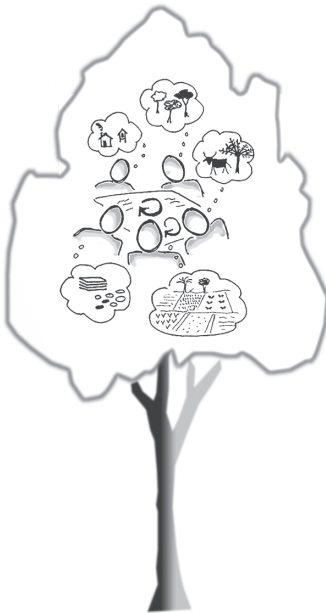




# NEWS

## National Forest Programmes

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THE NATIONAL  
FOREST PROGRAMME  
**FACILITY**



## Editorial

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Dear Readers,

This special edition of the European Tropical Forest Research Network News focuses on global experience with national forest programmes (nfp) to date. National forest programmes are dynamic processes, which provide strategic orientation to the forest sector and facilitate the coordinated implementation of sustainable forest management. Nfps are considered so important today as they offer the most promising mechanism through which the forest sector can address national and international priorities in an inclusive and holistic manner. We hope that this edition provides a useful overview of current issues and experiences in nfp theory and implementation.

This edition has two sponsors, the National Forest Programme Facility, hosted at the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Program on Forests (PROFOR), housed in the World Bank. The Facility and PROFOR welcomed this excellent opportunity to collaborate, to gather articles from diverse actors in the forest sector and to share these with the members of ETRN's well established network

In response to our call for contributions we received a lot of interest and many informative articles. We allowed the themes for this edition to evolve on the basis of the articles received instead of identifying them in advance. What emerged is a rounded cross section of experiences with nfps to date, with some articles grounded in country level experiences and others more focussed on the potential contributions of nfps to broader national development, macroeconomic policy and planning.

The nine articles that touch on the question of "nfps – what have we learned?" address general approaches to nfps as well as specific aspects such as improving forest sector governance. Under the theme "linking nfps to national development and international processes," nine articles cover topics ranging from using nfps to assess cross-sectoral linkages in the forest sector to how to demonstrate forests' contribution to poverty reduction to forest landscape restoration. There are three articles on nfps' contribution to regional forest management and nine highlighting country experiences with nfps. Finally, there are nine articles and information notes on ongoing projects and initiatives related to nfps.

We would like to thank the contributing authors for their time and effort in ensuring the quality of these articles. We would like to specifically thank Tapani Oksanen for his useful comments and suggestions, and for his overview article. We would also like to express our deep gratitude to the donor agencies that fund the National Forest Programme Facility and PROFOR for making this special edition possible.

We hope you enjoy the read!

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**ETFRN News 41-42/04**

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## The European Tropical Forest Research Network - ETFRN

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The European Tropical Forest Research Network is a network of European organisations involved in (sub)tropical forest research. It is presently supported by Directorate General for Research of the European Commission under the INCO-DEV Programme.

For further information on ETFRN, please contact your National Focal Point (see inside back cover) or the Coordination Unit (address below).

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ETFRN News is a publication of the European Tropical Forest Research Network. It is printed on 100% recycled paper and has a circulation of 4,000 copies.

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Contributions to the ETFRN News are always welcome.

Themes for the next issues:

<b>Forests and violent conflict</b>	<b>(copy deadline closed)</b>
<b>Forests and water</b>	<b>(tentative)</b>

### ETFRN NEWS

#### Sustainability...

The current financial situation of ETFRN is worrisome, as the EC grant to ETFRN ended on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2004 (no joke). Despite a very positive external evaluation, recommending that the EC continue funding ETFRN, several proposals submitted to the EC together with partners in developing countries and the EU member states were not successful. On the positive side, funding has been found for two issues of the ETFRN News: the current issue, which is co-produced with PROFOR, the National Forest Programme Facility and Tropenbos International (TBI), and the forthcoming issue on forests in areas of violent social conflict which is funded by the United Kingdom's department for International Development (DFID), together with the Netherlands Department for International Cooperation (DGIS). David Kaimowitz, the Director of the center for International Forest Research, is guest editing the next issue, and has generously provided his own and CIFOR staff time to assist. Another issue on Forests and Water has been commissioned, but whether this can be published will also depend on the availability of further funds for the ETFRN Coordination Unit, as TBI, which has kept ETFRN afloat for the past months, will not be able to continue this without external support.

The ETFRN Coordination Unit has always operated with very few staff, and this is now further reduced to the Coordinator and the ETFRN webmaster, both working part-time. Fortunately, the Director of TBI has kindly allowed Blanca Méndez of the TBI Communication Unit to assist in the preparation of this newsletter. Blanca's help has been invaluable. This edition is a result of the hard work and commitment of the

guest editors, Laura Ivers of PROFOR and Paul Matthews of the National Forest Programme Facility. A big thank you to Laura, Blanca and Paul!

We would be very interested in hearing from you; whether you think ETFRN is worthwhile and should be continued, and if yes, your suggestions as to how we may achieve this.

#### Publications

The ETFRN website has a new page from which most of the recent ETFRN publications may be downloaded, and listing the ETFRN CDROMs published so far: <http://www.etfrn.org/etfrn/resource/publications.html>

Two of the most recent publications include:

- ETFRN Series No. 3: **Cultivating (in) Tropical Forests? The evolution and sustainability of systems of management between extractivism and plantations**, *Heidi Asbjornsen et al (ed.)* These are the proceedings of a workshop held 28 June - 1 July 2000 in Kræmmervika, Lofoten, Norway, organised by the Norwegian National Focal Point of ETFRN. It is currently only available in digital form as we have no funds to print.
- CDROM: **Participatory assessment, monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity (PAMEB)**, *Anna Lawrence and Jeannette van Rijsoort (ed.)* Results of the internet workshop 7 - 25 January 2002, and policy seminar 21 May 2002, convened by the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, published June 2004.

Other downloadable publications on the ETFRN website include:

- **FORNESSA and IUFRO-SPDC Initiative on "Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands in Sub-Saharan Africa" synthesis report** This scientific synthesis document is the

result of more than two years of thematic networking activities among forest scientists on the issue of rehabilitation of degraded lands in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- 'Prunings' from the DFID Forest Research Programme are a compilation of one sheet human interest stories or little prunings taken from the project outputs. You can download the 2003 and 2004 versions, each containing 10 prunings, from the ETFRN website.

### **New topics page on rehabilitation of degraded forest lands**

The new ETFRN topics page on this subject <http://www.etfrn.org/etfrn/topics/rehabilitation/index.html> includes the IUFRO SPDC synthesis report mentioned above; as well as links to European capability; relevant ETFRN Newsletters; annotated links to other web-based resources; and search results from other databases. It also includes a link to the updated website of the workshop on Trees, agroforestry and climate change in dryland Africa (TACCDA) that was held in Hyytiälä, Finland, on 30 June - 4 July 2003. <http://www.etfrn.org/etfrn/workshop/degradedlands/index.html>. The final workshop proceedings may also be downloaded from the workshop website.

### **EC NEWS**

#### **Website on EU and developing countries: cooperation in environment and forests**

The European Commission has launched a website for the combined tropical forests and environment budget lines. It includes information on previously funded projects; a page on 'who does what' ie the role of different EC directorates; procedures; links to relevant official documents; and more. These web pages on co-operation between

the European Union and the developing countries in the field of environment and forests may be found at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/forests/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/forests/index_en.htm).

The **environment programme** aims at supporting developing countries in their efforts to integrate the environmental dimension into their development process. The objective of the **forest programme** is to support the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests and other forests in these countries.

#### **DGResearch: 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme development**

EC Research funding is managed through multiannual RTD programmes. The next framework programme will be the seventh (FP7), and is planned to span the period 2006-2010. In June 2004 the European Commission launched a consultation process on the preparation of FP7 with the publication of the Communication, COM(2004) 353, "Science and technology, the key to Europe's future - Guidelines for future European Union policy to support research". The communication and an evaluation of the new financing instruments used in the 6<sup>th</sup> framework programme may be downloaded from:

[http://www.cordis.lu/era/fp7\\_findoc.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/era/fp7_findoc.htm)

For further information on the development of the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme, including EU member state consultations and position papers, please see:

<http://www.cordis.lu/era/fp7.htm>

An EC expert consultation for forests and development issues for the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme is planned for mid December.

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### OVERVIEW AND SPONSORS' NOTES

#### NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

*By Tapani Oksanen*

This special edition of the ETRN News presents insights into what is happening with national forest programmes (nfps) world-wide in the beginning of the new Millennium. The different articles illustrate the evolution of the concept and practice of nfps from the rather technocratic and expert-driven sectoral planning exercises of the late 80's and early 90's towards the kind of approach based on multiple values and functions of forests and open dialogue and participation, envisaged in the intergovernmental dialogue on forests (i.e. the IPF, IFF and UNFF). Some of the articles also point out that this change of forest governance paradigm is not always easy for forest sector institutions to internalise and put in practice.

The experiences with national forest programmes are gradually providing a body of practical examples and results of policy research that can provide useful insight both to nfp practitioners and researchers. The ETRN News nfp issue looks first into some of the major lessons learned internationally in the conceptual development of national forest programmes. This is followed by more specific experiences in linking nfps with broader processes and instruments for national development planning as well as with relevant international processes.

The regional dimension of national forest programmes is discussed and country experiences on nfp formulation and implementation are presented from both developing and industrialised countries. Finally, information notes from several on-going thematic and country-level activities are presented to illustrate the richness of topics being debated and tackled in nfp processes in different countries.

The issue also provides basic information on two major international nfp support instruments established by the international community, the Programme on Forests (PROFOR) in the World Bank and the National Forest Programme Facility hosted by FAO, as well on several more informal networks (e.g. the Forest Governance Learning Group) exchanging information and experiences on nfp related topics.

In the following some of the highlights from the articles are presented and discussed as an introduction to the topic and general overview. These are grouped under the (somewhat arbitrary) headings of (i) conceptual development of nfps, (ii) linking nfps with broader processes and instruments and dealing with cross-sectoral issues, (iii) nfps and international and regional processes, (iv) process guidance and participation, (v) emergence of communities of practice, and (vi) the role of international support. Also, some comments and suggestions are given regarding areas and issues for further research and development:

#### **Conceptual development of nfps**

National forest programmes come in many sizes and shapes. This reflects the open-ended definition for such processes, which emerged as a result of the

intergovernmental forest dialogue. Any country-level process dealing with forest sector policy making and strategic planning that follows the agreed nfp principles can be considered a national forest programme regardless of what it is actually being called in a particular country. Thus there are NFPs and nfps. Some of these are still more induced and guided by external actors, and others are more genuinely locally and nationally “owned”. Some still struggle to find a way to integrate with the core national policies and strategies influencing the forest sector, whereas others are completely embedded in these. There are also more straightforward or “linear” processes and those that are more iterative and sprawling. Similarly, the alignment of such processes with the nfp principles varies from country to country. The intention to move towards these kinds of principles is, however, apparent in all cases reported in this publication.

It is evident that nfp processes are increasingly steered by complex multi-stakeholder networks instead of forest sector institutions and hand-picked experts, and are inserted within broader development frameworks. This change is forcing the forestry professionals – especially those involved with policy making and planning - to come out of their comfortable “forestry box”, both in countries and in international organisations, and seek ways and means to convince economists, social scientists, civil society activists, political decision makers and others on the importance of the sector. As a result of this dialogue, forest policy and planning is becoming more open and inclusive to other views and values. The boundaries of the sector are becoming ambiguous, and in many countries sectoral goals are heavily influenced by broader societal goals, such as poverty reduction

and good governance.

Government commitment, well focused objectives and strategies with concrete achievable targets, and realistic approaches to tackling cross-sectoral constraints (e.g. agricultural policies) are identified as key elements to ensure that nfp processes do not get bogged down. Simultaneously – and somewhat in contradiction to this – it is stressed that this does not mean that the scope of the processes should be reduced. Clearly there is an issue here to be debated case by case to find the optimum balance between a “doable” nfp and a sufficiently broad scope to avoid getting back into the “box”.

### **Linking with broader processes and instruments and dealing with cross-sectoral issues**

Nfp processes can provide a basis for a rational discussion on where forests should be conserved and managed and where broader societal objectives (e.g. poverty reduction) are better served by converting forested lands for other productive uses. Consequently the importance of effectively linking nfps with such broader processes as the PRSPs (i.e. the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers promoted by the World Bank and IMF as well as many bilateral donors in the least developed countries), land-use planning and rural development is highlighted. However, the exact means to do so still remain rather vague. Few countries can claim that they have an effective strategy to position the forest sector in the fight against poverty. The pressing issue in many countries is how to interest the ministries with a much broader development mandate (often the Ministry of Finance) leading these exercises in a sector like forestry, which in most countries has a relatively small (short-term)

impact on economic development and employment creation. Development of methods for forest valuation (including non-timber values) and comprehensive forest accounts is emphasised to avoid the underestimation of the role of the forest sector in national development and the attribution of important forest values to other sectors. The forest sector also needs to provide evidence on the role and potential of forests in the livelihood strategies of the poor. A growing body of evidence in this regard is emerging from different research projects.

A specific case regarding the forest sector and poverty reduction is that of HIV/AIDS. It is argued that forest development strategies and programmes may directly or indirectly influence the vulnerability of different groups (e.g. forestry staff and workers) to this pandemic. Also, the existence of the forest "safety net" (i.e. nutrition and medicine) may be especially important for poor households affected by HIV/AIDS. Very little is known of these linkages.

Forest sector actors should not wait to be invited to participate in these broader development processes, but need to establish effective tactics for engagement. Information and lobbying to change the perceptions of decision-makers on the sector are important elements of such tactics, as is persistence and a long-term view. The establishment of high-level inter-ministerial committees to discuss and resolve cross-sectoral issues related to forest development has been achieved in some countries. The challenge is, however, how to interest and motivate the high level participants to put enough time and energy into this type of work to achieve concrete results.

Issues related to how to cope with and benefit from decentralisation are in the core of many nfp processes. In many developing countries the forest sector has been trying to adapt to the overall decentralisation of government responsibilities, including those for forest and natural resource management. This is seen both as an opportunity for moving towards better forest management by local governments and communities and as a challenge in terms of developing the right incentive and normative structures to avoid uncontrolled forest exploitation. Evidence suggests that decentralisation can be a path towards SFM, but it requires stringent conditions to succeed. These include clarity of land tenure, well defined roles and responsibilities of different actors, investment in local level capacity building, and financial and other incentives to forest managers to ensure sufficient net benefits to offset the additional burden. The government must be willing to let go of resources which have economic potential, not only those which require investment in the foreseeable future. At the same time it must ensure that forests of high national conservation value are adequately protected, and that the transfer of responsibilities is accompanied by transfer of resources and capacity development.

### **Nfps and international and regional processes**

The link between national forest programme processes and the international forest related dialogue is seen as tenuous at best. Most experts seem to agree that these processes have played an important role in establishing a common forest governance concept applicable to all countries and all types of forests, and that gradually many countries are moving towards this concept with their own evolving interpretations of its practical

meaning in their specific setting. Sector wide approaches (SWAPs) are developing, modelled after such sectors as health and education, to increase country ownership and improve the efficiency in the use of both domestic and external resources. Different types of partnerships are emerging as a result of international dialogue in different forums, which may help to increase private investment and other types of financing for nfp implementation. However, formidable challenges remain to make the international dialogue and processes more relevant to national and local nfp implementation. From the national point of view this dialogue still seems to be too abstract, with little involvement from the stakeholders involved in national processes, and not sufficiently focusing on practical cooperation, such as exchange of experiences between countries on specific themes of interest and development of guidance based on lessons learned.

Collaboration between the different forest related environmental agreements may also in the future lead to a better integration of these agreements into nfp processes. An example is the possibility to incorporate dialogue and conflict resolution related to plantation development based on the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, and the use of the nfp process to introduce the institutional and legal reforms needed to make the CDM operational in a given country. Another example of operational coordination is the work done by IUCN and PROFOR to clarify the relationship between the ecosystem approach (deriving from the CBD) and the SFM concept espoused by UNFF.

More focussed international and regional partnership initiatives such as those on

combating illegal logging and related trade may also in future have increasing influence and interaction with nfp processes, especially as they are given high priority by many international agencies and bilateral donors. These processes are also introducing new forms of partnerships between timber producing and importing countries, with implications for nfps on both sides. Other examples of this type of joint initiatives include the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, which looks at ways to share innovative landscape restoration strategies around the world and could lead to common approaches in nfp implementation.

Regional and sub-regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences is seen by many as important in harmonising policies and legal frameworks between neighbouring countries to avoid exporting problems from one country to another, and to speed up learning on important topics. These meetings and discussions also seem to help increase understanding on the meaning of the results of the international forest dialogue, and its implications for nfp processes in countries through exchange of views and experiences between key people in countries and international organisations. In some cases (e.g Central America and the Amazon Region) it is leading to the formulation of common strategies for forest development and the establishment of policy networks for the exchange of ideas and experiences. Their aim is also to raise the political profile and visibility of the forest sector.

### **Process guidance and participation**

The balance between top-down guidance and participatory decision making is an issue that is discussed in many nfp processes.

Some type of management and facilitation is clearly necessary to maintain the direction and coherence of the process. At the same time if this “directionality” is enforced too strictly, it will backfire and create a sense of disillusionment in the process by those participants who feel that their views are not being given due attention. Jointly defined “codes of conduct” or similar agreements on the process and principles for participation seem to offer a way forward by establishing transparent rules of the game. Also, clear mandates of the participants increase the potential for substantive agreement. Unfortunately in many developing countries some key stakeholders are not sufficiently organised to easily establish such mandates. Many marginalised groups require specific assistance to get organised for effective participation. Creating a level field for participation also means controlling unhealthy forms of lobbying and influence by special interest groups in the nfp process.

It is also important to recognise that the nfps are not operating in isolation from the rest of the society. The characteristics of the political system and political culture in a country may either favour meaningful participation and empowerment, or work directly against it. The nfp process is viable only under certain preconditions. Weaknesses can be addressed and capacity can be improved, but without a minimum level of political commitment to the nfp principles by the government the process cannot function.

### **Emergence of “communities of practice”**

Although there is nothing fundamentally new in exchange of information, an interesting feature of the international and regional cooperation around nfps is the emergence of “communities of practice” to facilitate the

exchange of information and mutual learning on specific nfp related topics. These real-time communities have been made possible by the spread of access to the internet, and they may involve staff in key national institutions as well in international organisations, research institutions, private sector and NGOs. The effectiveness of such informal groupings remains to be seen, as does how much facilitation will be needed to keep them focussed and going. However, this definitely represents a new and interesting approach in information sharing and learning from the experiences of others. The practical nature and diversity of participants in these communities holds a promise that they may become something else than just talk-shops for people sharing a common interest.

### **Role of international support**

Support from the international community still plays an important role in helping countries to formulate and implement their national forest programmes. Process facilitation, empowerment and capacity building of marginalised groups, support to information management, dissemination and exchange - including communities of practice, and feedback from project-level experiences to policy making and strategic planning - seem to be useful areas where the international community can support without taking over. The donor countries and international agencies (especially the WB) are also seen as important partners to assist in integration with broader development frameworks and in resolving cross-sectoral issues. This is mainly due to their wide-ranging influence and their access to high-level decision-makers. One might assume that it is also because of their capacity to provide analytic inputs, either directly or indirectly (e.g. by

financing studies etc.), although this is rarely mentioned. It is also important that as nfps are formulated donors effectively align their support with the nfp implementation and financing mechanisms (e.g. SWAPs), not always an easy task.

### **Areas and issues for further research and development**

The nfp concept being so broad, it is clear that the need for further research in nfp related topics is almost limitless. Some of the more pressing issues that come to mind as needing urgent research and development work to facilitate nfp processes in countries include the following:

- 1 Defining effective strategies and economic arguments to improve the political profile and consequently importance given to the sector. This is decisive for the positioning of the forest sector in PRSPs and similar frameworks and consequently also for future budget allocations to the sector.
- 2 Finding practical institutional means to insert nfps within the PRSP review processes on-going in many countries is critical currently. Tactics and institutional arrangements both in countries and within the participating international organisations (especially WB and major donors) need to be developed and shared.
- 3 Adjusting the nfp concept to the reality of decentralised administration of forest resources, devolution of forests to local communities and increasing involvement of the private sector in forest management is far from resolved. This is important both from a practical process point of view as well as to avoid stakeholders' perceptions of the nfps as mainly instruments of the central government.
- 4 Adapting SWAPs to forest sector realities has only begun in a few countries. Compared with other sectors, such as

health and education, the forest sector is often more of a sub-sector, located within a Ministry with a broader mandate. The rather limited role of the public sector institutions means that there is a need also to create diverse financing mechanisms also targeting the private sector and civil society. Developing and negotiating country-level codes of conduct for donors providing financing for nfp implementation is also needed to ensure that donor financing becomes integrated into the national sectoral financing structure.

- 5 Monitoring the impact of different types of communities of practice will help to design cost-effective ways to operate these innovative structures for information dissemination and learning, and to ensure that they reach the right people at the right time.

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### THE NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME FACILITY ACTIVITIES, PROGRESS AND RESULTS TO DATE

*By François Wencélius, Johan Lejeune, Paul Matthews*

#### Introduction

The National Forest Programme Facility (Facility) was created in 2002 to provide coordinated donor support to national forest programme processes in developing countries and also to make nfp information available to practitioners and related beneficiaries around the world. Hosted at the FAO Head Quarters in Rome and governed by a Steering Committee representing beneficiaries, NGOs, foundations, the private sector, research organizations, funding partners and the World Bank, the Facility is funded by a number of European development agencies and the European Commission.

Since its inception the Facility has evolved a rather flexible way of working, suited to the conditions in each partner country, and has financed nfp related activities by both governments and nongovernmental stakeholders. Additionally, a number of information products have been developed and launched which cover different aspects of nfps. The Facility has also formed alliances with international partners both at country level and internationally in order to better coordinate and streamline its activities.

The Facility's two modes of operation – country support and information services –

together with the technical support provided by the Forestry Department of FAO, through its Forest Policy and Information Division in particular, seek to provide both ways and means for partner countries to strengthen their nfps. The national and regional experience gained in the process help to enrich an internationally accessible information base for interested customers.

#### Country support

##### Progress

The Facility works by establishing an initial agreement to operate with a partner country, followed by grants to fund specific activities in that country. Partnerships with countries are developed on the basis of a transparent process of country prioritization under the aegis of the Steering Committee. In partner countries, grants are made to both governments and stakeholder organizations, with the latter ideally being chosen via a transparent application process. Please see the article on Uganda in this Newsletter for an example of this process in action, page 98.

Today, the Facility is active in thirty six countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and is also supporting two sub-regional organisations in Central America. Activities funded include the revision or preparation of national forest policies and programmes, the enhancement of stakeholder involvement and capacity in the process and assistance with pivotal aspects of country nfps such as financing, decentralization and cross sectoral coordination.

Despite the fact that progress in some countries has been slower than hoped due to factors such as political reorganizations and the general workload of government

staff, 2003 saw the initiation of a wide range of activities which are expected to produce results towards the end of this year and during 2005.

Further information on the progress of Facility funded partners (and outputs where appropriate) can be found at:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/23427/en>

### Challenges

In terms of process, the participatory activities supported by the Facility are most efficient in partner countries with experience in involving stakeholders in the dialogue on forests, and where non-government stakeholders are already organized. An emerging challenge faced by the Facility is to have Forestry Departments happily engaging in a participatory nfp process under which they are facilitators and coordinators of activities mainly carried out by non-government stakeholders, rather than being the sole implementers. The competitive process required by the Facility to allocate these grants is not common in several countries, and it requires time for governments to fully endorse it.

For the time being, the response of the Facility to this challenge is by engaging immediately with a core group of stakeholders (government and non-government) when launching a partnership in a country, instead of taking forestry departments as the sole entry points.

### Information services

An early initiative of the Facility was to assemble the relevant policy and practice information on national forest programmes into an introductory website, which can be found at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/nfp> . In addition to guidelines for nfp preparation

and implementation, this site gives links to some key documents and international partners working on nfps.

Further available web sites now include national and thematic level nfp information. The “nfp update” at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/nfp-update> gives country profiles detailing the planning process, policies, legislation and forestry institutions for more than sixty countries, with more being added all the time. The “nfp digests” <http://www.fao.org/forestry/nfp-digests> are collections of documents from FAO and other international providers on key themes of nfps such as poverty reduction, stakeholder participation and capacity building.

The Facility is aware that many potential subscribers to the services above may not have reliable internet access and is therefore also making products available via e-mail, CD-ROM and printed copies. Interested readers who want to receive these products should write to the address below, giving their organization’s details and outlining their information needs.

### Communities of practice

The Facility is supporting a number of knowledge management initiatives, including workshops and communities of practice around nfp related themes. Aside from the community of practice on stakeholder participation (see the article in this Newsletter on page 84), support has also been given to the Funding Sourcebook of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including the online database of funding sources and the development of online forums for discussion and help with grant applications for forestry related projects. For more information, please see:



<http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-sourcebook>. Furthermore, the Facility will organise regional workshops for beneficiaries of country support to share practical experiences and provide training. The Facility will also contribute to the planned sub-regional nfp learning workshops in Africa organised by IAC/LTS (see related article in this Newsletter, page 88).

### How to engage

Stakeholders with an interest in nfps or who are involved in their country's process may contact the national or regional nfp focal points (contact details are given at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/14491/en>, or use the address below) to see what opportunities may exist for their participation.

For the information services of the Facility, in addition to accessing the services described above, your feedback can help us to improve them. If you have particular information needs or know of new information that is not yet included, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Also, please see page 110 for more information about country nfp updates.

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## THE PROGRAM ON FORESTS (PROFOR)

*By Laura Ivers and Jill Blockhus*

### Background

The Program on Forests (PROFOR) is a multi-donor partnership housed at the World Bank within its Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (ESSD) network. PROFOR works closely with the ESSD Forests Team toward the shared goal of enhancing forests' contribution to poverty reduction, sustainable development, and the protection of environmental values and services. Originally established at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1997 to support implementation of the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), PROFOR relocated to the World Bank in 2002. At present, PROFOR donors include the governments of Finland, Japan, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

PROFOR activities are focused on four key thematic areas: forests' contribution to livelihoods of the rural poor, forest governance, innovative approaches to financing SFM, and cross-sectoral cooperation. In general, PROFOR aims to provide knowledge and tools that enable the transition to a sustainable forest sector. The PROFOR project portfolio includes activities ranging from the development of methodological approaches to assess forests' contribution to poverty reduction to creating opportunities for policy makers and practitioners to meet face to face to share experiences and knowledge related to sustainable forest management.

PROFOR's approach is to work in partnership with others, seeking out and creating opportunities to carry out work in collaboration with key institutions, international organizations, research centers, and non-governmental organizations so as to draw on the diverse strengths and existing networks of such groups. Two example of such partnerships are highlighted in this special edition: the work on linking nfps to PRSPs (page 30); and the assessment of the relationship between the EsA and SFM (page 47).

### **PROFOR portfolio of projects - Highlights from activities to date**

PROFOR has a diverse portfolio of projects, with work being carried out in the four thematic areas mentioned above at the national, regional and global levels. Since relocating to the World Bank, PROFOR has initiated 18 projects. Ten of these projects are carried out at the global level, four at the regional level, and four at the national level. The following is an overview of projects according to thematic areas. Please note that it is not comprehensive.

**A livelihoods approach:** Meeting subsistence needs, reducing vulnerability, achieving overall poverty reduction targets and increasing poor people's participation in forest market activities are all important aspects of a livelihoods approach. Such an approach seeks to identify the main contributions that forests can make to the livelihoods of the poor, including subsistence products from forests that complement what can be produced from the household farm, income from employment in public or industrial forestry or forest product processing, and household or small-scale activities in the informal sector.

PROFOR activities in this thematic area aim at contributing to lasting poverty reduction through appropriate consideration of forest livelihood issues in macro development and sectoral policy and related development policy lending activities. PROFOR has initiated work with partners (IUCN, ODI, CIFOR and Winrock International) to generate a methodology for rapid assessment of how forests benefit poor people. To date, foresters and conservationists have failed to make a compelling case to policy makers in government finance ministries and development agencies on the contribution that forest conservation makes towards poverty reduction. To remedy this situation, this work is also concerned with how forest benefits can be reflected in PRSPs (poverty reduction strategies).

**Forest governance:** Forest governance encompasses topics relating to how forest resources are managed, ranging from how decisions about forest use are made and who is involved in the decision-making process, to the enforcement of forest laws and policies on the ground. In 2003 PROFOR engaged in the ongoing Russian forest sector reform process in the Russian Federation through support to a conference on institutional change management which provided an opportunity for sharing experiences of other countries with economies in transition in forest sector reform. PROFOR now has a publication series designed to help inform and fill gaps in knowledge on key issues in the Russian forest sector. Additionally, PROFOR has organized opportunities for similar regional information sharing on policy and institutional development in Colombia and Honduras.

On forest law enforcement, PROFOR's work to date has included an assessment of the suitability of CITES in controlling illegal timber trade (in collaboration with Traffic), and the development of a "crime fighters tool-kit" (in collaboration with the Forest Integrity Network). In collaboration with CIFOR, PROFOR has supported analytical work to assess the inadvertent impact of forest law enforcement on the livelihoods of the poor who depend on forests for their subsistence.

**Financing SFM:** Creating a sustainable forest sector requires innovation in both the practice and financing of forest management. PROFOR is particularly interested in reforming market structures to make sustainable forestry more profitable than unsustainable forest exploitation. Investigation of what is needed to encourage governments to adopt policies that create enabling conditions for investment in SFM, and for the private sector to engage in such investments have been a key focus to date.

In October 2003, PROFOR in partnership with DFID, GTZ and the World Bank Institute hosted a Workshop on the Reform of Forest Fiscal Systems that provided a forum for frank discussion on the political economy of forest fiscal reforms. Also in October 2003, PROFOR co-sponsored the Forest Investment Forum, bringing together senior executives of multinational forest product companies, private and public sector financial institutions and leading conservation agencies from around the world to identify opportunities for investments in environmentally and socially sustainable forest operations in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

In January 2004, PROFOR along with the Colombian Ministry of Environment, Conservation International Colombia, IUCN and Forest Trends, organized a workshop on Economic Incentives for Forest Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Bogotá. In addition to sharing knowledge and experiences with payments for environmental services, workshop participants considered how to derive value from forest ecosystem services; mechanisms for obtaining payments for environmental services; the underlying concepts of forest landscape restoration; methodologies for economic valuation of forests; and the role of governments in promoting incentives for SFM.

**Cross-sectoral and macroeconomic impacts on forests:** Sustainable forest management requires coordinated cooperation across several sectors to ensure that policies and practices are not undermined by activities stimulated by general macroeconomic policy shifts or changed levels of investment in other sectors such as agriculture, energy, mining, and transportation. Through support to national forest programs or similar processes rooted in a participatory multi-sectoral approach, PROFOR fosters analytical work to help coordinate policy across sectors and works to identify cross-sectoral policies that influence SFM. Initially, PROFOR's work in this area is focused on the potential impacts of the World Bank's development policy lending programs on the forest sector. The development of a best practice methodology to identify and mitigate potentially adverse impacts on forests from macroeconomic and other forms of adjustment programs is underway.

This work will include the identification of policy and institutional reform measures suitable for incorporation into macro-level adjustment programs that can have significantly beneficial impacts upon forests.

### **How to get involved?**

PROFOR undertakes projects of high relevance to PROFOR's thematic areas and objectives that have significant potential to contribute to economic development and poverty alleviation or to address governance related issues and challenges in the forest sector. Proposed projects must also meet the criteria of having strong potential for significant gains in knowledge with high applicability to a wide range of situations, and high potential for effective dissemination. For country or region specific proposals, there must be strong country demand and political will for partnership with PROFOR, and nfps should have components relating to PROFOR's thematic areas.

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## **1. NFPS - WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?**

### **NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES – WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?**

*By Bernd-Markus Liss, Evy von Pfeil and Wibke Thies*

National forest programmes (nfps) or similar policy processes are ongoing in one way or the other in various countries. However, approaches and stages of implementation vary substantially. Also, nfp-like processes are not always called "national forest programmes"; there are many different names for country-led forest-relevant processes. But in all countries nfps or nfp-like processes are used to improve sector governance and to approach wider commitments towards sustainable forest management.

Entry points for nfp processes vary widely from genuine country initiatives on forest sector development, to a reaction to environmental crises, or to the follow-up or revision of earlier (donor-induced) sector policy and planning frameworks (e.g. Tropical Forest Action Plans, Forestry Sector Reviews, Forestry Master Plans, National Forestry Plan, Forest Strategy). However, international commitments or the participation in the international forest policy dialogue are rarely the driving forces for nfp processes.

### **Three characteristics of a successful nfp process**

Successful nfp processes show three principal characteristics:

- government commitment to nfp implementation
- formulation of well-focused objectives and strategies
- long-term commitment for support by the donor community.

The government's political commitment to the implementation of the agreed objectives is probably the most important factor for a successful nfp process. However, moving on from formulation of policies and strategies to their implementation has been and continues to be the point where the process most easily gets bogged down. Other nfp elements (e.g. participation) are also important and useful; but even the best execution of them cannot make up for inadequate government commitment.

The benefit of having well-focused objectives is that the targets are concrete, achievable and backed by sufficient means. If too broad, nfp processes easily sprawl and lose focus. This does not mean that the scope of nfp processes should be reduced; they indeed should have a wide scope, especially in the preparatory stage. The outcome of the process, however, should be a set of well-structured, focused and attainable objectives. Frequently, one sees unrealistic objectives and targets, incommensurate with the means provided to reach them. Issues obviously need to be broken down into sizeable packages addressed without losing the wider perspective of a comprehensive cross-sectoral approach towards forest sector development and sustainable forest management.

The importance of long-term commitment from the donor community (of at least 10

years) should not be underestimated. Governments typically work amidst conflicting interests, many of which work against principles of nfp processes such as transparency and democratisation. Donor support is important not only as a source of funding. Having a dialogue partner can provide moral support and encourage governments to continue on the chosen path. The nfp process in Vietnam for example (see the country case in this Newsletter, page 79) evolved with continued dialogue with the donor community. Substantial and long-term efforts by the donor community in promoting the nfp concept contribute to enhancing the dialogue between stakeholders as a first step towards an nfp process. Even if progress is slow, donors should not cease to support actors that can make a change happen in the end.

### **Coordination with other sectors is vital**

There is only limited likelihood that the forest sector alone can implement reforms without regarding other sectors and overall trends in society. For instance, in Cameroon (see the country case in this Newsletter, page 63) it is vital that the reorganisation of the forest sector is coordinated with the overall reform of the public service and local governments. Another less noted aspect of coordination is that there are opportunities to benefit from existing structures in other sectors. A number of activities such as the promotion of small businesses, capacity building, marketing etc. are common to several sectors. As an example, agricultural extension services have substantial capacity to support processing and marketing of non-wood products, but these services are seldom taken full advantage of. The same is applicable to decentralisation or wider approaches to

land use planning, which can be entry points for improved governance in the forest sector.

On the other hand, the very limited success in trying to change agricultural policies, which negatively impact on the forest sector, shows that fruitful coordination cannot be unilateral. For instance, if agricultural subsidies driving deforestation are not likely to be removed, the forest sector should prioritise management and conservation efforts in areas that are less vulnerable and where they can realistically be expected to bear fruit by focussing for example on "priority forest areas" to secure a permanent forest estate. An nfp process can provide the basis for a rational discussion on where forests need to be conserved and where they may be converted to other land uses for the purpose of economic development and poverty alleviation without compromising essential environmental, economic and social functions.

### **Integrating forests into poverty reduction strategies needs improvement**

Remarkably, PRSPs rarely include targets relating to the forest sector. In general, the linkages of PRSPs and nfp processes are weak. Only in a few countries with an active, although not always strong, nfp process the picture looks better. Much remains to be done to highlight the potential contribution of the forest sector to poverty alleviation and development of rural economies. Strengthening nfp processes and the involvement of actors with regard to macro-level strategies can enhance effective interaction to this end. The donor community and international agencies, especially the World Bank, have an important role to play to make this happen. Germany is ready to meet the challenge with its own national forest programme and continued support

to nfp processes in partner countries.

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### **NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES - INSTRUMENTS FOR IMPROVING SECTOR GOVERNANCE ?**

*By Bernd-Markus Liss, Herman Savenije,  
Evy von Pfeil and Tapani Oksanen*

In May 2004 at the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in Geneva, Finland, Germany and the Netherlands organised a side event to discuss with Forum participants' experiences in the way forward towards the implementation of the UNFF Plan of Action.

### **Background and objective**

During the past years various initiatives were developed at national, regional and global levels to support and implement national forest programmes as approaches for improved sector governance. All of them generated valuable experiences – in content

and process – which can be useful to policy makers and implementers. These experiences can support the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to implement the proposals for action developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). Two questions are important in this respect:

- 1 What is the relevance and practical impact of the international forest debate and its results for the implementation at national and regional level?
- 2 What kind of feedback from the implementing level is necessary so that the outcomes of UNFF sessions become more implementation-oriented?

