at a *Comunità* owned sawmill in Ziano. The mill employs about 55 local people, and there are also some 30 felling companies and 15 transport companies working for the *Comunità*. The *Comunità* applied for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in 1996. The demand for FSC wood currently exceeds available supplies from the mill.

Communal forestry institutions, such as the *Magnifica Comunità*, allow for wider local participation in forest management decision making, with democratic assemblies of members proving effective instruments for finding locally acceptable compromises in natural resource management. In general, modern state structures and economic development have reduced the role and expanse of community forest management in Italy. However, in areas where a solid economic base is supported by deep rooted ethical and cultural values, communal forests have survived and thrived.

This case study is edited from IUCN's new publication *Communities and forest management in Europe*. See page 13 for details.

Livelihoods and biodiversity: The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) published two reports in 2001: *Living off Biodiversity* and *Diversity not Adversity*. The first, more detailed report explores livelihoods and biodiversity issues in natural resource management, to help develop a better understanding of how to build on the opportunities and reduce the risks to biodiversity of trying to achieve sustainable livelihoods. The chapter on forestry provides a useful overview on biodiversity in a range of forest types and suggests ten principles for integrating forest biodiversity and livelihood objectives. The second document aims to offer better practices *vis-à-vis* biodiversity in the context of human development through an improved understanding of biodiversity values. The conclusions, primarily aimed at development agencies, provide a range of suggestions to make poverty reduction more inclusive of biodiversity values.

Contact: IIED Email: bookshop@iied.org, www.iied.org, tel: +44-20-7388-2117

Study argues that legislative reform must accompany certification: The Taiga Rescue Network and Boreal Footprint Project studied four communities in Sweden and Canada with experience of FSC certification. Communities with legally binding access to or control of resources benefited most from

certification, and while communities can use the FSC as leverage with a company, real social improvements require policy frameworks that promote equitable decision-making. The authors argue that support for market-based tools must be balanced by efforts to address underlying causes of forest degradation such as large corporate tenures, perverse subsidies and economic pressure to increase exports.

Source: *Sustainable for Whom?* is available at www.taigarecue.org/publications/reports.shtml

Supporting Biodiversity: The Biodiversity Support Program (BSP), a joint initiative of WWF-US, The Nature Conservancy and the World Resource Institute, ran from 1998 to the end of 2001. BSP worked on the premise that a healthy and secure living resource base is essential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. The results of the Program are provided in a range of publications that can be downloaded from the project website. This includes the recent publication *An ounce of prevention: making the link between health and conservation*, which examines human health at personal, family and community levels as a motivating force for conservation.

Contact: The document can be downloaded from www.BSPonline.org



Palm Oil and Soy that let Forests Live



Luis Spinner, WWF Switzerland

Bella Roscher of WWF Switzerland describes a strategic action to engage the edible oils sector in support of WWF's global priorities.

Over the last two decades, deforestation in tropical forests reached between 10-16 million

ha per annum – a rate that is showing no sign of slowing. The causes are complex and often interrelated. Among them is the role of plantation agriculture. In the next 25 years, 250-300 million hectares of tropical forest are likely to be converted into agricultural land. Particularly in danger are tropical lowland rainforests, which represent the world's most biologically diverse terrestrial ecosystem.

The growing global demand for edible oils and the subsequent expansion of these crops is a driving force behind forest and habitat loss, with impacts on freshwater resources and pesticide use. Oil palm and soy constitute the largest raw material base for the edible oil market and oil palm is the fastest growing crop in the tropics.

- In Malaysia, oil palm plantations increased from 184,000 ha in 1971 to 2.9 million ha in 2001.
- In Indonesia, up to 80 per cent of the forest fires are started by people linked to the oil palm industry. Currently, 3 million ha are under oil palm development.
- In Brazil, soybean production is responsible for agricultural expansion in the Cerrado and parts of the Amazon.

