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CFA Newsletter

is the newsletter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association

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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the CFA.

Restoring forests at home can lead to deforestation abroad



Landscape of reforestation and paddy rice, Tay village, Northeast Vietnam

Reducing deforestation is an international priority, given its impacts on carbon emissions and biodiversity. However, our recent study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)¹ found that in many developing countries forest restoration at home has been accompanied by the outsourcing of land use abroad.

Strengthened forest-conservation policies and economic expansion increased the demand for imported timber and agricultural products, which contributed to deforestation abroad. This dynamic could have significant

implications for ongoing efforts to protect the world's remaining forests.

Exporting deforestation

This study analyzed the relationship between reforestation at the national scale and the international trade in forest and agricultural products between 1961 and 2007, focusing on six developing countries – China, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, India and Vietnam – that underwent a shift from net deforestation to net forest expansion during that period. Other countries – Brazil, Cameroon, Indonesia, Peru, and France – were used as comparison cases.

In five of these six countries (India being the exception), the return of native forests was accompanied by an increased demand for imported wood and agricultural products, partly due to a reduction in timber harvests and/or new farmland.

¹ Meyfroidt P, Rudel TK, Lambin EF (2010). Forest transitions, trade, and the global displacement of land use. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 107(49), 20917-20922. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1014773107>

For every 100 hectares of forest expansion in these countries, they imported the equivalent of 74 hectares of forest products. Taking into account their exports of agricultural products, the net balance amounted to 22 hectares of land used in other countries. During the last five years of the study period, the net land-use displacement increased to 52 hectares of imported agricultural or forestry products for every 100 hectares of new forests. That is, for every hectare of forest increase, a half-hectare was used elsewhere, including countries like Brazil and Indonesia, which together accounted for 61 percent of deforestation in the humid tropics between 2000 and 2005. Beyond this aggregated result, countries have differences in trade patterns and in the overall balance of land use, e.g. Chile's large wood exports more than compensate for its imports of agricultural products in terms of land use, while China's imports, among which wood are the highest, offset more than half of the area of forest restored in the country.

Synergies between forest conservation and trade policies

If local forest protection merely shifts forest-conversion pressure to natural forests elsewhere in the world, there will be no net gain for nature at a global scale. However, this study does not imply that the effort of these countries to protect their forests was useless. The net gain was indeed positive. But international trade in wood and agricultural products can affect and decrease the global environmental benefits of national forest-protection policies.

Countries can work together to reduce deforestation abroad in several different ways, including:

1. Strengthening international cooperation on issues related to deforestation and land use.
2. Integrating trade data into international negotiations on environmental issues, such as the REDD mechanism under the UNFCCC. These pacts should include

provisions to insure that countries do not decrease their rate of deforestation by exporting it overseas. Cross-border displacement of land use that moves production to more productive lands and improves efficiency of land use can be favourable for forest area, but we do not want to assume this effect.

3. Promoting certification systems that provide businesses and consumers with accurate information about sustainable forest products. Governments have important roles to play in organizing the monitoring and enforcing compliance of partners to these schemes. To be fully effective, such schemes need to encompass a significant share of the global supply and demand, include all major agricultural and wood products, and account for possible displacement of deforestation from certified production systems to other places or sectors.

In sum, national strategies aimed at forest protection and sustainable use of forest resources can, in an era of globalization, have unintended effects abroad that need to be assessed along with their effects at home.

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Association news

ANZIF meeting

The CFA is supporting ANZIF 2011 "Pacific Forestry – Growing a Forestry Future", to be held in Auckland on 2-5 May. The conference which is targeting forestry policy makers, managers and practitioners from the South Pacific region will address issues including illegal logging and climate change. But as 2011 is also the UN International Year of the Forest a strong focus on social, cultural and economic expectations of forests in this region can be expected.

At this conference representatives from most countries with an interest in forests and forestry within the region, including

Pacific Island states and parts of Asia, UNDP/FAO and from further afield will participate. Topics to be discussed will include – The regional forest economy, Marketing, promotion and trade, Climate change impacts, Opportunities in the Pacific forestry culture, Getting the right investment in the right place, and Forestry promotion, education and training. This will be the most significant forestry conference focused on regional issues ever held in this part of the world. For more information on the conference and how to attend please download the brochure at www.cfa-international.org/

CFA Young Foresters relishing the challenge of working in Uganda

The two winners of the **CFA Young Forester Award**, Chidiebere Ofoegbu from South Africa and Chisika Sylvester from Kenya, began their placements with the Uganda Sawlog Production Grant Scheme in early February under the watchful eye of SPGS

Senior Plantation Officer, and CFA Youth Officer, Celia Nalwadda. Both YFA winners are posting regular reports of their activities on our website at www.cfa-international.org

Forestry anniversary celebrations



Phil Prichard, Bob Newman, Michael Bleby and Peter Volker

The Australian Capital Territory Division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia, together with the Commonwealth Forestry Association held an Anniversary Celebrations Dinner in Canberra on 27th November 2010.

The Celebration was to recognise –

- 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Foresters of Australia
- 90th Anniversary of the founding of the commonwealth forestry Association
- 100 years of continuous university forestry education in Australia through via the University of Adelaide, The Australian Forestry School, and the Australian National University.

CFA Vice President Bob Newman organised the production of a comprehensive booklet for the occasion, which included background information for the organisation anniversaries together with lists of award winners, testimonials, and historical notes.

The booklet notes that the CFA emerged from the Empire Forestry Conference in London in 1920 and it was the enthusiasm of Lord Robinson head of the United Kingdom Forestry Commission, who came from South Australia, and Lane-Poole Conservator of Forests for Western Australia, that got the Association underway.

The gathering of Foresters, was joined by guests from academia and politics who enjoyed fellowship and a meal together. During the evening, CFA Regional Coordinator for SE Asia and Pacific, Michael Bleby, presented a certificate citation in recognition of the occasion, from the Vice Chancellor of the University of Adelaide Professor James McWha, to Professor Aidan Byrne from the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, which encompasses the Forestry faculty, and to Dr Peter Volker, President of the IFA who was guest speaker for the evening.



Aidan Byrne, Michael Bleby and Peter Volker

The group was also addressed by the Federal Opposition spokesman for Forestry Senator Richard Colbeck. He spoke of the current political environment which is poised to bring about detrimental and lasting changes to NativeForest management in Australia. He stressed that the science behind the issues that face Australian Forestry at the present time, is very sound, and that the profession needs more than ever, to be heard and put the positive scientific case that the media and the public need to hear.

Michael Bleby

Regional Coordinator SE Asia – Pacific
Commonwealth Forestry Association

A personal view of attendance at the Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Edinburgh, 2010

Why I wanted to attend: The main reason for attending the conference was to find out what the emerging issues are and the challenges facing the forestry sector today. It is important to hear (even exchange notes) the different forestry experiences being practiced around the world in pursuit of their respective goals. The challenges and solutions are important matters that can provide learning opportunities for those faced with similar situations.

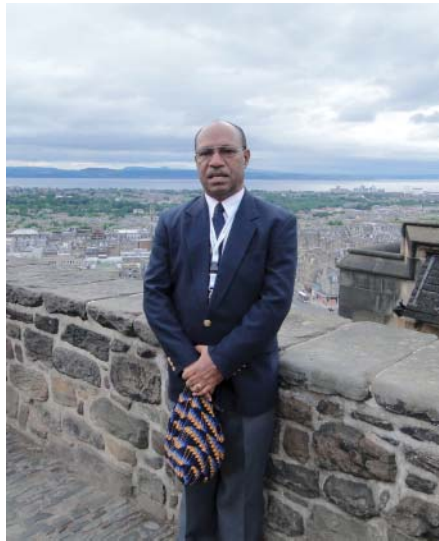
Being a professional forester, I needed to know what is going on in the sector to help me make informed decisions and even contribute intelligently and meaningfully to debates and discussions on important subject matters. Knowledge and technology are changing so fast, it is important to keep up with changing times as best as possible. Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and Climate Change are classic examples.

It is important to refresh myself in forestry as a whole. One can be fully occupied with one aspect of forestry, say community forestry, and risk being oblivious to other aspects of the forestry sector. Forestry conferences help one to keep updated with latest developments in forestry.

What I found: The CFC has a lot of history and tradition that those associated with it need to be proud of. It goes way back and relates to the Commonwealth group of Nations. The forestry conference was a forum for many foresters to meet and talk the same language and to find ways to solved forestry issues. It is a forestry family of the commonwealth.

The venue of the conference was excellent and I could not have asked for more. My being able to attend, participate and be involved is a testimony to how at least this participant appreciates the running of the conference.

The people came from all walks of life but with one common purpose: forestry. Many Commonwealth countries were represented, each with their unique background and experiences and it was a good learning experience to hear and exchange views of mutual interests.



Yati Bun at the 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, 2010

The Commonwealth Forestry Conference presents a situation where the old school meets with the new school of foresters and relationships are forged to carry on the work. Old friends are re-acquainted and new acquaintances made which will ensure the baton is passed on.

The themes covered in the conference were excellent because it was relevant and it was important at this moment in time. All subjects discussed were useful and I believe, there was a message in it for everyone.

Relevance to my work: The main thing was to see what I can apply in my work and our situation. I am pleased that the conference provided many opportunities and possibilities that I can build on. The REDD theme and debate was always interesting and useful to hear what the

recent developments are as it is an important global issue and mankind cannot afford to ignore it. There were some case studies presentations that had more or less the same objectives as our work which we could learn from.

