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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>

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. Printed on paper manufactured from 100% post consumer waste. 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: Ghislaine Blezinger (Germany); Andre Brasser (Netherlands); Nick Brown (USA); Sonja Canger (Switzerland); Arlin Hackman (Canada); Don Gilmour (Australia); Monique Grooten (Netherlands); Niklas Hagelberg (Finland); Kate Smith-Hanssen (USA); Pierre Hauselmann (Switzerland); David Hinchley (Switzerland); Steve Howard (UK); Stephen Kelleher (USA); Arnold van Kreveld (Netherlands); Ulisses Laclava (Brazil); Per Larsson (Sweden); Heiko Liedeker (Switzerland); Jonathan Loh (Switzerland); Stewart Maginnis (Switzerland); Jay Malcolm (USA); Adam Markham (USA); Jennifer Morgan (USA); Reed Noss (USA); Elisa Peter (Sweden); Mark Poffenberger (USA); Simon Rietbergen (Switzerland); Chris Robbins (USA); Paivi Roqvist (Finland); Justin Stead (UK); Simon Stuart (Switzerland); Victor Teplyakov (Russian Federation); Dagmar Timmer (Switzerland); Paul Toyne (UK); Daniel Vallauri (France); Ellen von Zitzewitz (Belgium); Nguyen Thi Yen (Vietnam); Matthew Wenban-Smith (UK); Sabri Zain (Malaysia).

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

Reaffirming the Vision

WWF/Cannon/PS Soch Jaceza, SA Mainka

The world will have more extensive, more diverse and higher quality forest landscapes. These will meet human needs and aspirations fairly, while conserving biological diversity and fulfilling the ecosystem functions necessary for all life on earth.

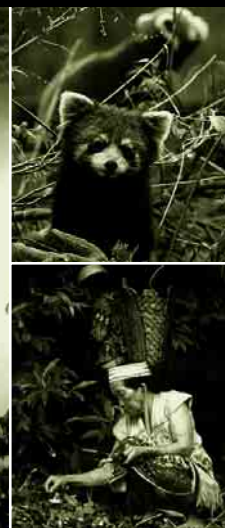
In 1995, IUCN and WWF published their global forest strategy: a document that for the first time outlined the steps that the two largest conservation organisations identified as necessary to halt and reverse the loss and degradation of the world's forests. The strategy was important, not least because it forced us to say what we wanted as well as what we didn't want, thus moving beyond a cycle of opposition and towards a realistic, pro-active approach to conservation. Since then, important progress has been made. The world has another 40 million ha of forest protected areas and almost 20 million ha of forests certified to Forest Stewardship Council standards. There are successful community forest management initiatives on every continent. Brazil, China and Cameroon are among 17 countries pledged to create networks of ecologically representative forest protected areas and over 500 companies in 15 countries have agreed to trade only in certified wood products.

But much more remains to be done. Forest loss and degradation continues to occur in many parts of the world and much remaining forest is under increasing pressure. Now, to mark a new century, a second edition of the strategy – *Reaffirming the Vision* – has been published, still broadly aiming in the same direction but with modifications and additions to take account of changes since 1995. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter and is available on the Forest Innovations website (<http://www.iucn.org/themes/forests>). It outlines some key objectives, principles and goals, within the over-arching vision that opens this editorial. As before, these aims transcend the reach of two organisations, and are a global wake-up call, aimed at partners, governments, industry and the global population as a whole. WWF and IUCN will be identifying the particular targets they will address as a contribution to the general strategic aims.

The *Forests for Life* vision challenges many different stakeholders to be involved in defining and implementing sustainable forest management. Over the past five years literally hundreds of groups have been working to put *Forests for Life* into practice around the world. We call on others – governments, companies, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and individuals – to join us in helping achieve the vision outlined in this strategy.

Bill Jackson, IUCN and Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud and Chris Elliot, WWF

The next issue of *arborvitæ* will be produced in May 2001 (copy deadline March 2001). 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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IUCN Red-listed species

The spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) is listed as vulnerable by IUCN.

IUCN, through its Species Survival Commission (SSC), has for almost four decades been assessing the conservation status of species, in order to highlight taxa threatened with extinction and thereby promote their conservation. The 2000 IUCN **Red List of Threatened Species** indicates that 11,046 species are '*facing a high risk of extinction in the near future, in almost all cases as a result of human activities*'.

The report examined 18,000 species and subspecies around the globe. The new list adds over 200 animal species worldwide to the '*critically endangered*' list, including 11 mammals, 14 birds and 38 reptiles. Habitat loss is a factor in 89 per cent of threatened birds, 83 per cent of threatened mammals and 91 per cent of threatened plants. Forests are by far the most important habitat type for species currently included in the Red List.

Human activity is cited as having caused the extinction of 816 plant and animal species in the past 500 years. However, the knowledge of how many species exist, or used to exist, is still partial. The 5,611 threatened plants currently listed as threatened may represent only a small fraction of the number of species truly at risk since it is estimated that only four per cent of all known plant species have been fully evaluated – and many more remain to be discovered. It is estimated that the Earth has 14 million species, although only about 1.75 million have been scientifically described, and the current extinction rate is some 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than it would be under natural conditions.

Source: Cable News Network, September 2000; Associated Press, September 2000, IUCN SSC, <http://www.redlist.org/>

News in brief

Australian land clearance continues: After months of panic land clearing by landholders in response to mooted land clearing legislation in Queensland, Australia, the State Government has amended the proposed controls on tree clearing, citing the Commonwealth's refusal to provide funding support as the reason (see **arborvitae** 14). The amendments will result in the removal of protection for vegetation on freehold land classed as '*of concern*' (or vulnerable to extinction) from the Vegetation Management Act. This will mean that only endangered ecosystems, representing just 5 per cent of freehold land, will be protected. It is expected that clearing rates will remain at current levels of around 400,000 hectares a year.

Source: The Woodland Society, Australia

Mahogany moratorium: In August, the Brazilian Government declared a two-year moratorium on mahogany harvesting, apart from concessions that have already been placed under '*environment-friendly logging*', such as FSC certification.

Source: WWF Certification Update, September 2000

UK crackdown on illegal logging: The UK Government has announced a major change in policy over the official procurement of timber and a crackdown against the use of illegally obtained wood in government projects. At the Group of Eight (G8) summit in Okinawa, UK Prime Minister Tony Blair also succeeded in getting agreement from world leaders to '*examine how best we can combat illegal logging, including export and procurement practices*'. Paul Toyne of WWF commented that: '*WWF welcome political support for sustainable forest management and would urge other governments to review their timber and paper procurement policies. There is a real need to effectively manage natural forests of conservation value that are only protected on paper and crack down on illegal logging in these areas*'. Source: Environment News Daily Service, August 2000

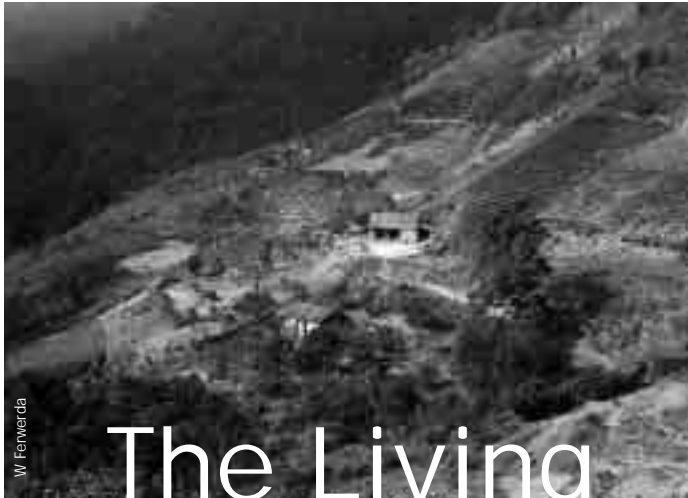
Logging spreads disease: A recent study by researchers at the US Johns Hopkins School of Public Health examining the factors that cause humans to become infected by novel pathogens, found that the intersection of forest hunting and current tropical logging practices may play a central role in the emergence of new diseases.

