



WWF®

IUCN

The World Conservation Union

arborvitæ

The IUCN/WWF Forest Conservation Newsletter

September 2000

15

Contents

2-6 News from around the world

Changes in Russia and new reports on Fire and Bushmeat plus Research in Brief, Protected Areas News, and International Initiatives

7 IUCN News

Brazzaville Process update

8-9 Feature

Forest quality at a landscape level

10 WWF News

TNC report plus new initiative in Asia and the Pacific

11 Feature

10 years of WWF Canada's Endangered Spaces campaign

12 Meetings and Courses

Forest restoration and 2002 events

13 Feature

Thailand: reintroducing working elephants into the wild

14 News from the Forest Floor

Community Forestry in Kenya

15 Certification

Millennium Forests for Life Conference

16 Reviews

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

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

Thanks to the following for contributing information, text and advice: 'Wale Adaleke (Cameroon); Norma Adams (USA); Tori Amos (UK); Kenneth Angu Angu (Cameroon); Ed Barrow (Kenya); Jo Breese (New Zealand); Tom Erdmann (Madagascar); Helen Gichohi (Kenya); Arlin Hackman (Canada); David Hinchley (Switzerland); Mark Infield (Kenya); Sakon Jaisomkom (Thailand); Ulisses Lacava (Brazil); Stewart Maginnis (Switzerland); Stephanie Mansourian (Switzerland); Robert Mather (Thailand); Peter Moore (Indonesia); Cleto Ndikumagenge (Cameroon); Michael Rae (Australia); Margaret Rainey (UK); Pedro Regato (Italy); Simon Rietbergen (Switzerland); Carole Saint Laurent (Canada); Rosa Lemos de Sá (Brazil); David Sheppard (Switzerland); Amy Smith (Peru); Rodney Taylor (Switzerland); Dagmar Timmer (Switzerland); Paul Toyne (UK); Samuel Makon Wehiong (Cameroon); Ellen von Zitzewitz (Belgium).

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

Printed on paper manufactured from 100% post consumer waste.



Andre Bartsch/WWF-Canada

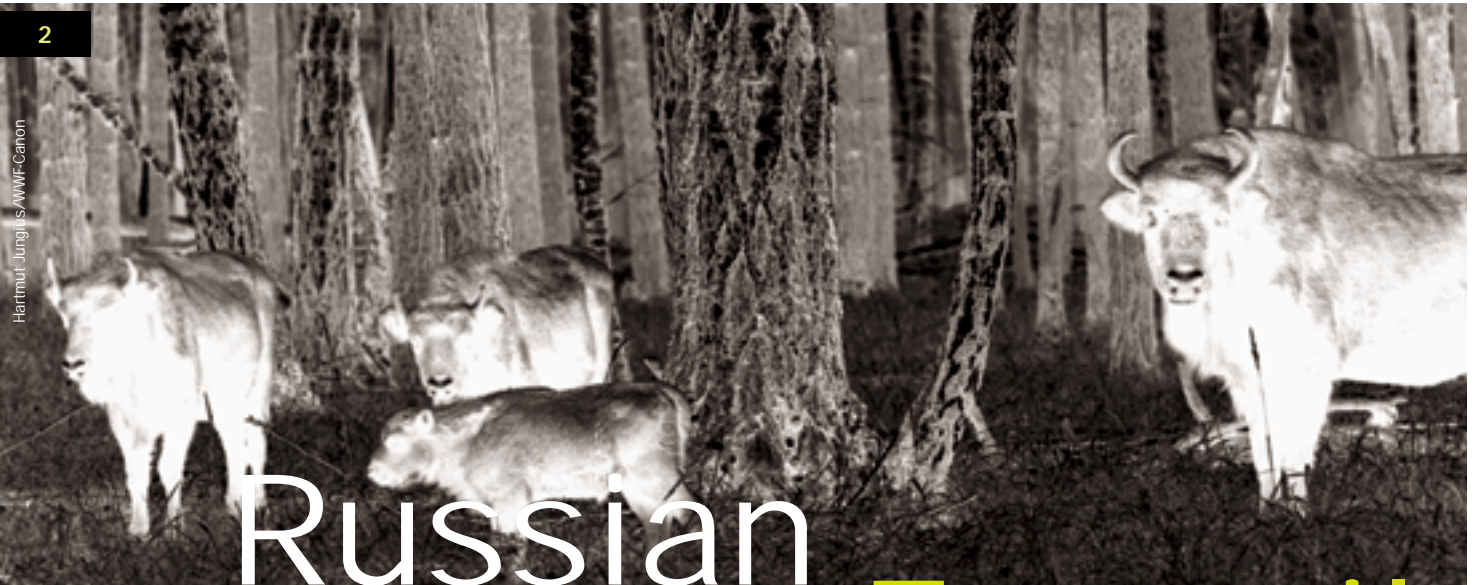
The illegal timber trade looks set to become the new global villain of the long running forest policy soap opera. Two excellent reports from Friends of the Earth Japan and the Russian Socio-Ecological Union identify the scale of illegal harvesting in the Russian Federation. Global Witness continues to expose corruption and timber theft in the Mekong Basin and Greenpeace has drawn international attention to mahogany poaching in the Amazon. Our own research identifies illegal logging in over 70 countries throughout the world: far from a complete list. IUCN and WWF staff often wrestle with the practical implications of illegal activities, sometimes at considerable personal risk.

International pressure is building, rightly, for a robust response to such events and governments have made commitments through the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and – in the case of the richest – through statements from the G8. But exactly what response has there been on the ground? And who are the villains? The illegal trade is generally portrayed as something uniquely tropical; in fact illegality is also rife in some of the richer countries. Some of the world's largest companies have been caught price fixing in recent years and the Sierra Club of Canada has recorded literally hundreds of examples of rule breaking, some large companies appearing to view fines as a normal business expense. Much of the Russian timber imported into Scandinavia has been logged illegally according to research by NGOs. Many highly 'respectable' companies and dealers in the rich countries are turning a blind eye when they buy timber they know or strongly suspect has been harvested illegally: the people who actually go out and break the law by cutting down trees are almost never the ones who make most of the profits.

Problems are likely to increase sharply in the absence of good governance: characterised by people having respect for and confidence in the rule of law. Many WWF and IUCN projects are working on the real issues of governance on a daily basis – building capacity and helping develop a proper legal framework for managing forests. Strengthening community involvement in forest management, a key concern of IUCN, is often vital to prevent theft – people defend forests if they feel they have a stake in them. WWF's role in promoting certification has helped assure consumers that the timber they are buying has been produced legally and responsibly. Governments North and South need to clean up their own acts, both in terms of enforcing legal controls at home and preventing illegally obtained or traded timber from crossing their borders. In addition, cash-strapped governments in the South and in Russia need international assistance in controlling the criminals that are squandering their natural resources. Responses must recognise the complexity of the problem: gun-toting forest rangers will not be able to solve it unless the demand for illegally harvested timber is tackled.

The next issue of *arborvitæ* will be produced in November 2000 (copy deadline mid-October 2000). If you have any material to send or comments please contact: Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton, 23 Bath Buildings, Bristol BS6 5PT, UK. Telephone and fax: +44-117-942-8674 E-mail: equilibrium@compuserve.com





Russian

Turmoil

On May 17, Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a decree liquidating the State Committee for Environmental Protection, the committee responsible for independent monitoring and testing of the environmental effects of natural resource development and enforcing environmental laws, and the Federal Forest Service (FFS). Their functions were transferred to the Ministry for Natural Resources, which oversees development of Russia's oil, natural gas and other mineral deposits as well as water resources.

Reaction against the decree has been strong both nationally and internationally. The main concern related to the conflict of interests likely to occur in a Ministry responsible for environmental protection and the use and management of natural resources. Many environmentalists believe that the committees were axed under pressure from powerful business interests, which argue that green regulation is blocking development. As the hastily convened All-Russian Conference on Environmental Protection (Moscow, 13 June 2000) noted the overwhelming message from the reforms was that 'Russia's environmental problems must be resolved only after the solution of its economic problems'.

The onus is now on the Ministry and its Minister for Natural Resources, Mr. Yatskevich, to prove that the restructuring can allay the fears of its critics. The Ministry will have four functional Departments: Dept. on Use and Restoration of Forest Fund (Lands), Dept. on Geology and Mineral Resources Use, Dept. on Nature Conservation (Environment) and Dept. on Use and Restoration of Water Fund (Resources). The Departments will be independent from each other, but will not be financially self-sufficient, nor will the Ministry's budget be expanded to cover the abolished agencies' work. A further concern is the intention to 'simplify' the environmental rules governing industry, suggesting a further relaxation of controls that have already proved ineffective.