Conclusions: New knowledge and lessons had been gained during the conference and these will be aptly utilized appropriately and accordingly over time. Knowing what the global issues and challenges are helps to make informed decisions. New acquaintances had been made opening up possibilities of increased network and partnership for the common good. The CFA has come a long way and needs to maintain the tradition.

Finally, the CFA enabled me to attend the conference and this is appreciated, as otherwise it would not have been possible. CFAs idea of enabling participants from developing commonwealth countries is very good and needs to be maintained and or expanded. Not many foresters have opportunities to attend important events such as the Commonwealth Forestry Conference.

Yati Bun

Executive Director, Foundation for People and Community Development Inc. Papua New Guinea

The CFA supporting science in developing countries

You might be aware that we support various initiatives to provide low-cost or free access to our journal, the International Forestry Review, and we thought you might like to know that our support is greatly valued. One of our partners is TEEAL, a digital library that contains full-text articles from many of the world's best forestry and agricultural journals which is coordinated by Cornell University in the USA. The library

provides access to thousands of articles spanning 16 years and covering a broad range of subjects. Since TEEAL does not use the Internet, it is ideal for institutions with limited or no connectivity. Users can search the collection for articles by keywords, dates, authors, and article or journal titles. They can also browse the collection just like browsing the shelves of a library. TEEAL can be installed on either a stand-alone computer or a local area network.

Publishers of scientific material, including the CFA, contribute either free of charge or at a very low rate to TEEAL which is then available for purchase at a low cost, solely for education and research in public and non-profit institutions in eligible-income countries. TEEAL purchasers receive an external hard drive of journal content from 1993 through 2008. TEEAL is updated each year. Updates are shipped to current subscribers every December on a small set of DVDs.

We continue to receive anecdotal feedback indicating that TEEAL is a valuable resource, especially where Internet connectivity is limited. A recent user study surveyed TEEAL users in Asia, Africa and Latin America to evaluate whether TEEAL was meeting its objective: to enhance the quality and effectiveness of agricultural research and teaching by improving students' and researchers' access to relevant literature. In the survey, almost 80% of respondents said that TEEAL improved their productivity and about 75% agreed that it improved the quality of their work. Users, who were largely research scientists, university faculty and graduate students, found that TEEAL's resources are both relevant to and adequate for their needs, and they trust the articles in TEEAL. In addition, data gathered from users indicated a desire for a more agile information resource, and so launched the conversion of TEEAL from a compact disc resource to one delivered on a small, external hard drive with the capacity to offer access via local area network. Here are a few of the testimonials received:

TEEAL is one of our main databases for providing up to date and relevant agricultural information to our students and lecturing staff. (...) For us, ease of access, ease of use and the fact TEEAL does not cost as much as other online databases in this subject area are the major plusses!"

– **Angela Jowitt**, Senior Librarian, Alafua Campus Library, University of the South Pacific, Samoa, January 2011

This is to thank you very sincerely for what I would call the most precious Gift that this University has ever received. I want to assure you that this set will go along way to make Pwani University a great academic institution (...) This TEEAL set will go along way to making a great contribution to the scholarly life of this University, the community and neighbors of Pwani University. We shall make greatest use of it."

– **Owen Baya**, Senior Assistant Registrar, Pwani University College, Kenya, October 2010

As a librarian, I love this tool. I feel satisfied when I am able to supply current information to my users courtesy of TEEAL."

– **Geoffrey Elayioga**, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Kitale, Kenya, July 2010

TEEAL serves as a reference material in Biological, Applied Biology and Agricultural Sciences for Lecturers and Students. Students in Natural and Applied Sciences have been encouraged to utilize TEEAL to get scientific information not readily available on the internet for their assignments and project work. TEEAL is an invaluable resource."

– **Revd. Canon B. F. Akindojutimi**, University Librarian, Wesley University of Sciences and Technology, Ondo, Nigeria, June 2010

The academic resource materials will highly be useful for all the OAU Electronic Library users from now henceforth. Truly, this is a noticeable landmark for the OAU Electronic Library to be at the forefront of academic research library."

– **Mr. Olujide Francis Oguntayo**, The Electronic Library, Dean's Office, Faculty of Agriculture, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, May 2010

TEEAL as have mentioned is very useful resource to ZARI researchers in that it has a greater advantage for required literature search and full-text information. Particularly in places where the internet is not yet available or not working properly. TEEAL is there in full-text and is always accessible."

– **Jenevieve Namangala**, Librarian, Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI), Zambia, March 2010

What a difference the TEEAL collection has made for the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council library. Before when I used to go, the library was dark and no one was there. Now it is a vibrant library with so many students waiting to use the TEEAL and reading books, journals, etc."

– **Craig A. Meisner**, Agronomist, IFDC and Adjunct Professor, Cornell University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, October 2005

Since we introduced TEEAL, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number and currency of citations in student theses and papers. Before there might be only a couple of references and badly outdated from the 1980s."

– **Professor Willis Oluocho-Kosura**, Dean, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nairobi, Kenya, October 2005

[The] TEEAL database is our best electronic resource because of its wide coverage and availability. Students and researchers use it heavily."

– **John K Thuku**, Head Librarian, ICT, Kenyatta University, Kenya, September 2005

TEEAL is a big leap in information dissemination and accessibility especially in this part of the globe."

– **Dr. Babatunde Nuga**, Dept of Soil Science and Agroclimatology, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Nigeria, September 2004

Egerton is very proud to have TEEAL because it's cost effective and works in offline mode hence its not exposed to poor communications."

– **Professor Louis Mumera**, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University, Kenya, January 2003

I consider TEEAL one of the most efficient and effective ways to provide scientists, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, with up-to-date information on the state of agricultural research across a wide diversity of fields."

– **Jacob Kampen**, formerly Lead Specialist, Agricultural Research, World Bank, January 2003

A remarkable contribution to the provision of agriculture database for research, teaching and overall development in the provision of agricultural information."

– **Adedayo N. Deen**, College Library, Njala University College, Sierra Leone, March 2002

Correction

In the review of the Araucariaceae proceedings in the previous Newsletter there is an important misprint in the header; the

Proceedings were published in 2009, not 2002 as shown.

Letter

Response to the article by Tony Cardew “Forestry’s failure to communicate: What opportunities for the future?” published in the CFA Newsletter 50, September 2010

First of all I would like to express my congratulations for dealing with such an important issue that although very important has not received the attention that it deserves. In general forestry articles deal with biological, ecological and economic issues. As one can note, particularly in the last decades, the ecological functions of forest resources have received attention. As well put by the author “the voice of the professional forester is too often missing on the world stage” and that “so many people are talking on behalf of foresters, but not foresters themselves”. Within this context, it is common, for example, to be said that eucalyptus plantations dry-out the land. It is interesting when someone says or repeats this he or she does not take into account that eucalyptus are planted in countries such as Israel and Egypt where water is a major constraint. There is also a great discussion because usually it is said that a planted forest does not have the same biodiversity as a natural forest. It seems to me the same as to compare part of our body (leg, arm, etc.) with a mechanical replacement; they are completely different things. In general, trees are planted to provide raw materials for industry, but a tree plantation can over time become similar to

a natural forest. For example, in Brazil, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, the “Tijuca Forest” that is in a National Park used to be an area where coffee was planted. So, if a tree plantation is a forest or not this will depend on the aim of this plantation. If the term ‘planted forest’ brings so much concern to some groups, let us just call them tree plantations similarly to way one refers to an agricultural crop.

Taking into account what it said in the article referred to in this message I think that is time for forestry institutions to hire communication specialists to ‘translate’, for example, in press releases and so on the result of researches as well as to respond based on data from research articles to concerns that are based on assumptions without any scientific basis. Once I suggested that the Brazilian Silvicultura Society should contract people with communication skills rather than a forester in order to ‘translate’ real forest information in an accessible way. NGOs do this, although most of time it is not based on scientific data but much more using a fanatical environmental approach.

Sebastiao Kengen
Brasília – DF, Brazil

Forest Scenes

Good news from Cancun

The climate change talks in Cancun, including UNFCCC’s sixteenth session of its Conference of the Parties (COP16), took place from 29 November to 10 December 2010. For the past three years, UNFCCC has been engaged in parallel-track negotiations under two *ad-hoc* working groups. One addresses actions of all Parties under the Convention, including on climate change mitigation, adaptation, financing, capacity building and technology transfer. The other focuses on further emission reduction commitments of developed countries (Annex 1 countries) under the Kyoto Protocol. The goals are to advance collective efforts to limit global warming to within 2° C above pre-industrial levels to avoid severe consequences of climate change and to promote adaptation to the inevitable consequences of climate change.

Agreements reached in Cancun were hailed as a “balanced” outcome that represents an important stepping stone toward a final agreement. There is cautious optimism that this could happen at COP17 in Durban, South Africa in December 2011. Perhaps the most significant development at Cancun was a change in atmosphere, marked by the restoration of confidence in the UNFCCC process, a willingness to compromise and the commitment of parties to move forward together on seeking mutually-acceptable and more ambitious climate change responses.

The main outcomes of Cancun were the validation of the elements of the Copenhagen Accord, which was drafted at COP15 last December. The Cancun Agreement launches the Green Climate Fund and outlines a process for setting it up; creates a framework for incentivizing forest-based climate

change mitigation actions in developing countries (i.e. REDD+); establishes a Technology Mechanism, including a technology center and network; and adopts the Cancun Adaptation Framework to promote international cooperation and action on adaptation.