Mobilising Positive Levers of Change

Internationally traded commodities such as palm oil and soy are influenced by international markets and investments, as well as national and international economic policies. These 'levers of change' can play a crucial role in addressing the environmental and social problems associated with the expansion of palm oil and soy.

- **Investment:** Major European banks invest in oil palm plantations and finance the conversion process. International financial institutions such as the IMF or World Bank play a major role in setting the framework for economic developments and private investments.
- **Markets:** Europe is one of the biggest importers of edible oils - 80 per cent of the soy from Brazil and over 70 per cent of the palm oil from Indonesia go to European Union (EU) countries, and imports are forecast to increase. European companies play a major role in processing and producing consumer goods such as margarine, cosmetics and soaps from edible oils.
- **Economic policies:** Many current policies and incentives actively encourage conversion and attention should be focused to redirecting or removing them. For example, the EU can play a direct role by changing the development, trade and aid policies in this sector.

Joint Action by the WWF Network

The 'Strategic Action on Palm Oil and Soy' is a co-ordinated and joint approach by the WWF network in response to its global priorities, and is being co-ordinated by WWF Switzerland. The goal for the project is, by 2005, to ensure that high conservation value forests, freshwater ecosystems, and habitats of key species in focal ecoregions, are no longer threatened by the expansion of oil palm and soy industries. As such the activities planned will contribute to a number of the targets and milestones under several of WWF's Target Driven Programmes. With regard to forests this work is relevant particularly to Forest Landscape Restoration, but also to protected areas and sustainable forest management and certification.

The 'Action' is working at two levels: on specific country-based projects to develop examples of better practices and to activate policy levers in focal regions together with other levers of change in Europe and the US. The objectives of the 'Action' are to:

1. **Promote:** good land use policies to ensure that: new plantations are mainly set up on degraded land; high conservation value forests are protected; forest landscapes and freshwater ecosystems remain intact; habitats are connected; and good plantation techniques are used to prevent forest fires; water pollution and soil erosion are reduced; and species have the ability to migrate.
2. **Influence:** the activities and financial policies of investors, as well as trade and aid policies.
3. **Advocacy work:** aimed at the key market actors.
4. **Sensitise and co-ordinate:** the communication and education efforts targeting key audiences

The 'Action' was launched in August 2001. The first positive result came in January 2002, when Migros, Switzerland's largest retail chain, committed to buy and sell palm oil from responsibly managed plantations that are not threatening tropical forests.

Contact: The Co-ordinator: Bella Roscher. Email: Bella.Roscher@wwf.ch

WWF news in brief

WWF and government of Uganda collaborate: The WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme and the government of Uganda are collaborating on a UNDP-GEF project to establish appropriate conservation projects in both protected and unprotected forests in the Albertine Rift area of western Uganda.
Source: EARPO News issue 2, October 2001

Status of certified forests: The WWF Forests for Life Programme, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and FSC has developed a new information system designed to provide regularly updated information on the status of certified forests and chain of custody certificates endorsed by FSC, to a wide range of users. Regional and global maps and data are currently updated monthly with the latest information from FSC, and are available both to view on screen and downloadable as powerpoint slides.

Visit the site at: www.certified-forests.org



FCAG Meeting

The IUCN Forest Conservation Advisory Group (FCAG) had a successful meeting in January to review its work, explore opportunities for the coming year, and refine the medium-term strategic focus of IUCN on forests (with respect to programmatic, policy and operational priorities).

IUCN's regional and global forest officers were joined by external advisors, including representatives from Commissions, other IUCN programmes, partner institutions, government and donor agencies at the meeting from 19-23 January in Kenya.

