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Editor's Column

It is a great honour for me to take over the editorship of the Commonwealth Forestry News. Having been an avid reader since its inception I have valued the news it contains and greatly admired the way Philip Wardle blended reports of CFA activities with affairs of international interest. He will be a hard act to follow, but I will do my best.

The newsletter will retain the features that have become the hallmark of its success but I will also be introducing new ideas over time, such as the *Profiles* section in this issue which tells us a bit more about some of our members, and the *Student Notes* provided by our Youth Officer. I will greatly appreciate your feedback on specific or general issues. Remember this is your newsletter and I am happy to discuss with you how you feel it can best serve our membership so please feel free to get in touch.

As I am sure you know, the Commonwealth Forestry Conference is almost upon us and I hope that many of you will be able to make it to Sri Lanka to see the excellent range of presentations on general theme of *Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction*. The CFA plays a key role in the organisation of the Conference as part of the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry. In this role we have been working closely with the organisers and the UK Forestry Commission to select the best range of speakers, both voluntary and invited, in order to ensure that participants are treated to an experience that we hope will be both challenging and enjoyable.

The CFA has another special role at the Conference, to administer grants to participants from developing countries

who would otherwise not be able to attend. The generosity of DFID, the Government of New Zealand and the Commonwealth Foundation to support these individuals has meant that we will be able to assist about 50 participants many of whom will be presenting papers. More information about the Conference is available inside this issue and on our website at www.cfa-international.org

Many members have encouraged me over the past couple of years develop professional training opportunities within the CFA. As a result the Association has initiated the Young Forester Award and Young Scientist Publication Award but more recently we have been looking at the potential to provide more intensive training programmes. An outcome of these discussions was the recent CFA workshop on Non-Timber Forest Products held at the Eden Project, UK, in early December, which was designed as a follow-on to last year's popular special issue of the International Forestry Review on the same subject. The workshop was very successful (a report is contained in this issue) and confirms our view that we can provide high quality training opportunities for our members. Please contact the CFA if you have ideas on new training initiatives that you feel we could initiate or support.

I will welcome your comments on the content of the Commonwealth Forestry News and please feel free to contribute articles which you feel may be of interest to our readership.

Alan Pottinger
Editor

The international newsletter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association

'To promote the well-being of the world's forests and all who benefit from them'

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Association News

AGM 2005 and Side Event at the Commonwealth Forestry Conference

The joint Meeting of the Governing Council and the 83rd Annual General Meeting of the CFA to be held at 1900hrs on Monday 28th February, 2005 at the Commonwealth Forestry Conference, Sri Lanka. This will be preceded by a reception hosted by the UK Forestry Commission.

AGENDA FOR THE AGM

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 21st May, 2004
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports
 - 4.1. Chairman
 - 4.2. Technical Director
 - 4.3. Regions
 - 4.4. National Branches
5. Finances
 - 5.1. Account 2004
 - 5.2. Budget 2005
6. CFA Publications
 - 6.1. Report from the CFA Publications Committee
 - 6.2. Report on the International Forestry Review
 - 6.3. Report on the Commonwealth Forestry News

7. Association's Awards
 - 7.1. Regional Awards of Excellence
 - 7.2. Young Forester Award
 - 7.3. Young Scientist Publication Award
8. Election of Officers
 - 8.1. President
 - 8.2. Chairman
 - 8.3. Vice-Chairman
 - 8.4. Governing Council
 - 8.5. Treasurer
 - 8.6. Re-appointment of Auditor
9. Proposed CFA strategy
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of next AGM

Please send nominations for Governing Council to the Secretariat at the address on page 1. The CFA will also be hosting a special Side Event at the Conference on 3rd March entitled **Strengthening the role of forestry in civil society**. All CFA members attending the Conference are urged to come along and participate in what should be a lively discussion.

Commonwealth Forestry Conference 2005

17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference: Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction

The Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry has been working closely with the Forest Department in Sri Lanka to prepare for the 17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference. This will be hosted by Sri Lanka in Colombo from 28 February to 5 March 2005, with the overall theme of *Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction*, which should make for a very interesting week.

The Conference will be structured around four daily themes, each supported by a broad range of invited speakers from around the world, plenary panel discussions and parallel group sessions:

- The Changing World – and the challenge of poverty reduction
- Governance – for optimising forestry's contribution to poverty reduction
- Forest Goods and Services – securing what is needed for poverty reduction
- Stakeholders – developing vision and working together for poverty reduction

Information booklets have now been mailed out, giving full details of the Conference programme, themes, tours, registration and practical arrangements. The information and forms are also available on the Conference website (www.commonwealthforestry.org), or through the Commonwealth Forestry Association website (www.cfa-international.org)

For further information, please contact either:



The Conference Organiser
17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference
315 Vauxhall Street
Colombo 2
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 2300589
Fax: +94 11 2331816
Email: info@commonwealthforestry.org
Atc@aitkenspencke.lk

Or:

Conservator General of Forests
Forest Department
82 Rajamalwatta Road
Battaramulla
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 2866616
Fax: +94 11 2866633
Email: forlib@sltnet.lk

Finally, as many of you will know, the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry has a new Chairman. Tim Rollinson has settled into his new role having succeeded David Bills as Director General of the Forestry Commission in Great Britain earlier this year.

