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arbor*vitæ*

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The IUCN/WWF Forest Conservation Newsletter

contents

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No Entrance sign in Lazovsky State Nature Reserve, Siberia

Whose Forest is it Anyway?

Who owns the world's forests and what ownership systems work best for forest conservation? This issue of arbor*vitæ* explores forest ownership from a number of angles and from the experiences of numerous countries worldwide. What is clear is that ownership patterns are changing dramatically across the globe. Central governments, the traditional holders of large swathes of the world's forests, are now increasingly divesting their land ownership and devolving their forest management responsibilities through privatization and decentralization. In Latin America, for example, municipalities have gained (or regained) management control over significant proportions of the national forests. Globally, alongside local governments, private companies and individuals, it is local communities who are taking on a large part of these responsibilities. The figures are startling. The feature article by Andy White, Arvind Khare and Augusta Molnar of Forest Trends shows that community-owned forests now account for twenty two per cent of all forest land in developing countries, three times as much as that owned by industry and individuals. Their study shows that the forest area owned by communities doubled between 1985 and 2000 and looks set to double again by 2015. And do these forest-owning communities invest in conservation? Again, the answers are convincing. The Forest Trends study calculates that communities in developing countries invest between US $1.3 billion and US $2.6 billion in sustainable forest management, more than either their own governments or external donors, making them the largest investors in forests.

So is community ownership the way forward? Clearly, the social, political and economic complexities surrounding forest ownership preclude a one-size-fits-all solution. Recent experiences with forest privatization and decentralization have a rather mixed record with regard to forest conservation. Several articles in this issue highlight problems in the implementation of these measures and stress the need for governments to continue to play a role in regulating forest use and providing incentives for sustainable forest management. Even with the marked shift towards community ownership, the onus will always be on governments to maintain public forest lands for the public good – and state-owned reserves, as the one in the photograph, will remain an important element of countries' conservation strategies. This was one of the key conclusions of a recent workshop on forest sector decentralization, reported in this issue. Balance needs to be sought between safeguarding the public interest and upholding the ownership rights of communities and individuals. Where these rights are secure, long-term and accompanied by appropriate checks and balances, they will enhance local investment in forest management and conservation.

Chris Elliott, WWF and Stewart Maginnis, IUCN

ITTA Renegotiations: Not Quite There Yet

What should the new International Tropical Timber Agreement look like? Carole Saint-Laurent reports on the move towards consensus in the renegotiation process.

Non timber forest products: in or out of ITTA?

What was to be the final negotiating session for the successor agreement to the ITTA – the treaty under which the International Tropical Timber Organization operates – took place in Geneva in July, but progress was slow and it was decided to schedule another meeting for February next year.

Many delegates believe that the ITTA should remain a commodity agreement but one which is focused on a sustainably sourced commodity. By ensuring that environmental and social aspects are taken into account, the ITTA successor agreement could serve as a benchmark for other commodity agreements.

No agreement was reached on whether to have a list of detailed objectives as in the current agreement, a few overarching objectives or some combination of functions and objectives. There was also no consensus on whether the successor agreement should include non-timber forest products and ecosystem services. While there is concern that the agreement should not lead to the ITTO becoming directly engaged in markets for trading in ecosystem services, many delegates see a role for the ITTO to support its members by exploring the opportunities and obstacles relating to ecosystem services.

The funding issue continues to be a major stumbling block in the negotiations, with some member states being unable to pay their full assessed contributions while a few others have provided the bulk of funding for ITTO projects.

One promising development is a proposal that the new agreement should facilitate action learning to improve the effectiveness of activities undertaken in support of its implementation. ITTO project design, for example, could include mechanisms for exchanging and analyzing lessons learned across projects and countries.

From IUCN's standpoint, the current agreement has provided the right mix of guidance and flexibility to enable and encourage the ITTO and its member states to address such issues as forest landscape restoration, forest fires, forest law enforcement and protected areas. This balance should be retained, while also providing opportunities for strengthening work on broader forest governance and community forestry.

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News in brief

More Fires in the Med: Forest fires such as those that raged across Portugal, France and Spain this summer will become perennial problems for the Mediterranean region, warns WWF, unless better fire prevention and fire fighting governance measures are taken now. According to WWF, the increase in the area's large scale forest fires can be traced to land conversion and development, rural mismanagement and overexploitation of natural resources. Climate change is also in evidence, making summer droughts and heatwaves longer, the air drier and winds stronger – exacerbating the fire problem. WWF is calling on governments to establish efficient fire fighting systems, build fire management capacity in rural areas, prosecute offenders and increase forests' fire resilience – for example, by planting fire-tolerant native species as part of their forest restoration efforts.
Source: www.panda.org, July 30, 2004

…And Fewer in Russia: This year, fires have affected 400,000 ha of Russia's forests (up to end August), only one-fifth the area that had burned by the same time last year. A dedicated forest police unit has been set up in the Irkutsk region to crack down on deliberate fire-raising and negligent fire-provoking practices. If successful, forest policing will be extended to other parts of the country.
Source: Aerial Forest Fire Protection Service of Russia, www.nffc.aviales.ru, *Taiga Rescue News,* Summer 2004, www.taigarescue.org

Ramin it home: A new report by Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring network, scrutinizes the legality of the Ramin trade in Southeast Asia as seizures of illegal timber cargo continue worldwide. The report stresses the importance of collaboration between the major Ramin trading countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, to strengthen national and international trade controls. The declining conservation status of this tropical hardwood is seen in the ten-fold drop in the annual volume harvested in Indonesia over the last three decades.
Source: www.traffic.org, August 19, 2004

Partnership Progress in the Congo

Moving forward together. Two forest elephants in the Central African Republic

Two recent events marked important progress in developing the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). This partnership, launched in 2002, brings together governments, NGOs and the private sector in an initiative to improve the coordination of conservation and sustainable development programmes and policies in the sub-region. The second meeting of the CBFP and a preparatory workshop of the Congo Basin Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were both held in Brazzaville in June this year. The CSO workshop, organized by IUCN and the Ministry of Forest Economy and the Environment (Congo-Brazzaville), was attended by nearly 50 participants from Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon, representing various CSO networks. A Declaration developed during the meeting called for the development of a sustainable funding mechanism for the involvement of CSOs in the CBFP, expansion of the number of landscapes in the CBFP from the initial eleven US-funded landscapes currently included, increased collaboration of actors working in these eleven sites and clarification of the landscape concept. The meeting also produced a strategic action plan to effectively involve CSOs in the CBFP and other sub-regional initiatives.

In turn, the CBFP conference presented the finalized Basin-wide 'Plan de convergence' and explored financing options to cover its implementation – estimated to require US$1.5 billion over the next ten years.

Both IUCN and WWF have been actively engaged in the implementation of the CBFP and have committed to supporting the Partnership's activities through their work in the sub-region. The Congo Basin forests cover more than 190 million hectares of Central Africa, constituting the world's largest expanse of rainforest after Amazonia and hosting an incredible level of biodiversity. The forests face increasingly severe threats from commercial logging and mining as well as large-scale commercial hunting. WWF is taking the lead in the implementation of four of the eleven landscapes, supported by the USAID/CARPE segment of the CBFP.