The long-awaited decision on REDD+, under discussion for the past five years, confirms the scope of REDD+: reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forest; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks and outlines principles as well as safeguards against negative social and environmental impacts of REDD+ actions. Countries are requested to develop national strategies and action plans for REDD+, a national/sub-national forest (emissions) reference level(s), a national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting on REDD+ activities, and a system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected. A phased approach – from strategy development to pilot activities and finally to results-based actions – is adopted. SBSTA is requested to work on methodological issues on REDD+, including on methods to estimate emissions and removals from REDD+ activities and modalities for developing forest reference (emission) levels and a national forest monitoring system for monitoring and reporting on REDD+ activities and to report to COP17. The question of the REDD+ financing modality (e.g. fund-based, market-based or a mix) remains unresolved. The *ad-hoc* expert group will continue to discuss this and will report to COP17.

The future of the Kyoto Protocol – whether it will be extended beyond 2012 – is not clear. The *ad-hoc* working group on the Kyoto Protocol continues to struggle with “numbers” – i.e. developed countries’ voluntary emission reduction (ER) pledges, which, in aggregate, so far are insufficient to limit the temperature rise to within 2° C. The question is how to reach the level of emission reductions needed – whether Annex 1 countries will take more ambitious cuts, how developing countries will contribute and what will be achieved through a legally binding agreement versus voluntary action. The Cancun Agreement indicates that for the second commitment period of KP, emissions trading and project-based mechanisms (Joint Implementation, the Clean Development Mechanism) as well as offsets from carbon sinks in the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors would continue to be available to Annex 1 Parties to meet their ER commitments.

Agreement on revised LULUCF accounting rules for the second commitment period of the KP could influence the level of ER commitments Annex 1 Parties’ are willing to make. The key issue is accounting rules for forest management, reporting on which was optional under the first commitment period.

Agreement on this remains elusive. The areas of debate include whether a cap should be applied to emissions and removals from forest management, if and how emissions from extraordinary occurrences (“force majeure”) would be accounted, how to set a baseline or forest reference (emissions) level and how to factor out changes in forest carbon stocks not caused by human intervention. Allowing more offsets from forest management could provide The *ad-hoc* working group on the Kyoto Protocol will work to over the coming year to try to reach agreement on the rules for accounting for forest management.

The discussions under the KP negotiation track on carbon accounting rules for forest management – a complex and controversial issue – have stimulated debates on what constitutes good forest management and how to incentivize it. Of relevance to the climate change community is how forests could contribute more to climate change mitigation, while of interest to foresters is whether incentives for better forest management will be forthcoming as a result of climate change decisions.

In summary, forests figured prominently at Cancun in the REDD+ and LULUCF negotiations and in events on the margin of the negotiations. There was huge political support for a REDD+ decision. Work on REDD+ is already going ahead on the ground, as evidenced by the many side events on REDD+ pilot activities supported by NGOs, bilateral agencies and multilateral partnerships (including UN-REDD and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility). There were signs in Cancun that it was becoming clearer to those in the climate change community – a fact already well understood by the forestry community – that forestry in general and REDD+ in particular is not necessarily an easy, fast and cheap mitigation option, as claimed by the Stern Review. Resolving conflicts and divergent priorities for managing forests, getting governance right, alleviating poverty, addressing drivers of deforestation from outside the sector, and developing robust monitoring, reporting and verification systems are some of the challenges facing REDD+ implementation. On the other hand, successful REDD+ programmes will bring additional livelihood benefits for forest dwellers and forest communities, for forest biodiversity, and for those who depend on forest ecosystem services.

The importance of forests to climate change mitigation has clearly raised the political profile of forests. The crucial role that forests play in climate change adaptation and in rural livelihoods has not yet received the same degree of attention, but this can be expected to come.

Susan Braatz

Senior Forestry Officer (Forests and Climate Change)
Forestry Department, FAO

Challenges for Norwegian financial support to Guyana

The Minister of Finance of Guyana is gambling that nine per cent of the national budget for 2011, USD 70 million, will be supplied by a donation from Norway related to avoided deforestation. There is negligible threat of significantly increased deforestation – the soils of the Guiana Shield are too naturally infertile

to support hinterland agriculture on a commercial scale without unaffordable supplies of artificial fertilizer and pesticides – and Guyana has made no formal commitment to reduce or even stabilize its deforestation rate. The peculiar politics of REDD – the UNFCCC scheme for Reduced Emissions (of forest carbon) from Deforestation and forest Degradation – link Guyana and

Norway in an unlikely bond through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)¹, signed in November 2009. Is Norway simply paying for 'hot air'?

Norway has attached several conditions to its proposed five years of annual grants to Guyana. The dangling carrot of Norwegian money is having some effect on the quality of forest management in Guyana in a way that the almost unconditional technical aid supplied by the UK Department for International Development for institutional reform could not during 1995–2002. So the soundly based policy and technical developments in the Guyana Forestry Commission during that period to 2002 have been largely left on the shelf during almost a decade. Those are produced at international conferences and to show visitors but not for general local application against a regime characterized by regulatory capture².

But now comes the offer of Norwegian money, providing a stimulus to apply those technical developments. The incentive also gives meaning to studies which have been undertaken in fits and starts since 2002 with aid from assorted donors and, at last, to advance further. One of the conditions in the MoU is "evidence of Guyana entering a formal dialogue with the European Union with the intent of joining its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) processes³ towards a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)". One of the key elements of a VPA is a legality verification system (LVS), to provide assurance that timber imported into the EU from the producer country shall have been produced at least legally if not sustainably.

¹ Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding Cooperation on Issues related to the Fight against Climate Change, the Protection of Biodiversity and the Enhancement of Sustainable Development; with associated Joint Concept Note. Pp.23. <http://www.lcds.gov.gy/images/stories/Documents/MOU.pdf>

² State or regulatory capture occurs when a state regulatory agency created to act in the public interest instead acts in favour of the commercial or special interests that dominate in the industry or sector it is charged with regulating (definition from Wikipedia).

³ EU – European Union (2003.) "Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) – proposal for an EU Action Plan". Document COM (2003) 251 final. Bruxelles, Belgium; Commission of the European Communities (now European Union). Pp.32. <http://www.illegal-logging.info/uploads/flegt.pdf>

Guyana has had large-scale illegal logging for years. In spite of recommendations at least since 1994, Guyana has maintained forest resource taxes among the lowest in the world, and then given even further tax benefits in foreign direct investment arrangements. So the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) has been, in principle, underfunded and nearly absent from logging areas for a long time. A timber tagging and tracking system was devised by the experienced SGS (Barne 1999) using bar-coded tags, linked to a concession-based yield allocation system being devised in parallel. However, the GFC failed to purchase bar-code readers or to develop a spatially distributed database for timber production data, and naturally the staff were disinclined to copy out the long numbers from tags on logs. Corruption led to uncontrolled distribution of tags, so that they have been used as a kind of currency in the hinterland⁴. USAID funded the Proforest (Oxford) consultancy to review the tagging and tracing system in 2006. ITTO project PD 440/07 Rev.1 (M,I) – "Improving the detection and prevention of illegal logging and illegality in shipment and trade of wood products in Guyana" – funded a second stage of internationally tendered external consultancies to add operational details to the 1999 recommendations.

GFC production data were good enough by late 2007 to support administratively-imposed penalties imposed on major logging concessions for forest offences including logging out of coupe. Further penalties were imposed in early 2008. However, in the absence of the legally mandated annual reports and audited accounts, or of court hearings of the alleged forest offences, the part played by the improved tagging and tracking system cannot be assessed. However, the Norway-Guyana MoU requirement for progress towards a LVS in an EU-FLEGT sense includes public access to information and the implementation of independent forest monitoring. These are new experiences for both Norway and Guyana, so the hesitant process is unsurprising. I will cover this development in my next contribution.

Janette Bulkan
CFA Governing Council

⁴ Bulkan, J. with Palmer, J.R. (2006). Timber tags: the currency of illegal logging and forest corruption in Guiana Shield countries. Interim report to Chatham House (Royal Institute for International Affairs, London, UK) FLEGT 8th update meeting, 20-21 July 2006. Georgetown, Guyana. http://www.illegal-logging.info/uploads/Timber_Tags_Guyana_Paper_CH_Update.doc

Woodland creation in the UK – what has the Woodland Trust to offer?

Introduction

The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, owning or managing over 22,000ha of woodland with a membership exceeding 200,000. Established in 1972, creation of new native woodland has always been one of its key aims and of its total woodland holding, over one fifth is on land that it has acquired and planted itself, often with local

community participation. In recent years however, the Trust has expanded its remit to include a focus on woodland creation on other peoples' land.

Woods – so good yet so few?

Trees and woods have so much to offer in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation and yet the UK has so few. It is near the bottom of the European league in terms of forest

cover – 12% against a European average of 44% and yet rates of new woodland creation have spiralled downwards since the late 1990's. Over 29,000ha of new woodland were created in 1989 but by 2007 this had declined to 10,200ha and the last recorded figures in 2010 showed a further fall to a paltry 5,100ha. Reasons behind the decline are many and varied – changes to grant and tax support, rises in land values and commodity prices, a falling off in political support and increasingly complex and costly consultation and impact assessment processes.

In the last 2 years however, a number of influential reports and government statements have signalled a growing realisation that new woodland has an important role to offer. Key amongst these was the Synthesis Report “*Combating Climate Change. A Role for UK Forests*” (Read et al, 2009) which advocated an enhanced woodland creation programme of 23,000ha per annum for the next 40 years.

