CFA Newsletter

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CFA Newsletter
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Youth participation at United Nations Forum on Forests 6th Session

The Youth delegates

This year 15 forestry students, from seven different countries, flew into snowy New York to participate in UNFF6, on behalf of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA). IFSA members are considered part of the Youth and Children's Major Group in the UNFF structure and have actively participated in the forum since UNFF3. This has included the organisation of education related side-events, participating in government delegations, and representing on the Major Groups collaborative committee.

To put the UNFF6 and Youth participation in perspective; the primary objective of Youth in this forum is to promote intergenerational equity in sustainable forest management through education and transfer of knowledge to the younger generations and access to natural resources. More specifically, the goals of the Youth participation are to:

1. **Use our capacity as a worldwide youth network to inform the policy dialogue debate from the Youth's perspective;**
2. **Demonstrate the potential of forest related education in the implementation of SFM and international forest policy processes;**
3. **Advocate means to use and increase this potential; and**
4. **Promote the need and opportunities for stronger integration of forest related education in the international forest policy dialogue.**

Under the constituencies of the UNFF there are 9 'Major Groups' that together essentially form a representation of 'Civil Society' relevant to forests around the world. These groups are (i) Women; (ii) Children and Youth; (iii) Indigenous People; (iv) Non-governmental Organizations; (v) Local Authorities; (vi)

Workers and Trade Unions; (vii) Business and Industry; (viii) Scientific and Technological Communities; and (ix) Farmers and Small Forest Landowners. In all forums up to UNFF5 a 'Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue' was held, which essentially involved a formal discussion session between the Major Groups and Government delegations. Unfortunately, an intervention in UNFF5 led to the decision by the Forum to exclude this Dialogue from the UNFF6 programme and consequently closed the primary channel through which Youth and other Major Groups could express their views on various issues in the negotiations. In response to the exclusion of the multistakeholder dialogue, the Major Groups agreed collaborate at the UNFF6 to both advocate for their active re-inclusion in the negotiation dialogue and promote a collective opinion on key issues as follows:

- ***support*** **the two year cycle of the meetings on the global level**
- ***support*** **the idea of meetings of one week duration**
- ***support*** **linkages proposed between regional meetings with the global policy forum of the UNFF (through existing regional structures)**
- ***need*** **to play an active role in both regional and global policy processes that the forum decides on.**
- ***need*** **to be involved in the design, formulations and evaluation of the Multi Year Program of Work**
- ***need*** **to be involved in the design and formulation of frameworks for the monitoring, reporting and assessment of actions agreed on by the UNFF**
- ***strongly support*** **the statement of the EU on intensifying the role of Major Groups in identifying and implementing CPF activities.**
- ***believe*** **that any reference to NGOs, E-NGOs or civil society should be replaced by the term Major Groups, as articulated in Agenda 21.**

Youth, as a group, met regularly in the evenings to discuss between us our experiences and opinions of the daily discussions. This proved a valuable opportunity for those more experienced to answer questions provide insight for the first-time participants (such as myself!) and also highlighted the diversity of our views on various issues, from illegal logging to a legally-binding agreement. All youth delegates agreed that the experience was a key part of learning the true nature and mechanisms of global forest policy, something often lacking in our classrooms!

One point that all Youth did agree on was that there should be an explicit reference to education in the Resolution. The draft text from UNFF5 had no such reference, and during Youth discussions a number of paragraphs where this could be included were identified. However, Youth, along with other Major Groups required close collaboration with Government delegates to promote their views, and we were fortunate in having Youth representatives in the Australian and Indonesian delegations. Consequentially the Australian delegation made an intervention for the inclusion of educational institutions in the paragraph, as below. Ultimately this highlighted the potential in collaboration between Youth and Government delegates to add value to negotiations simply through the sharing of ideas.

...***Strengthening*** **forest education and research and development through global, regional and sub-regional networks, as well as relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence in all regions of the world, particularly in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition** ***(Para 7(b))***

Although there was some value in the Major Groups' decision to take a stand together and advocate the same points, there was also some a compromise of some of the individual values that each Major Group represented in this approach. As Youth, it was still important for us to demonstrate the unique contributions that we, as a Major Group, make to the forum. For this reason, we developed a Youth Non-paper and Mr. Tony Bartlett, on behalf of the Australian delegation, organised an opportunity for us to announce to the floor. This proved a great advantage in our efforts to raise the profile of Youth and was well received by delegations. This was a highlight in both providing an opportunity to for Youth to express out views and receive greater recognition for their participation.

There is no denying that global policy negotiation is a long and at times certainly a tedious process, as well as somewhat questionable in terms of its direct relevance to 'on-ground' forest management. However, in my view, the setting of shared global goals is both significant, in terms of raising the profile of forests on national political agendas, and in that sense forms an essential element of forest governance. Such high level collaboration is perhaps most significant in raising international political awareness, commitment and inter-country collaboration. Youth play a key role in the process, not only through learning valuable lessons in forest policy that will benefit the world's future forest managers and policy-makers, but also through the unique perspectives, capacity and contributions they provide to the Forum.

Personally, whilst being endowed with a whole new perspective on forest policy, I was both inspired to see what can be achieved when countries around the world collaborate together. While the sky-scrapers of New York seemed as far from the forests as anywhere, my clear take home message was that every small effort, in each corner of the world, could certainly make a difference to sustainable forest management.

Samantha Citroen
Youth delegate of the Australian Delegation, UNFF6

Association News

CFA AGM and UK tour

This year the CFA UK Branch tour looked at a wide range of forestry topics associated with the county of Shropshire, covering both historic events and up-to-date issues. The tour started at Weston Park, a magnificent country estate dating back to the 17th Century where the staff are endeavouring to restore the wooded grounds to their original planting design. This means gradually removing signs of more recent softwood planting in favour of the predominantly hardwood cover that was common in estates of the time. Within the grounds were several magnificent ancient oaks, and the group spent some time discussing management options for them with the forester Terry Merchant. However, although these veteran trees, with which Britain is particularly well endowed, are a biological gem they evoke little interest from most visitors. Of more concern to the management of Weston Park is the movement of a large number of visitors around the estate and the threat of trees falling on them. As such, the group considered approaches for mature tree management within a public access context.

CFA members discuss veteran tree management

The next day was spent at the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, the site of the original industrial revolution, where the group were able to see how and why this small area became such an important part of the process of global industrialisation. The day began with a lecture by Dr Roger White, Academic Director Ironbridge Institute, entitled *The essential role of forests and wood in the age of iron* (shortly to be made available to download from the CFA website), and was followed by a tour of several of the museums of this World Heritage Site. Throughout the day the links between trees and industry were highlighted and we were even able to experience life in the early days of industrialisation through a recreated Victorian town.

The last day of the tour focussed on some of the challenges facing woodland management in the present day. The Green Wood Centre teaches traditional woodland craft but, perhaps more importantly, is looking toward the future of sustainable small woodland management in the UK. One of the new challenges facing forestry in the UK is the development of biofuels as part of an overall trend towards both reducing our dependence on importation of fuel, and also more 'carbon-lean' energy sources. The Centre's Director, Judy Walker, showed the group their new wood-fuelled boiler which heats the whole centre and is fed by locally felled timber and a debate followed on the future of biofuels in the UK.

The final part of the tour looked at the objectives and challenges of woodland management close to the city of Telford. James Power, Woodland Officer with the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust, took the group on a tour of woods surrounding the Ironbridge Gorge and explained how the Trust is trying to balance the needs of public access with both landscape and biodiversity conservation.