Libby Jones
Secretary, Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry

CFA national and international news

SOUTH AFRICA

South African National Branch



The South African National Branch became a reality about 3 years ago, during the time when Julian Evans was Chairman of the Association. A special arrangement was made between the CFA and the Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) for the latter organisation to act as a local Secretariat. This resulted in a rush of Institute members becoming CFA members, so that the South Africa was the third largest Chapter of the Commonwealth.

Subsequent problems with the postal service has meant that delivery of the International Forestry Review and the newsletter were severely hampered with the result that membership numbers have since declined. This is currently being addressed through collaboration with the CFA Secretariat.

The South African CFA committee under leadership of Mr Mike Edwards met on 22 September 2004 to discuss CFA matters. On the above it was decided to canvass the remaining 40 members about it being acceptable to receive the International Forestry Review via the internet only, so that only the Newsletters be sent from England to here. It was also decided to close the separate (expensive) CFA bank account, and include financial transactions under the SAIF.

Members and government will be encourage to attend the CFA Conference in Sri Lanka. Mike Edwards has already been asked to submit a paper, and after the meeting visited the forestry leadership in government to invite them to the CFA, and to invite them to donate money to further the CFA aims.

One of the senior SAIF members, Mr David Gevisser, will be attending a two-year course in Classical History at St. Anthony College in Oxford. He has agreed to serve as our CFA representative and contact during that period.

The CFA South Africa committee is also keen to investigate another Southern African student or lecturer exchange under CFA banners, and is inviting nominations for the CFA Regional Award for 2005. CFA members/office bearers from outside South Africa are kindly requested to advice the CFA South African Chapter in advance, so that suitable meetings can be arranged to fly the CFA flag in South Africa.

Dick van der Zel
Secretary, South African National Branch

ZAMBIA

Zambian National Branch

The Zambian National Branch is currently carrying out a wide range of activities which are summarised below.

Book publication

The book *Zambian Plants, Botany, Nomenclature and Various Uses* is now complete and plans are underway for publication in early 2005.

'Catching the Culture of Food' cook of the year competition

Catching the Culture of Food was a competition organised by the CFA Zambia to try and demonstrate the fact that forests and their respective habitats are home to a variety of foods and fruits on which many rural dwellers have survived and continue to do so. A total of nine competitors from all of Zambia's nine provinces took to show case the variety Zambia's foods.

Prizes included the first, Second and third category and were sponsored by Shoprite Checkers, Ministry of Community Development and Social Security, The University of Zambia, Lusaka National Museum, CFA Zambia.

The criteria used for judging included type of recipe/cuisine, method of preparation, ingredients, and nutritional value.

Validating phytomedicines

Following the highly successful CFA science symposium on January 8 – 9 2004 the Government, through the National Aids Council (NAC), invited the CFA to be part of a stakeholder consultative meeting that was designed to find out ways and means to begin the search for curative or immune boosting antidotes.

'My Family Tree'

'My Family Tree' is a children's drawing book, published in 2004, illustrating foods mostly derived from forestry resources. It was produced as a joint effort of the CFA Zambia, Lusaka Natural Museum and the Curriculum Development Centre.

Partnership programme with Ecopartnership on greening cemeteries in Zambia

Ecopartnerships is a UK-based charity whose objectives includes partnering efforts to 'green' naturally depleted areas. Recently, Mr. Donald Boddy of Ecopartnerships paid CFA members a visit at the invitation of the Lusaka Nation National Museum and Green Leaf. Various areas of cooperation were explored one of which included the sector to start planting trees in graveyards/cemeteries as well as impoverished areas which were once thriving on agriculture but are now abandoned.

Study tour sharing experiences on Poverty Reduction and Government Commitments in the East and Southern African Region

The CFA was invited to join a group of three organisations to visit Malawi and Uganda in order to make an assessment of workable and unworkable measures and policies being employed by respective governments in their attempts to implement the poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The study tour took place in August 2004 and the government of the Republic of Zambia has since been informed of the results through the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction to which CFA Zambia is a member.

Constitutional Review Commission

The Government of Zambia is currently making efforts to develop a people's driven constitution. As a concerned party in national development programmes, the CFA Zambia through the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction, emphasised the fact that the Government should include fiscal management of natural resources in the constitution and prioritise areas such as governance, food security, forest, agriculture and rural development.

TV panel discussion

CFA Zambia participated in a TV Panel Discussion (Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation) on foods derived from forests. This was beamed nationwide and we used this opportunity to demonstrate our conviction that forests and their habitats have been the sole provider of food resources for the majority of Zambians and therefore deserves recognition. The programme opened up a wider debate on the challenges that this development poses and stimulated sector wide responses.

International Forestry Student's Association (IFSA)

Our interest in accessing varying experience and expertise from international organisations came to fruition when IFSA finally placed our call for exchange programmes on their website. We hope that, resources allowing, different students will come to Zambia to help begin a long-term programme for forestry and vegetation inventory.