Meanwhile, news from the Russian forests continue to cause concern. According to Dmitriy Odintsov deputy head of the former FFS, over two million m³ of trees were illegally cut down in Russian forests in the first half of 2000, compared with only 800,000 m³ illegally felled during 1999. Odintsov blamed the increase on the re-organisation of the forestry service and lax control over forests. By May 2000, more than 312,000 hectares of forest had been burnt, according to *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* the main Russian governmental paper, and almost 4,000 fires had been registered in Russia, 300 more than for the same period last year. In July, an An-26 plane from Moscow was sent to the Komi Republic to shoot the rain out of the clouds to try to dampen the 50,000 hectares of fires burning in the region. The State Forest Service reported that most of the fires were man-made. Meanwhile the future of the Russian Aerial Forest Fire Protection Service, Avialesookhrana, which was part of the Federal Forest Service and is responsible for aerial forest fire protection on the largest contiguous forest of the world, remains uncertain.

Sources: Victor K. Teplyakov, Forest Programme Co-ordinator IUCN Office for CIS, Dima Aksenov, Russian Taiga Rescue Network Co-ordinator, Environmental News Service, *Forest Update*, Published by Russian NGOs Forest Club and Socio-Ecological Union Informational Coordination Center (52:54-55).

New Paper

We like to change the paper we print *arborvitae* on every few issues to show the range of more environmentally suitable papers available. From issue 14 we have been using Cyclus print, manufactured by James McNaughton Paper Group in the UK. The 115 gm paper is made from 100 per cent de-inked post consumer waste and is accredited by Nordic Swan and Blue Angel.

Forest Fires: A Call for Global Action

Eighteen months after the forest fires of 1997 and 1998 created enormous ecological damage, and saw millions of people affected by smoke, uncontrolled damaging wildfires continue to occur in many parts of the world. A new report from IUCN and WWF examines why this is so, discusses the consequences for the world's forests and peoples' livelihoods and highlights the actions needed.

Timed as a wake-up call to world leaders, the *Global Review of Forest Fires* by Andy Rowell and Dr Peter Moore concludes that, since the devastation of 1997/8, fires have slipped off the political agenda. At an international level too little has been done to address the underlying causes of forest fires, and although some nations are attempting to face their forest fire problems many such responses are too slow and often misdirected. The report shows that the ecological, cultural, social and economic cost of fires is so immense that it needs firm, practical action now – backed up by committed strategic thinking.

Early in 1999, parts of the Brazilian Amazon, and forests in China were alight. For the tropics, it was only the beginning of the dry season, yet areas of South East Asia had already burnt. In October, one of the world's greatest areas of biodiversity – Manu National Park – in the Peruvian Amazon caught fire too. So did whole regions of Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of boreal forests in Russia and North America have also been affected by fire during the northern summer and



recent fires in Greece have burnt over 50,000 hectares of forest, including areas of important wildlife habitat.

These have occurred during a period when global weather patterns were forecast to be relatively wet but also at a time when the frequency and intensity of El Niño could be increasing, which means

the world faces warmer, more extreme weather and more forest fires. New evidence from the Amazon has concluded that fire causes a positive feedback cycle in which the more forests burn the more susceptible to future burning they become. Second fires are much more intense and may destroy up to 90 per cent of living biomass. This raises the possibility of large wildfire episodes happening on such a frequent scale that the forest ecosystem will not persist.

WWF and IUCN believe it is time to profoundly rethink our approach to forest management, with a much greater emphasis on addressing the underlying cause of forest fires, focussing on prevention of damaging fires and preparing for fires before they occur. As most damaging fires are lit by human effort it is needed to identify the underlying causes of the fires and changing them to improve the situation, to change attitudes to fires, to involve local communities in managing and controlling fires, and to enforce laws and regulations about fires.

Contact: Peter Moore, Co-ordinator Project Firefight South East Asia, email: p.moore@cgiar.org

News in brief

BC forests overcut: The Sierra Club of British Columbia (BC) has issued an economic study, *Cutting for the Economy's Sake*, that calls for the reduction of the allowable cut in BC to a level that can sustain the forest industry. The study found that forest companies are logging large trees at a rate greater than re-growth by natural regeneration and silviculture.

Source: *The Gallon Environment Letter* July 15, 2000, the full report is available at http://www.sierraclub.ca/bc/campaigns/forest_policy/

But new BC deal?: Four BC coastal forest companies and four environmental groups are co-sponsoring work on a proposal for a conservation-based ecosystem approach to temperate rainforests on the Central and North Coast of BC (known as the 'Great Bear Rainforest') in discussion with First Nations and local stakeholders. "The conflict between us had reached the point where we felt it had become institutionalised" noted Linda Coady, vice president of Weyerhaeuser, one of the companies involved. The initiative has agreed to establish an independent process to identify impacts associated with logging and develop options aimed at stabilising employment while a proposal on ecosystem planning is developed.

Source: *News Release*, July 28, 2000, contact Linda Coady, Weyerhaeuser, Tel: +1-604-661-8169 or Catherine Stewart, Greenpeace, +1-604-253-7701 ext. 17

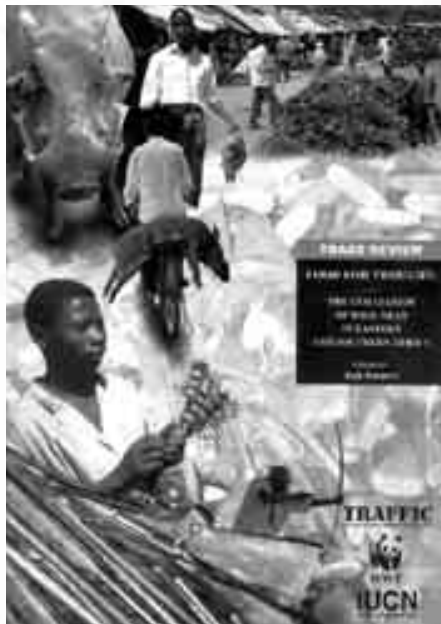
Forests and Culture

Sculpture trails have become increasingly popular in woodland throughout west Europe; sculptors are given access to dead trees or large pieces of wood and the resulting sculpture stays in the open air, eventually rotting down and being recycled again. The picture shows a sculpture at Weston Birt arboretum in Southwest England.



Nigel Dudley

Endangering Trade



The release of a new report by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring arm of WWF and IUCN, highlights the problems of bushmeat consumption in Africa. TRAFFIC conducted an extensive review of the trade and utilisation of the range of species used as bushmeat in seven east and southern African countries – Botswana, Kenya, Malawi,

Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The resulting European Commission-sponsored report, *Food For Thought: The Utilization of Wild Meat in Eastern and Southern Africa*, urges an integrated approach be taken to halt the unsustainable use of bush meat, including promoting initiatives to transfer wildlife ownership to land holders and securing land tenure.

These issues are not just confined to Eastern and Southern Africa. Although habitat loss and deforestation often remain the root causes of wildlife extinction, the hunting of bushmeat for large urban markets and logging camps is now recognised as the most immediate threat to an increasing number of animal species in the Congo Basin in the next five to 15 years.

It is thus timely that another new report from WWF-UK, due out in late Autumn, will review the role of European and Asian logging companies working in the Congo Basin with respect to commercial bushmeat. Foreign companies from these continents dominate the forest sector and the report questions their responsibility in addressing this issue.

On a positive note, a small but increasing number of logging companies have become aware of this problem, and some have started to form partnerships with conservation NGOs to address it. The Wildlife Conservation Society, an IUCN member that has been working with the logging company CIB in Northern Congo over the past five years, reported recently they encountered significantly fewer snare traps during their patrols and a considerable decrease in the number of gorillas killed.

Source: TRAFFIC International, tel: +44-1223-277427, email: traffic@wcmc.org.uk, Paul Toyne, WWF-UK, email, ptoyne@wwfnet.org; Environment News Service, May 19, 2000.

News in Brief

Threat to Brazilian Amazon averted: For the first time the Brazilian environmental movement has prevailed over the powerful ranchers' lobby – the one per cent of the landowners who control some 50 per cent of Brazil's agricultural land. In May, congressional leaders dropped proposed legislation to change the National Forest Code (see *Arborvitae* 13), which would have reduced the reserve area of the Amazon rainforest in each property from 80 to 50 per cent of the total (and down to 20 per cent where the ecological and economic zoning were completed). A flood of email and faxed protests to Senate offices, which Government officials attempted to block, and wide media opposition to the new law resulted in Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso pledging to veto the measure and the subsequent shelving of the legislation.