Source: US Newswire, September 20, 2000

Fires Update

Cutting fires: Not for the first time, the debate on forest fires is raging in the US. Following the burning of 6.2 million acres of forests and wildlands in 13 western states this year, the timber industry is attempting to gain support for more commercial logging. The industry alleges that the 70 per cent decline in timber harvests over the last decade has been a major factor in the wildfires, and that it '*stands to reason that if there is more wood in forests, there is a better possibility of a fire*'. The U.S. government is thus proposing to protect 40 million acres of National Forest from fire through widespread thinning to reduce the fuel available for fires. However, to make the thinning economically profitable and of interest to logging companies, taking of larger trees will be required as a commercial incentive. Since some of these forests had been excluded from logging for environmental reasons, conservation NGOs have expressed concern on how these operations would be planned and supervised.

Source: Forests.org, Inc. USA, September 2000

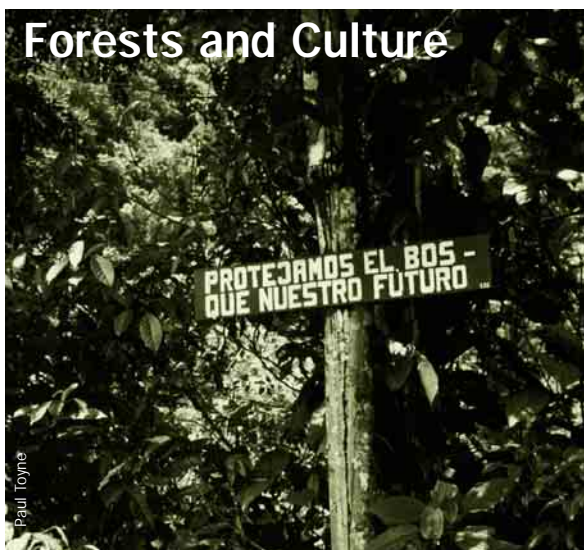


The Living Planet Report

If every human alive today consumed natural resources and emitted carbon dioxide at the same rate as the average American, European or Australian we would need at least another two earth's according to the findings of WWF's *Living Planet Report* for the year 2000.

The Living Planet Index, from which the report is compiled, has two principal objectives: to quantify over time changes in the Earth's natural ecosystems and to measure human pressures on the natural environment arising from the consumption of renewable resources and pollution, and analyse the geographic patterns of those pressures. The 2000 report once again shows a decline in the natural wealth of the earth's ecosystems. This year's Index found that the combined natural wealth of forests, freshwater ecosystems and ocean environments has declined by about 33 per cent since 1970, an average drop of about one per cent per year.

Podocarpus National Park in the Andes includes tracts of pristine forest. Although illegal, hunting, timber and resource extraction take place in the park. Fundación Arcoiris runs an education programme with local people living outside the Park. Signs such as the one shown here ("protect our forest for our future") are placed around the perimeter of the park by local groups to remind people of the Park's importance and the threats it faces.



The report shows that between 1970 and 1999, forests declined by 12 per cent, freshwater ecosystems declined by 50 per cent and ocean environments declined by 35 per cent, with the most severe deterioration occurring in the tropical and southern temperate regions of the world.

For the first time, a measure of human pressure on global ecosystems – the 'ecological footprint' – was also calculated. The findings show that at some point in the 1970s, humanity passed the point at which we live within the global regenerative capacity of the Earth, causing depletion of the Earth's natural capital as a consequence (although locally this has occurred many times and in many places throughout human history). By 1997, the ecological footprint of the global population was at least 30 per cent greater than the Earth's biological productive capacity. By comparing the resource consumption patterns of different countries the report also concludes that in 1996 the ecological footprint of an average consumer in the industrialised world was four times that of an average consumer in the lower income countries.

Source: *The Living Planet Report 2000*, WWF, <http://panda.org/livingplanet/lpr00/>

News in brief

Almost too late for leopards: The Far Eastern Leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) is on the brink of extinction with only 24-28 individuals (down from 40-44 in 1998) left in the Primorye region of Russia. The leopard's forest habitat has declined by 50 per cent in the last twenty years.

Source: WWF-US

Flood warning: The UN's Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has directly linked deforestation with the floods that have devastated Indochina and the Mekong delta this year. The ESCAP stated that forests in most Asian countries had been reduced to about 25 per cent of land area in 1995 from 70 per cent in 1945. Other causes of the floods were a reduction in river channels and drainage, reclamation of flood plains and wetlands and a rapid expansion of urban and residential areas. Heavy rain across Indochina and the Mekong delta has killed hundreds of people and forced more than a million others from their homes in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Source: Reuters, September 25, 2000

Consuming campaign: Some 85 forestry companies in Canada and the US are embarking on a US\$45 million, three-year campaign to promote wood to consumers, and rebuild wood's public reputation after years of criticism of the forest industry by environmentalists.

Source: *The Edmonton Journal*, 29 September 2000

More pledges from US timber retailers: 84 Lumber has become the seventh US home improvement company (the others being: Home Depot, Lowe's, Menard's, HomeBase, Lanoga, and Wickes Lumber) to commit to not selling products made from old growth forests. The privately-held company, which had sales worth US\$1.8 billion in 1999, announced that it intends to phase out sales of products from endangered forests by the end of 2003 and will work closely with suppliers to implement independent, third-party certification systems.

Source: 84 Lumber Company Press Release, August 2000



Mahogany Matters

Outside of Latin America, the United States is the world's leading consumer of the American mahogany harvested in Latin America, and imports an estimated US\$56 million of American mahogany annually. Big-leafed mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), the most traded and coveted of the three American mahogany species, is the focus of a

new report, 'Mahogany Matters: The U.S. Market for Big-Leafed Mahogany and its Implications for the Conservation of the Species', from TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring programme of WWF and IUCN. More than 120,000 cubic meters of big-leafed mahogany from Latin America enters international trade annually, of which 76,000 cubic meters, or 60 per cent of global trade, is imported by the United States, where it accounts for 57 per cent by volume of US imports of tropical hardwood lumber.

The report, which includes an analysis of global trade data and a survey of mahogany importers, supports conservationists' concerns that current harvest rates and practices may be pushing big-leafed mahogany in the same direction as Caribbean mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*), which was once heavily traded but is now endangered and commercially exhausted. On the surface, supplies of mahogany would appear stable, keeping pace with demand. However, historical data

show that as US imports of mahogany decline from one country there is usually a corresponding increase in imports from another. From 1900 to 1960, for instance, the US imported most of its mahogany from Belize and Mexico. By 1980, however, Bolivia and Brazil had supplanted Mesoamerican countries as the leading suppliers. In the 1990s, there was a drop in US imports from Bolivia, where restrictions were put in place to reduce harvest, whereas Peru has been paving the way to boost its mahogany production by selling timber concessions to foreign companies in the Biabo-Cordillera Azul region. However, even in Peru, the distance from mahogany forests to mills is increasing, indicating that forests are being mined, not managed.

The report concludes that the US has a powerful economic incentive to conserve big-leafed mahogany so that the species continues to serve its ecological function as well as yield a resource upon which local industries and individuals depend. Commitment to mahogany conservation would be aided enormously if consumer countries were to promote buyer awareness and alternatives and adopt policies that reinforce conservation initiatives in forests. The report thus outlines various regulatory, policy, and voluntary interventions available to US policy makers, companies, and consumers for improving mahogany conservation and complementing management efforts.