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News in brief

Logging not to blame?: In a recent article published in the New Scientist, CIFOR Director General David Kaimovitz has challenged the assumption that logging leads to big floods. While Kaimovitz accepts that logging *is* responsible for smaller, localized floods, he asserts that there is "not a shred of scientific evidence" that demonstrates that deforestation contributes to massive flood events. Blaming logging is not only bad science, says Kaimovitz, but is also ruining the lives of forestry workers and poor farmers as governments use the logging and deforestation links to put people out of work and force them off their lands and out of the forests.
Source: *New Scientist,* June 19, 2004

Attention on Amazon: Brazil's minister of science and technology, Eduardo Campos, has declared research on the Amazon forest a priority for the country's government. Speaking to the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science in July, Campos said there was an urgent need for more researchers to work on the Amazon and announced an additional US$5 million funding for post-graduate research on the area.
Source: www.scidev.net, July 30, 2004

US scraps logging ban: The US administration has announced a proposal to abolish the so-called roadless rule legislation that protects a third of the country's forests from road-building and logging. The agriculture secretary said in July that individual states should decide whether the areas should still be preserved. The roadless rule had already been the subject of long running delays and disputes (see arbor***vitæ*** 20 and 24) and the current proposal to drop the rule has been attacked by environmentalists as a gift to the timber industry.
Source: BBC News online, July 13, 2004

Illegal logging in Tanzania: Recent reports in Tanzania's Guardian newspaper have detailed illegal logging operations in several regions of the country. The logs are reportedly exported mainly to India and China, countries where tougher restrictions on domestic logging have been imposed. The head of Tanzania's National Environmental Management Council was quoted as saying the loggers were targeting trees of between 60 and 100 years old and describing several of the tree species to be on the verge of extinction.
Source: *The Guardian,* July 3, 2004

Could Do Better:
A Global Report Card for Forest Protected Areas

Leonardo Lacerda of WWF presents some of the results of a recent survey on the management effectiveness of forest protected areas.

The largest ever systematic assessment of the management effectiveness of forest protected areas worldwide was completed recently by WWF. The survey used a 'Tracking Tool' that had been developed in partnership with the World Bank and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas. Covering over 200 forest protected areas in 37 countries, the survey found that performances were mixed. While the protected areas scored relatively well on issues such as establishment, demarcation and resource inventories, their achievements on developing relations with local communities and indigenous people, planning and monitoring, law enforcement and funding were poor. Only 15 per cent of these areas were found to have an approved management plan.

Overall, the survey showed that poaching, agricultural encroachment, logging and over-harvesting of non-timber products are the main threats to forest protected areas. The survey report stresses that, in the face of these threats, inadequate funding leads to understaffing and weak capacity, which make protected areas vulnerable to problems as they arise. The resources available to protected areas vary enormously between regions. In the sample surveyed, the average budget per forest protected area in Europe is eight times that in Latin America. And while in Europe, protected area staff are each responsible for 2,000 hectares, their Latin American counterparts are each responsible for an area forty times larger.

The critical importance of management effectiveness evaluations is being increasingly recognized. Recent commitments by the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to undertake country-wide assessments, and by the Global Environment Facility to implement the Tracking Tool in all its protected area projects are encouraging. It is high time to check up and keep up the health of our parks and reserves.

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For a copy of the Report *Are Protected Areas Working?* go to www.panda.org/downloads/forests/areprotectedareasworking.pdf.

Protected Areas news in brief

Gaping holes: New research has revealed that more than 300 critically endangered bird, mammal, turtle and amphibian species have no conservation protection in any part of their ranges. Researchers from the Centre for Applied Biodiversity Science studied protected area coverage and biodiversity patterns worldwide and found significant gaps in the protected area network. Overall, 20 per cent of threatened species were identified as 'gap species' with no protection. The researchers conclude that conservation planning should focus less on global protected area coverage targets and more on filling the gaps – most often found in countries that are economically poor and biodiversity rich. Countries with high densities of gap species include China, India, Sri Lanka and Madagascar.
Source: *Nature* **428**, 640-643, 8 April 2004

UK's New Forest PA: England got its first new PA in fifteen years when the New Forest was designated a national park in June. The decision, announced the government's rural affairs minister "will help protect the unique character of the New Forest… whilst recognizing that it is a working, living place with social and economic needs." Some residents have expressed fears that the new authority would take decisions on the area's future out of local hands, while environmentalists argue that the park will help protect important habitats from intensive farming and building. The rare bird species found in the park include the Dartford warbler, nightjar and woodlark.
Source: BBC News online, June 28, 2004

New Tesso Nilo PA: The Indonesian government declared Tesso Nilo in Sumatra a new National Park in August. Although the new park covers only a fourth of the 155,000 ha proposed by the local government, conservation groups welcomed the move as an important step in securing protection for the Sumatran tiger and elephant. The Tesso Nilo forest faces serious threats from illegal logging and much of the forest outside the new park is still held as active logging concessions (see arbor***vitæ*** 22). Work is currently in progress to set up a collaborative management body for the park, involving community, NGO, private sector and government stakeholders.
Source: www.wwf.or.id, August 5, 2004

Cambodia clearcutting: An acacia plantation concession has been awarded to Green Rich, a Cambodian-Chinese company, in Botum Sakor National Park in southwestern Cambodia. According to Global Witness, the concession contravenes the country's protected area legislation and the company is clearcutting Melaleuca and mangrove forests in the park. Global Witness reports that Cambodia's Ministry of Environment claimed that Green Rich's activities in Botum Sakor had been suspended, pending the company's production of an EIA of their operations there.
Source: www.globalwitness.org, July 9, 2004

The Decentralization Debate

A workshop on 'Decentralization, Federal Systems in Forestry and National Forest Programmes' was held in Interlaken, Switzerland in April, co-hosted by the governments of Indonesia and Switzerland. As an initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the meeting set out to analyze the impacts of decentralization on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and the contribution of decentralization to the Millennium Development Goals. The workshop was attended by some 200 participants from a wide range of countries and institutions. Drawing on thematic studies and cases of decentralization from both developed and developing countries, the participants identified the main lessons learned and recommended appropriate strategies by which UNFF can support effective decentralization. The conclusion was that while decentralization can enhance efficiency, equity and participation in forest management and conservation, the performance of forest sector decentralization to date has been limited. The recommendations to UNFF included:

- Promoting dissemination of appropriate information to enhance the understanding of various aspects of decentralization in the forestry sector;
- Formulating appropriate approaches to maintain protected areas while enabling traditional use by the indigenous/local people and forest dwellers;
- Developing principles to guide institutional choice for equitable representation;
- Strengthening the human and institutional capacity of all stakeholders, particularly at the local level, using a range of methods for sharing knowledge, including partnership among various stakeholders; and
- Promoting the involvement of NGOs and other major groups as strong partners in planning, monitoring and implementation activities related to decentralization at all levels.

