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The IUCN/WWF Forest Conservation Newsletter

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The World Conservation Union



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## What makes partnerships work?

Partnerships are not new. In the decade since the Earth Summit, many partnerships and networks have emerged that cut through the boundaries between governments and civil society organisations, and between national and international institutions. Partnerships can mobilise and catalyze action. Economic globalisation and the increasing influence of the private sector make the emergence of such relationships not only possible but desirable, even unavoidable.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) encouraged this trend by calling for the involvement of non-state actors ('Major Groups' including businesses and NGOs) in the implementation of a UN programme of action. More than 250 partnerships resulted and the list continues to grow. However, partnerships do not operate in a vacuum. The failure of governments to agree to adequate action-oriented decisions with specific time bound measures – as required by the General Assembly mandate for the WSSD – combined with the failure to agree criteria for the partnerships or the negotiation of a framework for corporate accountability have given rise to concerns that WSSD partnerships are being put forward as a surrogate for meaningful commitment by governments.

Not all partnerships are created equal and each should be evaluated on its own merits. The key characteristic of an effective partnership – inside or outside the WSSD context – is commitment. There can be no substitute for the commitment of every partner, which translates into, for instance, the undertaking of new approaches with new actors, the provision of increased resources and capacity, or the adoption of targets and timetables for action.

'Good' partnerships have no reason to shy away from an objective evaluation of their successes and failures. This enables the partners and others to learn from the experiences and adapt their approaches based on these lessons learned.

In response to the high profile of partnerships as a result of the WSSD, we have made partnerships the special focus for this *arborvitæ* (itself a partnership between IUCN, WWF and the World Bank). Forest issues have featured in a number of major partnerships, that were announced at the WSSD, including those focusing on Asia, the Congo Basin and the Amazon. These and other partnerships, like the recently launched Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, offer opportunities to mobilise society to address the challenges of sustainable development in a changing world.

We invited the *arborvitæ* contributing organisations to describe some of their own partnerships – with industry, governments and communities – and to reflect on how these might develop in the future. We have found that partnerships are indeed valuable where they reflect real commitment.

## Sharing Success: A New Restoration Partnership



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**This issue of *Arborvitae* focuses on the role of partnerships in building capacity for conservation. We start with a new partnership announced in March 2003 and introduced by Stewart Maginnis, Head of IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme.**

Reviving deforested and degraded landscapes so that they benefit local communities is possible if we draw our inspiration from diverse forest restoration success stories around the world. Sharing these on-the-ground examples and encouraging their replication is the motivation behind a new global partnership facilitated by IUCN, WWF and the UK Forestry Commission. Other partners include the Government of Kenya, the International Tropical Timber Organisation, the Centre for International Forestry Research, the UN Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and CARE International.

The initiative – known as the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration – will be a 'meeting point' for governments, communities, organisations and others who are engaged or interested in restoration activities that pave the way for sustainable development – in the North and the South. The rapid loss and degradation of forests worldwide has been well documented. Rarer is an analysis of how this affects the 1.8 billion people who depend on these forests and woodlands, where a healthy ecosystem means food, medicine and fuel. Denied the social safety nets that many take for granted, the rural poor rely heavily on wild resources, which are often under threat. Thus forest restoration must involve more than just planting trees. It must bring back forest goods and services to the people who depend on them.

The overall goal of the partnership is to contribute to building assets and improving prospects for people and

nature through restored forest landscapes – a goal that is as relevant in the northern Mediterranean and Scotland as it is in Uganda and the Lower Mekong. A number of activities will be undertaken including the exchange of information on where and how forest landscape restoration could be undertaken or reinforced and an analysis of how forest landscape restoration contributes to the implementation of existing international and regional laws and agreements. The partnership will also support the presentation of case studies, highlighting the lessons learned from field projects, and will organise regional workshops and an international workshop on forest landscape restoration. Finally, the partnership will develop and promote a forest landscape restoration investment portfolio.

The partnership does not seek to establish a parallel policy process or duplicate the efforts of others but rather to weave a thread through existing activities, projects, processes and institutions in order to encourage and reinforce the positive roles and contributions of each of them to meeting human needs and maintaining ecological integrity through forest landscape restoration. The outputs of the partnership will be fed into the work of the UN Forum on Forests and Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other agreements and arenas relevant to forests.

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### News in brief

**Changing markets in BC:** IBM (formerly PricewaterhouseCoopers) has released a report demonstrating that major customers of BC forest products are shifting their purchasing toward greener, more environmentally friendly products. The report surveyed 30 customers globally, including US, Japanese, European and Canadian buyers who purchase more than US\$2 billion worth of BC forest products. The survey indicates forest supplier regions that do not respond to this 'green' shift are at risk of losing market share.  
**Source:** *A Greenward Shift in the Market for Forest Products from British Columbia*, can be download from: [www.impact.org/index.cfm?group\\_ID=2738](http://www.impact.org/index.cfm?group_ID=2738)

**Mahogany triumph:** Ten years after the first attempt, bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) was listed in CITES Appendix II in November 2002, despite hard lobbying from countries such as Brazil and Bolivia. Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival. It is hoped the listing of bigleaf mahogany will provide both a regulatory mechanism capable of fighting illegal trade and smuggling, and help to ensure legal and sustainable trade in mahogany.  
**Source:** [www.cites.org/](http://www.cites.org/)

# Tesso Nilo – saving a forest

**Martin Geiger of WWF Germany, reports on WWF's continued efforts to work with a range of partners to protect the Tesso Nilo forest – Sumatra's largest remaining stretch of lowland tropical rainforest.**

Tesso Nilo, located on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, is one of the last refuges for the threatened Sumatran elephants and tigers and is a unique centre of plant diversity. It is also an area under serious threat. Between 1990 and 2002, Sumatra lost over 60 per cent of its remaining lowland forest through conversion to settlement, oil palm and pulpwood plantations and other forms of agriculture. At this rate of deforestation the World Bank estimate that Sumatra will have lost all its lowland forests by 2005.

WWF has been working with the Indonesian Government, provincial and district governments, the local pulp, paper and palm oil industries and financial institutions and banks who invest in the pulp and paper industry in the region since 1999 to save Tesso Nilo and other high conservation value forests in the province of Riau.

In April 2003, a report from WWF drew particular attention to the links between several European banks and companies and deforestation in Tesso Nilo. The study, *Elephant Forests On Sale*, found that 64 per cent – or 315,000 ha – of the Tesso Nilo forest has been converted into industrial plantations since the mid-1980s. European financial institutions such as the UK's Barclays Bank, the German Deutsche Bank and several export credit agencies from all over the world share responsibility for this development, as they issued loans and guarantees for two giant pulp mills adjacent to Tesso Nilo and the palm oil industry in general. WWF is currently negotiating with paper and pulp businesses, both the producers and the buyers, to stop further conversion of the forest and help promote its protection. In addition, WWF is asking companies to stop the ongoing destruction of all high conservation value forest within the 400,000 ha of neighbouring rainforests planned to be converted to Acacia plantations.

WWF is also engaging in dialogue with the Indonesian authorities to designate Tesso Nilo a National Park. Tesso Nilo is located between four areas that already have protected status. WWF is proposing that these be linked to Tesso Nilo – forming an ecological network of 600,000 ha of protected forest. Tesso Nilo had been proposed as a protected area in the 1980s and again in the 1990s. The proposals were rejected after heavy lobbying by the timber industry as Tesso's flat lowland forest was easy to harvest and too valuable to leave standing. In April 2001, WWF proposed to the Ministry of Forestry to declare 153,000 ha of Tesso Nilo an elephant conservation area. The proposal received wide local political support and has been accepted by local communities and various commercial stakeholders. A final decision by the Minister of Forestry is still pending.