Photographs of the tour are available on the CFA website.

The CFA AGM was held on the first night of the tour and included a presentation of both the Annual Report and the accounts of the Association. Our Chair, Jim Ball, stated his pleasure in seeing our membership increase and the financial situation of the CFA continue to improve. He also reported on positive changes in management structure, particularly in relation to the Executive Committee and Governing Council, but stressed our continued need to seek donations from members, and 'friends of forestry' in order to secure the future of the Association. (Minutes of the meeting, the accounts and the Annual Report are available to download from the Members Only section of the website).

Alan Pottinger

CFA Vice-President's new book

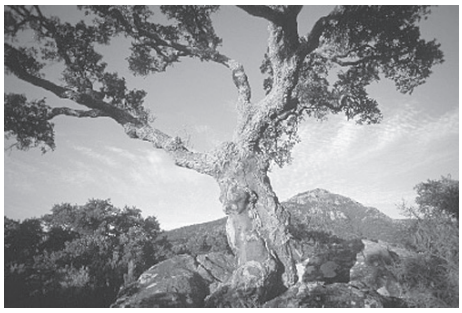
Julian Evans has just published his latest book based on his experiences of managing his own small woodland in southern England, entitled Badgers, Beeches and Blisters: getting started in your own wood. It is described as an entertaining, informative and containing all you need to know! Copies can be purchased from www.patulabooks.co.uk

Special Feature

A strategy to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of the South West Mediterranean cork oak landscapes

Introduction

Covering about 2.7 million hectares and extending across Portugal, Spain, Algeria, Morocco, Italy, Tunisia and France, cork oak landscapes represent one of the best examples of the interaction between people and nature in the Mediterranean region. In these landscapes high conservation value forests alternate with farmland systems, which integrate extensive agriculture, forestry, pastures, hunting and other recreational uses. Being so valuable, cork oak landscapes are nowadays endangered from increasing population pressure on resources - through overgrazing, over-harvesting and forest clearance - conversion for fast growing plantations, poor management practices, land abandonment, urban development in coastal areas, and fires. These threats, exacerbated by climate change, affect the health of cork oak landscapes and increase their vulnerability to diseases, pests and large-scale forest fires.



Cork oak forests are important biodiversity reserves as well as economic resources.

Sustainable management of cork forests is essential for rural employment

Cork drying

In North Africa only one quarter of the original 3 million hectares of cork oak forests remain today, including the last remaining untouched cork forest areas. The population in rural areas is increasing and former nomadic populations are settling, causing radical changes in resource use patterns. Poverty is widespread, and today one third of the Maghreb population relies on unsustainable use of forests, pastures and agricultural land for their subsistence. Poor governance provides the conditions for illegal harvesting and forest use. Where the forests are managed for cork, poor harvesting techniques lead to high tree mortality rates. Grazing also reduces the regeneration capacity of the forest and leads to trees being cut for fodder.

In Iberia the area of cork woodlands has increased in the last 50 years, but this hides a deeper malaise. The multifunctional cork oak forest landscapes, which have been maintained by the interaction of people and nature through centuries, are being disrupted, degraded and destroyed. In South Portugal and parts of Spain the population of the inland region is declining and aging. The population drift from rural areas has reduced the availability of labour for farming and forestry. The resulting intensification and mechanisation of operations has reduced the diversity of the forest under-storey. Plantations of exotic forest species have replaced the traditional cork oak forest landscape in many areas, whilst in others, valuable scrub areas have been converted to cork oak plantations. These plantations of cork oak typically have low biodiversity values. Often driven by agricultural and forestry subsidies this combination of conversion, intensification and changed land use has contributed to an increase in the incidence of fires, and a reduction in the health of the cork woodlands. Almost three quarters of the Portuguese cork forests are classed as having health problems.

To address these issues, WWF identified the need to develop an integrated strategy on the conservation of cork oak landscapes based on restoring the balance between its economic, environmental and social values. This inteegrated approach was built on three Targets 'Protect, Manage & Restore', and three pillars or modules 'Policy & Advocacy, Good Practices and Markets'

The cork oak landscapes conservation strategy follows an integrated approach based on three targets: protection, management and restoration. This approach recognises that within a landscape a number of influences operate (i.e. Inter-sectorial policies and regulations, economic incentives, land tenure rights), as well as a number of actors (i.e. private international companies, public administration, local communities organisations, NGO), and that all of these need to be taken into consideration for successful land use planning and forest conservation. It also considers within a landscape the need of restoring parts of it

[12] For more information, please visit FSC website : www.fsc.org and read "forest certification for environment and development", a bilingual publication on FSC certification and its relevance in North Africa countries. Available in PDF format or hard copies upon request.

in a coherent and consistent way, to regain connectivity and functionality in ecological networks of protected areas, and to secure sustainability and economic competitiveness in the multi-purpose cork oak forest management and related goods and services.

WWF's 'protect-manage-restore' approach recognises that biodiversity conservation has to be balanced with measures that can help reduce poverty and ensure that socio-economic needs are met. This forms the basis for sustainable development - a process that inevitably entails negotiations and trade-offs.

To implement such an approach, WWF looks at what is happening in three major areas; policy and processes, field practices; and the markets sector.

Policy & Advocacy

Through this component, WWF with its partners addresses the policy issues related to the degradation of cork oak landscapes such as:

- The inadequate national policies favouring plantations of fast-growing species, unsound forestry techniques and limited access to resources, and poor governance, creating people/resource conflicts.
- The EU and national subsidies that distort markets and support plantations, intensified grazing, mechanised clearances, infrastructure building and competitor economic sectors. Natural regeneration, for example, is not supported through positive payments.
- The lack of conservation policies implementation. Protected areas systems are insufficient or poorly managed. Nature 2000 is not implemented. Inadequate protected area management creates conflicts with local communities mainly in North Africa.
- Sustainability of the forestry sector, including consideration of forest ecosystems provision of non-market services which are critical for human well-being, not sufficiently reflected in the bilateral and multilateral cooperation frameworks in particular in the new European Neighbourhood Policy

WWF and its partners are working together to influence and advocate for changes in EU, national and regional policies where laws conflict or have a negative impact on cork oak landscapes, mainly by :

- Developing case studies demonstrating the impacts of EU subsidies on cork oak landscapes in Iberia and developing proposals for changes in those subsidies.
- Circulating the results of case studies to the relevant actors and lobbying for those changes. (see the communication of Pedro Beja in the Forum).
- Working with forestry departments and other local actors to develop a community-centred management based on good governance.
- Participating in current policy processes at local, national, regional and international level to inform with recommendations and results of case studies.

Good Practices

Through this component, WWF and partners address issues related to poor forest management practices. Overgrazing, increased fuel wood collection, intensified cork collection, poor cork harvesting, lack of regeneration are all factors that reflect the lack of capacity in integrating environmental and social issues with management practices.

WWF intends to improve management, protection and restoration practices in cork oak landscapes involving different partners and addressing issues such as access rights to natural resources, ecological and forest landscape restoration, sustainable management. Guidelines and national standards are planned to be developed nationally/regionally. Moreover, pilot projects are being developed and implemented with relevant actors to demonstrate and facilitate the testing and implementation of these good practices and guidelines.