An analysis of existing experience with nfp processes and lessons from related support initiatives were presented and discussed at the side event, based on specific cases from Tanzania, Colombia, Germany, the Program on Forests (PROFOR) and the National Forest Programme Facility (Facility).

The side event was to trigger a strategic discussion on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals as a whole, their horizontal and vertical integration at country level and beyond (local level – national – regional – international), and on nfps specifically as instruments for improved sector governance. It further intended to identify key issues for implementation, collaborative action and co-ordination, both at the level of the international forest policy dialogue (UNFF) and partners in support to national forest policy processes.

The objective of the side event was to develop a better understanding of:

- the major lessons on governance in

- relation to national forest programmes;
- how the international forest policy debate has influenced national processes; and
- how the UNFF could improve its contribution to national processes in order to implement its Plan of Action.

### Summary of side event findings

For the first time there is a commonly agreed concept applicable to all countries and to all types of forest. Gradually there is more:

- country leadership;
- focus on policy and institutional dimensions of the process, rather than on programmes and projects;
- multi-stakeholder approaches;
- integration of policy and planning (cross-sectoral linkages, macro-level impacts, international dimensions);
- attention to the multi-functionality and values of forests;
- greater application of the ecosystem approach; and
- emerging partnerships at various levels.

These trends are to some extent an outcome of the International Forest Dialogue. The challenge is how to strengthen these tendencies.

Several lessons learnt on national forest programmes were discussed by the participants:

- Nfps are most effective if all affected sectors, stakeholders and levels work together on commonly agreed priority themes;
- An nfp process is often slow and therefore needs continuity and commitment;
- All stakeholders have to recognise and

- respect each other's different time frames, contexts and interests;
- There is a need for a focal point with credibility, conceptual and operational capacity and convening power to guide and moderate the process (dilemma guiding vs. steering);
- It is often a challenge to involve other stakeholders beyond forestry departments (private sector, communities, NGOs, investors, youth, etc.), and for forestry departments to accept their new role as facilitators;
- It is important to ensure that representation reflects will of constituencies;
- Transparent communication and documentation of consensus and dissenting opinions, and feed-back from experience are important drivers of the process;
- Involvement of research and science is important to build critical mass in nfp processes;
- Macro-policies and structural adjustment have to be linked to forest policy processes and vice versa to position the forest sector properly, e.g. in PRSPs;
- Techniques for strategic social and environmental analysis are needed to identify the impacts of cross-sectoral and macro-level policies on forests;
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation and adaptive management approaches are also important factors;
- Nfps can enhance public private partnership and stimulate private investment;
- Least developed countries need continued financial assistance from developed countries to formulate and

implement nfps;

- Partnership approaches and agreements can be effective instruments to coordinate donor contributions; and
- Sector wide approaches can help to increase ownership and efficiency of external aid and domestic resources.

### **Messages to UNFF and CPF with regard to the Plan of Action**

- 1 The international forest dialogue is still a too distant process to national stakeholders. Although both levels (national and international) are important interaction is still too weak. The Work of UNFF and CPF should answer the following questions:
  - Are stakeholders adequately represented in the international dialogue and negotiation?
  - Are the real country constraints adequately addressed in the international dialogue?
  - If not, how can the international dialogue be changed?
- 2 The proposals for action are too abstract. More guidance and support to practice is needed:
  - Support and facilitate the practical cooperation and the exchange of experience between countries and between regions on commonly felt themes (e.g. the Latin America regional process and Africa or Asia).
  - Support development of practitioner's guides (lessons learnt).
  - Support partnership arrangements at country level (a good example is Vietnam).
  - Support the broadening of the scope of



financing (e.g. paying for environmental services).

- Strengthen the role and capacity of PROFOR and the Facility for assisting countries in policy analysis and nfp processes.

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**NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES:  
INTEGRATING THE KYOTO  
PROTOCOL AND ITS CLEAN  
DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM INTO  
THE FORESTRY SECTOR**

*By Dieter Schoene and François Wencélius*

### Summary

In order to fully integrate climate change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol into the forestry sector and create consistency and synergies with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), countries might avail themselves of the possibilities inherent in nfps. In this framework, countries may then also initiate stakeholder dialogue on the risks and opportunities of serving as a host nation to afforestation and

reforestation projects under the CDM, assess potentials, and forge national guidelines and capacities for such projects based on national consensus.

### Outlook

In contrast to well-established links between national forest programmes (nfps) and the CBD or the UNCCD, necessary links between nfps on one hand and the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto Protocol) on the other hand have received only limited attention in international and national processes. The recent workshop on “Forests and forest ecosystems: Promoting synergy in the implementation of the three Rio Conventions”, organized by the Secretariats of the three Conventions in Viterbo, Italy, is a prominent exception. It emphasized nfps as processes which facilitate cooperation between focal points of all forest-related conventions and the forest sector. The workshop also recommended that nfps should encompass national projects for enhanced forest regeneration.

### Implications of UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol for the forestry sector

UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol cover the three essential roles of forests in climate change: forests release carbon when converted, degraded or harvested unsustainably; they are likely to react sensitively to and suffer from climate change; and they may mitigate climate change via carbon sequestration and substitution of fossil fuels.

UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol capture these three roles in many general obligations related to forests. Examples are calls for adaptation, for the protection and enhancement of carbon sinks and

reservoirs, or for the promotion of sustainable forest management, afforestation, reforestation and renewable energy sources. The agreements also oblige all parties to report anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks. The latter include forests, which constitute major sources or sinks for many developing countries. Developing countries report only periodically. Nevertheless, many face near insurmountable difficulties in reliably assessing carbon stock changes in their forests, as many national forest assessments are outdated or unreliable. Member countries, ideally assisted by the Global Environmental Facility and three funds created specifically for this purpose by UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol should incorporate these general and reporting obligations into national strategies and laws related to forests, and create the required capacity.

For the first commitment period, afforestation and reforestation are the only sink activities allowed under the very stringent modalities of the CDM. These also require forestry projects to meet the principal goal of the CDM, namely to promote sustainable development in the host nation. Developing countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol may consider hosting such afforestation and reforestation projects. Most typically, investors from developed countries or global funds would purchase the rights to carbon sequestered by these newly established forests, thus increasing their revenues. Current market prices for carbon range from \$15 to \$25 per tonne of carbon. What kind of forests might be established?

The Kyoto Protocol definition of forests includes areas where tree canopy cover is

10% or greater. The Protocol also does not exclude fruit trees, palms or bamboos which exhibit tree characteristics. Therefore, in addition to large plantations, protection forests and many agroforestry systems or even urban trees may qualify as forests, and their establishment may count as afforestation or reforestation, provided it meets stringent definitions and constraints established by the Kyoto Protocol. A new category of "small-scale afforestation and reforestation projects under the CDM" allows "bundling" of individual small plots established by low-income individuals or communities up to an annual sequestration rate of 2180 tonnes of carbon. An agreement on simplifying modalities for these projects and added facilitation might further encourage rather atypical forestry projects in the agricultural sector.

Afforestation and reforestation projects under the CDM are controversial and considered as environmentally and socially unacceptable by some. As we have seen above, projects may transcend the traditional realm of forestry, involving several adjoining sectors, and affecting numerous individuals or communities as land-owners or stakeholders. Potentially, obligations from all three Rio Conventions could apply to a CDM project. Before countries can become host nations for the CDM, institutional capacity, e.g. a "Designated National Authority" must be established. Most likely, small-scale afforestation and reforestation projects will also need facilitation through some form of extension service.

### **Role of the nfp process**

Under these circumstances, the decisions on hosting CDM forestry projects and forging specific national institutions,

guidelines and prerequisites for such projects might best be based on a national consensus. It might be achieved optimally by considering forestry CDM projects in nfp processes, of which an estimated 138 are currently underway. Nfp processes might also facilitate more reliable forest inventories and reliable greenhouse gas reporting.

Today, an nfp is the internationally recognized, country based process for forest policy formulation and implementation to ensure coherence and balance between sustainable development objectives at the national level and international forest-related conventions, agreements and instruments such as the Kyoto Protocol and its CDM. Mainstreaming UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol in national forest policies is therefore part of the nfp mandate.

When it provides financial incentives to integrate trees and forests into agricultural landscapes, to establish corridors of trees in fragmented landscapes, or to restore degraded former forest land, the CDM, particularly in its small-scale forestry category, can help achieve the social, environmental and development goals of nfps.

In addition to exploiting these opportunities which match its mandate, the nfp process, due to its very nature as an intensely participatory approach, appears uniquely suited to integrate the entire issue of climate change, the UNFCCC and KP into the forestry sector. With its focus on building consensus, nfp may facilitate resolution of the obvious conflict between the goal of producing carbon credits efficiently via, and the goal of enhancing environment and rural development. The nfp process may also

foment the institutional and legal reforms needed to make the CDM operational.

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### EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROJECT ON NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES

*By Peter Glüeck*

#### **Rationale**

The European research project “National forest programmes in a European context” (COST Action E19), financed by the European Union, was launched in June 1999 and concluded in September 2003. The main objective was to provide policy makers in Europe with improved means for formulating and implementing national forest programmes (nfps). The project assembled more than 70 researchers from 20 European countries and the USA representing many disciplines, including forest policy, political science, economics, sociology, law, regional planning, geography and others, as well as civil servants from the ministries responsible for forestry and the environment of whom quite a number was involved in parallel in the pan-European process on forests (Ministerial

Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, MCPFE). The research results can be found in a special issue of "Forest Policy and Economics" 2002, volume 4, issue 4; a series of proceedings of meetings in Madrid 2000, Aberdeen 2002, Oslo 2002, Savonlinna 2003, and Vienna 2004; the executive report "Making NFPs Work" (2003); and the forthcoming book on country reports (see <http://www.metla.fi/eu/cost/e19/>). The Action has triggered a series of PhD theses and continues in an EU research project on nfps within the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

### Propositions on nfps

The core results of COST Action E19 are propositions about actors participating in nfp processes, procedural aspects, the expected content of nfp outputs, and the supporting or impeding influence of external factors. Due to the characteristics of COST actions, the propositions on nfps are neither complete nor universal, but they provide a basis for achieving a better understanding of nfp processes. In the following, some examples of these propositions are presented.

Before an nfp process is commenced, one of the basic questions is: "Who participates?" The answer depends on several factors, among others on the potential actors' abilities and willingness. Participation requires collective organisation. Groups affected, but not appropriately organised run the risk of being unheard. Actors will invest more time and efforts the more they can hope to influence the expected outcome. The likelihood of substantive agreement seems to increase with an adequate representation of the affected actors. If some of the participants have no clear mandate, the probability of

substantive agreement decreases.

Participation in an nfp process will normally be time- and resource consuming. This implies that actors who are well endowed with resources are likely to be favoured. Furthermore, process management and facilitation also require adequate resources. In particular, employing external consultants and/or independent moderators to run an nfp process might help to achieve widely accepted compromises. Other procedural aspects of nfp processes refer to goals, principles and clear decision rules to be covered in a "code of conduct" or "process guidebook". It is a necessary precondition for long-term, iterative collaboration processes between multiple stakeholders. Otherwise such processes are apt to end in trivial and unfocussed results or in discontent, leading actors to withdraw from the process.

The success of an nfp process depends not only on internal procedural aspects, but also on external factors constituting the environment of an nfp. They comprise the specific characteristics of the political system of a country and may be supportive or impeding. A neo-corporatist mode of governance, i.e., a tradition of close co-operation between the government and a small number of selected interest groups, is an impeding factor, whereas a proactive and consensus-seeking policy style of the government can be seen as a supportive factor. Whatever political culture actually exists, it can be hard to influence in the short and medium term. By contrast, "clientele capture" (where the forest administration is locked in to exclusively serving the interests of its clients, e.g. forest owners and farmers) often impedes inter-sectoral co-ordination, but must not be taken as unalterable. The

legally binding framework of an nfp can support the institutionalisation of an adaptive, continuous co-ordination process.

### **Network of researchers and civil servants on nfps**

The large number of publications is not the only result. Possibly even more important is the fact that the Action formed a European network of researchers and civil servants dealing with nfps. Some of the civil servants were national representatives in the MCPFE process that worked in parallel among others also on nfps. The researchers and civil servants alike benefited from this contact. The researchers benefited from the practitioners by the strict scrutiny of their hypotheses. The civil servants gained knowledge with regard to a better understanding of the content, structure, basic essentials, and procedural requirements of nfps and their difference in comparison to other policy methods. Doubtless this kind of co-operation facilitated the elaboration of Vienna Resolution 1 on cross-sectoral co-operation and national forest programmes and the "MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe".

Vienna, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004

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### **NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES– THE GERMAN APPROACH TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

*By Matthias Reiche, Wibke Thies and Evy von Pfeil*

Our knowledge about the underlying causes of forest degradation has changed. Rising demands of an increasing world population for land and forest products, illegal logging and over exploitation to satisfy an ever-increasing global demand for wood products are definitely important factors. However, most causes stem from outside the forest sector. They comprise unfavourable macro-economic framework conditions, institutional deficiencies, lack of political will, inadequate legislation and law enforcement, insecure land tenure and centralised decision making with insufficient participation of civil society. Lack of financial and qualified human resources in the forest sector, vested and short-term economic interests, as well as underestimation of the forests' contribution to national economic development and poverty reduction constitute additional challenges. This shows that forests are a governance issue. Germany therefore supports the development of national forest programmes (nfps) in line with the internationally agreed principles and elements as an instrument to take into account the political dimension of deforestation.

German support to forest development is embedded in the overall policy of sustainable development and the aim to help secure our common global future. Poverty reduction in support of the

Millennium Development Goals is an important element and an overarching task of this policy as described in Germany's Programme of Action 2015. Bilateral cooperation related to forests is based on the sector strategy "Forests and Sustainable Development" of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with the twofold objective to:

- Maintain the multiple functions of forests, especially their indispensable global, ecological balancing function
- Contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development, specifically by ensuring the livelihood of the poor and indigenous peoples who live in the forests and depend on forest products for their livelihood, by better meeting their basic needs and by improving the infrastructure of rural areas.

German bilateral cooperation supports public agencies, civil society and private entrepreneurs in partner countries - specifically poor and indigenous segments of the population - in their efforts to protect and sustainably manage forests. It is the people who are dependent on forest ecosystems that are the most important beneficiaries of interventions related to forests. Hence, primary activities focus on securing livelihoods and income for those living in the forests on a long-term basis, meeting basic needs and improving rural infrastructure.

Since forest protection and sustainable forest management can only be achieved under favourable frame conditions, German development cooperation also works at the policy level and especially with a view beyond the forest sector.

German understanding of an nfp-process is best explained by outlining why the term "national forest programme" is misleading:

- A national forest programme is not national, because it deals with policy processes and implementation also at sub-national and local levels, and it also takes regional and global aspects into account.
- It is not only forestry, but also deals with forests and the forest sector in a wider perspective, linking all sectors that impact on forests.
- It is not a programme in the traditional sense of government planning and implementation but a participatory dialogue process with defined objectives and outputs, carried forward by all actors concerned.

Therefore, nfps are governance instruments rather than sector planning tools. Their process character allows to further develop the concept. Germany in cooperation with the Netherlands is trying to broaden the concept to the regional context. Nfps aim at building transparency, promoting consensus between stakeholders and clarifying their mandates, tasks, rights and obligations. They result in agreed objectives, policies and strategies on sustainable forest management and in specific action for implementation. Decentralised consultation and decision-making is an integral part of the nfp process.

In support to nfps, Germany confers with partner countries, other donors and multi-national initiatives such as the National Forest Programme Facility and PROFOR (Programme on Forests) and jointly designs its contributions in accordance with mutually agreed priorities.

## Organisations- Institutions- Programmes

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Within this framework, German development cooperation related to forests covers the following main areas:

- Supporting partner countries in their effort to design and implement coherent framework policies, as well as to create appropriate institutions with adequate consultative and participatory processes.
- Promoting forest protection, sustainable utilisation and site-appropriate reforestation, management of secondary forests, wasteland recultivation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, and fire management and suppression.
- Combating illegal logging of and trade in illegally harvested wood and other illegally obtained forest products such as wildlife and bush-meat; installing effective law enforcement and judiciary mechanisms for controlling and punishing violations and fighting corruption.
- Promoting the development of credible, independent certification systems.
- Promoting forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) processes. Besides the commitment to change its procurement policies for imported timber and to encourage labelling and certification in producer countries, Germany supports wood-producing countries in improving law enforcement and governance as a vital component of country-led nfp processes.
- Developing financing strategies for sustainable forest management.
- Supporting partners in the participatory development and implementation of the international forest regime, mainstreaming and creating synergies in view of the UN conventions on climate change, biodiversity, and combating desertification.
- Support to the joint efforts of partner

countries to harmonise their policies and legal frameworks for sustainable forest management within regional approaches and forest partnerships (e.g. the Amazon regional approach, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)).

The German cooperation experience shows that integrating all levels from field to policy mobilises synergies: methodology development at the field level, upscaling of successful models and ploughing back experiences into the policy dialogue through the assistance of policy advisors. Another asset of German development cooperation are the long terms of cooperation projects that often span more than 10 years. This creates credibility, especially when contact to the field level where implementation takes place is maintained.

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## 2. LINKING NFPS TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

### ASSESSING CROSS-SECTORAL LINKAGES IN FORESTRY: STATUS AND CURRENT EFFORT

By Yves C. Dubé

Planning for sustainable forest management (SFM) has become a pluralistic and multidisciplinary activity. Foresters are no longer alone in being responsible for the conservation and management of trees and forests. Many other professionals, stakeholders and the public in general are concerned and demanding to be part of the decision-making process. The goods and services from trees and forests also benefit other sectors of national economies. These sectors should therefore also have a responsibility to invest in the sustainable production of forest goods and services, given that the very stability of their long term production partly or wholly depends on it. Yet the responsibility for actively involving other sectors and stakeholders in SFM remains with foresters.

In 2001, the FAO Forestry Department Policy and Institutions Service launched an effort to improve the understanding and awareness of cross-sectoral linkages, to monitor and evaluate their positive and negative impacts, and to improve cross-sectoral policy formulation and implementation. One important output of

that effort was the production in March 2004 of a Manual for Environmental and Economic Accounts for Forestry - A Tool for Cross-sectoral Policy Analysis (EEAF)<sup>1</sup>.

For cross-sectoral policy, forest managers need to establish the socioeconomic contributions of forests in relation to the rest of the economy and to evaluate the impact of non-forestry policies on forests and vice-versa. Data from Sweden, South Africa and Romania show the importance of accounting for total forest values, and the share of forest values that are either wrongly attributed to other sectors or not counted at all in national economic accounts. The estimated forest values for Sweden, South Africa and Romania indicate that non-timber values can be greater than the value of commercial timber harvest. In all three countries, the values directly attributed to forests in national accounts greatly underestimate the true value of forests. The share attributed to forestry ranges from a high of 45 percent in Sweden to a low of 4 percent in Romania. A large proportion of forest services benefits other sectors and is attributed to these sectors, mainly recreation and agriculture, which account for 41 percent of forest output in Sweden and 24 percent in South Africa.

It is important to identify the dependence of rural communities on forests for their livelihoods and the dependence of other sectors of the economy on forest services.

In South Africa, poor rural households depend on forests for subsistence livelihoods and this accounts for the single largest forest value. In Sweden, households are also the major beneficiaries, with benefits mainly in the form of recreational services. In Swaziland and Spain, local



users/owners receive the largest share of forest benefits: 55 percent and 47 percent respectively. On the other hand, the global community benefits from forest services such as international tourism, carbon storage and biodiversity protection, which account for 32 percent and 12 percent of forest values in Swaziland and Spain, respectively.

In the past, loss of cultivated forest was included in national accounts but loss of natural forest was not. Forestry accounts were constructed to adjust the commonly used measures of macroeconomic performance, GDP and NDP, for depletion of natural forests and it was hoped that these environmentally adjusted measures of GDP and NDP would provide more accurate indicators of sustainable development. In some instances, namely Indonesia and Costa Rica, the cost of deforestation was quite high. The World Bank includes a rough estimate of forest depletion (timber value only) in its indicator of sustainable development, *Genuine Savings*<sup>2</sup>. In the World Bank estimates, forest depletion reduced net domestic savings by 20 percent in low-income countries, mostly in Asia. Some countries, such as Australia and Canada, are beginning to publish figures for total national wealth that include non-produced assets such as natural forests.

Regional economic accounts are regularly compiled only in developed countries and some large developing countries such as China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Few developing countries compile regional economic accounts on a regular basis. Regional forestry accounts will have limited use for regional forest management unless they can be integrated with corresponding

regional economic accounts.

Forestry accounts can provide a powerful information tool to promote cross-sectoral policy analysis but no country is taking full advantage of their potential at this time. In order to assist countries in taking full advantage of forestry accounts in the future, the following actions are recommended:

- *Integrate with other information systems.* National forest resource assessments including criteria and indicators for SFM are important ongoing data collection and analysis efforts that forestry accounts could complement and reinforce.
- *Use existing information to begin constructing accounts for non-market goods and services.* There exists an extensive body of literature on valuation of non-market forest goods and services that can provide a starting point for many countries.
- *Increase forest accounting at the regional or forest level.* Because forest utilization tends to be a local or regional issue, there is a need for more disaggregated forestry accounts, strengthening local institutions capacity in cross-sectoral policy analysis.
- *Build forestry accounts around policy priorities.* Issues such as carbon storage, rural livelihoods, tourism, biodiversity or watershed protection can provide a theme for communicating the results of the accounts. The broader the group of stakeholders involved, the more effective the forestry accounts will be.
- *Share information and knowledge.* This could be realised by organising training workshops, developing more practical policy applications at sub-national level, and supporting the establishment of "communities of practice".

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<sup>1</sup>The Manuall can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/j1972e/j1972e00.htm>

<sup>2</sup>Genuine Savings attempts to adjust conventional net domestic savings for environmental depletion and for investment in human capital. It subtracts from net domestic savings an estimate of depletion of forest and minerals, adds expenditures on education and subtracts a notional damage charge for carbon emissions (Kunte et al., 1998).

**DO FORESTS CONTRIBUTE TO  
POVERTY REDUCTION? A TOOL  
FOR ILLUSTRATING THE ROLE OF  
FORESTS IN PRSPS.**

*By IUCN Regional Office for Eastern African  
and PROFOR*

The contribution of forests to poverty reduction is still not clear. Both foresters and conservationists have failed to make a compelling case to finance and planning ministries and multilateral and bilateral development agencies on the contribution that the conservation and sustainable use of forests actually makes towards enhancing rural livelihoods and poverty reduction. Notwithstanding, there exists a growing body of empirical evidence supporting the case that given the right

conditions, forests can play a significant role in poverty reduction.

### **Case study: Shinyanga**

In Shinyanga, a region in central Tanzania, the local Sukuma people, with the support of HASHI – the Shinyanga Soil Conservation Programme, have employed their traditional knowledge of regenerating Ngitili fodder reserves to restore over 250,000 ha of woodlands in the last 15 years. While it is clear that large areas of Acacia woodlands have been restored on individual farmer's lands and on communal lands, it is less clear as to what the real and tangible benefits of such restoration have been in terms of household economies and livelihood benefits. Though a range of important goods and services have been identified as a result of restoration; these have not been quantified in terms of their precise economic, social and environmental contribution. For example, what is the impact of Ngitilis in reducing household labour and to what extent have they reduced fuelwood collection time for women?

IUCN, PROFOR, the World Bank, ODI, CIFOR, and Winrock International are currently working on a statistically robust and detailed assessment, based on empirical evidence, of the contribution that these restored woodlands and on-farm trees have made to household and village-level economies, and to analyze their impacts in terms of household labour budgets, equity and biodiversity conservation.

### **Observations and lessons learned**

Based on a preliminary RRA (rapid rural appraisal) of several villages in the Shinyanga region, new evidence illustrates, in concrete terms, the positive linkages that

exist between forest restoration and poverty reduction. For example, increased community earnings have led to improvements in child nutrition and education as well as the protection of watershed catchments important for livestock, agriculture and domestic use (see Box 1).

<b>BOX 1</b>	
<i>OBSERVATION</i>	<i>RESULT</i>
Presence of on-farm native trees	Subsistence crops doubled
Fuelwood collection	Reduced 80%
Increased community earnings	New classrooms, homes, health workers

IUCN's fieldwork in Lao PDR on sustainable harvesting regimes for bitter bamboo shoots and wild cardamom has also demonstrated that sustainable non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesting regimes can play a key role in reducing poverty and sustaining local livelihoods. For example, between 1996, when IUCN first initiated its Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) project in Nam Pheng village, and 2002, considerable advancements have been made. Field studies report that poverty rates have been reduced by about 50 percent; food security has been attained; child mortality of children under 5 was eliminated; school enrolment doubled (over half of whom are girls); and domestic savings increased. The village acquired new infrastructure and new services, while villagers' range of expenditures widened, improving quality of life and productivity.

Although there were many different factors

at play that led to these achievements, improved NTFP management and marketing clearly played a key role, as illustrated by their predominant position in households' economies and the villagers' own testimonies. Currently, collection of bitter bamboo, cardamom and other NTFPs continues to be a main source of income for the majority of households in Nam Pheng.

### **Future work**

The methodology developed has now been refined and will be applied to six case study sites. In addition, there will also be a review of the extent to which forests have been integrated into PRSPs in countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Honduras, Cameroon and Vietnam. All findings will be used as inputs into *Making a Case for Conservation and Poverty Reduction*, a forum session being held at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress in November 2004. A publication of the final case study findings and a resource kit to help development and conservation decision-makers and practitioners in updating/revising PRSPs, planning NTFPs, and monitoring the attainment of the MDGs is expected to be released in May 2005.

These assessments play an important role in making the case to national-level economic planners to mainstream the environment into national economic and development planning, and ensure that the true role played by forests in poverty reduction is duly recognized and reflected in the country's PRSP and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) processes.

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### **INTEGRATION OF THE UGANDA NFP INTO THE POVERTY ERADICATION ACTION PLAN**

*By Scott Geller*

#### **Summary**

As in many countries, forestry in Uganda has struggled to have its wider and varied contributions to society recognised and rewarded by government. This article describes how the national forest programme (nfp) process (1999-2004) has linked into and influenced various development, planning and budgeting processes to raise the profile and status of forestry. Evidence-based information, tactical communication and lobbying through formal and informal channels have been important to ensuring forestry is reflected in the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP).

#### **Uganda's Context: nfp and its linkages with the PEAP**

The magnitude of the contribution forestry makes to national economic development and poverty reduction was unknown by government planners in Uganda. The country suffered from an increasingly poor public image of the forestry sector, largely linked to a lack of confidence and trust in the Forestry Department. Consequently, funding and support to forestry from government has been very low. This was recognised as a serious constraint in the nfp, policy development and institutional reform process.

To achieve sustainability, the secretariat coordinating the Forest Sector Umbrella Programme (Uganda's nfp) quickly recognised that the nfp process had to embrace wider governance reforms. This meant strong linkages with the PEAP, also known as the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) - another Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (PRSP). It makes poverty reduction central to all areas of government policy and action, is spearheaded by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED) with development and revision every three years.

Development partners support the PEAP/PRSP through a series of Poverty Reduction Support Credits (PRSCs), each having clear performance benchmarks, outcome indicators and policy measures. The first version of the PEAP paid limited attention to the environment and natural resources (ENR), which meant that all ENR sectors found it difficult to engage effectively with the MFPED, and received limited budget allocations. During the nfp process, considerable effort was put into aligning the

strategies for forest sector development with the four “pillars” of the PEAP. The secretariat commissioned various studies, collected data and built a strong case for how forestry contributed to economic growth (forest industries), good governance (institutional reforms and decentralisation), raising incomes (improved livelihoods opportunities) and increasing quality of life (access to fuelwood and common property resources).

### **Main tactics and approaches used in Uganda**

In influencing several poverty and forestry policy initiatives, a number of key approaches emerged; some formal, and some informal. A mix of ‘tactics for constructive engagement’ was needed.

- **Information generation and dissemination** is critical – collecting and collating data, preparing documents and briefing notes, showing the link between forestry and livelihoods and raising awareness of environmental and socio-economic values (e.g. data on the populations living near forests, contributions of forestry to employment or to household energy requirements, values of forestry in soil protection and improvement).
- **Active participation and consultations** – with other sectors and organisations. (e.g. bringing staff from the *Poverty Monitoring and Analysis Unit* into nfp working groups; tactical meetings with *MFPED*, *Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture*, *National Agricultural Advisory Service*, *Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project*, to lobby and explain forestry and poverty links; generating forestry-related indicators for PEAP and wider monitoring strategies). Making people more knowledgeable about

forestry makes them better advocates.

- **Linking up to influence** – engaging with a “forestry hat” in other processes (e.g. adding forestry-related questions to the regular *Uganda Bureau of Statistics* household survey; membership of the *ENR Sector Working Group* and other relevant committees – gender and natural resource sub-groups in agricultural reforms, *ENR Task Forces*, *Participatory Poverty-Environment Assessment Steering Group*; getting forestry into the PRSC policy-matrix). These prevent forestry being marginalised and demonstrate opportunities for positive and constructive influence.
- **Lobbying** – all of this has required active lobbying and a clear advocacy strategy. The strategy has used a variety of avenues and media to influence processes that relate to policy-making and decision-taking, especially in the MFPED.

### **Challenges faced in Uganda**

A number of challenges were faced by the secretariat staff to make these approaches work in Uganda.

- **Poor information** - often there was a lack of reliable quantitative facts available, making it difficult to ‘prove your case’. The *Forest Sector Review* and the broad agreement of the nfp process helped significantly to alleviate this problem.
- **Not seeing the wood for the trees** - foresters are typically poor at networking and moving out of forestry circles, thus limiting representation of forestry in other sectors. If foresters do not understand the need to talk to others, it is understandable that others are slow to see the value of forestry.

- **Slow 'committees' processes** – with only one forestry representative in a broad cross-sectoral meeting it takes time to be properly heard and longer to convince and change perspectives. The dramatic changes needed take time and more than one conversation to really get through to people, especially against the backdrop of a very poor public image of forestry over recent years.
- **Immediate needs** – there is a perception that urgent poverty needs cannot be addressed by the long term cash benefits of growing trees, and consequently that forestry is not helpful or a priority in the short-term.
- **Political support** – forestry is not given a high or positive government priority, partly due to negative perceptions of forest sector performance.

### Achievements and ways forward

The case for public investments in forestry as a means of poverty eradication is strong. The challenge was to prove this with practical evidence, to get others to understand and accept the evidence at face value, and then use it in policy development. From the start it took more than 3 years of work to get forestry integrated into the PRSC matrix – a potentially significant achievement, which will focus annual attention on the sector by high-level government and World Bank officials.

There have been a number of key achievements through the process of 'influencing' and forestry issues are now firmly placed in all of the initiatives mentioned here. The influencing process has been at least partially successful - the profile of forestry has definitely been raised. Now there is wide agreement and recognition that forestry is important to

livelihoods and in addressing rural poverty.

There is now a need to turn words into action. The sector has yet to receive the commitment of extra funds from the MFPED to help it achieve these poverty and livelihood benefits. The influencing process will need to continue to ensure the decision-makers put support where support, as everyone now agrees, is due.

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### TANZANIA NFP: MOVING TOWARDS A SECTOR WIDE APPROACH IN IMPLEMENTATION

*By Anna-Leena Simula*

Over the past six years fundamental changes in forest policies, strategies, legislation and institutions in Tanzania have created a conducive environment for a much greater role for non-state stakeholders, particularly villagers, NGOs and community based organisations, as well as wood processors and other private sector actors, in the use and management of Tanzanian forests and woodlands.

In 2001 the Government of Tanzania endorsed the National Forest Programme

(NFP) and the National Beekeeping Programme (NBKP). For the past three years the Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) in Tanzania has implemented these two programmes. In addition, there will be a main change in the institutional set-up of the forest sector when the semi-autonomous Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) will be launched by the end of 2004. Its main goal is to provide an efficient and business-like working environment for forestry services.

As a result, all key development partners have been keen on supporting technically and financially a new approach, Participatory Forest Management (PFM). PFM aims at reducing poverty, improving governance and enhancing other democratic principles, such as participation, accountability and transparency at national, local and village levels. Currently, there is a strong drive to scale up PFM based on the best existing practices.

Scaling up of PFM, as well as strengthening other development efforts such as private sector involvement in forest resource use, requires good cooperation and coordination between the Government and other stakeholders. This challenge has been taken seriously in Tanzania. In 2003, the Government and development partners initiated a process towards a Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP) to reduce fragmentation and inefficiency and to get rid of parallel systems and high transaction costs inherent in the project approach.

The adoption of a SWAP implies a shift from stand-alone project-based operations towards a more holistic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

of forestry operations. A SWAP is meant to ensure that a major part of funding for the forestry sector supports a coherent, consistent and effective sector policy and expenditure programme under Government leadership. This will enable a common approach, based on the national forest and beekeeping programmes, and progress towards relying on Government procedures to disburse and account for funds. However, development partners may differ in how they opt to channel their funds to the Government.

### **Status of NFP/NBKP implementation towards SWAP**

The Government of Tanzania has demonstrated commitment and leadership at the highest level for the SWAP. Much progress has been made towards a SWAP in the forest sector. In November 2001, a baseline study on the feasibility of a sector-wide approach in forestry was prepared and presented. In September 2003 some senior staff members of the FBD and Local Government traveled to Mozambique to learn lessons from the Mozambiquan SWAP for agriculture, which includes forestry. In February-March 2004 an Executive Training Course on SWAP was organized for senior management of FBD and development partners. It focussed on a number of managerial issues, that will affect FBD in the implementation of SWAP, such as programme planning and management; financial planning; budgeting and control; monitoring and evaluation; coordination; institutional arrangements and partnerships. All key Government staff and the donor community were present in the training and participated actively in discussions and group work.

The Government has also established a

SWAP Technical Team of 7 persons, including one development partner representative, to oversee the implementation of a SWAP roll-out plan. The core activities include (i) establishment of Government and development partner commitment and partnership, (ii) development and agreement on SWAP implementation modalities, (iii) preparation and agreement on SWAP joint programme of work, (iv) launching of the SWAP and (v) implementation. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and the SWAP launch are planned for March 2005. The FBD will start implementing the SWAP between April and May 2005.

In June 2004, a joint Government of Tanzania and development partners' meeting on the SWAP in forestry and beekeeping was convened to generate commitment and partnership for the SWAP process, as outlined in the roll-out plan. At the end of the meeting the Government and development partners committed themselves to support the SWAP process. However, the discussions were hectic.

Some of the key issues raised were:

- Whether it was advisable for the government to take a gradual, stepwise approach in implementing SWAP rather than an immediate full-scale implementation.
- Whether it was practical to start solving some of the critical problems facing the sector like capacity building, procurement procedures, before implementation of SWAP.
- The importance of transparency and trust between government and development partners. It was emphasised that all partners should be transparent and inform each other on all key problems

faced instead of hiding them.

- The high level of ambition of the roll-out plan resulted in concern whether the time frame to complete the process (end of March 2005) was realistic and achievable, given the many responsibilities being undertaken within FBD, including the establishment of TFS.
- Whether the SWAP technical team will have time to complete the assignment, given that most of the people are also involved in several other assignments and activities in FBD and the MNRT.
- Whether implementation of SWAP might conflict with any existing efforts currently being undertaken in FBD and the Ministry.
- Whether there was flexibility by the partners in joining and participating in SWAP.

### **The way forward**

In the June meeting, the Permanent Secretary, the facilitator and the NFP coordinator endeavoured to clarify the key issues and find feasible solutions to different concerns, some of which are listed below:

- It was decided that a precautionary and incremental approach would be taken to the SWAP to avoid some of the serious challenges experienced in other sectors as they moved to a SWAP. Particularly, the key managerial systems should be in place before launching SWAP.
- FBD should be aware that there are many problems facing the forestry sector and therefore prioritisation within priorities is essential for efficient and effective use of resources. The agreed programme of work should be a guide and should be periodically modified to address emerging issues and concerns from stakeholders.
- A comprehensive capacity building programme and budget will be drawn up



- in view of SWAP implementation and other capacity needs.
- There should be some flexibility in the implementation of the SWAP roll-out plan and also flexibility in development partners joining the process.
  - It was decided that FBD should move towards SWAP without delay and the other divisions in the MNRT should emulate the FBD operations and start preparations for their participation.
  - The Government is also making considerable efforts to be transparent and trustworthy. Forums have been established where the development partners and other stakeholders can be informed about Government operations and efforts. Trust-building and increased transparency are essential for a successful SWAP.
  - Besides the Government all other stakeholders should be invited to express their views on SWAP and contribute to its contents and implementation modalities. This will entail organizing a series of stakeholders' meetings; a first meeting was held on 9 September 2004.