Woodland Trust role.

In 2010 the Woodland Trust embarked on a new strategic plan with one key aim being to initiate the planting of 3,500ha of new native woodland over a 3 year period. It created a new team of woodland creation advisers across the UK whose remit was to meet with landowners, advise them of the multipurpose benefits of new woodland, and offer them practical guidance to achieve these benefits. The Trust has developed a range of woodland creation products to help it achieve a broad geographical and customer reach:

- Community packs: these are packs of trees, either 105 or 420 in number that are distributed free but on a competitive basis to communities. The packs come in a variety of options offering trees for wild fruit, autumn colour, fuel or wildlife. Nearly 5,000 packs will be distributed by the end of 2012 funded by sponsorship through commercial companies.
- MOREwoods: under this scheme the Trust offers advice and direct help to landowners who wish to create small woodlands, generally under 3ha. There is a very simple application form and each landowner then receives a visit from an advisor who helps design the scheme, apply for grants and arrange purchase and delivery of the trees. Over 200ha was created under this scheme in

2010 with a target of a further 800ha to be planted in 2011/12.

- Partnerships: this area focuses on larger scale landowners be they private, corporate or public and seeks to match landowners with finance to help them create new woodland. A good example of this is the Defence Estates who own large areas of land around the UK for military training purposes. 25,000ha of potential planting land has been identified and the first site of 160ha will be planted in 2011.

All of these products will help get trees planted and create a sense of momentum to our tree planting campaign. The pace of this campaign will be helped by our Jubilee Woods project which aims to celebrate in 2012 the 60th anniversary of the Queen's reign. Princess Anne has agreed to be patron of the project one of the highlights of which will be the creation of 60 “Diamond Woods” each at least 20 hectares in extent. It is hoped to involve at least 1m people planting trees under this project.

The future?

Our longer term aspiration is to see native woodland cover double – this will require a planting rate of 15,000ha/annum for the next 50 years – treble the current planting rate. Our work to date will create initial momentum but longer term more significant, lasting changes are needed if this scale of planting is to be achieved and maintained. The recent more positive policy support for woodland creation around the UK gives me a sense of optimism that change is underway and I am encouraged by the work of the Forestry Commission's Carbon Task Force which is seeking ways of attracting private finance into woodland creation through mechanism such as carbon finance and changes to the tax system. Despite the prevailing economic gloom, I feel we are on the cusp of an exciting future for UK woodland creation and that the Woodland Trust can play a key role in helping to deliver this.

John Tucker

Director, Woodland Creation
Woodland Trust, UK

Trees, farms, towns, wilderness and people

Colin Tudge suggests a new approach to nature and to land use

The first stories of *The Bible*, after that of the Creation itself, are about land-use. Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden can be seen as a metaphor for the painful birth of agriculture – the shift from hunting-gathering into large-scale farming. Historians traditionally argued that farming came as a eureka moment in “Man's” inexorable rise – but recent scholarship suggests the precise opposite: that hunting and gathering are a breeze under good conditions (which late Ice Age Fertile Crescent would have offered) leaving loads of time for story-telling, while early agriculture was the ultimate drudgery, soon to be done mainly by slaves. Thus Jehovah's curse as He banished our metaphorical

ancestors: “In the sweat of thy face shall thou eat bread!” Farmers have been sweating ever since. People didn't embrace agriculture. It crept up on them. Then came the internecine struggles of the farmers themselves – the pastoralist Abel, and the hyper-aggressive arabilist, Cain. (Vegetarians take note: Cain, the grower of plants, was the killer).

The Eden story still goes on – wilderness, peopled or not, is very much at odds with human endeavours of all kinds. On the broad front we have town versus country. Cain and Abel are still at it – “Oh the farmers and the ranchers should be frie-e-e-ends!” as the chorus sang in *Olkaboma*, making clear that they were anything but: and today we see the rivalry of grass-fed livestock versus cereal-fed – the latter a branch of Cain's kind of farming. Very depressingly too we have farm *versus* forest; and the

in-house struggle between commercial forestry for commerce and forest for conversation and/or “leisure” – with ramblers at odds with hunters. Around Yosemite National Park in Wyoming and Montana conservationists who want wolves and bison struggle with farmers who say that wolves are dangerous and that bison carry brucellosis. Within areas of designated wilderness some want birds (which may for example mean short grass) and some want insects (which may mean long grass), so on and so on.

To some extent such rivalries are unavoidable. There are places where people really don't want wild creatures, such as hospitals (or at least, intensive care units), while the Earth itself needs pristine wilderness (or at least as near as we can get to it in this age of universal pollution). There can also be absolute conflicts between alternative landscapes (to drain or not to drain), or rival human ambitions.

But we can and surely must correct the misconceptions, and eliminate the attitudes, that underpin these conflicts.

On the practical front, across the board, we should focus on what is bureaucratically called “mixed land use”. Organic farming should not be seen as a “market niche” as a succession of neoliberal British governments have seen it (whether Conservative, “New Labour”, or “Coalition”) but as the default position – what farmers should always do unless there is very good reason to do otherwise. Organic farming (with all that goes with it, including rotations) in general is far more wildlife-friendly, and (contrary to the industrial hype) it really could feed the world very well – and sustainably, which the industrial kind clearly cannot.

A key area – one of the few encouraging signs on the whole sorry horizon in the early 21st century – is agro-forestry. I am told it has been overdone in some countries at some times but in many if not most countries including Britain, agro-forestry could and should be the norm. A farmer friend of ours in Suffolk, in the prairie heartland, produced higher yields from his alley-cropped organic wheat in 2010 than his hyper-intensive industrialized neighbour – and made more profit because his

methods are far cheaper. Horticulture and livestock benefit even more from the fellowship of trees.

Cities should be spongy, dotted with smallholdings and small farms. More and more studies are showing that even the biggest cities with their immediate surrounds could be more or less self-reliant at least in horticulture (as in Havana – and there are some interesting developments in London); and horticulture could supply far more of the diet than it does. Of course, too, all the world's cities need more trees – cities should be seen as woods with houses in between. Suburbs the world over can be among the most species-rich of all environments – due in large part to garden and roadside trees. Delhi until recently (when chemical pollution became too much) harboured the greatest concentration and range of birds of prey of anywhere on Earth – vultures, eagles, kites, all rubbing along with the teeming people without real friction. In the heart of Istanbul in a tiny park I came across the biggest heronry I have ever seen. And so on.

What matters most, though, is attitude. Most traditional peoples doubted whether human beings should be able to “own” land at all. If we do insist on ownership, then we should separate titular ownership from right of use (which indeed is often the case). Above all, we should ask, as St Francis and many another sage has asked, whether human beings have any right to treat the Earth as our personal fiefdom, and our fellow creatures as commodities, or to blast them to perdition whenever they become inconvenient. A change of attitude doesn't automatically solve all the technical problems. But it makes solution possible, and it is the sine qua non.

Colin Tudge's recent books include The Secret Life of Trees, Penguin, 2008; and together with his wife, Ruth, he is co-founder of the Campaign for Real Farming and the College for Enlightened Agriculture, on www.campaignforrealfarming.org.

Peter Wood

CFA Vice-President

Interview with Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Chair of the Collaborative Partnership On Forests

The Food and Agriculture Organization recently published the Global Forest Resource Assessment. Could you briefly tell us what is the picture of forests at the global level emerging from this important study?

The main findings of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 show a significant reduction (37 percent) of net deforestation: from 8.3 million ha/year in the previous decade (1990–2000) to 5.2 million ha/year in the past one (2000–2010).

Deforestation is mainly restricted to two regions – South America and Africa; the other three, Asia, Europe, North and



Central America, have shown a net increase in forest area. The difference between net and total deforestation (13 M ha/year) is due to reforestation and natural forest expansion (7.8 million ha/year). Three countries count for 90 percent of the reduction of net deforestation: Indonesia, China and Sudan. In all regions, there are excellent examples of sound forest policies and management that should be expanded upon. At the country-level, Vietnam and Costa Rica have undergone significant forest reforms, including changes in the legal and institutional framework, forest tenure reform and implementation of payment of environmental services. Despite the improvement to deforestation rates, forest biomass

is still reducing annually by an amount that is equivalent to 1.8 billion tonnes CO₂; that's the equivalent of 3.7 percent of global CO₂ emissions. However, data on carbon sequestered in soils are not yet sufficiently available. 13 percent of forests are located in protected areas with an increase of 94 million ha since 1990. The annual value of wood used was nearly US\$100 billion and non wood-based forest products nearly US\$19 billion. Direct forest employment (excluding industrial employment) is estimated at 10 million people. Three-fourths of the countries are reported to have a national forest program.

What are the challenges that forests worldwide have to face? How is FAO working to address them?

The challenges are very different in every region of the World, given the varying socioeconomic and natural conditions, population density and threats to forests. The most intensive changes are observed in emerging countries because of urbanization and industrialization, which is reducing pressure on land and forests, allowing recovery, especially if adequate policy strengthens the process. In developed countries, forest area and stock is growing and problems due to underuse of forests are accumulating (overpopulation of certain wildlife species, the increasing risk of strong winds destroying forests, greater instances of forest fires, etc.). Land use planning is a key instrument in countries that place high pressure on land, particularly where previously deforested land is ineffectively used, but suitable for afforestation or energy crops. In emerging countries, supportive policies can help advance opportunities for forest landscape restoration, as seen in countries such as China. In less developed countries, agricultural intensification and improvement in living conditions will help to reduce pressure on forests. In developed countries, the challenge is finding ways to make forestry a major asset in the development of green economies, for example by adjusting the timber harvest level to match the growth of forest resources.