WWF is using different innovative tools developed in partnership with various conservation and international organizations such as:

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification[2] also supports the development of national and local standards that implement the international principles and criteria of FSC. A successful FSC initiative has been initiated in Spain and has culminated in the development of FSC national standards integrating two additional annexes on indicators for cork and pine resin sustainable production. There are already FSC cork oak forests certified under the FSC certification scheme in Portugal, Spain and Italy.

The Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Developed jointly by IUCN and WWF, FLR is more than simply tree-planting, it searches for the best ways to re-establish the forest functionality within a landscape. Interventions can include for example the rehabilitation and management of degraded forests, including enrichment planting; the promotion of natural regeneration, ecological restoration, including establishment of corridors between protected areas, developing income-generating activities based on sustainable use of natural resources including NTFPs.

Within this programme, pilot projects on FLR have been already initiated in southern Portugal and guidelines have been developed. Another initiative is planned to be developed in the Rif (Morocco).

The Markets

By encouraging and lobbying the market sector towards responsible purchasing attitudes, through the market chain, from processing industries to end consumers the team is developing communications tools to raise awareness and lobby various groups related to the sector. FSC certification of chain-of-custody (cork enterprises) is also encouraged and promoted so as to improve production and trade of FSC certified products.

Capacity building and building partnerships

To develop and implement these three modules, WWF is investing efforts in building capacity and partnerships with different actors from government agencies, local communities, industry, forest managers and experts, international organisations, NGOs.

Capacity building includes organization of training workshops, field exchange visits, the production of a cork land newsletter as well as the development of a cork land resources centre (webpage for exchanging documents and experiences on issues related to the cork oak landscapes protection, management and restoration).

Integration of the scales of action

To ensure the protection, sustainable management and restoration of cork oak landscapes in the Mediterranean, WWF has identified the need to pursue its work at different levels:

- The forest landscape level: This level provides the best planning scale to ensure the integration of conservation as well as socio-economic needs. WWF through its cork oak landscapes programme is active in three priority landscapes (the Rif region, Morocco, the Kroumirie, Tunisia and in southern Portugal) to develop models for good practices in protection, management and restoration based on a multi-purpose management approach. This will aim at conserving all uses, values and services, deriving socio-economic benefit from all values, engaging communities, developing partnerships and promoting certification.
- The ecoregion level: work at the ecoregional level will allow the sharing of experiences and the transfer of lessons between forest landscape stakeholders. It establishes the pillars of a joint action plan for cork oak forest landscapes for the south west Mediterranean ecoregion[3].
- The international level: work at the international level will help develop international policy reform reflecting in particular the Euro-Med cooperation and European neighbourhood policy processes, cross-linking to the CAP, engaging markets and promoting consumer choices both within and outside the Mediterranean.

Driving conservation (good practices) in the field is possible only when the market and policy sectors have set up the necessary enabling conditions. These include the following:

- The sustainable management of cork oak forest landscapes starts with the evaluation of their environmental services and economic potential and opportunities and should consider the sustainable multiple use of non-timber forest products as alternative income for rural livelihoods.
- Investing / paying for the sustainable management of cork oak forest landscapes. The management, therefore, should not focus only on one or two products (cork/ cattle) but should take into account all products and services that cork oak landscapes provide: multi-purpose management is the only way to ensure the conservation of resources and respond to the development needs of forest owners and users.
- Influence national/regional policies for the development and adoption of forest national /regional standards based on a balance between economic, social, environmental values and benefits. WWF recognizes that FSC certification principles and criteria are a good tool/framework to develop such standards.
- Develop governance systems that promote community forest management in North Africa. The management of a forest is not only the job of a forest manager or a forest owner but should involve all stakeholders affecting/ affected by natural resources in the landscape. Governance systems should ensure an adequate sharing of the forest management benefits/responsibilities at all levels.
- Develop a responsible purchasing guide to be adopted by the Market sector (cork processors, wine producers, NTFPs businesses, etc). This would ensure the contribution of the market relevant actors (through the Market chain) in taking responsibility and paying for costs of sustainable management of cork oak landscapes.

Recommendations

Management planning is more than forestry

- **Looking at a different scale which is wider that the forest unit or forest area:** Conservation and sustainable strategies and programme developers, implementers and practitioners must look at entire landscapes and ecoregions to secure biodiversity and sustainable development. This requires a long-term commitment and a large network of partners involving NGOs, national and local government bodies, the private sector and international and regional agencies.
- **Forests for Rural Development:** There is an urgent need to recognize the economic value of services provides by forest ecosystems, and to incorporate this into economically sustainable development policies and programmes. This would ensure that beneficiaries pay the real price for all those goods and services provided by the landscape. Moreover there is a need to quantify in economic terms the values of NTFPs (pastures, cork, medicinal and aromatic plants, mushrooms, fruits) and the income they provide rural communities and a need to integrate the management of those resources in a sustainable way in forest management plans and strategies.
- **Sustainable development starts with sustainable management of forest landscape resources:** Forest management is not only the job of the forestry sector. The best way to ensure the involvement and participation of all in sustainable management is to develop national /regional standards in a wider process involving different sectors (forestry, research, economic, social, etc). These would allow for the sustainable management of forests based on indicators that take into account economic, environmental and social aspects. FSC certification is among the best tools to ensure such processes to happen. National Forest programmes can also play a role if they allow the involvement of different sectors related to aspects other than forestry.

Social and Governance issues

- **Implementing 'participation':** Sustainable development and conservation cannot be ensured without real 'participation'. This requires a better understanding of what is behind the participation and capacity building of all actors including NGOs and forestry sector on participation development (tools and mechanisms). Developing the appropriate governance systems is the

[3] WWF defines an ecoregion as a "large unit of land or water containing a geographically defined distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions". The South West Mediterranean Ecoregion , includes the South Iberian Lowland Forests, the Alboran and North Africa Sea and Coast as well as the North Africa Mountain System.

main indicator of real participation.

- **Define and promote schemes for suitable economic benefits to local communities from forest resources:** The rights of use for local communities are generally not well defined in many countries and are mainly focused on use for subsistence. There's a need to develop mechanisms in rural areas to set up local businesses with and for local communities based on natural resources sustainable use as an alternative to over-exploitation (based on informal and unsustainable use).

Capacity Building

- **Investing in building and strengthening the capacity of all actors** is key to ensuring the sustainable management and conservation of cork oak landscapes:

  - o Develop ad-hoc learning tools for international and national/local training addressing all concerned actors (literate and illiterate); trainings could include harvesting methods of natural resources and non-timber forest products for local communities, evaluation of natural resources and management planning, sustainable businesses based on natural resources processing and marketing.
  - o Promote exchanges between countries to share experience/knowledge on cork oak forest landscape protection, management and restoration.
  - o Review national forest curricula to introduce innovative concepts of sustainable management and development of sustainable markets based on natural resource use.

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Forest scenes

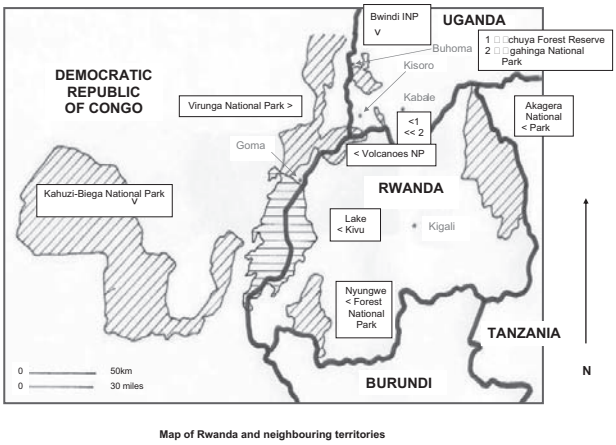
Impacts of the Rwandan Civil War on forest environments[1]

By **Richard Lightbown**

Introduction

The full impacts of warfare are poorly understood and are often inadequately described. The reality is that battles happen upon unsuspecting landscapes that have evolved to fulfil peaceful functions. The results of centuries of toil and care can be callously devastated within a short space of time. Dwellings, gardens, field and forest along with people, plants and animals are destroyed, vandalised, abused or peremptorily forced to flee.