### **Some critical issues in the SWAP process**

The sector-wide approach in Tanzanian forestry can be expected to produce good and tangible results only if several key longer-term challenges and problems are tackled:

- Villagers need clear income and non-income benefits from forests and exposure to new income generating activities to avoid a poverty trap
- Villagers need a continuous flow of information on wood and NWFP markets, prices, valuation of logs and profitability of PFM (revenues and costs)
- Clear land ownership or user rights are a must to achieve SFM

- Sustainable forest and woodland management will only take place if it is promoted through a well-designed organizational structure, and the right kind of forest policy instrument mix is in place (sticks and carrots are needed)
- The revenue collection system from forest products should be transparent and verifiable to avoid corruption
- Trained persons have to be in place to provide advisory services and control resource use
- Clear market orientation and strong private sector involvement is a necessity to get forest sector development going
- Better cooperation with private forest owners and industry needs to be achieved
- Villagers' watchdog organizations (CBOs and NGOs) are needed to counterbalance governmental interventions

Despite all the challenges the Tanzanian NFP is moving rapidly towards the implementation of a sector wide approach and the benefits of this process can be enjoyed in about five years time. However, lots of enthusiasm, hard work and persistence are required from the Government of Tanzania and other stakeholders to make this happen.

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### **COLLABORATING VOICES- NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES AND FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION**

*By Dena Cator and Carole Saint-Laurent*

Collaboration - between governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and communities - is becoming an increasingly important concept in a world where forests continue to be threatened by degradation, fragmentation and destruction.

Collaboration forms the basis of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, which was created with the intent of generating stronger political support for forest restoration activities worldwide and catalyzing increased action on the ground. Members of the partnership now include: IUCN, WWF, the Forestry Commission of Great Britain, the Program on Forests (PROFOR), CARE International, the governments of Finland, the United States, Japan, Switzerland, Italy, South Africa, El Salvador and Kenya, the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the UNEP–World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC).

The Global Partnership serves as a forum for discussing and sharing innovative Forest

Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategies around the world. FLR brings people together to identify and put in place a mix of land-use practices that will help restore the functions of forests across a whole landscape, such as a water catchment. The aim of this approach is to benefit both communities and the natural world. Forest landscape restoration is a collaborative venture. If it is to succeed, it must involve everyone with a stake in the forests, from local farmers to charcoal makers, from game hunters to logging companies. Between them, they must identify the various goods and services that matter most and work out how best to restore them. Benefits can be enormous, ranging from the restoration of hydrological cycles and forest habitats to provision of greater food and water security for local communities.

FLR has a role to play in achieving the objectives and goals of national forest programs (nfps). A main goal of nfps, for example, can be to integrate sustainable forest management into poverty reduction strategies – and FLR can contribute to this. Nfps may also serve as a catalyst for initiating new forest landscape restoration activities. This could include, for example, nfps establishing policies and incentives for the rehabilitation of degraded forested lands, establishing legal frameworks to secure tenure for local communities or restoring watersheds to generate marketable environmental services.

Mexico's nfp (2001-2006) is an example of integrating the objectives of FLR into nfps. Mexico's forests have experienced significant degradation in recent years. In response, the nfp aims to increase forest restoration activities on the land, manage for the health of forested ecosystems and

improve the living standards of Mexicans. Mexico's nfp explicitly seeks to generate more employment and income options for people living in woodlands while protecting hydrographic basins, soils and biodiversity in those forest ecosystems. A specific example is the Scolel Te project in Chiapas, where since 1996 small farmers have become active participants in the global carbon market while restoring degraded lands. Sales in 2002 amounted to around US\$180,000. Scolel Te is also helping to restore a degraded environment and to improve the quality of life of local villagers. In addition to helping to reduce erosion and improve the soil, the trees provide a supply of saleable timber, fruit, medical plants and fuelwood, helping to take pressure off existing forests and their biodiversity.

Finland's nfp also promotes forestry activities as a method for increasing employment and security for its population while still maintaining the importance of ecosystem protection and health. The country has made recommendations for traditional reindeer herding and forestry in particular. The nfp recommends the restoration of winter range forests impacted by forestry activities and overgrazing (which suppresses regeneration efforts). If successful, restoration efforts will help to restore the ecological integrity of these forested areas while providing reindeer herders with more reliable winter shelter and forage for their animals - a contribution to their livelihood security. The nfp further commits funding for forest restoration activities.

Tanzania's nfp builds on ongoing successes with Forest Landscape Restoration. In the Shinyanga region, much of the land had become semi-desert by the

mid-1980s due to felling of forests to eradicate tsetse fly, conversion of large blocks of land to cash crops and overgrazing. In 1985, the Government agreed to promote the use of traditional *ngitilis* or forest enclosures by local peoples. Awareness was raised of the need to restore degraded landscapes and technical training was provided. Over a period of 15 years, 250,000 hectares of natural woodlands were regenerated. The restored *ngitilis* have transformed the lives of local peoples, providing animal fodder, wood products and water during the dry season. The results were driven by the establishment of secure land tenure rights, building on local knowledge and institutions, and on what people (rather than external experts) wanted to do, with less emphasis on cultivation and cash crops than in the past. Tanzania's National Forest Program (2001-2010) builds on such examples by supporting a decentralized system of forest management which grants local communities user and management rights for forested areas, promotes cost and benefit sharing for local peoples and supports biodiversity conservation strategies.

The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration will continue to raise awareness of these and other successes as well as challenges in the future. Although some countries have addressed forest landscape restoration activities in their nfps, many more opportunities remain.

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### HIV/AIDS AND NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES

By Christine Holding Anyonge

*“Silence compounds the isolation and stigma of the disease – many of those affected working in forest departments, and forest industry across the sub-continent are suffering in silence, unable to discuss their situation or that of a family member with their colleagues, or their supervisors. The barrier of silence in the forest sector should be broken, - it is only by open and frank discussion on HIV/AIDs, its impact on family life, the work place, local institutions, forest agencies, educational institutions, and the wider forest economy can effective programming responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic be developed within the sector”*  
Tage Michaelsen, Forestry Dept. FAO, 2002

#### Introduction

HIV/AIDS is devastating the population and national economies in countries with a high HIV/AIDS prevalence. Within the miombo woodland eco-zone of Southern Africa, for example, the adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in 2001 was measured as: Zimbabwe 33.7%; Zambia 21.5%; Malawi 15%; Mozambique 13%; Tanzania 7.8%, and Angola 5.5%; (DRC no statistics available).

As these statistics imply, the forest sector in these countries is impacted as much as any other sector of the economy. HIV/AIDS is affecting forestry enterprises, forest laborers, contractors, professional and managerial staff, college lecturers, students and farm forest households. With a few minor exceptions, the forest sector as a whole has been slow to respond to the spread of the pandemic. Strategies that comprehensively reflect and address the full range of interactions between the epidemic and the sector remain significantly underdeveloped.

One of the key objectives of national forest programmes is to introduce inter-sectoral planning approaches involving all relevant partners, in order to resolve conflicts and generate effective policies and programmes to address problems. In the case of HIV/AIDS a multi-sectoral response is required that includes both sectoral and inter-sectoral strategies for prevention, treatment/care and mitigation.

The Forestry Department of FAO has over the last two years actively sought to develop a policy and strategic framework to support the role of forestry departments in multi-sectoral responses to HIV/AIDS. FAO Forestry Department has conducted a study in southern Africa investigating the relationships between the impact of HIV/AIDS and forest resources<sup>1</sup>.

Policy recommendations and strategies for the forest sector to address HIV/AIDS are being designed taking into consideration current strategic planning across the sector, and more particularly the demand driven processes of national forest programme development. The text of this short article provides an indication of the preliminary

framework for the forest policy and strategy in response to HIV/AIDS that is currently under development<sup>2</sup>. Key policy and strategy recommendations are outlined below.

### **1. Prevention and mitigation with forestry institutions and forest industries**

Strategies to prevent HIV infection and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on the sector itself (often referred to as “mainstreaming”) is a top priority as continuation of core strategies and the development and implementation of multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS strategies depend foremost on the sectors human resources. Workplace programs have been developed by some forest companies and for Ministries of Agriculture, their application and uptake is feasible by other private sector forest enterprises operating in HIV/AIDS impacted economies, and by government Forest Departments globally. These interventions include awareness building campaigns, behavior change communication, stigma and discrimination reduction, voluntary testing and counseling and the modification of working conditions of employees exposed to high risk situations. Forest Departments, and the private sector of the forest industry could work to create stronger links and closer collaboration with Ministries of Health in this regard.

### **2. Reduction of vulnerability to HIV infection in the forest sector**

Current forest policies and programmes need to be reviewed to assess their interaction with key determinants of HIV vulnerability. Likewise vulnerability considerations should be included in the planning (and impact assessments) of future possibilities and programmes. Recognized vulnerabilities in the forest sector include social/gender inequalities,

exclusion from resources, seasonal migration and separation from families.

At the same time, the working conditions of labourers and forestry staff in both the private and public sectors increase the vulnerability of forestry staff (i.e. lack of housing for families, prolonged separation from families, seasonal migration). A review process to identify how forest policies and programs interact with the determinants of HIV vulnerability will help identify where and for whom prevention efforts should be prioritized.

### **3. Sustainability of forest benefits relied upon by households and communities affected by HIV/AIDS**

This group of recommendations is based on the recognition of the specific roles of woodlands and forests as a safety net for affected households and communities: provision of medicinal plants used in the management of HIV/AIDS related illness, wild foods and commercial and subsistence harvesting of forest products.

*Strategies related to the care of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)*

a Management of medicinal plants used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS related illnesses.

The sustainable management of resources within woodlands maintains the option of subsistence and commercial collection of medicinal plants as a safety net for those households with an increasing dependence on woodlands. Domestication programmes may be appropriate for species in which management of wild resources is not sustainable given current volumes of harvesting. Species use in the treatment of HIV/AIDS-related illnesses need to be

prioritized.

- b Identification and advocacy of nutritional non wood forest products  
Early and adequate nutrition interventions, including education and counseling, are considered important interventions for people living with HIV/AIDS.

*Strategies to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of HIV/AIDS on households*

- a Reduce labour requirements for subsistence firewood collection  
While improving accessibility can create more immediate reductions in the labour requirements for firewood in the short term, efforts to improve the availability over the long term include enrichment and improved management of customary woodlands, agroforestry and the creation of firewood resources within and around the community in customary woodlands.
- b Development of woodland –based income generating activities.
- c Forest revenue sharing in support of community initiatives to support HIV/AIDS affected households

#### **4. Capacity building of forestry institutions**

In addition to the increased requirement for technical level forestry training to maintain the provision of skilled manpower to the sector – additional efforts will be required to design training courses and curricula for technical and tertiary education institutions that include models of HIV/AIDS and its relation to the forest sector. Without this capacity the implementation of programs at the community level will remain limited. These training modules can be integrated into the social forestry curriculum of institutions and can also be introduced to extension service providers through in-service training programmes.

#### **5. Inter-sectoral coordination of forestry interventions**

Setting of priorities takes place within the strategic planning process coordinated by the National AIDS Commissions. Thus, any coordination effort should begin with these commissions to determine national priorities and the relevant sectors responsible for achieving these priorities. The forestry sector will thus need to coordinate with the responding to the HIV/AIDS crisis. The agriculture sector is an obvious partner.

#### **FAO Forestry and HIV/AIDS Discussion Forum can be located at:**

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/23667/en>

#### **FAO Forestry HIV/AIDS website:**

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/hiv-aids/en>

#### **FAO HIV/AIDS and food security website:**

<http://www.fao.org/hiv aids/>

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#### *Disclaimer*

*The content of this paper expresses the author's views and does not necessarily reflect FAO's position.*

<sup>1</sup> FAO 2004 ( forthcoming) HIV/AIDS and the miombo woodlands of Malawi and Mozambique – An exploratory study. Kayambazintu, Siteo, Barany and Holding Anyonge

<sup>2</sup> The author would welcome any feedback, comments or suggestions on the contents of this article

### **IMPLEMENTING IPF/IFF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION THROUGH NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES: STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES AND TOOLS<sup>1</sup>. Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Pre-Session Workshop: Nadi, Fiji 16 – 17 April 2004**

*By Simmathiri Appanah*

This workshop was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Government of Fiji from 16 to 17 April in Nadi, Fiji. It was held in conjunction with the twentieth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. The workshop was co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of State/USDA Forest Service, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) projects in Fiji and Indonesia, and the National Forest Programme Facility.

The workshop brought together 67 experts, from countries, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, including non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew (Malaysia) gave the keynote presentation. He emphasized the importance of each country designing its own national approach to assess the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and subsequently integrating the relevant actions into the national forest

programme process or similar country policy frameworks and approaches. This would help address forest development in an integrated, holistic and participatory manner.

Participants described increasing efforts in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action in the region, despite the limited capacity in many countries. Several countries, including Australia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand and Vanuatu, shared their experiences, providing a range of approaches to categorize, assess, prioritize and implement the relevant proposals. The workshop also provided an opportunity to inform countries about developments in the international forest dialogue.

#### **Some observations and lessons learned**

- In numerous countries, many of the relevant proposals for action are already integrated in the national forest programmes as defined by the IPF, and countries are using them to measure the compatibility of national activities with international guidance and to identify gaps. A major constraint is the limited capacity to implement the proposals for action and to report on progress, partially due to overwhelming reporting requests by international processes.
- Categorization of the individual IPF/IFF proposals for action (undertaken, for example, by Australia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and New Zealand) helps clarify their meaning and relevance for individual countries.
- Existing summaries of IPF/IFF proposals for action, such as the Australia-PROFOR document<sup>1</sup>, are very helpful. However, countries would benefit from their own assessment and clarification of the

- proposals, under their own specific conditions.
- Collaborative initiatives, such as between Australia and Vanuatu, could help advance implementation of the proposals, facilitate effective national forest policy planning, identify progress against internationally agreed actions, raise awareness and improve understanding of sustainable forest management and international processes, increase donor interest, as well as facilitate reporting to UNFF.
  - Effective stakeholder participation is crucial at all stages of decision-making, including implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and national forest programmes. Building an effective participatory process takes time and requires involvement of all relevant stakeholders and long-term commitment from all involved parties.
  - In many countries, ministries and departments fall short in coordinating their activities with other sectors. Forestry departments often have difficulties in influencing the land-use decision-making because of the over-riding need for achieving economic development. This is aggravated by lack of proper valuation of forest goods and services.
- identifying measures already taken and future actions;
  - assessing the resources needed to address the impediments to implementation; and
  - using criteria and indicators or related tools to monitor progress towards sustainable forest management.
- Considering the numerous positive examples in the region in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action, countries should actively share these experiences, especially at UNFF.
  - In order to enhance linkages between forestry and other sectors (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, energy, tourism, health, education, culture, finance) through national forest programme processes, countries should:
    - Establish effective high-level, cross-ministerial collaboration mechanisms that facilitate political endorsement, giving rise to a shared vision for sustainable forest management, enhanced coordination and effective communication across sectors. This in turn will lead to greater support and commitment by stakeholders to share costs and benefits equitably, particularly in relation to poverty reduction and food security;
    - Experiment with different integration models at the local level and use lessons learned to upscale to higher levels.
  - FAO and other CPF members should continue to facilitate the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and assist countries in sharing experiences.

### Some recommendations

- Countries that have not yet done so should integrate implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action into their national forest programme and other relevant policy processes. This should include:
  - assessing the IPF/IFF proposals for action against existing national forest-related frameworks in terms of their relevance to the national priorities;
  - prioritizing the relevant action proposals;

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<sup>1</sup>. Available at [http://www.profor.info/pdf/IPF\\_IFFtext.pdf](http://www.profor.info/pdf/IPF_IFFtext.pdf)

### **DECENTRALIZATION, FEDERAL SYSTEMS IN FORESTRY AND NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES**

*By Dorris Capistrano*

In April 2004 the Governments of Indonesia and Switzerland organized and co-hosted the Interlaken Workshop on "Decentralization, Federal Systems in Forestry, and National Forest Programs." A country-led initiative in support of the UNFF, the Workshop examined the impacts of decentralization on management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. The Workshop explored the effect of the decentralization of forest sector processes on social, cultural, economic, and environmental conditions around the world.

#### **Summary of workshop findings**

An estimated 60 countries are currently engaged in processes towards decentralization of their forest sector and this trend is increasing. Countries undergoing decentralization have made uneven progress so far. They are at different stages, with diverse contexts, needs and

stakeholders. Decentralization of the forest sector is not an end in itself but seen only as a tool to accomplish broad objectives pertaining to the conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests, as well as to achieving equitable distribution of benefits and the potential to enhance democracy and reduce poverty. These objectives are attained through decentralization of authority, responsibility, finances and accountability.

Decentralization is a complex and dynamic process that includes constant learning and experimentation. It needs to be phased in gradually and involves: building consensus through an open, transparent and inclusive process; participatory decision making; institutional, technical and human capacity building; provision of adequate financial resources and incentives for investment; tailoring objectives to local contexts and developing the flexibility to adapt to different situations and changing circumstances. Priority must be accorded to empowerment and capacity building of the local communities to effectively manage their natural resources. Decentralization should not simply transfer the burden of management but must have net positive benefits to local communities.

Successful decentralization involves a number of prerequisites including: formulation of clear enabling legal and policy frameworks and timely and wide distribution of this information; integration of the decentralization process into national forest programs; achievable objectives; clear allocation of roles, responsibilities, resources and accountability; and mechanisms for conflict resolution. Successful decentralization outcomes have been linked to secure tenure as well as

secure fiscal, revenue and taxation powers; equitable access to forest resources; control over decision making, commercial rights and market access; sensitivity to cultural traditions and local knowledge and, where appropriate, recognition of ancestral rights of local communities.

As the forest sector intersects with many other policy areas, decentralization in other related policy areas can have significant impact on decentralization of the forest sector. Decentralization in the forest sector must take into account the experiential gains in other related sectors in the country. It is widely recognized that forests should be managed to optimize their local benefits and provide “higher level public goods.” While centralized approaches to protected areas could target sites of national importance, the central authorities also need to provide adequate compensation for opportunity costs of such areas and determine the extent to which rights and access to high value areas can be decentralized. At the same time they also need to ensure that decentralization does not lead to fragmented and dysfunctional landscapes. The participants at the Interlaken Workshop identified the following as areas that where the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests could take action to help:

- Develop a common understanding of the relevant concepts, terms and definitions to facilitate future dialogue on decentralization in the forest sector;
- Promote dissemination of appropriate information to enhance the understanding of various aspects of decentralization in the forestry sector;
- Formulate appropriate approaches to maintain protected areas while enabling

traditional use by the indigenous/local people and forest dwellers;

- Develop principles of subsidiarity that is devolving power, authority and resources to the lowest appropriate level for forest management and use;
- Develop principles to guide institutional choice for equitable representation;
- Further promote the valuation of forest environmental services and encourage fair compensation for these services, including through market mechanisms;
- Work to ensure at national and sub-national levels that decentralization is pursued within the context of the broader national landscapes, by way of continuous cross-sectoral information sharing, dialogue and partnership;
- Analyze the implications of decentralization in key aspects of forest management for the development of national forest programmes (nfp) and to identify strategies that would allow such programmes to effectively address this issue;
- The National Forest Programme Facility and PROFOR assist countries undergoing decentralization to integrate the process into their national forest programmes (at national or sub-national levels), for example, by developing appropriate guidelines, so as to develop conducive policies and legislation and to facilitate the necessary negotiation processes;
- Strengthen 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;
- Promote partnership among various stakeholders and sectors, including S-S, N-N, N-S, and S-N-S cooperation for institutional and human capacity building;

and

- Promote the involvement of NGOs and other major groups as strong partners in planning monitoring and implementation activities related to decentralization at all levels.

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**HOW TO BETTER INTEGRATE NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES AND NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS – The IUCN, PROFOR and World Bank Initiative on the Ecosystem Approach (EsA) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**

*By IUCN and PROFOR*

### **Background**

Since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, two parallel concepts of how best to conserve and manage forests have emerged in international fora on forest and forest-related issues. One concept is sustainable forest management (SFM), developed by organisations such as the FAO and ITTO and through deliberations and negotiations

at the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the United Nations Forum on Forests. The other is the ecosystem approach (EsA), which has developed primarily within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

While many governments, civil society organizations and private sector companies have ascribed to and committed to implement both EsA and SFM, there is a general lack of clarity on how these two concepts relate to each other. As a result, delegates to international fora on forest and forest-related issues have many different interpretations as to whether and how an Ecosystem Approach and SFM relate to each other.

Ambiguity over the relationship between the two concepts can give rise to more than just esoteric definitional problems. National agencies charged with implementing international commitments from these different processes (i.e. the IPF/IFF/UNFF and the CBD) without coordinating efforts may end up duplicating reporting efforts and missing out on potential synergies that may exist. This could even result in programmes that at best duplicate efforts or at worst compete with or negate each other. More over, narrow application of the ecosystem approach only to protected areas or of SFM only to industrial forest management will reinforce the compartmentalized approach to land use that both concepts seek to overcome.

In order to help address some of these challenges, the CBD (decision VI/12 taken in 2001) and the UNFF (resolution 3/4 taken in 2003) invited member governments and relevant organisations – such as members

of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) – to provide clarification on the relationship between the EsA and SFM concepts, and to develop proposals for their integration.

### **IUCN, PROFOR and World Bank Initiative on EsA and SFM**

In response to this call, IUCN, PROFOR and the World Bank initiated a study to review and clarify the relationship between EsA and SFM. The study aims to help promote sustainable forest management, conservation and development to more effectively meet the objectives of the CBD and UNFF through better integrated and complementary national forest programmes and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The study aims to evaluate the link between the concepts of EsA and SFM and, using case studies, to review the differences and similarities in the application of these approaches with a view to improve conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity on the ground.

In February 2004, a discussion paper on this topic was prepared as a first output of this study, and submitted jointly by IUCN and the World Bank, in their capacity as CPF members, to the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF and to the CBD and ITTO secretariats. Subsequently, a workshop was then organised by IUCN, PROFOR and the World Bank from 12-14 May 2004 in the Swiss Jura outside of Geneva. The workshop served to bring together experts from various countries to discuss and brainstorm on the relationship between the EsA and SFM concepts, and to assess how these two concepts can contribute to forest management that addresses broader, multi-stakeholder, multi-scale and multiple

function objectives for forests.

At the workshop, further parameters were set for the development of the IUCN and PROFOR study into a publication on the relationship between EsA and SFM. The participants agreed that the study would look at regional case studies and cross-cutting themes to examine how the institutional arrangements for forests are changing to address the latest thinking from the EsA and SFM concepts. The primary target audience for the study includes participants attending the UNFF, CBD and other key forest-sector fora and processes, and key decision-makers and actors in international organisations such as the FAO, ITTO, IUCN, and World Bank who, in turn, could influence policy making both within their own organisations and within governments.

The following regional case studies were agreed on for inclusion as chapters in the publication: western Russia, Australia (especially Victoria), Central America (with emphasis on Guatemala and Costa Rica), the Pacific Northwest of the USA and British Columbia in Canada, India (national overview and contrasting the experience in selected states), Central Europe and the Congo Basin. Cross-cutting themes that will be covered in the publication include information needs, economic aspects, institutions, ecological monitoring and C&I as tools for SFM.

### **Next steps**

The preliminary findings from the regional and thematic case studies will be presented at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2004. The final findings of the study will be published in a book in early 2005.

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### 3. NFP FOR REGIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

#### NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES IN THE AMAZON REGION

*By Evy von Pfeil, Wibke Thies, Claudia Mayer, Francisco Ruiz*

The Amazon is the largest contiguous rainforest on earth, spreading over nine different countries. Human encroachment destroys 25,000 to 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> of its 3 million km<sup>2</sup> every year. Despite many international agreements signed in the 1990s to protect biodiversity and the climate, deforestation has accelerated. Experience shows that there is no likelihood of reversing this trend without political will,

country ownership, a favourable institutional and political framework and advantageous financing policies and financial flows. Furthermore, causes of forest destruction do not stop at country boundaries. No country could protect such a large forest area on its own - a regional strategy is needed.

#### Regional adds to national

National forest programmes (nfps) build the effective framework for discussing sustainable forest use at the national level, but they are also a reference point for policy dialogue at the regional level. In February 2002 more than 50 experts from Latin America came to Puenbo, Ecuador following the invitation of the three-country initiative "Implementing international forest-related agreements and national forest programmes", organised by Ecuador, Germany and the Netherlands. They agreed on four main issues that form the basis for future action and trans-boundary policy dialogue on conservation and sustainable use of the Amazon rainforest:

- Governance and institutional capacity
- Influence of other sectors on forests
- Valuation and financing mechanisms
- Relation between international processes and national implementation

#### Governance and institutional capacity

National policies, normative frameworks and established structures need to be adjusted to facilitate the processes of coordinated planning, decentralisation and privatisation. The latter require clear division of responsibilities, training and sectoral reinforcement at all levels.

Other issues to be treated are land tenure, access and use rights, mechanisms for

conflict resolution and the strengthening of participation of civil society and private sector.

Efficient forest information systems about forest goods and services enhance the quality of decision-making and assist the forest sector, making it more competitive and attractive for investment.

### **Influence of other sectors on forests**

Interaction between sectors (agriculture, mining, tourism, etc.) and their stakeholders is indispensable to recognise the multi-functionality of forests as providers of productive inputs. Nfps provide the framework for this inter-sectoral approach. Also, forests have to be integrated into a nation's strategy and policy for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

### **Valuation and financing mechanisms**

Nfps have to be accompanied by the development of favourable financing strategies and policies including all sources of finance: domestic, private and international. In many countries this may require broad fiscal reforms, development of adequate incentives, and changes in trade policies and financial flows. Money from development agencies should serve as a catalyst rather than a long-term financial basis.

### **Relation between international processes and national implementation**

International agreements are complementary to nfps. Cooperation between countries reinforces the implementation of international processes. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (OTCA), for example is implementing, with technical and financial assistance of FAO, a regional

project for the sustainable management of forests, called *Proceso de Tarapoto* in close cooperation with the national forest programmes in each country party to the Treaty. In addition, the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) can serve as platforms for negotiation with larger international fora. They can also strengthen implementation of action agreed upon at the regional and national level, and support cross-border programmes and projects.

### **Continuing the process**

The workshop in Puenbo initiated the regional process which is now being continued by the German bilateral project "Conservation of the Amazon Tropical Rainforest" which started in 2003.

The goal of this project is to build the basis for a coherent regional forest policy and strategy through the establishment of a policy network, the exchange of experiences between countries, strengthening the planning and implementation capacities of institutions and organisations and through regional participatory mechanisms for coordination and concurrence.

Country studies based on the four issues discussed above started with the analysis of the current status of nfps and the definition of topics for the regional policy dialogue. To strengthen the participation of the Amazon countries in the international forest policy dialogue the project organises, in cooperation with other regional organisations, discussion fora - for example on traditional knowledge - for the members of national delegations to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Convention

on Biological Diversity (CBD) and others. To link political dialogue with practical experience the project also supports capacity building related to financing instruments for sustainable forest management and to the implementation of trans-boundary pilot projects.

### Conclusions and perspectives

The new millennium has begun in the Amazon region with the first attempt to develop a regional strategy to conserve and sustainably use the Amazon rainforest. Policy dialogue beyond national boundaries and within the framework of nfps is the most important instrument. The revival of the OTCA can be regarded as a sign of political will and increasing trust between the Amazon countries.

The main challenge for the years ahead is how to reinforce these positive trends in implementation. A follow-up to the successful Puenbo process plans to tackle following issues:

- Further integrating policy and planning processes.
- Strengthening the participation of other sectors that impact directly or indirectly on forests (agriculture, mining, finances, etc.) to broaden the focus on the valuation and multi-functional use of forests and promote attention for an ecosystem approach to forest policy and management.
- Integrating biodiversity and forest strategies and policies to reach a holistic vision.
- Strengthening the position of forests in national development strategies (e.g. to reduce poverty).

The lessons learnt from this Amazon

approach will be exchanged with other regions in Latin America. Experts feel there is evidence for a new forestry culture of policy-making, planning and implementation, one that is grounded in past experience and in national and international debates.

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### **CARIBBEAN FOREST MANAGEMENT IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS!**

*By Lyndon John*

Forestry departments throughout the world have been rethinking the way they work to meet the challenges of a changing sector. Increasingly stakeholder participation or participatory forest management (PFM) has come to be viewed as a practical and equitable alternative to traditional top-down approaches to forest management. Since the colonial period, forest management in the island countries of the Caribbean has largely remained under the control of the state. As a result of this, policy and practice around forestry has tended to reflect state centred visions of how forests should be used with little or no consideration given to the actual needs and concerns of those groups and individuals whose livelihoods depend on it.

Over the years forest resources have become more scarce and land occupied by forests has come under increasing pressure from those seeking to convert it for other uses. This depletion has resulted in a loss of some essential forest goods and services. There is now a growing recognition of the value of forests and the need to adopt more practical and equitable methods of forest management.

The prevailing culture of decision-making throughout the region is, however, top-down. It has largely remained in the hands of those who are strongly influenced by short-term production and economic interests, and their own short-term goals.

In this context people's participation is still seen as a threat and is largely associated with a loss of control by the state and its agencies. This culture does not easily allow for the development of institutions that promote the broad participation of citizens in development, or provide opportunities for those reliant on forest resources to manage their own livelihoods in a sustainable way.

In the absence, however, of strong surveillance and enforcement capacity which none of the countries of the region can financially or politically afford, stakeholder participation provides a viable option for effective management. It is also the most effective framework for addressing objectives of poverty alleviation, economic development and social equity in the management of natural resources.

For these reasons a number of national agencies in the region have been looking to restructure a top-down system of forest management that is increasingly disconnected from stakeholders and at odds with the increasingly diverse demands they are placing on foresters. Through the revision of forest legislation, policies, procedures and management plans, directives and strategies for increased stakeholder participation in decision-making are slowly being shaped.

Stakeholder participation or PFM involves the coming together of forest management agencies, NGOs, community groups, businesses, local resource users, and technical assistance organisations. The motivations of different stakeholders will vary. Forestry administrations and other governmental stakeholders may be interested in increasing their management



capacity by securing the help of other partners. Local resource users tend to be concerned with improving livelihoods, income, and quality of life, whilst other civil society stakeholders may be motivated by issues of equity and social justice. The overall objectives however, need to be shared. This will call for processes of negotiation which will result in projects that have both environmental and socio-economic dimensions and that require input from a range of non-traditional actors, such as water resource management agencies, development agencies, ministries of community development, and tourism enterprises. While there has been real progress in some countries such as Grenada and Jamaica<sup>1</sup>, too often these changes are taking place without adequate information based on relevant experience, and within a broader context of continuing centralised management, which limits their scope and potential effectiveness.

Research undertaken by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) across the Caribbean has provided evidence of some positive impacts as well as unanticipated negative ones that may disproportionately affect poor or otherwise marginalized stakeholders. These include:

**Ecological:** In a few cases, resource degradation has been reversed and ecosystem health restored through stabilized use patterns and the control of overuse. In some instances managed harvesting of trees by resource users has resulted in more rapid regeneration.

**Economic:** Livelihoods of persons who depend on forest resources have become more secure as a result of better managed forests, however, the livelihoods of those

excluded from participation (including marginalized groups such as women) from access to forest resources can become less secure, with fewer economic opportunities.

**Social:** Stakeholder groups have benefited from learning and information sharing, increasing their management and capacity skills. However, forest resource users who have been excluded from new processes and structures (and who often include the poor and powerless) may have been alienated from a shared vision of the management of forest resources. Changes in management arrangements have resulted in shifts in local power dynamics, producing new conflicts by favouring some groups at the expense of others.

**Institutional:** The culture, attitudes, and even structures of forest management agencies have become more focussed on fostering links between forests and development. Management agreements between governments and other forest stakeholders are being used more frequently, but it has been difficult to move away from traditional structures and relationships and inter-sectoral linkages remain weak. The involvement of external agencies has had both positive and negative impacts, on the one hand supporting capacity-building, while on the other hand fostering dependency on outside financial and technical support.

**Policy:** The use of participatory forest management experiences for advocacy by NGOs, regional organisations and international assistance agencies appears to have sensitised policy-makers to the usefulness of participatory approaches. Experience with stakeholder participation,

even if not fully successful, can move policy in a direction that favours delegation and decentralisation.

Forest policies in the Caribbean are becoming more supportive of participatory approaches. Governments and their agencies are in principal signing up to the idea of PFM. The move from rhetoric to practice, however, requires the transformation of the centralised management culture of decision making in the region, which on the whole still regards participation with suspicion. This consequently limits the scope and effectiveness of participatory policies. The region also needs to learn from the considerable body of relevant experience that is developing in this field. This should help tailor specific approaches and ensure that they result in improved management for both people and forests. There is still much to be done to improve the understanding of the complexities, uncertainties and requirements inherent in participation, which is by no means a silver bullet.

Institutional change requires a number of measures that could make forest policies more effective, including: greater stakeholder involvement in policy formulation; systems for continuous and participatory policy review; policy support for capacity-building of management partners, especially for nongovernmental stakeholders; and policy guidance in support of benefits and incentives for participating stakeholders. The need to optimise benefits to forest resource users and managers will be an important next step to deepen the region's knowledge on the mechanisms to improve sustainability and equity in forest management. If our

managers are serious about the future of our forests then they must work together with stakeholders to ensure both the sustainability of the forests and the security of people's livelihoods.

*The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is an independent non-governmental organisation with over 20 years experience of delivering sustainable development projects in the insular Caribbean.*

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<sup>1</sup> For further reading on the examples of Jamaica and Grenada see: 1) Geoghegan, T., and Bennett, N., Risk Change: Experimenting with Local Forest Management Committees in Jamaica, Gatekeeper Series No.110, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 2003. 2) Bass, S., Participation in the Caribbean, A review of Grenada's Forest Policy Process, Policy that works for forests and people No.10 Discussion Paper, IIED, 2000.

### **THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FORESTRY STRATEGY (EFCA) AND THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES**

*By Jorge Rodríguez and Ignacio Bustos*

#### **Summary**

Central America, a region which is very rich in biodiversity and is the territory of seven countries, has been establishing several integration mechanisms for various development processes. A quite active process is the one related to the definition and implementation of environmental policies and actions. Within that dynamic of subregional integration, the forestry sector formulated the Central America Forestry Strategy (EFCA) which was approved by the high ministerial level Central American Environment and Development Commission (CCAD) in October 2002. The strategic objective of the EFCA is to support the countries of the region to implement the principles, agreements and proposals for action of the international forestry dialogue.

Within the framework of the EFCA and as part of the increasing subregional harmonization of actions defined at the country level, including several features of the national forest programmes, Central American public and private organizations have been carrying out many activities which demonstrate the importance and feasibility of the integration of efforts for a faster and deeper improvement of the forest resources and of the socioeconomic conditions. International cooperation agencies have been participating very significantly in these

processes.

#### **Background and objective**

The Central American Forestry Strategy (EFCA in its Spanish acronym) is the response to a widely shared interest among the forest sectors of the seven countries in this subregion - Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama - to define common aims and processes for addressing the problems and potential of sustainable forest management in this biodiversity rich territory. An isthmus, Central America is the biological corridor between the north and south American continents.

The EFCA is being fostered by the Central American Environment and Development Commission (CCAD), a high level integration body headed by the Ministries of Environment of the mentioned countries, and by its specialized committee, the Central American Council on Forests and Protected Areas. After the formulation process, technically and financially supported by the UNDP, FAO and IUCN, the EFCA was approved by CCAD during the Meeting of the Ministries held in October 2002.

The main purposes of this strategy are to enhance the forests political agenda in Central America, to increase the forest cover of the region, to restore degraded forests, to strengthen the Central American System of Protected Areas (SICAP), and to promote the forestry sector towards a greater competitiveness and as a strategy for vulnerability reduction and for poverty alleviation.

The strategic objective of the EFCA is to support the countries of the region to implement the principles, agreements and proposals for action of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and their successor the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), as well as to position the forest sector as an important agent to contribute to the economic, social and environmental development of the seven countries.

As part of its mission, the EFCA will be established as a permanent forum for reflection and action, to encourage forest development in the subregion. It is envisaged that by the year 2005 all the Central American countries will have updated their forestry policies and National Forestry Development Plans, which will enable, from medium to long term (10 to 25 years) to set up the economic, social and biophysical foundations for the use, management and conservation of the forests in the region. By 2025 the isthmus should reach around 45% of forest cover.

### **An overview to the current regional forestry development processes**

Several significant advances have been achieved in the implementation of the EFCA and of closely related processes, such as:

- Three inter-sectoral meetings of the Central American Ministerial Councils on Agriculture and on Environment have been held, looking for the integration of efforts to jointly solve the deforestation problem, including the consideration of mechanisms for collection and payment of the environmental services provided by forests.
- The Central America System of Protected Areas. Facing growing demographic pressures, the countries have carried out constant efforts for the conservation of the natural heritage, such as the creation of 554 areas for conservation of the

biodiversity covering 12.9 million hectares, which means 24.8% of the Central American territory. Within the implementation process of the EFCA, the First Mesoamerican Protected Areas Congress was held in Managua, Nicaragua.