The final workshop report can be downloaded from the CIFOR website www.cifor.cgiar.org. See article by Anne Larson in this issue, based on one of the workshop papers.

CITES Mahogany Workshop

Loading mahogany planks, Brazil

Traders and environmental NGOs will seek to work more closely to ensure the supply of legal mahogany following an ITTO workshop held in May in Peru. The workshop on capacity building for implementation of the CITES Appendix II listing of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) was convened with the assistance of the Peruvian National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA). The purpose of the meeting was to address the concerns of both exporting and importing countries regarding the Appendix-II requirement for 'non-detriment findings' (stating that export of a specimen is not detrimental to the sustainability of the species) to accompany all shipments of mahogany.

The workshop brought together representatives of CITES authorities from the three main mahogany range states (Bolivia, Brazil and Peru) and major importing countries, as well as representatives of international organizations, NGOs and trade groups from around the world. Several local processors and loggers also participated in the workshop, contributing a unique perspective on the problems that Peru, now the largest mahogany exporter, is facing as it tries to comply with the Appendix-II listing.

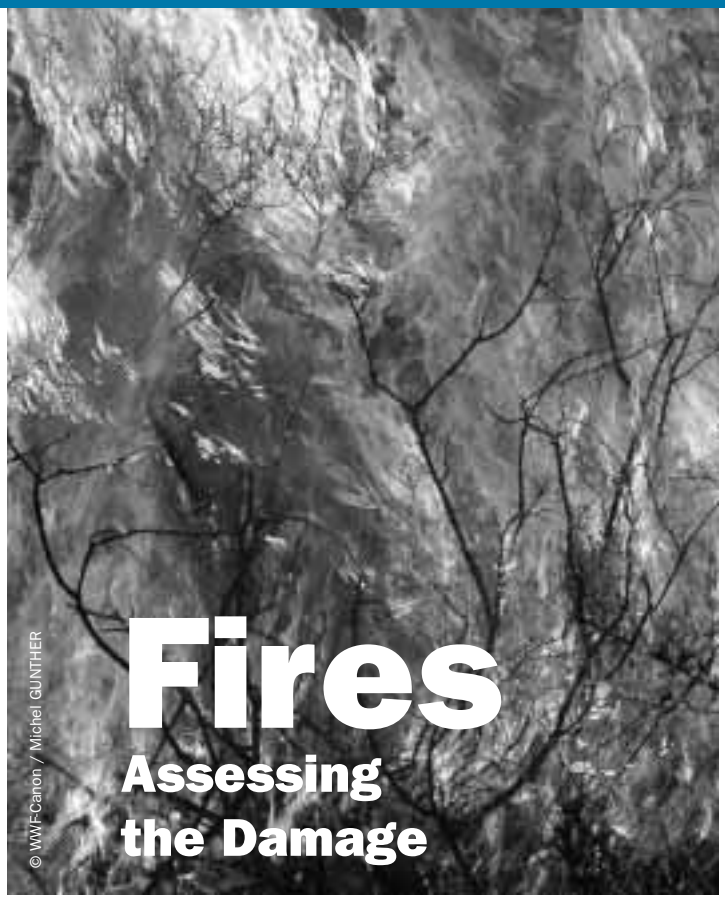
The workshop endorsed the finding of the CITES Mahogany Working Group that non-detriment findings should only be made for mahogany sourced from areas with an approved management plan and made several specific recommendations on mahogany production and trade. A significant outcome of the workshop was the close relationships forged between some of the participating NGOs and trade representatives, with several individual traders in discussions to join buyers' groups to ensure supplies of sustainable and legal mahogany. Some traders also offered financial assistance to undertake inventories of mahogany resources and offset other management costs.

For further information or to request a copy of the report, contact the ITTO Secretariat, johnson@itto.or.jp.

Research in brief

Mahoganies "picky eaters": A study published in the most recent issue of *Ecology* shows that Mahoganies need specialized soils with a particular combination of plant nutrients. The distribution of three of the four mahogany species studied in the Central African Republic was found to be restricted to soils with the necessary chemical characteristics. Previous analyses of links between tree distribution and soil conditions have looked at other features such as topography, missing the importance of soil chemistry. The researchers highlighted the practical implications of the results for improving mahogany regeneration, which has been notoriously difficult. Rather than continuing the traditional 'mining' of mahogany, it will now be more feasible to plan long-term management of these trees.

Source: *Ecology*, **85,** 8, August 2004



Fire scientists from six continents met in Switzerland in May to assess the ecological consequences of fire and recommend priorities for action. The workshop was organized by the Global Fire Partnership, a coalition of WWF, IUCN and The Nature Conservancy.

The devastating impact of wildfires on human societies and the environment has made headlines around the world. Nevertheless, an important point stressed at the workshop was that fire is also a necessary process in about half of the planet's priority conservation ecoregions. The challenge for conservationists is to promote ecologically appropriate fires in these 'fire-maintained' areas, while preventing wildfires in areas containing 'fire-sensitive' ecosystems and in both cases accommodating the needs of people who live in and around these regions. In many parts of the world, sites that have been harmed by fires need to be restored, especially in regions where invasive plants are likely to gain a foothold and further alter natural fire regimes.

The fire partnership members are compiling the results of a global fire assessment that was conducted at the meeting and that will be presented at IUCN's World Conservation Congress in November. In response to expert recommendations, and to take advantage of the groups' different strengths, the three organizations are also looking at ways to expand their partnership to include field projects in Mesoamerica and Amazonia.

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World Agroforestry Congress

The first world congress of agroforestry held in Florida in June/July was attended by over 600 participants from the realms of research, conservation, development, extension and other fields. The rich discussion covered a wealth of topics ranging from ecoagriculture to education and from tree domestication to tenure and gender issues. In addition to providing a forum for information sharing, the congress also aimed to plan future strategies for agroforestry.

Currently, agroforestry research and development are at a crossroads. The potential of agroforestry practices has been amply illustrated over the last two or three decades, but the development and widespread adoption of practical, science-based technologies is still lagging behind. The Orlando Declaration, prepared at the congress, stresses the need for increased investments to support technology development and extension to improve the integration of agroforestry in broader natural resource and watershed management efforts. The Declaration also calls on governments to highlight the role of agroforestry in poverty eradication strategies, and to provide funding and develop policies that promote agroforestry adoption. From a forest conservation standpoint, the potential contribution of agroforestry is huge, especially in forested landscapes with dense human populations and predominantly agricultural land use.

For more information visit the conference website at www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/wca.

Research in brief

Jazzy Research: In a new book entitled *The Science of Sustainable Development: Local Livelihoods and the Global Environment,* Jeff Sayer and Bruce Campbell propose a shift in natural resource research, away from the traditional technology transfer model towards an adaptive approach where the distinctions between researchers and managers become blurred as "all management is experimental and all research involves managers". Integrated natural resource management they say should be like jazz, with the various players listening to each other and consciously improvising together to achieve the agreed objectives. For a free electronic copy of the introductory chapter of this book contact Feby Litamahuputty at f.litamahuputty@cgiar.org.