In your role as Assistant Director General on Forestry at FAO, what are the priorities high on your agenda for your mandate?

The priorities of FAO for forests and forestry are determined by our statutory bodies, the Regional Forest Commissions (like the European Forest Commissions) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO). The management challenge is to take advantage of all opportunities to match countries' requests with our limited work resources. Fortunately, the amount of high quality activities and projects from FAO in forests and forestry is quite high, as a result

of our exceptional staff (see: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1775e/i1775e00.htm>). Responding to countries' needs should be balanced between normative (statistics, publications, best practices, etc.) and project work. The engagement of FAO as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in global forest-related issues is a key part in achieving this balance. Moreover, a stronger focus on dry-land forests and options for forest and landscape restoration in these countries has been identified as a departmental priority, as well as strengthening the linkages with the forest research and education community.

And what are your priorities for the International Year of Forests?

The International Year of Forests in 2011 (Forests 2011) is an important occasion to highlight the value and role of forests for society in all countries. Through the focal agency for the Forests 2011, the UN Forum on Forests, and through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; FAO is preparing a supportive toolkit to guide member countries. We will also take advantage of all opportunities during the Year to place forests at the center of attention and focus on the needs of people, which is in accordance with the Forests 2011 slogan: 'Forests for people'. Only if people, especially those living near the forests, are aware of the wealth of services and products from the forests, can forests have a long lasting future.

In general, how do you think the International Year of Forests will contribute tackling the challenges mentioned above?

Forests 2011 is a key opportunity to bring forest issues to the forefront of the public's attention. However, to be successful at all levels; a concerted and efficient effort is required from all members of the forest community. Awareness of demographic change is a first, but decisive step for addressing forest challenges.

Eduardo Rojas-Briales is Assistant-Director- General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Previously, he was Vice-Dean of the Agronomy and Forest Faculty of the Polytechnical University of Valencia. He has served previously as a university professor, researcher and director of a forest owners association, as well as a consultant in forest policy. He holds a MSc (Freiburg) and PhD (Madrid) in forestry and is a Spanish national.

Reproduced from **UN Special** – January 2011

Meetings

Trees, people and the built environment

13–14 April 2011, Birmingham, UK. **Hosted as the ICF National Conference**

Conference Sponsors: Bartlett Tree Experts, Myerscough College. Supports: *Forestry Journal*, Forestry Commission

For the first time in the UK this conference brings together a wide range of practitioners, researchers and professional organisations concerned with trees, people and the built environment. The world class line-up of speakers will present

groundbreaking and highly relevant research from both the natural and social sciences. However, this is not just about theory – it's about making a real difference on the ground. Urban trees and woodlands are essential elements of our green infrastructure and have a vital role in promoting liveable and sustainable towns and cities. They can have numerous environmental, economic and social benefits, contributing

enormously to the health and welfare of everyone who lives and works in urban areas. As concern grows about the sustainability of our urban environments, the importance of protecting and expanding our urban forests can only increase.

Details at: www.charteredforesters.org/conference/ or call Allison Lock on 0131 240 1425.

Publications

More people, more trees: environmental recovery in dryland Africa

William Critchley and Eefke Mollee¹



The land as it was before filming...

Setting the scene

Over 20 years ago, development agencies began working with farmers' groups in Burkina Faso and Kenya, amongst other African countries, using a new "basket of participatory approaches". These two countries presented similar problems on opposite sides of Africa. As with many post-colonial development schemes, failed soil conservation projects littered the African landscape in the 1960s and 1970s. And at this very time – with droughts and fears of "desertification" – it was urgent that action was taken to help the poorest of the rural poor. A new way was needed, based on a more farmer-friendly approach. This comprised a fresh emphasis on simple technologies; on indigenous knowledge; on gender consciousness; and on the participatory process itself.

So what happened?

The initial results, in terms of conserving water and building-up soil fertility in dryland Africa, were very promising. *So why not document the experiences for a wider audience? Better still, why not bridge the "linguistic divide" by filming in both Francophone and Anglophone Africa?* Thus developments under the 'new approach in action' were captured in two video films *Looking after our Land* and *Building on Traditions*, as well as being described in accompanying booklets. But what has occurred in the two decades since then: *was this new approach indeed successful in the long term?* The archive footage was a unique resource to help address these questions.

Twenty years after

Thus the idea was born to return and film the original locations and interview the people who had sounded so positive before. Original footage could be compared with new scenes of the same places; and the testimonies of people would shed light on their experiences over those years. Once money was secured for the project the immediate challenge was to track down the people and the locations. Not an easy task. But a fascinating – and as it turned out, moving – exercise in itself. *Which exact*



...and as it is now

¹ WRS.Critchley@cis.vu.nl and eefkemollee@gmail.com Centre for International Cooperation VU University Amsterdam

locations had we filmed? Were the farmers still around? The method we chose was simply to open a laptop and let local people see the original films. Their reaction (as you can imagine) was quite emotional. Many had not seen the films before. But more pragmatically speaking, it pointed us to the right people and the original locations.

More People, More trees

We chose to film the two locations of Machakos District, Kenya and parts of Yatenga and Passoré, Provinces, Burkina Faso. Our intuition, based on personal experience and what people had written, was that environmental recovery had taken place *despite* (or perhaps partially because of) an increase in population. This was self-evident in the pictures we filmed; and in the data we collected about the spread of on-farm trees and food production, which supported those images. Both locations

show demonstrable success stories of sustained community participation in dealing with environmental change. Though the expansion of on-farm trees was the most visible image, the scenes showed recovered landscapes, and crop fields better cared-for through improved sustainable land management techniques. What's more, the farmers interviewed testified to the impact of the technologies, and how they had been motivated to look after their land more caringly. Their rewards have been more reliable food production, and improved livelihoods. The pictures in the film show that surprising and pleasing progress: the data in the accompanying booklet present hard facts to support the images. Good news from Africa indeed!

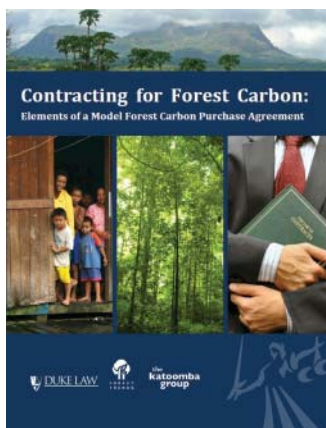
“More People More Trees” – DVD and Booklet – by William Critchley
Practical Action Publishing, Rugby, UK (www.practicalactionpublishing.org)

Contracting for forest carbon: elements of a model forest carbon purchase agreement

Forest Trends

2011. 34 pp. Available for download at www.forest-trends.org/documents/files/doc_2558.pdf

Forest carbon has the potential to play an important role in climate mitigation. However, forest carbon transactions today raise many challenging issues for participants, including difficult legal questions. Despite almost twenty years of transacting forest carbon, and more than 67.8 million tons of carbon dioxide transacted, transaction costs and legal fees remain significant and unpredictable due to the range of project types and complexity of forest carbon



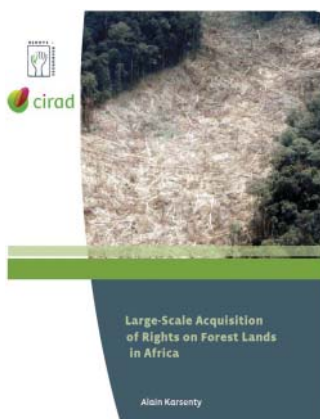
projects. This document seeks to lower transaction costs and level the playing field by explaining and discussing the clauses of an emission reductions purchase agreement (ERPA), which is a typical contract used to buy and sell credits for carbon emission reductions. Specifically, the goal of this document is to provide contracting parties with important background information, as well as a basic familiarity with contractual language and format. We describe a forest carbon emission reductions purchase agreement step-by-step, discussing elements of the contract and issues that will arise. Sample contract clauses are presented to illustrate the discussion and provide examples of relevant contractual language.

Large-scale acquisition of rights on forest lands in Africa

Alain Karsenty – CIRAD

2011, 28 pp. Download at www.rightsandresources.org/publication_details.php?publicationID=2111

This report seeks to answer whether timber concessions allocated, among others, in Central Africa can be considered as part of the large-scale land acquisition (LSLA)



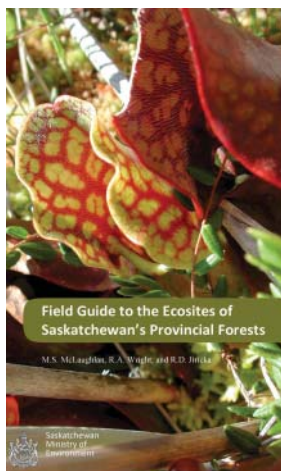
process that is currently the subject of international debate, mainly targeting arable lands. It suggests also that the current forest concession system in Africa is declining due to several factors.

Saskatchewan's New Forest Ecosite Field Guide published

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

2011. 340pp. Download from www.environment.gov.sk.ca/forests Hardcopies from Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Forest Service, Box 3003, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6G1

This indispensable reference provides a comprehensive classification and description of the site level ecosystems (ecosites) found across the province's forests. It is a valuable tool for professionals in the natural resource sector as it covers nearly 35 million hectares, over half, of the province. This new ecosite guide is the result



of almost ten years of field surveys and scientific analysis. The publication presents detailed information about the characteristics and attributes associated with the terrestrial and wetland ecosystems found in Saskatchewan's provincial forests and parks. Uses of the guide include ecological restoration, wildlife habitat management, ecological monitoring, and advanced silvicultural (reforestation) planning.