- With the financial support of FAO, the potential of suitable lands for forestry projects within the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol was identified in the seven countries. A strategy to identify at least one pilot project for each country, was also elaborated.
- Due to the very big attack of the Pine bark beetle (*Dendroctonus sp.*), with the support of FAO a regional strategy for forest health and management was developed along with country strategies for Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.
- The Central America and Mexico Forest Fire Commission was created with support of FAO and USAID. This commission prepared the Regional Forest Fire Strategy which will be presented to the Ministries of the region in the Latin American Conference on Forest Fire. Linked to this effort, USDA in agreement with CCAD approved one million dollars for preventing and controlling forest fires, pests and diseases in Central America and Mexico. This cooperation began in June 2004 and will be operative for two years.
- With participation of more than 400 women and men: indigenous people, peasants, professionals, forestry sector authorities, among others, the fifth Central America Forestry Congress was held in Panama in May 2003. The next congress has been programmed for 2005 in El Salvador.
- With the support of the National Forest

Programme Facility (Facility), CCAD is developing two programmes of EFCA, one related to innovative financial instruments for sustainable forest management, with emphasis on the collection and payment of the environmental services of forests, and the other to the Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management. For each of them, a document related to each country is being prepared. The results of both activities will be analyzed in October 2004 in a regional workshop, to obtain conclusions and recommendations for forest development in the region.

- The national forest plans of Costa Rica and El Salvador are being revised and updated with financial and technical assistance from FAO. A proposal to the Facility for similar activities is being prepared for Belize.
- With Facility cooperation, important activities regarding the coordination and implementation of diverse features of the nfps of Guatemala and Honduras are being implemented by several stakeholders.
- The Facility is also cooperating with the Central American Indigenous and Peasant Coordinator of Communal Agroforestry (ACICAFOC), to strengthen the assistance to the participation of rural communities in the formulation and implementation of the nfps.
- The National Forestry Action Plan of Nicaragua is being revised with funding from the World Bank.

All these activities show the dynamism that characterizes the development of national forestry programmes in the Central American region, which are being progressively harmonized for the achievement of common goals among the seven countries, through the

implementation of the EFCA.

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**THE ROLE OF THE FORESTRY  
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN IN SUPPORT  
OF THE NATIONAL FOREST  
PROGRAMMES OF THE REGION**

*By Carlos Marx R. Carneiro*

The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) is a statutory and consultative body that supports FAO's work in forestry. In recent years the Commission has become an important mechanism in supporting the countries of the Region in the implementation of the recommendations of the international dialogue on forests, resulting from the follow up to the United Nations Conference on

## Organisations- Institutions- Programmes

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Environment and Development(UNCED), more specifically through the Intergovernmental Panel and Forum on Forests and more recently the United Nations Forum on Forests(UNFF).

As a consequence, FAO and member countries are in the process of strengthening the Regional Forestry Commissions so they can be even better utilized as an effective mechanism for achieving sustainable forest management. The LACFC is basically constituted by Heads of Forestry Administrations and other senior level officials and meets at biennial Sessions held in one of the LACFC's member countries.

Participants analyse the forestry development process in the Region, identify, analyse and seek solutions to emerging technical and policy issues and advise FAO and others on appropriate actions to be taken.

Coordination and implementation of activities between meetings of the LACFC are carried out jointly by the Secretariat of the Commission and its Executive Committee composed of a President and Vice-Presidents who are elected for each subregion they represent.

With the recent establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests-UNFF, the countries of the Region are increasingly using the LACFC as a regional mechanism to facilitate and support their regional presence in the UNFF recommendations.

As the national forest programmes are the mechanism officially adopted by the countries of the Region to plan and execute their processes and policies for sustainable

forestry development, the executive committee of the LACFC decided that their Subregional biennial workplans should be formulated and implemented through the national forest programmes.

For this reason during 2003 four Subregional consultations were organized, for the South Cone countries, the Amazon countries, Central America and Mexico and Caribbean countries, in order to increase horizontal cooperation and synergy not only among the countries themselves but also among the international organizations present in the Region.

Therefore, a Subregional Forestry Strategy was formulated for Central America (EFCA) in the framework of the LACFC under the auspices of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) with financial support from the Facility for the national forest programmes.

At the same time a strong cooperation was established in all Amazon countries in the framework of the Organization for the Amazon Treaty (OTCA), and direct cooperation from FAO, the Netherlands and GTZ to support policy and institutional aspects of the national forest programmes of this subregion.

Similar efforts are being promoted by the LACFC in support to countries of the South Cone of Latin America to establish or strengthen Systems of Forest Information in the framework of their national forest programmes. These efforts may soon be extended for the Amazon countries.

The LACFC also hosts two networks of technical cooperation in watershed

management and National Parks, Flora, Fauna and Wildlife. These networks involve most countries of the Region. During 2003 and 2004 they organized Regional Congresses, Electronic Fora and Technical Electronic Magazines in their areas of competence. And it is important to mention that all the activities were technically and politically promoted by the LACFC in the framework of the national forest programmes.

Similarly as requested by member countries, the LACFC in cooperation with the Global Forest Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and other partners, is promoting during 2004 the establishment of Subregional Networks of Forest Fires Experts in the framework of the national forest programmes. A Pan American Wildland Fire Conference will be held on 23 October 2004 in San José, Costa Rica in the framework of the Latin America and Caribbean and North American Forestry Commissions and co sponsored by the GFMC and the main framework for action at country level will be the forestry programme of each country.

The objective of this article was to show how important the LACFC is as a technical and political framework to support planning and implementation of the national forest programmes and increase synergy among all stakeholders interested in this process.

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## 4. COUNTRY EXPERIENCES OF NFPs

### CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROJECT PROMANEJO (PPG7) TO THE BRAZILIAN NFP

*By Wolfram Maennling*

The project ProManejo is part of the International Pilot Programme for the Conservation of the Brazilian Rain Forest (PPG7), the largest environmental programme in execution in Brazil. The Pilot Programme has the long-term objective to promote the sustainable development of the Amazon and Mata Atlantica regions through emphasis on biodiversity conservation, reduction of the rate of annual deforestation and reducing the emission of carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>).

The specific objective of ProManejo is to support the sustainable management of natural forests in the Amazon. The project is therefore closely related to the objectives of the Brazilian National Forest Programme (Programa Nacional de Florestas - PNF), the principal instrument of Brazilian Forest Policy comprising projects and activities identified by public demand. The PNF is implemented by the Ministry of Environment (MMA)

The ProManejo Project itself is implemented by the MMA and the Brazilian

Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), through technical and financial support by the German and British Governments (GTZ/KfW, DFID).

ProManejo has four principle components: providing support for promising forest management initiatives (pilot projects with industry as well as with communities); developing and testing a pilot system for the monitoring of logging activities in the Amazon; providing support to the Tapajós National Forest Administration to ensure the participation of civil society; influencing the formulation of public policies and consequently the NFP through strategic studies and the results of the pilot projects mentioned above.

After 40 months of implementation, the project is now in the phase of identifying lessons learnt so far, identifying successful experiences from the pilot projects to be replicated, and training to build capacity for forest management.

Now that a number of successful experiences with sustainable forest management exist, the goal is to replicate these experiences throughout the Amazon over the next three to four years in order to change land use patterns to reduce deforestation and negative impacts on biodiversity. It remains to be seen how easily this goal can be achieved.

The impact on the formulation of public policies and the national forest programme has already been considerable:

- Based on the experiences of the Promising Initiatives (PIs) with enterprises and communities, IBAMA, which up to now was primarily engaged

in controlling logging activities, established the institutional basis for a Forest Extension Service - CENAFLORE (portaria 56/2003).

- The experiences of the PIs have served to create credit lines for community-forestry as well as industrial forest management within the Amazonian Development Bank BASA. Before this, there were no existing credit systems for sustainable forest management activities in Brazil.
- The implementation of community projects in the Amazon led to the creation of an Amazonian Working Group for Community Forestry.
- By establishing a network of training and capacity building centers, and partnerships between universities and stakeholders in the logging sector, the project is providing practical experience to inform the reformulation of teaching programmes at technical and academic universities.
- Finally the project influenced the creation of an inter-ministerial Commission for the Coordination of the National Forest Plan, which gives the MMA a much wider influence in regional politics and development strategies.

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### PROCESS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME OF BRAZIL

*By Pamela Delgado*

#### **Summary**

The first national forest programme in Brazil was created in 2000, after a wide consultation process which involved more than 600 institutions related to the forestry sector. The nfp was enlarged to include new actors from Brazilian civil society in 2004, and achieved strong political support at presidential level, which served to strengthen the process.

#### **The Brazilian NFP**

The forest resources of Brazil, as much for their extent and diversity as for their ecological and economic importance, are a fundamental resource for national development. It is for this reason that the utilization of the forests and the models of intervention are of central concern to sectoral policies.

The beginnings of national forestry policies are seen in the definitions contained in the Federal Constitution of 1988, which sets out in Chapter 225 directives for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, especially forest ecosystems.

The administration model is based on the Brazilian Forest Code (created by Law N° 4.771, of 1965), with its essential mechanisms for the execution and administration of forest resources. There are several laws and ordinances that structure Brazilian forestry policies. However, this structure was formalized in

2000, when by means of Ordinance N° 3.420 of April 20, the first national forest programme (nfp) was created.

In 1999 the Biodiversity and Forestry Secretariat (SBF), was created within the Environment Ministry, in recognition of the relevance of the Brazilian forest sector in the organizational structure of the direct administration of the Federal Government. In the SBF, the Directorate of the National Forest Programme was inserted, which created the framework of the nfp.

The objective of the nfp is to “promote sustainable forest development, reconciling the use of natural resources with the protection of ecosystems and to coordinate forestry policies with those of other sectors, by promoting internal and external markets and the institutional development of the sector”. The nfp is closely related to the National Plans for Environment (PNMA/99) and for Biological Diversity (PRONABIO/99), and sets out 3 multi-year programmes for action: 1) to “Forest”, for the expansion of the forest base, 2) to “Sustain”, for the support of forest management, and 3) to “Flourish” for the control of deforestation and forest fires.

Some of the results obtained with the implementation of the nfp are: more financial resources for the forestry sector, technical cooperation from private and international institutions, proposals for the regulation of the forest resource use and incentives to forest development in the States.

In February of this year the Government revamped the ongoing nfp, providing additional political support at presidential level and including 30 new actors of Brazilian civil society, involving several

governmental and non governmental sectors, represented in the National Forest Programme Coordinating Commission (CONAFOR), whose purpose is to propose and to evaluate measures to accomplish the principles and guidelines of public forestry policies, according to the National Environmental Policies and the Forest Code.

The revamped nfp is based on a Strategic Program for Forest Development, for the triennium 2004-2007. This nfp seeks to: promote the Brazilian forest sector, addressing historical problems in an innovative way; strengthen commitment to combining economic growth with environmental conservation; work for the improvement of the quality of people's lives; and look towards the ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and economically feasible development of the country.

The new phase of the Brazilian nfp is going to be implemented through the strategic actions settled down in the Multi-year Plan 2004-2007:

- 1 Expansion of the planted forest base and recovery of degraded areas:
  - Plantation of 800 thousand ha, in small and medium properties.
  - Plantation of 1,2 million ha, by means of sustainable management programmes.
  - Recovery of 200 thousand ha, that has been degraded.
- 2 Expansion of managed forest, associated with protection of areas with high ecological value:
  - To include 15 million ha, from natural forests to sustainable production, to supply 30% of the demand of the national industry.

- To assure that a third of the sustainable forest production has its origin in social forests, with family and community production or extractives.
- To guarantee the protection of two million ha, with high ecological value, next to areas dedicated to forest management.

The nfp emphasizes the strategy of increasing the forest cover of Brazil through the expansion of plantations, incentives for sustainable management, the investment in the formation of specialized manpower, the creation of credit lines, technological development, regulation of public lands concessions, and more intensive monitoring, focused mainly on the Amazon, Atlantic Coast Forest, "Cerrado" (savanna) and Caatinga (dry forest of the Northeast) ecosystems.

The Programme seeks to invest 605 million USD in credits before 2007, with resources of the National Bank of Economic and Social Development (BNDES), Family Agriculture Programme for Forestry (Pronaf), Programme for Community Forestry Development (PropFlora) and the Banks of the Northeast and of the Amazon; and 50,4 million USD for training, technical assistance, investigation and technological development.

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### CAMEROON'S NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME

*By Samuel Makon, Klaus Mersmann and Wibke Thies*

In the 1970s, offshore oil exploitation made Cameroon one of the most prosperous nations in tropical Africa. But this boom lasted only until oil prices collapsed in the mid-80s, which hurled the country into a deep depression. Today, Cameroon is not only one of the poorest countries, its rank on the Human Development Index has also been in steady decline since 1990.

This trend could be reversed: Cameroon's forest sector has been identified as the most important for fighting poverty: wood is the second export revenue earner after crude oil, contributing 5% to the GDP. The forest sector also generates US\$60 million in tax revenue. The formal forest sector alone employs 45,000 people - about 1% of the total employment. However, this contribution remains well below potential because of the uncontrolled plundering of forests, a trend which only recently has started to reverse.

76% of Cameroon's remaining forests are under production or allocated to concessions. A few large companies – mostly from Europe – dominate the logging industry. Illegal logging accounts for 50% of all timber harvesting. However, the main cause of deforestation is agricultural clearing, often subsidised by the government to encourage frontier settlement.

### **A forest law – the backbone of Cameroon's new forest policy**

Being aware of the devastating effects of deforestation to its economy and to people's livelihoods, the Cameroonian government took the first steps to improve the management of the country's forests: In 1992 the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MINEF) was created to establish a coherent institutional framework for the forest sector. To implement the new forest sector policy, various institutional, legal and administrative reforms, especially for more and better involvement of local people, were introduced and strongly supported by various donors. In 1994, a forest law was adopted, establishing for the first time a transparent, equitable and sustainable forest management. The pure existence of the law and of its enforcement regulations has already produced positive effects:

- added value to timber production as a result of the regulation of roundwood exports and promotion of local timber processing industry;
- greater participation of local people in land use planning (e.g. negotiations of concession limits to protect traditional use rights, identification of community forests and communal hunting zones);
- An increase in tax revenues by 40%;
- a share of tax revenues is allocated to local people; and
- a decline of illegal activities.

This progressive forest policy has put Cameroon well ahead of other countries in Africa. Nevertheless, forest degradation continues unabated. Reasons are the lack of enforcement of the existing adequate laws, a notable operational absence of the state forest service in the field, as well as a

lack of transparent and honest cooperation between the state administration and the private sector.

### **A national forest programme to implement the forest law**

In this situation, the government decided in 1999 - supported by six principle donors<sup>1</sup> - to set up a national forest programme named "Programme Sectoriel Forêt Environnement" (PSFE) to help implement its forest policy. It was adopted in 2004. The PSFE is the political framework for the forestry sector, a long-term programmatic approach phased in two to three-year periods. The preparatory work involved all stakeholders, the clarification of their roles and responsibilities, the definition of their rights of intervention, the means of cooperation and of pooling efforts in joint implementation and sharing of benefits.

### **First regional pact for tropical forest conservation**

Furthering sustainable forest management at the national level has only little effect if the forest in question belongs to several countries. The Congo Basin runs through six central African countries and harbours the second largest contiguous rain forest in the world. In March 1999 African heads of state gathered in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital, to discuss cross-border forest protection for the first time. The principle outcome of this summit, the Yaoundé Declaration, constitutes a first step towards the harmonisation of forest policies in the Congo Basin. The "Conference of Ministers of Central African States in charge of Forests" (COMIFAC) serves as the regional framework for implementation.

### **Lessons learnt**

The PSFE might constitute a break-through

for sustainable forest management in Cameroon. Moreover, provided that all stakeholders make efforts to implement the PSFE, the Cameroonian national forest programme can also be regarded as an important contribution to the regional COMIFAC process.

However, implementing the forest policy also means a change of roles and responsibilities of state authorities as well as a loss of power. This is bound to be resisted. The shift from a donor-dominated participatory resource management approach towards more internalisation by MINEF needs time and supporting measures.

### **Conclusions and perspectives**

The adoption of the PSFE was the first step towards a national forest programme. The future will show how seriously the Cameroonian government takes its implementation. The following points should be considered to make the PSFE successful:

- More ownership of the partners is required.
- The regional approach through COMIFAC has to be integrated more effectively into national policies.
- A systematic approach for lessons learnt in implementation has to be developed and integrated into the national forest programme.
- The conceptual links between conservation, poverty reduction and natural resources management have to be shown.
- A monitoring system has to be established to regularly collate information about the implementation, the impacts and the efficiency of the PSFE.

- The linkages to forest-related conventions are still weak and have to be improved.
- More effort has to be put into capacity building, especially on decentralised levels.

With the PSFE, Cameroon for the first time has a tool to further the implementation of forest and environmental policies and thus the sustainable management of its forest resources. Germany will continue to support Cameroon's efforts towards sustainable forest management.

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### IMPROVING THE FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY FOCUS OF THE NFP IN GUATEMALA

*By Tadashi Shimizu and José Luis Vivero Pol*

#### Introduction

National forest programmes (nfps) are country specific processes for policy formulation and implementation towards sustainable forest management, and the case of Guatemala is no exception. A distinctive aspect of the Guatemala case is the experience of decentralization of forest management. (Ferroukhi, 2003). This decentralization to municipal governments has been promoted through several specific mechanisms that enhance forestry activities at local level and as a result, certain positive local trends can be noted. The forestry law in 1996 opened new possibilities for the country's 331 municipalities to participate more actively in forest management, with support from and in collaboration with the National Institute of Forests (INAB 2000).

#### Potential contributions of forests to poverty reduction in Guatemala

In Guatemala, poverty is acute and increasing, affecting more than half of the population (56% or about 6.4 million people), including 15.7 % in extreme poverty in 2000 (The World Bank, 2003). In addition, poverty mainly affects rural homes and indigenous households. These circumstances of poverty and inequality lead to high insecurity, with alarming levels of chronic infantile malnutrition as well as low and unstable rural income. In Guatemala many of the departments with greater levels of chronic

malnutrition and extreme poverty have large amounts of forest cover.

Guatemala benefits from a good geographic position in relation to worldwide wood markets, a diversified climate and landscape and an impressive biodiversity. Though the forestry sector contributes only 2.5 % to GDP (INAB 2000), Guatemala has a high potential for sustainable and competitive forest production. The forested area in Guatemala covers more than 37,000 km<sup>2</sup>, representing 35% of the country, yet a greater area is classified as forest land, as large areas of forests were cleared for agriculture during the twentieth century. There exist more than 100 communal forests with the potential of being brought into productive management, concentrated in Verapaces, Sololá and Totonicapán. According to the recent Report of Human Development in Guatemala, the forestry sector is considered one of four motors of growth of the national economy (SNU 2003).

### **PESA in Guatemala**

As a means to address these issues, *el Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria* (PESA<sup>1</sup>; in English called Special Programme for Food Security or SPFS<sup>2</sup>) started operating in Guatemala in 1999 in two pilot areas: Sololá in the west and Jocotán in the east of the country (tropical dry areas). The pilot phase finished in December 2003 and the second phase PESA II started in January 2004 for 5 years. PESA II will cover 10 departments<sup>3</sup> and 42 municipalities. Within PESA II the creation of a fund is contemplated that finances local organizations to develop technologies, appropriate processes and good practices that have been tested in the field (either by the PESA in its pilot phase, or by other organizations and NGOs). Moreover, PESA

also contributes to strengthen the institutional framework of the National Food Security System, by providing technical backstopping in policy making and strategies. Within this role, PESA is committed to strategically position Forests as a cornerstone in the fight against hunger and extreme poverty in Guatemala, by raising the political as well as economical profile of forestry products into the food security interventions.

Since in almost all the departments of intervention the forest cover is considerable and many of the selected vulnerable communities are forest dwellers in forested areas, forest character and agroforestry are integral to these good practices. It should be added that in the zone called the Drought corridor (*Corredor de la Sequía*) agroforestry practices are essential to maintain the ground humidity (to sustain intercropped staple grains), to reduce superficial erosion, to provide shade and food for cattle and firewood for the home. One of the good practices in agroforestry is known as *Kuxur Rum*<sup>4</sup> (means humidity maintenance in the Mayan) in Chiquimula and surroundings (the eastern part of Guatemala).

### **Perspectives**

Forest resources contribute directly to the food security of the vulnerable families who live in and around the forests. Furthermore, the development of agroforestry in the last quarter of the century has provided trees in cultivated areas with enormous potential to generate income, food and to improve soil conditions. The trees and the forest produce (a) subsistence goods for the rural families (firewood, wood for construction, forage, honey, fruits, etc), (b) goods to commercialize and to generate income

(wood noble, crafts, coffee, attract ecological tourism, etc), and (c) indirect benefits related to spiritual and landscape aspects, protection of biodiversity (that generates income by tourism), and watershed management.

Nevertheless, in spite of such productive natural potential, Guatemala still does not have a global strategy that positions the forest sector in the fight against the poverty and food insecurity, and for that reason the forest sector has not been taken seriously by the central government and the municipal governments in its importance in contributing to the food security of the population.

Despite the progress, forest management in Guatemala still faces important challenges. Given the high profile political statements about the importance of forests, the forestry sector should be highly rated in national planning and budget allocation. The same can be said about the strong political will to fight against hunger that has been repeatedly voiced. The main challenge, then, remains to strengthen the evidence for the role that sustainable management of forest products plays in the subsistence of the food insecure population of Guatemala, and to promote forest development actions in the fight against hunger and poverty. As many developing countries are adopting their poverty reduction strategy plans (PRSPs), the contribution of nfps to PRSPs can be improved, and the logical integration of forestry with other higher profile sectors such as agriculture, trade and health must be fully exploited in Guatemala.

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*Disclaimer: The content of this paper expresses the authors' views and does not necessarily reflect FAO's position.*

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<sup>1</sup> See: <http://www.pesacentroamerica.org>

<sup>2</sup> See: <http://www.fao.org/spfs>

<sup>3</sup> 6 departments in eastern (Chiquimula, Zacapa, Jalapa, El Progreso, Jutiapa, Baja Verapaz), and 4 in western Guatemala (Huehuetenango, Quezaltenango, San Marcos and Sololá)

<sup>4</sup> Kuxur Rum is a traditional agroforestry system, intercropping the stocks of Madre cacao

(*Gliricidia sepium*) in maize fields which were previously cultivated on slash & burn practice. Some questions in general remain as follows;

- After the pruning of Madre cacao, how fast and how much of new shooting are expected?
- Biomass (organic material) of Madre cacao per year
- The expected amount of Nitrogen fixation by this tree in the soil

### THE NFP PROCESS IN INDONESIA

*By Agus Justianto*

Indonesia is currently in the process of developing its national forest programme (nfp). It is a follow up to the IPF/IFF process which recommended that nfps be implemented by member countries. In 2001, a working group on nfp was established and was able to identify a list of strategic issues pertaining to Indonesian forestry development. Several workshops to identify strategic issues in forestry have also been carried out covering 10 provinces of Indonesia. The wide range of interests of different stakeholders and knowledge gaps encountered among stakeholders were carefully considered in a participatory manner. During the workshops, several issues of common understanding emerged, ranging from technical to conceptual and from local to national. Stakeholders were able to share a common perception of some fundamental issues such as sustainable yield and ecosystem based forest management, the need to harmonize forestry legislation and the need

to reduce logging and rehabilitate degraded forests and lands. Improved benefit sharing among stakeholders including an upstream-downstream compensation mechanism was also discussed as was the potential for local communities to improve their welfare. Presently, the working group is working on drafting a National Forest Statement, a key component of the nfp.

To Indonesia, a country more familiar with centralist and top-down decision making, the nfp process and multi-stakeholder discussion are quite new developments. Thus, the first constraint encountered in the nfp process was the mindset of a portion of the stakeholders that were resistant to change. Another constraint has been the lack of understanding of nfp as a process that may be utilized as a policy framework accommodating different stakeholders toward optimal and sustainable management of forest resources. In addition, with the trend towards autonomy and decentralization part of the stakeholders misunderstood nfp (probably the term "national") to be a vehicle for central government to re-establish its grip on the forest resource management responsibility. Nonetheless, the nfp has led to a number of initiatives designed to encourage multi-stakeholder participation in dealing with various forestry issues in Indonesia. In particular, multi-stakeholder processes which focus on specific local issues of limited scope have been carried out in a number of regions. However, despite the success achieved in most cases, the results cannot be applied to nationwide issues.

In line with decentralization policy in forestry development, it is believed that the nfp could



become a useful instrument in effectively building common understanding and in developing coordination among stakeholders, resulting in agreement that has broad based commitment. Noting the importance of consultation and discussion in the provinces and districts, transparency and an open mind are particularly needed to implement decentralization successfully.

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### THE MALAWI NATIONAL FORESTRY PROGRAMME (NFP)

*By Bright Sibale and John Ngalande*

#### **Background and progress**

Forest degradation in Malawi is increasingly severe, a consequence of high population density, food insecurity at the household level and the national demand for wood fuel energy. If forestry is to play its part in national development it has to support the livelihood strategies pursued by the millions of smallholder families that make up the

country. Some key ingredients for a new approach for forestry came together in the 1990s. A new democratic dispensation had ushered into Malawi, resulting in significant policy and sector reviews in natural resources, including forestry.

Following a protracted consultative process, government approved the National Forestry Policy, 1996, and the Forestry Act, 1997, which provided a solid background for a new kind of forestry, one that linked livelihoods and sustainable forestry. The Department of Forestry started to work closer with other stakeholders, many of whom had previously played a limited role. After agreeing on this "new forestry", a way forward among the many pressing issues was less clear. In 1998, a number of pieces fell into place: a change in Directorship; renewed interest by two core supporters, DFID and PROFOR-UNDP; and appointment of an NFP Coordinator.

Subsequently, a number of mechanisms were put in place for an intensive consultative process to develop a strategic framework of priorities identified and agreed on by stakeholders for the development of Malawi's forestry sector. The first cycle of the NFP was completed in January 2001 when the state president launched the NFP framework document.

#### **Mechanisms to promote participation**

The *NFP Coordination Unit* was mandated to shape and drive the entire process. The unit acted as a negotiator between various stakeholder interests in the forest sector. It engaged key stakeholders in a long but short enough process that did not exhaust everybody's energy in planning.

Five *NFP Working Groups* composed of

technical experts were formed whose main task was to analyze and debate key thematic areas and identify priorities for the sector.

An **NFP Forum** comprising key stakeholders in the sector to give strategic policy direction and prioritize the actions for the NFP.

### **Lessons learnt: Strength and achievements of the Malawi NFP**

The Malawi NFP has engaged many of the basic principles of an nfp as defined by the IPF/IFF proposals for action, those include: communication, locally driven processes, capacity of the country and partnerships. The Malawi process followed some locally generated principles including: use of locally 'good enough' information, tactical yet participatory action, negotiation and consensus building, prioritisation, ending with an energetic process geared to achieve a practical outcome.

The Malawi NFP is different from other nfp processes, in that it is not defined wholly by a 'big' document with a wish-list of project proposals waiting for donors to shop from, but represents a framework of sector priorities, accessible and easy to read. This allows international and national partners the flexibility to develop proposals on priorities that are already agreed by the sector.

### **Policy changes as a result of the nfp process**

While it is too early to claim that the Malawi NFP has managed to address all extra-sectoral influences in full, these issues have begun to be tackled quite early in the implementation process. The Malawi NFP has engaged in broad picture policies including decentralization and privatisation

of industrial plantations, and has been key in unveiling the potential for forestry to contribute to poverty as seen in the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme.

The nfp also highlighted issues poorly addressed in the Forest Policy of 1996 namely: the role of traditional leaders, flexibility in formulation of village-level institutions, approval of community bylaws, and the sharing of benefits from community forestry.

### **Three major issues and challenges**

There are three major challenges that the Malawi NFP still has to face head on:

#### ***Institutional reform***

The nfp sets out the roles and responsibilities of the different sector stakeholders. The negotiation process involved some players losing rights and gaining responsibilities, and vice versa. This required consensus and agreement and the challenge now is to internalise them and embed these in the wider institutional change and public sector reform processes currently underway.

#### ***Communication***

The nfp formulation process generates a huge amount of information, much of which evolves to reflect the thinking, the debate and the agreements as they are made. Getting clear and consistent messages to all stakeholders has not been easy. Communication of the vision, strategies and prioritised actions is essential for implementing and monitoring the nfp. Mainstreaming the nfp at a high level of political decision making requires effort at all levels of Government, particularly at the ministerial level. A review of the current Malawi PRSP may be a good window on

which the nfp can strengthen political will and commitment.

### ***Financing the nfp***

Paying for good forest management is a challenge for the sector. New and innovative mechanisms to finance forestry to generate the expected benefits and revenue flows to improve livelihoods through sustainable forestry are needed. Investments both internal and external need to demonstrate this link.

Although the donor community supported the nfp as a sector wide approach, there is need for better coordination to ensure a more coherent support to the sector. Until budgetary support and sector investment programmes are more widely applied in Malawi, implementation of the nfp will be 'piecemeal' and the intended impact may not be realised in full.

### **Conclusion**

The Malawi NFP has achieved much with a small number of supporters - two dedicated donors (DFID and PROFOR-UNDP), champions in the Department of Forestry and some key environmental NGOs, over a relatively short period of time. The challenge is now to communicate the vision, strategies and prioritised actions of the sector and build on the consensus, collaboration and coordination that was developed during the process.

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### **IMPLEMENTATION OF MALAWI'S NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME – A PROJECT PERSPECTIVE**

*By Ullrich Klins*

In parallel to the process of developing a national forestry programme, Malawi became one of four Southern African countries in which the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is conducting pilot projects on sustainable forest management of indigenous forests.<sup>1</sup> The co-ordination of the Malawi project is based in Lilongwe, and is collaborating closely with the responsible SADC Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) in Botswana. The co-ordination is done by the German foreign aid institutions (German Technical Cooperation, GTZ and the German Development Service, DED) in cooperation with the Forestry Department of Malawi. In

the respective project areas, public authorities and civil society co-operate as partners in a joint approach.

The project aims to identify solutions to mitigate the dramatic decrease and degradation of dry woodland areas in Southern Africa. It is strongly linked to Malawi's NFP, as it is aligned with several of the NFP's twelve strategies and recommended priority actions. Thus the project can be regarded as a model of implementation for several of these aspects, in particular:

- strong improvement of stakeholder's dialogue,
- development of standards for sustainable forest management as a benchmark for practice at all levels,
- strategy to support community-based forest management,
- strategy to improve individual smallholder livelihoods.

Some results and approaches from Malawi's NFP are presented below.

### **Results in the Kam 'mwamba project region in Southern Malawi**

Due to population increase and encroachment of forests for fuelwood and charcoal production this area has been highly degraded. To reduce the pressure on forests, joint project activities have been initiated among: the Forestry Department and its regional forest office responsible for providing technical advice; GTZ and DED; 13 communities and their Village Committees; the Local Steering Committee; and the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) as the implementing NGO in the area with participatory methods.

The project has two overarching goals. First, it aims at improving food security and local livelihoods by generating alternative sources of income to wood exploitation, one of the few means to earn money, especially during economic and environmental crisis. Second, it aims at establishing and enforcing communal forest by-laws as well as land use- and forest management plans to promote sustainable forest management. Both of these aims support the implementation of the nfp strategies.

The project's income generating activities are focusing on smallholder farmers in local communities and are primarily based on non-timber forest products, especially guinea fowl rearing, production and marketing of fruit juices (baobab und tamarind), as well as beekeeping and honey production.

These alternatives have been very well accepted and implemented in the villages involved. The majority of the activities are carried out by women. The demand for guinea fowl meat in the region is significant and constant and the market for juice and honey extended. All three activities are evaluated as a success.

Many individual farmers are rearing their own guinea fowl and local interest groups (guinea fowl, juice, honey) have been founded, which both indicate that the implementation takes place at *individual level* and not at the *community level*.

Whilst management plans for communal forestry faced some problems with respect to the proper implementation (see below), methods for *individual* land use management plans have been developed and implemented together with the respective

smallholders. This caused great response from individual farmers including planting, care and management of privately-owned trees. In parallel tenure rights of smallholders were clarified in a participatory process with the help of GPS and GIS mapping. Within these activities forest management maps and plans for individual forest areas have been prepared and resource inventories undertaken.

Furthermore, tree nurseries have been promoted and deforested areas have been reforested. Involved schools and churches established wood lots. These reforested areas are helping to secure the supply for household wood consumption.

Despite some limits of income generation activities, the project has contributed to improve rural livelihoods and forest cover.

### **Project coordination in Malawi**

The project coordination in Malawi covers the development of forest management plans and step-by-step guidelines for their implementation at the community or individual level within a participatory approach - adapted to each community's conditions and preferences. The results of the Malawian project contribution will be transferred to the SADC level through toolkits and a database.

One of the project observations in Malawi led to the conclusion that community-based forestry does not always reach each family, or motivate the majority of the community members, nor does it automatically correspond to a just distribution of rights, land and property. Individuals do not feel responsible for community-owned forests and neglect the care and management as a result of missing personal incentives and

the lack of time in the struggle for their own survival. The special situation in Southern Malawi where only few forests are left and ownership is related to the small-scale areas makes community-based forestry even more difficult.

Communal management plans for the Malawian project area are still not developed as this process needs time, financial input and a common will so implement which has been weakened by droughts and hunger in the past years. However this attempt will be carried on in parallel. One possible solution is that an individual be required to give a share of the seedlings received from common nurseries to the community, fostering a social responsibility towards a community-based sustainable forest management.

Incentives for individuals or families are a key issue for a successful community-based forestry. However, it has to be clearly defined for each project what exactly is meant by "community forestry" in terms of the target group and which kind of success is targeted at: the individual or user group's reforestation of the landscape; or in the longer term a community-based forest management with all its necessary process.

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### THE MALAWI NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME – THE CONTRIBUTION OF A FIELD PROJECT

*By A. Anton and W.W.M. Simwela*

The Wildlife and Environmental Society in Malawi/ Mwalukomo, H. (2003): Sustainable Management of indigenous forests, third phase, 2<sup>nd</sup> progress and financial report, March 2003 to August 2003, Limbe, Malawi

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The Wildlife and Environmental Society in Malawi/ Chadza, W. (2002): Sustainable Management of indigenous forests, second phase, 7<sup>th</sup> progress and financial report, August 2002 to October 2002, Limbe, Malawi

#### **Context**

The 1990s, a period of political change and democratisation in Malawi, saw a radical change in policy and direction for forestry. A Forestry Sector Policy Review carried out by the Government of Malawi, the World Bank and FAO started a process which resulted in a revised National Forest Policy, 1996 and Forest Act, 1997. These recognised the importance of people as well as the welfare contribution of forests in Malawi, and therefore advocated a change away from the previous 'policing' style of forestry towards approaches that encourage greater community involvement and recognises other actors, including civil society and the private sector. Although widely recognised as progressive and enabling with an ambitious timeframe for action, wider roles and responsibilities for these various actors were less clear.

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#### **Malawi National Forestry Programme**

From 1999 to 2001 the Malawi NFP was formulated as a mechanism to guide the implementation of the Policy, 'to translate good intentions into real results'. Developed through a process of stakeholder

<sup>1</sup> The other three pilot countries within this over-regional project are Namibia, Mozambique and Botswana.

collaboration and communication, consultative workshops and thematic working groups, the nfp provides a framework for implementing the 1996 policy through 12 strategies each with a set of prioritised actions, with the overall goal of sustainable management of forest goods and services for improved and equitable livelihoods. Adopted in 2001 as a sector-wide approach, the nfp provides the linkage with other policy instruments both national and international, highlights the key roles and responsibilities of the main players in the forest sector and provides a forum for continued dialogue among stakeholders and other interested parties including the donor community.

### **Contribution of project field experiences to NFP development and implementation**

The SFTEP provided practical examples of the opportunities and challenges faced with implementing the new forest policy and legal framework. The project developed the Department of Forestry (DoF) capacity to interpret and implement the national forest policy, in five Districts in Malawi. The Project firstly provided extensive training of DoF staff to re-orient them to the new paradigm to enable them to support communities with forestry activities. This was achieved through working with groups, individuals and community-level institutions, building capacity, improving relationships, changing attitudes and behaviour. Initially the project supported homestead planting, individual and community woodlots, however as the project progressed, the focus moved to management of common-pool resources. This highlighted the need for greater understanding and involvement by all stakeholders, to clarify tenure, negotiate roles, responsibilities and benefit sharing arrangements in an equitable and transparent manner. It raised

many issues of participation, power, authority, contradictory policies, public service delivery as well as social and institutional relations.

Through its implementation, the project assisted in 'ground-truthing' the nfp. Issues that were highlighted at the field level were reflected in the development of the nfp. Many constraints faced by field staff, needed to be resolved and addressed at the policy level through careful negotiation, coordination and collaboration. The nfp formulation process provided a forum to openly discuss many of these issues, building trust between stakeholders.