This article briefly describes how civil war affected forests in Rwanda and neighbouring states.



Map of Rwanda and neighbouring territories

Overview of the hostilities

Rwanda's endemic population comprises approximately 85% Hutu, 14% Tutsi and 1% Twa. Tutsi partiality by missionaries and colonials fostered resentment which was exacerbated by high population densities. In 1959, 20,000 Tutsi died in rioting while many others fled to Tanzania, Uganda and the DRC[2]. Independence from Belgium came in 1962, but racial violence persisted until 1965.

The exiles numbered 600,000 by 1986. In Uganda, many joined Yoweri Museveni's insurrection which seized power in 1986. Exiles also formed the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) with its military wing the Rwandese People's Army (RPA). In 1990, backed by Uganda, the United States and the United Kingdom, the RPA attacked Rwanda, perpetrating considerable human rights abuse. They were repulsed by the Rwandan Army backed by France, Belgium and Zaire, and retreated to bases

[1] This article is extracted from a dissertation researched as part fulfilment for an MSc in Environmental Forestry at the University of Wales, Bangor in 2005. Full copies of the dissertation on CD entitled Armed Conflicts and Forests: An Assessment with Particular Reference to Impacts of the Rwandan Conflict in Southern Kigezi Region, Uganda, 1990–2000 are obtainable from the author. Contact address: r_lightbown@yahoo.com

[2] The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has variously been part of the Belgian Congo, and called the Republic of Zaire. For simplicity it is referred to as the DRC throughout this text.

in south-west Uganda (principally located in Echuya Forest Reserve and Mgahinga National Park). Incursions into Rwanda continued between peace talks and ceasefires until April 1994 when the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed in a terrorist attack. This instigated mass violence by extremist Hutus in which 800,000 people were massacred.

In July 1994 the RPA seized the capital Kigali, and the RPF formed a government. Hutu genocide was halted, but the RPA killed between 25 and 45,000 civilians until restrained by international pressure. Many Hutu fled to the DRC. Near Goma 800,000 camped close to the Virunga National Park and a further 450,000 decamped near Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The refugees were finally forced home in 1997 after regime change in the DRC. Meanwhile the *Interahamwe*, a relict Hutu militia, continued to cross borders between Rwanda, Uganda and the DRC, making sporadic raids and atrocities. In 1999 one guard and eight foreign tourists were killed at Buhoma in a raid known as the Bwindi Massacre.

Impacts

Echuya Forest comprises 34 km^2, half of which is bamboo (*Yushania alpina*). Mgahinga Gorilla National Park is a similar area of afromontane forest which is contiguous with Virunga National Park in DRC, and Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. The whole comprises the 434 km^2 Virunga Conservation Area.

In 1990 the RPA occupied the forests at Echuya and Mgahinga (but not the surrounding countryside) peremptorily excluded everyone, including forest and park staffs. For four years all management operations and most local uses of forest products were curtailed. At Echuya this included materials for building, fencing, thatching, basketry, weaving and medication, along with firewood, water and products of apiaries, illicit grazing and poaching. At Mgahinga, local people were excluded from a swamp supplying all-year water, causing severe hardship during the dry season. Access to wild honey, fresh meat (from poaching) and cultural sites within the park was also disrupted. (Two poachers were believed murdered after going into the park.) The Twa suffered especially. They were deprived of access to their ancestral home in the forest, and to food, bamboo, honey, medicine and sources of cash. Many went hungry and some died.

Some rebels died during an outbreak of dysentery at Mgahinga, but a major epidemic was somehow averted. (The park is a watershed for much of Kisoro District.) There was concern of cross-infection to mountain gorillas.

Artillery fire fights at Echuya were initially an almost daily occurrence. Civilians were occasionally killed and people were temporarily forced to leave home. Early in the war civilians were abducted to Rwanda and killed. In 1992 an RPA incursion into northern Rwanda forced 300,000 people to flee. Looting by Ugandans followed. Roofing sheets and cattle were targeted and were exchanged for low prices. Moving weaponry and stores into the camps also offered paid work for portering which local people eagerly accepted. However the Twa, who are disparaged by other tribes, were usually forced into unpaid labour. One benefit to the local community was the cessation of banditry on the Kisoro to Kabale road traversing the north of the forest. Incidents have re-occurred since the war.

Effects on the larger mammals varied. Forest hunting of crop raiders was prevented, benefiting baboons and monkeys. Duiker numbers and the very few wild pig decreased and became very timid. In the Volcanoes National Park, antelope moved to the higher areas and buffalo populations increased near the Rwandan Army camp. At Mgahinga the ten resident mountain gorillas moved to the DRC. Six returned after the war.

After the departure of the RPA from Mgahinga, rangers found mines laid on tracks and large quantities of scattered ammunition. One ranger lost a leg in a mine explosion. In another incident an *Interahamwe* suspect shot and wounded a ranger. The ordnance was cleared by a special Ugandan Army team.

Gorilla tracking in Rwanda has produced substantial revenues since its inception in 1979. Ecotourism now finances the protection of the habitat and the watershed which serves 10% of Rwanda. Tourism abruptly halted after the start of hostilities in 1990. Small numbers of tourists did return but stopped completely after the genocide. Remarkably, only 17 gorillas were known to have been killed during this chaotic time, the government and rebels honouring pledges to protect the national park and its gorillas.

At Karisoke Research Station in the Volcanoes National Park, 94% of staff were robbed at some time during the war, and 69% thought work had increased the risk to their lives. At Nyungwe forest conservation project, 14% of staff believed work had increased the risk to their lives. (Staff at Nyungwe may have felt less threatened because no fighting took place there after French forces occupied the forest during Operation Turqoise.) The lack of political stability also disrupted aid to the region. The EU retracted a project for the Virunga National Park in 1991 – 2, and USAID retracted two Rwandan projects (for the Volcanoes National Park, and Nyungwe Forest).

Refugees appeared suddenly and created enormous challenges. At Virunga National Park up to 40,000 people entered the park every day, removing 410 – 770 tonnes of forest products for fuel and construction. Daily deforestation rates associated with the five camps averaged 9.1 hectares per day over the two years. During the camps' existence more than 105 km^2 of forest suffered tree cutting, of which 35 km^2 was totally cleared. Extensive areas of high diversity montane forest containing *Podocarpus milanjianus* were badly damaged. (Refugees use more firewood than locally indigenous people because of dried food and social arrangements.) Many park guards were killed, and *Interahamwe* militia hiding in the camps intimidated and looted the humanitarian organisations and terrorised refugees.

The camps' defecation zone posed a serious risk of disease transmission to wildlife. The volcanic nature of the soil exacerbated this problem, making even pit latrines a formidable task. This was compounded by the dumping of large quantities of medical waste and corpses within the park by one NGO. (The two species of gorilla which inhabit the park are both considered susceptible to human diseases.) In 1979 UNESCO declared the park a World Heritage Site. In 1994 it was forced to alter this designation to World Heritage Site in Danger.