It was suggested that the work of the programme be clearly linked to mainstream political concerns such as human security and poverty alleviation. As such, the FCAG agreed that in 2002 it would embrace the opportunity to elaborate a conceptual framework on livelihood security and forests that will provide the medium term strategic focus for both its policy and practice work. Already, most of the Forest Conservation Programme (FCP) projects deal in some way with the linkage between environment and sustainable livelihoods, challenging diverse stakeholders to be involved in defining and implementing sustainable forest management. The FCP produced a study in 2001 to explore how the programme addresses sustainable livelihoods in its current work programme, as well as key questions, assumptions that guide its work. Building on the conclusions of this consultancy, the FCAG recommended that the FCP pursue its conservation work with the strategic focus of livelihoods and ecosystem management.

In the report back on the past year, it was evident that the FCP has advanced significantly on Forest Landscape Restoration, as a complement to its ongoing work on protected area management effectiveness and sustainable forest management. The past year has seen the FCP move from scoping studies in Asia's Lower Mekong Basin, Meso America and Eastern Africa, to concrete planning for achieving restoration targets with governments and policy advocacy to set restoration firmly on the international agenda. IUCN contributed to the ITTO Guidelines on Restoration and Secondary Forest Management, with CIFOR and FAO.

David Cassells, Chair of the FCAG, concluded the meeting by endorsing the FCP's programme of work and recognizing the contribution being made to the international policy process. He emphasized the progress being made on learning lessons from field work and translating these to policy recommendations.

IUCN news in brief

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Communities and forest management in Europe: The fifth publication in the IUCN series of regional profiles on community involvement in forest management (CIFM) explores diverse patterns of CIFM in Western Europe, some of them rooted in centuries of tradition while others are the result of recent institutional innovation. Edited by Sally Jeanrenaud, this volume compares the key policies and institutions that shape patterns of community involvement in forestry across all Europe's major forest types: from the boreal coniferous forests of Scandinavia to the mixed evergreen forest of the Mediterranean. CIFM in Europe emerges as a dynamic means of integrating economic, social, cultural, spiritual and ecological values in diverse and innovative ways. Community involvement holds great potential for re-connecting people with forests in rural and urban areas, thus contributing to sustainable futures in a continent facing great environmental and social pressures.

Contact: Available from IUCN forest conservation programme, Email: forests@iucn.org or fax: +41-22-999-0025. Price: £13.50 or US\$20.

New head of the forest programme: Stewart Maginnis, formerly deputy director of WWF's Forest for Life Programme took up the role vacated by Bill Jackson as Head of the Forest Conservation Programme in December 2001. Bill Jackson is now IUCN's Global Programme Director.

Valuing East African Forests: The latest issue in the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) journal *Innovations* (Vol. 8:2, July 2001) has been produced in partnership with the Eastern Africa Regional Office of IUCN. The whole issue is dedicated to the valuation of Forest Resources in East Africa with a range of case study and policy related articles based on experiences in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Contact: ACTS. Email: acts@cgjar.org, www.acts.or.ke, tel: +254-524700/524000.

New publication from the Forest Conservation Programme: *Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa* by Neil Burgess and G.P. Clarke, provides the first detailed account of the unique and threatened forests of the Eastern African coastal strip, now surviving only as a tiny chain of patches of lowland tropical dry forest, many of which are considered sacred by local people. Although previously considered to be of low conservation priority in terms of endemism and species diversity, research has shown that their biological richness is comparable to other important tropical forest types in Africa. The book defines these 'Coastal Forests', describes the physical environment that influences their formation, and summarises the latest available information on their species diversity and levels of endemism. Human impacts are considered in the light of current conservation efforts and needs, and some new proposals are put forward.

Contact: IUCN Publication Services Unit. Email: info@books.iucn.org, tel: +44-1223-277894. Price: £35.00 or US\$52.50 plus p&p.

Transboundary protected areas: In many parts of the world, transboundary protected areas have been important in building bridges between nations and people. *Transboundary Protected Areas for Peace and Co-operation*, No. 7 of the IUCN/Cardiff University series Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines, provides a timely analysis of the conservation and security benefits of transboundary protected areas.