The SFTEP experience indicated that although the new Policy is enabling, investment in training, particularly of field extension agents, is essential if policies are to be translated into practice in a meaningful way and result in improved livelihoods and sustainable management of forest resources.

### **Benefits to field projects from the nfp**

Many of the challenges raised in the last section were explored during the nfp formulation. Poor relationships were improved, synergies with other stakeholders as well as other sectors were highlighted and built on. Through improving relations with the NGO sector in particular, bottlenecks to collaboration at the field level could be tackled. The higher level 'approval' and sanction, assisted particularly where resources and capacity would be shared and activities coordinated.

The strategies and priority actions detailed in the nfp document provided an entry point and legitimacy for the project to promote change to current practice and support institutional reform. It could justify that change

was not project driven, but part of a wider reform process. This reflects much of the need and reasoning for developing an nfp.

### **Challenges for the nfp**

The nfp set out to clarify the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the forest sector. However, these represent broad policy roles and direction, and require to be further defined and negotiated at the local level, to be translated into meaningful and responsive responsibilities, partnerships and accountable actions which assist the poor. This is particularly important for the Department of Forestry whose structure, function and management systems have yet to evolve to respond to these new roles and nfp strategies.

Although the Malawi NFP was developed through a consultative process involving key stakeholders in the sector, there are issues of ownership and understanding by those charged with implementing the policy and therefore the nfp. More work is required to ensure that the nfp vision, strategies and priorities are embedded in planning, reporting and monitoring systems, to make explicit the link between activities, action, agreed priorities, and ultimately impact.

Even though the nfp and other pro-poor and sustainable development policies are in place, it is widely recognised that progress on the ground has been slow. This is due to a variety of factors which includes: lack of awareness of poverty alleviation policies and approaches to implement them; poor understanding and ability to communicate the role of forestry in poverty reduction; local realities of resource availability and constraints of low capacity, skills, attitudes, understanding and motivation; local political and bureaucratic inertia, agendas and

influence.

It is often said that implementation of the nfp is constrained by lack of resources. However, financial resources that are available (both external funding and the share of the national budget allocated to forestry) are not articulated in terms of the nfp or linked to its priorities. If this were the case, it would highlight the shortfall of support to the various strategies and priorities, make a fully-costed nfp appear less of a wish-list, assist assessing impact of the nfp, and provide a closer link between policies and implementation.

### **Malawi NFP and the future support of the EU**

The Malawi NFP represents high level support and commitment to a sector wide strategy and vision, by Government, civil society and external partners. It provides a point of reference to assist the design and implementation of externally financed projects, to ensure that these are not operating in isolation with external agendas. Based on positive external evaluations of the SFTEP, the European Union has included support for the forest sector in its 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund framework assistance to Malawi. Although grounded on project level achievements, it also reflects the trust of the donor that its support is part of a coordinated approach and set in the context of wider strategies and programmes for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

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### **FULFILLING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION IN THE SWISS NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME**

*By Claudia Zingerli and Willi Zimmermann*

#### **Introduction: nfp research in Switzerland**

Between 2000 and 2003, researchers at the Chair of Forest Policy and Forest Economics of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology carried out a research project on “Substantial and formal requirements for national forest programmes”. The research formed part of a collaborative research programme among twenty European countries undertook to improve understanding of objectives, structures, procedures, outputs, and outcomes of national forest programmes (nfps) in Europe.

The objectives of the Swiss project on requirements for nfps were threefold. First, the project shed light on the international policy context in which nfps evolved and came up with an overview of all relevant internationally formulated proposals for action. Second, it checked and analysed these proposals for action against the background of theoretical debates on governance and environmental policy in industrialised countries. Finally, the project assessed the nfp process in Switzerland between 2002 and 2004 in light of the international requirements.

#### **Proposals for action for nfps**

Since 1997, when the Intergovernmental Panel of Forests (IPF) published its report on nfps other international committees and boards, such as the IFF, UNFF or the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), have been elaborating on proposals for action for the successful implementation of nfps. The number of identified key elements for nfps varies considerably. The discussions within UNFF resulted in as many as nineteen proposals for action whereas MCPFE lists eleven requirements. These catalogues of proposals for action represent maximal rather than minimal requirements. Thus when looking at nfp processes in countries such as Austria, Finland or Germany, we find that each of them operates with a selection of proposals for action only. A strong focus usually lies on procedures such as participation, intersectoral coordination or an iterative process. For the case of Switzerland, we investigated a broader range. Taking a political science approach, we focused the three classical elements of Swiss forest policy: process, content, and structure. Our set of proposals for action for the Swiss NFP thus consists of nine elements. These are participation, iterative process, intersectoral coordination, conflict resolution, capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation, multi-level governance, decentralisation, and political legitimisation.

#### **International obligations and the Swiss NFP**

The Swiss NFP was launched in 2001 by the Department of Environment, Traffic, Energy and Communication (DETEC) and was managed by the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) and the Swiss Forest Agency (SFA).

Between 2002 and 2004 more than 130 representatives of federal and cantonal offices, forestry associations, environmental and sports organisations, research, and private enterprises participated in a multi-stakeholder dialogue to formulate visions, goals and strategies for the future Swiss forest policy. The emphasis on direct participation was a novelty in Swiss forest policy and contributed to learning processes both in the public administration as well as in the private sector (capacity-building).

Based on the multi-stakeholder dialogue, a comprehensive report was written, outlining priority areas, strategies and measures. Intersectoral coordination, new cooperation mechanisms and redistributed responsibilities appear to be important for the implementation of the nfp. Moreover, there is a tendency to decentralise certain obligations to the sub-national levels because the federal government wants to concentrate on the management of protection forests and forest biodiversity.

The process is now entering a phase of detailed debate regarding the revision of the forest legislation. Various discussions are ongoing on the inclusion of standards for close-to-nature silviculture in the law, as well as on creating a fostering entrepreneurial and market environment for Swiss wood and forest products. There are strong forces that opt for abandoning the more than one hundred year old forest protection policy in favour of a more market-based liberal forest legislation. These claims of social, economic and ecological sustainability require new attention and represent a new challenge in the current policy dialogue among forest stakeholders and politicians.

First conclusions show that the federal government responded to international obligations and national social, environmental and economic changes in Swiss forestry by launching the nfp (multi-level governance). It established a multi-stakeholder dialogue with major forest stakeholders, making an effort toward intersectoral coordination and institutional change for decentralisation. The broad possibilities for participation politically legitimised the process, because all important forest stakeholders participated. Because it started with the objective of a legal revision, the policy process was however rather linear than iterative and has deficiencies regarding monitoring and evaluation. In terms of politics, old conflicts between economic and ecological interests of the forest stakeholders could not be adequately addressed, in part due to a lack of conflict resolution mechanisms.

In sum, the Swiss NFP responds quite well to six and only partly to three of the nine selected proposals for action in the problem definition and policy formulation stages. During this first part of the policy cycle Switzerland embarked on essential and in-depth discussions on the future of Swiss forests. It will be very interesting to follow up how the government and Swiss constituency are going to decide about the contents and implementation of the future forest policy based on the strategic priorities set during the nfp process.

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### **VIETNAM'S NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME AND PARTNERSHIP**

*By Pham Minh Thoa, Bernd-Markus Liss and Wibke Thies*

After 30 years of war, the shift from central planning to market economics in 1986 brought on a boom in Vietnam. With annual growth rates of 6% Vietnam's economy is growing fast and moving towards global markets.

Today, the forest sector contributes only about 1.4% to gross domestic product. However, its economic importance is growing. Forests are key to the livelihoods of rural poor, including 12 million people of ethnic minorities.

Up to the 1940s Vietnam was forest-rich with a cover of 43%. Decades of warfare, over-exploitation for fuelwood and timber and conversion of forest into agricultural land reduced the cover to about 30%, causing serious wood supply problems for local people. Unsustainable exploitation in hilly areas together with slash and burn agriculture have destroyed the protective cover of forest for watersheds, causing soil erosion and frequent flooding. People's lives and property are threatened and the lack of water endangers rice production.

### **Forest development and poverty alleviation go hand in hand**

In order to reverse the trend, the government of Vietnam started a national programme in the early 1990s to rehabilitate forests and to regreen bare hills, commonly known as Programme 327. Instruments to engage farmers in sustainable forest management were forestland allocation and support to reforestation. More than 70% of the formerly state-owned forest land (8 million ha) has been allocated to state enterprises, management units and private households. Large areas were planted with trees, but the result was often poor: Forest users participated only little in the development of management plans and their rights and benefits were not clearly defined - circumstances that did not motivate the people to protect and develop forest. Also, the programme lacked focus and quality standards (e.g. participation, site selection, technical aspects of reforestation) were insufficient.

In 1997 the government launched the National Five Million Hectare Reforestation Programme (5MHRP) with the ambitious goal to re-establish the earlier forest cover of 43%. The programme aims to protect environment and biodiversity through sustainable forest management, reduce poverty of people in forest dependent areas and enhance the contribution of forestry to the national economy.

The 5MHRP is the most prominent instrument for implementation of the Forestry Development Strategy 2001-2010. The 5MHRP is consistent with the government's overall Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2001-2010 and part of a wider effort towards poverty alleviation as defined in Vietnam's Comprehensive

Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy.

### **A partnership for the nfp...**

In 1998 the donor community and the Vietnamese government agreed to establish a partnership in support of the 5MHRP. The partnership aims to include all the major institutional stakeholders in Vietnam's forest sector.

After a joint sector review in 2000, the government and international partners elaborated the Forest Sector Support Programme (FSSP) for the 5MHRP. In November 2001, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed to increase the effectiveness of national and international resources used for forest development. The future work had to be focused on strengthening the policy, institutional and legal framework of the sector.

Instruments for the implementation of the FSSP are, among others, a common work plan, a forest sector manual outlining quality standards and a joint monitoring and evaluation system. Since 2004 the FSSP, the 5MHRP and the Forestry Development Strategy 2001-2010 are under review with the objective to merge these instruments into a consistent nfp-like National Forest Strategy.

### **... and a multi-donor trust fund for forests**

Since 2003 donor agencies and the government have been working on establishing a multi-donor fund for forests to 'pool' future donor commitments to the sector. The trust fund aims to ensure that international money designated for development assistance (ODA) is delivered effectively. ODA will be used to address commonly agreed priorities in the forest sector and to ensure that progress made

benefits the poor. The Memorandum of Agreement for the trust fund was signed in June 2004.

### **Lessons learnt**

Vietnam is determined to counteract the environmental consequences of decades of forest degradation. It is aware that this requires strong institutions and legal instruments. However, changing institutional and legal frameworks is a time-consuming process – in any society.

Without sustainable forest management know-how, the best policy instruments are useless. The German co-operation experience shows that integrating all levels from field to policy mobilises synergies: In Vietnam, Germany supports all these levels: institutional and policy reform, decentralisation and development of norms and standards; participatory forest management, rehabilitation of degraded areas and conservation of national parks and buffer zone management.

Through the FSSP mechanism, approved methods and good practice are increasingly disseminated to other donor-supported projects. They are used to implement the national forest programme by setting quality standards and supporting further policy development.

### **Conclusions and perspectives**

Recent inventories show Vietnam's forest area growing. But natural forest is still being degraded and the quality of existing as well as planted forests is largely poor. A lot needs to be done to make Vietnamese forestry globally competitive. The challenge will be to maintain and develop all forest functions and to conserve natural forests and their biodiversity while meeting the needs of an

increasing population and a growing economy.

Within the partnership, the special challenge will be to integrate the FSSP with the National Forestry Development Strategy, the 5MHRP and related government funding mechanisms.

Participatory forest management is the instrument to increase forest area and raise the well-being of the rural poor. Many projects supported by Germany use this instrument successfully on the local level. The national forest programme will have to focus on providing the necessary policy framework for effective participation and benefit sharing and on building the capacities for sound decision-making, programme management and implementation at all levels. Germany will continue to support the Vietnamese national forest programme to ensure that these principles are strengthened.

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## 5. ONGOING PROJECTS AND INFORMATION NOTES

### FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP UPDATE – JUNE 2004

*By International Institute for Environment  
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#### Introduction

The Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) is an alliance of independent agencies which aims to exchange learning and develop ideas on forest governance – and to help make them work. Constituted by several internationally-active agencies and a range of connected sub-groups in western and southern Africa, the FGLG's participation and ambition have been growing steadily over the last year. FGLG is facilitated by IIED, at least in its initial stages, and DFID is providing support for the first year of operation of the group. Complementary work on practical governance tools is also progressing under IIED's "Power Tools" initiative with Dutch and German government support. The FGLG aims to contribute to the Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) process.

FGLG sub-groups are up and running in Mali, Niger, Ghana, Uganda, Mozambique and Malawi. A group in South Africa has been slower to find its feet but is now doing so. In each sub-group there are broadly three interconnected parts to the work:

- A small ad-hoc group of 'governance-connected' individuals dedicated to exchanging and developing experience

and ideas

- Policy research on situations where livelihoods and forests are in trouble because people are marginalized from governance. In the first year, at least, this work is focused on problems of forestry illegality and regulation
- Development of practical guidance and tools for making progress in implementing better forest governance

### Participants and process

Convenors for each of the country sub-groups have been identified – with institutional homes in a range of government agencies, NGOs and academic bodies. Participants are identified on the basis of their willingness, experience, good connections and ideas, and the prospects they offer for developing strategic links between the forest sector and other sectors/ influence-groups. A typical mix includes:

- A senior department or ministry level forest sector decision-maker
- An experienced forestry opinion-former – who has much experience in the sector and has the “ear” of at least some decision-makers
- A macro-planner/economist in the ministry of finance or similar agency whose decisions on Poverty Reduction Strategies, and the like, may greatly affect the forestry sector
- An interested parliamentarian or other player who can engage with the national political process
- Opinion-formers and decision-makers from a small number of other key agencies, such as lands and agriculture departments, and/or effective private sector and civil organisations.

The emphasis is on engaging with a small ad-hoc, interested and motivated group -

rather than a larger forum at pains to show representation of all stakeholders and every facet of the issue. In some countries such groups almost exist already – and the intention here is to support and build, not replicate.

Internationally, active organisations in the group alongside IIED are LTS International and Indufor Oy. Practical collaboration is also steadily growing with CIFOR and ODI, and several other organisations have expressed interest in engaging with the group as it develops.

The country sub-groups have been exchanging thinking and have begun sharing draft material. Face-to-face exchanges in West and Southern Africa are planned: a West Africa learning event is set for 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2004 at Akosombo in Ghana and a Southern Africa event will be held in South Africa at a date still to be finalised in September or October. Lessons are also being shared as they emerge with wider audiences and processes such as UNFF and AFLEG.

### Policy research on illegal forestry and poor people

In-country partners are currently pursuing the following research work:

- *Impacts and legality of forest utilisation permits in Ghana.* Kyeretwie Opoku and Elijah Danso, Civic Response
- *Impacts of local forest institutions on livelihoods and forests in Ghana.* Emilia Arthur and Clare Brogan, Forest Sector Development Project
- *Illegality, law enforcement, and the administration of justice in the forestry sector in Uganda.* Cornelius Kazoora and John Carvalho, Sustainable Development Centre

- *Governance opportunities and constraints in making fuelwood markets work for local livelihoods in Mali.* Mamadi Cisse and Mary Allen, SOS Sahel International Mali
- *Potential for over-coming the governance challenges and expanding fuelwood markets in Niger.* Amadou Bachir and Gill Vogt, SOS Sahel International Niger
- *Law enforcement, illegality and the forest dependent poor in Malawi.* Bright Sibale and Gracian Banda, Centre for Development Management
- *Decentralisation processes and marginalisation of the forest product-dependent rural poor in Malawi.* Robert Kafakoma, Technical Support Programme
- *Impacts of recent legislation and the extent of compliance on the forest-dependent poor in Mozambique.* Simon Norfolk, Rouja Johnstone and Boaventura Cau, Terra Firma
- *Governance constraints to increasing forestry's contribution to poverty reduction in South Africa* (researchers yet to be finalised)
- *How to develop forestry as a lever for better governance* (from experience initially in Tanzania)
- *Guidance for forest sector professionals on engaging and influencing poverty strategies and other wider processes at national level* (Uganda and Malawi)
- *How to assess, and improve the influence of law on, the benefits to local livelihoods from commercial forestry* (Ghana)
- *Tactics for improving governance and poverty impacts of fuelwood markets* (Mali and Niger)
- *Forest justice – combating illegality for forest-linked livelihoods* (Uganda)
- *The Good, Average and Bad framework - for scrutinising and improving the practical outcomes of forest legislation for marginalized forest-dependent communities* (Mozambique)
- *Tools and tactics to improve the participation of the poor in effective forest regulation and decentralisation* (Malawi)
- *Governance tactics for increasing forestry's contribution to poverty reduction* (South Africa)

Drafts of some of the above studies have been delivered to the FGLG sub-groups. They will be developed, finalised and made available over the next few months (see websites and contacts below).

### **Guidance and tools development**

Building on the above-mentioned studies and some other work, guidance material and tools for practical ways of pursuing improved governance are being developed. Prepared initially by researchers from experience in a particular context, these are then developed firstly by the country sub-group and then by FGLG participants as a whole. Tools and guidance material in the pipeline currently include:

The objectives (and working titles) of some of these tools overlap and it is likely that those with generic elements will be merged, whilst capturing context specificities.

### **Is it all looking useful?**

This work responds to the work of many others and is trying to fill an important gap. This is the gap between the increasing prescriptions for the changes needed in forest governance and the dearth of practical approaches and real preparedness to implement them. The country groups are beginning to look like a useful route to addressing this gap.

Getting forestry department directors seeing

eye to eye with ministry of finance planners, parliamentarians and other sectoral heads - and collectively recognising their understanding and power to bring about practical change – shows promise. So too does the research work that explicitly aims to bring the problems of those marginalized from governance into the frame. Drawing on both the practical experience of the “well-connected”, and the insights from research, to identify practical tools for making progress where currently there are few – has struck a chord with many in the countries so far involved.

### What's next?

Work already started will take much dedicated effort to bring to fruition over the next few months and have as much impact as possible with. If all goes well, a second phase of the FGLG is proposed which would deepen the participation and engagement with governance issues in the currently involved countries, and spread its reach to pick up on the demand of others (there is much interest, for example, in South-east Asia...Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia).

### Websites:

- **Forest governance learning group:** <http://www.iied.org/forestry/research/projects/forest.html>
- **Power tools:** <http://www.iied.org/forestry/tools/index.html>

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## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TO ENHANCE STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES

*By René Czudek and Dominique Reeb*

Following the positive outcome of the technical meeting on enhancing stakeholder participation in national forest programmes, organized by the FAO Forest Policy and Institutions Service in collaboration with the National Forest Programme Facility and held at FAO Headquarters in Rome (November 20-21, 2002), the need to develop a mechanism for encouraging more stakeholders to participate in national forest programmes was identified. To maintain the positive momentum already created and to strengthen the existing collaboration amongst experts and institutions (such as the International Panel on Forests, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the United Nations Forum on Forests), a “community of practice” was established as one of first concrete actions after the meeting.

### Objective

The objective of this community of practice (CoP) is to contribute to the international call to ensure adequate stakeholder participation in national forest programme (nfp) processes by bringing together experts in stakeholder participation to share views,



experiences, lessons learned and information on recent developments, to build or strengthen partnerships, to harmonize relevant approaches and to make them available to nfp actors worldwide.

### **Membership**

The members of this community of practice are experts from international organizations, research and academic institutions, international civil society organizations, the private sector and individuals with experience in this field who are directly involved in developing, testing and implementing approaches to ensure the active participation of stakeholders in nfp processes. The participants at the 2002 Rome meeting constitute the initial members of the community, and new members meeting the above criteria are welcome to join.

### **Mechanisms**

The community of practice is a light and flexible structure that should act as a catalyst for generating knowledge and sharing information on the enhancement of stakeholder participation in nfps. It will meet regularly (once a year if possible) in a location to be determined by the members. In addition to sharing information and knowledge, the purpose of these meetings is also to report on the advancement of work and in particular on work that has been agreed in partnership at earlier meetings. Specific topics of interest to the members or of general relevance can be identified in advance to constitute the subject of a specific session. To ensure adequate feedback on national experiences, the community of practice invites national representatives to attend meetings, who could alternate on a yearly basis to enable the exchange of diversified experiences.

The invitation of national representatives is based on proposals made by the members. Dissemination of information and knowledge resulting from the community of practice is carried out mainly through existing networks to which the members have access and also through the information platform which has been established by the National Forest Programme Facility (on FAO website). Other operational mechanisms such as the establishment of a permanent platform for discussion, regional working groups and so on could be discussed and agreed at a forthcoming meeting.

### **Meetings**

The first technical meeting in November 2002 set out to define strategic ways for moving forward to strengthen participatory processes in nfps and to build partnerships for action. The meeting targeted government institutions, research and development organizations, United Nations agencies and other international organizations that have practical experience with enhancing participation in nfp processes. The early focus was on organizations that operate at international level, but the representation of specific national experiences and perspectives of civil society organizations was also an important consideration in the design of the meeting and the selection of participants.

The following seven strategic directions to enhance stakeholder participation in national forest programmes were identified during the meeting:

- 1 obtaining buy-in and commitment from power holders;
- 2 building capacity for country-driven nfp processes;
- 3 raising awareness and understanding

- through adequate communication;
- 4 empowering the disadvantaged to participate;
  - 5 ensuring effective and efficient nfp processes;
  - 6 providing guidance for decision-making and implementation of nfps;
  - 7 ensuring resources for sustainable and good quality nfp processes.

An inventory of all the activities in which participating institutions are involved or have planned in each of the strategic directions was also made. The resulting overview of ongoing activities has provided the basis for identifying opportunities for partnerships and collaboration and for highlighting strategic directions that still need strengthening.

By examining the broad overview of ongoing and planned activities and the areas of work of each organization, it was possible for participants to identify synergies and possibilities for coordination or collaboration among themselves. Then participants had the chance to discuss, in small groups, ways to strengthen existing partnerships and initiate new ones on the basis of a concrete action plan.

The second technical meeting of the Community of Practice, held in November 2003 at the FAO headquarters in Rome, focused on the theme of "Assessment of participatory processes in national forest programmes". In total 34 participants from 18 countries came together for two days to share their experiences on how to assess participatory processes and to identify main criteria, indicators and mechanisms for assessing the level of participation in national forest programmes.

This is only a first step in improving our understanding of the implications and potential but also the limitations of stakeholder participation in nfp processes and on how these might be assessed. It is planned to test these criteria and indicators in various countries to assess new or ongoing processes. Field testing will also enable the identification of specific difficulties which can be encountered in assessing these processes and how they can be dealt with. The CoP will play an essential role in identifying opportunities for the refinement of this assessment tool.

This assessment framework will also be used in the forthcoming preparation of guidelines for enhancing stakeholder participation in nfps that the CoP has agreed to undertake. These should be ready by the end of 2004.

As with similar framework developments the success of nfp will depend largely on the quality and level of participation. Participation should complement science-based approaches in the forestry and forestry related sectors. However this will require adequate resources and skills. It is hoped that the set of requirements, criteria and indicators and their related mechanisms developed by the CoP will contribute to improve the understanding and professional skills necessary to get public support in the formulation and implementation of nfps.

More detailed information about the outcomes of the technical meetings is available on:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/14690/en>

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### **FINANCING NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

*By Eduardo Mansur*

One of the biggest challenges in the development of a national forest programme relies on the need to identify and allocate financial resources for the implementation of the recommended strategies that are part of an “nfp”. This is especially difficult in developing countries where resources for sustainable forest development are scarce.

Donor funds play an important catalytic role in promoting the formulation and launching

of nfp related activities, but are not the main source of funds to develop the nfp process. Domestic resources, both from public and private origin, form the basis for autonomous, country led forestry sector development initiatives.

In an effort to document, analyse and disseminate experiences and lessons learned on financing forestry sector development, FAO launched a global study which is initially focused on Latin America, to promote the debate and knowledge sharing on financial mechanisms (both innovative and traditional) that are supporting nfp implementation.

The study started with the production of country case studies in the Southern Cone of South America. Country reports of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay are available at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/nfp>. This sub-region, with about 6.5 million ha of plantation forests, represents a particularly successful case in promoting tree planting and plantation based wood industry development, with relevant socio-economic and environmental impacts to be debated. This part of the study has been discussed by experts of the participating countries in a workshop held in Curitiba, Brazil on March 2004, under the sponsorship of Embrapa – the Brazilian Agrarian Research Company.

At present, under the framework of the Central American Forestry Strategy (EFCA) being implemented by the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) with the support of the National Forest Programme Facility, a similar sub-regional study is being carried out for the 7 Central American countries. The results will be debated in a workshop

planned to be held in San José, Costa Rica, on 15-18 October 2004, with the support of the IUCN office for Mesoamerica (ORMA).

It is also expected that a partnership between FAO, the IUCN ORMA and the Experts Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Security of the Netherlands (EC-LNV) will soon be activated to enhance the knowledge generation and sharing on this important subject to support nfp implementation worldwide.

To obtain further information on this and other FAO related initiatives regarding national forest programmes, please write to: [nfp-update@fao.org](mailto:nfp-update@fao.org)

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### **PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA. Lessons learnt and best practice - An initiative to establish effective regional communities of practice**

*By Wouter Leen Hijweege and Kristin Olsen*

#### **Background**

As frameworks for sectoral review and development, nfps are a powerful vehicle to translate international commitments and national policies into better practice on the ground. Nfp processes have the potential to support high profile problematic issues in forestry and development in Africa, such as illegal logging, sustainable forest management, governance, and institutional change. They also have the potential to promote the role of the forestry sector within national development contexts. To achieve all of this, nfp initiatives should link to regional and national initiatives such as Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and country Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs).

However, whilst some African countries have made notable progress with the formulation of recognised, good nfp processes (e.g. Malawi, Uganda, South Africa), many other national nfp processes have stalled and/or implementation is constrained by limited resources and conflicting interests. A key resource constraint is lack of a critical mass of

understanding within countries of the role and potential of an nfp process to deliver against goals. Too few people have the awareness, knowledge and skills to design, manage and participate in a strategic, iterative and truly multi-stakeholder process.

Policy and decision-makers need to better understand how forestry can contribute to national development objectives and to international commitments. Nfp practitioners and stakeholders are challenged to achieve this and to make nfp effective instruments to put policy into practice. The wide variety of experiences in planning and implementing Nfps in Africa, and the explicit 'learning' principle of nfps, calls for deliberate efforts to facilitate exchange and sharing. This would assist in analysing success factors and blockages affecting nfps.

### **The proposed initiative**

The current proposal focuses on an initial series of workshops towards developing a network of practitioners or "Community of Practice" for ongoing exchange and motivation. This approach follows from a similar forest policy workshop held in Latin America (Puembo 2002) and the successful development of thematic networks of practitioners. The initiative will build on earlier experience in Africa (e.g. the EC/DFID funded African Academy of Sciences project) and will link with and complement other current initiatives such as the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG), the National Forest Programme Facility, FAO's FOSA, the African Forestry Research Network and the Community of Practice on Participation in nfps.

### *Workshops*

Sub-regional workshops will be organised

in close partnership with regional institutions and countries. The three or four sub regions are yet to be defined but will as much as possible adhere to existing regional collaborative structures to enhance institutional linkages and networks. Likely sub-regional foci include the Congo Basin, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in South and Eastern Africa, the Horn of Africa, and West Africa.

The workshops will focus on exchange of and learning from current knowledge and recent experiences. They will also link to methodological issues and insights, and place nfps firmly in the context of international commitments and initiatives and national policy objectives. Time will be allocated in each workshop for participants to explore national issues as a first step to developing national or regional actions. Thematic priority issues requiring joint action to further nfp processes will be identified for follow up under the Community of Practice.

Participants will include a combination of 'decision-makers' (from a cross-section of Government) and practitioners, including those from civil society organisations and other key sectoral players (such as the private sector - the 'investors'). Regional and international agencies involved in co-ordination and support of forest and development related activities (e.g. SADC, donors, international NGOs) will also be important.

### *Community of Practice (CoP)*

In close collaboration with regional partners, networking mechanisms and a CoP will be established to facilitate diverse actors to continue working together and thinking creatively towards developing better

practice. It is hoped that sub regional or thematic CoPs will evolve from the workshops - ensuring ownership and active involvement of participants and other relevant stakeholders. The preparation of pre-workshop issues papers will be promoted, to summarise learning to date, to give participants a level starting point and avoid repetition of old ground. These would not be 'academic' papers, but short notes summarising the current situation in each region. Preparation for the workshop will take advantage of existing networks such as the FGLG and the CoP on participation in nfps.

### *Further activities*

Potential follow-up activities may take two directions. An international conference on priority issues to nfps in the region, defined by the sub-regional workshops. Critically, the sub-regional workshops should also form the basis for an action plan with elements of wider capacity-building at the national levels to actively address the problems identified.

### **What the initiative will achieve**

Through the workshops and CoP the initiative will:

- Ensure better understanding amongst practitioners and decision-makers about how forestry can contribute to national and international obligations through an nfp process;
- Promote a clear understanding on what an nfp can be, and what 'tools' and methodologies can work;
- Agree on an agenda for action addressing common issues, challenges and opportunities relating to nfps, provide feedback on ways to improve the effectiveness of existing programmes and to support them;

- Identify ways to integrate national and regional nfp processes into international forest-related initiatives;
- Provide the basis for national nfp development and targeted capacity building actions and programmes.

### **About the partners in this initiative**

The Implementing Agencies:

- The International Agricultural Centre (IAC), an independent not for profit foundation under the Wageningen University and Research Centre, supports capacity building and facilitates complex multi stakeholder processes in natural resources management.
- LTS International – LTS has extensive hands-on experience in supporting and facilitating forest sector development, institutional change and nfp processes (for example in Uganda and South Africa)

These implementing agencies will take the lead in identifying international resource persons, supporting pre-workshop preparation of papers etc, facilitation, and co-ordinating lessons and outputs from each workshop.

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**A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE  
NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME  
FACILITY IN ORDER TO FORMULATE  
NIGER'S NFP**

*By Attaou Laminou, Thirong Patrick So,  
Paul Matthews*

In order to consolidate forestry development policy and raise the profile of this sector in socioeconomic field, Niger has recently embarked on the preparation of a national forest programme (nfp). Forest planning in Niger went through a similar process in the early nineties with the drafting of a National Forest Action Plan (NFAP) which was aligned with the objectives of the National Plan to Combat Desertification of 1984. In 1991, a Forest Sector Development Plan was also prepared, but following the Rio Summit priority was given to the development of a National Environment Plan for Sustainable Development. This plan became the framework for addressing national concerns in these areas and the process resulted in the identification of six key programmes or strategies of great relevance also to the forest sector. Over the same period (2000) the Operational Strategy for Food Security, the National Poverty

Reduction Strategy and the National Strategy to Revive Production and Commercialisation of Gum Arabic were amongst other planning exercises taking place.

Through these different planning efforts of recent years, it could be clearly seen that Niger's forest sector is relied on for a wide range of essential functions. In particular, it is the expected that the sector should:

- maintain the land's productive capital (soils, water and vegetation);
- improve forests' contribution to the economy;
- increase its contribution to poverty alleviation by providing local communities with revenue generating opportunities;
- develop forest products such as fuel wood, construction timber and nonwood forest products in order to secure local supply and avoid reliance on costly alternatives that are not locally available;
- gain experience of local accountability and of the implementation of rural development projects.

Meanwhile, after 30 years Niger is about to adopt new forestry legislation, a result of a long process of revising outdated texts dating from 1974, in order to take account of current and future influences such as democratisation and decentralisation. With the transfer of responsibility from the state to local authorities and the promotion of local governance, profound changes are taking place in the management of natural resources. It will in future be important to develop innovative approaches to the participatory management of forests, in order to both ensure their preservation and their sustainable utilisation by rural populations.

Considering the various developments

currently in progress, Niger sees this as an opportune moment to begin development on an nfp (which is also provided for in Article 10 of the new code). A request for support was therefore sent to the National Forest Programme Facility. The request was accepted and a partnership was established in 2003 amounting to a total of \$325,000 over three years. Three key objectives were identified as the purpose of this support:

- To produce a current "state of the art" for the forest sector, in order to identify information gaps and shortfalls;
- To synthesise studies, information and lessons learned in an overview document outlining priorities and major projects (which will effectively become the nfp document);
- To support the mobilisation of stakeholders for implementation of the prescribed actions.

To lead the way in meeting these objectives, the Direction Nationale de l'Environnement created an nfp coordination office from its own resources. In addition, the creation of an inter-sectoral follow up committee was initiated. Comprising 15 members and reflecting the different stakeholders of the forest sector (associations, NGOs, central government, FAO, research and education institutions) this body, established in January 2004, was created to follow progress of activities, to approve the terms of reference of different studies and to approve the reports produced.

In order to foster transparency and information sharing, the implementation of the partnership was explained and promoted during a launching workshop which was held in Niamey on 13 February 2004 and which brought together more than

80 participants from different parts of the forest sector and civil society. This meeting provided the opportunity to review the programme of activities carried out in the first year and recommendations were formulated for the studies to be carried out in order to put together a current "state of the art" for the forest sector. Resulting from this meeting and from the deliberations of the follow up committee, terms of reference were defined for the exercise:

- Regional studies, covering forest resources and the state of their management at Department and community level;
- Thematic studies, covering technical aspects, finance and economics and institutional and legal aspects, which influence the development of forestry in Niger.

In order to implement these studies, national expertise was recruited through a call for proposals which was published from 10 March 2004. Closing in April, submissions were vetted, under supervision of a court officer by an ad hoc committee of nine members. The selection of candidates was made on 26 May 2004 and the studies are currently underway. In principle they will all be completed at the end of October, to be followed by a general synthesis and validation at regional and national workshops which will be held in December 2004 or January 2005. These workshops will provide an extra opportunity to involve stakeholders in the analysis of the current state and future direction of forestry in Niger. Finally, at the end of the "state of the art" phase, a planning phase will start. This will be marked by the preparation of an nfp document and of detailed plans for priority projects from 2005.



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### **ENHANCING THE COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

*By R.T. Acosta, J.M. Pulhin and T. Enters*

#### **Background**

The Government of the Philippines adopted Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) as “the national strategy to achieve sustainable forestry and social justice” through Executive Order (EO) 263 dated 19 July 1995 and its implementing rules and regulations, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order 96-29. The role of CBFM as a main pillar of the Philippines’ national forest programme has been reconfirmed in Executive Order (EO) 318 dated 9 June 2004 and local government units (LGU), local people, community organizations, civil society organizations and private business entities have been called upon to collaborate in its implementation.

CBFM evolved from the people-oriented forestry programs of the 1970s, which were

combined in 1982 under the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) through Letter of Instruction 1260 issued by the former President Marcos. CBFM regards the local communities as partners in forest development and conservation. It radically departs from the traditional notion that considers these communities as the culprits of forest destruction, and advances a devolved approach to forest governance and management.

To date, the CBFM Program (CBFMP) extends over more than 5.7 million hectares of forestland and benefits more than half a million households. Its pro-poor orientation corresponds to the socio-political development agenda of the present Philippine Government on poverty alleviation and the delivery of basic social services to the rural areas. In addition, the Government hopes to promote community empowerment, sound environmental management and the recognition of rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral domains by implementing the CBFMP. These noble objectives highlight the invaluable role expected of local communities not only in forestry but also in furthering socio-economic development in the Philippine uplands.

Despite the rapid expansion of the CBFMP coverage, internal, procedural and operational problems persist, reducing the effectiveness of CBFM and jeopardizing the full realization of its objectives. It appears that most People’s Organizations (POs) that collaborate with the DENR under CBFM Agreements (CBFMA) lose interest in forest conservation and development once external financial support is terminated. Experiences on the ground suggest that certain program requirements such as

Community Resource Management Frameworks (CRMF) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are arduous to prepare and frequently beyond the comprehension of PO members. Incentives to manage local forests sustainably are dwarfed by disincentives that discourage participants and cast doubt as to the sincerity and political will of the Government to effectuate a genuine people-oriented forest management at the local level.

Cognizant of the potentials of the CBFM strategy in promoting sustainable forestry as well as the need to improve program implementation, the DENR has initiated a comprehensive review of the CBFMP. In doing so, it works closely with a variety of stakeholders in the preparation of a new implementation strategy that suits the current needs of all actors involved. To ascertain adequate financial support for the review as well as subsequent training activities the DENR formed a partnership with the National Forest Programme Facility (Facility) in late 2003. Under the partnership a variety of forestry stakeholders implement a step-wise approach that consists of five elements:

- 1 in-depth case studies of CBFM implementation in six selected locations;
- 2 preparation of a synthesis document for further discussion of the studies' main findings and recommendations;
- 3 verification of the findings and recommendations through regional consultations;
- 4 drafting of a new CBFM implementation; and
- 5 strengthening DENR's support capacities through training.