Contact: Ulisses Lacava, fax: +55-61-364-3057, email: ulisses@wwf.org.br

Temperate and boreal forest assessment: The UN Economic Commission for Europe and UN FAO have published the most detailed study ever on the status of forests of the temperate and boreal countries, covering everything from forest area to status of threatened forest species. Forest and woodland cover some 2.48 billion ha in 55 countries, with the Commonwealth of Independent States accounting for over half this area. Around two thirds outside the CIS remains in public ownership. Over half is classified by country correspondents as 'undisturbed by man' but 94 per cent of this is in Canada and the Russian Federation and in many countries less than one per cent is undisturbed.

Source: *Forest Resources of Europe, CIS, North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand*, UNECE and FAO

NZ temperate forest victory: Logging of temperate rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) rainforests on public land on the west coast of South Island will end by April 2002 according to the New Zealand government. Kevin Smith, the conservation director of Forest and Bird, one of the country's largest environmental groups, welcomed the overall decision, but noted that: "The decision to delay the end to all rimu felling until March 2002 is an unfortunate concession to the rimu logging industry. However, ... it will be a wonderful day ... when the 2002 deadline arrives and the famous North Okarito forest and Saltwater forest [are] included in the South West World Heritage Area".

Source: Environment News Service, May 17 2000

Portugal promises timber controls: A protest by Greenpeace against imports of illegally felled timber from Cameroon entering Portugal was called off in July after the prime minister's cabinet office promised high-level meetings with environmental groups on how to combat imports of endangered timber. Similar protests are continuing in Spain.

Source: Forest Conservation Archives, <http://forests.org/>

BC Forest Service employees ring alarm bell: According to a survey conducted by the Government and Service Employees' Union of British Columbia "the majority of workers in the Ministry of Forests report that the activities of the major licensees, the largest forest companies operating in the province, are not properly inspected or monitored". The survey also found that workers thought "that due to inadequate check cruising, appraisal and scaling the Government of BC cannot be sure it is being paid properly for Crown lands timber clearcut by the forest industry".

Source: More details of the report: *The Story of B.C.'s Great Outdoors, Why Workers in the Ministry of Forests Believe the Public Is Not Getting Full Value for its Timber* can be found at <http://www.bcgeu.bc.ca/>



Amazon Protected Areas Program

Rosa M. Lemos de Sá, Protected Area Programme Co-ordinator at WWF Brazil, reports on an exciting new project that will strictly protect an additional 28.5 million hectares in the Amazon region over the next 10 years.

The Amazon region of Brazil contains 23 terrestrial ecoregions and is the repository of significant global biodiversity. It encompasses the largest area of remaining tropical rainforest on the planet (30 per cent of the total area), holding carbon stocks of around 120 billion tons. According to the latest estimates, the region houses around 2.5 million species of insects, tens of thousands of species of vascular plants, at least 2,000 fish species, 950 bird and 200 mammal species, offering some of the greatest genetic diversity on earth. The 206 known ethnic groups surviving in the area, with close to 170 indigenous languages still spoken, reflect the region's rich cultural diversity.

Although the Government has taken some action to balance legitimate economic aspirations and ecological imperatives in the region, and to stress the importance of sustainable development, relatively little attention has been given to strict protection. Brazil has only some 12.5 million hectares of tropical forest under strict protection in the Amazon region, which is relatively low in comparison with other Amazon countries – Venezuela has 18 per cent and Colombia and Ecuador each have 15 per cent of their Amazon territory under strict protection.

There is a growing recognition that sustainable development and strict protection, which is vital for the maintenance of ecological integrity, are both necessary and reinforce one another. One result is that – with the catalytic support of the WWF/WB Alliance and GEF – Brazilian Federal and State authorities, NGOs, and the PPG7 have formed a new partnership: the Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA). The overall objective of the ARPA is to expand and consolidate protected areas in the Amazon region of Brazil. The ARPA goals are to increase areas under strict conservation use to a minimum of 10 per cent of the total area covered by the Brazilian Amazon biome, and to consolidate the management of these areas. This means the creation of an additional 28.5 million hectares of protected areas, which with the existing 12.5 million hectares will fulfil the goal of 41 million hectares under protection. ARPA will take 10 years to reach this target. The project's implementation will adhere to the guidelines of the newly created Brazilian National Protected Area System (SNUC), which take into consideration the needs of local populations whose livelihoods depend

on natural resources in protected areas. The ARPA, together with other existing efforts, will result in a total of 70 million hectares, nearly 30 per cent, of the Amazon forested ecosystems under some form of effective protection or sustainable use within a decade.

Project objectives will be met through five project components:

- Creation of new protected areas;
- Consolidating and strengthening of management capacity in existing protected areas;
- Development of financial, legal and institutional mechanisms to support the sustainability of protected area interventions;
- Establishment of a protected area monitoring and evaluation programme, including support for dissemination of lessons learned; and
- Project co-ordination.

The proposed project's Phase 1 will last four years and will be followed by two more phases of 3 years each. Phase 1 will cost US\$68 million (US\$30 from GEF). The cost of the 10-year ARPA has been estimated at a minimum of US\$270 million. Performance benchmarks will be established for each phase, which will need to be accomplished before entering into each subsequent phase.

Contact: Rosa M. Lemos de Sá, Email: ROSA@wwf.org.br

News in Brief

Peru campaign: The Rainforest Action Network (RAN) have mounted a campaign to persuade ExxonMobil to give up its claims to the Candamo Valley, Peru, which has been described by scientists as "a complete Amazon in miniature", so it can be incorporated into the nearby Bahuaja-Sonene National Park.
Source: RAN, <http://www.ran.org/>

Disappointment over EU protection: The outcome of the EU Habitats Directive, which obliged member states to propose sites for protection as part of the Natura 2000 network, has been greeted with disappointment. WWF, who analysed all of the sites against its own assessment of conservation needs, concluded that one-third of Europe's important wildlife sites will not receive protection.
Source: Environmental News Service, June 15 2000

Australia – gains and losses: In April, the government of New South Wales added 324,000 hectares (1,250 square miles) of forests to national parks on the state's South Coast. The 100 new parks and additions to 80 existing parks creates a continuous corridor of protected areas stretching 350 kilometres (217 miles). Some conservation groups, however say it leaves out precious areas. For the timber trade, which had planned logging activities in some of the areas, the National Parks deal comes with a set of 20-year timber supply agreements, including compensation for future restrictions on logging operations.
Source: Environment News Service, April 20, 2000

Whatever happened to

the UN Forum on Forests?

The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) is now behind us but what lies ahead is a question mark. At IFF4, governments decided to establish the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). This decision sets the scene for a new way of working but, as [Carole Saint-Laurent](#) reports, much needs to be done to ensure that the UNFF has the opportunity to fulfil its potential.

The UN Forum on Forests is to be established by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly (GA), and will, among other things:

- Facilitate and promote implementation of agreed actions
- Provide a forum for policy development
- Enhance coordination among international institutions and instruments
- Monitor and assess progress through reporting by governments, and consider future actions needed
- Strengthen political commitment, including through ministerial engagement.

Within five years, and after a complete and successful assessment of progress at the national, regional and global levels, the UNFF may explore the parameters for a possible mandate for a legal framework on forests.

Which way to the UNFF?

The 8th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), held in New York on April 24-May 5, 2000 adopted the report of the IFF and decided that governments would engage in 'informal consultations' on where in the UN system the UNFF should be placed – under the CSD, ECOSOC or the GA.

Whatever decision is taken, it should ensure that:

1. Decisions on forests will be taken on a holistic basis that integrates the links to other sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy), cross-sectoral issues (e.g. financial resources, investment), and ecological and social dimensions (e.g. biodiversity, poverty).
2. All States will be given the opportunity to participate and funding will be made available for developing country participation.
3. Environment, official development assistance and other ministers who will participate in high-level segments as well as forest ministers, and government forest experts from all relevant ministries will participate in the ongoing work of the UNFF.
4. Major group (i.e. NGOs, indigenous peoples, private sector) participation should be at least equivalent to that already achieved in the CSD.

Intense negotiations took place in July and will resume in September. The main outstanding issue is whether the UNFF should have universal membership (as in the general assembly) or limited membership (as in almost all other UN bodies).