Contact: IUCN Programme on Protected Areas, Email: wcpa@hq.iucn.org; tel: +41-22-999-0001, www.wcpa.iucn.org, or the IUCN publications service; fax: +44-1223-227-894, Email: info@books.iucn.org, www.iucn.org/bookstore.



Australian Forest Fires

© WWF / Fredy MERCAY
Forest underbrush being burnt to help prevent forest fires.

Christmas was black this year in Australia.

Peter Moore of WWF/IUCN's Project Firefight provides some insight on why Australia needs to rethink its fire strategy.

On Christmas Day 2001 the concerns of fire authorities in New South Wales were realised – in full measure. Leading up to the summer, conditions had been drier than normal and it had been nearly eight years since the last serious fires in the State. In January 1994 there had been four fire related deaths, thousands of hectares of protected areas were burnt and fingers of fire crept into Sydney. Afterwards the Parliament, State Coroner and Cabinet held inquiries and released reports on the reasons for the fires, causes of the deaths and means of avoiding the same problems in the future. Some things were done, many things were said and there were some temporary budget increases, but the underlying causes of fire in Australia were not defined or addressed.

25 December 2001 was hot, well over thirty degrees, with very low humidity, less than 15 per cent, and winds from the dry interior of the desert continent. Due to an infrequent, but not unknown, meteorological phenomenon a series of low-pressure systems pushed hot dry westerly winds onto the fires for nearly three weeks. Although the final assessment will take time to complete, a preliminary stock-taking concluded that the fires burnt nearly 700,000 ha, with 115 houses totally destroyed and many other buildings destroyed or damaged. Fortunately there were no serious injuries or fatalities. Dramatic pictures of fires approaching houses less than 16 kilometres from Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House were shown daily, thousands of people were evacuated and hundreds of fire-fighters came from across Australia to fight the fires.

While the fires burnt and strategies were developed to contain them the familiar debates began to rage (fires are rarely 'put out' but rather 'contained' until they burn themselves out or the rain does). Tragically the debate tended to polarise along conventional environmental or political 'battle lines' and the underlying factors of the Black Christmas of 2001 were blurred, buried or lost in a flurry of repeated rhetoric and age-old antagonisms. The topics identify key areas such as the statistics of fires over time; the science and ecology of fires; the responsibilities of individual homeowners in fire prone areas; the role of local government and public land managers (Crown Land, Forestry and National Parks) and how land use planning should bring these issues together into a coherent whole. The whole remains a hole.

Sydney burns in the New Year

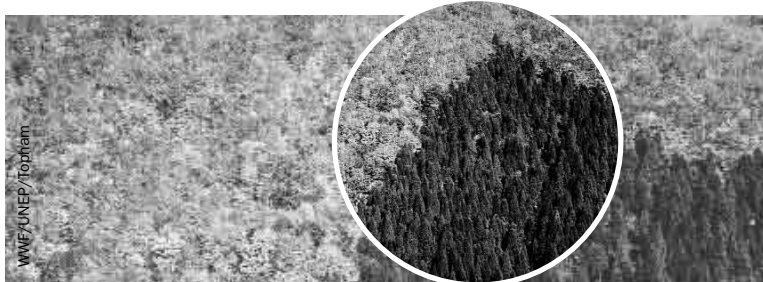
Underlying Causes

The IUCN/WWF Project FireFight South East Asia attempts to address the underlying causes of fires. The legal, economic and community factors that create the conditions for damaging fires to start and persist are analysed and carefully considered to define the questions and synthesise the start of answers. This approach is being extended to the Mediterranean, West Africa and South America. One key need is to understand the nature of fire in each place – in Australia this is already well known and heavily documented.

Fire Management has four facets and only one of them is fire fighting. Usually termed: *Prevention - Preparedness* (for Response) – *Response* (Firefighting) and *Recovery* (or Restoration). Prevention is considered by many to be far more worthy of significant investment than the more obvious and dramatic firefighting such as we have seen recently around Sydney. However, firefighting is highly visible – making it easy to obtain support for it from civil society, politicians and agencies. On the other hand, prevention, which is on the whole dull, repetitive and irritates many interest groups, suffers from a murky understanding and a mainly negative public profile.