**Contact:** Martin Geiger, Geiger@wwf.de or download the report from: [www.panda.org/downloads/forests/elephantforestsonsale.pdf](http://www.panda.org/downloads/forests/elephantforestsonsale.pdf)

## World Heritage in danger

**Adrian Phillips reports on an important milestone for IUCN in ensuring the credibility of the World Heritage Convention and the protection of the world's most outstanding natural and cultural sites.**

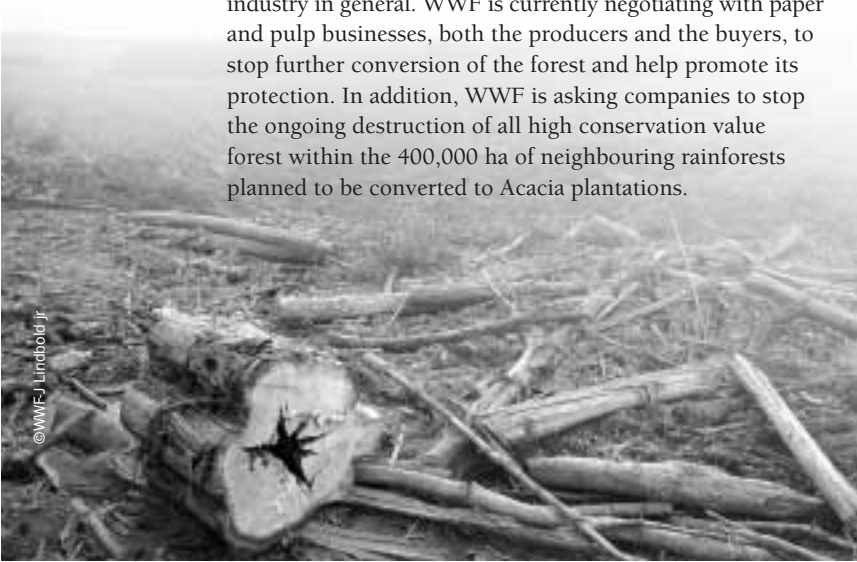
The List of World Heritage in Danger is a politically important document that lists sites considered to be 'in danger' in terms of losing conservation values. Natural World Heritage sites are added to the list by the World Heritage Committee, based on the IUCN/World Heritage Centre reports on the State of Conservation. There are currently 19 natural sites on the list.

At an extraordinary World Heritage Committee meeting in Paris in March, the long-standing debate over a proposal to change the rules governing 'in danger' listing was finally resolved. If adopted, State Party consent would have been required in future before a Site was listed as 'in danger'. Although the Committee has rarely put a site on the list without full consideration and involvement of the State Party concerned, its power to do so remains central to the wider credibility of the Convention. The IUCN Council was so concerned about the proposed changes that it took up the matter with all the governments on the Committee that are also members of IUCN. Partly as a result of IUCN's efforts, the proposed changes were decisively rejected in Paris. This decision will now be recommended for confirmation to the next regular session of the Committee in China in July.

**Contact:** Adrian Phillips, IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas Vice-Chair for World Heritage, [adrianp@wcpa.demon.co.uk](mailto:adrianp@wcpa.demon.co.uk) or: [iucn.org/themes/wcpa/pubs/pdfs/heritage/BackgroundWHOG.pdf](http://iucn.org/themes/wcpa/pubs/pdfs/heritage/BackgroundWHOG.pdf)



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# Fire...

## The story continues

**Forest fires remain as big a story as ever – but when it comes to dealing with the complexities of fire ecology it is unfortunate that the debate becomes polarised on issues of management and those with the loudest voice, and the vested interests, tend to win the day.**



Thanks to J. Holbeach of Trapdoor Ski Club for permission to use this photo

### Mt. Hotham, Australia

In America, the recently announced President's Healthy Forests Initiative aims to reduce 'unnecessary red tape and needless delays in forest management'. The initiative will ease environmental regulations in 10 million acres (4 million ha) of fire-prone forests to speed the removal of 'dangerous' underbrush and dead trees that serve as fuel in spreading wildfires. In practice, this means that these forests will see increased logging as regulations are eased.

In Australia, the summer of 2003 saw a series of huge fires burn over 3 million ha of forest and private land. The fires burnt extensive areas of Kosciusko National Park (NSW) and Alpine National Park (Victoria). The fires have once again fuelled the debate as to how Australia should manage forests and rural areas to reduce the threat and impact of fires and, as in America, the fires have been used by some parties to advance vested interests such as opening National Parks up for logging, ostensibly on the grounds of reducing fuel load. In response, the Federal Government has announced a House of Representatives Select Committee Inquiry into the 2003 fires. WWF will be seeking recommendations from the Inquiry in support of the identification, development and adequate resourcing of fire management regimes that are appropriate to the diversity of Australia's forest types (ranging from fire-adapted to fire sensitive), in the hope that Australia can finally move towards a responsible, strategic response to fires that recognises the 'fire-proneness' of many areas and that develops fire management regimes accordingly.

**Sources:** Andrew Rouse, [arouse@wwf.org.au](mailto:arouse@wwf.org.au) (Australia) and [www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/hfi\\_usda-doi\\_fact\\_sheet\\_12-11-02.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/hfi_usda-doi_fact_sheet_12-11-02.pdf) (USA)

## News in brief

**Seeking gods:** Illegal logging and land clearing to make way for plantations is endangering the survival of the Talang Mamak tribespeople, of the Riau province in Indonesia. The effects of habitat destruction are compounded by the tribespeople's strong animistic beliefs. As the trees disappear they feel they are losing the 'Gods' they coexist with in the sacred places in the forest.

**Source:** *The Jakarta Post*, March 11, 2003

**Illegal timber seized:** Investigations by the UK-based Environmental Investigation Agency and Indonesian campaigners Telapak have led to a consignment of illegally logged ramin from national parks in Borneo, including Tanjung Puting, to be seized by customs in the UK – the largest ever seizure of illegal wood products in the UK. The seized wood was in the form of thousands of metres of picture frame mouldings imported from Indonesia under a false name.

**Source:** [www.eia-international.org/](http://www.eia-international.org/), 27 February 2003

**Russian timber sources:** A new report from WWF warns that about 75 per cent of Russian wood exported to Europe comes from Northwestern Russia, where up to 35 per cent of the timber harvested is illegally logged. "The Russian government must reform its forest policy and legislation, but European companies must also take action to halt illegal logging in Russian forests," said Andrei Ptichnikov, one of the report authors. "They must ensure that their suppliers can prove the legality of the traded wood, which will necessarily imply more transparency and the need for tracking systems."

**Source:** *Illegal logging in Northwestern Russia*, can be downloaded from [www.panda.org/downloads/forests/illegalloggingswedenrussia.doc](http://www.panda.org/downloads/forests/illegalloggingswedenrussia.doc)

**FSC move:** The FSC International Centre has moved to Bonn, Goerresstrasse 15/IIa, 53113 Bonn, Germany. Phone: +49 228 367 66 0; Fax: +49 228 367 66 30. The website ([www.fscoax.org](http://www.fscoax.org)) and email addresses for staff members remain the same.