The international aid organisations left after the refugees returned to Rwanda. Resident communities around the park were then left unsupported to cope with high unemployment and shortages of food and basic supplies.

Resettlement caused severe problems in Rwanda. In 1994 returning Tutsi exiles with cattle were resettled in the Akagera National Park. Sixty-six percent of the 2800 km^2 park was re-allocated, causing the local extinction of the roan antelope and eland. Further loss of trees and fauna resulted from resettlement at Gishwati Forest Reserve. The Volcanoes National Park was similarly threatened between 1996 and 2000 (presumably to accommodate refugees from the DRC).

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest remained unaffected by the war

until eight tourists and one park employee were murdered in 1999. At the time tourism was Uganda's second-largest foreign currency earner, about 75% of this deriving from interest in gorillas. More than half of the world's mountain gorillas live at Bwindi and the survival of the species and its habitat in Uganda were threatened by the incident. Since 1999 all visits to Ugandan national parks have been accompanied by armed soldiers, which in turn created social and ecological problems. The troops are untrained in gorilla health and behaviour, and there have been complaints from the local community about prostitution and bad debts left by posted troops. Researchers also found that their activities are restricted by their guards' time constraints. Tourist numbers have since recovered well and it is hoped that the military problems will be alleviated by the introduction of a new force trained and administered by the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

SUTROFOR – a new European masters course in sustainable tropical forestry

This two-year Master's Course in Sustainable Tropical Forestry (SUTROFOR) is a world-class programme aimed at preparing qualified graduates to deal with contemporary tropical forestry. The programme is funded by a grant from the EC Erasmus Mundus programme. The Erasmus Mundus programme is designed to foster cooperation and mobility in higher education by supporting high-quality European Masters Courses, and to promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries. The programme is offered by a five university consortium consisting of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, Copenhagen (Denmark), the University of Wales, School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences, Bangor (UK), Dresden University of Technology, Institute of International Forestry and Forest Products (Germany), the Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, Department of Tropical and Rural Forestry, Montpellier (France), and the University of Padova, College of Agriculture (Italy).

Fuelwood collection in Eastern Nepal

SUTROFOR provides opportunities for working across national and cultural borders.

The Course consists of a year of study in one of three institutions (Bangor, Copenhagen, Dresden) followed by a second study year at one of the four other institutions. The aim of the first year is to provide a thorough and broad introduction to sustainable tropical forestry. This allows students to choose freely among the five specialisation options in the second year. The first year ends with the Joint Summer Module including field work in a tropical country. Specialisation options in the second year are agroforestry systems (Bangor), socio-economics of tropical forestry (Copenhagen), tropical forest management (Dresden), environmental management and policies for tropical forests (Montpellier), or ethics and responsible trade in tropical forest products and services (Padova).

The main language of instruction is English with a French option in Montpelier. Local language courses are available at all the partner institutions. Total student population is expected to be 150 (75 per year) giving a ratio of 5 students to every one faculty member. The teaching staff is very active in research and students profit from their global expertise.

The SUTROFOR Course offers an integrated study programme with a resulting double degree that is fully recognised in all the participating countries. Selection requires a strong Bachelor's degree, the applicant's CV, documentation of proficiency in English (and French if choosing Montpellier), the applicant's personal statement of motivation, and recommendations from two references. There is a 1 June 2006 deadline for EU/EEA-EFTA nationals and 1 February 2007 deadline for third country students. 25 two-year scholarships of €21,000/ year are available for the latter.

Morag McDonald
Lecturer
School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences
University of Wales, Bangor

Planted Forest Code

A Planted Forest Code has been drafted by FAO, which is now available for comment by foresters.

Although planted forests are estimated to account for only about seven percent of global forest cover, they provided about 35 percent of the global, industrial roundwood supply in 2000, and today could account for about 50% of that supply. This is projected to increase still further in the foreseeable future.

The Code is intended to be a voluntary instrument aimed primarily at Governments and investors (public and private sector), policy makers and planners. The Code covers the planted forest component of semi-natural forests and plantation forests, and considers planning, management and monitoring activities for both productive and protective functions.

The core of the Code is a section describing the guiding Principles for policy, legal, regulatory and other enabling conditions, which thus provide a framework for responsible planning, management and monitoring of planted forests.

The draft Code is available at http://www.fao.org/forestry/plantedforestscode Comments should be sent to Planted-Forests-Code@fao.org

Jim Ball
CFA Chair

Rwenzori Mountains

In June and July 1906, one hundred years ago, the Luigi Amedeo di Savoy, Duke of Abruzzi [1873 - 1933] and his expedition were the first Europeans to climb and explore the Rwenzori Mountains (the "Mountains of the Moon") in Uganda.

The Duke was a fascinating man and intrepid explorer. You can find our more about him and his Italian companions, and about the celebrations that are planned for the centenary of their ascent in Uganda and in Italy at the website http://www.rwenzoriabruzzi.com/contacts.html

Henry Osmaston, a former forest officer in Uganda and long-time member of the CFA, has revised his „Guide to the Rwenzori„ (250pp. available from West Col Productions) which will be published to mark this occasion.

Jim Ball
CFA Chair

Addendum – It is with great sadness that the CFA received notice of Henry Osmaston's death in late June. An obituary will be published in a forthcoming issue of the International Forestry Review.

Around the world

Anti-logging activist wins award

A campaigner who risked his own safety to expose illegal logging operations in Liberia has been recognised with a prestigious environmental award. Silas Siakor, 36, has won a Goldman Environmental Prize for his efforts, which resulted in the UN banning the export of Liberian timber. The awards are described as "the Nobel Prize for grassroots environmentalism".

Working for the Liberian environmental group Save My Future Foundation (Samfu), Mr Siakor revealed in 2002 that President Charles Taylor's regime was selling off the nation's forests to timber companies. It is understood that warring factions in the region turned to logging after the trade in so-called "blood diamonds" became subject to UN sanctions. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep), illegal logging during the 14 years of civil war had reduced the nation's forest cover by almost one fifth.

Mr Siakor worked alongside industry contacts and fellow campaigners to gather a dossier of evidence showing the full extent of the illegal logging, corruption and human rights abuses that was fuelling the civil war. What started as a simple exchange of material amongst a small group of people soon formed the basis of a report which caught the attention of the international community. "In 2002, we decided that we needed a change in strategy," Mr Siakor said. "We knew that the personal touch would have an impact on international policy. When we published the report it was being quoted more and more within the international debate, and the Liberian Government came under increasing pressure to act," he added.

The publicity surrounding the report angered the government. Evidence contained in the report had led to the UN Security Council banning the export of timber from Liberia, which had an impact on the funds available to the warring factions in the civil war.

"At one point, President Taylor himself referred to the report on national radio," Mr Siakor recalled. "He said that the people who were responsible for the report would be in very big trouble if he got his hands on them." The president's warning, combined with a summons to appear before the nation's Senate, led to Mr Siakor's colleagues advising him to leave Liberia for a period of exile spent in several neighbouring countries.

In August 2003, Charles Taylor himself fled, handing power to his deputy. Soon after, UN peacekeepers arrived in Liberia. Mr Taylor would eventually face trial for crimes against humanity during the civil war which saw more than 250,000

people killed.