Source: TRAFFIC North America, October 2000. The report can be downloaded from the WWF-US web site <http://www.worldwildlife.org/>

News in brief

Temperate rain forest at risk: The Valdivian temperate rain forest in Chile and Argentina, the second largest temperate rainforest in the world, is under threat. Of the original 54,000 square miles of forest, only 40 per cent remains and even that area is highly fragmented. In the Chaihuin-Venecia area of Chile, a Chilean forestry company, Bosques S.A., is converting rainforest to eucalyptus plantations. The company has already destroyed more than 58 square miles of forest, in violation of Chilean law.

Source: WWF Conservation Action Network, October 2000

Asian companies in DR Congo: Asian companies are building a solid presence in Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Equateur Provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Five Chinese companies are operating in the region, and a further five Malaysian companies have been granted concessions of over a million hectares.

Source: AFAN news, No 11 July-August 2000

Mass support for Russian environment: Russian environmentalists have collected over 2.5 million signatures in support of a nationwide ecological referendum. The referendum will call for: a ban on the import of radioactive waste; the creation of a state forest protection service; and the restoration of an independent state environmental monitoring body.

Source: ITAR-TASS News Agency, October 2000

G8 failing to show the way: In 1998, the leaders of the G8 countries committed themselves to protecting the world's forests. However, according to a new report by the World Resources Institute some G8 members continue to undermine forest protection through their subsidy programmes. For example, in Canada, harmful subsidies amount to over US\$2 billion per year; in Japan, government supported subsidy programmes provide payments to sawmills processing logs imported from old-growth logging operations in Siberia and Canada, and in the US, the Forest Service continues to lose at least US\$300 million annually on what are essentially subsidised timber sales from the national forests.

Contact: Ruth Nogueron at ruthn@wri.org or fax +1-202-729-7620; or download at http://www.wri.org/forests/pdf/g8_sizer.pdf

UN deforestation rates: Preliminary analysis of more than 300 satellite images show that the rate of deforestation in the tropical countries was at least 10 per cent less in the past ten years compared to the 1980s. Half of the images show a reduced rate of deforestation and 20 per cent an increase. However, although overall deforestation may have been less in the 1990's than in the 1980's some observers believe that deforestation may have accelerated again in the late 1990's, in part due to the increasing rate of forest fires. The survey, part of FAO's *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000*, will be completed by the end of the year. It will provide new estimates on the state and change of forests in all countries.

Source: http://www.fao.org/forestry/fo/country/nav_world.jsp

New publications, new chair for WCPA in Jordan

The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) held an important workshop in Amman as part of the World Conservation Congress. A new chair was elected, new directions agreed and three new publications launched at the meeting. [Sue Stolton](#) gives an overview.

Protected areas of one sort or another now cover almost a tenth of the earth's terrestrial surface (though barely 1 per cent of the oceans). The interest in, and expectations from, these critical habitats are increasing daily. Delegates at the two-day global meeting of Commission members in Jordan,

in protected areas and the importance of both terrestrial and marine environments (see picture).

WCPA's role as a source of expert advice received an important boost with the publication of three new books in the series of Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines, edited by Adrian Phillips and produced in association with Cardiff University. The volumes cover indigenous and traditional peoples; management effectiveness and financing protected areas. All can be downloaded in PDF format from the WCPA website. A new booklet was launched as well – *Protected Areas – Benefits beyond boundaries* – laying out the aims and work of the commission in simple terms.



WCPA

WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS

on the eve of the World Conservation Congress, watched WCPA moving forward into a new and exciting phase of its life, with fresh projects, new personnel and a new image. After two highly successful terms, Adrian Phillips finished his time as chair, and the number and warmth of the tributes paid at a farewell dinner speak powerfully of how much the Commission has flourished under his direction. Kenton Miller, currently of the World Resources Institute and a former Director General of IUCN, was elected as the new chair and stated that in the new phase of the Commission's life he wanted to focus effort down onto a smaller number of key areas, particularly in the lead-up to the World Parks Congress now to be held in South Africa in 2003 (see page 6).

Reports from every region, and from an impressive range of specialist groups, showed the WCPA has a new image as well. A website was also launched in Amman, designed and supported by NOAA, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the efforts of the late Nancy Foster, former vice chair marine - who sadly died in June - and Bud Ehler, Nancy's successor (see <http://wcpa.iucn.org>). A new logo has been designed and adopted with acclaim. It stresses the human elements

Research in brief

A new forest policy, called the Natural Forest Conservation Program (NFCP), has been adopted in China. The policy emphasises expansion of natural forests and increasing the productivity of forest plantations. Policy tools which may have wider relevance for other countries, particularly developing countries (*Science* **288**:5474, 2135-2136). A review of forestry in the Ukraine draws a depressing picture of post-war ravage, a declining industry, outdated production methods and gross inefficiencies. There is a well-intentioned list of objectives for forest management but little sign of their implementation (*Forest Policy and Economics* **1**:2, 139-151). Constraints and opportunities to forest policy implementation in Albania also provides a depressing overview of the current state of forestry and suggests a range of measures including better policy, improved legislation and greater public participation in the formulation of forest policies (*Forest Policy and Economics* **1**:2, 153-163). Despite there being plenty of evidence that environmental damage can be reduced and profitability increased by a range of forestry good practices, destructive logging practices, in particular in the tropics, remain commonplace. The main reason seems to be that reduced-impact logging is in some cases more expensive, thus reflecting the need for fiscal mechanisms to promote sustainable forest management (*Conservation Biology*, **14**:4, 951-956).



Stressed Out

The Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks was created to produce a report on the status of ecological integrity within the parks (see *arborvitæ* 13). The Panel's report *Unimpaired for Future Generations* was released earlier this year. It found that:

- some parks are under such pressure that they are losing valuable species;
- only one of Canada's 39 national parks, the new Vuntut Park in the northern Yukon, is free of ecological stress;
- the pool of scientific talent in the parks system was insufficient;
- many of the parks are in trouble because of activities beyond their borders. Clear-cutting often extends right to the edge of national parks, a phenomenon that has a huge effect on animals that live in the park but travel outside it.

The main findings and principal recommendations of the report include:

- a healing process with First Nation peoples is needed in order to achieve more fruitful co-operation towards the common objective of protecting the sacred spaces;
- the ecosystem does not stop at the park boundary. There must be systematic co-operation with park neighbours to maintain ecologically healthy and sustainable protected areas.

Contact: The full report can be downloaded from <http://ecology.org>

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 2001 – three issues of *Arborvitæ* – is US\$20, £12, CHF30.

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Tel: +41-22-999-0263, Fax: +41-22-999-0025 e-mail: ujs@hq.iucn.org

Protected Areas news in brief

Gold threat to World Heritage site: The Canadian Kinross Gold Corporation and other developers may be allowed to explore in the Bystrinsky park reserve in the Russian Far East. The reserve, established by the Kamchatka regional government in 1995, and declared a World Heritage Site in 1996, holds several unexplored gold deposits, which the Russian government wants to develop by shifting the park's border about 50 kilometres north.

Source: *The Globe and Mail*, Canada, August 8, 2000

Protection wins over logging: August saw the declaration of the new 3,370 ha Atleca Landscape Zakaznik (regional nature reserve) in the Vologda region of Russia. The reserve protects one of the least disturbed old-growth forest areas in the region, with many threatened and vulnerable species including three red-listed species. The declaration is particularly important, as this is the first time a forest lease has been withdrawn to create a nature reserve. The area had been leased to the logging company Belyj Ruchey, who although initially reluctant to support the reserve gave in to consumer pressure from both Russian and international timber companies.

Source: *Russian Forest Update*, 56-57-58, October 2000

Peru protection: An official decree signed by former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori doubled the size of Bahuaja-Sonene National Park to cover more than 2.7 million acres of biologically rich Amazonian lowland forests. The adjoining 627,380-acre Tambopata National Reserve was also created as well as a 647,000-acre buffer zone.