Around the world

Africa: Forest Fest makes headway in protection, poverty reduction

Political leaders have committed to ramping up restoration of the world's forests and tackling poverty in forest communities as part of pledges made at the ninth session Forum on Forests, which wrapped up at the United Nations headquarters in New York in February. Rwanda, in central eastern Africa, led the way with promises to launch a 25-year plan to tackle ecosystem degradation and improve rural livelihoods, a move hailed by environmental groups including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). "If other countries are inspired by Rwanda and follow suit, then what we could be witnessing is the beginning of the largest restoration initiative the world has ever seen," said IUCN's director general Julia Marton-Lefèvre.

Rwanda's forests diminished rapidly in the 1990s due to poor management and land use conflict. However, with recent economic growth the government is looking to reverse the trend, according to the nation's minister of land and environment, Stanislas Kamanzi. Other developments included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UNFF Secretariat and the German government for an 800,000-dollar project on forest financing for Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The biennial UNFF, which this year coincided with the launch of the International Year of the Forests 2011, is attended by representatives from all 192 member states of the U.N. However, agreements negotiated through the process are not legally binding. With a theme of "Forests and People", this year's forum resulted in commitments to better coordinate forest conservation with local management schemes and poverty reduction. In

wrapping up the two weeks of meetings, a ministerial declaration was released acknowledging "the crucial role of local people, including women, and local and indigenous communities, in achieving sustainable forest management".

One of the key goals of NGOs working at the forum this year was to advance the plight of land rights for forest peoples, with new data from IUCN showing forests are worth up to 130 billion dollars a year to the world's poorest communities. Although traditionally prized for their timber, the report shows forests also provide an estimated 1.6 billion people worldwide with food, fuel, medicines, energy, income and employment. "When deciding how to spend budgets, governments usually don't factor in the economic returns to investing in locally-controlled forestry," report author Lucy Emerton said. "They thereby miss a critical opportunity to invest in stimulating economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction."

While the economic, social and sustainability benefits of locally-controlled forestry are well known, only 47 percent of the legal rights over forests are managed by local communities – and IUCN believes this figure needs to increase. "Lots of people don't really own the forests they use, or they own them in their own heads, customarily, but they don't legally own them," Gill Shepherd, IUCN's thematic adviser on poverty and landscapes, told IPS. "Very often they are counted as squatters or illegal thieves. Now I'm not saying every forest in the world should belong to local indigenous people, but I think a far higher proportion could do so."

allafrica.com

Antarctica: Secrets of Antarctica's fossilised forests

It may be hard to believe, but Antarctica was once covered in towering forests. One hundred million years ago, the Earth was in the grip of an extreme Greenhouse Effect. The polar ice caps had all but melted; in the south, rainforests inhabited by dinosaurs existed in their place. These Antarctic ecosystems were adapted to the long months of winter darkness that occur at the poles, and were truly bizarre. But if global warming continues unabated, could these ancient forests be a taste of things to come?

One of the first people to uncover evidence for a once greener Antarctic was none other than the explorer, Robert Falcon Scott. Toiling back from the South Pole in 1912, he stumbled over fossil plants on the Beardmore Glacier at 82 degrees south. The extra weight of these specimens may have been a factor in his untimely demise. Yet his fossil discoveries also opened up a whole new window on Antarctica's sub-tropical past.

Professor Jane Francis of the University of Leeds is an intrepid explorer who has followed in Scott's footsteps. She has spent 10 field seasons in Antarctica collecting fossil plants and received the Polar Medal from the Queen in 2002. "I still find the idea that Antarctica was once forested absolutely mind-boggling", she told the BBC. "We take it for granted that Antarctica has always been a frozen wilderness, but the ice caps only appeared relatively recently in geological history."

One of her most amazing fossil discoveries to date was made in the Transantarctic Mountains, not far from where Scott made his own finds. She recalled: "We were high up on glaciated peaks when we found a sedimentary layer packed full of stunted bushes of beech. These fossils proved to be remains of stunted bushes of beech. At only three to five million years old, they were some of the last plants to have lived on the continent before the deep freeze set in. However, other fossils show that truly subtropical forests existed on Antarctica during even earlier times. This was during the "age of the dinosaurs" when much higher CO2 levels triggered a phase of extreme global

warming. "Go back 100 million years ago and Antarctica was covered in lush rainforests similar to those that exist in New Zealand today," said Dr Vanessa Bowman who works with Francis at the University of Leeds. "We commonly find whole fossilised logs that must have come from really big trees."

Professor Francis has been polishing thin slices of these logs to reveal the "annual rings" in the wood. Studying these tree-rings sheds light on ancient climate. Possibly the weirdest and most baffling feature of the polar forests was their adaptation to the Antarctic "light regime". Near the pole, night reigns all winter long while in the summer, the sun shines even at midnight. Professor David Beerling of the University of Sheffield, and author of *Emerald Planet*, explained the challenge that Antarctic trees must have faced in this unusual environment: "During prolonged periods of warm winter darkness, trees consume their food store," he said. And if this goes on for too long, they will eventually "starve".

To understand how trees survived against the odds, Professor Beerling has been investigating the kinds of plants that once grew on Antarctica. These include trees like the *Ginkgo*, a living fossil. "What we did was grow seedlings of these trees in blacked-out greenhouses where we could simulate Antarctic light conditions", he told the BBC. "We also raised temperature and CO2 concentration to match ancient growing conditions." His experiments showed that trees could cope remarkably well with the strange environment. Although they used up food stores in the winter, they more than made up for this by their ability to photosynthesise 24 hours per day in the summer. In fact the main problem seems to have been that trees did not know when to stop. "We found that trees made so much food during the summers... that this eventually caused photosynthesis to slow down," Professor Beerling explained. "As a result they couldn't fully take advantage of the long hot summers for photosynthesis".

bbc.co.uk

Australia: Mangroves may get growth spurt from Queensland floods

Mangroves may be the unlikely winners from Australia's recent floods, benefitting from the nutrient-rich sediment that was washed into their forests. So says Catherine Lovelock of the University of Queensland in St Lucia, Australia, whose team was recording how mangroves in Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia, respond to artificial phosphorus and nitrogen fertilisation when cyclone Pancho hit the area in 2008. Before the cyclone, the trees' stems grew by less than 25 centimetres per year. After the cyclone, however, some stems shot up by 65 centimetres per year, thanks to floodwaters washing in soils enriched with nutrients from agricultural products. The team's preliminary results were presented at last year's International Congress of Ecology in Brisbane.

Lovelock says sediment is already collecting in mangroves around Moreton bay, Queensland, following the recent floods and suggests that they, too, will experience a growth spurt.

Coastal water habitats are less likely to benefit, though. Michele Burford of Griffith University in Nathan, Australia, fears the sediment may stimulate algal growth in Moreton bay, which could lead to oxygen-starved dead zones similar to those seen in the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of last year's oil leak. "Already, the algae are growing faster," she says.

newscientist.com

Brazil: Amazon drought is consistent with what scientific models predict for a warmer globe

The year 2005 was an exceptionally dry one for the Amazon rainforest. Thousands of square kilometres of rainforest were destroyed. The level of the mighty Amazon river and its tributaries fell to the lowest levels since records began. Fish perished in the abnormally warm waters. Boats were grounded. Locals were forced to abandon their homes. It was the kind of drought that researchers would expect no more than once a century. But then came the drought of 2010. As a new research paper published in the journal *Science* today reveals, last year's drought was even more severe than 2005. So Brazil has experienced two "once in a century" climatic events in a decade. Unsurprisingly, scientists are beginning to suspect that something is amiss.

A link between these crippling droughts and climate change cannot be proved. But increasingly common drought is consistent with what scientific models predict for a globally warmer world. Increasing Atlantic sea surface temperatures are expected to lead to lower rainfall in Brazil's great forest.

There is another deeply worrying trend. The amount of carbon dioxide pumped into the atmosphere by our societies has fallen in recent years because of the global economic downturn. But the latest readings suggest that CO₂ levels in atmosphere still increased over that time. The fear is that this is

being driven by a "feedback loop", whereby the impact of climate change itself accelerates climate change. In this case, as the climate heats up, rainforest trees fall and burn, releasing the carbon locked up in them. And this, in turn, accelerates warming further.

Again, the existence of a feedback loop is difficult to prove. But it fits predictions. Normally, rainforests function like great carbon sinks, absorbing a large proportion of the CO₂ that human activity produces. But in 2005, thanks to deforestation, the Amazon became a net emitter of carbon dioxide. In that year, the rainforest is estimated to have emitted some 5 billion tonnes of CO₂, almost as much as the entire output of the United States.

The pace of deforestation in the Brazilian rainforest appears to have slowed somewhat in recent years. But pressure on rainforests continues in equatorial regions elsewhere, from Congo to Indonesia. We need to preserve the world's existing arboreal lungs if we are to have any chance of avoiding runaway climate change. But human activity is still depleting this crucial natural asset, even as its role in climatic regulation shows ominous signs of breaking down.

independent.co.uk

Global: Forests could start growing again – UN expert

The world's forest area could start expanding again in a few years, a top UN expert said recently as the United Nations launched an international year of forests. But trees are still being cut down at an "alarmingly high" rate, particularly in the Amazon and Africa, according to the latest UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) global study. And many of the new trees will have only "junk" value in disposing of the greenhouse gases that are causing global warming, said the FAO assistant director general Eduardo Rojas-Briales.