Towards the end of 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf became president, the first woman to be elected as an African head of state. She cancelled all previous timber concessions made by the previous government and has promised to carry out a series of reforms. However, this is not the end of the road for Mr Siakor. The international sanctions on timber exports are set to be lifted in June.

As director of the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), he published a report in January outlining the sort of reforms he feels need to be carried out in order to protect the long term future of Liberia's forests and the wildlife that depends upon them. Mr Siakor hopes that winning the Goldman Environmental Prize will encourage others to follow in his footsteps. "I would like to see more and more local people take on these issues," he said. "We are going to need people who will insist that the rate we extract these natural resources must allow for natural regeneration. "What we are doing now within the SDI is to support more grassroot involvement, a social momentum, that will take on this sort of campaign. If people are empowered to actively engage with the government, I strongly believe that this will be good for overall political governance."

www.news.bbc.co.uk

Conservation in tropical forests

An environmental leadership and training program to promote biodiversity conservation in tropical forests in Asia and Central and South America has been established at Yale University with a $4.8 million gift from the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund.

The worldwide environmental crisis reflects deep disparities in the capacities of nations, institutions, communities and individuals to develop and implement solutions that sustain both human societies and the biosphere, said Mark Ashton, one of the program's principal investigators and professor of silviculture and forest ecology at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES). The future success of conservation efforts requires a major enhancement of social capital in the developing world. The program's other principal investigators are Lisa Curran, associate professor of tropical resources; Amity Doolittle, lecturer and program director of the Tropical Resources Institute; and Brad Gentry, senior lecturer in sustainable investments.

The Tropical Resources Institute at F&ES, in partnership with the Center for Tropical Forest Science of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, will coordinate the program, which will build the environmental conservation and management capacity of individuals, communities and institutions in regions of high biological diversity in tropical forests.

The program will focus on the training of field workers in conservation, park managers, officials concerned with energy, infrastructure services and natural resources, and environmental policy makers and community leaders. Short courses, workshops and field trips will take place at the program's principal sites in Panama City and Singapore, where Yale and the Smithsonian already work together, as well as at field sites in South and Southeast Asian and Central and South American regions.

With the support of the Rausing Charitable Gift Fund, we will be able, for the first time, to develop and offer a systematic, integrated program of training and education in the tropics, building on our existing relations with the Smithsonian Institution and forging new relationships within each region, said Gus Speth, dean of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

Based in London, the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund supports activities of high scholarly, cultural or social worth. The fund's principal trustees are Lisbet Rausing, a historian and a research fellow of Imperial College in London, and Peter Baldwin, a professor of history at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies is a graduate and professional school that provides teaching, research and outreach in broad areas of environmental policy, science and management to some 200 candidates for masters degrees and 75 doctoral students.

Janette Bulkan
CFA Governing Council, Guyana

Forestry at the heart of biomass response in UK

In April, the GB Forestry Commission welcomed the announcement by DTI and Defra of the Government's response to the Biomass Task Force report. The response sets out an action plan to unlock the potential for renewable energy from organic materials, including wood.

One of the areas highlighted by the report is the potential for a sustainable biomass supply from existing woodlands. The Forestry Commission in England has been asked to prepare a strategy and implementation plan to take this forward. This will involve working with the private sector and Regional Development Agencies to progressively deliver an additional 2 million tonnes a year from existing woodland. This work could help support a major increase in woodland management activity across England.

In Scotland and Wales, the Commission is also working closely with the devolved administrations, and with the private sector, to ensure that woodfuel has its proper place in the delivery of renewable energy strategies.

The Commission will also, through its research agency, Forest Research, develop a one-stop-shop resource for expert information and advice on biomass - the Biomass Energy Centre. This is a natural extension of its role in carrying out research and collecting data to develop best practice for industry and the public.

Professor Jim Lynch, the Chief Executive of Forest Research, said: "Clearly the potential contribution of woodfuel to meeting energy needs is something on which we have been working closely with our colleagues in UK government and the devolved administrations. This response gives us another opportunity and remit to take this forward. Forest Research has already created a Woodfuel Research Centre, which brings together some of our key research projects in this field, and

co-ordinates work in this ever-expanding area of interest.

"We feel there are real solutions here, and have seen the efficiency and effectiveness of woodfuels in projects up and down Britain. Clearly there are some strong challenges ahead for us in delivering these strands of work, but this report confirms our direction and mandate to continue our work developing biomass opportunities, and having done research on biomass utilization personally over many years I am delighted to be associated with the creation of the Biomass Energy Centre"

GB Forestry Commission

Forget a better mousetrap: save the forest

The most cost-effective way to stop non-native rats and mongoose from decimating highly endangered species on larger tropical islands is not by intensive trapping, but instead by preserving the forest blocks where wildlife live, according to a study by the Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and other groups.

The study, which appears in the latest issue of the journal Conservation Biology, found that rats and mongoose in the Fiji Islands rarely penetrate the forest interior, preferring instead to forage along the forest edges.

The study holds potential good news for species like the pink-billed parrotfinch, banded iguana and Fijian land snails which live deep within Fiji's remaining forests. By using bait stations designed to attract rats and mongoose, the researchers discovered that stations over five kilometers (approximately three miles) from the forest edge were rarely visited.

"Protection of the few remaining large blocks of natural forests on Pacific islands may be the most cost-effective approach for conserving many rare species threatened by rats and mongooses," said WCS researcher David Olson, lead author of the study.

Though the authors are unsure on exactly why rats and mongoose seem to shy away from deep forests, they theorize that natural forests have poorer habitats for reproduction for these invasive species than agricultural areas or secondary forests.

The authors warn that even low levels of rat and mongoose penetration into forest areas can be sufficient over time to cause the decline of native species. Also, the occurrence of logging roads or even the proximity to rivers can allow rats and mongoose to colonize areas where endangered species occur.

"Remote forest areas that function as refuges for threatened island species are increasingly rare and should receive the highest priority for conservation on the larger islands of the Pacific," said David Olson, who said that similar forests exist in Vanuatu, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Hawaii and tropical islands in the Caribbean. Authors from the University of the South Pacific also contributed to the study.

www.innovations-report.de

Heart of Borneo: medical treasure trove at risk

Plants that could help treat or cure diseases such as cancer, AIDS and malaria have been found in the forests of the heart of Borneo, according to a new WWF report. But the global conservation organization says this medical treasure trove is threatened and calls for its long-term protection. The report reveals that scientists are currently testing samples collected in the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, as well as in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo. They hope to develop drugs that could contribute to the treatment of major, deadly human diseases.

According to the report, Cerylid Biosciences – an Australian pharmaceutical company – has identified a promising anticancer substance in a shrub found in Sarawak. A compound present in the plant *Aglaia leptantha* has been found to effectively kill 20 kinds of human cancer cells in laboratory tests, including those that cause brain and breast cancer, and melanoma. "The fact that the compound is very effective against a number of tumour cells, presents a very good argument for preserving the plant's habitat in Borneo," said Dr Murray Tait, Vice President of Drug Discovery at Cerylid Biosciences. "More forest destruction could well deny science the opportunity to discover and develop further potential sources of life-saving medication."

Scientists also found a unique chemical in latex produced by the Bintangor tree. The compound, *Calanolide A*, appears to be effective against the replication of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), as well as the tuberculosis bacterium, which affects many AIDS patients. The discovery is particularly important as, to date, no single drug has been able to treat both HIV and TB. If clinically proven, *Calanolide A* could be a major development for the health of many millions of people worldwide.