**Ape decline:** The relatively intact forests of western equatorial Africa have been viewed as the last stronghold of African apes, with Gabon and the Republic of Congo thought to hold roughly 80 per cent of the world's gorillas and most of the common chimpanzees. A survey reported in *Nature*, however has indicated that ape populations in Gabon have declined by more than half between 1983 and 2000. The primary cause being commercial hunting, facilitated by the rapid expansion of mechanised logging and the spread of Ebola haemorrhagic fever. The article argues for aggressive investments in law enforcement, protected area management and Ebola prevention and that gorillas and common chimpanzees should be elevated immediately to 'critically endangered' status.

**Source:** *Nature* 422, 611-614 (2003)

**Panda reserves:** The Chinese government has nearly doubled protected areas for giant pandas in the Qinling mountain range by creating five new panda reserves and five panda 'corridors' in the area. Qinling is home to approximately 20 per cent of the estimated 1,000 giant pandas living in the wild. This initiative will increase protected areas in Qinling from 184,000 ha to over 334,000 ha. It will also create five 'corridors' — zones that link the protected areas and allow fragmented populations of pandas to cross from one protected area to another. WWF has recognised the initiative as a Gift to the Earth.

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Devendra S Rana

## Caught in the crossfire

**Nepal, a small land-locked Himalayan Kingdom, has been caught up in a little heard of conflict for the past seven years. Devendra S Rana, WWF Nepal, reviews the conflict's impacts on biodiversity.**

In 1996 the Maoists began an armed struggle in western Nepal. Since then the vicious civil war has escalated to cover the whole nation and claimed more than 7,000 lives. With an estimated third of the country severely affected, the cost of the conflict has been put in the region of US\$512 million or 10 per cent of the country's GDP.

While the people of Nepal have borne the brunt of the insurgency, the negative impact on Nepal's biodiversity has also been severe. The Nepali media has reported rampant

timber smuggling for the valuable Sal tree (*Shorea robusta*) from the tropical lowland forests, and wildlife poaching for the horns of the greater Asian one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), and for body parts of the Royal Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Leopard cat (*Felis bengalensis*) and Musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*).

Due to security risks, conservationists have not been able to study the full extent and impact of the conflict on biodiversity – how much is 'business-as-usual' and how much is due to the insurgency? However, information on the extent of wildlife poaching in two of the country's premier protected areas (Royal Chitwan and Royal Bardia National Parks), on timber smuggling from the lowland forests

and about discoveries of large numbers of leopard skins indicate the severe negative impact of the insurgency on biodiversity. But this may only be the 'tip of the iceberg' as government authority (including forest and protected area offices and personnel) close to the epicentre of the Maoists insurgency is almost non-existent.

Nepal's effort in biodiversity conservation over the last three decades is a global success story with almost 20 per cent of the country's landmass now protected. The rhino population has increased from an estimated 60-80 animals in the late 1960s to over 600 in 2000. Part of the reason for this success is that Nepal's reserves have been under military protection since 1976, however with the army being deployed for counter-insurgency operations only 34 of the 112 guard posts in 11 protected areas are now manned. In this vacuum the poachers have moved in, picking off rhinos with the biggest horns. Last year, 37 of the 54 rhinos that died in Chitwan were killed for their horns – almost the same as were lost in the 16 years between 1973 and 1990. Eight rhinos have been poached in the first three months of this year.

The current cease-fire between the government and the Maoists has provided a ray of hope. This 'peace dividend' could extend to the country's natural resources as well, but only if Nepal's conservationists recognise the new political environment within which they will need to operate. This will require them to embrace new conservation paradigms that recognise the competing claims, authority and rights of multiple stakeholders on Nepal's natural resources. This may require them to move beyond the classic 'fences and fines' to Buffer Zone and ICDP models of protection.

**Source:** This article has drawn on Dr. Pralad Yonzon's, *The Wounds of Neglect, Habitat Himalaya*. IX:1; Kunda Dixit's, *Pollution, poaching threaten Chitwan's success, Nepali Times*. No.139 and Surendra Phuyal's, *Alarming rise in rhino poaching could undo much vaunted success story, The Kathmandu Post*, XI:50, plus other articles in *The Kathmandu Post*.

## Protected areas – news in brief

**Mining in Ghana:** An Environmental News Service report has quoted miners, who spoke on condition of anonymity, asking for Ghana's New Patriotic Party government to grant them permits to "throw out the trees and the animals in the forest reserves" to make way for full-scale surface mining operations. Minister of Mines, Kwadjo Adjei Darko, confirmed the discovery of gold and stated: "We inherited the problem from the past government, whether they were coerced into granting the prospecting licenses to the mining companies or not we do not know, but we are in a crisis..." "It will not help us as a country to sit on the reserves only for illegal miners to rush into these areas and destroy the forest reserves with no environmental planning, no reclamation plan and no income to the state", Minister Darko continued: "If we can ensure that the mining companies go about their mining plans properly, and reclamation is on course, it will benefit the nation."

**Source:** ENS, March 4, 2003

**New parks:** Canada plans to create 10 new national parks and five marine conservation areas over the next five years. The parks will cover around 39,000 square miles (100,000 km<sup>2</sup>), almost doubling the area occupied by the existing 39 national parks.

**Source:** Reuters, Friday, October 4, 2002



Devendra S Rana

# Involving society in forest law

**Carole Saint-Laurent reports on the involvement of civil society in the African law enforcement and governance process.**

IUCN has been working with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to strengthen civil society participation in the African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) process, leading to a ministerial meeting. This has included the preparation of an information kit, background papers and policy statements as well as the organisation of three sub-regional workshops in early 2003 in East, West and Southern Africa.

The workshops identified the need for independent mechanisms to monitor the enforcement of forest legislation along with regular and credible inventories of forest resources. Recommendations specific to civil society included the need to raise awareness of forest laws and policies to demystify them and to enhance people's participation in their formulation and implementation. The availability of information to the public about the negotiation and details of concession agreements was also seen as crucial.

The workshops stressed the need for alternative livelihood programmes, to alleviate poverty in local communities and for communities that depend on bush meat in their diet, such as the cultivation of mushrooms, captive husbandry of selected wild animals and promotion of on-farm cropping and domestication of medicinal plants to reduce pressure for illegal harvesting from forests. Such activities should be backed-up by the adoption of policies and laws that recognise the importance of traditional cultures and practices and the needs of marginalised groups. Development of incentives for self regulation and the use of community sanction as a deterrent were also recommended.

There is clearly the need for more recognition of the forest use rights and management responsibilities of rural people and forest dwelling communities. Where forests are managed for forest products, greater equity in the distribution of revenue generated from trade is required, as are mechanisms to ensure that some revenue is reinvested in local communities who have been disadvantaged. Strategic environmental assessments should be undertaken as part of resettlement policies in order to address impacts on forests.

The workshops recognised the need to implement and enforce regional and international agreements relating to cross border trade in wood and non-wood products and put in place community law enforcement action plans. Steps

also need to be taken to ensure that wood products entering the international markets come from sustainably managed forests, e.g. through certification systems, and bans should be implemented on forest products from conflict areas. It was noted that internationally, there is a need to harmonise policies and laws relating to forests, wood and non-wood products within and between countries in the region. Forest goods and services should be included in national accounting systems to help ensure proper integration into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

Finally, it was recommended that the 'paramilitary attitudes' in forest services be discouraged and instead forest agents be trained to encourage partnership with communities.

Participants in the sub-regional workshops selected representatives to attend the ministerial conference. IUCN is now collaborating with preparatory meeting organisers and participants in consolidating key action recommendations, and will provide support to civil society representatives in the lead up to and during the ministerial meeting.

