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

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In the continued absence of world government, who will protect and manage the biosphere in the century to come? A new body with multi-stakeholder involvement like the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) may hold the answer to this conundrum. The Forum grew out of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests that held its final meeting in New York in February this year. After many years of sterile debate, governments appear to have realised that the crisis facing the world's forests, and the people who depend on them, is worsening: we need urgent and concerted action. The UNFF will provide a permanent forum to review the implementation of existing commitments and future proposals to conserve and manage forests sustainably. While this is a welcome development, the Forum will only be effective if it engages a broader range of stakeholders, promotes action on the ground, ensures transparency and accountability, builds on existing initiatives and partnerships, and supports more involvement by civil society in decision making on forests. Otherwise, bad politics will breed bad policy.

The UNFF should build on the progress already being made outside the intergovernmental process, including greater commitment to new protected area networks, a rapid increase in the independent certification of forests, and community forest management. Such approaches have already been supported by a multi-stakeholder group that met in March 2000 to discuss the urgent need for a proactive approach to forest conservation and sustainable forest management. They agreed to an approach that emphasizes and builds on effective action on the ground, and that mobilizes the full range of stakeholders from the local to the global level. Forest PACT (Forest Partnership for Action and Commitment Today), is an initiative that will encourage and reward leadership, promote a 'culture of success' and build on the broad consensus that has already been reached through the intergovernmental process and private sector initiatives. Forest PACT will strengthen and enhance these initiatives by showcasing what needs to be done and by giving credit to those who do it.

The need for this type of approach is not restricted to environmental governance. Debt relief, child labour, land mines, education and poverty – all the great issues of our time are increasingly being managed through partnerships and dialogues between governments, business and civil society. These regimes will be difficult to organize and hold together, but they hold the key to a sustainable future - by giving ordinary citizens more of a say in the questions that dominate world politics and a greater say in the solutions. Mike Edwards (Director, Governance and Civil Society, The Ford Foundation), Bill Jackson (IUCN) and Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud (WWF)

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

No GMO trees: Nordic forest company Stora Enso has stated that it will not use genetic modification technology to develop new tree varieties – the first such statement by a major forest company. A spokesman said that the company felt it was “unnecessary to ‘play God’”.

Source: ENDS Daily, 8 March 2000

Ice cap melting now fastest since records began: The Arctic sea ice, an area the size of the USA, shrunk by 6 per cent from 1978-1996 and its thickness has declined by almost 40 per cent in 30 years. Major losses are also occurring in Antarctica. The world’s glaciers are shrinking faster than they are growing according to the World Glacier Monitoring Service.

Source: Lisa Mastry, Worldwatch Institute

US species: The USA contains over twice the species – some 200,000 in all – previously expected according to a Nature Conservancy survey. But up to a third are endangered to some degree. TNC’s Natural Heritage Network conducted the inventory over 25 years.

Source: Precious Heritage: The Status of Biodiversity in the US, Oxford University Press

Illegal logging devastates Armenia’s forests: In recent years illegal logging has been responsible for the loss of 300,000 m³ of timber according to a February meeting of the Ministry of Nature Conservation of Armenia and Armenian Academy of Science.

Source: Forest Update 49, Russian NGOs Forest Club and Socio-Ecological Union Informational Coordination Centre.

Global Forest Watch: Satellite imagery, GIS, mapping software, the Internet and on-the-ground observation have combined to produce new maps and reports on Canada, Gabon and Cameroon as part of the World Resources Institute’s Global Forest Watch initiative. The results reveal widespread logging in the Congo Basin and extensive mining, energy and road construction in Canada. During the next 5 years, the project will be extended to cover 21 countries and cover 80 per cent of the world’s remaining frontier forests.

Source: <http://www.globalforestwatch.org/>

Logging Canada’s coastal rainforest: Canada’s coastal rainforest represents one quarter of the world’s remaining temperate rainforests but more than half of British Columbia coastal rainforest has already been lost. Recent government approved plans to cut more than 25 intact and partially intact watersheds in Canada’s remnant rainforest, before the end of 2000, threatening much of what remains.

Source: Under threat: Canada’s coastal rainforest, pamphlet from the David Suzuki Foundation (www.davidsuzuki.org) and Raincoast Conservation Society (www.raincoast.org)

Deforestation continues in the Brazilian Amazon: The latest deforestation report by the Brazilian government indicates that during 1998-99 illegal logging and farming destroyed 16,926 km² of forest – roughly the same as the 1997-98 rates. Despite strengthened police presence in threatened areas, losses continue there as well.