Source: Conservation International PR, 8 September 2000

Saving the monarch: President Zedillo of Mexico has committed the country to link several existing mountaintop nature reserves into one continuous corridor, and pay inhabitants not to log the area, in an effort to protect the winter nesting grounds of monarch butterflies.

Source: *Environment News Daily Service*, 9/11/2000

Oil development plans abandoned in Guatemalan

protected area: Following an international campaign, the government of Guatemala has abandoned plans for oil exploration in the 61,000 ha Maya biosphere reserve, which contains some of the region's last undisturbed rainforest.

Source: Tropico Verde press release, October 2000

World Parks Congress delayed one year: Due to a potential clash with Earth Summit II in 2002, the next World Parks Congress will now take place in 2003.

Contact: Peter Shadie at pds@hq.iucn.org

World Heritage Areas assessed: A grant of US\$2 million has been awarded to UNESCO and IUCN by the UN Foundation, to run a four-year programme to develop and implement methods for assessing the effectiveness of the management of World Heritage sites around the world.

Contact: Marc Hockings at hockings@uqg.uq.edu.au

Transboundary reserve in Africa: Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe have signed an agreement to establish the Gaza-Kruger-Gonarezhou Transfrontier Park; at 35,000km² this it will be Africa's largest wildlife park.

Source: *Environment News Daily Service*, 13/11/2000

Living with the Taiga in the 21st Century



Only a few months after the abolition of both the Russian State Committee for Nature Protection and the Russian Federal Forest Service, more than 240 participants of the Taiga Rescue Network (TRN) gathered near Moscow in September to assess the opportunities and threats facing the world's boreal forests in the new millennium. **Elisa Peter** TRN's International Co-ordinator reports.

Conference participants at controversial logging site outside Moscow.

The conference focused on the important role of multiple-use, traditional and indigenous forest management both in forest use and forest conservation, with a particular focus on Russia. With more than half of the world's coniferous forests, the Russian taiga is of crucial importance for its significant biological diversity. Yet, Russian forests are increasingly threatened. The future of Russian forests is more urgent than ever before following the recent closure of the government agency responsible for the design and management of the zapovedniks (strict nature reserves – IUCN category I) and the only one with environmental regulatory power.

TRN decided to highlight those positive alternative forest uses which respect the natural balance of the ecosystem while providing socio-economic benefits to local, forest-dependent communities: community forestry; non-timber forest products (NTFPs) harvesting, processing and commercialisation; ecosystem-based forest management; traditional indigenous forest use; recreation and ecotourism. A trade fair of NTFPs from across Russia was organised to display the richness and diversity of the products, as well as a presentation on NTFP marketing and product development.

On the second day of the conference, participants assessed the role of forest certification, foreign investments, legislation and policy tools in making multiple use forest management a realistic option. Recommendations included: better use and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements; improved environmental and social standards for foreign investment in the timber industry in Russia; practical support for developing Forest Stewardship Council certification in Russia; and development of protocols for relationships between non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples.

An information workshop was also organised to discuss the ForestPACT initiative. The partnership, which was started

by a group of 30 people mobilised by WWF and IUCN (see **arborvitae 14**), will engage a broad range of stakeholders in implementing effective forest conservation and sustainable forest management by partners pledging action jointly or individually. The workshop participants came up with recommendations on how to develop ForestPACT in order to ensure full transparency, credibility and effectiveness (contact ForestPACT@ForestPACT.org).

NGO participants at the conference adopted eight resolutions. One of them was addressed to the government of Russia and demanded increased transparency in forest management by the Ministry of Natural Resources and support for credible and independent voluntary forest certification. Others called on the government of Canada to recognise the land rights of the Lubicon first nation and on the World Bank and other donor agencies to strengthen ecological and social safeguard provisions in their forest policies.

The conference brought about an important and rich exchange of local experiences and international know-how, thereby strengthening the grounds for international co-operation on boreal forest issues. Networking was a key aspect for all the participants and many new partnerships were built through the course of the conference. The conference also acted as a catalyst for capacity building of civil society in Russia, a timely show of international support given that the activities of several leading environmental NGOs are being investigated by the central government.

Contact: elisa.peter@taigarescue.org, <http://www.taigarescue.org>

Calendar of events

CATIE-DANIDA Agroforestry Project International Symposium on Silvopastoral Systems and 2nd Congress on Agroforestry and Livestock Production in Latin America

April 3-7 2001, San José, Costa Rica

Contact: Agroforestry Workshop Secretariat, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Apdo. 7170, Turrialba, Costa Rica

Tel. +506-556-1789/7830 Fax. +506-556-1576/7766 Email: ajimenez@catie.ac.cr

University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakesh and the Direction Regionale des Eaux et Forests du Haut Atlas, Morocco

Second International Conference on *Juniperus thurifera* April 17-22 2001, Marrakesh, Morocco

Contact: M. Mohamed Alifriqui, Laboratoire d'Ecologie Vegetale et de Phanerogamie - Departement de Biologie, Faculte des Sciences - Semlalia BP: 2930, 40001 Marrakesh, Morocco

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Commonwealth Forestry Institute Commonwealth Forestry Conference

18-25 April 2001, Fremantle, Australia

Contact: UK Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT, UK

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A new look at storms in France

Occasional severe storms are a key disturbance factor in many forest ecosystems. However, management responses to storms are not always the most appropriate from an ecological point of view (see also *arborvitae* 14). **Daniel Vallauri** summarises a new project by WWF France which links responses to storms with more general approaches to forest restoration.

Storms, from a scientific point of view, constitute an important and often necessary ecological disturbance. Far from endangering the forest ecosystem, storms are, under strictly natural conditions, one of the driving forces behind natural ecological processes of regeneration, ensuring biodiversity conservation in an evolutionary perspective.

In France, however, forests have been substantially modified by human use, reducing both their resistance to sudden climatic events and their resilience (or capacity for self-renewal). Moreover, current forest management does not generally take disturbances into account. A deeper understanding of both natural (i.e. storms, avalanches) and human (i.e. forestry, pollution, fire) disturbance regimes and of forests' capacity for recovery, is needed to help develop more appropriate management responses. As a result WWF France has launched a new project on forest restoration and, working with Greenpeace, France Nature Environnement and Réserves Naturelles de France, have drawn up a *Partnership Charter for Forest Restoration following the 1999 Storms in France*.

WWF France believes that forest management should mimic nature much more closely than at present. Such elements as greater tree species diversity, stand irregularity and landscape heterogeneity should be promoted to meet the modern challenges of sustainable and multipurpose management of living and productive forests.

The project has recently published two scientific reports and is working in French forests to restore forests that are both alive and productive. The first report provides an overview of literature from around the world on the ecological impact of storms. The second develops and promotes an ecological vision for the restoration of forests destroyed by storms or other catastrophes. The recent problems resulting from major storm damage in France are considered – distinguishing between the biodiversity losses caused by past forest management and the degradation caused by the storms themselves. WWF France's strategy for restoring living and productive forests is also summarised.

The strategy outlines seven main principles:

- Make a clear analysis before initiating action
- Define the priority of actions
- Follow the time-scale of nature
- Reduce additional activities likely to result in degradation

- Use all the opportunities offered by nature
- Closely mimic nature and facilitate its work
- Avoid doing badly and at high cost what nature could do more cheaply

These principles for action are then illustrated by three field examples: the state-managed forests in the Nature Regional Park of Ballons des Vosges, the privately-owned forests of mixed vineyard/forest landscapes of Medoc and the suburban forests around Paris.

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Dutch timber companies surveyed

Most Dutch timber companies do not give adequate information about the sources of their timber and some are apparently making deliberately misleading claims, despite a pledge by the Netherlands government that all tropical timber imports would be from sustainable sources by 1995. **Monique Grooten** reports on new research by WWF Netherlands.