The key underlying issue in the Australian context seems to be one of prevention and the conditions essential to its effective implementation – who is responsible to do what, when will they do it, how will the vision be framed and the pressures balanced? The underlying cause for fires of this scale would seem to include the apparent reluctance of politicians, agencies, interest groups and the civil society to work together consistently on solutions at varying scales and timeframes – not dissimilar to the situation in South East Asia.

Contact: Peter Moore, Email: pmoore@cgjar.org



Allies in the Forest

The World Bank/WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use ('the Alliance'), formed in April 1998, is a response to a crisis – the continued depletion of the world's forest biodiversity and of the forest-based goods and services essential for sustainable development.

The Alliance partner organisations share a strong commitment to finding solutions to this crisis. By combining the Bank's access to policy dialogue, convening power, analytical capacity and financing operations with WWF's field presence, private sector partnerships and forest conservation expertise the Alliance can address forest management issues on a broad front. Working with a diverse group of partners – government, the private sector, and civil society – creates a ripple effect that broadens and deepens the Alliance's impact.

The rationale behind the Alliance's ambitious targets is twofold. First, they are challenge targets intended to stimulate and catalyse the conservation efforts of diverse stakeholders. Second, they serve as operational objectives to focus the forest sector operations of WWF and the Bank.

Currently, the Alliance divides its work into 3 components:

Regional Programme: The regional programme is built around 3 strategic themes: Target driven activities in key forested countries; Integration with the broader missions of the World Bank and WWF; and Opportunistic activities with expected high rates of return.

Research and Analysis: Through the production of topical research and development of diagnostic and planning tools, the Alliance is able to advance knowledge and understanding of the forest sector and the relationship between policy and practice.

Learning and Capacity Building (LCB): Alliance LCB efforts seek to strengthen the skills and technical ability of government agencies, local NGOs and private sector operators to conserve and manage forest resources in a sustainable fashion.

The Alliance is currently in the process of developing a Medium-Term Plan that will effectively integrate these three components and guide implementation over the period July 2002-June 2005.

Contact: Christian Peter, Email: cpeter@worldbank.org or Jack Hurd, Email: jhurd@wwfint.org

Combating illegal logging

At a meeting in September 2001, hosted by the World Bank and the Government of Indonesia, East Asian ministers signed a declaration committing their countries to combat illegal logging, associated illegal trade and other forest crimes at a meeting hosted by the World Bank and the government of Indonesia. Countries outside the region, by also signing the declaration, have also recognised their role and responsibility in addressing this issue. Approximately 150 participants – including representatives of government institutions, NGOs and the private sector – contributed to the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) conference. The declaration represents the first ever international commitment by governments to combat corruption in the forestry sector.

The meeting followed on similar gatherings supported by the Alliance in Phnom Penh and Jakarta in the last two years, which put forest crime and illegal logging clearly on the agenda in East Asia. The FLEG Conference achieved a number of significant firsts in that it:

- Provided a forum for collaborative dialogue among national and international NGOs and other stakeholder groups;
- Resulted in recognition by the G-8 of consumer country responsibility to combat forest crimes along with producer countries; and,
- Produced a regional ministerial declaration expressing political commitment and a call for action at the highest levels.

The Alliance has identified support for follow-up activities to the Conference as a high priority to help promote sustainable forest management in the region.

Contact: Bill Magrath, Email: wmagrath@worldbank.org or Nalin Kishor, Email: nkishor@worldbank.org

Providing support towards forest certification in Bulgaria

Bulgaria's forests are facing serious challenges as restitution of forest lands nationalised under the former Communist regime is leading to the fragmentation of some areas into small, unsustainable plots, while responsibility for their management is transferred to new owners with little or no experience in forest conservation and management. Over the last decade, the economic crisis and short-term profit oriented thinking, combined with the government's weakened enforcement capacities, have resulted in the deterioration of forests. The loss of the essential ecological functions has also adversely affected local livelihoods.