The issue of civil society participation has also been important. So far the ECOSOC negotiations on the establishment of the UNFF have been firmly closed to NGOs, indigenous peoples' organizations and other major groups. This is not the most auspicious of beginnings for the UNFF. Because of this, some NGOs are already losing the cautious optimism they once felt for the UNFF's prospects and are turning their attention elsewhere, for example, to the forest related discussions under the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and preparations for Earth Summit 2002.

Governments will need to move fast to recapture NGO interest and to ensure that political interest in the UNFF does not erode any further. At this moment, the future of the UNFF seems uncertain.

Research in brief

The future capacity of northern latitude forests to sequester carbon may be less than expected according to research in Alaska. Tree-ring records show that over the past 90 years radial growth has decreased with increasing temperature. Researchers conclude that temperature-induced drought stress has disproportionately affected rapidly growing white spruce, suggesting that under climate change drought may help limit carbon uptake in much of the North American boreal forest (*Nature* **405**, 668 - 673). A 2.5-year study in Honduras measured consumption patterns of rain forest products by an indigenous population and its value in local markets. The study found that the combined value of consumption and sale of forest goods ranged between US\$17.79 to US\$23.72 per hectare per year, much lower than previous estimates (between US\$49 and US\$1,089 (mean US\$347) per hectare per year). Researchers conclude that although outsiders value the rain forest for its high-use and non-use values, local people receive a small share of the total value and that unless they are paid for the non-local values of rainforests, they may be easily persuaded to deforest (*Nature* **406**, 62 - 63). The effects of logging and road construction are dividing much of what remains of tropical forests into small, isolated fragments that become biologically impoverished as the forest edge recedes and species disappear. A study, by Conservation International scientists, concludes with suggestions for saving forest fragments (which are often protected areas surrounded by agricultural land) through conservation planning and management schemes (*Science* **288**, 1356-1358).

CEFDHAC: on the way up

Samuel Makon Wehiong, Cleto Ndikumagenge and Kenneth Angu Angu, of the CEFDHAC Support Project, report on the third meeting of the Conference on the Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC), also known as the Brazzaville Process.

Over 150 participants, including forest ministers or their official representatives from 9 member countries, the private sector and representatives of indigenous peoples, and some 20 international organisations attended the third meeting of the CEFDHAC, held in Bujumbura (Burundi) in early June. Topics such as the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Congo Basin (SAP) funded by UNDP/GEF and the institutionalisation of CEFDHAC were discussed against the background of the conference theme '*Governance and common management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa*'. From these discussions a number of resolutions and recommendations were agreed.

- **On governance of forest concessions, the Conference agreed to ensure the application of regulatory measures on sustainable forest management; and thus:**
 - recommends the setting up of National Working Groups on certification, such as those active in Cameroon, Gabon and CAR, within other member countries;
 - calls for the support of donors towards achieving the resolutions agreed by the Central African Heads of State Summit for the setting up of a harmonised certification system in the Congo Basin based on the ITTO and ATO standards, criteria and indicators;
 - recommends the profession (i.e. the private sector) implement the Code of Conduct and calls for the certification of good management of their forest concessions.
- **On strategies and tools for local governance, the Conference agreed to:**
 - encourage the publication of relevant texts and the provision of free access to information and training etc.;
 - recommends the effective involvement of women, youth and other stakeholders in the conception and implementation of environmental programmes;
 - encourages the continued updating of training programmes for managers of forest ecosystems in Central Africa;
 - invites stakeholders to maintain capacity building exercises (material, financial, etc.) of NGOs in Central Africa, notably through environmental information;
 - invites parties to consider the environmental impact and impact on living conditions of macro-economic policies (i.e. Structural Adjustment Programmes).
- **The conference decided that the institutional niche of CEFDHAC is that of a think-tank and a framework for ensuring the coherence of ongoing forest ecosystem initiatives in Central Africa.**

- **On the SAP for Conservation of Biodiversity in the Congo Basin, the conference:**
 - agreed that the SAP should be finalised and the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe included;
 - agreed to involve other donors in implementing the SAP
- **The next Conference is planned for DR Congo in 2002.**

Follow-up

In practical terms CEFDHAC will continue to provide a forum for consultation and exchange of experiences for all the actors working in forest ecosystems in Central Africa, be they governments, indigenous peoples, international organisations, NGOs or donor agencies. The CEFDHAC Secretariat, which is currently assured by IUCN, may well evolve towards an independent structure in the future.

Unlike the conflict-ridden second CEFDHAC meeting held in Bata (Equatorial Guinea) in 1998, the 2000 meeting was upbeat and consensual. As CEFDHAC starts to deliver some practical results, its role as a home-grown regional forest policy forum is increasingly appreciated by all those concerned with the future of the largest remaining African rainforest.

Contact: Samuel Makon Wehiong, email: makon.cefdhac-iucn@camnet.cm

IUCN news in brief

Amman Congress: interactive session

On October 5, IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme will host an interactive session at the World Conservation Congress in Amman. This workshop will provide examples of how well managed forest ecosystems are a cornerstone of human livelihood security in many parts of the world, as well as a safe haven for biodiversity. It will explore how many so-called 'natural' disasters such as forest fires are really caused or aggravated by human beings, and how the mismanagement of forest resources increases the vulnerability of all people, in particular those who depend on forests for subsistence. Working with progressive partners from government, NGOs and the private sector, IUCN Members, Commissions and Secretariat will seek to influence national, regional and global policy debates to address this issue, based on the Union's extensive field experience. IUCN has set up an online discussion forum for those interested in the Interactive Sessions, including forests. It can be accessed on the Amman workshop site through <http://www.iucn.org>.

Forest Conservation Advisory Group (FCAG)

The Forest Conservation Programme gathered in Costa Rica in May to review the past year and set direction for the coming quadrennium. It was the first time that all IUCN regional offices were represented – and we had strong attendance from Commissions as well. As always, the outside perspective offered by our external advisors was helpful. The FCAG confirmed FCP's steady progress towards a coherent programme that can make the necessary links between policy and practice. The FCP is increasingly based on collaboration amongst regions to achieve the programme's objectives and key results for the Union. To further improve the programme's effectiveness, the FCAG worked on fine-tuning the communications and fundraising strategies, as well as policy and programme priority-setting criteria.

The FCAG meeting was very capably hosted by ORMA. ORMA also co-ordinated a day trip, including a visit to a hydroelectric plant that has developed a payment scheme for environmental services. The plant pays surrounding smallholder farmers to keep their forested land intact in exchange for an annual payment.

What constitutes forest quality? And how do we measure this on a landscape scale? An ambitious collaboration between WWF, IUCN, GTZ and the federal university of Lausanne is looking for some answers. [Nigel Dudley](#) and [Sue Stolton](#) report.

Forest conservation does not exist in a social vacuum; in the real world ecological needs have to be integrated with many other, frequently competing, demands on the landscape: such as food, timber, places to live, recreational space and more complex values like aesthetic and spiritual values. In the end, a process of negotiation and trade-off often determines the eventual uses of land. As conservation professionals we need to understand and appreciate a wide range of perspectives, often straying well beyond our traditional areas of expertise. As part of this approach, in an increasingly modified environment, we need simple and cost-effective ways of identifying the management options that can enhance the conservation value of the forests in the landscape. Lastly, as approaches to conservation change, we also need to find ways of involving a wide range of interested people ('stakeholders') in discussions and decisions about the way in which land is managed.

For the last three years, WWF and IUCN have been collaborating with the German technical co-operation agency GTZ and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in developing methods of assessing forest quality at a landscape scale.

Jean-Paul
Jeanrenaud,
WWF and
Rodolphe
Schlaepfer,
EPFL

The approach is based on the recognition that quality means different things to different people, and that although a single forest stand cannot supply all the potential forest goods and services, this should be possible in a well-designed and



Forest



Forest quality in Wales: An assessment has just been completed in the Dyfi Valley in Wales, UK, in a watershed partly within the Snowdonia National Park. The project worked with a local NGO, the Dyfi Eco Valley Partnership (DEVP), which has representations from local councils, farmers, state forestry and conservation bodies and from many citizens' groups. The Partnership requested that the assessment develop an initial vision of forests for its work within the catchment. A picture emerged of the type of forest and woodland desired by stakeholders in the catchment. This will be a mosaic of woodland and other habitat, covering much the same area as at present (around 25 per cent of the total land) but with a higher proportion of broadleaves in a more coherent pattern including the removal of some conifer plantations from traditional moor and heath and the regeneration of some native woodland lost in the lowlands. Most people want to see most of the forest as multipurpose, at least on a landscape scale, and think that it should be generating greater benefits – both financial and other goods and services – for the local community.