Palm oil

The people Living along the Luapula River corridor have an age-old tradition of extracting oil from the palm tree. The oil is locally known as Chinkodya. Research findings have noted that the oil is highly nutritious and can be used in a variety of ways. As a result, CFA Zambia has began a project to start processing oil palm seed into an oil using indigenous knowledge from community groups that have been formed specially for this purpose. Returns from such economic activities will be used by women to pay for their children's school fees and as well as meet household requirements.

Victor Kawanga
Chair, Zambia National Branch

UK

Beyond Wood: the value of non-timber forest products

A workshop for young foresters held at the Eden Project, Cornwall, UK 2-5 December 2004



Harvesting Pita in Oaxaca, Mexico (Elaine Marshall)

Sponsors

- Sponsors Scottish Forestry Trust
- Commonwealth Forestry Association
- Eden projects
- International Forestry Students Association
- Tropical Forest Resource Group
- Woodland Trust

Background

Over 150 non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as roots, bark, fruit, latex and fungi, are collected and traded by forest-dwelling people throughout the world. In many countries these resources are critical, especially for the rural poor and women, and may provide them with their only source of personal income, medicine, construction material, and dietary variety. In contrast, in other

countries the potential of NTFPs to provide income and maintain indigenous knowledge remains largely under-exploited. However, there remain differences of opinion concerning the best way to utilise NTFPs to improve the livelihoods of rural poor, whilst protecting biodiversity and ensuring sustainability. This presents a challenge to forest managers, ecologists, socio-economists and policy level decision makers.



Collecting bacaba (Oenocarpus bacaba), Brazil (Mary Menton)

Objectives

The workshop was designed to increase awareness amongst young foresters (both students and young professionals) of the importance of NTFPs and the complex nature of their conservation, development and utilisation.



Collecting bacaba (Oenocarpus bacaba), Brazil (Mary Menton)

It was envisaged that lessons learned will enable these forest managers of the future to give a high priority to responsible and sustainable forest management, give due concern to the people who depend on the forest for their livelihood and open up new resources to communities and First Nations.

The workshop

Thirty participants and trainers from eight countries (UK, Malawi, Uganda, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, France and Australia) gathered at the Eden Project in Cornwall, UK, between 2nd and 5th December, 2004, to listen to presentations, exchange information and debate key issues related to NTFP conservation, research, development and utilization. Speakers from both developed and developing countries were able to provide a global perspective on the challenges and opportunities surrounding NTFPs.

Jenny Wong, from Wild Resources, provided an overview of the NTFP sector covering definitions, production systems, the role of NTFPs in development and concluded with a categorization of management strategies. This was followed by Wilson Kasolo, a PhD student from SAFS in Bangor, who presented his views on maximizing socio-economic and conservation benefits from NTFPs in the 21st Century, drawing on examples from his native Uganda. The focus on Africa was continued in the following three presentations. Andy Matimati, a medicinal plants specialist from Malawi, provided an insight into the many traditional uses of plants found in the African seasonally dry forest, while Ruth Malleeson, a researcher with extensive field experience in West Africa, examined issues surrounding putting NTFPs into a socio-economic context based on her work in Cameroon, Nigeria and Ghana. Colm Bowe, from the International Centre for Underutilised Crops, then proceeded to discuss his centre's work on promoting underutilised fruit tree species as 'Fruits for the Future'.

Commercialisation of NTFPs was examined in two presentations. The first, by Elaine Marshall of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, looked at the factors influencing success of commercialisation of NTFPs in Mexico and Brazil, while Suzanne Martin of the Forestry Commission examined the role of NTFPs in sustaining rural communities in Scotland.

The impact of commercial forestry activities on NTFP management by local communities is often overlooked and Mary Menton drew the attention of participants to this issue by using examples from her PhD research at the Oxford Forestry Institute working with communities in the Brazilian Amazon.

A great deal of collection and utilization of NTFPs throughout the world is carried out with little recognition or consideration of legal issues. The complicated legislative framework surrounding access rights and benefit sharing was explained by Kerry Ten Kate based on her many years of experience contributing to discussions and agreements on access to genetic resources.

The workshop concluded with a discussion led by Mary Menton in which the lessons learned throughout the presentations were drawn together.



Participants working in small groups during the final discussion

Outputs

The workshop was specifically designed to provide a professional training opportunity for young foresters in an environment where discussion and debate could be nurtured. In this regard the number of participants was deliberately kept low to facilitate a 'tutorial' environment. Feedback from participants indicated that this approach was successful and, furthermore, trainers also stated that they appreciated the ability to exchange ideas in a more effective manner than is often the case with larger workshops. A formal evaluation of participant's views is currently being undertaken.

All contact details of participants and trainers, and a selection of photos taken during the workshop are available on the CFA website.

Acknowledgements

The ability to provide a training opportunity to young people was only possible by reducing participant's costs to a minimum. In this respect the kind support provided by the **Scottish Forestry Trust**, the **Woodland Trust** and **TFRG** was greatly appreciated.