Although the Netherlands has made encouraging public pronouncements about sustainable forest management, reality has not always lived up to the promises. Earlier in the year, research carried out for WWF found that 10-20 per cent of timber imported into the Netherlands had probably been obtained illegally. During 2000, a second investigation focused on the information that companies publish on their websites, and drew up scorecards for 59 Dutch companies with respect to their timber purchasing policies. Companies were scored on their own performance, goals, implementation, communication of progress and the reliability of their information. Web sites were visited on three occasions, and companies then told their preliminary score and given three weeks to revise their sites before final scoring. Only one company was judged to be 'good' in its provision of information and ten were judged reasonable, with the remainder being judged poor or very poor: with possible scores running from plus one hundred to minus one hundred the average was only minus 57. Almost 40 per cent of companies gave no information at all about source of timber and some provided demonstrably false information. WWF Netherlands hopes that publicity about the scores will stimulate a better attempt to provide sustainable timber within the country.

For more information (in Dutch) see: www.wnf.nl/speer/bossen/bosinfo/



Sue Stalton

Livelihood Security and Forests

The opening ceremony of the World Conservation Congress in Amman's 2nd Century AD Roman amphitheatre.

The IUCN forest programme ran 'Forest Ecospaces, Biodiversity and Environmental Security' an interactive session at the IUCN World Congress in Amman, Jordan in October 2000. [Dagmar Timmer](#) reports.

Unusually for a conservation meeting, livelihood issues were identified as a key component of conservation strategies by participants, who considered the dangers and opportunities associated with the global forest crisis and discussed practical steps open to IUCN members, commissions, programmes and partners. Drawing on case studies, speakers stressed the limited success of 'one size fits all' solutions, given the diversity and complexity of the socio-economic and ecological settings in which forest degradation occurs.

The workshop considered links between livelihood security and forests, using disasters as a discussion framework. For example, as the mangrove forests in Bangladesh are cleared, the country is left increasingly vulnerable to flooding and loss of good agricultural land when hit by cyclones. Hurricane Mitch in Central America killed 18,000, displaced almost 2 million, left 300,000 homeless, and caused US\$6 billion damage. This devastation was exacerbated by environmental mismanagement – the ability of catchments to cope with the hurricane was decreased by deforestation, degradation and changes in lowland drainage – areas with remaining natural forest cover were far less affected.

Forest fires provided another example of how livelihoods can be affected: an estimated 20-70 million people suffered health problems due to smoke haze, and 40,000 people were hospitalised in Indonesia alone as a result of the 1997 fires. Conservation impacts can also be severe: the Khabarovsk Krai fires in Russia affected protected areas and Ramsar sites. Presenters argued for a rethink of conventional response to forest fires, which over-emphasises fire suppression and often ignores the underlying causes of human induced forest fires.

Discussion highlighted a need to look more closely at complex and interdependent relationships between forests and humans – sometimes supportive, such as with community

management of resources, and sometimes conflictual. For example, a case study in Nyangui Forest, Zimbabwe, of a long running conflict over reserve boundaries highlighted the importance of negotiating roles and responsibilities of stakeholders to overcome threats to human and environmental security. Positive examples of community management examined included the role of non-timber forest products in meeting the food and development needs of communities related to the Huacamayos Forest in Ecuador (where 212 plant species and 141 animal products are eaten). However, a review of the role of community forestry in generating income for improved livelihoods in Asia found that while local communities are often expected to take responsibility for management, there is seldom a corresponding shift in decision-making power, especially regarding resources such as timber that can provide significant levels of income. It was suggested that more work is needed in this area before the positive impacts of community forestry on income can be convincingly demonstrated.

Broader cross-sectoral interactions were also examined, with examples showing that policies and practices in other sectors such as mining, urban development or structural adjustment can have major impacts on forest – often having greater impacts than forest policies. The session concluded that well-managed forest ecosystems are a cornerstone of secure human livelihoods, as well as a safe haven for biodiversity. IUCN was encouraged to address these issues in the following ways:

- Rigorously test the theory that supporting income generation from forests can contribute to conservation as well as poverty alleviation.
- Emphasise and support tenurial negotiations and full implementation of community forestry programmes.
- Focus on both the direct and underlying causes of deforestation, loss in forest quality, and links with 'natural' disaster damage.
- Explore ways to work at the watershed/ landscape scale to better address highland – lowland interactions.
- Emphasise and build on effective action on the ground, and mobilise the full range of stakeholders from local to the global level.
- Work cross-sectorally, especially with IUCN's commissions and members.
- Develop partnerships with key players who can have an influence, such as the World Bank.
- Gather and disseminate information where it is lacking and avoid studying issues that are already well known.

David Cassells, chair of IUCN's Forest Conservation Advisory Group, captured the spirit of many contributions when he said: *"to safeguard the future of forests and the people who depend on them for their livelihoods will require a complete paradigm shift in the way we think about forests. I'm confident that IUCN can continue to play a leadership role in facilitating change not only in people's thinking, but also in the way we treat forest ecosystems in practice."*

Nigel Dudley

Sinking the Protocol?

The collapse of the climate convention talks at the Hague in November 2000 is one of the most disappointing setbacks in recent inter-governmental environmental negotiations. Failure to reach agreement on implementation of pollution controls comes at the worst possible time and is compounded by the fact that many industrialised countries continue to increase rather than decrease carbon emissions. Since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, evidence about the reality and the seriousness of climate change has increased dramatically, but paradoxically, more scientific consensus has been matched by less willingness to take action. The intransigent attitude of many governments is no doubt caused in part by popular resistance to any controls on our ever-growing consumption levels by the majority of the population in the rich countries, as evidenced by recent public outcry against fuel prices in Europe.

The disintegration of the climate talks also illustrates the inherent weakness of current approaches to international environmental policy. Despite three years of preparation and millions of dollars of investment, the conference started with such entrenched and opposing views that two weeks of discussions in the Netherlands were never likely to reconcile them. The problems were not due so much to a last minute failure to reach a compromise, as reported by much of the world's press, as to a more basic strategic failure to address the dramatic differences of opinion before the talks began. Particularly depressing is growing evidence that popular reluctance to take action is not due to lack of

understanding or agreement on the likely impacts of climate change so much as a resistance to making any sacrifices today for the benefit and safety of people tomorrow.

There is little point in false optimism: the global community took a serious step backwards in November. So what is to be done? Unglamorous though it seems, the most urgent priority is probably to build or rebuild a political basis for change within the wider global community, through such traditional and laborious tools as advocacy, education and research. This means convincing sceptical people and governments that the risks of climate change are high enough and serious enough to warrant taking action. We must also continue to challenge some of the current 'business as usual' proposals such as substituting emissions reduction with non-permanent carbon sinks such as tree plantations (see our science round up on page 12). As if this was not complicated enough, we also need to build a ground-swell of sympathy for those groups likely to be most seriously affected by the changes: one reason for inaction is the mistaken view amongst dwellers in the richer countries that the most serious impacts of climate change will pass them, and their children, by. Today we have the facts, but these are being obscured by short-term political opportunism that it is our urgent task to expose. Finally, WWF and IUCN encourage all parties to accelerate efforts to arrive at a final agreement that is good for the climate, good for biodiversity and good for ALL the world's citizens and to recognise that such a step is only the beginning of the solution.



Managing for climate change

Climate change increasingly looks inevitable. Whilst pollution reduction remains a priority, conservationists are starting to look at how management can minimize the detrimental impacts of change. A new WWF paper by [Reed Noss](#) explores the kinds of management that are likely to enhance the resistance and resilience of forests to climate change.