In early 2004, six case studies on the three major islands of Luzon, Visayas and

Mindanao, were commissioned for in-depth analyses of the factors that on one hand support and on the other impede the implementation of the CBFM strategy. The studies were conducted by multi-disciplinary teams from six non-governmental organizations and universities. The progress of the research was reviewed during a workshop on 20-21 May 2004, attended by the members of the CBFM Advisory Group and representatives of NGOs, universities and research institutes. During a second consultative workshop (24-26 June 2004), the study results were presented, discussed and validated by representatives from POs from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, NGOs, the research community, the DENR and the CBFM Advisory Group. Moreover, the workshop participants identified and discussed recommendations to enhance the CBFM implementation strategy. They took the important steps of identifying the roles of different stakeholders in translating recommendations into concrete actions on the ground. In doing so, they provided invaluable input to the preparation of the synthesis document, which also draws on the results of earlier CBFM assessments and the available literature.

The synthesis document is nearing completion. Early drafts have benefited substantially from the reflections and constructive feedback provided by members of the CBFM Advisory Group and others. The practical multi-stakeholder approach that the DENR is pursuing in examining the impediments, challenges and opportunities affecting the implementation of the CBFM strategy allows for many voices to be heard. This tradition will be continued during consultative workshops in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It is hoped that

through the modest support provided by the National Forest Programme Facility, more responsive CBFM strategies could be crafted and the DENR's support capacities strengthened towards the enhancement of CBFM implementation in the country.

### **INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME OF SERBIA**

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*By Bojan Djuric*

After a long period of isolation, Serbian forestry was faced with the need for changes. Changes were needed in all aspects of forestry due to outdated organizational concepts and the economic devastation of the past decade. Since the forestry sector in Serbia was not capable of bringing about changes on its own, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Directorate of Forests requested assistance from the FAO.

FAO agreed to provide technical and financial support in the realization of the project "Institutional development and capacity building for the National Forest Programme of Serbia". This project is essential for the further development of the forestry sector in Serbia; its main goals being the formulation of a forest policy document and the revision of the Forest Law. These two main outputs will be the basis for further development of the National Forest Programme of Serbia.

The project became operational in April 2003. The whole project is based on a new approach in the forestry sector in Serbia - participatory forestry. The idea is to have opinions and suggestions from various stakeholder groups and to incorporate these into the new forest policy and forest law, so that these documents can meet their needs much better than before. A group of

local forestry professionals was trained in how to use FAO participatory methods and tools, which were applied during meetings with stakeholders in different parts of Serbia.

The group of local consultants, supported by international consultants, is working on preparing the policy and law documents. A number of interim reports on forest policy, forest economics, forest legislation and participation have been produced to date. These reports are the basis for the expected project outputs and together with the other project activities can be found on the project's website:

<http://www.forestserbia-fao.sr.gov.yu>

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<p><b>THE NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME IN SOUTH AFRICA</b></p>
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*By Themba L Simelane*

South Africa is distinct from most developing countries because it does not heavily rely on donor support for the development of its nfp, and its forests are not mostly state-owned. Indeed, the Government of South Africa is financing the nfp process mainly from own resources and the bulk of the forests are already in commercial hands or are in the process of being transferred to national agencies and private operators that have the capability to manage them.

### **New policies oriented towards poverty alleviation**

In the recent election, this government has won over 70% of the popular vote and has thus received a strong mandate to decide on the direction and implementation of any policy that reduces poverty. The forestry sector, being financially the largest contributor to public programmes thus has an important role to play. The national forest programme in South Africa, under the guidance of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF), is mainly focusing on forest policy issues dealing with poverty alleviation, black empowerment and regulating forest industry.

### **Origin of the nfp**

Some key elements of the nfp framework have been extracted from the National Forests Act (1998) and some ideas been drawn from the Forestry White Paper and the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, both of which have been extensively participatory processes. Furthermore, the National Forest Action Plan (NFAP) which was also an exhaustive consultative process has been reviewed through the nfp process.

### **Role of the nfp**

The intention is to have the nfp and its framework confirmed as an outcome of these consultative processes and to agree on the priority policies, strategies and plans that need to be developed within this framework. In fact, many of these initiatives are already underway and some have their own process and consultative structures such as the National Forest Advisory Committee (NFAC) which takes on the role of a high level forestry stakeholder advisory and lobby group which gives strategic direction to the nfp process.

Based on national priorities and resources available, the nfp ensures that specific policies, strategies and plans are developed in an integrated, coordinated and participatory manner relevant to the needs of the country, while, at the same time, ensuring that South Africa adheres to international processes and conventions to which it is a signatory. The nfp is thus to be viewed as an instrument that pulls together existing processes, coordinates and integrates existing policy/strategy development initiatives within a single programme.

### **Forestry Indaba**

The nfp process in South Africa is called "Forestry Indaba". The word "Indaba" refers to the multi-sectoral consultative processes in which stakeholders and government discuss national strategic priority issues. The Forestry Indaba offers an excellent opportunity to present to the different players the priorities of the nfp process within its framework. It is suggested that such a Forestry Indaba be organised every three years, with bi-annual reviews, to serve as an opportunity to present and discuss the State of Forestry Report, as well as to agree on the policy and strategy priorities for the next three years. This would feed into the Multi-year Strategic Plan of DWAF.

The challenge for the nfp is getting onto other Indaba agendas as a framework that will create a linkage between DWAF and other sector strategies. The nfp should be seen as a systematic support to the "Indaba" process (including its 6-monthly reviews) of identifying and negotiating the key issues and policy development.

### **Partners of the nfp**

Policymaking and its implementation is a

teamwork effort with the various stakeholders (internally and externally) involved. The two main international players in the nfp process in South Africa are the Department for International Development (DFID) and the National Forest Programme Facility (Facility).

### **Concrete nfp activity**

A concrete activity, supported by the Facility, which was put forward by a wide array of stakeholders, is to "*promote South African Forestry and raise its profile*". Indeed, DWAF has developed a proposal for an efficient communication strategy to raise the forestry profile and promote awareness of the importance of forestry. People typically have a mixed understanding of what economic benefits are available from commercial forestry, with mistrust of large companies and with no sense of ownership. There is limited information or debate about positive opportunities related to forestry, such as recreation or tourism. Therefore, the first step in the nfp process is to address these problems and to raise the profile of forestry issues in stakeholders' minds so that they will participate in the process. To this end, the nfp process must document and draw attention to the full value of forest goods and services, and show its contribution to the economy and to sustainable development.

### **Conclusion**

The nfp in South Africa is being executed in conjunction with all stakeholders, including the government. International donors such as DFID and the Facility are aligning their programmes and strategies accordingly but these partners should realize that the government, as a major contributor to this nfp process, must hold most of the cards because it has to insure that all programmes are implementing policies and strategies

which are in line with the broad national objective of poverty alleviation.

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**SUMMARY OF THE SELECTION  
PROCESS FOR PROPOSALS TO  
IMPLEMENT DISTRICT FORESTRY  
SERVICES IN UGANDA SUPPORTED  
BY THE NATIONAL FOREST  
PROGRAMME FACILITY**

*By Sara Namirembe*

The National Forestry Program Facility (Facility) supported the first year of a three year proposal by the Uganda Forest Working Group (UFWG) in partnership with Forestry Inspection Division (FID) to deliver District Forestry Services (DFS) in Uganda.

The first year's activities under the agreement with UFWG were to be undertaken in five pilot districts selected because of their proximity to the city centre (for easy monitoring and learning) and

existence of positive initial steps towards DFS implementation. These districts were Mukono, Masindi, Tororo, Wakiso and Luweero. A national launching workshop was conducted to introduce the Facility to partners from FID, UFWG and members from the pilot districts, constituting 42 participants. The proposed activities were outlined and the modality of implementation of UFWG activities through an open bidding by UFWG members was introduced. Successful bidders would then sign contractual agreements with Environmental Alert, which is the UFWG coordinating and accounting organization. Criteria for the eligibility of bidders were shared and agreed on.

A call for proposals, detailing the nature of activities and the budget range for each, was made two weeks after the workshop in national newspapers, through ordinary and electronic mail. Further information on the eligibility and criteria for appropriate proposals was provided by the coordinating office of UFWG. At the deadline, eighteen bids were received. A UFWG steering committee meeting, with observers from FID and FAO, was convened to open and vet the proposals.

**Criteria used to evaluate and rank stakeholder proposals**

- Technical soundness of the proposal
- Operational area versus proposed action
- Capacity to undertake proposed activity considering budget range, relevance of experience and level of operation (local/national)
- Innovativeness in relation to methods, cost effectiveness and potential for greater impact

- Gender considerations
- Applicant's own contribution in cash or in kind
- Proposed partnerships at implementation stage

Before the evaluation and ranking meeting started, the selection criteria were agreed upon and score sheets were provided to evaluate the proposals. The eighteen proposals were randomly distributed to the steering committee members taking into account conflict of interest. Each proposal was reviewed independently by two persons of the steering committee. Then, the evaluation was presented to the panel for further discussion to minimize bias. Steering committee members who were also applicants were requested to declare a conflict of interest and absent themselves during discussion of their proposals. Before a decision was made, the proposed location of activities was taken into consideration to ensure good spread of quality implementation of proposed activities. The final decision was made, by consensus, by UFWG steering committee members. Observers could advise, but not make decisions. The process took about two days.

Eight out of the eighteen bidders were considered successful. All bidders (successful and unsuccessful ones) were given feedback with comments from the review process. Many of the successful applicants needed to make some revisions, which had to be approved by the coordination office before contracts could be signed.

Activities carried out by these NGOs are now well underway in these five districts. First results are expected in a few months' time.

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### UGANDA NFP PROCESS LEARNING SERIES

*By Scott Geller*

#### **Nfp lessons and achievements**

The Forest Sector Umbrella Programme (FSUP) was an innovative, sector-wide approach to reforming the forest sector in Uganda. It was a multi-donor programme, led by the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment (MWLE), and coordinated by the Forest Sector Co-ordination Secretariat (now the Forestry Inspection Division within MWLE).

The FSUP set out to create a positive, effective and sustainable policy and institutional environment for the forest sector in Uganda. In achieving this, it aimed to develop sustainable increases in the economic and environmental benefits from forests and trees, particularly for the poor and vulnerable. The Uganda Forest Sector Policy and Strategy Project (UFSPSP) was developed by the Government of Uganda and the UK Department for International Development to support the FSUP.

The UFSPS Project ran from 1999 to 2004. It supported a number of processes in the reform of the forest sector, including a forest sector review (2000), and the development of the Uganda Forestry Policy (2001), the National Forest Plan (2002), and the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2003). It also supported the establishment of the new National Forestry Authority (2004), the reform of forestry extension services and the development of new decentralised district forestry services.

### What is the Series about?

The 9 short documents represent Learning Notes from the experience of the UFSPS Project in the forest sector reforms, picking up on key processes and emerging themes that have influenced them. The series aims to share experience for the developing sector in Uganda and for other countries going through similar processes – lessons, advice and top tips.

Ideally, every note in the series should be read, to get a complete picture. The series includes:

- 1 Mapping the nfp process – an introduction to the series
- 2 Understanding the scene – the FSR process
- 3 Understanding what will work – pilot projects for extension service delivery reform
- 4 Demonstrating early success – the forestry policy process
- 5 Sector co-ordination – engaging, influencing, achieving
- 6 Influencing – raising the profile and status of forestry
- 7 Promoting institutional change – the process of planning for the new NFA
- 8 Reform of the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment – towards an enabling

institutional framework

- 9 Development of the new Forestry Act – tactics for change

### Who should read it?

People involved in the management and implementation of forest sector change processes and implementing nfps – lead government agencies, reform advocates, macro-planners, programme strategists, analysts, aid workers, monitoring specialists, and forestry, livelihood and governance advisors.

To request free electronic or hard copies of the notes (hard copies are limited in number so electronic distribution is preferred), or for further information please contact:

Scott Geller  
LTS International Ltd.  
Pentlands Science Park  
Penicuik, EH26 0PH  
Scotland

Phone: + 44-131-440-5500  
E-mail: [Scott-geller@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Scott-geller@ltsi.co.uk)



## Research Cooperation Sought

### RESEARCH ON ILLEGAL LOGGING

The Royal Institute of International Affairs has developed the website <http://www.illegal-logging.info> The Institute is currently looking for any recent research on illegal logging and closely related issues done in this area recently.

Contact:

Louise Bundock  
Sustainable Development Programme  
Royal Institute of International Affairs  
E-mail: [bundockl@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:bundockl@chathamhouse.org.uk)  
Mobile + 44-07976-183-368  
Phone: + 44-0207-272-4992

request. I also hope to collaborate with you/ your organization in the near future.

Nguyen Dinh Hai  
PhD candidate  
Lab. of Ecological Economics & Forest Policy, Department of Forest Resources  
College of Agriculture & Life sciences  
Seoul National University  
San 56-1, Shillim - Dong,  
Kwanak-Gu; 151-742 Seoul,  
Korea

Phone: + 82-2-880-4763  
Fax: + 82-2-875-4763  
H.P: + 82-19-833-4903  
E-mail: [haisnu3@snu.ac.kr](mailto:haisnu3@snu.ac.kr) and  
[nhaif@yahoo.com](mailto:nhaif@yahoo.com)

### PHD SUPPORT SOUGHT

I am interested in pursuing a PhD in forest resource management, I would like to research on dynamic long-term forest land use change in upland watersheds under different access rules and regulations, along with stakeholders's decision-making, to develop recommendations for policy improvement towards sustainable forest management in North up land Vietnam and other similar areas. The proposal title will be "**Determinants of land use change in an upland watershed in Northeastern Vietnam**".

I am seeking funding. I would also like to co-operate and share information with other researchers/organizations. Could you recommend any funding resources and books or online resources, where I might find funds and references for my research? Thank you very much for considering my

### INFORMATION/RESEARCH ON TRANSPIRATION IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF RAINFORESTS

Dear ETRN-Team,

I am looking for information or research papers focusing on transpiration in different types of rainforests. I cannot find any information. It would be great if you can help me to find these infos. Thanks!!

Felix Oberrauch

Hydropower  
Electrowatt-Ekono Ltd.  
Hardturmstrasse 161  
P.O. Box 8037, Zurich  
Switzerland

Phone: + 41-1-355-5554 (switchboard)  
Phone: + 41-76-356-2462 (direct)

## Research Cooperation Sought

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Telefax: + 41-1-355-5561

If you are willing to help Felix Oberrauch find information on rainforest transpiration, please contact him directly, with a copy to the ETRN CU at [etfrn@etfrn.org](mailto:etfrn@etfrn.org).

### **PARTNERSHIP WITH FOREIGN RESEARCHERS**

The Tropical Resources Research and Conservation Centre is a non-governmental organisation that focuses on the following areas: environmental research, education and management; agricultural production and improving the standard of living of the rural communities.

The Tropical Resources Research and Conservation Centre is willing to work in partnership with students and researchers, from foreign countries with a research interest in West Africa in the following or such related fields:

- Agriculture (Soil or Crop Science)
- Forestry / Wildlife
- Forest Conservation
- Environmental Assessment
- Agro forestry
- Regeneration
- Rural Forestry
- Nature Photography

Please include the following points in your application letter:

- 1 Name of person (s) or institution wishing to embark on the research
- 2 Office address, e- mail and phone number
- 3 Research topic or area of interest
- 4 Brief summary of the project
- 5 Target area or group

- 6 Expected goals of the project
- 7 Time frame for the project

For more information contact:  
Ikponke Nkanta  
Executive Officer, Tropical Resources Research and Conservation Centre  
Zoology Department, Faculty of Science  
University of Uyo

Phone: 08037974965  
E-mail: [ikponkenkanta@yahoo.com](mailto:ikponkenkanta@yahoo.com) or  
[tropicalresearch@yahoo.com](mailto:tropicalresearch@yahoo.com)

or: Ms Comfort Abraham (Secretary)  
Post Graduate School  
Geography and Regional Planning  
University of Uyo  
E-mail: [abrahamcomfort@yahoo.com](mailto:abrahamcomfort@yahoo.com)

Tropical Resources Research and Conservation Centre. REG NO: 002066 ( For Research, Education, Environmental Care, Agricultural production and Poverty Alleviation)

Postal address:  
c/o Ikponke Nkanta  
Zoology Department  
P.M.B 1017, University of Uyo  
Akwaibom State  
Nigeria

### **INFORMATION ON TEAK WOOD PROPERTIES**

Helena-Christina Makris is a student following a Masters degree at ULB (Universite Libre de Bruxelles) in Belgium. She is doing a Masters in Conservation and Restauration of ancient Monuments in Architecture, and is following a course called

## Research Cooperation Sought

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Study of (construction) Materials in Function of Climatic Conditions.

Helena-Christina is looking for information on teak (*Tectona grandis*) wood properties, including the chemical and physical structure and its resistance to water. She would also appreciate information on its qualities and defects for construction purposes.

If you can help Ms Makris contact:  
Helena-Christina Makris  
E-mail: [hcmakris@skynet.be](mailto:hcmakris@skynet.be)

### DIRECTORY OF ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY RESEARCHERS

The Asia Pacific region is a vast region comprising many countries with different peoples, different cultures, different religions and different languages. While a few countries in the region are already highly developed, the majority of the countries are at vastly varying levels of economic and technological development. Information exchange and sharing are therefore still far from achieving any impact on national development among most of the countries in the region.

In view of this, Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) has initiated a project to compile a directory of forestry researchers in the Asia Pacific region. The objective of this project is to provide a source of information on who's who in forestry research in the region, facilitating information sharing and the establishment of closer collaboration. This directory will be maintained at the APAFRI's

web site (<http://www.apafri.org>) and made accessible to all interested parties. It will also be packed together with a browser on compact disks (CDs) and distributed to member institutions of APAFRI as well as other agencies, NGOs and regional and international organizations.

The participation and contribution from ALL forestry researchers in the region is crucial to ensure the completeness and usefulness of this directory. We would therefore like to invite you to contribute to this directory by sparing a few minutes to fill up a datasheet online (<http://www.apafri.org/mod/home/publ/frmResearch.cfm>). We welcome comments and suggestions for improving the datasheet.

In order to reach out to as many fellow colleagues in the region as feasible, we would appreciate if you could assist us in forwarding this invitation to all the other colleagues in your organization and/or your country.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:  
Sim Heok-Choh  
Executive Director

or:  
Ms Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid  
Information Officer

Phone: 006-03-62797536 and 006-03-62722516  
Fax: 006-03-62773249  
E-mail: [sim@apafri.org](mailto:sim@apafri.org), [simhc@frim.gov](mailto:simhc@frim.gov), [syuqiyah@apafri.org](mailto:syuqiyah@apafri.org) or

For past APAFRI Newsflashes, visit: <http://www.apafri.org>

By *Jelle Maas*

PROFOR, a multi-donor partnership formed to pursue the shared goal of enhancing the contribution of forests to poverty reduction, sustainable development and protection of environmental services, is providing information at <http://www.profor.info/> PROFOR summarises lessons learned in national forest programmes at <http://www.profor.info/lessonslearnednfp.htm>.

FAO is hosting the site of the National Forest Programme Facility (in short "Facility") (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/nfp-facility>), which provides an overview of procedures, progress made and information services on nfps such as nfp-country profiles (including general information, the planning process, forest policy, conventions and national and donor support); and an nfp-digest, offering background information on specific themes in nfp processes.

Another site hosted jointly by FAO and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), is providing, inter alia, information on fund-raising for forestry projects, programmes and studies: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-sourcebook>

The UN Forum on Forests Report of the Secretary-General on national forest programmes (document E/CN.18/2002/4 is available at <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents-unff.html#2> in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

ODI keysheet number 17 dates from November 2002 ([http://www.keysheets.org/red\\_17\\_national\\_forest\\_progs.html](http://www.keysheets.org/red_17_national_forest_progs.html)). It presents a good introduction to national forest programmes, including an overview

of the debate, policy issues and links to key documents. It was commissioned by DFID (United Kingdom) and DGIS (Netherlands).

The German Society for Development Cooperation (GTZ) has devoted one section of its website to forest policy (<http://www.gtz.de/forest-policy/english/NFP/nfp.html>), including a part on national forest programmes. This offers an introduction and an outline of the nfp concept, describes the instrument of Forest Partnership Agreements, and includes links to some countries that have documented their nfp process on the Internet (Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Hungary and Great Britain).

In 2000, the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality published a theme study on national forest programmes ([http://www.gtz.de/forest-policy/download/Documents/nfp\\_31\\_concept\\_en\\_Savenije2000.pdf](http://www.gtz.de/forest-policy/download/Documents/nfp_31_concept_en_Savenije2000.pdf)) in English and Spanish, discussing the principles underlying nfps, examples and lessons from the past, and recent developments and initiatives. The report describes the history of national forest planning and the efforts by international donor and other organisations to have these plans integrated and to use them as a basis for project funding. Although the level of success varied greatly, the concept was adopted by the Inter-governmental Panel on Forests (IPF), which proposed that all signatory countries should formulate a nfp for all forest types, thus extending the concept far beyond its former focus on tropical forests and developing countries.

Much of the recent work of the IIED forestry and Land Use programme is relevant to national forest programme development, for

instance the forest governance learning group <http://www.iied.org/forestry/research/projects/forest.html#fglg> and the completed project on policy that works for forests and people <http://www.iied.org/forestry/research/projects/ptw.html>

The European Forest Institute, EFI, has published the proceedings of the international seminar on formulation and implementation of national forest programmes in Freiburg, 18–20 May 1998 at [http://www.efi.fi/publications/Proceedings/30\\_1.html](http://www.efi.fi/publications/Proceedings/30_1.html).

The Swedish National Board of Forestry has published the report by Blas Mola Yudego, A comparison between national forest programmes of some EU member states at <http://www.svo.se/forlag/rapporter/1717.pdf>

The main objective of the EU COST Action E19 is to provide policy-makers in Europe with improved means for formulating and implementing national forest programmes. <http://www.metla.fi/eu/cost/e19/>.

A paper by Zimmermann and Schmithüsen, The legal aspects of national forest programmes presented at the meeting of COST Action E19 in Aberdeen, March 2001, is available at: <http://e-collection.ethbib.ethz.ch/cgi-bin/show.pl?type=incoll&nr=440>

The Canadian National Forest Strategy Coalition (<http://nfsc.forest.ca/>) provides background documents and reports on the nfp process in Canada in French and English, as well as an extensive list of coalition members collaborating in the strategy. The First Nations Forest program (FNFP)

is also located in Canada, with the website [http://www.fnfp.gc.ca/index\\_e.php](http://www.fnfp.gc.ca/index_e.php). Since 1996, the First Nations Forestry Program has funded some 1500 projects.

Results of the G8 Action Programme on Forests have been summarised at: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2002/g8forest2.html>.

ELDIS, a gateway to information on development issues, contains references to over 30 documents on national forest programmes (<http://www.eldis.org/>)

### Websites of countries

- The Danish national forest programme in an international perspective: <http://www.sns.dk/internat/dnf-eng.pdf>
- The launching of the National Forest Programme Facility for Jamaica: [http://www.forestry.gov.jm/Doc\\_File/Jam-Info-Fac-Grant.PDF](http://www.forestry.gov.jm/Doc_File/Jam-Info-Fac-Grant.PDF)
- The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) site includes National Forest Programmes as a programme: <http://www.aasciences.org/programmes.htm>
- A chapter from the national strategy to combat desertification of Swaziland: [http://www.ecs.co.sz/ccd/ccd\\_review\\_chapter3.htm](http://www.ecs.co.sz/ccd/ccd_review_chapter3.htm)
- Information by the Commonwealth Forestry Association on Zambia: <http://www.cfa-international.org/Zambia/thematic%20programmes.htm>
- The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE): <http://www.envfor.nic.in/icfre/icfre.html>
- The Association for Forest Development and Conservation in Lebanon: <http://www.afdc.org.lb/>

If you have a web resource relevant to nfps, please let us know (etfrn@etfrn.org).

### THIRD WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (TWAS) FELLOWSHIPS

#### Fellowships in Brazil

The National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the Academy have instituted two types of fellowships for foreign scientists from developing countries (other than Brazil), for Master's degree holders wishing to earn a Ph.D. in natural sciences or Ph.D. holders wishing to do postdoctoral research in Brazil. Travel expenses of visitors are covered by TWAS while living expenses are provided by the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology, through the Brazilian Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). Deadline: 31 October each year.

#### Fellowships in China

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, China and TWAS have agreed to offer three types of fellowships to scientists from developing countries (other than China): for Master's degree holders wishing to undertake the last year of their Ph.D. research in China; Ph.D. holders wishing to pursue postdoctoral research in natural sciences in China; or to visiting scholars who wish to pursue advanced research in natural sciences. Travel expenses of visitors are covered by TWAS while living expenses are provided by CAS. Deadline: 31 October each year.

#### TWAS-UNESCO Associateship Scheme

In collaboration with a number of centres of excellence in the South, TWAS has instituted a Joint Associateship Scheme to enable competent researchers from the South to visit these centres regularly. An associate

is appointed for three years during which he/she can visit a Centre twice for research collaboration. Over 100 centres have been selected to participate in the Scheme. TWAS provides travel support for the associates and a contribution towards subsistence costs up to US\$200.00 per month while living expenses are covered by the host centres. Deadline for submission of applications: 1 December each year.

For more information contact:

Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)  
c/o The Abdus Salam International Centre  
for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)  
Strada Costiera 11  
34014 Trieste  
Italy

Fax: + 39-040-224559

E-mail: [info@twas.org](mailto:info@twas.org)

Website: <http://www.twas.org/>

### AGROPOLIS - INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS PROGRAM IN URBAN AGRICULTURE

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)- Closing Date: 31 January 2005

#### Description

AGROPOLIS is an awards program that supports innovative master's and doctoral level research. It aims to add to the body of knowledge of urban and peri-urban agriculture, and thereby to support interventions that address critical areas in the industry. The award will cover justifiable field research expenses to a maximum of Canadian \$20,000 per year. Award tenure corresponds to the period of field research,

normally no less than 3 months and no more than 12 months. Up to 14 awards will be granted annually, with at least five awards supporting field research at the master's level.

### Eligibility

AGROPOLIS is intended primarily for researchers from developing countries, including those studying in a developed country and returning to the south after their studies. The research must be for a master's or a doctoral thesis. Researchers must be registered at a university — in the South or the North — that has training and supervisory expertise in the field of urban agriculture or fields relevant to urban agriculture.

Contact:

AGROPOLIS@idrc.ca

Website: [http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-4714-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://web.idrc.ca/en/ev-4714-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html)

Source: Scidevnet (<http://www.scidev.net/>)

### UNESCO/KEIZO OBUCHI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

UNESCO is calling on young researchers with advanced degrees (M.A., M.Sc. or equivalent) in developing countries to apply to the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme for fellowships ranging from US\$ 6,000 to US\$ 10,000. The amount varies according to duration and place of study. The Programme is financed by Japan through its funds in trust programme for capacity-building of human resource.

The Programme is named after the late

Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, who was known for his commitment to furthering development. It grants a total of 20 fellowships a year to researchers in four areas: environment, intercultural dialogue, information and communication technologies, and peaceful conflict resolution.

UNESCO Director General Koïchiro Matsuura has written to UNESCO National Commissions, Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and to the organization's regional offices asking them to invite young researchers to apply for the fellowships through their country's National Commission. The deadline for applications to arrive at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris has been set for January 14, 2005. This will be the fifth time that the fellowships are awarded since the launch of the Programme in 2001.

A maximum of two researchers, no older than 40, will be chosen by each National Commission. A selection committee made up of experts in the four study areas will then examine the applications and make preliminary recommendations to the Director-General.

Fellowships:

Phone: + 33-(0) 1-4568-1507

Fax: + 33- (0) 1-4568-5503

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=22149&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=22149&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

### **THE VAVILOV - FRANKEL FELLOWSHIPS FOR 2005 ARE ANNOUNCED**

International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) established the Fellowship Fund in 1989, to commemorate the unique contributions to plant science of Academician Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov and Sir Otto Frankel. The Fellowships are supported by the Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC), Australia and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. The Fund aims to encourage the conservation and use of plant genetic resources in developing countries by awarding Fellowships to outstanding young researchers to carry out relevant innovative research at an advanced research institute outside their own country for a period of between three months and one year.

Two Fellowship opportunities will be available for 2005 to carry out research on topics such as new conservation technologies and strategies, socioeconomic and human aspects of conservation and use, germplasm management, forest genetic resources, policy development, genetic erosion assessment and mitigation and conservation and utilization of specific crops. Work solely on plant breeding or molecular characterization will not be selected. The maximum award per Fellow will be US\$20 000 which is intended to cover travel, stipend, bench fees, equipment, conference participation and so on.

Applications are invited from nationals of developing countries, aged 35 or under, holding a masters degree (or equivalent)

and/or doctorate in a relevant subject area. Applications should be sent by mail, fax or email to the above address. Applications must be received at IPGRI by 1 November 2004. The successful applicants will be informed by 31 March 2005 and are required to take up their Fellowships before 31 December 2005. Awards can be held concurrently with other sources of support

Application forms and guidelines for preparation of research proposals in English, French and Spanish may be obtained from:

Vavilov-Frankel Fellowships, IPGRI  
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a  
00057 Maccarese  
Rome  
Italy

Fax: + 39-0661979661  
E-mail [e.clancy@cgiar.org](mailto:e.clancy@cgiar.org)  
Website: <http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/training/vavilov.htm>

### **2005 BP CONSERVATION PROGRAMME AWARDS**

Young teams from around the world are invited to apply for a 2005 BP Conservation Programme Award. The award provides funding, training and support for field research projects planned and carried out by young conservationists that are addressing conservation issues of global importance.

The BP Conservation Programme presents awards and training on an annual basis to international teams working in Latin America/Caribbean, Asia/Pacific, Africa, the



## Funding/Opportunities

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Middle East and Eastern Europe. In 2005, US \$600,000 in funding will be available for winning projects, with awards ranging from \$7,500 to \$17,500 for first-time awards. This year we have slightly altered our guidelines and application form, so please check the website for the most up-to-date version and additional information: <http://conservation.bp.com>.

All teams applying for an award must fulfill the following criteria:

- Address a biodiversity conservation priority of global importance at the species or habitat level, preferably linking with established work plans, e.g. national biodiversity action plans. (Please refer to the IUCN Red List <http://www.redlist.org> to check the conservation status of a specific species - preference will be given to critically endangered and/or understudied or data deficient species.)
- Demonstrate strong linkages with local stakeholders and decision-makers where the project will take place. Local people should participate in all parts of project planning and implementation.
- Project led by students or early career conservationists who are interested in developing technical, decision-making and leadership skills in the field of biodiversity conservation.

The Programme aims to develop a young, multidisciplinary global network with biodiversity conservation expertise, deliver major new findings to science and make a significant contribution to the priorities set by the international conservation community. Since 1990, the programme has supported 250 projects in more than 70 countries worldwide and supported more than 2,500 individuals.

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2004.

Application forms and guidelines are available from the Programme's website: <http://conservation.bp.com>.

2005 will see the BP Conservation Programme celebrating its 15th year! The BP Conservation Programme is the result of a long-term partnership between wildlife conservation organisations Bird Life International, Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International and the Wildlife Conservation Society, and BP. Staff members of partner organizations are not eligible for awards, but please pass along to student or partners who may be interested.

For more information contact:

Marianne Dunn  
Programme Manager  
Birdlife International  
Wellbrook Court, Girton Road  
Cambridge CB3 0NA  
UK

Phone: + 44-(0)1223-277318  
E-mail: [bp-conservation-programme@birdlife.org.uk](mailto:bp-conservation-programme@birdlife.org.uk)

### COUNTRY NFP UPDATES

In a joint effort of the global network of nfp national focal points, the National Forest Programme Facility and FAO, a web-based information platform has recently been established to provide public access to updated country information on their countries' national forest programmes.

The information is available at:

**<http://www.fao.org/forestry/nfp-update>**, where 44 country updates are already online, with more becoming gradually available in the near future. Each update brings a summary of the country nfp process, the address of the nfp contact person in that country, general information on the country's forest sector, specific information on the forest policy, legislation, institutional framework and strategic planning process. Links and relevant documents for that country are also provided. Readers are welcome to consult these nfp-updates and send comments or request for further information to: [nfp-update@fao.org](mailto:nfp-update@fao.org)

For more information on the National Forest Programme Facility, please see the article on page 11.

### THE EC FOREST PLATFORM – A FERN INITIATIVE THAT LINKS PEOPLES IN THE SOUTH AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON AID AND FOREST ISSUES.

In 2002, a FERN study revealed that much of the money given by the European

Community for development does not recognise the role that forests play in providing food, fuel and materials for forest-dependent people. This is partly due to the very little direct contact that the EC has with the people and organisations that know about forest issues in recipient countries.

The EC Forest Platform was established to give a voice to NGOs and forest peoples who want to present their issues to the European Community and to debate the impacts of EC aid policies and projects on forests and forest peoples. To date, the initiative has made good progress, and two national Platforms have been established in Cameroon and Indonesia.

The EC Forest Platform provides a forum where Platform members can exchange information about EC related policies and practices, comment on new EC aid policies and are supported if they want to convey a message or experiences to relevant people in the EU. We regularly distribute aid-related briefings and the *Platform News*, a quarterly newsletter update on what's happening within the Commission on forest co-operation related issues. All Platform publications are also available at our website:

**[www.fern.org/pages/aid/platform.htm](http://www.fern.org/pages/aid/platform.htm)**

The Platform is open to anyone who is interested in EC aid policies and practices, especially EU-based NGOs and Southern NGOs, community based organisations and indigenous peoples organisations. Becoming a member is free and informal.

If you are interested in these issues please join the Platform by emailing the Platform co-ordinator Iola Leal Riesco at [iola@fern.org](mailto:iola@fern.org) with details of your organisation and interests.

**CALL FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES AND TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 'INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON TRADITIONAL FOREST RELATED KNOWLEDGE AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS'. SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA, 6-10 DECEMBER 2004**

The International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests and Asociación Ixacavaa are pleased to announce an Indigenous Peoples' Led Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest Related Knowledge (TFRK) to be held in December this year. Central to discussions in this event are national government actions related to their international commitments to protect and promote TFRK. The international event will commence with a two-day preparatory meeting on the 6th and 7th of December open to indigenous experts, holders of traditional knowledge and representatives of forest dependent and/or indigenous communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific to discuss the promotion and protection of Traditional Forest Related Knowledge.

On the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December indigenous and local community experts will join government and international agency delegates in a three-day official Expert Meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests which is being organized by the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests and Asociación Ixacavaa, with support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological

Diversity and forest-related support NGOs. The meeting will provide a valuable and timely opportunity for indigenous and other experts to discuss the extent to which governments have implemented international commitments related to the protection, promotion and support of Traditional Forest Related Knowledge. Outcomes from this meeting will be introduced into the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and will feed into discussions on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international and national forest policy processes.

Further information about this meeting, contact the Secretariat:  
Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri  
Executive Secretary  
E-mail: [kittisak@international-alliance.org](mailto:kittisak@international-alliance.org)

Annabel Pinker  
Project Assistant for the Expert Meeting  
E-mail: [annabel@international-alliance.org](mailto:annabel@international-alliance.org)

Helen Leake  
Information Officer  
E-mail: [helen@international-alliance.org](mailto:helen@international-alliance.org)

Phone: +66.53 904 037  
Fax: +66.53 277 645  
Website: [http://www.international-alliance.org/tfrk\\_expert\\_meeting.htm](http://www.international-alliance.org/tfrk_expert_meeting.htm)

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST-BASED LIVELIHOODS**

The third issue of InfoResources Focus entitled "**Climate change and forest-based livelihoods**" can be downloaded as pdf-file

at: [http://www.inforesources.ch/pdf/focus\\_2\\_04\\_e.pdf](http://www.inforesources.ch/pdf/focus_2_04_e.pdf) (16p., 191 KB).

InfoResources Focus provides a general overview of pertinent and topical subjects to guide its readers through the information jungle. Each issue focuses on a current theme relative to forests, agriculture, or natural resources and the environment, in the context of international development cooperation. The next issue will take up the theme of environmental services.

InfoResources Focus is published two to three times a year in English, French and Spanish. It is available free of charge either in print format or as a pdf file. Please let us know if you prefer to receive InfoResources Focus in another language or in another format by sending an e-mail to [info@inforesources.ch](mailto:info@inforesources.ch).

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Website: <http://www.inforesources.ch>

**PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO  
COMBAT ILLEGAL LOGGING: A  
GLOBAL REVIEW OF BEST  
PRACTICE ORGANIZED BY THE  
FORESTS DIALOGUE**

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) emerged in 1999 from processes convened independently by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the

World Bank, and the World Resources Institute. These converged to form a unique international multi-stakeholder dialogue group. It includes the major environmental NGO's and private forest landowner associations. This group is focused solely on issues related to the realization of sustainable forest management around the world.