For more information on the sponsors please visit the following

websites:

Scottish Forestry Trust
Woodland Trust
TFRG

www.scottishforestrytrust.org.uk
www.woodland-trust.org.uk
www.tfrg.co.uk

Alan Pottinger
CFA Technical Director

CFA UK Branch Tour 2005

The 2005 CFA UK Branch Tour will take place between 3rd and 5th June and will take members to the South Lake District. Throughout the tour members will hear how the Forestry Commission in the region has managed to adapt to changes in today's forestry, how local initiatives and local enthusiasts have worked together to keep historic forestry practices and there will also be the chance to discuss solutions for specific management issues.

The tour will start just outside of Keswick at Mirehouse on the afternoon of Friday 3rd June and continue with the the annual CFA UK Branch dinner in the Windermere area in the evening. Saturday's first stop will take us to Grizedale Forest and will be followed by a visit to Moss and High Spring. Sunday's itinerary will include stops at Whitbarrow and Bellart How Moss.

For more information and registration details please contact the orgainser, Nicole Mirza, by phone on 07860314992, or email at cfatour2005@cfa-international.org, or by post at Glendale Support Manager, Glendale Managed Services, Business Development Department, Parkwood House, Cuerden Park, Berkeley Drive, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6BY

Nicole Mirza

Student notes

The Dinner Tree

The Dinner Tree is a fine old baobab that stands on the edge of Derby, a small seaport on the coast of Western Australia. When I was in the township recently, I went to have a look.

Like many old trees, it is as much a point of interest for historical reasons as ecological ones; The Dinner Tree being the spot where cattle drovers, having marched their vast herds across great distances to Derby, would rest and eat lunch under the tree's shade (the cattle would nibble away at the nearby shrubbery), before herding the beasts onto ships waiting in the harbour a mile away.

The tree remains a pleasant picnic spot, not least because it, and other baobabs nearby, can help provide the picnic. The Australian Baobab, like its Old World relatives, generously provides numerous foods, medicines, and craft materials. From experience, I can tell you that the dry fruit pith (which is rich in Vitamin C) tastes like sherbet, whilst the young fresh leaves taste rather nutty and would work well in a salad. Apparently, the nectar from the trees' flowers can also be used, as an ingredient in a strong local 'home-brew'.

Now, all of this was interesting to me because, like many other forestry students, I've become increasingly interested in the

non-timber values of trees. Having enjoyed last year's excellent special issue of *International Forestry Review* on non-timber forest products (NTFPs), you will be aware of the high level of interest in these valuable resources.

Non-consumptive uses of forests and tree resources (for recreation and heritage purposes, etc.) are also becoming increasingly important in many countries. Remarkable old trees (such as the Dinner Tree) are often highly regarded by the public and acquire considerable amenity value, which can strongly impact upon management of surrounding land.

Though none of this to say that timber is no longer relevant, it is obvious that trees are now being valued for a whole variety of different reasons. Those of us who study forestry in the UK, at least, are often told that we are emerging into a forestry sector that is vastly more diverse and 'multi-purpose' than ever before, and I suspect that forestry students elsewhere are in similar circumstances.

In the next few issues of *Commonwealth Forestry News* I'll be exploring these and other issues that matter to forestry students, and those of us who are just emerging into the industry. I'd be keen to hear your thoughts.

Andrew Heaver
CFA Youth Officer



The Dinner Tree

Profiles

Peter Berg

Chairman of the New Zealand National Branch and Member of Governing Council



Peter is presently the President of the NZ forest Owners Association, past President of the NZ Institute of Foresters, a member of the NZ Forest Industry Training and Education Council and a Director of Pentarch Forest Products which is Australasia's largest independent forest harvesting and log marketing company. He graduated in Botany from Auckland University in 1966 and in Forestry from the University of Aberdeen in 1969 following which he worked with the NZ

Forest Service, and for 3 years as Chief Forest Officer in Samoa. He later held senior management positions in the NZ Forestry Corporation and NZ Timberlands before taking on his present role. Peter has jointly authored books on aspects of New Zealand's forestry history and the people involved, and in 2004 was made an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit in the Queen's New Year's Honours for his services to forestry.

What first got you interested in forestry?

My father was a logging contractor, largely working in native forest areas in New Zealand so I was raised in a forestry environment. This included a lot of vacation work, so by the time I was 16-17 and thinking of university I had a natural interest in that direction. New Zealand was also on the verge of a new cycle of interest in planting forests so the timing was fortuitous.

What made you join the CFA?

Both the staff at Aberdeen University's School of Forestry who were very outward looking, and the mixture of students from several parts of the world made me realise that an organisation such as CFA that could help me stay in touch with forestry developments around the world would be sensible. This was proved right some years later when I was working in tropical forests of Samoa and found that contacts and references obtained through CFA and the International Forestry Review were very helpful.

What do you most value about the CFA?

The fact that it is an international organisation and provides good coverage of forestry issues and events in a professional manner.

What do you feel are the most important forestry issues facing you at present?

Here in New Zealand the key issues are probably climate change through the application of the Kyoto Protocol and implications this might have for future new planting and deforestation programmes; certification of sustainable forestry practice and gaining international recognition of any standards used; and substitution of wood by products such as plastic, steel and aluminium which are neither as energy efficient or sustainably produced.

What role do you think the CFA can play in supporting forestry and foresters in your country?