The two stakeholder meetings and subsequent interviews and discussions resulted in a draft set of objectives for the Partnership. These include:

- A role in helping co-ordinate initiatives relating to a possible biosphere reserve
- A community education role in terms of grants perhaps through organisation of courses
- Specific involvement in a community-managed woodland in the catchment
- Developing wood-fuel production options
- Co-ordination of a mapping and planning exercise leading to a community-based approach to forest management

A draft report detailing the processes followed and the results of the assessment has been prepared. A few clear lessons on using the methodology were immediately apparent. Arranging individual meetings with key stakeholders is as important as holding community meetings, as the later inevitably exclude some stakeholders. In this exercise the second meeting was held on one of the few sunny evenings during this year's harvest, which meant local farmers interested in the project were absent. Working with DVEP clearly highlighted the benefits of having a local institutional home for the project. Finally, the assessment should have a pluralistic approach. In this case further work, such as the mapping exercise, may well take place at a community level, whereas the project may benefit the work of local wildlife trusts at a county level.

quality

managed forest landscape, containing a mosaic of different land uses. For example, some forests might be set aside particularly for specialised needs like biodiversity protection or intensive wood production, while others will serve more multipurpose functions.

For the purposes of the project, forest quality is defined as: *the biological, social and economic components that together constitute the total significance or value of the forest.* Forest quality can be measured by use of a number of indicators, which the project proposes be divided into three main groups:

- Authenticity – a measure of ecological naturalness, viability and health
- Environmental benefits – such as watershed management, soil stabilisation and biodiversity protection
- Social and economic benefits – covering everything from the value of wood products to the cultural and spiritual importance of sacred forest groves

All indicators reflect both human and biological aspects. However, the suggested subdivisions are on a rough gradient from mainly biological values (authenticity) to mainly human values (social and economic). Forest quality cannot be measured just by 'experts'; assessment should include local people and others with an interest or a stake in the management of the forests. As devised by the project, assessment entails the following steps:

Selection of a 'toolkit': which includes deciding the landscape to be assessed and the indicators of forest quality. These decisions are made in consultation with stakeholders. The landscape, chosen on a case by case basis, should reflect functional linkages (ecological and/or social). Each indicator can, if properly interpreted, supply a wide range of information. Indicators can range from forest cover through such things as presence of rare or endangered species, production of timber and non-timber products through to the existence of sacred sites in the forest – anything that the forest contributes to the local or wider community.

Data collection: of information about the indicators by consultants and through interviews with stakeholders – sometimes involving a scoring or assessment system (for example assigning each indicator a score on a simple scale of quality or carrying out a SWOT – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats – analysis).

Assessment of results: which is again a participatory process, and provides a rounded picture of the situation. There may well be disagreement about the interpretation of results: exposing such differences itself provides useful information for discussion and negotiation.

Such assessments are inevitably fairly crude – landscapes are often not the units in which data are collected (and for some indicators accurate data might be scarce at any scale). Quick assessments do not usually allow the collection of large amounts of new information. Giving different interest groups the chance to sit down together and identify what they want is often more important than the minutiae of production statistics or species lists. Initial assessments have been carried out in the UK, Switzerland, several countries of Central America and are ongoing in the Congo Basin (see boxes).

Once completed, the forest quality assessment can be used in a number of ways – as a tool for management plans, a way of assessing progress towards sustainable development and an information source for forest and landscape managers, funding applications or reporting on project progress. The project is currently taking the work an important stage further by integrating the assessment with a broader landscape approach to conservation and as a tool to implement strategic approaches such as WWF's ecoregion based conservation planning. A major workshop is planned in the Valais region of Switzerland in September 2000.

Contact: Nigel Dudley, email: equilibrium@compuserve.com, or see the WWF/IUCN Forest Innovations Project web-site www.iucn.org/themes/forests



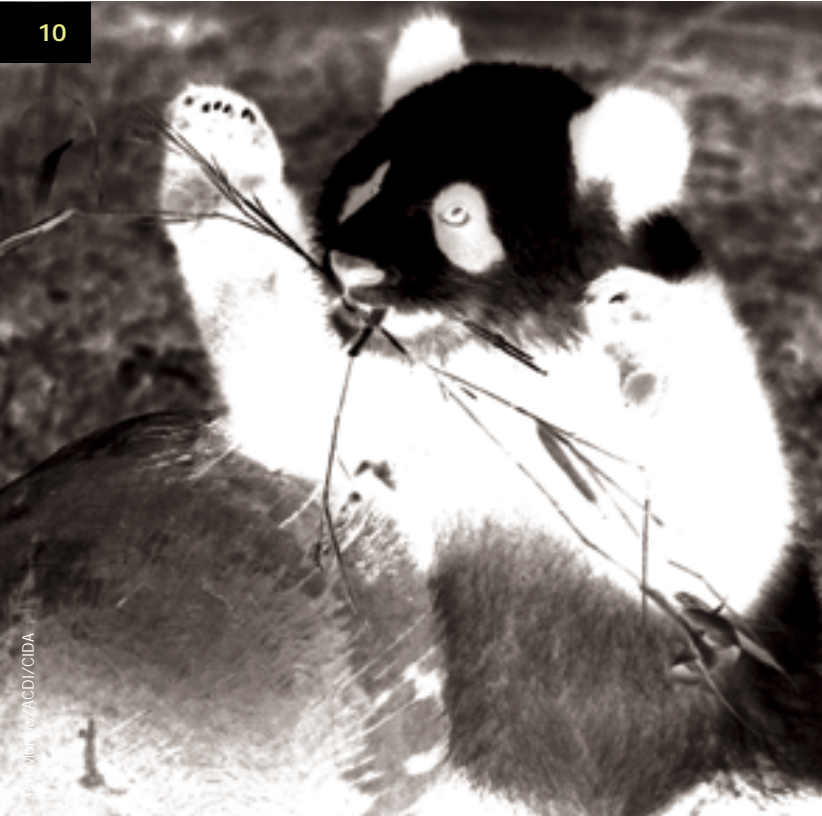
Forest quality in the Congo Basin: In Africa, the methodology is currently being tested in two sites: the region around the Lobéké National Park in southeast Cameroon and the Minkebe protected area in Gabon. Consultant Elie Hakizumwami has had to revise indicators for use in tropical Africa, for example to put greater emphasis on methods of forest management, land tenure and associated issues such as bushmeat hunting, fishing and the interaction between local communities and protected areas. Due to the dispersed nature of the human population and problems of transport, a series of more local interviews are taking place with different interest groups, rather than a collective stakeholder meeting. Greater reliance has to be put on information from local communities rather than official statistics, which are often partial or absent. After completion of the initial report, the plan is to refine the approach and apply it in IUCN or WWF field projects..



WWF World Wide Fund For Nature
Avenue de Mont Blanc, CH-1196 Switzerland. www.panda.org

focus

10



Forest Futures

Rodney Taylor introduces a new WWF regional initiative to achieve sound use of production forest in Asia and the Pacific.

Many countries in Asia and the Pacific continue to suffer alarming rates of forest loss and degradation. Forests are routinely cleared to make way for settlements, plantations and farms, or are exploited for wood at unsustainable rates and without concern for ecological impacts. These practices ultimately impoverish the countries concerned - reducing water and soil quality, destroying the habits of unique plant and animal species and depleting subsistence foods, medicines and materials traditionally sourced from the forest. This is compounded by associated conflicts, inequitable distribution of benefits and lack of respect for customary rights of forest dependent communities. *Forest Futures* is WWF's response to these problems. Taking a regional approach, it aims to stimulate significant shifts in public sector policies and private sector practices to enable sound use of production forest in up to 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific. The broad goal of the programme is the achievement of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable use of production forest. In its effort to make substantial progress towards this goal, *Forest Futures* will address issues relating to land-use planning, industry accountability, rights and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and macro-economic drivers. A *Forest Futures* Regional Unit will be based in Asia as a satellite office of WWF International's Asia Pacific Regional Programme.

Contact: Rod Taylor, email: rtaylor@wwfint.org

The South-South Trend

A new report from WWF and the World Resources Institute (WRI), and funded by the European Commission's DG- Development, highlights the role played by multinational logging companies in the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) countries. The report documents how investment, formerly led by companies from Japan, Europe and North America, has shifted to Asian firms, mainly from Malaysia, but also from Indonesia, Korea and China (Hong Kong). The report also notes that a growing portion of the production is destined for Asian markets.