Source: BBC News online.

German logging: By felling several hundred-year-old beeches in Kellerwald, in a potential national park region in northern Hesse, at the end of March, the federal government broke its own felling-moratorium.

Source: Press release from WWF-Germany April 2000

Narrowing the focus of conservation effort



Pierre S. Jacques/CIDA

Research by Conservation International has identified 25 global biodiversity hotspots that cover 1.4 per cent of the planet’s land area but contain 44 per cent of vascular plant species and 35 per cent of four vertebrate groups. **Russell Mittermeier**, CI president and co-author commented: “The hotspots strategy makes the extinction crisis more manageable enabling us to prioritise and target conservation investments in order to have the greatest impact.” Hotspots were determined by the number of endemic species and degree of threat – the latter being decided by the percentage of remaining habitat, with each hotspot retaining less than 30 per cent original natural habitat and some less than 10 per cent. Predominant habitat types are tropical forests (15) and Mediterranean-type zones (five).

Source: Nature, 403, 24 February 2000, 853-858

Forests and Culture

Decorated tree in the grounds of a Shinto temple in the Izu Peninsula, Japan. Temples are now the only places where ancient trees can be found in some lowland areas of Japan.



Nigel Dudley

Problems in Mount Kenya World Heritage Site

An August 1999 report by the Kenya Wildlife Service, *Aerial survey of the destruction of Mt. Kenya, Imenti and Ngare Ndare Forest Reserves*, gives a detailed account of the rampant destruction that has plagued the Mt. Kenya World Heritage site recently. Illegal logging of camphor (*Ocotea usambarensis*), cedar (*Juniperus procera*), wild olive (*Olea europaea*) and East African rosewood (*Hagenia abyssinica*); cultivation of marihuana and other crops; abuse of the 'shamba' reforestation system; and uncontrolled charcoal production are among the major threats documented. To make matters worse, these activities have increased the susceptibility of these forests, which are home to many endemic and threatened plant and animal species, to destructive fires. The report also highlights governance problems, and provides recommendations for addressing them both in the short and the longer term. It has been suggested that the World Heritage Commission should send a monitoring team to the area to assess the seriousness of the situation.

Peace Parks: A meeting on Peace Parks was held in March between WCPA and IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law. It agreed a draft Peace Parks definition, draft guidelines for transboundary protected area cooperation, a code for transboundary protected areas in times of peace and armed conflict and a proposal for a global peace parks initiative, including the establishment of a Peace Parks Council. The council would comprise four founding partners: IUCN, WWF, the Peace Parks Foundation (South Africa), and the University of Peace in Costa Rica.

David Sheppard

El Vizcaino saved from salt extraction: President Zedillo has cancelled a planned new salt works on the San Ignacio Lagoon by a company owned jointly by Mexico and Mitsubishi of Japan. The lagoon is part of the El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve in the Baja peninsula, Mexico and is a critical breeding area and sanctuary for grey whales. WWF Mexico praised the president's decision.

Source: WWF Conservation Action Network.

Parrot Protection: The nesting sites of half the remaining western thick-billed parrots (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) have been protected thanks to a unique agreement made with members of the Ejido Cebadillas, a 16,000 ha Mexican land cooperative. The US Wildlands Project and five Mexican NGOs worked with the cooperative to protect 2,400 ha of old growth forest in the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains, originally scheduled for logging within two years. The project hopes to show that conservation income can equal or surpass that from logging and will pay ejido members 50 per cent of net uncut value within the protected area over 15 years. It will also fund a sustainable logging plan for the rest of the area, hopefully with FSC certification. Other income will be generated through eco-tourism.

Source: Environmental News Service, February 15, 2000



The last of the last

Information on the old-growth forests of boreal Europe has been compiled into a series of colour maps and data sheets by the Taiga Rescue Network, working over a five-year period with academics and NGOs in Scandinavia and the Russian Federation.

The result is the most comprehensive picture to date of protected and unprotected old-growth forests in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Karelia, the Komi Republic, Arkhangel Oblast and Murmansk. The maps show the enormous losses in natural forest, particularly in the Nordic countries. Large natural forest areas remain in North-west Russia, but the lack of adequate protected area networks and the rapid increase in harvest means that these extremely important ecosystems are under increasing threat.