Fairytale Ending: A current example of such adaptive research is a study on how to deal with a Cinderella species that has become an invasive menace. The introduction and promotion of Cinderella species – trees whose multiple uses have not been fully appreciated by the wider community – has sometimes led to problems, with these species being blamed for lowered groundwater and reduced livestock forage. Researchers from the UK, India, Argentina, Mexico and Peru have teamed up to find solutions for one such invasive Cinderella – *Prosopis juliflora* and its relatives. The research is producing field guides and policy briefs to improve the management of this species and help find a happy ending to the Cinderella story. For more information about this project contact Dr. Phil Harris, pjc.harris@btopenworld.com

Customary Tenure in PNG: Small PAs, Big Challenges

Customary land tenure in Papua New Guinea throws up considerable challenges to achieving a representative protected area system. At the same time, it has led to some important innovations in community-based forest management. Paul Chatterton, Nick Mitchell and Ruby Yamuna of WWF's South Pacific Programme report on these issues in a nation where customary tenure is the norm.

Paul CHATTERTON

Village in the Hunstein Range Wildlife Management Area, PNG.

The island of New Guinea, with its remarkable birds of paradise and tree kangaroos, now houses the largest area of tropical rainforest remaining in the Asia Pacific region. However, formal protected area systems on both sides of the island are far from adequate and the situation is particularly concerning on the eastern half of the island. Papua New Guinea has safeguarded only 3 per cent of its natural forests in protected areas. By contrast, existing or proposed logging concessions now cover more than half of the country's 36 million hectares of forests.

There is no reluctance to establish new protected areas, with more than 100 communities registering their interest. However the very limited capacity of government and NGOs has left some communities waiting for over a decade for a response. The development of protected areas has also been complicated by a set of unique circumstances, particularly the high levels of customary ownership and cultural diversity found in PNG.

PNG is unparalleled in its level of customary ownership which is constitutionally guaranteed and covers 97 per cent of the land area. As a result, village-based clan groups must give consent for any development to proceed on their land – and protected areas must be negotiated on a clan-by-clan basis.

PNG's early protected areas in the 1960s and '70s followed the Yellowstone National Park model with land purchased from traditional owners for exclusive management by government appointed rangers. As government support has dwindled and with no safety-net of land owners to take over the management on a traditional basis, many of these parks such as McAdams and Mount Wilhelm National Parks have been exploited by neighbouring landowners who see them as available vacant land.

An alternative model of protected areas known as *Wildlife Management Areas* (WMAs) has developed over the last three decades, supporting traditional land ownership, habitation and management. Communities themselves define the boundaries of their protected area, develop rules of sustainable management and appoint a committee to oversee the implementation of these rules.

WMAs can provide a modern legal framework to reinforce traditional protective measures such as *masalai* areas - sacred forests which harbour bush or water spirits. Some WMAs, such as the Hunstein Range WMA, include rules that reinforce the protection of *masalai* domains from hunting or clearance for shifting cultivation or from entry by outsiders. However, WMAs have their own problems, affording only limited legal protection and often suffering from weak enforcement by the clans. Small landowning units have resulted in 42 protected areas that are generally too small to adequately conserve wildlife populations over the long term. Even where large areas have been gazetted, for example at Tonda and Crater Mountain WMAs, complicated committee structures are proving unwieldy.

With 817 languages, PNG is the most linguistically and arguably the most culturally diverse nation on Earth and this cultural variation can greatly complicate the interpretation of traditional management systems. However new tools are now being employed to adapt to this diversity and enable communities to lead protected area establishment from their perspective. *Community entry methodologies* provide a process for dealing with community expectations and exploring customary approaches to decision making. *Social mapping* allows communities to clarify important forest values and a simple six-sheet *visual management* plan is being pilot-tested that allows largely illiterate communities to identify conservation priorities.

A group of nine international and local NGOs, known as the 'Kamiali Group', have recently joined with the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation to revise conservation area legislation, develop new protected areas and further refine methodologies and training material. A WWF-sponsored assessment scheduled for October this year will propose directions for a more concerted effort to expand and solidify PNG's protected area system.

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Who Owns, Who Conserves and Why It Matters

Major shifts are underway in forest tenure and ownership worldwide, with dramatic implications for conservation and development. In this feature article, Andy White, Arvind Khare and Augusta Molnar of Forest Trends review the tenure trends, assess the implications for conservation, and finally conclude with reflections on steps forward.

Introduction

When thinking about forest tenure and conservation, it is important to recall that there are somewhere between 1 and 1.5 billion of the world's poorest people living in and around forests. Recent studies indicate that about 80 per cent of the extreme poor – those living on less than one dollar a day – depend on forest resources for their livelihoods. These people, many of whom are Indigenous Peoples, have often had their human and property rights denied or worse, have been dispossessed of their ancestral lands. These groups are more effectively asserting their rights and democratizing societies are beginning to recognize the historical injustices that have been committed. As forests are the key assets for these people, security of forest resource rights is now recognized as a crucial element in enabling them to achieve their goals of cultural survival as well as social and economic development.

At the same time, new research indicates that many landscapes that the conservation community has traditionally thought of as wilderness areas are not in fact wild, but rather are the products of millennia of human intervention. The combination of this realization that nature is not wholly independent of man, the mounting resistance from resident forest communities to exclusionary conservation practices, the declining availability of funds for 'pure' protection, and the 'discovery' of traditional management practices of Indigenous Peoples, is leading conservation organizations to reconsider the role of communities in biodiversity protection and ecosystem maintenance. In parallel, there is widespread recognition that governments and public forest agencies in many countries have not been good stewards of public forests, as evidenced by the prevalence of 'paper parks', illegal logging and corruption.

Forest Ownership: Status and Trends

Among the many shifts and changes in forest tenure throughout the world, two new trends stand out. The first is the recognition of indigenous and other community-based rights, and the second is the devolution of administrative responsibility for public forest lands to communities. The term 'administrative responsibilities' refers here to the management of forest resources and the use of the economic benefits generated by these resources. Progress on these two

fronts has been uneven and has depended on the prevailing political, social and economic conditions in the countries concerned. The result is seen in the plethora of different tenure arrangements found across countries and communities.

Recognizing Community-Based Property Rights
Some countries have reformed land laws to recognize private community-based property rights of forest-dependent communities – often in response to demands by these communities for self-determination and cultural differentiation. In the case of Indigenous Peoples, it is worth remembering that their property rights are an integral part of their human rights and should not be conditioned by governments or anyone else. That is – the often heard concern "if we recognize their rights they may damage the forest" is misguided and another unfair burden and hurdle placed on indigenous and other communities.

There are numerous examples of governments that have begun to recognize indigenous and other community land rights. In Colombia, for example, legal changes in 1995 allowed indigenous groups and Afro-Colombian communities to register their rights to territories that they have historically occupied. Titles to land have been granted to 404 communities, protecting them against government expropriation. In a similar move, the Philippine Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, providing legal recognition of ancestral domain rights covering up to twenty per cent of the nation's total land mass, including well over a third of the previously public forest estate. And in Canada, a 1997 decision by the Supreme Court recognized the sovereign land rights of First Nations over land that they can document as traditional territory. Other important legal reforms have taken place in Bolivia, Peru, Australia and Brazil.