Our members appreciate the reach of CFA around Commonwealth countries and the opportunities for networking it provides, but would like it to take a much more unequivocal approach in this respect to help distinguish it from the many national forestry organisations that exist in virtually all Commonwealth countries alongside the local section of CFA.

Janette Bulkan

Member of CFA Governing Council



Janette Bulkan is currently a doctoral student at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies of Yale University, U.S.A. She is an anthropologist by training and has work experience in social forestry, participatory community development, teaching and diplomacy. Her most recent full-time job was as Senior Social Scientist with the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development in Guyana. She was the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Guyana National Initiative for Forest Certification (GNIFC), an NGO that is developing a Forest Certification Standard for Guyana based on the FSC's generic Standard.

What first got you interested in forestry?

A considerable part of my working life was spent among indigenous peoples, most of whom either live in the forest, or depend on forest resources for their livelihoods. Over time, I began to pay more attention to their forestry activities, which included an increasing incorporation in the forestry sector, sometimes as small scale loggers or as managers of forestry resources on tenured community lands on which logging operations were being carried out by private outside operations. I might also add that I was literally born in a sawmilling compound, my maternal grandparents were sawmillers, and my mother opted for a home delivery. So my siblings and I have sawdust in our veins.

What made you join the CFA?

I value the sense of being linked to a community of like-minded persons, some of whom I get a sense of in their contributions to the International Forestry Review and the Commonwealth Forestry News.

What do you feel are the most important forestry issues facing you at present?

Personally, the hope that my research into forestry practices and their long-term impacts at different concession scales can make a useful contribution to local forest-dependent peoples, policy makers, and anyone interested in what are termed the frontier forests of the Guiana Shield Region.

What role do you think the CFA can play in supporting forestry and foresters in your country?

The CFA community can provide a forum in which practitioners and others can learn about common forestry trends, issues and solutions, move away from the notion that each particular region is unique and therefore not comparable to anywhere else. We are probably united by more than a shared colonial past and the English language. The issues that follow from globalization, including a renewed focus on the export of tropical logs for processing in other countries, the increasing involvement of multinational companies in tropical rainforests, collateral corruption and the challenges of sustainable forest management affect us all.

Around the world

INTERNATIONAL

Four new illegal logging reports released by Chatham House
Four new reports on aspects of the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan have recently been

released by Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs). All these papers are available free for download from www.illegal-logging.info.

EUROPE

Wood production in Europe to shift further to the east in the next decade

Countries in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will play a greater role in European forest products markets over the next two decades, according to a statement by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). This was one of the main conclusions of the European Forestry Sector Outlook Study, presented to the joint session of the FAO European Forestry Commission and UNECE Timber Committee in Geneva recently, to be published by the end of 2004.

Production and consumption of forest products are expected to increase in Western Europe at about the same rate as in the last decade. However, in Eastern Europe and the CIS, forest products markets will grow very rapidly in the future as these countries continue to liberalise and attract new investment into the sector. The forestry sector in much of Eastern Europe and the CIS collapsed in the early 1990s, with production and consumption falling by as much as three-quarters in some cases. A number of countries in the region have already rebounded and production and consumption in Eastern Europe is expected to grow two to three times faster than in the west. Recovery in the CIS has taken longer, but this region is expected to show the greatest growth in the future. For example, a presentation by the Russian delegation showed double-digit growth in markets for a number of forest products over the last two years. "Eastern Europe and the CIS are

very competitive because they have significant forest resources and very low labour and raw material costs," said Adrian Whiteman, an FAO economist.

The major challenge for policy makers all over Europe will be to satisfy the increasing demands placed on forests to produce a wider range of goods and services for society. Europe's forests can meet all of these demands, but the problem is how to pay for them. "Almost half of Europe's forest products are recycled and they have many of the characteristics that people say they want in terms of sustainability" said Whiteman. "However, the market does not pay for all of these extra benefits and the forest owner still has to rely mostly on the sale of wood to pay for forest management. Under current market conditions, it is very difficult to meet all of these demands". Countries at the meeting discussed a number of strategies to improve the economic viability of forest management, including marketing and promotion of forest products, development of wood energy and greater coordination between all of the different interests in the sector. In particular, countries recommended that a greater effort should be made to address policies outside the sector that have a negative impact on forests.

From Timber Branch, the newsletter of the Trade Development and Timber Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UK

Science in International Development Policy

During the 2003-4 Session of Parliament the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons conducted an inquiry into the use of science, technology and engineering in UK international development policy. The Chairman of the Committee, Ian Gibson MP, said "We want to see how effectively the Government – and not just the Department for International Development (DfID) – is using science and technology to underpin its international development policy." *The use of Science in UK International Development Policy* was published on 26 October 2004 by HMSO – HC133-I, The Report and HC133-II, Oral and Written Evidence.

The UK's strategy for tackling poverty in the developing world should be based on hard evidence and science and technology should be at the heart of our approach. Yet the Committee found that DfID suffers from a fundamental lack of a scientific culture and a waning capacity to promote the role of science and technology in development and provide crucial technical advice. There was a risk that DfID's approach may also be damaging the UK's own research base in development sciences. That DfID had started to take steps to improve its use of science was acknowledged

and the Department's announcement of the appointment of a Chief Scientific Advisor was welcomed.