These new investors have tended to follow the trend set by the majority of their northern counterparts of destructive logging operations, violation of indigenous rights, and sometimes large-scale corruption. The report warns that urgent and concrete measures must be taken if the rapid disappearance of most of the remaining old-growth forests in the ACP countries is to be avoided. For example, it calls for the ACP governments to freeze all new foreign investment for the expansion of logging operations until land use planning has been completed and the traditional rights of local people have been defined. It also urges the World Bank and the European Commission to support only activities related to the achievement of sustainable forest management.

Source: *Increased investment and trade by transnational logging companies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific: Implications for the Sustainable Management and Conservation of Tropical Forests* is available from Geert Lejeune, WWF-Belgium, e-mail: tropicalforest@wwf.be, fax: +32 2 340 09 38, or downloaded from http://panda.org/news/download/tnc_report.pdf

WWF news in brief

Madagascar: The WWF/World Bank Alliance is funding a new project on 'Developing National Standards for Sustainable Forest Management in Madagascar'. Through a series of workshops with inputs from stakeholder groups, the project aims to develop a set of appropriate national standards. Discussions will also be held on an independent certification process - a national certification plan is one of the planned project outputs. The project has the support of several ongoing forestry projects that are interested in testing sustainability criteria and that will pursue adoption of the final standards.
Contact: Tom Erdmann, Email: terdmann@tahina.online.mg

On-line: www.BSPonline.org is the new site of the Biodiversity Support Program, a USAID-funded consortium of World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and World Resources Institute. The site highlights results and insights gained from the programme's work and an electronic library of publications. A listserv is available to keep those interested informed about news and publications.

WWF – Canada's Endangered Spaces Campaign

Canada is widely regarded as a conservation leader. Nonetheless, when our first National Park, Banff, had its centennial celebration in 1985, Canada barely made it into the top 50 countries by percentage of territory protected. In 1987, a federal government Task Force on Park Establishment responded by recommending that the national parks system be completed by the year 2000. While the Minister responsible for parks at that time said this was 'unrealistic', his reaction was out of step with public concern. The 1980s were a time of environmental awakening in Canada. Stepping into this public policy vacuum, and building on other international recommendations outlined in *Our Common Future* and *Caring For the Earth*, WWF Canada launched the Endangered Spaces Campaign in 1989.

This science-based, advocacy campaign set a specific goal: *to complete a network of protected areas representing all of Canada's natural regions, and totalling at least 12 per cent of Canada's lands and waters, by the year 2000.* As outlined in our campaign mission statement, the Canadian Wilderness Charter, this goal was intended to galvanise a co-operative effort by Canadians to bring about decisions by governments who still own 95 per cent of our nation's lands and waters.

In broad terms, the campaign has had three dimensions. First, we worked to gain and maintain support from all parts of Canadian society. More than 600,000 Canadians and 300 organisations have signed the Canadian Wilderness Charter, making it one of the largest petitions in Canadian history. As a result, in 1992 the federal, territorial and provincial government ministers responsible for parks, environment and wildlife signed *A Statement of Commitment to Completing Canada's Networks of Protected Areas*, making the year 2000 goal their own.

Second, we developed a consistent science-based method of measuring progress on the ground. Although the concept of representation was not new, there was no agreed method for applying it to real world land-use decisions. WWF therefore recruited conservation biologists to help us develop a coarse filter gap analysis methodology. This first-ever national gap analysis became the basis for an annual report, grading each jurisdiction on its progress toward the 2000 goal and setting annual action priorities.

Third, we supported regional and site-specific action to identify and designate new protected areas. In a country as large and politically decentralised as Canada, any national campaign has to combine top-down goals with bottom-up implementation.

In effect, the ten-year Endangered Spaces Campaign amounted to a kind of protected areas system planning process led by a conservation group rather than by government.

Launched by WWF Canada in 1989, the Endangered Spaces Campaign mobilised Canada's conservation community to complete an ecologically representative protected areas system. As the Campaign comes to an end, **Arlin Hackman** reviews its achievements.

Results

Since 1989, more than 1,000 new protected areas have been designated, bringing the total area of Canada protected to Campaign standards to slightly less than 7 per cent, still well short of our 12 per cent national goal. For the forested regions, the overall proportion is slightly over 8 per cent but still less than the 10 per cent target for 2000 set by the IUCN/WWF Forests for Life Policy.

While important, these numbers do not tell the real story. Representation is what really counts. An analysis by WWF revealed that only 32 of Canada's 388 forested natural regions were judged as adequately represented within protected areas. Another 75 were moderately represented, 122 were partially represented and the remaining 159 were unrepresented, meaning they had no protected areas greater than 200 ha. So there remains a long way to go.

While we can only claim partial success thus far on the ground, there is little doubt that the Campaign has effectively shaped the protected areas agenda in Canada over the past decade and for years to come. When we began in 1989, only a handful of jurisdictions had actually classified their natural regions. Only one or two had actually set protected areas targets within this framework and none had committed to timetables for achieving them. Now they have all done so.

Conclusions

Fundamentally, we've shown that progress results from a combination of clear measurable goals, applied conservation biology and pragmatic negotiation, backed by broad public support. None of these alone is sufficient. Such strategies came together most effectively in the forests of Ontario during 1999, when 378 new reserves totalling 2.4 million hectares were designated with industry and government support through the Ontario Forest Accord.

Looking ahead, now our too-thin effort, intended to operate uniformly across the entire country, and focused exclusively on core representative protected areas, needs to give way to a more flexible model. We need to connect and buffer the core reserves to complete a functioning ecological network at a bioregional scale. And, most importantly, local and regional 'ownership' of the new protected areas needs to be nourished.

Contact: Arlin Hackman, email: ahackman@wwfcanada.org. This story has been edited from a longer paper prepared for WWF's Beyond the Trees conference. The full version of the paper can be found on <http://www.panda.org/trees>.



Forest restoration

Why is forest restoration an important issue? What exactly is restoration anyway? In July 2000, the WWF and IUCN Forests Reborn initiative held a workshop in the historical town of Segovia, Spain, to look for some answers.

The workshop brought together 30 people from over 20 countries, from IUCN and WWF regional offices, development agencies and research institutes. It aimed to agree a definition of restoration, draw up a common understanding of why conservation organisations should engage in restoration projects and policy, identify possible partners for WWF and IUCN and develop a work programme.

After two days of discussion a draft definition was agreed: **Forest Landscape Restoration: A planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded forest landscapes and beyond.**

Given the degree of complexity and cross-sectoral nature of restoration, a typology was also outlined.

Key reasons for restoration were identified as enhanced ecological integrity (including biodiversity conservation) and the provision of human benefits, with underlying

factors including the reversal of ecological simplification and development of resilience against for example global warming. Choices about restoration should be made at a landscape scale and on a case-by-case basis, involving key stakeholders. Restoration should generally aim at a progression towards higher ecological integrity and human well-being. The participants were open to a range of options, including some often rejected by conservationists such as tree plantations, if these fitted the other conditions.

The meeting identified some immediate research needs, focused on the following main areas:

- Collection and analysis of baseline data
- Assessment of perverse incentives that currently encourage bad forest management
- Identification of management options
- Analysis of environmental services and how they can be affected by restoration
- Further research into the economics of different restoration options

Contact: Stephanie Mansourian, email: smansourian@wwfint.org

2002 – get ready

International Year of Mountains: The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains (IYM). The aim of IYM 2002 is to ensure the well-being of mountain and lowland communities by promoting the conservation and sustainable development of mountain regions. A range of events is being planned throughout the year.

For information: see IYM web site available, in English (www.mountains2002.org), French (www.montagnes2002.org) and Spanish (www.montanas2002.org).

Vth World Parks Congress: IUCN's Vth Worlds Parks Congress (WPC) 'Benefits Beyond Boundaries' is planned to take place in Durban, South Africa from 16th to 25th September 2002. The WPC is a 10 yearly event that provides the major global forum for setting the agenda for protected areas. The Congress will take stock of protected areas; provide an honest appraisal of progress and setbacks, and chart the course for protected areas over the next decade and beyond.