Contact: taiga@ajtte.com. The Taiga Rescue Network, Boreal Forests of the World Conference, will be held from 18-22 September 2000, Moscow. Contact: TRN, Box 116, S-962 23, Jokkmokk, Sweden, Fax: +46-971-17039, Email: taiga@jokkmokk.se, Web: <http://www.snf.se/TRN/>

Forest fires news in Brief

South Korea: In April, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung declared a disaster area in part of the east coast after forest fires killed two people and destroyed over 600 buildings, leaving 800 people homeless. About 10,000 ha of forest burnt.

Source: *Sunday Times*, Singapore, 16/4/2000

Russia: According to the Federal Russian Forest Service fire incidences were down in 1999. More than 81,000 ha of young forests were burned. 70 to 100 per cent of fires were human induced.

Source: *Forest Update*, Published by Russian NGOs Forest Club and Socio-Ecological Union. Informational Coordination Centre, December 1999

Ethiopia: A three-year drought has resulted in a major famine and an outbreak of serious forest fires. While lowland areas are burnt regularly, forest fires to the extent recorded in February and March have not occurred since the major 1984 drought. Thousands of hectares of natural mountain forest have been affected. Several protected areas were also affected, for example a fire burnt 10-15 per cent of Nechisar National Park. Farmers started many of the fires to clear land. Ethiopia also suffers from lack of specialist fire management knowledge.

Source: Compiled from information from the Global Fire Monitoring Center web site <http://www.ruf.uni-freiburg.de/fireglobe/current/globalfire.htm>



ing forward

of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) that was
2000.

A new Forum

The IFF decided that a UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) should be established, giving rise to concerns regarding the future institutional home for forests in the UN system. This is important as it will affect the status of forest issues in the UN; for example, whether decisions on forests are negotiated primarily by representatives of forest, environment or foreign affairs ministries; and what access NGOs, indigenous peoples, the private sector and others will have to the negotiations.

It appears that the UNFF could improve on the IFF in several ways:

- Governments have now explicitly recognised that they 'can't do it alone' and should promote public-private partnerships
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues (on the CSD model) are proposed as a means of enhancing NGO and other major group participation
- The convention debate is to be put aside for some time to allow more emphasis to be put on supporting immediate forest action and undertaking an assessment of progress.

It will now be important to ensure that the mandate, structure and programme of work are developed in such a way as to implement and safeguard these improvements.

Contact: Carole Saint-Laurent, Forest Policy Adviser, IUCN and WWF.
Email: CarSaintL@cs.com

Research in brief

The issue of forest quality continues to attract attention. The latest European tree defoliation survey finds a continuing trend towards increased leaf and needle loss since 1992. Survey leader Martin Lorentz, stresses the multiple causes but comments: "...it has indeed been possible over the years to collect ever more indications for the plausible assumption that air pollution is involved" (*Forest Condition in Europe 1999 and Forest Condition in Europe: Results of the 1998 Crown Condition Survey*. www.dainet.de/bfh/inst1/12/icpforf.htm). Red spruce trees in the North American boreal region are freezing to death; alteration of membrane-associated calcium due to the impacts of acid deposition is leading to membrane destabilization and foliar injury (*BioScience* 49:10). Research on Borneo forest ecology found that intensive dipterocarp logging over the past decade around the Gunung Palung National Park has reduced seed production from 175 pounds per acre in 1991 to 16.5 pounds per acre in 1998. As logging reduces the density and biomass of mature trees, the spatial extent of masting is affected and the entire ecosystem is under threat (*Science* 286:5447). In Amazonia, forest fragmentation is increasing mortality rates in large trees by almost 40 per cent. When trees are within 300m of the forest edge, they die nearly three times faster than those in the interior (*Nature*, 40, 20 April 2000). In the UK, a decline in beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) health and decrease in crown density is influencing ground flora as woodland species are being lost in favour of non-woodland species (*Forest Ecology and Management*, 119 (1999) 77-88).

European



Nigel Dudley



According to the survey, Switzerland takes the best care of its forests – followed by Finland, Sweden, Austria and Slovakia. At the bottom of WWF's *European Forest Scorecard* rankings is Denmark followed by Estonia, Latvia and the UK. Wealth and supposed environmental awareness is no guarantee of good forest care – Germany and France have similar scores to those achieved by eastern neighbours Poland, and Mediterranean countries like Spain and Turkey.