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## Research in brief

**The World Meteorological Organisation**, a United Nations agency, has confirmed that 2002 was the second warmest year since 1860, extending a quarter-century pattern of accelerated global warming. Recent studies have confirmed that impacts of global warming are already discernible in animal and plant populations. An overview of information on species and global warming drawn from 143 studies revealed a consistent temperature-related shift in species ranging from molluscs to mammals and from grasses to trees. More than 80 per cent of species studied show predicted changes based on known physiological constraints (*Nature*, **421**, 57-60, 2003). An analysis of biological trends for more than 1,700 species confirmed climate change predictions; with significant range shifts averaging 6.1 km per decade towards the poles (or metres per decade upward), and advancement of spring by 2.3 days per decade (*Nature*, **421**, 37-42, 2003). Research on avian communities suggests that increasingly warmer winters may pose a more severe threat to long-distance migrants than to the other bird groups. The study correlated the number of all species of land birds and the number and proportion of long-distance migrants, short-distance migrants, and residents in 595 grid cells across Europe. Prediction were then assessed, and confirmed, against census information from the Lake Constance region, Central Europe (*Conservation Biology*, **17:2**, 577, 2003). Meanwhile in other climate related news, doubts have been raised that previous estimates of the amount of carbon stored by trees and shrubs may have been too high, results that could force climate experts to recalculate the benefits of growing trees as a way to offset human caused emissions of carbon dioxide (*Nature*, **418**, 593-594 and 623-626). In Indonesia, scientists have calculated that between 0.81 and 2.57 Gt of carbon were released to the atmosphere in 1997 as a result of burning peat and vegetation – equivalent to 13-40 per cent of the mean annual global carbon emissions from fossil fuels (*Nature*, **420**, 61-65). Finally, researchers have predicted that the Glaciers on Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, are melting so fast that they will be gone by 2020 (*Science*, **298**: 589-593).



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Certified Amazonian rainforest managed by Precious Woods Amazon.

## WWF:

### Partners in Forest Management

**The business sector is increasingly seeing forest conservation as an integrated element of forest management. Margaret Rainey, Deputy Director of WWF's Global Forest Trade Network, gives two examples of WWF's partnerships with the business world: IKEA and Sveaskog.**

Through the Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN), WWF works with hundreds of companies world-wide that are committed to promoting responsible forest management and trade in credibly certified forest products. The GFTN is made up of 18 local networks active in 30 countries. These networks strive to improve forest management by creating demand for certified forest products. In producing countries the GFTN runs networks (Producer Groups) that provide forest managers with training and support to help them achieve responsible forestry and certification. These networks serve as gateways to markets for certified products and as such provide incentives for better forest management.

In some cases WWF has entered into close co-operation on forest conservation with the business sector and two examples are the partnerships with IKEA and Sveaskog. In April 2002, WWF and IKEA joined forces to promote responsible forestry. IKEA is one of the world's largest home furnishing companies with 154 stores in 22 countries and 1800 suppliers in over 50 countries. The majority of raw material used by the company is wood. WWF and IKEA are carrying out projects ranging from strengthening multi-stakeholder based forest certification in Romania, Bulgaria, the Baltic countries, Russia and China to developing, in consultation with stakeholders, a toolkit for the identification and management of High Conservation Value Forests. "IKEA's long term goal is to source all the wood from verified, well managed sources.

The symbol of the FSC is spray-painted onto stacks of processed timber in Brazil.



© WWF Canon / Edward PARKER

The co-operation between WWF and IKEA supports the implementation of IKEA's forest action plan", says Pär Stenmark, Forestry co-ordinator, Social and Environmental Affairs, IKEA Group.

WWF and the Swedish state-owned forest company Sveaskog are also in partnership to promote a dialogue between Europe's environmentally responsible buyers of forest products, create consumer awareness and broaden the market for credibly certified products. With its 4.7 million hectares of forest, Sveaskog is the largest forest owner in Europe and a lead player in the promotion of responsible forestry. Sveaskog works under the principle of profit maximisation but at the same time incorporates the highest environmental goals in their corporate

vision. "We have long been committed to FSC-certification, the principles of which stipulate that there must be a long-term profitability as well as a continuity of the social and environmental values of the forest. The different dimensions are interdependent and not mutually exclusive," says Sveaskog's Director of Environmental Affairs, Olof Johansson. Responsible forestry has not

resulted in economic loss to Sveaskog. Site-adapted forestry has shown that it can compensate short-term losses in the longer term by avoiding costs for site preparations after clearcuts such as drainage, scarification and replanting. Site adapted forestry utilises the natural characteristics of the site to avoid adverse effects and to allow natural regeneration with higher quality timber. "Our partnership with WWF has developed into a win-win solution where an environmental organisation and a major forest company can together strengthen forest conservation," Olof Johansson concludes.

The WWF partnerships described above are examples of how WWF works to achieve responsible forest

management in co-operation with the business sector. Working across sectoral borders is essential if global solutions to the threats facing the forests of the world are to be found. Combining conservation and social considerations with long-term economic stability provides the foundation for truly responsible forest management.

## WWF: Partners in Restoration

**Stephanie Mansourian reports on how a mutual interest and expertise in landscape restoration led to a partnership between WWF and Lafarge, the world leader in construction materials.**



Lafarge is one of the first industrial groups to become a WWF Conservation Partner, with a relationship that began in 2000. Lafarge has significant experience in site-based restoration, as demonstrated in Bamburi in Kenya where, starting in 1971, the Swiss agronomist René Haller began experimenting with the rehabilitation of a disused quarry site. Today this area contains more than 200 coastal forest species and a famous nature trail and has attracted 100,000 visitors per year since opening to the public in 1984.

It seemed natural for Lafarge to invest in supporting WWF's Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) programme. FLR seeks to integrate socio-economic and biodiversity needs through the restoration of goods and services provided by forests within a landscape. This programme is one of the three core objectives of WWF's global Forest for Life Programme, alongside forest protection and management.

The partnership with Lafarge has evolved over the last three years with a focus on reducing Lafarge's environmental footprint. The two organisations are

working together to ensure that Lafarge's operations limit the impact on the environment through improving quarry rehabilitation techniques, increasing energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy and utilising less carbon intensive methods of cement production.

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**The restored coastal forest habitat at Baobab Farm provided an impressive case study for participants of the IUCN/WWF East African workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration held in November 2001.**



## Alliance: Progress

**Mark Hurley analyses how the alliance between the World Bank and WWF has catalysed a range of successful conservation partnerships.**

The World Bank/WWF Alliance (Alliance) can perhaps best be described as a partnership between two organisations designed to catalyse further partnerships with a wide array of forest conservation stakeholders – a partnership within partnerships. As such, the Alliance serves as an appropriate example of the theme of this issue of *Arborvitae*: that separate institutions can combine their respective strengths to leverage results greater than they could have achieved on their own.

When the Alliance was formed in 1998, it set ambitious targets for forming new protected areas, improving the management of existing protected areas, and achieving independently certified sustainable forest management. These targets were set at levels that could only be achieved through the dedicated contributions of organisations from government, the private sector and civil society.

The two core members of the Alliance, the World Bank and WWF, first evaluated their own attributes (see figure, bottom right) and realised that by combining their unique qualities they could together motivate an array of stakeholders to join in achieving progress toward a vision for improved protection and management of the world's forests.

### Regional Activities and Learning & Capacity Building

The Alliance works with partners in two main arenas: a) regional activities, and b) learning and capacity building initiatives. Regional activities support forest conservation and sustainable use by providing seed funding to develop projects likely to attract larger sums from external sources. Regional activities also include pilot projects designed to develop and test innovative approaches to forest management and protection. The latest annual report describes over 30 regional activities in World Bank client countries in diverse regions of the world.