Devolution of Forest Management to Communities
Some countries, including for example India and Nepal, have devolved limited rights to local communities to manage and benefit from forests that are still officially considered public land. This process is also underway in most of the African continent, with more complete transfer of rights present in Tanzania, Gambia and Cameroon. These arrangements known by terms such as 'Joint Forest Management' and 'Co-management' do not alter state ownership and can be revoked by the state at any time, making them a much weaker form of property rights than those provided by private community-based ownership. In Brazil, for example, where some 75 million hectares have been set aside for indigenous communities, these communities have no right to harvest their timber, even under sustainable management regimes. Some other countries are beginning to adjust traditional industrial logging concession arrangements to include indigenous and other local communities. In British Columbia, the provincial government recently agreed to allow Weyerhaeuser Limited to transfer its concession rights to a new business venture with a coalition of indigenous groups as the lead partner. The coalition now has majority ownership of use rights to a portion of its ancestral homelands – but not to the land itself. The Guatemalan government has granted timber concessions to local communities rather than large industries, and the early experience is positive. In Lao PDR, the government has launched a similar participatory management pilot programme involving 60 villages through fifty-year management contracts.

Forest Trends made a preliminary attempt to collate these two trends in 2002 – work that was published as *Who Owns the World's Forests*. This study presented the official government perspective of ownership in 24 countries, representing 93 per cent of the world's remaining natural forests. Extrapolated to a global forest level, these data indicate that approximately 77 per cent of the world's forests is – according to national laws – owned and administered by governments, at least 4 per cent is reserved for communities, at least 7 per cent is owned by local communities, and approximately 12 per cent is owned by individuals. The data for developing countries show that the percentages of community reserves and ownership are even higher. There are at least 246 million hectares of forest officially owned by indigenous and other communities and at least 131 million hectares of public forest officially administered by indigenous and other communities in developing countries. In sum, community-owned and administered forest totals at least 377 million hectares, or at least 22 per cent of all forests in developing countries and three times as much forest as is owned by industry or individuals.

Yanomami hunter, Brazil.

The study also showed that the area owned and administered by communities doubled between 1985 and 2000. This trend looks likely to continue over the next several decades as major forested countries, including once highly centralized systems like Indonesia and Russia, are actively engaged in decentralization processes with strong demands from the local population for the recognition of their rights. Community owned or administered forest areas in developing countries are conservatively expected to at least double again to 700-800 million hectares by 2015. This contrasts with the 250-300 million hectares of forest currently in publicly-owned protected areas, most of which do not still retain their original ecology.

Indigenous and Government Conservation in the Brazilian Amazon

In a recent graduate research study with the Massachusetts -based Woods Hole Research Center, Barbara Bamberger analyzed 80 indigenous reserves and 19 government protected reserves in the Brazilian Amazon. Comparing satellite imagery on changes in forest cover and population, and data on the extractive pressures on both the indigenous lands and the state-declared protected areas, the study found no significant difference between the rate of deforestation or loss of forest cover in the two types of 'protected areas'. Despite the fact that the indigenous lands were located nearer the agricultural frontier, with more pressures from colonization, these lands were effectively protected from encroachment and destructive activities with no government support for protection. The study recommends more research into the dynamics of indigenous peoples' protection of the forests within their lands and a more balanced allocation of resources for biodiversity conservation – balancing government investment in assisting indigenous peoples to better conserve their lands from outside pressures with the higher per hectare costs of conserving the government-managed reserves. Indigenous lands account for five times as much area as that contained in government protected reserves in the study area.

Source: Woods Hole Research Center and Brazil-based Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM)

Community Conservation and Land Tenure

While these changes have not yet altered the dominant position of governments in official forest ownership, the benefits from community ownership and management are already evident around the world. Communities are, and have been, important drivers of biodiversity protection and landscape conservation around the world.

Conservation Benefits

A new Forest Trends study entitled *Who Conserves the World's Forests: Community-Driven Strategies to Protect Forests and Respect Rights* documents the extent of community-driven conservation outside public protected area systems. Where the "Who Owns" analysis was based on official, national level tenure statistics, this analysis was based on biodiversity maps and case studies of demonstrated biodiversity protection in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It finds that there are at least 370 million hectares of community conserved 'forest landscapes'. These forest landscapes fall into four main categories, based on forest use intensity, cultural relationship, and the length of time that the human population has been managing that particular resource.

1. Intact natural forests conserved by organized indigenous and traditional communities in their ancestral territories. These communities own or administer these large, contiguous areas of natural habitat that are only lightly used. Their conservation value is often comparable to that of large public protected areas. The box on the Brazilian Amazon illustrates the comparative conservation values of indigenous reserves. There are at least 120 million hectares in this category.
2. Large patches of natural habitat interspersed with biodiversity-compatible land uses managed by long-settled communities as working landscape mosaics, such as the natural community forests of Mexico and the agroforests of Sumatra. These uses include extraction, cropping, grazing, water management and forest management. There are at least 100 million hectares in this category.
3. Forests in agricultural frontier zones, managed by recent settlers living in and around state and private lands. These settlers are extractivists, agriculturalists and/or pastoralists, adapting their economic activities and conserving some forest area. There are at least 50 million hectares in this category.
4. Fragmented forests and agroforests in a process of restoration managed by long-settled communities practicing individual and community-based resource management in recognition of the benefits of ecosystem conservation. Examples include Orissa, India and upland Nepal that were once heavily degraded by intensive agriculture. While this category of forest landscape is mostly owned by the communities, in some cases it is formally in the public domain. There are at least 100 million hectares in this category.

Economic Benefits

There is increasing evidence to suggest that securing communities' forest rights enhances the economic flows not only to these communities but also to governments. Five years of technical assistance support in a Mexican forestry project enabled communities to bring 175,000 hectares under more sustainable forest management, set aside 13,000 new hectares of conservation areas, and create 1,300 permanent jobs while generating US $1.2 million per year in new fiscal revenues for the federal government – the same amount as the original project annual investment made at the state level.

Overview of Forest Sector Investment in Developing Countries

Sources of Finance	SFM* (early 1990s)	SFM (early 2000)	PAs** (early 1990s)	PAs (early 2000)
ODA	$ 2b - $ 2.2b	$1b - $ 1.2b	$ 700m - $ 770m	$ 350m - $ 420m
Public Expenditure	NA	$ 1.6b	NA	$ 598m
Philanthropy	$ 85.6m	$ 150m	NA	NA
Communities	$ 365m-$730m	$ 1.3b – $ 2.6b	NA	NA

* Sustainable Forest Management b = billion
** Public Protected Areas m = million

Community Investment in Conservation

Local people are already investing in their natural resource base over the long term. Indeed, their investment in biodiversity conservation is a documented reality – the indigenous timber enterprises in Mexico invest twice as much in their forests as the government does in adjacent protected areas – US $2 instead of US $1 per hectare per year. Communities have also been documented as spending significant amounts of time, labour, and financial resources on forest management and conservation activities. In Mexico for example, community investments of volunteer labour, including forest monitoring and improved management practices, equals two to ten person years of employment per year in each village. This is comparable to investments made by the 5,000 still-functioning Van Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh, India, in which villagers volunteer for fire control, patrolling, management meetings, and resource monitoring activities. In the Brazilian Amazon, volunteer patrolling and encroachment protection by indigenous tribes in their 100 million hectares of high conservation value forest lands save the government hundreds of thousands of dollars every year in foregone expenditure. At a time when investment in the forest sector is declining, particularly for conservation, communities emerge as the largest investors in forests (see table).