WWF European Forest Scorecards are unique in providing comparable information on how Europe treats its forests. The scorecards are a simple evaluation, where current status is compared to common goals set up for all the countries. These goals are derived from the 1992 UNCED agreement and the resolutions of the Pan European Process starting in 1993 – both agreements signed by European countries – indeed the Pan European Process was supposed to establish a monitoring system and the scorecards are to some extent WWF's contribution to this process. Scores are compiled from 99 separate elements covering a wide range of issues including timber and other production, environmental care and quality, social and cultural aspects of forest care, protected areas and pollution. The analysis also includes the quality of data available and a comparison with the survey carried out in 1998. Final scores range from 38-62 per cent with an average score of 51 per cent.

Among the problems that need tackling in many countries are:

- Pollution
- Lack of semi-natural or undisturbed forest
- Insufficient protected forest
- The amount of pesticides and herbicides being used on forests
- Failure to leave dead wood in the forest, a vital habitat for many animals and plants.

"European countries are neglecting their forests," said Per Rosenberg, Head of WWF's European Forest Programme. "Even the highest scoring country, Switzerland, only achieves 62 out of 100. The average score is 51. This is far too low. All countries have serious improvements to make in many areas of forest care". Scorecards coordinator Erik Sollander added that: "WWF is not asking the impossible. In almost every instance looked at, some country performs very well."

Source: *European Forest Scorecards 2000* by Erik Sollander. Contact Ellen von Zitzewitz: EvonZitzewitz@wwfnet.org for more details.

Policy Implementation

The nine FPIRS regional consultation meetings

Date	Region	Place
Feb 2000	North Africa & Middle East	Tunis
March 2000	Brazil	Brasilia
	North America	Washington, D.C.
April 2000	Central & Eastern Europe	Joensuu
	Western Europe	Zurich
	South Asia	Dhaka
	South East Asia	Singapore
May 2000	Sub-Saharan Africa	Johannesburg
	Latin America & Caribbean	Quito

time-strapped participants unable to digest the content of the host of analytical studies commissioned by the World Bank – hundreds of pages of dense information!

In addition to this global input, IUCN Regional Offices worked closely with interested IUCN member and partner organizations to produce country and regionally specific inputs to the FPIRS – holding consultations and targeted discussions with key players in the regions.

At the consultations themselves, an emerging consensus became apparent on some issues. For example, most participants agreed that the World Bank should focus on supporting smallholder tree planting and agroforestry, rather than on funding the establishment of large-scale industrial pulp and timber plantations that yield few or no environment and poverty alleviation benefits. Also, there was agreement on the need for cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches to ensure that forest-related activities contribute to poverty alleviation as well as nature conservation. But on other issues, a consensus is unlikely in the short term. In many regions, a substantial part of the discussions focused on the internal changes the World Bank needed to go through to be able to implement its forest policy and strategy – but there was no consensus on how this should be done. There were also significant differences among regions. For example, the Latin American meeting concluded that the existing ban on World Bank financing of logging in primary tropical moist forest should be relaxed to allow the Bank to promote sustainable forest management, whereas other meetings did not come to closure on this issue.

The FPIRS consultation process now moves to the global level, with two meetings of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) planned for June and October 2000. The TAG will consist of representatives from the regional consultations and World Bank staff, plus a number of additional stakeholders selected jointly by the World Bank and IUCN. IUCN will continue to be involved as the process moves forward.

Sharing progress

In late 1999, a Forest Certification/Verification Workshop hosted by the World Bank/WWF Alliance brought together many of the world's leading forest auditing and marketing experts to share experiences with certification and verification. Apart from the market benefits and improved forest management, participants confirmed that certification could play an important role in:

- Fast-tracking the development of forest policy frameworks at the national level,
- Providing marginalized groups with greater input into resource use decisions,
- Playing a complimentary role to regulatory processes to ensure legal compliance.

Some imbalances (e.g. large and industrial versus small and communal) and obstacles (e.g. economies of scale) persist among different forest certification schemes, but it was generally acknowledged that these challenges are part of learning curve. The idea of mutual recognition across different systems is in its early stages, but it nevertheless permeated much of the workshop discussions, particularly with regard to what exactly is to be mutually recognised (the process, the standards, or other).