Although forests have proved relatively resilient to past climate changes, today's fragmented and degraded forests are more vulnerable. Adaptation of species to climate change can take place through the ability of individual plants to cope with change, adaptive evolution or migration to suitable sites, with the latter probably the most common response in the past. The challenge for conservationists is not necessarily to prevent change, but to keep rates, scales, and intensities of change in ecosystems within the historic range of variability for those systems – or at least to come close enough to enable species to be able to adapt at a rate necessary for survival. In addition, conservationists must develop land-use and land-management practices that mitigate the impacts of changes outside the historic range of variability. Management must be oriented toward the objective of allowing ecosystems to respond to environmental change with minimal losses of biodiversity. Maintaining a diversity of species and functional groups

appears to be a sound overall strategy for enhancing both resistance and resilience.

Among the land-use and management practices that are likely to maintain forest biodiversity and ecological functions during climate change are:

- representing forest types across environmental gradients in reserves;
- protecting climatic refugia at all scales;
- protecting primary forests;
- avoiding fragmentation;
- providing connectivity, especially along climatic gradients;
- providing buffer zones for adjustment of reserve boundaries;
- minimizing road networks;
- practicing low-intensity forestry and preventing conversion of natural forests to plantations;
- maintaining natural fire regimes;
- maintaining diverse gene pools;
- identifying and protecting functional groups and keystone species; and
- monitoring.

Good forest management during a time of changing climate differs little from good forest management under more static conditions, but with increased emphasis on protecting climatic refugia and providing habitat connectivity along environmental gradients.

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New report on climate change and biodiversity pinpoints biodiversity loss in the north

A new WWF study by [Jay Malcolm](#) and [Adam Markham](#) used climate and vegetation change models to investigate the implications for different vegetation biomes.

Seven climate general circulation models and two biogeographic models were used to produce scenarios simulating future distributions of biomes such as boreal forest and grassland, in order to measure:

- The migration rates that warming might impose on species by calculating the rates at which major vegetation types would need to move to keep up with climate change.
- The potential loss of existing habitat by comparing current vegetation distributions with future projections.
- The potential for species loss due to predicted reductions in the area of habitat patches.

'Required migration rates' were calculated for land areas. Those of over 1,000 m/yr were judged 'very high' because they are rare in fossil records, yet these were common in all scenarios. Required migration rates for plant species appear to be ten times greater than at the last glacial retreat and will be particularly high in Canada, Russia and Fennoscandia. Although the most affected areas appeared to be in the temperate and boreal forest, previous stability in the tropics means that tropical species are unlikely to be able to migrate rapidly, so changes may have a disproportionately important impact. Barriers such as lakes, farmland and cities will influence ability to migrate. The authors state: "it is safe to conclude that although some plants and animals will be able to keep up with the rates reported here, many others will not". Global warming has the potential to destroy 35 per cent of terrestrial habitat, with likely replacement ecosystems being comprised of less diverse vegetation made up mainly of invasive species.

Source: *Global Warming and Terrestrial Biodiversity Decline*, WWF September 2000

Arguments against tree plantations



Relying on forest plantations to store carbon pollution from the atmosphere and combat climate change could accelerate the destruction of old-growth native forest around the world, according to a report commissioned by Greenpeace and WWF.

for carbon sequestration

The report challenges the assumption that carbon storage in trees will yield environmental benefits. It concludes instead, *'the economics of the developing carbon sequestration market is becoming an additional driver for clearing native forests.'*

The report, entitled *The Clearcut Case: How the Kyoto Protocol Could Become a Driver for Deforestation* examines a number of Australian projects as case studies of what could emerge as a dangerous new international threat to forests and the species they support. In particular, it outlines how Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), Japan's largest power utility, is implicated in the destruction of native forest in the Tamar Valley in the Australian state of Tasmania, and its replacement by fast-growing eucalyptus plantations intended for carbon credits under the Kyoto Protocol. TEPCO's investment of Aus\$10 million (ca. US\$5 million) in Tamar Tree Farms accounts for 3,000 ha of eucalyptus plantation that are expected to yield TEPCO

130,000 tonnes of carbon credits that could be offset against rising carbon emissions in Japan. The report shows how this project is not an isolated incident but is compatible with the forest-clearance programmes of the Australian and Tasmanian authorities.

"The only way to combat climate change is through deep cuts in emissions of global warming gases," said Jennifer Morgan, Director of WWF's Climate Change Campaign. *"The Tasmania project is an example of what could go terribly wrong for forests around the world if Japan, Australia, Canada and the United States get their way. We could see native forest destruction accelerate but still see no benefit for the global climate. This is potentially the largest of a number of loopholes in the Kyoto climate treaty that governments urgently need to close."*

Source: the report can be downloaded from the WWF web site at www.panda.org/resources/publications/climate/carbonsinks/

Climate research in brief

The Climate negotiations in the Hague failed in large part because the US government insisted that pollution could be offset by tree planting. But current evidence suggests that this is highly unlikely. The use of plantations and intensive forest management to sequester carbon is increasingly being challenged. Research at the Max Planck Institute concluded that old-growth forests continue to sequester carbon, particularly in soils, and are a more dependable way of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere than plantations (*Science* **289**:5847 pp 2058-2059). Furthermore, recent research has found that as temperatures rise, forests are likely to emit more carbon, so that far from being a sink they could in turn become a further source. *'Under a 'business as usual' scenario, the terrestrial biosphere acts as an overall carbon sink until about 2050, but turns into a source thereafter'* (*Nature* **408**:6809, 184-187). The overall impact of forestation on climate change will also depend on other effects associated with the creation of new forests. In many boreal forest areas, tree cover decreases the albedo affect – reflection of solar heat – that could offset the net temperature decrease associated with carbon sequestration. *'Some high-latitude forestation activities may therefore*

increase climate change, rather than mitigating it as intended' (*Nature* **408**:6809, 187-190). Problems in implementing carbon sequestration options are also becoming apparent. A study in Russia found no accurate way to measure biological sinks and uncertainties in estimates are greater than the potential increased sequestration from Kyoto Protocol measures, making compliance impossible to verify (*Full Carbon Account for Russia*, on www.iiasa.ac.at). Meanwhile, an economic study of benefits from conservation versus logging in Madagascar found that although conservation provided net economic benefits at a local and a global scale, logging produced greater economic benefits at a national scale (*Science* **288**, 1828-1832). However, climate change could itself close such options. New studies suggest that climate induced tropical forest dieback remains a realistic risk under current climate scenarios (*Global Change Biology* **6**, 817-880). A World Bank paper also highlights problems in measuring the amount of carbon that forestry projects sequester. It suggests options for safeguarding stored carbon, including time-linked credits and an obligation to reduce emissions if carbon is re-released (*Evaluating carbon offsets from forestry and energy projects*: www.worldbank.org/research number **2357**)

Buffer zone issues have come to the fore in Vietnam during recent years, as problems of encroachment into protected areas have become more evident. Forests in most parts of the country are degrading rapidly. An IUCN project in Vietnam, summarised here, combined a literature study, field studies, discussions and workshop, to explore the interactions between the various actors and assess their impact on the resources of both the parks and the buffer zones.



Buffer Zone

Management in Vietnam

In Vietnam, buffer zones are routinely demarcated when the boundaries of protected areas are delineated on maps or in management plan proposals. However, there is generally little clarity regarding the explicit objectives that should apply to land use in buffer zones, and how their management can add benefit to the protected areas. In addition, there is often uncertainty and confusion among the various actors regarding the institutional arrangements needed for buffer zones to fulfil their role. More particularly, buffer zone planning tends to be top down, with the result that buffer zone activities have the potential to alienate local communities.

While there has been a great deal of discussion about buffer zones and their management, there are few, if any, working models of effective buffer zone planning and management in Vietnam. Two workshops in 1997 began to explore key issues such as: definition of buffer zones; the nature of development activities in buffer zones, and the relationship between buffer zones and the protected areas that they surround. An IUCN study project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, built on these previous initiatives and took the dialogue further with a systematic analysis of several field sites.