### **Objectives of the proposed dialogue on illegal logging**

- 1 Raise awareness about the seriousness and complexity of illegal logging and present a detailed picture of the problem, its causes and its impacts. This will include a focus on some critical locations such as Indonesia, Russia and Brazil with discussion of data and definitional issues.
- 2 Identify cost-effective, proven and practical solutions to address illegal logging, with an emphasis on those that can be implemented by civil society and the private sector.
- 3 Agree on how participants should work together to promote wide adoption of the practical solutions.

### **Potential outcomes of the dialogue**

- 1 Input from business and civil society for reform of public procurement policies to assist governments such as UK, China, and Japan to eliminate illegal timber from their supply chains.
- 2 Review of lessons from ongoing efforts to independently verify legality of timber shipments. This includes work under the WBCSD/WWF Latvia pilot project on company wood tracking systems, the UK Timber Trade Federation's code of conduct, work by Tropical Forest Foundation and TNC in Indonesia, by Tropical Forest Trust, and by WWF and

IKEA in China. Recommendations should be made about how to expand such efforts and share their lessons widely.

- 3 Agreement on a process involving the leading certification programs (FSC, SFI, CSA, PEFC, LEI) to strengthen their standards and procedures, and learn from one another, to better address illegality issues.
- 4 Support for the regional government-led process in Asia and identification of specific follow up actions by members of TFD.

The three-day Dialogue will be held in Hong Kong in February, 2005 (the date and exact location will be announced on the website indicated below).

Partners who will assist or advise in organizing and convening the Summit will include the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Asia Forests Partnership, CIFOR, ITTO, Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests, and WWF.

About 40-60 participants are expected to participate in the meeting, including representatives from about 20 companies.

For more information about The Forests Dialogue contact:

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Yale University  
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New Haven, CT 06511  
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Website: <http://research.yale.edu/gisf/tfd/>

### **UNECE/FAO TIMBER BRANCH, GENEVA, "FOREST PRODUCTS ANNUAL MARKET REVIEW, 2003- 2004" ON WEBSITE**

The *Forest Products Annual Market Review* begins with an overview of forest products markets and policies, followed by a chapter focusing on policy issues related to forest products markets. These are followed by analyses of the economic factors affecting the forest and forest industries sector. Statistics-based chapters are included for markets of sawn softwood, sawn hardwood, wood-based panels, paper, paperboard and woodpulp, wood raw materials and tropical timber. Other chapters highlight the rapid developments in forest products certification, as well as value-added wood products, e.g. furniture. The Review concludes with a chapter on tropical timber markets.

The statistical TIMBER database upon which the Review is based may be found at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/mis/fp-stats.htm>

Copies of the *Review* may be obtained from the web site homepage of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, or from the postal address below.

For further information please contact:

Mr. Ed Pepke

Forest Products Marketing Specialist

UNECE/FAO Timber Branch

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Website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>

### **INTERNATIONAL TEAK UNIT - COILLTE CONSULT**

Coillte Consult provides services to investment companies, growers, traders and development agencies in the tropical timber plantations sector - with emphasis on teak. To consolidate the services that Coillte Consult provides in Latin America, Africa, and Asia they have launched the International Teak Unit.

**Coillte Consult** has worked with clients in the teak sector in Latin America (Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, El Salvador, Belize, Africa (Ghana, Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, and Tanzania), Asia (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam)

For more information about Coillte, please contact:

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Website: [http://www.coillte.ie/international\\_consultancy\\_services/international-teak.htm](http://www.coillte.ie/international_consultancy_services/international-teak.htm)

### **THE LITTLE GREEN DATA BOOK 2004**

The Little Green Data Book is based on the World Development Indicators, 2004 and is the result of close collaboration between the staff of the Development Economics Data Group, and the Environment Department.

The Little Green Data Book is a pocket-sized quick reference on key environmental data. Each page corresponds to one country. The user-friendly presentation of country data provides a baseline for comparison with regional and income group averages. Under the headings of agriculture, forests, biodiversity, energy, emissions and pollution, water and sanitation, and 'greener' national accounts, the Little Green Data Book presents 47 key indicators of the environment and its relationship to people for more than 200 countries.

If you would like to receive a copy by mail, please send your request to [eadvisor@worldbank.org](mailto:eadvisor@worldbank.org)

The file [PDF 864KB] is downloadable at:  
[http://Inweb18.worldbank.org/essd/ennext.nsf/44ByDocName/TheLittleGreenDataBook2004/\\$FILE/TheLittleGreenDataBook2004.pdf](http://Inweb18.worldbank.org/essd/ennext.nsf/44ByDocName/TheLittleGreenDataBook2004/$FILE/TheLittleGreenDataBook2004.pdf)

### **SCIDEV.NET'S BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE DOSSIERS**

SciDev.Net has put together a dossier on biodiversity that provides a comprehensive yet focused set of electronic resources on

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biodiversity and its relationship to development.

The dossier provides a series of commissioned policy briefs and opinion articles, an annotated directory of key documents, links to relevant organisations and events, and a basic glossary of definitions, as well as articles covering the latest developments in the field from SciDev.Net's news service.

By their nature, the problems created by climate change cut into the core of economic activities in fields such as transport, energy, public health, agriculture and forestry. In addition, policies linked to both reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to the impacts of climate change are closely linked to broader development issues.

Impressions that the battle against global warming is being won are misleading. In many ways, the struggle has only just begun - both on scientific and political fronts - while for many developing countries, dealing with its potentially disastrous impact is becoming increasingly urgent. This dossier on climate change provides recent news and feature articles on issues relating to the science and politics of climate change, policy briefs analysing key issues and describing their importance, selected opinion articles from stakeholders in the climate change debate, and key documents covering the spectrum between climate change science and development needs.

For comments or suggestions, please contact:  
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11 Rathbone Place  
London W1T 1HR  
UK

Phone: + 44-(0) 20-7291-3690

Fax: + 44-(0) 20-7291-3697

E-mail: [dossiers@scidev.net](mailto:dossiers@scidev.net).

Website: <http://www.scidev.net/index.cfm>

**FREE AUDIO INFORMATION &  
EDUCATION TOOL: EXPLAINING  
THE BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY**

International Biological Diversity Day fell on Saturday 22nd May this year and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme's centre for biodiversity has made a contribution by creating an educational website which explains the true meaning of biodiversity in easy to understand "consumer focussed" language.

The interactive presentation is based around the UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity Benefits People posters, which are also available to download and print from the same site. The presentation is an automated presentation with full audio commentary – if you have speakers, please have them switched on – if you don't then you can see the full transcript of the commentary by clicking to the notes box in the bottom left hand corner.

You can also adjust the size of screen to virtually full size should you wish.

This website also has useful links to:  
Defining Biodiversity  
UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity series of publications  
Biodiversity Assessment  
Biodiversity Posters (for download and print)

It is designed to be used as an information and education tool and will be available in CD ROM in the not too distant future. Educators can use this in the classroom, the public and private sector can also use this in supporting presentations whenever needed – the website tool is free of charge, the CD may be at additional cost including P&P – all we ask as that this is clearly acknowledged to UNEP-WCMC.

Please click to: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/biodiversity/index.htm>

### **ACCESS TO MAJOR SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS: GLOBAL ONLINE RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE (AGORA) INITIATIVE**

Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) is an initiative to provide free or low-cost access to major scientific journals in agriculture and related biological, environmental and social sciences to public institutions in developing countries. Launched in October 2003, AGORA provides access to over 500 journals from the world's leading academic publishers.

Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the goal of AGORA is to increase the quality and effectiveness of agricultural research, education and training in low-income countries, and in turn, to improve food security. Through AGORA, researchers, policy-makers, educators, students, technical workers and extension specialists may access high-quality, relevant and timely agricultural information via the Internet.

Blackwell Publishing, CABI Publishing, Elsevier, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Nature Publishing Group, Oxford University Press, Springer-Verlag, and John Wiley & Sons are the founding publishers of AGORA, providing access to over 400 of their journals. Additional publishers have been invited to participate in AGORA and have joined since.

Potential users are required to register with FAO, and access to AGORA is password controlled. The AGORA Publisher Partners are opening access free to relevant institutions in the countries listed on the AGORA website. Individual publishers reserve the right to add to or delete from this list. The countries, generally with an annual GNI per capita per annum of US\$1000 or less at 31 December 2000, have been selected by the Publisher Partners and will be amended by them from time to time. The publishers have also set several criteria for inclusion of institutions in the initiative one of which is that eligibility is limited to certain categories of not-for-profit national institutions: academic, research and government institutions.

Website: <http://www.aginternetwork.org>

### **RE-LAUNCH OF AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE (AJOL)**

The International Network for Scientific Publications (INASP) launched AJOL in 1998 with only 14 journals. By January 2004 it had over 175 African journals covering most subject areas. It is now being re-launched on its own website that continues



to provide free access to tables of contents and abstracts for all titles – but also provides a number of additional facilities. AJOL offers a document delivery service, and full (improved) searching and browsing facilities, as well as a new Email alert function. The service remains free to both users and participating journals (with charges only for document delivery requests from outside developing countries).

Journals included in AJOL are scholarly in content with peer reviewed articles, and publish a mixture of pure and applied research as well as review papers. Journals included cover Agricultural sciences and resource management; Arts, culture, language and literature; Health; Science and technology; and Social sciences. An evaluation of the AJOL service undertaken at the end of 2002 showed that participating journals benefit from the international visibility, with more international submissions and citations, and that users value access to African research that they have been unable to locate from other sources. Use of the service has more than doubled in the past few years (almost 4000 people registered during 2003) and the demand for document delivery tripled (reaching over 650 articles during 2003). The evaluation highlighted a need to update the website, to make it easier to use with an emphasis on improved searching and retrieval of articles.

In response to the evaluation, the new website now offers a greatly improved and more sophisticated search system and email alerting to identify new issues. Journals can also manage their own content online, giving them more control over their own work. We look forward to more users,

an increase in demand for document delivery and increased worldwide visibility for African published research.

Website: <http://www.ajol.info> (Sign up for e-mail alerts to any journals of interest)

New journals onto the service are also welcomed; please contact INASP for further information: [ajol@inasp.info](mailto:ajol@inasp.info) or visit <http://www.inasp.info>

### **ENCOFOR, AN EU-FUNDED PROJECT FOR THE DESIGN OF SUSTAINABLE CDM FORESTRY PROJECTS**

The European Commission and the Face Foundation (The Netherlands) have entered into an agreement to develop a toolkit for sustainable CDM afforestation and reforestation projects and to test pilot projects in Africa and South America. With a budget of 2.2 million euros for 3.5 years, this project is a joint effort with Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), Joanneum Research (Austria), B,S,S. Economic Consultants (Switzerland), ICRAF (Kenya), Forest Industry Services (Uganda), Centro Técnico Forestal (Bolivia), and Profafor (Ecuador).

ENCOFOR (“ENvironment and COmmunity based framework for designing afFORestation, reforestation and revegetation projects in the CDM: methodology development and case studies”) aims at creating maximum synergy between greenhouse gas mitigation and benefits for environment and local stakeholders. Target groups are governments, local communities and NGOs

in developing countries, and project planners, managers, investors and certifiers. The project will incorporate decisions of the Conferences of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and existing experience in project development, funding and execution. By establishing a internet-based ENCOFOR community the project will closely communicate with stakeholders.

Funding agency: EuropeAID

Project coordinators:

Face Foundation (Dr. Igino Emmer - [igino.emmer@facefoundation.nl](mailto:igino.emmer@facefoundation.nl))

Laboratory for Forest, Nature and Landscape Research, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Prof. Bart Muys - [bart.muys@agr.kuleuven.ac.be](mailto:bart.muys@agr.kuleuven.ac.be))

Project duration: October 2003 - March 2007

More information: <http://www.joanneum.at/encofor>

**BEYOND WOOD: THE VALUE OF  
NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS.  
A WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG  
FORESTERS**

Eden Project, Cornwall, UK 2-5 December 2004

Over 150 non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as roots, bark, fruit, latex and fungi, are traded by forest-dwelling people throughout the world. In many countries these resources are critical, especially for the rural poor and women, and may provide them with their only source of personal

income, medicine, construction material, and dietary variety. In contrast, in other countries the potential of NTFPs to provide income and maintain indigenous knowledge remains largely under-exploited. However, there remain differences of opinion concerning the best way to utilise NTFPs to improve the livelihoods of rural poor, whilst protecting biodiversity and ensuring sustainability. This presents a challenge to forest managers, ecologists, socio-economists and policy level decision makers.

To increase awareness amongst young foresters (both students and young professionals) of the importance of NTFPs the Commonwealth Forestry Association is holding an NTFP workshop at the Eden Project in the UK from 2-5 December. Lessons learned will enable forest managers of the future to give a high priority to responsible and sustainable forest management, give due concern to the people who depend on the forest for their livelihood and open up new resources to communities and First Nations.

For more details of the programme, and how to book please visit: <http://www.cfa-international.org/NTFPworkshop.html>

**4TH INTERNATIONAL CANOPY  
CONFERENCE "CANOPY ECOLOGY-  
TROPICAL VERSUS TEMPERATE  
FORESTS"**

Leipzig - Germany, 10-17 July 2005

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Canopy Conference is intended to bring together experts in forest

canopy biology from all over the world in order to spread and share research results and ideas, to strengthen existing collaborations, and to establish new ones. Since the map of big permanent canopy access facilities shows six functioning canopy cranes in temperate forests and five in tropical rain forests (including the COPAS system in French Guyana), it appears to be quite appropriate to aim at a comparison of the ecology and functioning of whole forests including their canopies in both zones.

The conference will be organised by the University of Leipzig and the UFZ Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle. Plans for the programme include morning and evening plenary presentations, and up to three parallel sessions on different topics like canopy structure, epiphytes, effects of climate change, plant physiology, phenology, pollination, etc.

The organisers would like to encourage especially colleagues from non-US or non-European countries to apply early and to look for travel grants.

For any further information concerning scientific matters, please contact:

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### **XVII INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS**

Austria Center Vienna 17-23 July 2005 - Vienna, Austria

As with previous International Botanical Congresses, this conference will emphasize the newest developments throughout the botanical sciences worldwide. There will also be an historical flavour to IBC Vienna 2005, as the Second International Botanical Congress was held in Vienna in 1905, exactly 100 years ago. The program of XVII IBC 2005 includes all aspects of basic and applied botanical research. The programme will include plenary talks, general lectures, symposia, and poster sessions. Ample meeting space will be provided for specialized workshops, small group meetings, and ad-hoc discussions. There will also be a large exhibition area including booksellers, publishers, laboratory equipment manufacturers, societies, etc., designed to demonstrate the newest products and applications in the botanical sciences. The international character of IBC Vienna 2005 will help to broaden our scientific horizons and facilitate and strengthen personal contacts with colleagues throughout the world. Vienna is an international city and has long been a gateway between western and eastern European countries. Young scientists are especially encouraged to participate, and toward this end, the registration fee for students has been kept as low as possible. The scientific contents and significance of IBC Vienna 2005 are determined by contributions from the participants. These will result in a broad and remarkable diversity of specialized

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symposia, plus general lectures summarizing current and newly developing botanical frontiers. Opportunities also exist for visiting the many university facilities, libraries, and rich botanical collections throughout the city, as well as for participating in numerous field excursions.

### General themes:

- 1 Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics
- 2 Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics
- 3 Structure and Development including Functional Aspects
- 4 Botanical Diversity, Systematics:
  - Paleobotany & general topics
  - Biogeography
  - Algae to gymnosperms
  - Angiosperms
  - Botanical history
- 5 Population Biology
- 6 Plant-/eco- physiology, bio-geogeochemical cycles
- 7 Phytochemistry (basic and applied)
- 8 Ecology, Environment; Conservation Biology:
  - 1 Functional community ecology/vegetation science
  - 2 Global change impacts & climate effects
  - 3 Environmental pollution and monitoring
  - 4 Plant conservation
- 9 Human Society and Plant Sciences
- 10 Natural Resources, Biotechnology, Economic Botany
- 11 Databases, Bioinformatics, Electronic Communications, Education

Deadline for Abstract Submission: Monday, January 31, 2005, 24.00 hrs CET.

### Contact:

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## GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF ASH

*Report on European Community Fifth Framework Project "Improving Fraxinus (Ash) productivity for European needs by testing, propagation and promotion of improved genetic resources". (RAP: Realising ash's potential)*

This project has fifteen partners in nine countries; it is now in its final year of a four year programme. The main objective is on genetic improvement of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The work involves examining existing provenance trials, establishing a European provenance trial in six countries, improving the vegetative propagation of selected materials, studying genetic diversity and hybridisation and defining effective means to communicate the research results and market situation for ash to end users.

Ash seeds have been collected, distributed and stratified by the 7 partners who will establish the European provenance trial. Each partner will test a core collection of 30 provenances collected in diverse geographic regions within the natural

European distribution of ash.

The first estimates of genetic diversity using microsatellites showed a high level of diversity within populations. However, more detailed analyses showed a deficiency in heterozygosity in some populations which may indicate a higher level of inbreeding than previously expected.

A fine scale genetic structure was revealed in ash populations using spatial autocorrelation tools and parentage analysis. It showed that two trees separated by less than 100 m were genetically more similar than two trees chosen at random in the same population. It means that gene flows by pollen and seeds are restricted within the stand. The neighbourhood size estimates showed that any given tree in the studied stand mates at random with 178 individuals.

A parentage analysis of natural seedlings in four zones within a stand showed that the mean distance of seed dispersal was about 80 meters and followed geographic contours in two valley sites. This means limited seed dispersal within the stands which are significantly lower than the level expected by random events. Estimates of gene flow from outside the ash stand was 58%, due to dispersal by pollen.

The best trees in the best provenances were used to establish shoot cultures and to develop an effective system for large scale micropropagation. Shoot cultures were established successfully from diverse sources; dormant winter buds, shoots from grafted plants and immature embryos. Viable shoot cultures were established from 27 mature trees and from seeds collected from selected trees (16 new cultures). Scale

up of selected tree production has been underway by two commercial laboratories with 1000 plants now at the rooting stage. Rooting experiments have started giving 50-90% rooting in microshoots and 80-90% survival of rooted plants in the green house. Somatic embryogenesis was demonstrated for the first time in *F. excelsior* by using immature embryo as the primary explant culture on MS medium with 2.0 m/L 2,4-D and 1.0 m/L BA. The somatic embryos continued to develop to the maturation stage by further culturing. In addition, adventitious shoot regeneration was recorded in the axes of cultured embryos.

Studies on flower induction showed that application of drought stresses to grafted trees in the proceeding year increased tree flowering from 4 to 21% and delayed flushing date. Paclobutrazol applications reduced shoot growth and increased trunk diameter.

Cuttings from ash seedlings give 75-95% rooting. High rooting rates of 68% to 95% were recorded in cuttings from four mature trees when the cuttings were collected from micropropagated plants which had been transferred to the glasshouse. This indicates that the micropropagation step restores rooting competence to mature material. Monitoring of the levels of soluble carbohydrate in ash cuttings indicated that a low initial level of mannitol or a rapid decrease in the level of mannitol was indicative of high rooting rates.

Methods to survey the end users of ash were determined in the context of identifying the key players who will affect the adoption of any new technologies (or germplasm) in relation to ash. The existing state of the art in adoption models has been reviewed.

Based on this, the methods were developed to conduct the survey in relation to this project. The participants who will constitute the Consultation Panel of end users have been identified among the European partners in this project. They will act as an important source of information in the market for ash as well as on other aspects related to ash improvement.

Coordinator:

G. Douglas

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Website: <http://www.teagasc.ie/advisory/forestry/rap/index.htm>

### **INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR HIMALAYAN BIODIVERSITY (ICHB- 2003)**

On December 11, 2003 the ICHB was set up for Himalayan Biodiversity education, research, development, extension and networking .

The "International Center for Himalayan Biodiversity (ICHB)" has been set up in close coordination, collaboration and cooperation with institutions and individuals working in education, research, and development in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity supporting Himalayan people in their search for sustainable development. The center is running as an autonomous and self governed institution and is supported by the Himalayan Resources Institute (HIRI). The ICHB is committed to the dissemination of information about current conservation issues to researchers and

development professionals. To this end, the Network maintains active affiliations with a variety of local organizations and provides educational opportunities through community speakers, speaker series, Conservation Forum, Himalayan Biodiversity Day.

The vision of the ICHB is to improve human welfare through the sustainable use of Himalayan biodiversity. The ICHB provides education, research, training and development opportunities, and a unique intellectual environment for the development of solutions to ecological questions and problems facing Himalayan Biodiversity. The ICHB is committed to attracting students from Himalayan countries who will play leadership roles in future conservation efforts, as well as graduate students from Nepal and abroad seeking expertise in Himalayan Biodiversity, systematics, and conservation biology. The Network associates have active research programmes in the economics and politics of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The Network in future will not only maintain state of the art equipment, laboratories and Himalayan and Tropical green houses to conduct biochemical, molecular, eco-physiological and ecological research but also develops research and international training programs and activities through out the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) and other mountain countries in the world.

The goal of the ICHB is to bring in all the diverse stakeholders of various field of Himalayan biodiversity in a common forum with the objective of exchanging information and technical expertise.

For further information, please contact:

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or the Project Leader:  
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ZF0109: Development of multi-media  
resource on forest conservation issues  
Source: DFID/FRP Prunings 2003  
<http://www.etfrn.org/etfrn/index.html>

### FORESTS MATTER!

Staff from the World Land Trust, a British NGO concerned with tropical forest ecology and conservation, developed a text and website directed at keystone 3 children, together with a teachers' pack, Focus on forests! During the development of the website (<http://www.worldlandtrust.org/forestry/>), they did not stop at asking scientists about the facts, but also asked children at a local school to test and criticise the usefulness.

Not only has this procedure helped to improve the 'Focus on Forests' website, it has also demonstrated a new way forward for the development of similar sites in true collaboration with the clients. With the help of leafy graphics and navigation buttons, the user is guided through the concepts of sustainable forestry as well as the consequences of losing biodiversity.

For more information about this project contact:

### SPEAKING WITH THE WORLD

It was a challenge to put to 18 researchers to participate in a training course on communication methods and scientific advocacy organised by Brighton-based IMA International. In these role plays, the researchers tried their best with politeness and persuasion, and afterwards discussed how to engage with stakeholders at all stages of a project, from inception to promotion.

It was this connection between researchers and non-researchers that was central to the training. A one-off meeting with a government minister, journalist or funder is most likely insufficient for success, but constant engagement is necessary, and beneficial, in both directions. The training course participants did not all agree that advocacy is part of their role and that it is the researchers, not intermediaries, who should get off the fence and become involved in policy dialogue in order to change the livelihoods of the poor. The debate about whether "advocacy" is a dirty word signifying brown envelopes in swish hotels, or a lawful fact of life, was very heated indeed, and

ended without being resolved.

The pilot training course in Brighton in January 2004 was a successful platform for researchers to discuss and learn from each other's experience. It is now being followed by locally adapted courses in three other continents. By the end of the year, 80 researchers will be more skilled in engaging successfully with the non-scientific community at large, thus making a difference to the world's poor.

ZF0147E: Communication methods and scientific advocacy

Source: DFID/FRP Prunings 2004

<http://www.etfrn.org/etfrn/index.html>

For more information about this project contact:

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or Ms Angela Christie

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### **A GOOD SCORE FOR IMPACT**

The Performance and Impact Programme at the Natural Resources Institute is developing an approach to help improve the performance of agricultural and forestry research organisations.

The group worked together with staff from the Crops Research Institute and the Food Research Institute in Ghana and the National Banana Research Programme in

Uganda to address performance measurement at programme and organisational levels. The team used the 'balanced scorecard approach' as a tool for exploring ways to improve the measurement and management of performance in natural resources research organisations in the public sector.

Two main accomplishments stand out. Firstly, the balanced scorecard approach enabled each partner organisation to consider and partially reconfigure their goals and objectives, making them more relevant and measurable. Secondly, the participants identified areas that had not previously received attention, such as enhanced feedback between staff and the importance of monitoring employee satisfaction and its link to organisational performance.

R8086: Institutionalising impact orientation

Source: DFID/FRP Prunings 2003

<http://www.etfrn.org/etfrn/index.html>

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### RAINFOREST REPORT (RARE)

RARE is the quarterly e-zine of Coral Cay Conservation (CCC), an international NGO dedicated to providing resources to help sustain livelihoods and alleviate poverty through the protection, restoration and management of coral reefs and tropical forests. To request a copy contact: rare@coralcay.org

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### PEAT-PORTAL

The Global Environment Centre has taken the initiative to construct a dedicated PORTAL site that will allow quick exchange of information, identification of problematic areas in management, sharing of ideas, and enhancing global awareness of pertinent issues in peatland management.

The site offers e-forums on many peat related subjects such as climate change and biodiversity in relation to peat- and wetlands, peatland management and restoration and fire-and-haze management. The discussions can be read by all visitors, but registration is necessary if you want to join in.

Interesting are the many downloadable documents available on the site on various subjects, ranging from newsletters like *PeatMatters-Vol 1*, the newsletter for *project on integrated management of peatlands for biodiversity and climate change*, to workshop reports such as the *synthesised report of the international workshop on integrated management and rehabilitation of peatlands*, brochures, guidelines and strategy documents.

There is also limited information on peat projects and events. You can add your own documents, projects and events.

Geographically the site focus is on South East Asia, although there is room for discussion from other regions as well, and the documents are of general interest.

Webiste: <http://www.peat-portal.net>

By Blanca Méndez and Bert van der Linden

**NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES –  
INSTRUMENTS FOR IMPROVING  
SECTOR GOVERNANCE?  
EXPERIENCES OF GERMAN  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

*Thies, W., Pfeil, E. von and Reiche, M.  
(editors) (2004)*

Since 1985, Germany has supported more than 300 projects in some 70 countries worldwide to help create an enabling environment for forest conservation and sustainable forest management. These projects emphasise the importance of the partner countries' accepting ownership and being in the driving seat and also of participatory, cross-sectoral implementation. In this respect, national forest programmes have become one of the most important forest policy instruments in German development cooperation.

At present Germany is involved in the development of national forest programmes in more than 20 partner countries and regions. Most of them are presented in the document, which hopefully will become a key source of information for specialists and decision-makers at country level and beyond.

*BMZ Information Materials No. 129. Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Division of Development Information and Education*

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**MALAWI'S NATIONAL FORESTRY  
PROGRAMME. PRIORITIES FOR  
IMPROVING FORESTRY AND  
LIVELIHOODS**

*Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Environmental Affairs, Government of  
Malawi (2001)*

Malawi's forests and trees can and should be used to contribute to poverty eradication, a thriving economy and good environmental management. The National Forestry Programme to help make this a reality. It consists of a set of agreed priorities – written down in this document – and an ongoing process for achieving them. Major problems stand in the way: forest degradation, excessive demands on existing fuelwood resources, and forest institutions poorly equipped for today's policies and pressures. But the National Forestry Programme has mapped out the strategies and actions, agreed through a wide participatory process, for tackling these problems. Central government, local government, the private sector, civil society and the international community should draw on this document to develop specific

## Publications

initiatives and provide the inspiration and dedication to improve forestry and livelihoods in Malawi.

ISBN 1-899-825-762

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### FORESTS IN POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES: CAPTURING THE POTENTIAL

*Oksanen, T., Pajari, B. and Tuomasjukka, T. (editors) (2003)*

This is the report of a workshop focused on improving the contribution of forests and the forest sector to the Poverty Reduction Strategy process. The theme is highly relevant both to forest sector policy makers and practitioners in the developing countries and international agencies, as well as to policy makers and practitioners trying to develop effective strategies for poverty reduction. The Workshop gathered together a total of 62 experts. A summary of the discussion in the open session is included in the end of these proceedings.

*EFI Proceedings No. 47, 2003. Proceedings of the international "Forests and Poverty Reduction" workshop, held on 1-4 October, 2002, in Tuusula, Finland. ISSN*

*1237-8801, ISBN 952-9844-96-4*

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### IIED FORESTRY AND LAND USE PROGRAMME: RECENT PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO NFP PROCESSES AND QUESTIONS

**Policy that works for forests and people: real prospects for governance and livelihoods.** *James Mayers and Stephen Bass. Earthscan, London. 2004.*

Since its original publication by IIED, in 1999, Policy that Works for Forests and People has been recognised as the most authoritative study to date of policy processes that affect forests and people. Providing a thorough analysis of the issues, options and factors that determine different outcomes and bolstered by a major annex containing tools and tactics, the book offers clear and practical advice on how to formulate, manage and implement policies appropriate to different contexts. These are policies that result in real improvements in the governance, use and economic benefits that can flow from forests to those who depend upon them. This book is essential reading for policy-makers, forestry practitioners and academics and students in all areas of forest policy, management and governance.

## Publications

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To order: via IIED's website: <http://www.iied.org/bookshop/index.html>

Ordering information:

*Earthscan/IIED, Year of publication: 2004 pbk 356 pages, ISBN: 1 84407 096 4, Stock number: 9276IIED, Price: USD 59.95*

*A pdf of the original (1999) text is available from <http://www.iied.org/forestry/pubs/ptw.html>*

**Forestry Tactics: lessons from Malawi's National Forestry Programme.** James Mayers, John Ngalande, Pippa Bird and Bright Sibale. IIED, London. 2001.

To get anywhere in forestry these days you have to play politics. Forestry can and should improve people's livelihoods as well as looking after trees – and this means changing the political environment for the better. Malawi's National Forestry Programme seeks to address this challenge. It is different to many other national forest sector strategies and programmes which exist only as fat documents and lists of projects for which donors cannot be found. It seeks to make the most of existing knowledge and do something with it, to get stake-holders of all kinds negotiating, to focus on a few agreed priority areas, to hit them hard and achieve major change. It's a big challenge and results to date have been mixed. This study tells the story of Malawi's NFP so far – it draws out lessons from the process, identifies challenges ahead and identifies a range of practical tactics for national forest programmes which may be useful in others countries.

To order: via IIED's website: <http://www.iied.org/bookshop/index.html>

Ordering information: IIED, Year of publication: 2001, 52 pages, ISBN: 1 89982 5851, Stock number: 9009IIED Price: USD 15.00

*A pdf of this report may be downloaded from: <http://www.iied.org/forestry/pubs/ptw.html>*

**Making the most of market chains: challenges for small-scale farmers and traders in upland Vietnam.** Le Thi Phi, Nguyen Van Duong, Nguyen Ngoc Quang and Phan Lac Vang. Edited by Elaine Morrison and Sonja Vermeulen. IIED, London. 2004.

Market development is key to raising the living standards of people who live in Vietnam's uplands. Policies and development programmes to help farmers improve production and processing of forest and agricultural products will always be limited without parallel support to marketing. This study shows that efforts to assist farmers (and harvesters of natural produce) to get better and more reliable prices need to take into account full market chains - not just what happens at the "farm gate". Market opportunities and prices are constrained by factors that affect traders first, with knock-on impacts on taxes to a basic lack of information in villages and district market places. Policy solutions lie not in drawing up new policy statements, but rather in better implementation of the many very positive policies that already exist to support poor upland residents. Fundamentally, better implementation may require some deep-rooted changes in the culture of government and development agencies, to support the individual and group initiatives that small-scale farmers and traders are developing themselves.

To order: via IIED's website: <http://www.iied.org/bookshop/index.html>

Ordering information: IIED, Year of publication: 2004, paperback 56 pages, ISBN: 1 84369 5057, Stock number: 9313IIED, Price: USD 9.00

A pdf of this report will soon be available on: [http://www.iied.org/forestry/pubs/sm\\_entprise.html](http://www.iied.org/forestry/pubs/sm_entprise.html)

**Growing Timber Exports: The Brazilian tropical timber industry and international markets.** Duncan Macqueen, Maryanne Grieg-Gran, Eirivelthon Lima, James MacGregor, Frank Merry, Victor Prochnik, Neil Scotland, Roberto Smeraldi and Carlos Young. IIED, London. 2003. (Also available in Portuguese)

Growing Exports is for all those who have an interest or stake in what happens to the Amazon forest, and provides a fresh look at developments in the policies and practice of the Brazilian timber trade through the eyes of those in the value chain. Written by independent Brazilian and international forest experts, it aims to provoke discussion and provide the accurate information needed to underpin negotiated consensus between the interested parties. The Brazilian government aims to more than double timber exports in less than a decade without annihilating the remaining natural forests of Brazil, especially in the legal Amazon. Can it be done? Recent trade trends hint at useful options to explore. Extensive surveys of Brazilian timber producers and international buyers provide more practical information about the critical barriers to be overcome. A comparative study from South East Asia is used to draw lessons about what might make exports

grow and at what cost to the forest. Will the free market take care of itself, or are major policy and institutional changes needed to provide a framework for the government's ambitions of export growth, and if so, how might this be achieved?

To order: via IIED's website: <http://www.iied.org/bookshop/index.html>

Ordering information (Portuguese version only): IIED, Year of publication: 2004, paperback 160 pages, ISBN: 1 84369 437 9, Stock number: 9227IIED, Price: USD 22.50

A pdf of the English version may be downloaded from: [http://www.iied.org/forestry/pubs/sm\\_entprise.html](http://www.iied.org/forestry/pubs/sm_entprise.html)

**Could Wood Combat Climate Change? And Could this Help Sustainable Development?** Duncan Macqueen, James Mayers and Hannah Reid. Briefing paper. IIED, London. 2004.

Human induced climate change is one of the most pressing and complex issues facing society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Increased use of forests and wood products, while not replacing the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at source, does make an important contribution towards tackling the problem of climate change. The use of wood products can also provide broader social, economic and environmental benefits. However these broader developmental benefits are not always recognised, nor do they always materialise in tandem with climate change mitigation initiatives. This briefing paper summarises a longer report, prepared for the Nordic Timber Council, which aims to improve understanding of the benefits of, and linkages between, the use

## Publications

of wood products to mitigate climate change and the capacity to deliver broader human development.

*A pdf of this publication may be downloaded from [http://www.iied.org/climate\\_change/pubs.html](http://www.iied.org/climate_change/pubs.html)*

### **POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE IN WOODLANDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Kowero, G., Campbell, B.M. and Sumaila, U.R. (editors) (2003),

This book highlights different facets of local community governance of woodlands. The outcomes for people and forest are often dependent on local institutional arrangements (rules, regulations, and organisational dynamics). The book explores the role of local institutional arrangements in woodland management, in community-based approaches and in conflict resolution.

*ISBN 979-3361-22-0*

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### **A NEW AGENDA FOR FOREST CONSERVATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION: MAKING MARKETS WORK FOR THE LOW-INCOME PRODUCERS**

*Scherr, S.J., White, A. and Kaimowitz, D. (2004).*

This paper lays out a set of strategies to promote forest conservation in ways that positively contribute to local livelihoods and community development in low- and middle-income countries. The authors fully recognize the critical importance of the "safety net" functions of forests for the poor. But they also identify specific market niches where large numbers of low-income producers have, or could develop, a competitive market advantage. They identify important commercial opportunities for private forest industry, forest enterprises and business service providers to partner with low-income forest producers. They also explore alternative strategies to recognize, encourage and reward forest conservation by local forest owners and users. Real world cases described in the paper illustrate their potential and feasibility, as well as the difficulties to be overcome.

*ISBN 0-9713606-6-9, Forest Trends/CIFOR/  
IUCN*

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*Phone + 1-202-298-3000  
Website: <http://www.forest-trends.org>*

### **FINANCIAL MECHANISMS FOR POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT ISSUES. THE BIO-RIGHTS SYSTEM**

*Silvius, M.J., Setiadi, B., Diemont, W.H., Sjakowi, F., jansen, H.G.P., Siepel, H., Rieley, J.O, Verhagen, A., Beintema, A., Burnhill, L. and Limin, S.H. (2002)*

Bio-rights is a financial mechanism which can assist in reconciling poverty reduction and sustainable use of natural resources in developing countries and countries in transition. The system conditionally compensates for the opportunity costs of local stakeholders to use their natural resources or conserve biodiversity in a sustainable way.

Bio-rights would allow, for instance, the public value of key biodiversity areas to be transferred over time to local stakeholders as a direct economic benefit. This turns natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in the rural frontiers into a development opportunity.

*Alterra-report 617, ISSN 1566-7197, Alterra and Wetlands International*

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### **FINANCIAL MECHANISMS FOR POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT ISSUES. THE CASE OF CENTRAL KALIMANTAN (KALTENG)**

*Clements-Hunt, P., Diemont, H., Limin, S., Page, S., Rieley, J., Setiadi, B., Sjakowi, F., Silvius, M., Radjagukug, B., Vasander, H. and Verhagen, J. (2002).*

*Alterra-report 589 – Second edition, ISSN 1566-7197, Alterra and Wetlands International*

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### **ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS: LINKING PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*Bouwma, I., Opdam, P. and Schrevel, A. Alterra, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands*

Much of the literature available on ecological networks or links between protected areas is not published in international scientific journals but in reports and on websites. The available information on ecological networks deals mostly with the ecological principles and nature values that form the basis for the design. Seldom is information available on the instruments used to implement them or the institutional setting in which they are

implemented. Publications on successes and failures are even scarcer. Bearing these limitations in mind, the authors have reviewed the available information on ecological networks and have tried to find general rules that might explain the differences in the way ecological networks are designed and implemented.