In search of new tools to stimulate sustainable forest use in this changed economic climate, a Bulgarian Forest Certification Association (FCA) was formed at the end of 2000. The Association has now developed a draft national Certification Standard.

The Alliance financed a detailed review of the national standard and its development process, including recommendations for bringing it in line with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) requirements. The report recommends measures to increase transparency, improve stakeholder consultation and representation of various social and environmental interests. FCA members accepted the recommendations and discussed ways to achieve them in the first of a series of seminars held in December 2001 in Sofia. After revision, the draft standard will be field-tested to assess its applicability to local conditions and presented to FSC for evaluation and possible endorsement. Some timber processing industries in Bulgaria have already expressed interest in FSC certification.

Contact: Gerhard Dieterle, Email: gdieterle@worldbank.org or Rayka Hauser, Email: Rhauser@Techno-Link.Com

The Alliance is working towards the achievement of three targets by 2005:

- 50 million ha of new protected areas
- 50 million ha of existing but highly threatened forest protected areas secured under effective management
- 200 million ha of production forests under independently certified sustainable management

Restoring tropical forests

Available from: CIFOR, PO Box 6596 JKPWB, Jakarta 10065, Indonesia, tel +62 -251-622 622, Email: cifor@cgiar.org
Rehabilitation of Degraded Tropical Forest Ecosystems edited by S Kobayashi *et al*, collects together papers from a 1999 workshop, which present case studies and experience from Asia, Africa and South America. Sections look at impacts of harvesting and fire and various methods for rehabilitating logged and degraded forests, including plantation establishment. Although rather a mixed bag, from academic studies of nutrient cycling in plantations to social studies of participatory management, there is much of interest here and it is heartening to see issues of rehabilitation gaining overdue attention.

Protecting the best

Available from: The Union of Concerned Scientists at www.ucsusa.org/publications/pubs-home or download from: www.ucsusa.org/environment/logging.html
Logging Off: Mechanisms to Stop or Prevent Industrial Logging in Forests of High Conservation Value, from The Union of Concerned Scientists and the Smithsonian's Center for Tropical Forest Science, provides a assessment of the potential tools available to reduce or eliminate industrial logging through a review of case studies of different approaches that have already been applied in both tropical and temperate forests.

Support against oil-palm

Available from: World Rainforest Movement.
Email: wrm@wrm.org.uk, US\$20 (shipment included) - free for Southern NGOs.
'The bitter fruit of oil palm: dispossession and deforestation', a new book from WRM, aims to generate broader support to local people trying to protect their forests and lands from the impacts associated with large-scale oil palm plantations.

East Asian Resources:

Available from: IUCN Programme on Protected Areas, Email: wcpa@hq.iucn.org; tel: +41-22-999-0001, www.wcpa.iucn.org, or the IUCN publications service: fax: +44-1223-227-894, Email: info@books.iucn.org, www.iucn.org/bookstore.
For the past 10 years, the World Commission on Protected Areas has been preparing a series of regional action plans for protected areas throughout the world. The East Asia Action Plan, one of the first to be completed, identified 13 priority projects. The Japanese Government's Environment Agency supported the implementation of five projects on sustainable tourism, the economic importance of protected areas, funding and assistance sources, exchange programmes for protected area staff and a directory of protected area personnel and organisations. The results of these projects were published by IUCN at the end of 2001 – and will provide a useful resource for all those working in the East Asia Region. The publications are: *Guidelines for Tourism in Parks and Protected Areas of East Asia*, *Guidelines for Financing Protected Areas in East Asia*, *Implementation of an Exchange Programme for Protected Areas in East Asia* and a *Directory of Protected Areas Personnel and Organisations in East Asia*.