Contact: Peter Shadie, email: pds@hq.iucn.org

Earth Summit 2002 (Rio+10): Earth Summit 2002 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit and the 30th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference. A number of proposed themes emerged from ministerial discussions on this during CSD8 in April 2000 and the UNEP Ministerial Forum in May 2000, including poverty eradication, reform of consumption and production patterns, and sustainable globalisation. The sectoral theme of freshwater has been identified by many governments as a priority. In the autumn of 2000, the UN General Assembly will determine the exact nature, location and dates for the event. It is expected that Earth Summit 2002 will be held at the Heads of State level in a developing country, perhaps South Africa or Indonesia. The most likely time for the event is early September 2002. Although the official preparatory process will not begin until after the General Assembly session, preparations are already under way at the national, regional and international levels. Rio +10 will provide an important opportunity for WWF and IUCN (and others) to take stock of the commitments made at the Earth Summit and the progress that has been made reaching the ultimate goal of sustainable development.

Contact: Zehra Aydin-Sipos, CSD Secretariat, email: Aydin@un.org or Carole Saint-Laurent, WWF/IUCN, email CarSaintL@cs.com

arborvitæ

Arborvitæ is funded jointly by IUCN and WWF and sent to regional offices and many organisations in the South and North free of charge. For those who can afford it, however, we do offer a subscription service. If you feel you or your organisations can help contribute to the costs of the newsletter please write and let us know.

The subscription for 2000 – three issues of Arborvitæ – is US\$20, £12, CHF30.

Please contact Ursula Senn at IUCN
28 rue Mauverney, 1196 Gland, Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-999-0263, Fax: +41-22-999-0025
e-mail: ujs@hq.iucn.org

WWF's Thailand

In the last 100 years, there has been at least a 95 per cent decline in elephant numbers in Thailand. Currently the wild sub-population is less than 1,500, and the captive sub-population is over 3,500, with both wild and captive sub-populations declining. Only India and Myanmar have more Asian Elephants than Thailand. Now, with at least two-thirds of the elephant gene pool in Thailand under the direct control of humans, appropriate management of captive elephants is being seen as an important conservation concern, which should not be overlooked in efforts to conserve wild elephants.

Elephants and logging

Asian elephants have been used as working animals for many centuries. Since the signing of the Bowring Treaty in 1855, which drew Thailand into the world market economy, tens of thousands of Thai elephants have been used in the logging industry, mostly in the teak forests of the North. Generations of mahouts (elephant handlers) have grown up around this working relationship. During the last 10 years, since the logging ban in Thailand was imposed, many working elephants have become unemployed or involved in the illegal logging industry (estimated between 1,000 – 2,000 elephants) concentrated in Northern Thailand. As government efforts to clamp down on illegal activity increase, illegal logging is becoming an increasingly risky occupation for the mahouts, as well as for the elephants, which are forced to haul out heavy, high-value logs quickly to prevent detection. Elephants are often fed amphetamines to enable them to work longer and harder, leading to addiction and other health problems.

Creating solutions

Almost all the problems faced by elephants in Thailand (except perhaps for human-elephant conflict in protected areas), are manifested in Lampang Province. There are an estimated 400 or more captive elephants in the Province (over 10 per cent of the national population). The Provincial government therefore decided to embark upon a process of improved management, including reintroduction to the wild to redress the balance between captive and wild populations.

A pilot elephant reintroduction project was thus conceived. The initiative released 7 elephants into Doi Pa Muang Wildlife Sanctuary. In a collaborative endeavour, involving the Thai Elephant Conservation Centre (TECC) of the Forest Industry Organisation (FIO), the Royal Forest Department (RFD), the WWF Thailand Office and the Smithsonian Institute, the released elephants were carefully monitored by a team of trained forest rangers and mahouts through radio-tracking and by satellite tracking.



Elephant Project

The elephant reintroduction project in Thailand was set up to address the problems of dwindling numbers of Asian elephants in the wild, as well as the increasing numbers of 'out of work' domestic elephants. Robert Mather and Sakon Jaisomkom from WWF Thailand report on the project's successes.

The project aimed to answer two key questions:

- 1) Can the elephants fend for themselves, and find enough food and water?
- 2) Will the elephants come out of the forest looking for human company, and cause problems for local villagers?

The project proved a success, with both the elephants and the local people, leading the Provincial Government of Lampang to expand the initiative to 72 elephants in the region. A holding centre was created in Mae Yao National Reserve Forest, to which elephants were bought from three sources – elephants donated to the project, elephants bought using project funds and elephants confiscated by the state after the successful prosecution of illegal loggers. After a period of examination, medical treatment and behavioural observation elephants suitable for reintroduction are released. Those that are considered unable to fend for themselves, or too dangerous, are transferred to the FIO elephant rehabilitation centre at Baan Bang-La in Lampang Province. To date five elephants have been released into Kaeng Krachan National Park and four into Mae Mok-Mae Wa Proposed National Park. Others will be released into another two or three National Parks in the near future.

Conclusions

The forests where the elephants will be released, used to have elephants in them 20 years ago and reintroducing elephants will help to recreate ecosystem dynamics. Elephants play an important role in seed dispersal for many plant species, some of which may have no other dispersal agent. Elephant's also open paths through the forest that can be used by smaller animals and elephant dung is eaten by fish, and by insects such as dung beetles, which are in turn food for a number of bird species.

Contact: Northern Region Office WWF Thailand (Lampang province) tel: +66-54-320370, fax: +66-54-320371, email: sakonj@hotmail.com, project website: www.elephantreintro.com



Community conservation sounds good but does it actually work? In a new study, extracted below, [Edmund Barrow](#), [Helen Gichohi](#) and [Mark Infield](#) argue that it can and illustrate their theory with an example from Kenya.

[African countries] are or will soon be facing a problem: how to find room for wildlife and wild spaces in a land of more people. And populations are not just expanding in numbers, but in expectations for a more secure and comfortable life. It is likely that population and land use pressures will have a greater influence than any other single factor on the success of conservation. This argues for conservation finding a distinct niche, particularly outside protected areas, in rural livelihoods and land use in the future. Ultimately elements of rural landscapes managed for conservation must provide a comparative advantage over other forms of land use, unless long-term external assistance is assured.

The example of the Loita Maasai in Kenya reported here highlights the issue of the rights of indigenous people and local communities to maintain control over their natural resources for their own sake and for posterity. However, support for community conservation is by no means universal, most community conservation approaches have not been in place very long and their results are mixed.

Meeting
of the
Loita
Maasai
Elders



However this may change in the future. The power of community conservation as a set of ideas is so strong that it will begin to change the philosophy of the conservation authorities. The increasing practical evidence of its effectiveness, and national and international trends towards decentralisation will hasten the metamorphoses of government conservation bodies.

The Loita Maasai Forest

Kenya's Loita Maasai protect their *Naimina Enkiyo* indigenous forest through their traditions, culture and customary laws. All decisions concerning land issues rest with the whole community and are reached by consensus. The dense forest is intact and has not suffered encroachment or human disturbance. Its flora and fauna are rich and diverse and it is an important watershed for the whole region. The community uses the medicinal herbs, trees and plants in the forest to treat, cure and prevent many diseases. There is no charcoal burning, no logging and no need for forest guards. This legacy of protecting and conserving the sacred forest has been handed to the chief laibon from generation to generation. In 1993 the value of these resources to the local community was demonstrated. The year saw the worst drought in living memory, but the Loita survived because they had access to their critical dry-season pastures in the forest.

Despite these obvious values, the Narok County Council wants to turn the forest into a reserve for the development of mass tourism. If the plan goes ahead local access to the forest will be lost, and the Loita society, together with the forest will face inevitable destruction. However, the Loita are resisting and have created a trust run by ten community leaders, including the chief laibon, and have challenged the council in court on their interpretation of the Trust Land Act to prevent the land being gazetted as a government reserve.

This article is extracted and edited from *Rhetoric or Reality? – A review of community conservation policy and practice in East Africa*, number 5 in the *Evaluating Eden* series from IIED and IUCN – the series covers many other regions of the world. Available for £16.00 plus postage and packing (check as rates vary in different regions) from IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, email bookshop@iied.org

The IUCN East Africa office has also just published a series of papers on *Forest and Social Perspectives in Conservation*, covering collaborative mangrove management in Tanzania, engaging local users in wetland management in Uganda, collaborative management in Mount Elgon National Park in Uganda and forest reserves in Kenya.

Contact: Florence Njiriri, email: fnn@iucnearo.org

Support for Forest Certification and the FSC Grows Stronger



The 'Millennium Forests for Life Conference' was the third annual WWF conference and trade fair. Twenty-three of the world's largest producers of wood-based products, including eight of the top ten, were present. Together, these represent one third of the world's total production of forest products. A mix of large and small companies opened new channels between suppliers and buyers.