The report further says that researchers found a powerful and previously unknown anti-malarial agent in the bark of a local tree traditionally used by the Kenyah people of Kalimantan to treat malaria. The substance – a triterpenoid – apparently kills the human malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* in laboratory tests.

According to WWF, 422 new plant species have been discovered in Borneo in the last 25 years, and many other species are waiting to be found and studied, some of them could hold potentially important medical properties. However, the global conservation organization warns that all these promising discoveries could be eventually lost if the disappearing rainforests of the heart of Borneo are not adequately protected.

"It takes a long time before a substance found in a plant can be developed as an efficient drug and used by doctors," said Dr. Menno Schilthuizen, an associate professor with the University Malaysia Sabah and the author of the report. "I believe that hundreds of plants have been screened, dozens of compounds have been identified, but only a few of them are

now clinically tested."

Indigenous peoples such as the Kenyah can also potentially benefit from the development of drugs based on their traditional knowledge. The Convention on Biological Diversity, to which Indonesia and Malaysia are both parties, stipulates that indigenous communities should approve of the use of their traditional knowledge and that any benefits from its use should be shared equitably with them. The Convention also recognizes the sovereign rights of States over their genetic resources so that the development of drugs or other uses are subject to the laws of the country of origin.

Today, only half of Borneo's forest cover remains, down from 75 per cent in the mid 1980s. But the three Bornean governments – Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia – have recently launched the Heart of Borneo initiative, which aims to preserve approximately 220,000km^2 of equatorial forests and numerous wildlife species.

"We hope that the Bornean governments will sign a tri-country Declaration for the Heart of Borneo very soon," said Mike Kavanagh, Chief Executive Director of WWF-Malaysia. "Such a declaration would ensure long-term protection to a region which might contain some of tomorrow's most significant medical discoveries."

WWF

International Year of Forests, 2010

The sixth session of the UN Forum on Forests decided to recommend that the UN General Assembly proclaim 2010 as the International Year of Forests. The initiative, sponsored by the Government of the Republic of Croatia, seeks to promote renewed national efforts to bring forest issues to the attention of key national actors, with the aim of working toward achieving the internationally agreed goals and targets set at global conferences.

www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/newsletters/2006/03-04

Less logging on private land 'key to saving Amazon'

Unless Brazil enforces existing conservation laws and takes steps to prevent deforestation on private land, it will lose more then 40 per cent of its Amazon rainforest by 2050, say scientists. The predictions, published in *Nature*, (24 March) are among the first to emerge from a unique, large-scale study that is using computer models to simulate how factors such as logging, farming, climate and policy decisions could affect the future of the forest.

The models predict that unless Brazil takes action, eight of the Amazon basin's twelve main watersheds will lose more than half of their forest, increasing the risk of flooding. They also suggest that almost 100 of the region's wild mammal species could lose more than half of their habitat.

The news is not all bad, however, says lead author Britaldo Soares-Filho of the Federal University of Minas Gerais State, Brazil. The study predicts that if Brazil puts in place measures to protect the Amazon, as much as 73 per cent of it could remain intact in 2050. To achieve this, Brazil would need to enforce existing laws and prevent the loss of rainforest on private land by creating economic incentives for farmers to manage their land sustainably. As well as protecting watersheds and conserving biodiversity, this would prevent 17 billion tonnes of carbon being released into the atmosphere by 2050, say the researchers. Under the model's optimistic scenario, the Amazon would still have 4.5 million square kilometres of living forest in 2050, Soares-Filho told SciDev. Net. Currently, the Brazilian Amazon covers 5.3 million square kilometres.

Brazil is making increasing efforts to control deforestation, and to set up more than 70,000 square kilometres of new conservation areas that were designated in 2004 and 2005. But, says Soares-Filho, this is not enough as most areas at risk are on private land that could be profitably deforested for timber or to farm cattle or soybeans.

The researchers say that ways of encouraging farmers to manage their forested land sustainably could include certification schemes that reward environmentally sound timber production, or a carbon trading scheme to reward avoided greenhouse gas emissions.

www.scidev.net

New Head of the FAO Forestry Department appointed

Mr. Jan Erik Heino of Finland has been appointed the new Head of the FAO Forestry Department. Mr. Heino has a Master's degree in Forestry and Nature Conservation from Helsinki University and has undertaken post-graduate education in Nordic countries, Germany and Belgium. He is a former Director-General of the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Finland, and currently Director-General of Metsahallitus, the Finnish State Forest Enterprise. He will take up his new appointment on June 29.

FAO

Protective afforestation campaign plans 50 000 ha of new forest in Vietnam

The national afforestation programmes along the coastline have made substantial achievements, with nearly 50,000ha planted, said the Forestry Department.

Central northern and southern coastal provinces have contributed the most to the new forest coverage with 11,000 to 17,200 hectares, effectively protecting the local villages and sea dykes as a shield against flood tides and sand encroachment into the land.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is pushing up its coordination with the authorities and relevant agencies of coastal provinces for a „National protective forests development programme" that calls for joint efforts from the State and the people. MARD expects that an additional 41,000ha will be planted in the 2006-2010 period.

A recent survey on 28 coastal cities and provinces along the country showed that the total acreage exposed to tidal waves, flood tides and sand storms accounts for only 4 percent of the country's land, yet houses up to 15 percent of the nation's population.

Previous storms have caused serious damage to coastal regions, from northern Hai Phong city, Thai Binh and Nam Dinh provines to the central provinces of Thanh Hoa and Nghe An. Such localities, where flood tides have also led to farmland salination which is heavily detrimental to agricultural production, are more in need of protective forests than ever.

www.vnagency.com.vn

Rainforests 'still at great risk'

Most of the world's managed rainforests are still in great jeopardy with only 5% being treated in a sustainable way, a new report has said. Each year 12m hectares of the forests are cleared for agriculture and other development, the International Tropical Timber Organisation report says. Forests will continue to be lost unless there is better management, it adds. But it also points to many improvements and says an area about the size of Germany is now being well managed.

The report surveyed 814 million hectares (two billion acres) of rainforest designated by governments in 33 nations as being under sustainable management. It says in addition to agriculture and development problems, millions more hectares are being degraded through illegal logging and poor land use.

The report, *Status of Tropical Forest Management 2005*, says there has been a collective failure to understand that forests can generate considerable economic value without being destroyed. In countries like Nigeria and the Philippines there is now relatively little natural forest left, the report says. In other countries like Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, progress to protect the rainforests has been disrupted by armed conflicts. Too often, say the authors, government promises to protect these tropical forests have not been matched by actions on the ground.

On the plus side, the report says in countries like Bolivia, Ghana and Brazil notable improvements have been made to develop sustainable practices such as harvesting timber in a way that does not destroy the forest. Report co-author Duncan Poore said there was "good news" but it was "very fragile". "It is a starting point. It shows where things ought to go. But there is no knowing if they will," he said.

Another author, Alastair Sarre, said it was a major improvement that 36m hectares of rainforest were now being properly managed compared to less than one million in 1988.

www.news.bbc.co.uk

The truth about Tasmania's Sustainable Forest Management

The March 2006 CFA Newsletter contained an article from the Rainforest Action Network that criticised forest management and democracy in Tasmania. Unfortunately, this article totally misrepresents the actual situation in Tasmania.