Contact: joe.domask@wwfus.org

The Soil Association's Woodmark Scheme recently completed the first successful FSC certification in the Russian Federation, in Altai.



Certification News in Brief

The Millennium Forests for Life Conference and Trade Fair for Certified Products: (June 6-7 in London), will bring together some 60 companies at the trade fair with the biggest ever display of certified products from around the world and 4-500 participants at the conference.

Contact: www.panda.org/tradefair2000

IKEA move towards FSC: From January 1, all high-value tropical tree species sold in IKEA stores will come from forests certified according to the FSC or equivalent system. This includes tropical tree species such as teak, meranti, rosewood and mahogany. Of these, IKEA only uses teak at present.

Source: IKEA press release

First Japanese forest earns FSC Certification: The Hayami Forest, a 1070 ha site in the community of Miyama, along the coast of the Japanese island of Honshu, has become the country's first forest to earn FSC certification. "There has been a lot of local interest in this certification, and hopefully the result will be more land being certified," says Debbie Hammett, director of forestry conservation for Scientific Certification Systems, the certifier. "Having a local example of a certified forest will go a long way toward making other forestry operations comfortable with the idea of certification."

Contact: Eishi Maezawa, WWF-Japan, email emaezawa@wwf.or.jp

- Encouragement to begin a discussion on the possible role of a verification/certification system for protected areas, and explore the scope for a global reporting system on management effectiveness,
- Linking the development of these tools for better management to the delivery of convention obligations (e.g. World Heritage Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity).

The meeting also resulted in an agreement that WCPA and WWF will work together closely on these issues up to and beyond the World Parks Congress (WPC) in Durban in 2002.

Courses and workshops

RECOFTC

Facilitation Skills for Community Forestry Extension

3-21 July, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand

Contact: Dr Somsak Sukwong, Regional Community Forestry Training Center, Kasetsart University, PO Box 1111, Bangkok 10903, Thailand

Tel: +662-940-5700

Fax: +662-561-4880

Email: ftcsss@nontri.ku.ac.th

University of Helsinki

Workshop on Disturbance Dynamics in Boreal Forests – Restoration and Management of Biodiversity

21-25 August 2000, Kuhmo, Finland

Contact: Timo Kuuluvainen, Department of Forest Ecology, University of Helsinki, PO Box 24, FIN-00014, Finland

Tel: +358-0-1911

Fax: +358-0-1917605

Email: Kuuluvainen@helsinki.fi

International Agricultural Centre (IAC)

Local Level Management of Trees and Forests for Sustainable Land Use

September 2000, Wageningen, the Netherlands

Contact: Reinout de Hoogh, IAC, PO Box 88, 6700 AB Wageningen, the Netherlands

Tel: +31-0317-495495

Fax: +31-317-495395

Tropical Forest Resource Group (TFRG)/University of Peradeniya

Trees for Farmers

Various short course planned from September 2000-April 2003, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Contact: Prof. J Burley, TFRG, Oxford Forestry Institute, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3RB, UK

Tel: +44-1865-275000

Fax: +44-1865-275146

2001

TREES (Training Center for Tropical Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability)

4th South and East Asian Countries Non-Timber Forest Products Network Workshop (SEANN)

18-21 March 2001, Manila, Philippines

Contact: Dr R A Razal, SEANN, TREES, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines Los Baños, 4031 College, Laguna, Philippines

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The tempo

Some will have it that the damage caused to Europe was largely the result of poor forestry practices – and climate change. Simon Rietbergen investigates a

The hurricanes Lothar and Martin that struck Europe in December 1999 were the most destructive of the 20th Century, blowing down more than 140 million m³ of wood in France alone – equivalent to 4 times the annual cut of that country. According to the March-April issue of "La Lettre du Hérisson", the newsletter of France Nature Environnement, the damage to forest ecosystems caused by these hurricanes is yet another symptom of human dysfunction. The French Forestry Department, the "Office National des Forêts", was quick in expressing self-criticism for having aggravated the storm damage, e.g. with regard to the planting of conifers in dense monocultures, in regions where these do not occur naturally. The statistics tell a clear story: although conifers represent only 37 per cent of France's forest cover, they accounted for 61 per cent of the storm damage. In an interview with AFP on 29 December 1999, Jean-Philippe Atger, spokesman of ONF, acknowledged that the French forest policy had been too centralised, and stated that Lothar had provided an incredible occasion to remodel France's forests, which had become too conifer-dominated and uniform.