China has launched a massive reforestation program boosting Asia's total and the forest area has grown in Europe and North America over the past decade, said the FAO's "State of the World's Forests" report. The 4.032 billion hectares (9.9 billion acres) of forests in the world in 2010 is down from an estimated 4.085 billion in 2000, said the FAO. But the speed at which trees are being cut down is slowing from 8.3 million hectares a year in 1990-2000 to 5.2 million in the past decade. "There are evident signs that we could arrive at a balance in a few years," said Rojas-Briales, adding that the deforestation rate was 50 million hectares a year 30 years ago. "Of course we will still lose very valuable forest and we will gain many junk forests with not so much carbon storage value" and so not able to soak up the same amount of greenhouse gases as the forests lost in recent decades.

China is taking its forested area from 120 million hectares to 200 million, said the UN official, who also praised efforts by South Korea and India. Overall, Asia's forest area has increased from 90.5 million hectares in 2000 to 119.8 million in 2010, said the report. South America's forest area has fallen from 904 million hectares to 864 million in the past decade. Rojas-Briales said Latin America remains a problem because it has not used its economic growth of recent years to help forests.

"In East Asia they are putting resources and policies into position, in Latin America we don't see this," said the FAO official. He added however that there were preliminary signs of a "significant" reduction in deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon over the past two years. Africa's forest land has fallen from 20 million hectares in 2000 to 19.5 million at the end of the decade, said the FAO report. Europe's total has risen from 998 million hectares to just over one billion over the past decade.

The launch of the International Year of Forests was carried out by top UN environment officials and Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her campaigning in defence of trees. The Conservation International group released a special study for the launch saying that six of the world's 10 most threatened forest zones are in Asia.

The International Year of Forests "should focus the world's attention on the need to increase the protection of forests and make sure that their high importance for biodiversity

conservation, climate stabilization and economic development is not undervalued,” said Conservation International. It said the Indo-Burma river and floodplain wetlands, the New Zealand forests, forests in the 17,000 equatorial islands of Borneo and Sumatra in southeast Asia, the Philippines tropical forest and the forest on Brazil’s Atlantic coast are the most threatened. “These

forests have all lost 90 percent or more of their original habitat and each harbor at least 1,500 endemic plant species,” said the report. “If these forests are lost, those endemic species are also lost forever.”

independent.co.uk

India: Centre plans ‘Green India Mission’

Union Minister for Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh said on Sunday that the Union government proposed to announce a “Green India Mission” shortly to increase the forest cover and quality of forests in the country. Inaugurating the Southern Forest Ministers’ Conference here, the Minister said that formal approval for the project was expected on February 22 at a committee to be chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Mr. Ramesh said that the Mission would aim at improving the quality of five million hectares of degraded forests and bringing another five million hectares of non-forest areas under forest cover through social and farm forestry.

He said that the Mission would be implemented with the participation of grama sabhas, women’s self help groups and community organisations. A legal entity in the form of joint management committee would be formed for carrying out the programme. He said that the proportion of open degraded forests was as high as 40 per cent in South India. The same problem was also there in other States. Regeneration of these forests could not be attempted through traditional ways of protecting the forests from biotic interference. No government could keep men and cattle out of the forests of India. So, ways of regenerating forests, recognising biotic pressures, had to be devised. Along with that, the de-greening of India had to be stopped if afforestation programmes were to have any effect. “We cannot promote programmes that cause large scale deforestation.”

The Minister said that the government proposed to bring out a package for the Eastern Ghats, recognising the need for economic development of the local communities. The ecologically fragile areas of Western and Eastern Ghats were under great threat. A panel chaired by Madhav Gadgil had been appointed to draw up a strategy on development in ecologically fragile zones in the Western Ghats. There are areas where developmental activity should be permitted in a regulated manner and areas which should be fully protected on the ghats. While coal-based power projects were a great threat to Western Ghats, the Eastern Ghats faced pressures to open up for mining.

Mr. Ramesh said that mangroves and wetlands were disappearing in all States, particularly the South Indian States. The Mangroves in South Indian States had shrunk to eight per cent over the past 25 to 30 years. There was need for renewed focus on regenerating the mangroves in the South. Mangroves should not be used for purposes other than intended. The proposal for cricket stadium in Kochi, Kerala, in an area with mangroves was a classic case. The question was whether cricket or protection of mangroves was important on the long run.

He noted that the wetlands in Tamil Nadu were being cornered by the real estate business while pisciculture was destroying wetlands in Andhra Pradesh. “Wet lands are not waste lands. They performed ecologically a very important function and catered to the security of the local communities.”

thehindu.com

Indonesia: Palm oil deal aims to save forests and carbon – A major palm oil producer is joining forces with environmental campaigners in a bid to ramp up forest protection

The giant Indonesian company Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) has agreed to work within new standards aimed at saving forests that store a lot of carbon.

International environment group The Forest Trust (TFT) is partnering the company and will monitor compliance.

The palm oil industry has regularly been accused of destroying old-growth forest as demand rockets. The new deal expands on existing standards agreed under the Roundtable

on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), an international alliance of producers, processors, retailers and environment groups.

Already, RSPO rules forbid clearing old-growth forest or land with high conservation value, and developers are also supposed to obtain informed consent from local people before initiating new plantations. Under the new deal, GAR will go further, vowing not to plant on peat, and not to clear forest where significant carbon is locked up in trees. This should mean that large tracts of forest that have been partially logged will now be off-limits to the company.

Initially, the figure of 35 tonnes of carbon stored per hectare will be used as a ceiling; but that could change as research progresses. "We're not trying to undermine the RSPO – we're saying 'this is something you guys need to look at and maybe move towards,'" said Scott Poynton, TFT's executive director.

"Everyone's talking about taking the lead, but no-one's doing it – this is an example of taking the lead," he told BBC News from Indonesia.

GAR is the world's second-largest producer of palm oil, a product mainly used in food, fuels and cosmetics. Like other companies in the field, it has been heavily criticised by environmental groups – a state of affairs that it wants to change. "As a leading player in the palm oil industry, we are committed to playing our role in conserving Indonesia's forests," said Franky Wijaya, GAR's chairman and CEO. "Our partnership with TFT allows us to grow palm oil in ways that conserve forests and that also respond to Indonesia's development needs; creating much needed employment while building shareholder value."

Earlier in the year, TFT finalised a deal with Swiss-based food giant Nestle designed to "ensure that its palm oil procurement had no deforestation footprint". This led to discussions

with suppliers such as GAR – and the conclusion that in order to preserve their markets, growers would have to purify their operations. Greenpeace, which has taken the lead on the issue among international NGOs, sees the deal as a potential step forwards.

"This is really throwing a gauntlet down to the rest of the palm oil sector, and to other players," said campaigner Phil Aikman. "It's setting a threshold for carbon, and that's pretty good – it'll protect a lot of orangutan habitat and other important areas that have been threatened by palm oil plantations.

"It challenges the rest of the sector to increase its productivity rather than target new areas over and over again, and that's been the main issue."

With RSPO, another issue has been compliance, with a number of companies accused of failing to live up to their promises. But TFT says it will be working closely with GAR to make sure pledges are delivered.

bbc.co.uk

Ireland: Future's good for Forestry

Good news can be hard to find these days, but forest owners in Ireland last year achieved record prices for their wood from thinning and clear-felling. This welcome boost to farm forestry was achieved despite the construction industry remaining firmly in the doldrums. Most of our sawn timber and the output from our board-mills is now exported and the timber industry has made great strides in exporting so much material which would have been sold into the home market during the construction boom years.

Remarkably, over the past 18 months wood prices paid to timber growers in Ireland have more than doubled. In fact, this summer the sawmilling sector was unable to source sufficient wood from Irish forests to meet the demand. As a result, large quantities of roundwood were imported from Scotland to top up our supplies.

Longford brothers Mike and Pat Glennon, of timber processing firm Glennon Brothers, were named Industry Entrepreneur of the Year at last year's Ernst & Young Awards, a clear indication of the export success of our sawmilling industry. All of this

confirms the importance of forestry as a farm enterprise, one that will continue to provide both jobs and a reliable income for farmers who have availed of the afforestation schemes.

The Irish Government has spent around €90m on buying carbon credits and it is estimated that our forestry programme could save the taxpayer €220m over the five years to 2012 in terms of complying with Ireland's Kyoto targets. Ireland faces a critical shortage in wood supply and forest contractors, sawmillers, the ITGA, the IFA, forestry consultants and others in the industry are upbeat regarding future prices. This shortage is set to grow to more than 1.5m cubic metres per annum within the next eight years.

The forestry sector will also make a major contribution to our economy in both planting new forests and harvesting its wood resource through the thinning of its existing private woodlands. In 2008, economic output from the wider forest and timber industry was calculated at €1.89bn, or just under 1pc of GDP. The figures for this year should easily exceed this.

independent.ie

Kenya: Project issues first REDD credits

A Kenyan project has become the first to issue REDD credits under the Voluntary Carbon Standard. NGO Wildlife Works announced Tuesday its reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) project in Kenya's Kasigau Corridor became the first to be issued with VCS carbon credits, known as Voluntary Carbon Units (VCUs).