The Australian chapter of Rainforest Action Network, which does not have a large following in Australia, appears quite content to misrepresent the truth in order to further their cause. For example, it is not IUCN International that undertook a systematic study of global forestry practices, but a branch of IUCN in the Netherlands, which produced the report, which conveniently failed to mention any of the widely published facts about conservation of Tasmania's forests.

Contrary to the view expressed by Rainforest Action Network, democracy is alive and well in Australia. Australia's forest policies, particularly the management of Tasmania's forests, were debated publicly during the 2004 Australian election and again in 2006 in the Tasmanian state election campaign. During the 2004 national election campaign, both major parties had different policies on further protection of Tasmania's old growth forests and in the end the conservative Coalition won Tasmania seats previously held by Labor, because its policy both increased conservation outcomes and guaranteed the protection of forest industry jobs. The Tasmanian state Labor government subsequently won the

2006 state election based on its commitment to the Tasmanian Community Forestry Agreement, described below. These electoral outcomes for otherwise opposing political parties clearly demonstrate that the majority of the Australian public supports the national and state Governments' approach towards balancing economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable forest management.

Following the 2004 election, the Australian and Tasmanian governments negotiated the Tasmanian Community Forestry Agreement, which establishes the programs to increase protection of Tasmanian forests and secure jobs. This Agreement includes A$250 million of funding to revitalise the forest industries, increase the productive capacity of the forests and facilitate conservation and tourism outcomes. There are programs to support investment in new forest industry technologies, intensive management of regrowth native forests and plantations, very significant reductions in clearfelling of old growth forests, phasing out of the use of 1080 poison to control browsing animals, investment in forest tourism, and timelines to phase out clearing of native forests and conserve important private forests.

The major components of sustainable forest management system are those that were jointly agreed by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments in the 1998 Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement and further enhanced by the 2005 Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement. Contrary to the view expressed by the Rainforest Action Network, Tasmania's old growth forests are extremely well protected. Under the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement, about 170,000 hectares of additional old growth forests have been reserved. The new reserves mean that 45% of Tasmania's entire native forest estate, one million hectares or 80% of the 1996 extent of old growth forest area, and 97% of high quality wilderness, are now fully protected in conservation reserves.

These significant sustainable forest management achievements in Tasmania far exceed those in any equivalent forested area around the world. It is most unfortunate that the Rainforest Action Network continues to misrepresent the facts to suit its own political agenda.

Tony Bartlett
CFA Governing Council, Australia

Marcus Wallenberg Prize 2006

The Marcus Wallenberg Foundation proudly announces that the Marcus Wallenberg Prize for 2006 has been awarded to the French forest geneticist, Dr Antoine Kremer, for his path-breaking discovery of the evolution, organization and distribution of the genetic diversity of Pan-European oaks that will act as an outstanding model for the study of all other species.

The value of the Prize is 2 million Swedish crowns and the Prize will be presented by His Majesty, the King of Sweden, at a ceremony in Stockholm on Thursday 28 September 2006. The ceremony will be followed by a symposium around the subject of the Prize-winner and its impact on the forest and forest products industries.

The annual Prize was established in 1980 to acknowledge the lifetime activities and the memory of Marcus Wallenberg, the late Chairman of Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB (now Stora Enso). Each year the Prize recognizes a single breakthrough research achievement of one scientist or a small group of collaborating scientists. In the view of the Prize Selection Committee and the Board of the Foundation, the selected breakthrough will have a significant effect on the industries. While rewarding the winner, the Prize is also intended to stimulate further research around the world.

Dr Antoine Kremer has worked for 28 years with the French national research organization, INRA, and has been a leader in both national and international research groups. His breakthrough is in the combination of information from a number of different sciences at their current state-of-the-art level (from molecular genetics to evolutionary history of forests) to develop new knowledge about oaks at a continental scale. This knowledge will provide a major platform to facilitate decisions about the conservation and management of forests. It also allows prediction of likely future changes under the impact of climate and other environmental changes.

Dr Kremer's individual researches and synthesis may be applicable to other species throughout the world including industrial indigenous conifers such as those in northern Russia. The techniques will also have relevance to the introduction, management, improvement and use of exotic species elsewhere. The award of the Prize recognizes Dr Kremer as an outstanding scientist and his work as a major contribution to human understanding, resource conservation and industrial development.

Marcus Wallenberg Foundation
www.mwp.org

World's largest FSC tropical forest certified in Guyana

In a record-setting accomplishment for tropical forest conservation in South America, a timber company has announced that 570,000ha of its forests in Guyana will be certified after meeting the rigorous environmental, social, and economic standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). With technical and financial support from WWF, the tracts of forests owned by the Barama Company Ltd become the largest tropical natural forest certified by FSC in the world.

"With this milestone, Barama not only serves as a catalyst for improved forest management systems in the Guianas but also ensures that the fragile tropical ecosystem is effectively and efficiently utilized by the company so that the national patrimony is protected for the benefit of present and future generations," said Dr Patrick Williams, a programme officer with WWF Guyana.

Support from WWF included training forestry staff in reduced impact logging practices, improving factory safety operations, and reviewing the company's performance against

the rigorous standards set by the FSC.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, non-profit organization that provides standard setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services to companies and organizations interested in responsible forestry. Founded in 1993 by a diverse group of stakeholders, including WWF, FSC's mission is to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

"The FSC certification enables Barama not only to retain access to its current markets in the United States, but it opens the door to new buyers in Europe and North America that demand forest products from well managed forests," said Girwar Lalaram, Barama's General Manager. „At the same time, it guarantees that Barama will continue fulfilling its social and economic responsibilities to the Guyanese nation."

In a country with high unemployment rates, Barama employs at least 1,500 people, benefiting some 5,000 family members. Before certification, the company was in danger of down-sizing its operations and reducing its employment levels. Today, Barama's expansion plan forecasts increasing employment in the area.

"This is very important for Guyana and for the wider area," said Guyana's Forests Commissioner James Singh. "It's a good example of how good social and environmental practices can improve business as a whole. We hope that Barama's certification serves as an impetus for other companies to follow and also for the development of the national standards embarked upon by the Guyana National Initiative for Forest Certification."

According to WWF, this has been a win-win situation for the Barama Company and for the local people. While the forest company strengthened its relations with current buyers by seeking forest certification, employees benefit from a better work environment. For instance, people working on the concession are allowed to establish their own team of workers. In addition, Barama provides social services for communities around the concession such as health services, medicines, transportation in an out of remote areas and emergency assistance.

The Barama Company certified concession is located in the west-central portion of Guyana, in the northern outer limits of the Amazon forest in the Guiana Shield, occupying primarily the Cuyuni River Basin. The company has been in operation for over 15 years. Its main product has been plywood for export markets in the US and the Caribbean.

WWF

COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

CFA Membership Application Form

Please note that membership is for a calendar year not for 12 months from the time of joining (e.g. Someone joining in October would receive the journal and newsletter for March, June and September of the year when they joined. They would then be entitled to receive the December journal and newsletter when they were published). Membership is available to anyone interested in forestry.

Annual subscriptions

Membership category *(circle as appropriate)*

Category	Cost (£)	Membership benefits			
		Membership of CFA	CFN (HC)	IFR (HC)	IFR online
Student	10	✓	✓		✓
Student plus	25	✓	✓	✓	✓
Developing country	10	✓	✓		✓
Developing country plus	25	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ordinary	50	✓	✓		✓
Ordinary plus	65	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family	75	✓	✓	✓	✓
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IFR = International Forestry Review, CFN = Commonwealth Forestry News, HC = hard copy
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