Two of the most successful regional activities, reported in *arborvitae* 21, resulted in the announcements of large-scale protected area initiatives in Brazil's Amazon Basin and Central Africa's Congo Basin. These initiatives, which benefited from early Alliance organisational and technical





## through Partnerships



**Saw mill using timber from native forests. Sierra Norte, Oaxaca, Mexico**

assistance, are dynamic partnerships – led by governments with support from private organisations – with the promise of forming vast networks of interconnected protected areas and well managed forests.

Another example of an Alliance-supported regional activity is a consortium formed to resolve common obstacles to sustainable forestry in Central America. Most forest landowners in the lowland tropics of Central America agree that it is difficult for sustainable forest management to compete with the economic benefits of alternative land uses such as illegal logging and agriculture. Compounding this problem, the development of management tools relevant for forest managers is often relatively expensive, inconsistent, of varying quality and seldom oriented toward resolving common obstacles to sustainable management. To address these obstacles, the Alliance is supporting WWF-Central America, the Tropical Agricultural Center for Research and Higher Education (CATIE) and Oregon State University (OSU) by providing funding for an analysis of certified forestry operations in Central America, development and testing of a biological monitoring protocol for High Conservation Value Forests in Guatemala and Nicaragua, and development and testing of a step-wise approach to certification in Nicaragua. By strategically supporting the efforts of the consortium between WWF, CATIE and OSU, the Alliance is hoping that the resulting tools will be utilised by forest certification practitioners throughout Latin America.

The consortium is noteworthy not just because it is a creative partnership and regional activity, but also because it utilises Alliance learning and capacity building tools, which aim to promote best practices and foster sustainable forest management and improve protected area management by training, developing methodologies and toolkits and disseminating information. Examples of these tools are

- a guide for biological monitoring for forest management in high conservation value forests in Meso-America, utilised by the consortium mentioned above;
- a toolkit and training manual to facilitate forest certification in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, to be utilised by national working groups on certification and forest management auditors; and
- a scorecard for evaluating management effectiveness of protected areas, to be used at the site-level by protected area managers.

### Improvement through Strengthened Partnerships

While the Alliance has demonstrated that the operational goal of achieving progress through partnerships can work, WWF and the World Bank realise that they must do more to implement the concept effectively. An independent midterm analysis noted that, while impressive progress has been made toward the Alliance targets, the Alliance must more effectively mainstream activities into World Bank and WWF programmes, strengthen the linkages between the forest management and poverty reduction goals of the organisations, and scale up resource mobilisation. These objectives will be met only if WWF and the World Bank can maximise the benefits to be derived through their partnerships with each other and with a full range of forest conservation stakeholders throughout the world.

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## IUCN: A Global Partnership

**IUCN has been a global partnership of states, government agencies, NGOs, and experts since 1948 – although the term ‘partnership’ had a different meaning then, and NGOs were called associations. There has been a lot of hype around the concept of partnerships recently, but that does not make it a less valid concept. In the following articles, IUCN staff from Central Africa and South America highlight some of the partnerships they have been building and the results that are being achieved.**

### Partnerships for Peace

**A decade of violent conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi has not only taken its toll on millions of people, but also on the protected areas in these countries. Bihini won wa Musiti from IUCN’s Central Africa Programme reports on an initiative that builds a variety of partnerships to improve the management of three protected areas.**

Since 1999 IUCN, with the financial assistance of the MacArthur Foundation, has been implementing the Parks for Peace Project (PPP) in three transboundary protected areas in Central Africa: Virunga in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Volcanoes in Rwanda and Kibira in Burundi. The objective of PPP is to improve protection of the areas concerned while enhancing the livelihoods of the people who have suffered from violent conflict in the region.



**Virunga National Park Tourists and park guards watching mountain gorillas.**

Even before the war, relationships between conservation agencies and other institutions in the region were often characterised by competition and sometimes conflict over money, authority and the control of resources. Through establishing dialogue committees involving all relevant stakeholders, PPP has been able to reduce misunderstandings – and help stakeholders manage conflicts. The dialogue committees are now recognised as an impartial consensus building mechanism by both governments and rebels. The code of conduct for the management of Virunga, Volcanoes and Kibira that the committees are helping to develop will translate this consensus into clear rules to be respected by all parties, even in times of conflict.

In the meantime, PPP has also been using its partnership strategy to mobilise practical support for nature conservation activities in the region. For example, an agreement was concluded with the World Food Programme’s Food for Work initiative to provide food for more than 500 park guards and their families. This facilitated the organisation of thousands of patrols, the rehabilitation of monitoring paths, the seizure of illegal hunting and fishing equipment and the recovery of land subjected to illegal cultivation.

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### International Environmental Agreements

**In Rio in 1992, governments agreed that rich and poor countries would have ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’ for conserving biological diversity. But the collaborative spirit of this phrase has rarely materialised in international environmental deliberations and competition among countries with very different capacities to engage has been the rule rather than the exception. Alvaro Luna describes IUCN’s efforts in Latin America to help level the playing field.**

While over-endowed with biological diversity, developing countries are frequently under-represented at the international environmental negotiation table. The views of small developing countries in particular are rarely taken into account. This not only leads to unbalanced commitments, but also undermines the legitimacy of the implementation of these environmental agreements.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is more complex than most agreements. Following the likely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in 2003, operationalising the so-called Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) will demand tremendous efforts. Challenges include the definition of carbon baselines and the determination of project additionality, assessment of leakage and ensuring that Afforestation and Reforestation (A&R) activities are environmentally sound and socially equitable. While the issues involved are technically complex, decisions on them are highly political, with clear winners and losers between and within countries.

Over the last two years IUCN, in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), organised three workshops to explain the technical issues and discuss the implications of upcoming international decisions on A&R for people and the environment with governments and NGOs from 18 Latin American countries – many of them IUCN members. This approach is starting to generate results. For example, following the third regional workshop held in Montevideo, Uruguay in February 2003, six Latin American countries submitted a common text on modalities for A&R projects to the UNFCCC secretariat. The ultimate goal is that carbon credits bought in Latin American countries will be good not only for the climate but also for people and biodiversity.

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# Planted forests: Is growing timber still a growing controversy?

**Stewart Maginnis of IUCN gives his view of the intersessional expert meeting on planted forests of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).**

In late March 2003, the Government of New Zealand hosted over one hundred experts in the latest round of international consultations on the role of planted forests.

Although some delegates felt that insufficient provision was made for a critical assessment of planted forests during the formal presentations, the working groups and plenary reporting sessions did allow for some fairly open, and on the whole, constructive debate.

While this meeting did not facilitate a meeting of minds between the resolutely pro and anti plantation lobbies, it is encouraging to see that the plantations debate has moved on since the 1999 Santiago expert consultation in a number of key areas. Notably the workshop report: urges the UNFF to recognise that planted forests do sometimes undermine peoples' rights and livelihoods and replace natural forest – and that all necessary measures should be taken to avoid this; emphasises the promotion of planted forests for non-industrial purposes; and highlights the need to consider how planted forests might be employed in poverty eradication. However, given that UNFF 3 will address economic aspects of forest it was disappointing that the issue of inappropriate subsidies for industrial roundwood production methods that are environmentally and socially harmful was not comprehensively addressed.

**Contact:** Stewart Maginnis, [stewart.maginnis@iucn.org](mailto:stewart.maginnis@iucn.org). A 16 page report prepared by a drafting committee is available at [www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/unff-planted-forestry-meeting/report-of-unff-meeting-nz.pdf](http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/unff-planted-forestry-meeting/report-of-unff-meeting-nz.pdf).