REDD carbon credits are not eligible for use in the UN's primary offset programme, the clean development mechanism

(CDM), but may be eligible for compliance under California's cap-and-trade programme, which begins in 2012. At last December's UN climate summit in Cancun, parties reached agreement on deforestation that left the door open to create a REDD market mechanism. The VCS said the announcement marked a "watershed moment for Redd projects everywhere" because it demonstrates how the private sector can mobilise capital to preserve forests. "Coupled with being able to measure emissions reductions accurately and generate verified credits,

this is exactly what is needed to attract private investment for forest protection,” said VCS CEO David Antonioli in a statement.

The project has been in operation since 2005 and protects the area’s local wildlife and biodiversity, while bringing jobs, education and financing to the local community. It has generated 1.45 million carbon credits in its first six-year crediting period, and is estimated to reduce over 6 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent over its 30 year project life. South Africa’s Nedbank Group, which provided early support to get the project off the ground, bought 1.16 million VCUs from the project and has the option to purchase 200,000 credits annually going forward. Wildlife Works could not confirm the amount paid per credit but said the transaction had been a “multi-million dollar carbon credit sale”.

Around 300,000 VCUs, or 20 percent of the initial credits issued, went into a VCS buffer account, which is used as a kind

of financial insurance in the event that fires, disease or other changes in land use reverse the storage of carbon in the soil. In another section of the Kasigau Corridor, Wildlife Works has already initiated the project’s second phase.

French bank BNP Paribas had announced in September it would invest \$50 million to help develop the project. It also has the option to buy up to 1.25 million VCUs – 250,000 credits per year over five years – from the project’s second phase. Although some project developers are eyeing California’s carbon market as a potential source of demand for their credits, interest in REDD thus far has come almost exclusively from voluntary buyers, according to Wildlife Works. “We believe the global voluntary carbon marketplace is ready for carbon credits that the average consumer can relate to,” said Mike Korchinsky, president of Wildlife Works.

af.reuters.com

The forest sell-off is not radical enough

It is either ignorance or malice that has motivated the fuss over the government’s forestry plans. The publicly outraged celebrities seem to know nothing about forestry, nor understand what is proposed. Perhaps they, and many others, are simply being gulled by spinmeisters who want to attack the coalition and prevent any diminution of the state. But these are pussycat proposals. They do not threaten the UK’s broadleaf forests at all, and they are nothing like radical enough. The present system fails the public and the taxpayer on all counts. It’s time it went.

When people think of forests, they think of the heritage woodlands and open parklands of oak, birch and ash. In fact, such woods comprise just 8% of the Forestry Commission’s land. What the Forestry Commission actually presides over is not rolling arboreal havens of tranquillity, but numberless acres of charmless conifers. More than 90% of its forests in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and even three-quarters of those in England, are like this – dark, unwelcoming, impenetrable. After they are cut, the scar on the landscape is even uglier. These Forestry Commission tree factories don’t improve our environment. They contribute almost nothing to public access or recreation, nor to rural employment. With their regimented monoculture, they contribute nothing to wildlife, nor to biodiversity. They probably do contribute to the acidification of our rivers. Despite being the UK’s biggest owner and producer of timber, the Forestry Commission cannot even cover its costs and soaks up our

money like a sponge. On every one of the Forestry Commission’s purposes, in other words, it fails. It is not fit for purpose, and it has not been for a long time.

The rest of the Forestry Commission’s estate, and the most valuable, is actually non-wooded farmland. According to business analyst Miles Saltiel, in a new report for the Adam Smith Institute, the pines and pasture alone form an estate that could be sold for up to £4.3bn – rather a nice windfall for UK citizens right now. But this would mean going much further than the government proposes. Thanks (or no thanks) to devolution, the Forestry Commission is split into four national bodies. The current proposals concern only England. We need to be shaking up state forestry in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, too.

Three-quarters of England’s forests are already privately managed – with strict regulations on public access, recreation, biodiversity and conservation. New Zealand, South Africa and Australia have already sold or leased their forests under this kind of regulation, and have not looked back. And other arrangements are possible – giving local people themselves ownership of heritage forests, for example, under a voucher-privatisation plan. As both the forestry regulator and also the biggest owner and producer, the Forestry Commission is hopelessly conflicted. It should become a pure regulator. Its land, mostly pines and pasture, should be sold, bringing in fresh ideas and fresh capital that would benefit both the environment and the public.

*Eamon Butler writing at **guardian.co.uk***

UK: Illegal timber sold by British businesses putting world’s forests at risk

British firms are still selling wood products that come from questionable sources in parts of the world where illegal logging is having a devastating effect, a new study has revealed. The report found that wood used in kitchen worktops, doors and decking, on sale in the UK, comes from parts of Indonesia,

Malaysia and the Congo Basin where illegal felling is putting animals, plants and people under threat. Numerous species, including the orangutan, are under direct threat of extinction because of the black market trade in timber. The “What Wood You Choose?” study suggested British businesses aren’t checking their sources and in some cases are even misleading the public

that the wood they are selling has ethical credentials where none exist.

New EU timber laws are due to come into force next year, but this WWF-funded study shows few retailers are prepared for the legislation which could leave them open to conviction. The study found that in some cases companies had little idea where their wood products originated from and were reluctant to find out. It also found that some companies' websites were misusing the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo, implying that all their products are covered by the certification scheme when in fact only some are. WWF used a combination of formal requests, investigators posing as buyers and made phone calls and visits to sawmills in Indonesia and Malaysia to track timber products.

Colin Butfield, WWF's head of campaigns, said: "This study should act as a wake-up call to companies here in the UK. Consumers are the ones with the power to demand that whatever they're buying, from doors to kitchen worktops, is FSC [certified]. If it doesn't have the FSC logo then it could originate from a place where there have been devastating impacts on species, such as the orangutan, and communities that earn a living from the forest. "The EU law, coming into force in early 2013, will mean anyone intending to sell timber products into the UK market will have to show where it's come from and that it isn't illegal. The study suggests that UK businesses are a long way from meeting the demands of that new law."

guardian.co.uk

USA: Intensive logging created New England's rich wetlands

Those who enjoy the wetlands and seafood of New England's coastline may be surprised by who they have to thank: the loggers of the 18th and 19th centuries. In clearing vast tracts of land, those prolific loggers released so much sand and dirt that open-water bays turned into swamps. While logging devastated the landscape, it had the opposite effect on the coast. The wetlands it boosted buffer the coastline from storms, stop pollutants in the ocean from reaching the shore, and shelter marine organisms. "No wetlands, no seafood," says Matthew Kirwan of the US Geological Survey in Laurel, Maryland.

For purists who favour returning New England to its natural state – and restoration is a multibillion-dollar endeavour – the theory presents a conundrum. Many New England marshes are much bigger than they were before the arrival of European settlers, says Kirwan, so restoring the environment to a "natural" state would mean losing much of the marshland and its benefits. To find out how old the marsh in the Plum Island estuary in Massachusetts is, Kirwan dated fossil plant rhizomes – found in marshes but not open water – from 45 sediment cores. The oldest ones were found at the marsh's edge and dated back some 4000 years. In the centre of the marsh, however, the oldest

rhizomes were just 200 years old, suggesting that until then Plum Island estuary was half marsh, half open-water bay. The shift to full marsh coincides with an increase in logging, according to historic records. Only that sort of extensive land-use change can account for the bay's filling in, says Kirwan. He presented his findings at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco last month.

The idea that what's bad for the land may be good for the sea is not unique to New England. Studies in the 1980s showed that Chesapeake Bay was built thanks in part to high sedimentation rates caused by logging and land clearance. Agricultural development along the Mississippi river is likely to have contributed to Louisiana's estuaries and bayous, and Kirwan suspects that mining bolstered California's coastal wetlands.

Dorothy Merritts, a geoscientist at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, points out that whatever the inadvertent ecological benefits of logging, it still destroyed the coast's original ecosystem. "Many original wetlands were lost," she says.

newscientist.com

Zambia: ZAFFICO to raise 5m seedlings

Forestry and Forest Industries Corporation (ZAFFICO) intends to raise about five million seedlings annually to avoid the deficit experienced in the past. Acting managing director Elijah Nyirenda said in an interview in Ndola that Zaffico was targeting to replant about 3,000 hectares of land in 2012. More than 1500 hectares of land has been replanted so far.

Mr Nyirenda said despite the challenges the corporation had been faced with in the previous years, it would ensure the timber industry thrived. In the past Zaffico experienced a shortage of seedlings but the replanting exercise has had more than two million seedlings replanted. "The corporation has had its own challenges during the execution of the corporate objectives and targets. Major among them is the insufficient equipment in fire fighting and land clearing," Mr Nyirenda said.

He said the Zaffico required a bulldozer and water bowsers to address the challenge and added that the corporation was determined to move forward.

Zaffico has ensured that all timber traders on the Copperbelt had their licences renewed for the year 2011. Mr Nyirenda said this was being done in a bid to assist timber traders to be more effective in processing their products.

He said the Zaffico has been dealing with small scale timber traders as well as big firms and that it did not discriminate any entity in as far as business dealings were concerned.

Mr Nyirenda said the Zaffico has been working with timber traders on the Copperbelt Province by ensuring logs and other raw materials were readily available to the timber industry. "The chiefs are key stakeholders for Zaffico and without their support and all timber traders, the timber industry is doomed," he said. Mr Nyirenda said the expansion of the tree planting exercise was an indication that Zaffico wanted the timber industry to grow.

From Victor Kawanga, Head CFA Zambia National Branch