Case studies were carried out in three National Parks, Ba Vi, Bach Ma and Cat Tien, to explore the reality of conditions in the buffer zones, and in particular, the interactions between buffer zone communities and the natural resources in both the buffer zones and the parks.

Results

The findings revealed that there was no certainty about how buffer zones should be delineated. In some cases commune boundaries were applied, while in others physical boundaries such as roads were used. In Cat Tien the situation is even more confusing as the park boundary has not been clearly defined, and has shifted several times, so people do not know whether they live inside or outside the park.

The role of State Forest Enterprises in buffer zone management is ambiguous. In general, they have a dual role of carrying out forest management and supporting socio-economic development for the people living in the areas under their control (many of whom are present or former workers of state Enterprises).

In Bach Ma and Cat Tien the establishment of new economic zones after 1975 resulted in an influx of government-sponsored and spontaneous migrants. In all cases dense populations live in the buffer zones. Most people are impoverished, and have few alternatives other than using the forests, resulting in severe degradation of forests in both the buffer zones and the parks, in spite of the best efforts at law enforcement by park authorities.

Although officials recognise the importance of buffer zones managed to reduce the pressure on parks resources, many see it as inevitable that the forests will continue to be degraded, at least in the short term, in order to provide economic support for communities living adjacent to the parks. Despite this no programmes focus exclusively on improving the socio-economic condition of buffer zone inhabitants in order to take pressure off the parks.

Conclusions

There needs to be a consensus on the way to move ahead so that the joint goals of sustainable human development and biodiversity conservation can be achieved. Progress is likely where the participants in the process collaborate, attempt to learn from the experience, and update intervention strategies based on that learning (in an action research or adaptive management style). This is a real challenge, as working in this way requires approaches that are not characteristic of the normal working style of most governments.

One of the major outcomes of the project was a set of draft guidelines for buffer zone management. The guidelines are based on considered discussion among many people with extensive experience in planning for and managing protected areas. They should provide useful guidance to those involved in the policy arena as well as to those involved in planning and implementing intervention strategies.

Details of the guidelines as well as the results of the whole study can be found in IUCN Vietnam's publication *Buffer Zone Management in Vietnam*, by D. A. Gilmour and Nguyen Van San.

Communities and Forest Management

The fourth regional profile from the Working Group on Community Involvement in Forest Management, *Communities and Forest Management in South Asia* was recently distributed. The group, facilitated by IUCN, compiled a wealth of examples from the region. Here we highlight how Joint Forest Management in India can be an effective tool in improving forest growth, resource protection, and community involvement in natural resource management.

In June 1990, the Government of India passed a formal circular directing state Forest Departments to support and encourage the Forest Protection Committees (FPCs) and associated NGOs. In the following five years virtually every state in India passed Joint Forest Management (JFM) resolutions. With the backing of national and state government JFM policies, community forest protection became a massive peoples' movement and by early 2000, an estimated 33,000 FPCs were operating across India, controlling 10.2 million ha's of degraded natural forest.

JFM became primarily a strategy for halting deforestation on public forestlands, as demonstrated in eastern India. Community protection resulted in rapid regeneration of forests and provided rootstock and soil conditions suitable for coppice re-growth and development of new seedlings. In February 2000, the Government of India approved a new set of JFM Guidelines allowing villagers to access well-stocked forests as well and to begin protecting and managing these resources. This policy decision opens an additional 25 to 30 million ha's of state forestland for community stewardship. Furthermore, the guidelines acknowledge informal village-based forest protection groups that have not previously conformed to state guidelines for JFM committees and provides these committees with a legal identity. The guidelines also encourage the involvement of women in JFM, stating that women should constitute at least 50 per cent of the JFM general body and 33 per cent of the membership in the Executive Committee.

JFM in Andhra Pradesh

Behroonguda is one of 77,000 hamlets and villages in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The 97 families, belonging to the Gond and Naikpod tribes, formed themselves into a forest protection group in 1990 when their livelihood was threatened by declining timber and firewood resources from the nearby forest. In 1993, the protection efforts of the villagers were recognised under the JFM as the first vana samarakshana samithi (VSS, or forest protection committee) in the region and 500 ha's of degraded forest were allotted to the committee.

By 1998, Behroongudans began to benefit from their protection of the forest, receiving Rs359,500 (US\$9,700) from the sale of 3,198 teak poles, thinned from 100 ha of the forest as part of silvicultural operations. The flow of



money will continue as thinnings are repeated in the remaining 400 ha's; thus providing a basis for the sustainable management of the forest.

As a result of the villagers' protection, the ecology of the forest has improved, the non-timber forest products (NTFPs) have begun to regenerate, and biodiversity is increasing. Income from NTFPs (Rs1,804) and wages from forest work (Rs2,360) constituted 43 per cent of the average family income of Rs9,665 in 1998. The distribution of benefits has been fairly equitable, with, for example, women feeling they have some say in the affairs of the VSS and the village.

To confirm that VSS formation and forest protection made a difference, researchers compared Behroonguda with the neighbouring village, Chintapally – which did not have a VSS at the time. The results revealed that the financial value of the Chintapally forest was about one-third the value of the Behroonguda forest (Rs45,613/ha vs. Rs147,897/ha).

Several reasons account for the success of the VSS in Behroonguda. First, the culture of forest protection, exemplified by their slogan '*before you protect the village, protect the forest*'; second, the inspiring leadership of VSS president Pendram Ramu; and third, institutional innovations that have enabled local people to participate in development work and enjoy the fruits of their labour. On the downside, the people of Behroonguda have not been clearly told when the forest department's financial and technical support will end. For JFM to be sustainable, it is also important that forest staff are re-deployed from Behroonguda to other needy communities. Only then will the Behroonguda experiment be deemed fully successful and sustainable.

This article is based on: *Communities and Forest Management in South Asia*, edited by Dr. Mark Poffenberger. This 150-page profile presents an update on community forestry in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh with photos, maps, and boxes highlighting NGOs active in the local areas and interviews with prominent government officials in the forest department. Chapters include historical information, a discussion of forest bioregions, forest policies and case studies drawn from each country. Emmanuel D'Silva contributed the information on Behroonguda, A.P. for the profile.

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FSC Annual General Conference



© The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has just finished its Annual General Conference in Oaxaca, Mexico. **Matthew Wenban-Smith** of the Soil Association's FSC accredited Woodmark certification programme, reports.

The conference, boldly entitled '*Certification for the People*' to reflect its social theme, was attended by 187 people from 36 countries. The four-day main meeting included presentations and workshops on indigenous peoples' rights, workers' rights, community forestry, the certification of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and the certification of small forest enterprises. Other sessions covered High Conservation Value Forests (Principle 9), standards harmonisation, and co-ordination with other 'Green' and Fair Trade programmes and with ISO standards.

Dr. Maharaj Muthoo, the newly appointed Executive Director, addressed the members, and met one-on-one and in small groups with as many members as possible. He will be taking up his position in January. Dr. Timothy Synnott, the current Executive Director, will continue working in the Secretariat as Director of Forest Policy.

The FSC Secretariat presented the latest information on FSC's growth - 231 FSC certified forests covering an area of 17 million hectares, and perhaps more significantly 658 manufacturers with chain of custody control, spread over 35 countries. This translates into more than 4,000 separate FSC labelled product lines. Looking to the future, FSC's five-year strategy was outlined.

The meeting included discussions by indigenous leaders, especially those from Canada, on the problems faced by those working in regions where indigenous laws and tenure rights have not been well addressed in national laws and agreements. It was noted that the FSC may not guarantee that indigenous people will be treated with full respect and given full authority to exercise their rights to forest resources. In other areas however, such as Sweden and Bolivia, indigenous leaders reported success in their efforts to work with FSC certification, and contrasted this with the weaknesses of other schemes such as the Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme, in addressing indigenous peoples' rights.