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Community investment in forests in developing countries is equivalent to or exceeds Overseas Development Assistance flows to the forest sector and public expenditure by the governments. Wise investment in on-going community conservation initiatives can greatly extend the scarce funds for conservation.

Looking Forward:
Human Rights – Global Conservation

Indigenous and other local communities are already leading conservationists – whether measured by area or level of investment. Trends indicate that their role – in owning and administering the world's forests will only increase – possibly to some fifty per cent of global forest land within the next several decades. These trends pose a tremendous challenge and a tremendous opportunity – both for the livelihoods of these people and for conservation. Real, substantial and dramatically increased efforts to recognize the rights of local communities and reduce policy barriers that diminish their incentive to sustainably manage their forest assets are needed to strengthen their role as sound stewards of forest ecosystems. This is the new conservation agenda: one that first respects human and property rights and then enables conservation. As governments increasingly begin to deal with these contentious issues, conservation organizations need to not only respect these human rights – but be among the first to advocate for the recognition and respect of these rights. Once rights are recognized, conservation organizations will need to actively help these communities succeed in the sustainable use and protection of their forests. The gains from recent tenure reforms are still very fragile. In some countries the centralized public forest agencies are repositioning themselves to take control back from forest communities – reintroducing the tenure uncertainty that drives degradation. Conservation organizations should not be idle bystanders in this historic struggle. Actively supporting the respect for local rights today will help ensure global conservation tomorrow.

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This article is based on *Who Owns the World's Forests: Forest Tenure and Public Forests in Transition* by Andy White and Alejandra Martin and *Who Conserves the World's Forests? Community-Driven Strategies to Protect Forests and Respect Rights* by Augusta Molnar, Sara Scherr and Arvind Khare, published by Forest Trends in 2002 and 2004 respectively. Forest Trends is a Washington D.C.-based non-profit organization and a member of IUCN.

Forests for People?

How far has forest sector decentralization really gone? And has it brought benefits for conservation and the local people whose livelihoods depend on forests? Anne Larson, from CIFOR, looks at the lessons learned from decentralization experiences in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Many governments claim to be decentralizing natural resource management to local actors. But what is really happening on the ground? A study of decentralization cases in about 20 different countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America revealed some common patterns and key factors that affect how democratic and successful forest sector decentralization has been to date.

The bottom line conclusion is that democratic decentralization is very much the exception. Substantial decision-making power, resources and benefits from forests are still centralized and the local actors selected to receive new authority are rarely representative or accountable. In fact, some of the case studies found that so-called decentralization policies had actually served to increase state control over forest management.

A common problem is the existence of contradictory policies relating to decentralization and forestry. Even within a country's decentralization legislation, there are often serious contradictions and ambiguities regarding forest authority. The result is a legal framework that establishes general authority locally but then denies it when it comes to specifics, or laws on paper that are simply not implemented.

Where transfer of power to local government has occurred, the central government often hands over responsibility but not authority, outsourcing costs while maintaining control. Local authorities complain that they have been given the burdens but not the benefits of natural resource management, either in terms of discretionary decision-making authority or income. While some countries return a proportion of central government income from forest taxes and royalties to the local sphere, the most lucrative resources are often kept at central level.

In general, decentralization is rarely accompanied by the necessary capacity-building support to enable local governments and local communities to act on the rights they have been given by law. This includes the appropriate financial, political and technical capacities and institutional conditions necessary for making meaningful decisions.

The application of decentralization mechanisms has often been flawed. Decentralized powers are sometimes given to parallel committees (sometimes called user groups or stakeholder committees), set up by the central government for that purpose. Rather than being based on existing elected, representative bodies, the committees are usually made up of appointed personnel or traditional leaders and are rarely downwardly accountable. The overall effect of these committees has been detrimental as they tend to undermine elected institutions by dispersing authority, particularly as they often benefit from greater funding. Another common mechanism for decentralization, Joint Forest Management (JFM) has sometimes suffered similar problems. In some parts of India, JFM has brought areas previously managed autonomously by local communities under state control as new authorities have been created and unaccountable forest department officials placed in charge.

How has decentralization affected forest management? At two extremes, perhaps are the cases of India and Indonesia. In some areas of India where elected Van Panchayats manage forests, these resources are in good condition and often better than those of the forest department. In Indonesia, greater local control over forests has resulted in a proliferation of logging contracts and a similar process is seen in Cameroon. In other cases, such as Yunnan, China, the dramatic increase in deforestation following forest sector decentralization proved to be temporary and the trend was later reversed. Analysis suggests that the increase was due to tenure insecurity and fears that forest management rights would be taken away. It is possible, then, that the same reversal could happen in Indonesia.

So what is the way forward to ensure that decentralization benefits both the local forests and people? The first step is to recognize the social, economic and political interests of each set of actors. The second is to begin to build a political climate that makes real decentralization possible. Broad coalitions of local actors, NGOs, donors, local governments and sympathetic central government officials are needed to counteract the centralizing tendencies of central governments. Local actors must become effective players in their own right – to demand decentralization and to demand that it be implemented in their interest.

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The complete version of this study is available on the CIFOR website at http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/int/_ref/events/swiss/papers.htm.

Forest Tenure and the Law

Tomme Young of IUCN's Environmental Law Centre looks at the legal side of forest ownership.

Codes of forest ownership, tenure and management are among the oldest systems of environmental law on the planet. They have remained vital tools in sustaining healthy forests by constantly evolving to address new issues and challenges.

Forest ownership comes in many forms, from strong private ownership arrangements to closely overseen government ownership. Although strong private ownership rights may weaken the power of government to promote forest conservation and sustainable use, very weak or insecure tenure can minimize incentives for active participation in forest management.

Choosing between the different tenure options requires consideration of compliance and incentive issues. It will never be possible to fully enforce forest requirements through government oversight and policing. So a country's choice of a tenure arrangement must look at how it integrates compliance with incentives for sustainable management and participation. While financial incentives seem attractive in promoting private conservation and sustainable use, they may be too modest in size to be effective. If forest conversion yields higher profits, incentives that affect forest cost-benefit analyses will usually not function.

Re-privatization of forests presents other challenges. In the long years between nationalization and re-privatization, forest-holding families may have lost their forestry knowledge and expertise. Repeated sub-divisions of forest holdings often result in small plots offering their owners little incentive for forest management. Inconsistencies in records and processes can cause holdings to remain in dispute for many years, while the competing 'owners' are forced into short-term thinking about these assets.