## The All-Russia Congress of Foresters

**Victor Teplyakov of IUCN's Office for Russia and CIS reports on the All-Russia Congress of Foresters held in Moscow in February 2003.**

The congress was attended by more than 5,500 people from some 25 countries. All regions of Russia were represented and there was a wide range of expertise including: foresters, forest managers, scientists, fire protection experts, representatives of education, business, State Duma, Russian federal agencies, donor agencies and ENGOs.

A variety of events were held during the congress. On the first day, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia and the World Bank organised an International Workshop on 'Institutional Changes in Forest Management in the Countries with Transition Economies: Problems and Solutions'. Over 250 experts participated, more than 20 presentations were made and a press conference was held. During the following day, nine roundtables on different forest issues were held including: forest legislation, management and planning, fire fighting, pest control, forest restoration, research and education, protected areas, and others. In total, more than 2500 people participated in the roundtables.

The event was preceded by a series of important events such as the presentation of the new 'Russian Forest Newspaper', the new draft of *Russian Forest Code*, adoption of the 'Concept of Forestry Development in the Russian

Federation for 2003-2010' by the Russian Government, and Russian State Duma Public Hearings on 'Environmental Issues of Forests in the Russian Federation'.

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### Courses in brief

#### USDA Forest Service International Programmes

The USDA Forest Service International Programmes and its partners will be holding three international seminars for 2003 including: the International Seminar on Forestry and Natural Resources Administration; the International Seminar on Protected Area Management, and the International Seminar on Watershed Management. All three seminars stimulate deliberations and interactive problem solving for issues related to three unique areas of natural resource management. Invited participants are selected to reflect the widest possible geographic distribution and diversity of experience. All programmes are designed for English-speaking senior natural resource management professionals who desire to improve their managerial capabilities and administrative skills. Participants who have their own financial sponsorship are invited to get more information and apply via our website.

**Contact:** [www.fs.fed.us/global/is/welcome.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/welcome.html).

#### ProForest – Certification Training programme

ProForest and Ecoscurities Training Programme (7-11 July 2003) provides a range of up-to-date courses dealing with current issues for those involved in forest management, certification and sustainable natural resource management.

**Contact:** [www.proforest.net/Training/index5.htm](http://www.proforest.net/Training/index5.htm)



**WWF** World Wide Fund For Nature

Avenue du Mont Blanc, CH-1196 Switzerland. [www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)

**focus**

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## In the land of the Saola

**Vietnam has some of the richest and least-known biodiversity on the planet. Nigel Dudley and Nguyen Thi Dao review the WWF Indo-China office's ecoregional work in the Greater Annamites.**



Nigel Dudley

The Greater Annamite region of Vietnam and Laos contains some of the richest and least explored forests on the planet; in the last few years several new mammal species have been discovered including the saola, a bovine species. The area also has the large-antlered muntjac, several endemic douc langurs, or 'five-coloured monkeys' and one of two remaining populations of the Javan rhinoceros. In all, 25 IUCN Red List mammal species occur and the occurrence of similarly high levels of plant diversity has encouraged scientists to speculate that the area has remained stable for

an extremely long time, allowing specialised endemic creatures to evolve. Much of the region remains un-surveyed and new discoveries are still expected; WWF survey teams and camera traps regularly turn up unexpected finds. For example, despite a lot of effort the population of the saola itself remains elusive and only two individuals have ever been photographed in the wild. Yet the

region is also surrounded by land densely populated by humans and in consequence it is highly threatened by habitat loss, illegal logging, poaching and the wildlife trade and other pressures such as gold mining. It was also heavily defoliated during the America/Vietnam war.

The Greater Annamites is one of four ecoregions in the Forests of the Lower Mekong Ecoregion Complex and is known to the Vietnamese as the Truong Son. Within the ecoregion, WWF has identified a series of priority conservation landscapes, including the Central Truong Son covering seven provinces of Vietnam and the city of Danang. The Central Truong Son has large areas of remaining natural forest, although much has been logged at least once. Natural habitats are facing a period of rapid change as development intensifies, particularly around the route of the new Ho Chi Minh highway, which is being built from north to south along the Ho Chi Minh trail, originally developed during the American War. The highway goes past or through a series of protected areas, adding to the pressure on these sites, and is likely to increase poaching to supply the region's huge wildlife trade.

Conservation in these conditions inevitably takes place under pressure. The WWF ecoregion programme has developed the Central Truong Son Initiative in cooperation with many other stakeholders, including the government,

to run an ambitious, fifty year programme for protecting and restoring natural forest cover and securing biodiversity. The Initiative is using a landscape approach, working with local communities to agree a series of actions that together add up to realistic biodiversity conservation and it is seeking sustainable sources of funding. Plans hinge around four critical sites: a corridor linking the Song Thanh and Ngoc Linh Nature Reserves; the so-called Green Corridor in Thua Thien Hue province, which links east to Bach Ma National Park; the Kon Cha Rang-Kon Ka Kinh region (containing the largest intact forest area) and the highway itself. In addition, six Priority 1 areas have been identified that need to be managed sustainably, even if they do not require strict protection. There is at present everything to win and virtually everything to lose: WWF estimates that if biodiversity is not protected here over the next decade the Central Truong Son will lose its unique values forever.

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Stephanie Mansourian

**The new Ho Chi Minh highway is cutting through some of Vietnam's richest natural forests.**

### WWF news in brief

**Boreal certification:** In 2001, Tembec Forest Products and WWF-Canada signed a partnership agreement with the goals of advancing the establishment of protected areas and moving all of Tembec's 13 million ha of forest licenses in Canada to FSC certification by 2005. In April 2003, Tembec was awarded FSC certification for the two-million ha 'Gorden Cosens Forest', located in Ontario – the largest FSC certificate ever granted in North America and the first boreal forest operation certified in Canada.

**Contact:** Steven Price, [sprice@wwfcanada.org](mailto:sprice@wwfcanada.org)

**New contacts:** Tessa Robertson ([troberson@wwf.org.uk](mailto:troberson@wwf.org.uk)) has replaced Paul Toyne as WWF-UK Forest Programme leader, Tom Dillon ([tom.dillon@wwfus.org](mailto:tom.dillon@wwfus.org)) has replaced Steve Osofsky as Director of the WWF-US Species Conservation Programme and WWF Indochina have a new Forest Project Officer, Chean Thayuth, in Cambodia ([thayuth@everyday.com.kh](mailto:thayuth@everyday.com.kh))

**Sad loss:** Jean Yamindou, National Director of the WWF Central Africa Republic Country Programme Office, passed away in April. Jean will be remembered as a dedicated and loyal colleague.

**PAN Parks Launch:** In late 2002, Bieszczady National Park (Poland), Fulufjället National Park (Sweden) and Oulanka National Park (Finland) were formally presented with the first PAN Parks certificates. The PAN (Protected Area Network) Parks Initiative aims to create a European network of wilderness protected areas that improve nature protection by sustainable tourism development providing a reliable trademark which guarantees nature protection and is recognised by all Europeans.

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# Transboundary protected areas

## IUCN joined forces with the International Tropical Timber

### Organisation to run a major workshop on transboundary protected areas in Ubon Rathchanthini, Thailand, in February 2003.