In Switzerland, a different story altogether. The Swiss Forest Research Institute, WSL, concluded that storm frequency has not increased since the beginning of the 20th century, and that since Lothar affected all age classes and species of trees in both even-aged and uneven-aged forests, forest management – as expressed in forest condition – was unlikely to be the cause of the tremendous impact. Walter Marti, District Forester in Langnau, thinks that topography was the key factor, with forest condition being of secondary importance. Valley bottoms had been largely spared, whereas hillsides with an East-West exposition had suffered most. He said that in the "Plenterwald" (uneven-aged forest) of the Emmental, many of the 40-50 m high silver firs emerging from the canopy had been blown over – most of them with a layer of 2 m of soil attached to the roots, illustrating the enormous wind speeds (more than 241 km/h) involved. On the other hand, some of the denser, more even-aged forests planted about a century ago on pasture had suffered less damage.

The reason for such different interpretations in neighbouring countries of an event that struck them both with similar destructive force may well be the difference in initial forest condition. In any case, foresters in both countries now need to look to the future to make decisions on how to deal with storm-impacted forests.

Areas at threat...

declared a national park or nature reserve it will be...
The quality of many protected areas is declining due to...
main insecure and their future uncertain. **Nigel Dudley**
Squandering Paradise?, which documents this global problem.

But how threatened are protected areas?

We still know little about the status of most protected areas. Governments list names and areas in the *UN List of Protected Areas*, but this says nothing about whether they are effectively managed. Surveys tend to be partial and incomplete. Nonetheless, after examining the available evidence some preliminary conclusions are possible:

- **Few protected areas are completely secure and many are under threat.** A recent survey of ten forest countries found that only 1 per cent of forest protected areas were regarded as secure, 1 per cent had lost almost all conservation values and a quarter were suffering serious degradation.
- **Threats are not distributed evenly.** Experts believe, for example, that virtually all the protected areas in large parts of Africa are undergoing loss of quality.
- **Damage is not confined to poorer countries.** The Canadian government has just released a report saying that only one of its 39 national parks is free of ecological stresses.
- **Even isolated protected areas are not immune from global threat such as climate change.** As development increases, their quality is likely to decline. We have a short breathing space to develop effective strategies for protection

Responding to the challenge

IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas has committed itself to launching a major initiative to assess and improve management effectiveness at the World Parks Congress in 2002. WWF will be working in partnership with WCPA to ensure that the issue of quality of protected areas receives the same attention as the quantity of land and water under protection.

Squandering Paradise? The Importance and Vulnerability of the World's Protected Areas

by Christine Carey, Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton, is available from WWF International's Forest for Life Programme for CHF 50 including p&p. For more details tel: +41 364 9019 or see website www.panda.org



Cambodia

Chasing away at forest resources

WWF's new report *Squandering Paradise?* (see page 12), includes a series of case studies documenting the threats faced by protected areas. Here **Christine Carey**, who compiled the case studies for the report, highlights how forest clearance is affecting Ream National Park in Cambodia.

Ream is the second smallest of Cambodia's national parks and experiences intense pressure on its resources. Ream, Preah Sihanouk, National Park is located in southwest Cambodia, along the Thai Gulf. It is a coastal park encompassing a wide range of habitats.

In the 1980's, before the Park was gazetted, large forested areas of what was to be Park were destroyed by timber extraction and land conversion as a result of land speculation. Between 1988 and 1989, Vietnamese loggers removed the remaining large trees and by 1993, illegal logging had severely depleted what was left of the timber resources in and around Ream.

At present the key threats facing the Park are forest clearance, timber exploitation, forest fires and species exploitation. In the buffer zone of the Park, forests are threatened by land clearance. For example, mangrove forests in Knong are being cleared for shrimp farms.

Threats to the Park occur on two levels. At the landscape level, caused by illegal logging and conversion of land to agriculture, and secondly, at the species level, where species of high economic value are targeted. The commonality between both types of threat is economic. The value of the Park to those around them is less than the value of short-term, destructive, harvesting.

Local people collect over 120 species of wild plants in the Park for medicinal purposes. Edible plants include forest mushrooms and seaweed. Some families earn their entire income from selling fruits – domestically and internationally. Some *Aquilaria* trees in the area have become infected with a fungus causing the heartwood to produce an incense ingredient, *chan krisna*, of high market value. Low grades of *chan krisna* sell for US\$300- 400 per kg and higher quality sells for even more.