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### **LYONIA: A JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION.**

Lyonia, published by Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, University of Hawaii, is an electronic, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal devoted to the fast dissemination of current ecological research and its application in conservation, management, sustainable development and environmental education. In addition, Lyonia encourages the submission non-peer reviewed manuscripts addressing sustainable development and community issues.

Manuscript submission, peer-review and publication are entirely handled electronically. As articles are accepted they are automatically published as volume in progress and immediately available on the web. Every six months a Volume-in-Progress is declared a Published Volume and subscribers receive the table of Contents via e-mail. Small changes to accepted papers are possible until a volume is declared published.

Lyonia seeks articles from a wide field of disciplines (ecology, biology, anthropology, economics, law etc.) concerned with ecology, conservation, management, sustainable development and education in mountain and island environments with particular emphasis on montane forest of tropical regions.

In its research section Lyonia publishes peer-reviewed scientific papers that report original research on ecology, conservation and management, and particularly invites contributions that show new methodologies employing interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches. The sustainable development and environmental education section contains reports on these activities. Subscription to Lyonia is free of any charge.

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### **ÖKOLOGIE DER ERDE. BD. 2: SPEZIELLE ÖKOLOGIE DER TROPISCHEN UND SUBTROPISCHEN ZONEN**

*(Ecology of the earth. Bd. 2: Special ecology of the tropical and subtropical zones) Walter, Heinrich; Breckle, Siegm-W. (2004).*



Die völlig neu bearbeitete 3. Auflage des Bandes 2 der "Ökologie der Erde" ist jetzt herausgekommen. Der Band enthält neben den Feuchttropen auch die Savannen und vor allem die Wüstengebiete der Erde. Der umfangreiche Band (764 Seiten) ist mit zahlreichen Photos, Graphiken und Tabellen (ca 565 Abb. und ca 155 Tab.) illustriert. Die dargebotenen Ergebnisse und Fallbeispiele sowie die Auswertung der neueren Literatur sind in dieser Ausführlichkeit und Auswahl bisher einzigartig. Das Buch kostet (da über die Schimper-Stiftung bezuschußt) nur Euro 50.-. ISBN 3-8274-0789-3 Er ist erschienen bei Elsevier Verlag/Spektrum Akad. Verlag Heidelberg. Die anderen Bände: Band 1 (Einführung), Band 3 (Gemäß. und Arkt. Zonen Euro-Nordasiens) und Band 4 (Gemäß. und Arkt. Zonen außerhalb Euro-Nordasiens) sind noch verfügbar.

ISBN: 3-8274-0789-3 Elsevier – In German

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Phone: +49- 62 21- 91- 26 - 300  
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### TROPICAL FORESTS IN MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPES

Zuidema, P.A. (editor) (2003).

Seminar Series: Issues in international nature conservation. Proceedings of two

seminars organized by the Prince Bernard Centre for International Nature Conservation, Utrecht University, in collaboration with the Dutch Association for Tropical Foresters, held in Utrecht, 2 December 2002 and 11 April 2003. Prince Bernard Centre, University of Utrecht.

The two seminars included presentations on biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and hydrological functions of undisturbed and exploited tropical forests in the context of multi-functional landscapes. The proceedings include 7 papers that provide an overview of the most important issues related to the potential services of tropical forests in multi-functional landscapes.

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### DFID/FRP PRUNINGS 2003

"Prunings" from the UK's DFID Forest research programme are a compilation of one-sheet human interest stories or little prunings taken from the project outputs. You may download the 2003 and 2004 versions, each containing 10 prunings from the ETRN website (<http://www.etfrn.org>). Several examples are summarised below.

### **Building local capacity**

R7588: Mesoamerican tree species: a source book for farm planting and ecological restoration. DFID/FRP Prunings 2003

After asking farmers which species they defined as “useful trees”, the research team from the Oxford Forestry Institute in collaboration with colleagues in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras gathered information on the most important species in Central America, and their role in onfarm planting, ecological restoration and natural regeneration.

They produced a preliminary draft of the source book and an accompanying CD and discussed it in a series of workshops with collaborators and other stakeholders. During these workshops the participants had an excellent opportunity to learn more about the production of efficient extension materials.

Indeed, the enthusiasm of the participants was such, that they successfully convinced the project leaders to change the project strategy. Now the funds are used to concentrate more on capacity building and training in farmer extension to ensure increased promotion and uptake, rather than on the production of more copies of the source book itself. The revised strategy is now tailored to the particular demands and the situation of each of the country and collaborators’ capacities.

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*Dr David Boshier*

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### **Getting the picture**

R7367: development of biodiversity field guides. DFID/FRP Prunings 2003

We often assume that the people who live and work in the rainforest also recognise its plants, but this is far from universally true. A research team from the University of Oxford and partner organizations in Ghana, Cameroon and Grenada interviewed villagers in the three countries about their local knowledge of tree species. Surprisingly, no one – apart from specialist tree spotters employed by timber companies – was able to recognize correctly more than a third of the trees in the local patch of forest, and then it was often only in terms of very broad local names (like ‘fire-wood’) which cover many species. Yet, most of the people rely on the forest for their livelihoods!

To fill this gap, the research team is now developing easy-to-use forest field guides, in close collaboration with the people of Simpa and other villages in West Africa. During an evaluation of the wordless field guide, Simpa’s baker, a lady who did not know the forest trees but wanted to know more about her surroundings, could correctly identify 18 out of the 20 test species when using the guide!

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*sciences.oxford.ac.uk*

### **Seeing is believing**

R6549: Factors affecting nutritive value of *Calliandra calothyrsus* in diary fodder. DFID/FRP Prunings 2003

Farmer exchange visits from Tanzania to Kenya have shown this interesting result: Researchers from the Oxford Forestry Institute in collaboration with colleagues from the World Agroforestry Centre and national research institutions in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda are testing ways of farmer-to-farmer extension, and study the effectiveness of various approaches.

Farmers planting *Calliandra calothyrsus* in boundary hedges in Kenya are more numerous than previously thought. The latest estimate is 18,500 in the Central Province around Mount Kenya alone. More information will be coming in during the next few months to further refine (and likely increase) this figure. For now, the project surveyors estimate that each of the farmers involved in the early phase of the project led to one other farmer adopting the tree species. Moreover, the project is helping substantial numbers of farmers to plant calliandra for the first time during this season. The promotion activities under FRP project R6549 are definitely further increasing these numbers substantially. The scaling up of calliandra adoption in Kenya, and increasingly in the neighbouring countries as well, looks set to be a real success story.

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### **Give them a smaller fork!**

R7342: Pruning to improve spatial complementarity between crops and trees. DFID/FRP Prunings 2003

A team from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Edinburgh, the World Agroforestry Centre and the Ugandan and Kenyan forestry research institutes is working with CBOs in the two countries to develop methods that could allow the farmers to benefit from both a good crop harvest, and the timber and firewood from the trees. Experiments to limit competition for water and nutrients through crown and root pruning of trees have shown promise, and farmers are enthusiastic to try out the new management.

The project facilitated an exchange visit of farmers from Uganda to Kenya where some farmers have pruned trees for years. As well as learning about pruning, the Ugandan visitors took back home new ideas for their farm management. For example, many are now growing calliandra to feed their dairy cows.

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## Publications

### **TRAINING MODULES ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE VERSION 1.0**

*FAO Land and Water Digital Media Series  
22 – CD-ROM, FAO (2002)*

These training modules on Conservation Agriculture are formulated on the basis of field experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America, which show that agriculture based on these principles can be profitable and sustainable. The benefits are reduced production costs, higher yields, fewer weed problems and thus reduced herbicide use, reduced water need higher fertilizer efficiency, less lodging, reduced fuel use, less wear or machinery, savings in time, savings in labour and higher farm profit.

The objectives of these training modules are to explain the advantages and disadvantages of Conservation Agriculture, to learn the technical principles that underlie the advantages and disadvantages, to provide technical assistance on initiation of Conservation Agriculture to farmers and to be able to answer frequently asked questions.

*Copies of this CD-ROM can be ordered from:  
Sales and Marketing Group FAO  
Viale delle Terme di caracalla  
00100 Rome  
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E-mail: [publication-sales@fao.org](mailto:publication-sales@fao.org)  
Website: <http://www.fao.org>*

### **ANTS AS FRIENDS. IMPROVING YOUR TREE CROPS WITH WEAVER ANTS**

*Mele, P. van and Nguyen T.T.C. (2003).*

Tree crops are increasingly being protected by agrochemicals, endangering the environment and human health. This manual provides practical tips to make optimal use of the beneficial weaver ant, based on improved insights of underlying ecological principles. The authors have combined the rich sources of scientific and farmers' knowledge into an attractive and colourful manual. It will appeal in particular to university students, NGO workers, extension staff and all those engaged in communicating science to farmers.

*ISBN 958-97218-2-6. CABI Bioscience*

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Website: <http://www.cabi-bioscience.org>*

### **A TRAINING GUIDE FOR *IN-SITU* CONSERVATION ON-FARM - VERSION 1**

*Jarvis, D.I., Myer, L., Klemick, H., Guarino,  
L. Smale, M., Brown, A.H.D., Sadiki, M.  
Sthapit, B. and Hodgkin, T. (2000)*

This manual is intended for national programmes interested in supporting *in situ* conservation of agricultural biodiversity maintained on-farm by farmers. It was written to provide a range of actors, including Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, universities, research and extension institutions, non-government organizations (NGOs), and community based groups, with a comprehensive view of factors involved in designing and implementing a programme to support the *in situ* conservation of crop genetic diversity on-farm.

*In situ* conservation on-farm is a diverse and complex topic, and as a result any training guide can not cover every detail of the disciplines involved. Instead, this guide is geared to give national programmes basic technical skills and tools to build institutional capacity and partnerships to implement an on-farm conservation programme. It discusses the information necessary and the practical steps for the implementation of on-farm conservation, as well as the importance of such an initiative. Equipped with the baseline information from this guide, the reader should then be able to identify and access more detailed information on specialized topics.

ISBN 92-9043-452-X (CD-ROM).  
*International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Rome, Italy*

*For more information contact:*  
IPGRI  
Via delle Sette Chiese, 142  
00145 Rome  
Italy

### **TREE SEEDLINGS OF INDONESIA 1.0. KEY TO SECONDARY FOREST SEEDLINGS OF EAST KALIMANTAN**

*Bodegom, S., Pelsler, P.B. and Keßler, P.J.A  
(2003)*

This CD-ROM summarizes information and identification keys for 123 taxa of secondary forest tree seedlings from Indonesia. Not all secondary forest tree species of East Kalimantan are included, but this CD-ROM will provide a unique guide to the identification of the most common ones.

ISBN 90-75000-64-2 (*Macintosh and Windows*). *World Biodiversity Database CD-ROM Series. ETI, Tropenbos International, National Herbarium of the Netherlands, Universiteit Leiden branch, UNESCO*

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### **REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF DEGRADED FORESTS**

*David Lamb and Don Gilmour (2003)*

The publication provides a very clear overview of the key issues concerning forest

## Publications

loss and recovery. It looks at basic terminology related to reforestation, outlines the causes of forest loss and degradation, the biological and socio-economic implications, and demonstrates, using case studies, the technical solutions. Finally it looks at some of the key lessons derived from experience and how these can be used to shape our work on Forest Landscape Restoration. The authors draw on their considerable experience to highlight a number of case studies to illustrate this publication.

*ISBN: 2-8327-0668-8. Issues in Forest Conservation series. WWF-the Conservation Organisation and IUCN-The World Conservation Union.*

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### **ITTO GUIDELINES FOR THE RESTORATION, MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED AND SECONDARY TROPICAL FORESTS**

*International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) (2002)*

These guidelines have been prepared to highlight the increasing importance of the

current and potential roles of degraded and secondary forests in tropical landscapes. They provide a set of principles and recommended actions to promote and encourage the management, restoration, rehabilitation and sustainable utilization of degraded and secondary forests as a component of sustainable social and economic development. They fill a gap between two existing ITTO policy documents: the ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests and the ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests.

*ISBN: 4-902045-01-X. ITTO Policy Development Series No. 13*

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*Website: <http://www.itto.or.jp>*

### **ADVANCING ASSISTED NATURAL REGENERATION (ANR) IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

*Dugan, P.C., Durst, P.B, Ganz, D.J and Mc Kenzie P.J. (2003)*

FAO and partner organisations convened a workshop and study on assisted natural regeneration (ANR) in the Philippines in April

## Publications

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2002 to highlight the potential and opportunities of ANR as a restoration strategy. The workshop discussion and presentations underscored the importance of ANR in the broader context of sustainable forest management and the potential for cost-effective rehabilitation of forestlands through more aggressive implementation of ANR. This publication includes selected papers dealing with the technical, environmental and social dimensions of ANR, as well as papers describing country initiatives.

ISBN 974-7946-49-1

RAP Publication 2003/19. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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**BRINGING BACK THE FORESTS.  
POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR  
DEGRADED LANDS AND FORESTS**

Sim, H.C., Appanah, S. and Durst, P.B. (2003)

Land and forest degradation has become so devastating in the Asia-Pacific region that it is now causing severe environmental and economic problems, and is beginning to threaten the livelihoods of millions of people. The need to rehabilitate these lands

and forests is growing. Rehabilitation in the past was largely limited to monocultures and enrichment planting. Most such efforts met with failure or were not cost-effective. But the science of rehabilitation has advanced significantly – now forest rehabilitation procedures seek to go far beyond commercial timber production. New rehabilitation techniques are being developed to increase biodiversity and ecological services, and initiatives are purposefully linked with social development programmes. This publication includes papers presented at an international conference held 7-10 October 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, giving a comprehensive overview of the various initiatives and experiences gained in *Bringing Back the Forests*.

ISBN: 974-7946-43-2. Proceedings of an International Conference. 7-10 October 2002, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, RAP publication 2003/14. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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## Publications

### **EUR 20523 EN. DETERMINATION OF THE WORLD'S HUMID TROPICAL DEFORESTATION RATES DURING THE 1990'S. METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS OF THE TREES-II RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

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E-mail: [info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int](mailto:info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int)

<http://publications.eu.int/>

*Achard, F., Eva, H.D., Stibig H-J., Mayaux Ph., Gallego, J., Richards, T. and Malingreau, J-P. (2002)*

### **FOREST COVER MAP OF CONTINENTAL SOUTHEAST ASIA**

The second phase of a research programme (TREES-II) exploiting the global imaging capabilities of Earth observing satellites has just been completed to provide the latest information on the status of humid tropical forests. This report presents the research programme results. These new figures are the most consistent currently available. At the global level, these figures indicate a 23% lower net forest cover change rate for the tropical humid forest than was generally accepted until now. This has major repercussions on the calculation of carbon fluxes in the global budget resulting in a terrestrial sink smaller than previously inferred.

A new regional forest cover map of continental Southeast Asia has been published by the Global Vegetation Monitoring Unit (IES/GVM) of the European Joint Research Centre at Ispra, Italy.

The map has been produced from SPOT4-VEGETATION satellite images of the years 1998-2000 at a spatial resolution of 1km<sup>2</sup>. At a scale of 1:4 million the map displays the broad distribution of tropical forest cover in the region, differentiating between evergreen and deciduous forest cover and providing some additional information on the distribution of mountain, lowland, swamp and mangrove forests.

*Environment and quality of life series. ISBN 92-894-4724-9. TREES Series B, Research Report No. 5. European Commission. Directorate General Joint Research Centre. Institute for Environment and Sustainability. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.*

The forest cover map of continental Southeast Asia has been designed for regional overview, covering the Northeast of India and the countries of Bangladesh, Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. In such context the map may serve as a reference on forest cover or as a base for subsequent sampling, selected detailed forest mapping or for vegetation modelling. The map does not target local-scale forest mapping or forest management applications.

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A paper copy of the map including



## Publications

explanatory notes can be obtained from the JRC.

The digital data set is available from:  
[http://www.gvm.jrc.it/Forest/asia/carto\\_sea2000.htm](http://www.gvm.jrc.it/Forest/asia/carto_sea2000.htm).

The forest cover map has also served as input to the GLC2000 global land cover database over continental Southeast Asia:  
<http://www.gvm.jrc.it/glc2000/ProductGLC2000.htm>.

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been prepared to inform and update policy makers, forestry officials and others interested in recent developments in the region's forestry sector.

*ISBN 974-7946-50-5. RAP Publication 2003/22, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific/Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission*

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### **STATE OF FORESTRY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC – 2003. STATUS, CHANGES AND TRENDS**

*Brown, Ch. and Durst, P.B. (2003)*

The Asia-Pacific region is characterized by diversity and rapid change. These attributes are reflected in the forestry sector, where rapid evolution of social, economic and environmental issues means policies, legislation, institutions and the broad forestry community are being challenged to cope with constantly shifting goals and expectations.

The *State of forestry in Asia and the Pacific – 2003* provides a broad status report and overview of developments in forestry in the region during the past several years. It has

### **NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS IN 15 COUNTRIES OF TROPICAL ASIA – AN OVERVIEW**

*Vantomme, P., Markkula, A. and Leslie, R.N. (2002)*

This regional study presents an overview of the socio-economic importance of the use of non-wood forest products (NWFP) in 15 countries of Tropical Asia. The document consists of 2 main parts: (1) presentation of background information of the programme activities and methodology and an analysis of the available information at the regional level; and (2) presentation of data on NWFP at the national level (so-called "country profiles").

*FAO, ISBN 974-90666-0-X*

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### **PLANT RESOURCES OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA 17 – FIBRE PLANTS**

*M. Brink and R.P. Escobin (2003), PROSEA*

Plant Resources of South-East Asia is a multivolume handbook that aims to summarise knowledge about useful plants for workers in education, research, extension and industry. Volume 17 deals with the plants in South-East Asia that are cultivated or collected from the wild as fibre plants. A broad definition of fibre plants has been applied, and they are considered to comprise: plants used for textiles, cordage and paper (including those used for toothbrushes, sponges and cork); plants used for making baskets, mats and wickerwork (including brooms); and plants used for packing and thatching (including leaves used as platters, for garments and as sandpaper). This diverse group includes species producing the well-known plant fibres of international trade such as cotton, jute and flax, of which the use dates back to early civilisations. The group also includes many lesser-known fibre plants, which are of regional or local importance only. This volume covers 72 major species, including abaca, cantala, cotton, flax, jute, kapok,

kenaf, ramie, roselle and sisal, treated in 45 papers. There are also 126 brief treatments of 129 species of minor importance. A further 600 species, not primarily but secondarily used as fibre plants, are listed.

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### **NEW CIFOR NTFP PUBLICATIONS**

Increased emphasis on poverty alleviation in national and international development agendas has revitalised interest in how non-timber forest products (NTFPs) can be commercialised to increase human welfare in an environmentally sound way. Yet, despite more than a decade of research and targeted development projects, systematic understanding of the role and potential of NTFPs in conservation and development remains weak. To help fill this gap, a large group of researchers combined efforts and used a common methodological approach to examine and compare more than 60 case studies of commercial NTFP production, processing and trade from Asia, Africa and Latin America. To share the wealth of information generated by this project, CIFOR has produced a set of publications aimed at different target audiences.

## Publications

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### **“Forest Products, Livelihoods and Conservation” - targeting researchers and development practitioners**

CIFOR has recently published three volumes containing full descriptions of the case studies. Each chapter in the volumes describes the production through consumption system of a particular forest product, ending with a section on conservation and development lessons drawn from that case. The authors provide a richly detailed analysis of the issues, idiosyncrasies and opportunities found in each case study. Collectively the case studies offer an invaluable resource for researchers, development practitioners and conservation workers. Volumes one and two cover Asia and Africa respectively, and are written in English. Volume three, Latin America is written in Spanish and Portuguese. The African volume will be translated into French at a later date.

### **“Riches of the Forest” - targeting consumers and civil society**

Researchers involved in the project also wanted to reach an audience beyond the scientific and development communities. To achieve this, three supplementary volumes covering Africa, Asia and Latin America have been written in “user-friendly” English and targeted at civil society and NTFP consumers. The use of accessible language combined with informative illustrations aims to improve public awareness of the commercial and cultural benefits obtained from forests. The books will also alert consumers to the origins of forest-products available in markets. Each of these publications will soon be available in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Indonesian.

*For further information, contact:  
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*Please indicate your mailing address, the institution you are affiliated to (if applicable) and which of the publications you are interested in.*

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### **PUBLICATIONS OF THE KERALA FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

The Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) is one of the institutions of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) of the Government of Kerala established in 1975. By conducting time-bound multidisciplinary applied research in thrust areas of tropical forestry, KFRI has created a niche among the leading forest organizations. The Institute undertakes multidisciplinary research on all aspects of tropical forestry including wood science and technology, wildlife biology and socio-economics under nine Programme Divisions. Some of the latest publications are:

**Annotated Bibliography on Bamboos of the World.** Sarojam, N. (2003) ISBN: 81-85041-50-4 An KFRI Handbook No. 20. KFRI, Peechi; Ministry of Textiles and UNDP, New Delhi. Price: 50 US dollars

This annotated bibliography on bamboos of the world covers a total of 2800 references. References are arranged under broad subject categories. Author and subject indexes are provided.

**An Annotated Bibliography on Rattans of the World.** George, K.F and Sankara Pillai, K. (2003) ISBN: 81-85041-49-0 KFRI Handbook No. 19. Price: 35 US dollars

This book includes a total of 876 literature citations with abstracts covering the world literature on rattans (canes). In this bibliography, references of 600 species coming under 13 genera have been included. References are arranged under major subject headings alphabetically by author's name. To locate specific information, an author index and a subject index have been also provided.

**Biodiversity documentation for Kerala. Part 5: Pteridophytes.** Easa, P.S. (2003) ISBN 81 85041-46-6 KFRI Price: 20 US dollars

Pteridophytic plants are the ferns and fern allies. In this publication, 337 pteridophytes have been documented with their distribution in Kerala, global distribution, habit, habitat and status.

**Manual of the Non-Wood Forest Produce Plants of Kerala.** Nair, K.K.N. (2000) ISBN 81-85041-22-9 KFRI

The book deals with 165 NWFP plant species, naturally distributed in Kerala State, India. For each species, up-to-date nomenclature, local names, botanical description, distribution in Kerala State and the world, products and uses, production and marketing and regeneration aspects are dealt with in detail, supplemented with

species-wise references pertaining to those aspects. Distribution maps are also provided for all the 165 taxa, authenticated by herbarium specimens available in various Indian and foreign herbaria, apart from photographs of almost all the species. In the introductory part, natural habitats of NWFP plants in the State, details on exploitation, utilization and socio-economic significance, demand and supply and management and research needs of the plant group are highlighted.

*Address all orders and enquiries to:  
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**GLOBAL AND REGIONAL  
VEGETATION FIRE MONITORING  
FROM SPACE: PLANNING A  
COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL  
EFFORT**

*Ahern, F.J., Goldammer, J.G. and Justice, Ch.O. (editors) (2001)*

The Global Observation of Forest Cover (GOF) programme is currently part of the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS). GOF was designed to bring together data providers and information users to make information products from satellite and in-situ observations of forests more readily available worldwide. Fire Monitoring and Mapping was formed as one

## Publications

of the three basic components of GOFC. This book contains thirteen contributions authored by scientists who represent the most active international research and development institutions, aiming at coordinating and improving international efforts for user-oriented systems and products. These papers were initially presented at a GOFC Fire Workshop held at the Joint Research Centre, Ispra. The volume is a contribution by the GOFC Forest Monitoring and Mapping Implementation Team to the Interagency Task Force Working Group on Wildland Fire of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

ISBN 90-5103-140-8. GOFC/ISDR

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Website: <http://www.klugerpublications.com/spb>

### **FIRES IN INDONESIA: CAUSES, COSTS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Tacconi, L. (2003)

This report is the result of a study that was conducted for the project "The Underlying Causes and Impacts of Fires in Indonesia". It starts by consolidating information on the extent and location of fires. Then it focuses on the definition of the policy problems.

Some of the major apparent causes of the problems are highlighted by pointing out the land use activities contributing to the fires. The report also presents a review and analysis of the economic impacts of fires.

ISSN 0854-9818. CIFOR Occasional Paper No. 38. CIFOR

Download the report at: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/papers>

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### **HOW TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FORESTS? SUPPLY AND USE OF INFORMATION FOR FOREST POLICY**

Janz, K. and Persson, R. (2002)

There are serious shortcomings in the supply and use of information needed for policy making in the forestry sectors of developing countries (and often also in developed countries). The main weakness is the failure to connect supply to demand. Much information has been gathered not because it was needed but because donors were willing to fund inventories, on traditional lines, that were vaguely thought to be potentially useful. Information is usually inadequate on topics such as actual removals of wood and other products, or the

## Publications

usefulness of the forests, especially to the local people. Not enough provision is made for continuous inventories to the necessarily high standards that are needed to measure change. The way in which remote sensing has been used has often been heavily influenced by the facilities that are on offer, rather than the potential usefulness of the results. It is suggested, for example, that the resources would be better used on the assessment of changes in land use and forest cover than on elaborate cartography. A key proposal is to set up national 'Analysis Units' that will collate and interpret available information, help users to define their needs, and make the link with suppliers, so that information gathering can be more driven by demand. Information at international level depends on what is available nationally, and therefore improvement should be sought mainly at national level.

*ISSN 0854 9818. Occasional Paper, No 36.  
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### **FEASIBILITY OF A MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR THE GUIANA SHIELD INITIATIVE**

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Website: <http://www.cifor.cgjar.org>  
Schut, V.T. (2004)*

Number 4 in the Guiana Shield Initiative publication series, this report suggests possibilities for remote sensing monitoring of the Guiana Shield eco-region. It is based on the GSI monitoring workshop which took place in May 2003, in Belém, Brazil. At this workshop, monitoring experts from each of the Guiana Shield countries were invited to a presentation on the Brazilian radar system SUVAM (*Sistema de Vigilância da Amazônia*) and to discuss collaboration between the Guiana Shield countries on this subject. The results of the workshop were encouraging and saw the further development of a landscape monitoring network called Forest and Remote Sensing Exchange Network (FORESEEN), an initiative of Valéry Gond based at CIRAD, French Guiana.

*ISBN: 90-75909-13-6  
Guiana Shield Initiative Series 4*

*For more information contact:  
Netherlands Committee for IUCN  
Plantage Middenlaan 2K  
Amsterdam  
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### **SUSTAINABLE ECOTOURISM IN THE GUIANA SHIELD REGION. A WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE GUIANA SHIELD INITIATIVE**

*Websites: <http://www.iucn.nl> and <http://www.guianashield.org>  
Olsder Kike (2004)*

Number 5 in the Guiana Shield Initiative publication series, this working document

## Publications

discusses the possibilities for development of sustainable ecotourism in the Guiana Shield and gives a brief overview of current tourism activities in the region, as well as case studies relating to tourism developments for each of the Guiana Shield countries. This report is not the final dissertation on the status of ecotourism in the Guiana Shield, as ecotourism initiatives continue to start, develop and, in some cases, end. However, it is important to learn from those initiatives and to apply general theories relating to sustainable tourism development.

ISBN: 90-75909-12-8, *Guiana Shield Initiative Series 5*

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### **CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR THE GUAYANA SHIELD: 2002 CONSENSUS**

Websites: <http://www.iucn.nl> and <http://www.guianashield.org>  
Huber, O. and Foster, M.N. (eds.) (2003).  
*Conservation International*

This publication presents a comprehensive set of conservation priorities for the Guayana Shield. These priorities take into account both the biological and socioeconomic conditions of the Guayana Shield and are the first to encompass the entire region. They are the result of a process that began in early 2001 and culminated with an April

2002 workshop held in Paramaribo, Suriname, where over 100 experts on the biology and socioeconomics of the Guayana Shield came together for five days of intense collaboration.

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### **BRIDGING THE GAP: COMMUNITIES, FORESTS AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS**

Fax: + 1-202-912-1030  
<http://www.conservation.org>  
Colchester, M., Apte, T., Laforge, M.,  
Mandondo, A. and Pathak, N. (2003)

Community forestry has transformed over the past 25 years from being an experimental means of providing wood-fuel for the rural poor to a community-led movement demanding reform of the forestry sector. International networks to promote community forestry, which emerged at very different moments in history with different visions, goals, targets and participants, have played a key role in this transformation. Based on a review of seven countries and ten networks, the study compiles the main lessons learned from this experience in terms of advocacy, effectiveness, communication techniques, network governance, relations with donors and linkage to social movements. The increasing mobilization of community-

based organizations means that supportive NGOs and government agencies now need to play a different role to the one they gave themselves 25 years ago.

*ISSN 0854-9818. Synthesis report of the project 'learning lessons from international community forest networks', CIFOR Occasional Paper No. 41*

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### **POLICY RESEARCH AND AFRICAN AGRICULTURE: TIME FOR A DOSE OF REALITY?**

*E-mail: [cifor@cgiar.org](mailto:cifor@cgiar.org)  
Website: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org>  
Steven Were Omano and John Farrington  
(2004)*

This paper argues that, for the rural poor in Africa, market failure is more the norm than the exception. Despite the growing attention given to market imperfections of the kind highlighted by New Institutional Economics, much policy advice on the agricultural economy in African countries remain based on unrealistic analysis and assumptions. Making policy advice more relevant requires a better understanding not only of how markets (mal) function but also of implementation issues – what constraints implementability, how constraints can be overcome or bypassed, and what policy measures have greater or lesser prospects

of implementation.

*ISSN: 1356-9228 - Natural Resource Perspectives number 90, January 2004.  
Overseas Development Institute 2003*

### **SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PRO-POOR AGRICULTURAL GROWTH: WHAT SCOPE FOR SYNERGIES?**

*For papers in this series see:  
<http://www.odi.org.uk/nrp/>  
John Farrington, Rachel Slater and  
Rebecca Holmes (2004)*

Social protection (SP) and livelihood promotion have conventionally been handled by different departments within government and donor organizations. Taking the example of agriculture, this paper argues that the scope for synergy between them (when narrowly defined as 'making the whole bigger than the sum of its parts') is limited. However, there is substantial unexploited scope for introducing the perspectives of the one into the design and implementation of the other, i.e., for giving aspects of SP more of a growth-promoting dimension, and for designing agriculture initiatives in ways aiming to reduce risk and vulnerability.

*ISSN: 1356-9228 - Natural Resource Perspectives number 91, January 2004.  
Overseas Development Institute 2003*



**'VOUS ETES GRANDS NOUS SOMMES PETITS .' THE IMPLICATIONS OF BULU HISTORY, CULTURE AND ECONOMY FOR AN INTEGRATED CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (ICDP) IN THE DJA RESERVE, CAMEROON.**

*For papers in this series see:*

<http://www.odi.org.uk/nrp/>

*Hilary Solly (2004)*

The principal objective of this thesis is to demonstrate how a 'close reading' (Geertz 1973), that is to say a detailed examination of the history, culture and economy of an ethnic group, could help an ICDP (Integrated Conservation and Development Project) in the achievement of its conservation, development and participatory management objectives. In this case, the study is focused on the Bulu, one of the ethnic groups living in the Dja Reserve, South Cameroon. The ICDP concerned is ECOFAC Cameroon, a project financed by the European Commission and involved in the management of the Reserve in collaboration with the Cameroon Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF).

The findings of the research reveal significant incomprehension and conflict between the project and the local Bulu people. This can partially be explained by the project's own weaknesses and failings. However, Bulu history and culture also play a critical role and have serious implications for their perceptions of and behaviour towards the project and its activities.

The thesis suggests how an awareness of

forest and forest resource perceptions could be used by ECOFAC to improve the management of both its zoning and hunting control activities. It also offers suggestions of how an understanding of Bulu perceptions of development could be used to create more suitable development activities. Furthermore, it offers advice on how the local people could be encouraged to participate more fully in both the conservation and development activities undertaken in the Reserve.

The research and writing of this thesis was undertaken as part of APFT (*Avenir des Peuples des Forêts Tropicales*), a project funded by DG Development of the European Commission.

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**TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

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Tropenbos International (TBI) is committed to provide and generate knowledge, insight and techniques that make a difference for the policy and management of tropical rain forests. Therefore, TBI has developed an array of publications, arranged in different series. Many of these publications are available online, others are easily ordered through <http://www.tropenbos.org>

Recent TBI publications include:

**Lianas and logging in West Africa.** Parren, M.P.E. (2003). ISBN: 90-5113-066-X. Tropenbos Cameroon Series 6. For more information visit: <http://www.tropenbos.org/>

[news/news\\_camser6.htm](#)

Loggers consider lianas a nuisance. The woody climbers cause trees to pull down their neighbours when they are felled, hinder the growth of their host and spread like weeds. Cutting lianas prior to felling is therefore the norm in sustainable logging operations. With the support of Tropenbos International, Marc Parren investigated how effective this treatment is in West Africa.

**Plant diversity in a Central African rain forest: implications for biodiversity conservation in Cameroon.** Tchouto, M.G.P. (2004). ISBN: 90-5113-068-6 Tropenbos Cameroon Series 7. For more information visit: [http://www.tropenbos.org/news/news\\_camser7.htm](http://www.tropenbos.org/news/news_camser7.htm)

Rich in diversity and home to numerous endemic species, the Campo Ma'an forest in Southwest Cameroon has immense conservation value. Even so, there is growing pressure on the forest from loggers, agro-industrials, poachers and hunters. Gidas Peguy Tchouto Mbatchou identified the biodiversity hotspots and has issued an urgent call for more effective protection.

**Slash and burn agriculture in the humid forest zone of southern Cameroon. Soil quality dynamics, improved fallow management and farmers' perception.** Kanmegne, J. (2004). ISBN 90-5113-070-8. Tropenbos-Cameroon Series 8. For more information visit: [http://www.tropenbos.org/news/news\\_camser8.htm](http://www.tropenbos.org/news/news_camser8.htm)

Slash-and-burn agriculture is a major cause of tropical deforestation. Soil quality rapidly decreases after burning and forces farmers to start the cycle anew. With the full

participation of farmers in South Cameroon, Jacques Kanmegne developed an innovative approach that seems to be a breakthrough. Planting *Inga edulis* trees in fallows could become a leading strategy to fight land degradation and deforestation.

**Sustainable management of rainforest in Cameroon.** Jonkers, W.B.J. and Foahom, B. (2004). ISBN: 90-5113-071-6. Tropenbos Cameroon Series 9. For more information visit: <http://www.tropenbos.org/publications/FactSheets/04Cameroonstuur.pdf>

Eleven years of research and training have generated an approach to sustainable forest management adapted to the ecological and social reality of South Cameroon. Wyb Jonkers and Bernard Foahom recently synthesised the results of 14 interrelated projects and now recommend applying the Tropenbos approach to permanent production forests. It includes a CD-ROM with all Tropenbos-Cameroon publications electronically available.

### **TBI-Ghana publications**

The results of the discussion on 'natural resource management in Ghana: challenges to professionalism', jointly organised by TBI-Ghana and the Ghana Institute of Professional Foresters (GIPF) have been published as TBI Ghana Workshop Proceedings 1.

A second report presents the results of a Focus Group Discussion titled 'Chainsaw limber production: a necessary evil?', organised by TBI-Ghana in which 100 people took part and presented the views of different stakeholders on the chainsaw lumber issue.

An NGO Brochure 'optimising operations of NGOs in the environment and forestry sectors in Ghana is the result of an initiative by WAPCA, FONZ and TBI-Ghana. 54 institutes in the forest and environment sector have been described. The publications were made possible by DFID through the Ghana Forestry Commission.

Copies of all reports can be obtained from TBI-Ghana, [tropenbos@idngh.com](mailto:tropenbos@idngh.com)

### **Plant diversity scaled by growth forms along spatial and environmental gradients.**

**A study in the rain forests of NW Amazonia.** Duque Montoya, A. J. (2004). ISBN 90-5113-072-4 Tropenbos PhD Thesis Series 1. For more information visit: [http://www.tropenbos.org/news/news\\_phdser1.htm](http://www.tropenbos.org/news/news_phdser1.htm)

Excessive deforestation and the threatening loss of exceptionally high plant diversity in Amazonia require effective conservation planning. But it would be wrong to base the selection of protected areas on the distribution of one tree species alone, says ecologist Alvaro Duque.

**Los Micos de Colombia (Monkeys of Colombia).** Bennett, S.E. (2003). ISBN: 958-8151-21-X. Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt y Fundación Tropenbos

This book presents the results of long term research and study of Colombian primates by Sara Benett. It gives an overview of the different monkey species of Colombia (23), from the smallest to the biggest species. Also the ecological functioning, the geography, and conservation matters are dealt with. The book is written (in Spanish) in a way that is easy to read, also for non-researchers, and nicely illustrated.

To order this book, send an e-mail to Liliana Rodríguez, [publicaciones@humboldt.org.co](mailto:publicaciones@humboldt.org.co)

### **Congress on globalisation**

The final report on the congress on 'Globalisation, localisation and tropical forest management in the 21st century' (October 2003) co-organised by TBI is now available. The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.tropenbos.org/files/Final%20Congress%20Report.pdf>

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