There is growing recognition that effective biodiversity conservation depends on an ecosystem management approach that integrates protected area management into wider land- and water-use planning. Ecosystems and species do not recognise political borders, which have usually been defined for historical and geo-political reasons, without reference to ecological functions or processes. Strategies to conserve biodiversity must emphasise transboundary cooperation in relation to shared ecosystems and other conservation concerns.

In response, the number of Transboundary Conservation Areas (TBCA) has grown rapidly during the last 15 years, from 59 in 1988, mainly concentrated in Europe and North America, to 169 in 2001, distributed throughout the world. The International Tropical Timber Organization's TBCA programme, for example, now covers 10 million hectares in eight tropical countries. Through the joint efforts of conservation experts and practitioners, tools have been developed for improving the effectiveness of TBCA management, including good practice guidelines published by IUCN.

The meeting identified key prerequisites for successful transboundary protected areas as a strong biodiversity rationale, lack of strong political opposition (and ideally political commitment) and existing cross border dialogue. In addition, participants identified a range of information needs and political structures necessary for conservation.

The workshop discussed opportunities for improving the effectiveness of TBCAs and for elaborating on the role of TBCAs in tropical forest conservation and management. Working groups helped to define a typology of approaches to transboundary protection, looked at justification for cross border activities and listed enabling factors, identified remaining challenges and tasks and started to draw together a work programme on transboundary conservation areas for the wider protected area community.

Work programme elements agreed as being important were:

- Development of a collection of case studies to promote the opportunities and lessons learned from transboundary conservation;
- Translation of a summary of the World Commission on Protected Areas guidelines on transboundary protected areas into Spanish and French;
- Initial testing of protected areas assessment methodology in a TBCA;
- Development of an initial prioritisation programme (biological and social overlays) in tropical moist forest;
- Development of a programme of work for the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Building up a 'hub' for the TBCA programme of work;
- Promoting guidelines and capacity building among TBCA managers; and
- Development of a portfolio of global initiatives, testing key issues relating to biodiversity, peace, participation, tourism, environmental services.

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## Climate Change Mitigation Initiatives

Afforestation and reforestation projects created in response to the Kyoto Protocol – where carbon credits generated by projects can be traded with industrialised countries to offset domestic emissions of greenhouse gases – have caused much debate.

A forum for discussing approaches to environmentally sound and socially equitable afforestation and reforestation in developing countries has been created by IUCN, WWF and UNEP. It focuses particularly at a project scale and at the synergies and trade-offs that may arise from such activities. The new web-based Climate, Forests and People Information Desk, will draw lessons from past and current examples of land use activities, including carbon sequestration projects.

IUCN and UNEP have also published a new report: *Carbon, Forests and People: Towards the integrated*

*management of carbon sequestration, the environment and sustainable livelihoods.* The publication outlines a set of strategies and approaches aimed at ensuring that forests and other land-use climate change mitigation measures deliver sustainable development benefits in an equitable and cost effective manner. The report includes several case studies of activities on the ground – from Mexico and the Czech Republic to Iceland and Tanzania.

IUCN, together with UNEP and FAO, have been supporting countries in Latin America and Africa on forests and climate change by organizing two meetings in the first quarter of 2003 to review the options for the international rules for forest projects under the Clean Development Mechanism.

Contact: [www.iucn.org/themes/carbon/index.htm](http://www.iucn.org/themes/carbon/index.htm), Brett Orlando, IUCN Policy Advisor on Climate Change, [climate@iucn.org](mailto:climate@iucn.org)

## Bitter bamboo and sweet living

**Many nature conservation projects pay lip service to poverty alleviation. But in South East Asia a new generation of field projects is starting to make a difference. Jason Morris and Simon Rietbergen highlight the achievements of a Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) conservation project in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.**

The economic crisis of the late 1990s caused hardship for many people in South East Asia. But the villagers of Nam Pheng in Lao PDR are much better off now than they were in 1996, thanks to the NTFP project implemented by the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute and IUCN, with funding from the Royal Netherlands Embassy. In 2002, after six years of project activity, poverty rates have been reduced by half, food insecurity has been eliminated,

mortality of children under five dramatically reduced, school enrollment doubled and increased savings invested in livestock.

Nam Pheng village is located in Oudomxay province, in the North West of Lao PDR close to the border with China. The village, which was established by farmers from a number of ethnic groups, had 43 households with a total of 244 people in 1996.

Each household cultivates about one hectare per year using the slash and burn method. Fallow cycles of 7-9 years are maintained before recultivating land. Most households also raised livestock, primarily cows and also pigs and buffalo. The nearest school was in the neighbouring village of Na Hom and attendance was low. Water for drinking and other use came mostly from a stream passing through the village. Illnesses, especially diarrhea and malaria, were prevalent.

The very first project intervention was the establishment of a village rice bank. Rice banks assist villages to overcome

the annual period of rice shortage. During periods of rice availability, the bank buys rice, and during periods of shortage, farmers can borrow rice with a reasonable interest rate, which they pay back in kind the next season. The rice bank thus addressed the villagers' most pressing problem, food insecurity, which was also a major factor in driving over-exploitation of NTFPs. Apart from reducing NTFP over-exploitation, the rice bank was also instrumental in building trust in the project among the villagers.

Collection of bitter bamboo shoots, cardamom and other NTFPs was the main source of income for the majority of households in the village even before the project started. Bamboo shoots for example were sold to traders exporting to China and Thailand. But villagers got poor prices for their produce and in the absence of clear and exclusive rights to use and manage NTFPs in the surrounding forests, there were regular incursions from outsiders. The project trained villagers and helped them establish a marketing group, enabling them to negotiate better prices with traders. Forestland allocation gave the village legal authority over a defined natural resource area, helping them to resist incursions from the outside and manage conflicts among insiders. With technical assistance from the project, a sustainable harvesting regime for bitter bamboo shoots and wild cardamom was established.

Obviously, this is not a 'rags to riches' fairytale. Nam Pheng and other villages that participated in the project are still at a relatively low level of 'development' in conventional terms. But growth engendered by the project has been equitable and sustainable – in contrast to many rural development projects that favour farmers that are already well-off. Common access to forests allowed all villagers to participate in project activities and the NTFP Fund established by the project has proved effective in redistributing benefits through investments in a school and a water supply system. In Na Hom village, the NTFP Fund was used to support an emergency relief funds for households facing a sudden crisis.



### Social indicators 1996 and 2002

Indicator	1996	2002
Food security	58-70% of households Lacked rice 3-4 months	Rice is 'not much worry'
Child mortality	10	0
Education	30 children	67 children – 36 girls
Land management Systems	0 ha of paddy rice 45 ha of upland rice	5 ha of paddy rice 30 ha of upland rice 515 ha of managed forests

And what about the forests? Nam Pheng villagers said that the project had 'opened their eyes' to the real value of NTFPs and to an appreciation of forests as an economic asset rather than a hindrance. They are now actively managing surrounding forests, including an area of 515 hectares allocated as a bamboo production forest, and have started to domesticate cardamom and eaglewood among other NTFPs.

**Contact:** Guido Broekhoven, gbroekhoven@iucnt.org  
This article is based on a case study prepared by Jason Morris with research assistance from Sounthone Ketphanh.



## Managing Effectively

**Marc Hockings reports on an Alliance-funded meeting in Australia on the management effectiveness of protected areas.**

There has been an explosion of interest and experience in assessment of protected area effectiveness since the Alliance sponsored the first workshop on this issue in Costa Rica in 1999. In February 2003, a second global meeting was organised by the University of Queensland and Parks Victoria in Melbourne, Australia to discuss lessons learned in management effectiveness assessment. Over 30 participants from 13 countries attended the workshop. Participants came from research institutions, NGOs and (the majority) from protected area management. The meeting provided the first opportunity for many people involved in these issues to meet and to discuss progress, and many new links and initiatives emerged.