To avoid some of these concerns, countries may take an opposite approach – retaining as much direct control over the forests as possible. Private activities may be based on grants of forest management *rights* (easements, licenses and other harvesting permits), or possibly direct ownership only of specific trees an individual has planted, with no link to direct ownership of forest lands. This approach maximizes government power to regulate and promote sustainable forest management, but often leaves the user very insecure.

Tenure issues are both important and complex. Forest dependent people's very subsistence may be at risk. Yet highly protective legal responses (such as amnesty and tenure grants to long-term 'forest squatters') may ultimately operate as serious perverse incentives. However, thanks to the evolutionary attitude that has long been a characteristic of forest governance, new approaches to tenure continue to develop. With all its challenges, the growing body of community management approaches offers many new pathways to forest security and a positive relationship between forest users and sustainable forest management principles.

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The Unclassed State Forests of Arunachal Pradesh

Pijush DUTTA

Unclassed State Forest of Thambang village, Arunachal Pradesh.

Pijush Kumar Dutta and Sudipto Chatterjee of WWF India report on the special status of community forest management in North Eastern India.

In contrast to the rest of India where almost all forests are under government control, the North Eastern States have substantial areas of community-managed forests with unique ownership status. The traditional customary laws were retained in this tribal region during colonial times and were further strengthened by post-colonial legislation.

Arunachal Pradesh is a case in point. Some 60 per cent of this heavily forested state is categorized as Unclassed State Forest (USF) – land that has not been surveyed and over which rights and ownership claims have not been settled. Inaccessible terrain, the lack of land inheritance records and the reluctance of locals to provide the necessary information all make the surveying of these forests a very difficult task. Yet the USF areas in the state are well demarcated by local villagers and are recognized and accepted by the state government. Not only are the communities allowed to extract forest produce to meet their own subsistence needs, they also have their own laws to regulate the use of these resources, in parallel to the government legal system – a dichotomy unseen in other parts of the country. So, although the ownership status of these areas remains ambiguous, their sustainable management is largely assured by the local communities.

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Gruszka/Osz

Conservation Concerns in Privatized Forests

Training for private forest owners by Pro Silva Hungary

Darius Stoncius of the Lithuanian Fund for Nature and Piotr Tyszko of the IUCN Office for Central Europe report on some of the problems associated with forest privatization in new EU member states.

Privatization of forests in the former Eastern Bloc countries has put between 30 and 50 per cent of forest land back in private ownership – posing both a threat and an opportunity for biodiversity conservation. Many of the new forest owners are not familiar with the principles of sustainable forest management and view biodiversity conservation as something imposed by conservationists or by the European Union. Meanwhile, conservation activists and officials in these countries often fail to communicate biodiversity values clearly to forest owners, and government institutions tend to ignore the biodiversity resources found in private forests. In Poland, for example, the government's designation of Natura 2000 sites was limited almost entirely to state forests.

With privatization, forest land and timber have become marketable commodities, subject to market forces. This, together with the common combination of inadequate environmental awareness, weak law enforcement and widespread rural poverty has led to illegal and excessive logging. The effectiveness of conservation tools such as Natura 2000, Woodland Key Habitats and the IUCN Red List in private forests depends largely on compensatory mechanisms. In most of these countries, the development of such mechanisms has not kept pace with market pressures and governments can provide only modest monetary compensation for income lost due to conservation restrictions. Though the exchange of high biodiversity forest land for commercial stands is one alternative in some countries, it is often difficult to implement.

The new EU members possess a large share of European forest biodiversity and will require strong support from international institutions and NGOs to help their forest owners and governments adequately address forest conservation and sustainable management.

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This article draws on some of the outcomes of an IUCN project which brought together experts from several new EU member states. More information on this project can be found at www.iucn-ce.org.pl. See also the related article in arbor*vitæ* 25.

Ownership and Ecosystems – a Complex Puzzle

Jeff Sayer and Michelle Laurie look at how ecosystem approaches to sustainable forest management need to adapt to changing forest ownership patterns.

Dramatic shifts in forest ownership are taking place in many parts of the world. Governments are changing from being holders of land to disposers of land. Decentralization, subsidiarity and privatization are radically changing the way decisions are made about forests. What does this imply for ecosystem management approaches?

Firstly, it means that control of forests is becoming more fragmented. In many countries we no longer have vast areas of forest under the monolithic control of the government forest agency, but rather mosaics of state forests, corporate forests, community-managed forests, protected areas and increasingly small holdings of private woodlands. So how can ecosystem approaches accommodate these complex jurisdictional landscapes?

This is one of the puzzles being investigated by IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme with the World Bank and the Program on Forests (PROFOR). Our objective has been to learn lessons from the successes and failures to achieve ecosystem management in the face of multiple ownership, management priorities and decision-making structures.

One recurring finding that emerges from our country studies is that the role of forest agencies needs to change to meet these new challenges. They cannot simply develop and enforce technical rules and regulations uniformly across all ownership systems. Instead, they will need to work with multiple forest owners and with society at large to establish broadly accepted visions for forests and then provide the technical support necessary to attain these visions. This and other results of the study will be presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in November and a full report will be published in early 2005.

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For more information on the study visit
www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/experience_lessons/governance_esa_sfm.htm
A special issue of arbor*vitæ* on Ecosystem Approaches and Sustainable Forest Management will be distributed with issue 27.

IUCN news in brief

Staff Changes: In August, Consuelo Espinosa was appointed as the new Forest and Environmental Economics Programme Officer of the IUCN South America Regional Office in Quito, Ecuador. Consuelo holds a Master's degree in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and brings over eight years of experience in forest conservation issues in South America.
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Forest Ownership in Tanzania

Peter Sumbi of WWF Tanzania reflects on how the country's forest ownership pendulum has swung back to a community-based approach.

Tanzania has witnessed dramatic changes in forest management regimes over the last century. The pre-colonial period was characterized by traditional local management systems based on subsistence needs and values. The colonial era then brought with it formal forest regulations and policies; protected areas were established, local forest use was restricted and considerable areas were managed for commercial timber production. Following independence, the growing pressure on the nation's forests led to escalating deforestation rates, tightened forest regulations and further erosion of community rights and access.

More recently, the government has been forced to revitalize community-based forest management regimes and reinstate local forest ownership rights. Since the 1990s, a series of policy and legal reforms have been implemented to promote local and participatory forest management. Thus, forest ownership might be considered to have returned full circle to the local systems of pre-colonial times – but with the emphasis now on sustainable economic benefits, not just subsistence needs.

This divestment of government ownership to local communities and private individuals is clearly set out in Tanzania's National Forest Policy of 1998, which defines forest land and tree tenure rights and establishes the parameters for local community ownership. The Forest Act of 2002 goes further and provides a legal framework for the establishment of village and community forest reserves. A study by Liz Wily and Peter Dewees in 2001 found a total of 1,502 forest reserves owned and managed by villages, covering an area of approximately 323,000 ha. Since then, an additional 60,000 ha of forest have been brought under local management.