- **Make institution-building a part of every project**

A limiting factor for protected areas is often the weakness of the parent institution. It is important to focus not only on the official protected area agencies but also on other partners in protected area management, such as non-governmental and community-based organisations. A clear message of the report is that old forms of conservation are no longer working. Protected area institutions may therefore need help in adapting their work programmes to new approaches.

- **Develop professional and managerial capacity**

It is particularly important to focus on skills in business management, financial appraisal and planning, conflict resolution, community development and participation, as well as the traditional skills of the natural sciences and wildlife management.

- **Ensure that local communities participate fully in both the development and the implementation of the project, so that a sense of ownership is achieved**

A recurrent theme in the report is the overriding need to involve local communities, both in the planning and implementation stages of a protected area.

- **Extend the time frame of projects**

The process of participation takes time. Protected areas therefore typically need long periods of funding, though often the total amount needed may be rather modest in aid terms.

- **Increase the speed and efficiency of project approval, fund release and procurement procedures**

- **Give more emphasis to the role of local NGOs, community-based organisations and other non-traditional partners in implementing projects**

- **Wherever possible, use local expertise as project leaders and technical experts**

The main limiting factors to making a protected area a success are social and political, rather than scientific and technical – getting local people on side, involving them in planning and making sure they benefit rather than lose out, and ensuring the essential political support. These tasks can usually best be done by nationals of the country or at least of the region. The best role for outsiders is to provide moral and technical support, to act as a shield for probity, and to evaluate progress.

- **Build more effective monitoring and feed-back mechanisms into projects**

- **Adapt a process approach to allow for adjustments as the projects progresses**

The development of every new protected area is different and inevitably throws up problems that were not foreseen at the beginning. A good project therefore makes allowances for the unforeseen.

The report was launched at the EC in February and at a side event at the CSD in April.

Contact: IUCN Publications Services Unit, tel: +44 1223 277894, fax: +44 1223 277175, email: info@books.iucn.org or <http://www.iucn.org>

Arnoud van Seters reports on the work of the Rainforest Medical Foundation - a group of Dutch physicians. Its aims are to contribute to tropical rainforest conservation and to support the indigenous forest dwellers.

'Rainforests

The work of the Foundation has to date concentrated on travelling exhibition '*Rainforests for Health*', which was assembled for educational purposes and campaigns in tropical and non-tropical countries. The main themes of the exhibition are:

- medicinal plants, their loss and significance for both traditional health care and Western medicine
- 'diseases of deforestation', including malaria; newly emerging diseases, such as AIDS and Ebola; mercury pollution and logging casualties
- the fate of the forest peoples, as illustrated by the case of the Yanomami-indians in Brazil

In the exhibit, medicinal plants are introduced as vital components of the economically important non-timber forest products. Apart from their role in health care, medicinal plants can help generate local income and provide an alternative to non-sustainable logging. The search for novel drugs from natural sources by the pharmaceutical industry (biodiversity prospecting) is referred to as a fruitful means of North-South cooperation on the strict condition that issues of sustainability, indigenous property rights and profit sharing are fairly dealt with. And finally, case histories illustrate worldwide attempts to make traditional and Western health care systems more complementary.

The exhibition features text fragments and a wealth of colour pictures from Latin America, Africa and Asia. With 44 permanent panels and three temporary panels to be used by local NGOs, audiotapes and a youth programme, the display is geared to a variety of target groups. It is meant to induce core activities by local organizations.

The exhibition has been displayed in the Netherlands (1992-94) and Suriname (1995-present) and external funding have enabled the production of two English copies, which were shown in Ghana (1998) and throughout South India (1998, >120,000 visitors). The exhibition was also featured in the Chelsea Physic Garden in London in the summer of 1999. A Bahasa Indonesia version recently began touring through Indonesia.

Requests for presentation in subsequent countries: RMF's secretariat, Arnoud P. van Seters MD, Einthovenlaan 8, 2105 TJ Heemstede, the Netherlands, tel/fax +31 23 5280081, e-mail: rainmed@xs4all.nl; www.xs4all.nl/~rainmed.

Myth and Reality in the Rain Forest: how conservation strategies are failing in West Africa.