On the web

"The winters here are so hard, you cannot work in the forest without skis. That's how it was some time ago; anyway ... [but] perhaps for eight years now, you could wear just low shoes to work. The climate has changed a lot" (interview with a Polish forester). The Panos Oral Testimony Programme has been working with local partners and mountain communities in ten countries since the mid-90s. The www.mountainvoices.org website provides a forum for the voices of men and women living in mountain communities, with testimonies currently from Peru, Mexico, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Kenya, Poland, Pakistan, India, Nepal and China. Conducted by local people in local languages and translated into English, the unedited interviews draw on direct personal memory and experience.

Timber – from forest to consumer

Available from: Woodhead Publishing Ltd., Abington Hall, Abington, Cambridge CB1 6AH, England. Email: sales@woodhead-publishing.com. Price £125.00/US\$210.00/ Euro210.00.
If you are looking for a comprehensive picture of the dynamics and structure of the global timber market, *The International Timber Trade* by Tim Peck, formerly of the FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Division, is the book for you. This substantial volume provides a detailed description of the patterns of production, consumption and trade of wood products and their importance as a commodity in national economies and world trade. It also analyses the main patterns and trends, looks at the major players and at the influence costs, prices and exchange rates, tariff and non-tariff barriers have on the industry, as well as the effects of increasing globalisation, regional integration and sustainable forest management on the international trading picture.

Adaptive co-management

Available from: CIFOR. Email: cifor@cgiar.org
A study for CIFOR, *The Invisible Wand: Adaptive Co-Management as an Emergent Strategy in Complex Bio-Economic Systems* by Jack Ruitenbeek and Cynthia Carter, suggests that adaptive co-management (ACM) frequently emerges naturally as a strategy amongst communities and deliberate attempts to 'introduce it' may be counter-productive. Policy interventions should play a more passive role by protecting conditions for and removing barriers to ACM – amongst these conditions is preservation of social capital – and by educating about the potential of ACM.

Death on the roads

Available from: M/s Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, 23-A New Connaught Place, PO Box 137, Dehradun 248001, India, Email: bsmps@del2.vsnl.net.in Price outside India US\$30 inclusive of postage and packing. Published by the Wildlife Institute for India. Roads impact wildlife, by fragmenting habitats, creating barriers and by killing animal species. *Road, Sensitive Habitats and Wildlife* by Asha Rajvanshi *et al*, reviews the evidence in South Asia and provides detailed guidelines for how road impacts can be minimised, including six case studies, mainly from India. This book is likely to be useful, and used, well outside its region of focus.

Celebrating the Rainforest

Available from: Facts on File Inc. 132 W 31st Street, 17th Floor, New York 10001, price US\$45
Arnold Newman's revised book *Tropical Rainforest* is a concise and very readable overview of tropical forests, the threats that they face and options for their conservation. Illustrated by hundreds of magnificent photographs (many Newman's own) this looks like a coffee table book but contains a serious and authoritative message.

Biological Corridor

Available from: The World Resources Institute (WRI), www.wri.org/wri/
WRI, with funding from the WWF Central America Office, has been evaluating policy options for accelerating implementation of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor since 1999. In *Defining Common Ground for the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor*, WRI provides an overview of the Corridor's developments and discusses a range of strategic challenges and opportunities, from reconciling stakeholder interests to setting investment and management priorities, that will contribute to the success of the Corridor. The report concludes that closer co-operation is needed between governments and citizens in designing development programmes that will enable both the creation of biological corridors and provide economic opportunities.

Living documents:

Available from: Astrid-Tine Bjørvik, Email: abjorvik@wwfint.org
The WWF/DGIS project has produced two new Living Documents: *Quarrels in a Crowded Reserve* - The Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve project in Honduras and *Taking Care of the Casualties of Conservation* - Improving Livelihoods on Sibuyan Island, Philippines.