WWF's Tanzania Programme Office has been working with government agencies and local NGOs for the last five years to support the implementation of natural resource policies. Joint Forest Management, Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and Community Based Wildlife Management schemes have been started, albeit on a pilot scale. Through the CBFM activities, forest management plans have been prepared and village by-laws developed to transfer forest ownership to communities. In August of this year WWF started a partnership with the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group to facilitate nine village forest reserves in the East Usambara Mountains. This project aims to strengthen the capacity of these forest-owning communities to assume their responsibilities and take advantage of their rights with respect to forest management.

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Constructing a 3-D map of the land claim.

Tenure Rights Recognized

"Ignorant and illegal squatters of the forest." That is how the indigenous community living on the steep slopes of the Philippine island of Sibuyan was regarded by most of the island's 'lowlanders'. Without proof of land ownership, the 1,600-strong indigenous community was facing threats of eviction from the newly protected area and had no incentive to conserve the forest resources. However, a recently-completed WWF-Philippines project on the island regarded them as 'gatekeepers of the forest' and decided to support the community's claims for land ownership. After their claim was finally recognized and mapped, a future land use plan was then developed to zone the areas for conservation and agriculture. The community included regulations in the plan to ban destructive practices such as clearcutting and the use of pesticides in fishing. They have now taken over responsibility for patrolling their forests, sparking some resentment among lowland residents who still question the validity of the claim and the distinction between these Indigenous Peoples and other Filipinos.

This article is based on a report in the WWF Living Document, *How to Care for the Casualties of Conservation?* released in May 2004. For a copy of the full document, contact Chantal Page, cpage@wwfint.org or visit www.panda.org/downloads/forests/wwfdgisphilippines2.pdf

WWF news in brief

Staff Changes: Elie Hakizumwami has joined the WWF Central Africa Regional Programme as Forest Officer, based in Yaounde, Cameroon. Elie is a forester with 26 years experience in Natural Resources Management in Africa, including 8 years in the Congo Basin, and joins WWF from IUCN where he was the Programme Officer for Central African IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group. Mark Aldrich has taken over as Target Manager - Forest Landscape Restoration in the Forests for Life Programme at WWF International, replacing Stephanie Mansourian who has left the organization. Previously responsible for setting up and managing WWF's Forest Information System (FIS), Mark has also been WWF's managing editor of arbor***vitæ*** for the last three years.

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Back issues of arbor*vitæ* can be found on: www.iucn.org/themes /fcp/publications/arborvitae/avnewslett er/avnewsletter21_25.htm

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Reviews in brief

Integrated Failures?

Available from: www.columbia.edu/cu/cup

Integrated Conservation and Development Projects (ICDPs) have earned themselves a bad name – but is this fair and what went wrong? A new book, *Getting Biodiversity Projects to Work*, edited by Thomas McShane and Michael Wells, examines the rise and fall of the ICDP approach and suggests how to improve the design and delivery of conservation and development initiatives. Based on a set of papers commissioned for a workshop on the same theme, this book draws lessons from a five year programme of ICDPs implemented by WWF and DGIS (the Royal Netherlands Development Agency) and a variety of other examples from around the world. The case studies show how ICDPs have often failed to engender real participation, target the major biodiversity threats, or achieve financial sustainability. The basic assumption that alternative livelihood opportunities generated by protected areas will be enough to stop resource degradation has rarely held up in practice. Win-win situations for nature conservation and economic development are rare – especially in short-term projects – and yet have been perpetuated as common practice by a culture of success among donors that discourages the reporting of project failures.

This book provides a fair trial for ICDPs and a critical analysis of the mitigating circumstances surrounding their failings – including unreasonable expectations of what they could achieve. The editors conclude that the need for conservation projects to address local development issues – the ICDP concept – remains valid, and they provide some initial pointers on how to improve the implementation of such projects.

Agroforestry and Biodiversity Conservation

Available from: www.islandpress.com

How can agroforestry – the deliberate integration of woody plants in agricultural systems – contribute to biodiversity conservation? A new book, *Agroforestry and Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Landscapes*, by Gotz Schroth et al. presents state-of-the-art thinking on the agroforestry-conservation nexus from more than 40 researchers and practitioners with long-term field experience. The book examines several hypotheses, including (i) that agroforestry can help reduce pressure to deforest additional land for agriculture if adopted as an alternative to more extensive and less sustainable land use practices; and (ii) that agroforestry systems can provide habitat and resources for partially forest-dependent native plant and animal species.

There is much here that will be of interest to conservation practitioners and planners, especially those concerned with large scale land use outside protected areas. Two chapters entitled, 'Landscape connectivity and biological corridors' and 'Is agroforestry likely to reduce deforestation?' may be of particular relevance. The chapter on biological corridors offers a number of recommendations for agroforestry zones that could enhance their potential for facilitating the movement and maintenance of biodiversity. The authors of the deforestation chapter highlight the many factors that will determine if, in fact, agroforestry can contribute to reduced deforestation.

Law Making on a Shoestring

Available from: www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/a_rough_guide.pdf

Since the fall of President Suharto and the beginning of the *reformasi* era, regional governments in Indonesia have been granted more legislative powers and greater autonomy in forest management and revenue sharing. This decentralization has resulted in a flurry of law making by regional governments, some of it supporting forest conservation, some of it furthering forest degradation. This new book, *A Rough Guide to Developing Laws for Regional Forest Management*, by Jason Patlis sets out to provide regional governments with practical guidelines and alternative strategies for developing forest management legislation. These governments, usually operating on a tight budget and with little training or experience, need forest laws that confront the common realities of corruption and non compliance.

The guide clearly presents both the principles and mechanics of regional forest law making and includes several alternative approaches to encouraging good governance. While the background sections on the existing legal framework and the new responsibilities of the district/municipality are specific to Indonesia, the guidelines themselves would be useful for local government officials and other stakeholders in many countries undergoing forest sector decentralization.

Campaign Trail Map for EU

Available from: www.fern.org/pubs/reports/EU-guide.pdf

The EU's Impact on Forests: A Practical Guide to Campaigning, by Emilie Cornu-Thenard and Saskia Ozinga, is an essential tool for anyone working to influence the EU on forest issues. Produced by FERN and the Taiga Rescue Network (TRN), the guide provides an excellent overview of the EU, details of how EU processes work, practical tips on influencing those processes and pointers on where to get hold of critical information. Well adapted to non policy expert readers, with methodologies and technical details relevant beyond just forest issues, this guide is worth a thorough read, and is well organized and indexed to also allow for quick dips to search for specific topics.

Playing Games

A new computer game developed by WWF's European Forest Programme challenges players to load as many FSC products as they can in their shopping trolley, in just two minutes. Make too many wrong choices when purchasing timber, tissues, or furniture and the on-screen forest can be seen disappearing. The *Shop 'N' Save* game is available from www.panda.org/games/fsc. A new board game developed by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation aims to raise awareness about the region's protected areas. While answering questions on the benefits of protected areas, players also need to protect the areas from various threats. For more details on this game, contact Andres Alcantara, andres.alcantara@iucn.org.