By John F. Oates

University of California Press, Berkeley 1999. ISBN 0-520-21782-9.

John Oates's 'cri de coeur' can be read at many levels: as a scientist's personal life journey; as a who's who of African primatology, complete with juicy anecdotes; and as a critique of mainstream nature conservation efforts in Africa. By the latter standard, the book fails to convince. In misrepresenting the diversity of approaches united under the label of Integrated Conservation and Development Projects, it sets up a straw man that is rather too easy a target. The more obvious conclusion from Oates's work in Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda (and the comparison he draws with India) is not that linking conservation and development is wrong, but that repeated political upheaval and economic crises lead to reduced effective protection, and to threatened animal species feeding the hungry. But, as so often with books based on long field careers devoted to conservation, the weakness of its central argument hardly seems to matter. In his more detailed observations, Oates effectively challenges many common

assumptions and draws attention to serious shortcomings in the toolbox of international conservation organisations – such as their inability to provide protection for critically endangered ecosystems and species at short notice.

A worthwhile read. *Simon Reitbergen*

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Reviews in brief

Working together

Published by Earthscan Publications, London.
ISBN 1-85383-631-1 (hardback). Price £20.

Faced with all the dysfunction in ongoing intergovernmental processes dealing with environmental issues, we sometimes forget how strong the rationale for international co-operation still is. *Future Positive: International Co-operation in the 21st Century* by Michael Edwards provides a refreshingly positive look at how it can be made to work better, mainly focused on the development agenda, but with obvious relevance for those interested in forest conservation.

Breaking the law

Available from Global Witness,
e-mail: mail@globalwitness.demon.co.uk

The Untouchables. Forest crimes and the concessionaires - can Cambodia afford to keep them? a new report from Global Witness, details disturbing information on twelve companies involved in significant and prolonged illegal logging activities carried out with the open or hidden protection of the authorities. The referred companies are not only national, but also from China, Taiwan, Malaysia and Japan.

Getting involved

Available from Commonwealth Secretariat, London.
email: b.kerr@commonwealth.int

The *Guide to Doing Business in the SADC Forestry Sector* is intended as a resource volume for potential investors in the SADC (South African Development Community) region. However, apart from the concise information on areas such as investment regulation, the volume also provides useful information on the forestry sectors in each country in southern Africa.

What's cooking?

Available from FAO Bangkok office, web: <http://www.rwdep.org>
Wood Energy News from the Regional Wood Energy Development Programme in Asia (volume 14:3 December 1999) focuses on wood energy, climate and health with a series of articles on minimising health and climatic effects from biofuels, measuring stove emissions, technical options and the possibility of certifying stoves.

Taking a break

Published by CAB International. ISBN 0-85199-414-8. Price US\$75.00

Tourism and recreation are set to play an increasing role in the future of forests and woodland. *Forest Tourism and Recreation: Case Studies in Environmental Management* by X Font and J Tribe, brings together international case studies of tourism and recreation in forests and examples of environmental management techniques applied to timber producing, recreational and conservation forests.

Undermining the forests

Available from The Forest Peoples Programme, 1c Fossway Business Centre, Stratford Road, Morton in Marsh, GL56 9NQ, UK or Mining Watch Canada, 880 Wellington St, Suite 508, Ottawa, Canada K1R 6K7, Price £8.00/US\$16 (plus p&p for overseas orders).

Mining is big business in Canada. The country is the major producer of zinc, uranium, nickel and potash and ranks in the top five of 8 other mining products. Canada also carries out one third of all mineral exploration globally and finances 51 per cent of mining interests worldwide. *Undermining the forests. The need to control transnational mining companies: a Canadian case study*, published by Forest Peoples Programme, Philippine Indigenous Peoples Links and World Rainforest Movement, scrutinises Canada's role in the impact of mining operations worldwide.

Sustainable money

Available from IUCN Publications Services Unit, tel: +44 1223 277894, fax: +44 1223 277175, email: info@books.iucn.org

In theory low-impact uses of the forest, such as small-scale non-timber forest product collection, are compatible with and can contribute to forest conservation and improved livelihoods. In practice, this is not always the case. *Incomes from the Forest: Methods for the development and conservation of forest products for local communities*, edited by Eva Wollenberg and Andrew Ingles and published by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and IUCN – the World Conservation Union, documents and compares methods to assess options for forest-based livelihoods and their outcomes.