The report deals with broad issues of approach, expertise and coordination, capacity building and UK capacity. The Committee sessions and the written evidence covered many technical fields. Eight of the 85 written submissions concerned forestry, five of them from members of the CFA – Jeff Burley, Julian Evans, Michael Philip, Jane Thornback and Philip Wardle. Nick Brown presented evidence at one session on behalf of the Oxford Forestry Institute. Steven Bass supported the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP at the final session. The discussion in the sessions and the 85 submissions bring out the wide range of scientific and technical expertise involved.

While the International Development Act 2002 establishes poverty reduction as the overarching purpose of British development assistance, either by sustainable development or promoting the welfare of people; the report and its oral and written evidence present the intricate network of research and education necessary for sound policy, problem solving and capacity building to pursue that purpose effectively. This report provides a wealth of guidance for the Minister and his Chief Scientific Advisor.

Philip Wardle

Royal Scottish Forestry Society celebrates 150 years

The Royal Scottish Forestry Society (RSFS) celebrated its 150th anniversary in November 2004 with a two-day meeting, comprising a conference, a formal dinner, and a field excursion. The event was held in central Perthshire, the "Cradle of the Scottish Forest Renaissance". Papers presented to the conference by six speakers (who included the vice-chair of the CFA) will be published in a Special Conference Report in the forthcoming *Scottish Forestry*, # 58/4.

The RSFS was originally formed as the Scottish Arboricultural Society in 1854, at a time when Scotland's forest cover was only 4%, depleted by the demands of the Industrial Revolution and the voracious teeth of sheep. The *Short History of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society*, by John Aldhous, states that "while earlier arboricultural societies existed, this was the first such national society in the English-speaking world."

In 1887 Queen Victoria graciously granted a Royal Charter to the Society, and in 1930 it changed its name to the present title. From an original membership of 19 the RSFS grew rapidly, reaching a membership of 732 in 1879, over 1000 members by its fiftieth anniversary, and 2 000 on its centenary. Now its numbers have dropped to 854, reflecting, like so many professional associations, a decline in the number of forest managers and competition from other groups with an interest in forests and the environment. But in the meantime Scotland's forest cover has grown to 17%.

The Scottish Arboricultural Society aimed to promote and disseminate knowledge of good forestry and arboricultural practice through the offer of prizes – an early forerunner of those offered today by the Commonwealth Forestry Association. Prize essays

might be published in the *Transactions of the Scottish Arboricultural Society*, established in 1862, and which has continued since then, now published as *Scottish Forestry*. The RSFS took an early interest in professional forestry education too, and at least partly through the representations of members two Chairs of Forestry were established in Scotland, one in Edinburgh in 1919, the other in Aberdeen in 1926. Foresters from many Commonwealth and other countries have benefited from undergraduate and postgraduate forestry training at both universities.

The vision of the future of the RSFS is taken from the history of John Aldhous; it applies equally to the CFA as to the RSFS:

...members have a tremendous heritage:

- i) *breadth of vision and experience of getting the best out of changes in circumstance;*
- ii) *breadth of membership and the camaraderie that comes from meeting people keen about trees, but from all sorts of background;*
- iii) *an existing framework and tradition of communication and networking by society conferences, day visits and tours, and the Society journal;*
- iv) *independence of Government.*

As the motto of the RSFS so pithily reminds every forester: *Ye may be aye sticking in a tree. It will be growing when ye're sleeping* (from Heart of Midlothian, by the Scottish author Sir Walter Scott).

Jim Ball

'Britain's woodlands lead the world'

Britain's public woods have been hailed among the most sustainable in the world after receiving their second international green stamp of approval. The Forestry Commission has been successfully re-audited against the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)¹, confirming the nation's public woods are being managed sustainably. This means consumers can be assured they are making a sustainable choice by buying British woodland products stamped with the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) logo. Timber, signs, outdoor furniture and venison are among the FSC certified goods produced by the Forestry Commission across Scotland, England and Wales².

FC Director General Tim Rollinson said the audit reflected the fact that Britain's woodlands were being managed to internationally recognised standards of sustainability. "The Forestry Commission

is the largest provider of public access and recreation in Britain and the largest manager of Sites of Special Scientific Interest," he said. "We're also the largest producer of wood - a top class, sustainable raw material. "We have a UK Woodland Assurance Standard that is the envy of many countries in the world. Our forests, sustainably managed as this proves, can be infinitely sustainable. The products from them - whether they be wood or recreation and clean air - can boost the quality of our lives. "What certification reinforces is that people can buy wood knowing it is renewable and sustainable, and that by doing so they are helping safeguard our precious forest and woodland resources for future generations."

From UK Forestry Commission

UK Government timber purchases and certification

The UK Government has recently announced that it would follow certain guidelines in the purchase of timber to ensure that the wood came from sustainably-managed forests and was legally harvested (Department of Environment, Rural Affairs and Agriculture - Defra - News release 4541/04 of 9 November 2004). An assessment of 5 certification schemes was made by ProForest and ERM. They found that all five schemes reviewed gave assurance of legal harvesting - the basic requirement. Two of them also provide assurance that forests are being managed in a way that meets the Government's contract definition of sustainable forest management (SFM)¹.