The importance of worker health and safety and working conditions in both forestry and the wood processing industries was emphasised. Recommendations were made as to how these issues could be better addressed by certification bodies in forest and 'chain of custody' evaluations.

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or contact FSC at fscoax@fscoax.org

Certification News in Brief

New FSC Director: Dr. Maharaj Muthoo has been appointed the new FSC Executive Director. He has worked in the Indian Forest Service and in the private sector. From 1980-1994 he was Director of Forestry Operations at FAO in Rome. He has worked in more than 90 countries and speaks seven languages.

Nearly half of Swedish Forests FSC-Certified: Sweden now has the highest rate of certification in the world following the FSC-certification of the Swedish National Property Board (SNPB) - the state's land and buildings management authority in September. Sweden now has 10.2 million ha of FSC-certified forest, representing 45 per cent of its forests.

Source: WWF-Sweden, 28 September 2000

Update from UNECE: A new publication, *Forest Certification Update for the ECE Region*, provides details of progress on certification throughout Europe and discussion on issues such as mutual recognition and evolution of systems.

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Malaysian talks: Malaysia's timber authorities will meet with FSC officials in Kuala Lumpur in December to discuss setting up a Malaysian national certification working group.

Source: Deutsche Presse-Agentur, October 3, 2000

Double Dutch: A recent study shows that the Dutch market for FSC certified timber is growing rapidly. Compared to 1998, supply has virtually doubled. For 2000, it is estimated that 550,000 m³ of FSC wood is available, six per cent of total timber consumption.

Source: *Good Wood! on the market* by AIDEnvironment, September 2000.

Further information on: www.goedhout.nl

Amazon certification: Gethal Amazonas, a Brazilian enterprise, received FSC certification in October for its 40,862 ha of Amazon tropical rainforest. The area is the second native forest to be certified in Brazil, raising the country's total FSC certified area to 708,875 ha.

Source: WWF, *Forestry and Wood Certification Newsletter*, No. 4, October 2000

Polish gains: Two of the largest European plants for wood-based boards and panels, Kronospan and Kronowood in Poland, have been awarded FSC Chain-of-Custody certificates. Nearly 40 per cent of Poland's 3.4 million ha of forests are FSC certified. The Polish timber and furniture industry delivers around half of its products to Germany, with other important markets in the UK, Scandinavia and the Benelux countries.

Source: WWF Press Release, 25 September, 2000

Fiji focus: More than 50 per cent (940,000 ha) of Fiji's land area is forested, of which 90 per cent is natural. The country is self-sufficient in timber and exports of forests products are worth US\$62 million (1998 figures). One of the Fijian Forestry Department's objectives is to increase this export revenue by stimulating a market for high quality timber from well-managed forests. To this end Fiji is applying for FSC certification in three areas on two islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

Source: *Tropical Forest Update*, 10:2, 2000

Finish first: The first FSC-certifications of forest holdings in Finland started in late August 2000 and a multi-stakeholder FSC Working Group was established in September.

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Taxing the good guys?

Simon Rietbergen reviews a new discussion paper on fiscal mechanisms that encourage sustainable forestry.

Reams have been written by natural resource economists about how fiscal measures can be used to encourage sustainable forest management: e.g. higher area taxes would favour fuller utilisation of timber resources present and increased concession fees are supposed to give efficient operators an edge over inefficient ones. This paper challenges the received wisdom on the impact of such taxes on the behaviour of the loggers and argues that these fiscal measures

neither reinforce nor substitute for traditional regulatory approaches. In poorly governed countries where forest authorities are incapable or unwilling to enforce the law, even those taxes that have the potential to encourage sustainability in theory flounder in practice – those who obey the law end up paying higher taxes, whereas those who prefer the more attractive option of (illegal) business as usual go unpunished. Drawing a parallel with other environmental pollution charges, the paper argues that what should be taxed is logging damage not logging per se. It advocates the use of a bond mechanism as an alternative market-based instrument to encourage sustainable forest management while reducing monitoring costs.

The Complier Pays Principle: The Limits of Fiscal Approaches Toward Sustainable Forest Management, by Luc Leruth, Remi Paris and Ivan Ruzicka. IMF Working Paper WP/00/51, available from www.imf.org

Reviews in brief

New Economics Journal

www.elsevier.com/locate/forpol

Forest Policy and Economics from Elsevier Science is a companion volume to *Forest Ecology and Management*. It is edited by Professor Max Krott of the University of Goettingen, Germany and published in co-operation with the European Forest Institute.

Disclosing environmental Risk

www.wri.org/wri/

Coming Clean: Corporate Disclosure of Financially Significant Environmental Risks from the World Resources Institute (WRI) reveals that some pulp and paper companies are not disclosing prospective environmental risks that may significantly affect their financial performance. This lack of disclosure runs counter to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules and prevents investors from accurately valuing these companies. The report is a follow-up to *Pure Profit: The Financial Implications of Environmental Performance* in which WRI assessed how pending environmental issues could affect the performance of 13 leading US pulp and paper companies. Their analysis revealed that environmental issues could markedly influence input costs, revenues, asset values, competitive advantage and, hence, shareholder values.

Networking India

Contact WWF-India at igcmc@wwfind.ernet.in
fax +91-11-469-1226

WWF-India has recently brought out a *Directory of Environmental NGOs in India* the country's largest compendium of information on the Indian environmental NGOs, their contacts, missions, addresses and activities.

Boreal connections

Contact TRN at info@taigaescue.org, fax: +46-971-12057

The Taiga Rescue Network (TRN) has produced a useful *Boreal Forest Directory*, listing the 170 participants in the network throughout Europe, North America and Russia.

Using the wild

Contact IUCN Publications Service Unit at info@books.iucn.org
fax: +44-1223-277-175

IUCN's *Sustainable Use of Wild Species: A Draft Guide for Decision Makers* aims to identify and review the major issues relating to the sustainable use of wild species that confront decision makers in government, bilateral and multilateral development assistance agencies, and international conventions.

International directory

www.devdir.org/

The Directory of Development Organizations, is a compilation of over 18,500 contacts of the main sources of assistance available for private sector development and poverty alleviation in developing countries, with particular attention to the development of (non) financial markets for micro and small enterprises.

Valuing biodiversity

www.grain.org/publications/gtbc/issue5.htm

The wealth of Africa's biodiversity is increasingly being realised both by governments and the private sector for its economic potential. *Privatising the Means for Survival: The Commercialisation of Africa's Biodiversity* from Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) reviews policy options open to African governments and civil society groups concerned about the appropriation of African biological resources by transnational corporations.

New series on innovative forest-related themes

Contact EC LNV, Wageningen, fax: +31-317-427561

www.minlnv.nl/inm

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs); their role in sustainable forest management in the tropics is intended to support policy in forest management, biodiversity conservation and NTFP activities. *Natural forest management by local groups in the humid tropics* discusses the experience of recent projects on sustainable forest management by local groups. Conclusions are reached as to what extent it is advisable to incorporate sustainable forest management into broader rural development projects. *National forest programmes; from political concept to practical instrument in developing countries* describes the history of national-level forest planning and the endeavours by international donor and other organisations to have these plans integrated and to use them as a basis for project funding. *The challenge of including forests as sinks within the clean development mechanism (CDM)* summarises the debate on whether or not to include afforestation, reforestation and deforestation activities within the CDM established under the Kyoto Protocol.

Minority Rights

Contact Minority Rights Group at minority.rights@mrghmail.org

A new publication focuses on pygmy people of Central Africa – *The Batwa Pygmies of the Great Lakes Region* – and how they have been impacted, first by agriculture and then logging and the establishment of game parks.