Governor Jorge Viana from the Brazilian Amazonian state of Acre, spoke about his support for forest certification and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) at the Conference. The state recently set up a goal to maintain more than 80 per cent of the former total forested area and to FSC certify 25 per cent. This is part of an overall strategy that will see the forests of Acre used for the benefit of the indigenous peoples and the families of rubber tappers who have lived in the forests for many generations.

Several state governments in the US were also represented at the event and informed the audience how they have already certified their forests or have plans to do so. The state of Pennsylvania has over 1 million hectares of FSC-certified forest, more certified hardwood forestland than any other state. The state of New York has FSC-certified its 320,000 hectares of forests and Governor George Pataki in a video addressed to the conference encouraged all public and private forest owners to follow suit. Washington State plans to FSC certify its forests, which cover 12 per cent of its surface, partly to meet the demand from those who are seeking sources of FSC timber.

The demand for FSC products is growing rapidly, as was evident at this year's Conference and Trade Fair, and according to WWF demand will increase by a factor of ten in the next five years. The main problem at present is that supply cannot meet the demand – this is the challenge and opportunity for all forest stakeholders to promote certification, and responsible forestry.

Since 1993, the amount of forest certified according to FSC standards has increased in a steep curve to the present 18 million hectares in 32 countries. This is equivalent to about 3 per cent of the world's production forests.

Together with all of the major environmental NGOs, WWF supports forest certification and the FSC. WWF has established the Global Forest and Trade Network that encourages and supports the formation of local Forest and Trade Networks. Formally known as Buyers' Groups, these

In June, WWF organised the largest ever conference and trade fair for FSC certified products in London, the 'Millennium Forests for Life Conference', which attracted 1,000 participants from 52 countries.

Steve Howard and Margaret Rainey of WWF report.

Networks are partnerships between environmental groups and industry whose members are committed to producing and purchasing forest products from well-managed forests and to supporting independent certification.

There are Networks across Europe, North America and Latin America. Groups in East Asia, Japan and Italy will be launched shortly. WWF is also encouraging the formation of producer-focussed groups in Central and West Africa, Latin America, South East Asia and Indo-China – to drive improvements where they are most needed. Together the Networks have over 600 members and, at the current rate of growth, will total 1000 members by 2001. Members range from small family-owned businesses to world leading companies, such as the home furnishing company IKEA and the North American home improvements chain Home Depot.

For more information visit WWF's trade fair web site: www.panda.org/tradefair2000. The next conference and showcase of certified products will take place in Atlanta, 2001, see: <http://www.certifiedwood.org/> for details.

Certification News in Brief

Certification: A future for the world's forests: A new booklet from WWF, which introduces certification and details progress to date and the challenges for the future, produced for WWF's Millennium Forests for Life Conference and Trade Fair.
Contact: See the WWF Forests for Life Campaign web site: www.panda.org/forests4life

Swiss timber certified: 70,000 hectares of Swiss forests (accounting for 12 per cent of national production) will be FSC certified by the end of 2000 and WWF expects that over 40 per cent of the Swiss harvest will carry the FSC label within five years. The Swiss standards on forest certification were passed in June 1999. The standards include a commitment to establish protected areas covering 10 per cent of the certified forests.
Contact: Damian Oettli, email: damian.oettli@wwf.ch

And Austria too: FSC certified wood is now being produced in Austria after the certification of three private forest operations in June. Also bauMax, the largest Austrian do-it-yourself chain, announced it will offer its customers FSC certified timber products. Austria is the third largest European exporter of sawn softwood timber with 16 per cent of the export market.
Contact: Gerald Steindlegger, email: gerald.steindlegger@wwf.at

Latvia Moves Toward Certification: New forestry legislation is encouraging Latvia's forest industry to adopt more conservation-oriented management. And a newly established semi-private company 'Latvian State Forests', managing 1.4 million hectares of state forest land, has announced a pilot certification project.
Contact: Ugis Rotbergs, email: urotbergs@wwf.org.lv

Watching Africa's Forests

An ambitious new project from the World Resources Institute is using a combination of satellite mapping and local knowledge of indigenous NGOs to pin down information on exactly what is happening in the world's forests. **Wale Adeleke** and **Nigel Dudley** report on the first two reports from Africa.

The Congo Basin contains some of the largest areas of intact forest in the world. But the WRI study shows that many areas are currently under threat. Cameroon's forests still cover from 19.6 to 22.8 million hectares but even official figures – which are ten years out of date – suggest that almost 2 million hectares have been degraded since 1980. More significantly, at least 81 per cent of Cameroon's unprotected forests have been allocated for logging with just 25 companies holding three quarters of the concessions and the commonest type of logging agreement being *vente de coupe*, the least regulated. Three parent groups wholly or partially financed by French interests control almost a third of the concessions.

A similar situation exists in Gabon, although the forest industry has not progressed so far or so fast. Over half the forests are allocated to concessions and areas under concessions have doubled in the last five years. A single species, okoumé,

accounts for 73 per cent of the export volumes and between 1995 and 1997 half of all logs exported went to Asian countries. Laws created to protect forests have been poorly applied and enforced and for example only five out of 200 logging companies have initiated work on a management plan.

The Global Forest Watch (GFW) initiative seeks to identify and monitor threats to the world's remaining frontier forests – i.e. large and relatively undisturbed forest ecosystems. By 2005, it is aimed to have Global Forest Watch 'chapters' up and running in 21 countries, accounting for 80 per cent of the world's remaining forests. All information is available from the World Resources Institute and on their website: www.globalforestwatch.org

Judging from the first batch of publications, GFW is fulfilling the ambitious aims it set itself two years ago. The publications are clearly produced, easy to read and contain a mass of technical detail, including maps, lists of concession holders and statistical information, that those who are happy to exploit forests in an unsustainable manner generally want to keep well hidden from the public eye.

A First Look at Logging in Gabon and An Overview of Logging in Cameroon, both written by multiple authors and available from Global Forest Watch, WRI, 10 G Street NE, Washington DC 20002, USA, telephone +1-202-729-7694.
Contact: Adlai Amor, email: aamor@wri.org

Reviews in brief

Way on high

Prepared by Mountain Agenda
Available from Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne, Switzerland, fax: +41-31-631-85-44, email: agenda@giub.unibe.ch

Balancing the productive, protective and cultural functions of mountain forests is the focus of a new and beautifully produced publication *Mountains of the World: Mountain Forests and Sustainable Development*. Prepared as an input to the CSD, it addresses the many causes and consequences of forest degradation, relates experiences worldwide through a series of case studies and calls for new policies for mountain forest management.

CEEC overview

Available from the PHARE programme of the European Union
Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests in Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) is a new output from the EU's Phare programme, which aims to give technical assistance and know-how to CEECs. The brochure provides information on forest resources, protection and conservation status, biodiversity and ecological networks, ecosystem stability and legal frameworks in Phare countries.

Cambodian tribulations

Available from Global Witness, email: mail@globalwitness.demon.co.uk
Chainsaws speak louder than words, the new briefing document on the forestry sector in Cambodia from the UK-based NGO Global Witness, analyses the role of the government, concessionaires and neighbouring countries in relation to the countries on-going forestry reform. The report also highlights the illegal activities of concessionaires in the five Military Regions and timber smuggling by neighbouring authorities.

Endangered trade

TRAFFIC Network, August 2000
Download the report from www.traffic.org or contact TRAFFIC International at email: traffic@trafficint.org

The resinous, fragrant and highly valuable heartwood produced by *Aquilaria malaccensis* and some of the other agarwood species is being over harvested according to the new report *Heart of the matter – Agarwood Use and Trade and CITES Implementation for Aquilaria malaccensis*. The report, which includes an analysis of legal and illegal trade flows, warns that agarwood species considered threatened by IUCN continue to decline and that compliance of the trade with CITES provisions is low.

Bridging the Rift

More details from Sam Kanyambwa, email: samk@wcmc.org.uk or Laurent Ntahuga, email: arcos.rc@imul.com

ARCOS (Albertine Rift Conservation Society), with funding support from the Netherlands Committee for IUCN and WWF Forests for Life Programme, have recently finished work on a series of *Site Profiles for Albertine Rift Montane Forests*. The profiles include (where available) basic data on size, location and status of protection, a summary of key biodiversity features and current and planned conservation initiatives together with contact details.

ODI on-line

www.odifpeg.org.uk
The new web site of the Forest Policy and Environment Group (FPEG) of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). As well as general forestry related information the site includes the latest research papers from FPEG Research Fellows and a searchable database of all FPEG's Rural Development Forestry Network papers.