The workshop had four key aims: 1) to review methodologies for assessment of management effectiveness of protected areas, draw general lessons learned and share experiences amongst practitioners; 2) to provide advice for protected area agencies and managers in choosing assessment methodologies; 3) to draw together general conclusions and recommendations to take forward to the workshop on management

effectiveness at the World Parks Congress and then to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and 4) to discuss elements for a wider WCPA work programme on using assessment of management effectiveness to strengthen protected areas worldwide.

Some general conclusions included that systems can be divided into: 1) single or irregular applications that can be used for particular purposes (such as developing a management plan); and 2) regular assessments to track progress over time. Differences in protected area systems, aims of protected areas, geography and resources means that there will be no single 'assessment system' that suits all situations; there is therefore a need to provide more advice to protected area managers about the choice of toolkit or which methodologies are likely to provide components to management effectiveness systems that can be adapted to local conditions. It is also clear that many practitioners have tended to use or develop cheaper, simpler systems in a conscious recognition that in cases where repeat surveys are an essential part of the process, there is no point in developing a detailed methodology that is too expensive to be maintained.

The meeting was notable in the spirit of fellowship that prevailed throughout. It is hoped that this workshop represents a shift from assessment being a minority or developing interest to, increasingly, a fundamental and standard part of good protected area management.

## Technologies for Wood Tracking

**With only 10 per cent of the world's forests currently in areas set aside for strict protection, and a global deforestation rate of over one acre per second by some estimates, sound management of production forests is critical. Mark Hurley reports on an Alliance initiative**

A major barrier to effective forest management in the forest industry is the lack of differentiation in the marketplace between wood produced from sound forest stewardship and wood supplied from irresponsible logging. Future wood supplies are threatened by unsustainable harvesting and

illegal logging, while at the same time many forest product companies along the 'chain of custody' from forest floor to retail shelf are not implementing sufficient tracking systems to differentiate good wood from bad.

A new Alliance report *Technologies for Wood Tracking: Verifying and Monitoring the Chain of Custody and Legal Compliance in the Timber Industry*, examines a range of technologies potentially useful for managing the wood supply chain. The report takes the position that wood tracking systems based on the principles and application of identification, segregation, and documentation can be used to expose log theft and to prevent unscrupulous operators from combining illegally sourced logs with logs of legal origin. The report represents the efforts of WWF and the World Bank to support the commitments of East Asian leaders who participated in a September 2001 meeting on Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG). The report also draws on information collected at an Alliance-supported workshop on log tracking and chain of custody systems held in Cambodia in 2002 (see *arborvitae* 20).

The World Bank and WWF are utilising their partnerships with regional forest law enforcement working groups and donor agencies to implement the report's recommendations.

### Annual Report 2001-2002

The annual report for the Alliance, titled *Progress Through Partnerships*, is now available. The report contains updates on the Alliance's regional activities and learning & capacity building initiatives. As the annual report marking the midpoint of the Alliance's term, the report also provides a progress update on the three Alliance targets. To view the report online or order a copy, visit [www.forest-alliance.org](http://www.forest-alliance.org). Available online in English, French, Spanish, and Russian (Portuguese coming soon).

**Contact:** Sharon Esumei, [sesumei@worldbank.org](mailto:sesumei@worldbank.org) for copies of the report. Note: The words of the report's authors are paraphrased throughout this article.

## Forest Partnerships

*Company-Community Forestry Partnerships: From Raw Deals to Mutual Gains?*, from the International Institute for Environment and Development, examines 57 partnerships from 23 countries. The book highlights examples of partnerships in Canada, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and South Africa. In India and Papua New Guinea companies are not allowed to purchase land or forest or have large concessions, making partnerships with local people vital to their operations. In South Africa and Indonesia, the end of apartheid and the fall of Suharto respectively, mean that companies can no longer simply throw people off their land and exploit their forests: instead they have to negotiate. Similarly, Ghana's government now requires companies to sign

'social responsibility agreements' with local representatives and district forest officers before timber harvest permits are awarded. In Mexico, community forestry enterprises are looking to the traditional private sector to obtain capital and sell their products.

The study shows that partnerships develop when encouraged by governments and where communities have strong claims to land and forest. To prosper, partners and their supporters must find ways to reduce the high cost of working with communities and to manage the risks associated with forestry operations and with relationships in general.

**Contact:** Chi-Chi Tang at: [chi-chi.tang@iied.org](mailto:chi-chi.tang@iied.org), to request a free electronic copy of the book's executive summary, purchase the book or obtain the entire text in pdf format.



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### Reviews in brief

**People and Protected Areas**

Available from: [www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/pubs/guidelines.htm](http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/pubs/guidelines.htm), or contact Delwyn Dupuis, [delwyn.dupuis@iucn.org](mailto:delwyn.dupuis@iucn.org) for hard copies

IUCN recognises the need to protect landscapes where people and nature live in some kind of balance. These places, and the communities that live in them, are important in themselves and for the lessons they can teach all of us about sustainable living. This is the idea behind Protected Landscapes and Seascapes, or Category V in the IUCN system of protected area categorisation. *Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas Protected Landscapes/Seascapes* is the latest addition to the IUCN/Cardiff University best practice protected area guidelines series. The volume will be of practical value to managers and those with responsibilities for planning and management of Protected Landscapes.

**Supply chain assurance**

Available from: **Tropical Forest Trust**, [www.tropicalforesttrust.com](http://www.tropicalforesttrust.com).

*Good Wood, Good Business* is a new guide written mainly for CEOs or senior managers of companies that produce and/or supply wood products to retail or other end-use markets such as the construction industry. The booklet sets out a six-step process to develop a Wood Control System and identifies the difficulties to be overcome at each stage. The Control System consists of seven elements to help guarantee that companies only uses 'Good Wood' – i.e. wood from verifiably well-managed forests.

**Tree trade**

Available from: [www.traffic.org/publications/pubs\\_tsea.html](http://www.traffic.org/publications/pubs_tsea.html)

*In Harmony with CITES?* is an analysis of the compatibility between current forestry management provisions and the effective implementation of CITES listing for timber species in Malaysia. The report focuses on Malaysia as a case study to review the challenges to effective implementation of a CITES timber listing and recommends approaches to overcome the constraints, both perceived and actual, that were found. It also calls on Malaysia to take the lead in reducing some of the difficult CITES implementation issues for timber species, such as identification problems if and when any timber species are listed under CITES.

**Stakeholders and Forest Certification**

Available from: [www.forstbuch.de](http://www.forstbuch.de)

Conservation organisations tend to promote forest certification because they believe that it will help to preserve forest biodiversity, but for many other stakeholders the social aspects are more central to their interests. In 2001, the University of Freiburg in Germany hosted a conference that examined issues like equity, political implications, workers' rights, participation and gender, which have tended to be left out of the debate. *Social and Political Dimensions of Forest Certification* edited by Errol Meidinger, Chris Elliott and Gerhard Oesten collects these and other papers, which together reveal a cautious optimism but also a fair sprinkling of disagreement and concern that more work is needed if certification is really going to offer benefits to the more disadvantaged social groups.

### Apology

Due to delays in our production schedule, many of you did not receive **arborvitæ** 21 until March 2003, i.e. 3 months late. We would like to apologise for this and reassure you that you will receive two more issues of **arborvitæ** (23 and 24) in the course of this calendar year.

The managing editors.