The report concluded that: Certificates from the Canadian

Standards Association (CSA) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) should be accepted as assurance of legal and sustainable timber; Certificates from the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), the North American Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) and the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) should be accepted as assurance of legally harvested timber. However, in their current form they are not completely acceptable as assurance of sustainable timber as defined in the British Government's model contract specification.

The Minister responsible for this area of policy, Mr Elliott Morley, said the report was not the end of the story for the Government's interest in forest certification. "The Government is

¹ SGS Qualifor undertook the audit of the Forestry Commission and will continue as its certification body for the next five years.

² The FC has 1,043,653 hectares of certified land: FC Scotland - 657,790 hectares; FC England - 258,302 hectares; FC Wales - 127,561 hectares

not saying that forests certified under the PEFC, SFI and MTCC schemes are not well managed - just that the schemes as they currently work don't provide adequate assurance that our particular requirements are fulfilled. They were very close to doing so and it is my hope that they will work, in collaboration with the central point of expertise on timber, to give us the assurance we seek as soon as possible. "Each of the five schemes assessed provides a valuable source of information and assurance for consumers," he added. "As such, they are not just valuable sources of information, but valuable guarantees of legality."

"In practice we insist on all timber being legally logged unless it is recycled or re-used. However, in addition we want our contractors to supply any virgin timber from sustainably-managed forests. We do not insist on this but we give preference to such

bids when made. Certification is the most common form of evidence so it is important to know which schemes provide safe assurance of sustainable timber as well as legal timber. "To ensure clarity for consumers, the UK Government would therefore prefer to see all schemes offering the same degree of assurance of sustainability - a position which has not yet been reached."

The Government has now set a period of six months from its announcement, before central departments begin making distinctions between the schemes. This will allow both industry and the certification schemes time to prepare for changes in procurement practice.

A J Grayson

INDIA

India acts to stop illegal logging of sandalwood

In an article headlined 'India bugs trees in high-tech crackdown on illegal logging' the UK *Independent* newspaper of 12 November 2004 reported that the State of Kerala is planning to embed microchips in sandalwood trees to be able to track them by satellite remote sensing. Evidently, the trade in contraband sandalwood is now one of the most lucrative in India and the paper reports that the late Veerappan, the 'bandit king', may have started out poaching elephants for ivory but soon moved into the much more profitable trade in sandalwood.

The *Independent* reports that protected sandalwood resources of Australia are now largely unavailable, while those of Indonesia

are nearly exhausted, leaving India as the last remaining source of this tree, which is highly prized for its soft scented wood and for its oil. India has evidently done more than anywhere else to set up a sustainable trade in sandalwood, with strict laws on the age at which trees can be felled, and on replanting. But implementation is weak, due to under-staffed forest services, corrupt politicians and even minefields laid in the forests by the likes of Veerappan. Now the satellite tracking will allow officials to monitor the trees and perhaps the negative publicity will shame politicians into action.

From the Independent 12/11/04

CANADA

New President for CIF/ICF

After serving two years on the Institute's national executive, Michael McLaughlan assumed the presidency of the Canadian Institute of Foresters - the organization's top volunteer leadership position. Mr. McLaughlan, who comes from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, said "In Saskatchewan and across Canada, we have tremendously dedicated and competent forest practitioners, and I am proud to represent them all."

"Our Institute's primary focus this year is to improve our communications and outreach. As the national voice for forest practitioners across Canada, we have traditionally been a pretty quiet group. After all, many of us went into the profession of forestry to be in the outdoors and be the stewards of the forest. Little did we realize how critical communications are, especially around environmental and forestry issues."

McLaughlan's previous work experience has been both with industry and government in areas of ecological land classification, silvics and silviculture. For much of his career, he has been and still is involved in the instruction of these program areas. A forestry graduate from Lakehead University, he has been actively involved with the Institute since being a student.

As President, Mr. McLaughlan will provide the leadership for the Institute and its 23 sections across Canada, to communicate greater awareness of forest practitioners, Canadian forests and our sustainable forest practices.

Joining McLaughlan on the Institute's national executive includes Mr. Chris Lee (Ottawa) as first vice-president, Mr. Doug Stables (Victoria) as second vice-president, Mr. Richard Macnaughton (Sault Ste. Marie) as past-president, and Mrs. Roxanne Comeau (Ottawa), executive director.

From CIF/ICF

AUSTRALIA

The M.R. Jacob Prize in Silviculture

This prize has been awarded annually from 1998 for the outstanding student in silviculture at the Australian National University, and the Universities of Melbourne and Canterbury, New Zealand. It was established under the leadership of RL (Bob) Newman a graduate of the University of Melbourne and Australian Forestry School, Canberra, who was a student of Dr. Jacobs when he was Principal of the AFS.

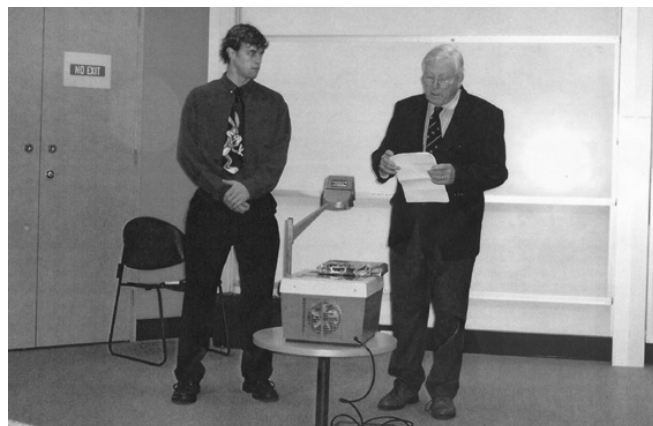
Following agreement from the three universities, Mr Newman contacted colleagues, past students and friends of Dr. Jacobs with the invitation to donate to a fund to be held by the Australian

National University in order to create an award in Dr Jacob's memory in perpetuity. Initially, over 70 people donated to the fund which raised some \$4,000 in 1998 and since then the fund has been supplemented with a major amount from past students of the AFS in 2000 at their reunion of \$7,442 and substantial donations from the students of the University of Canterbury, NZ and Professor J A Helms a student of Dr. Jacobs, whose father lectured at the A.F.S. for many years. Currently the fund stands at some \$12,000 and only the interest is being used for the book prizes so that the awards can be made in perpetuity. The prize is Ross Florence's text book entitled *Ecology and Silviculture of Eucalypt Forests*. Ross Florence was a student of Dr. Jacobs.

Previous winners are listed below.

	ANU	Melbourne University	Canterbury University, NZ
1997	G I Shalders	(no award)	(no award)
1998	C M McElhinny	N J Kelly	Ian Clarke
1999	Mei Lynn Wei	D J O'Regan	Lee Deslauriers
2000	Andrew Crisp	S J Cawson	Yannina Whitely
2001	Philip Alcorn	S J Lewis	David McCutcheon
2002	(no award)	A Ashby	Yvette Dickinson
2003	J Tarbor	V White	K Giles-Hansen

The award of an annual prize provides a means of both maintaining the profile of Dr Jacobs achievements and contributions, and of silviculture more generally, and of encouraging and acknowledging academic achievement in that discipline.



Bob Newman reading out Dr. Jacobs's career prior to presenting the prize to V. White of the University of Melbourne in October 2004.

Maxwell Ralph Jacobs was born in Adelaide on February 25th, 1905 and died in Canberra on October 9th, 1979. He was the last of the graduates from the Forestry Department of University of Adelaide in 1925. He commenced lecturing in Silviculture at the Australian Forestry School, Canberra in 1935 and was principal from 1944-59, following war service in the Royal Australian Engineers. He was appointed Director General of the Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra in 1960. He retired in 1970.

Max Jacobs was one of the founders of the Institute of Foresters

of Australia. He wrote the first major definitive silviculture book on Eucalypts entitled *The Growth Habits of the Eucalypts*. It was both research and teaching which were at the source of his endeavours and contribution. Dr Jacobs more than any one, influenced to such good effect the development of the profession and professional foresters. It is therefore fitting that this award should be made in his memory.

Bob Newman

ITALY

1 500 year old olive tree dying

The grandfather of all olives is dying. Thus Italy's *Corriere della Sera* of 26 October 2004 announced that an olive tree believed to be more than 1500 years old – which saw the fall of the Roman empire – is dying. It is believed to be the oldest olive tree in production in Europe, and there are documents referring to olive groves on monastic land in this place in the 5th century AD. The

tree, in northern Italy, which has a diameter of the trunk of 6.1 metres, is visited yearly by hundreds of people, but now the effects of high winds and rain have led to the collapse of one massive branch and injury to others. Urgent action is being taken by the owner to save it including pruning the branches and disinfecting the wounds.

Jim Ball

Special Feature

NATURALLY WOOD – A SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY FOR THE UK FOREST INDUSTRIES

Introduction

The UK Government has placed sustainable development firmly at the heart of its policy making. The devolved National Assembly for Wales has a binding legal duty to pursue sustainable development in all it does and from the outset the Scottish Executive has committed itself to "integrate the principles of environmentally and socially sustainable development into all Government policies". Although the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Executive have been suspended since October 2002, there is still a determination to put "Sustainable Development at the heart of all the Government's work".

This is music to the ears of the forest industries in the UK. We firmly believe that our sector is well placed to deliver sustainable development. We have a product – wood – that has the highest environmental credentials and which comes from forests that, when managed sustainably, provide a wonderful array of economic, social and environmental benefits.

In response to the challenge from government the UK forest industries have developed a sustainability strategy that covers the life-cycle of wood and which incorporates the importing sector.

The strategy represents a commitment across the whole forestry sector – not only to set targets for sustainable development – but also to monitor and report on these.

Overview of the Strategy

Our vision is for the UK forest industries sector to be a cornerstone for the delivery of the UK's commitment to sustainable development and an exemplar for other business sectors seeking to build strong sustainability credentials. We believe that the forest industries are central to a sustainable UK society because:

- Forests deliver social, environmental and economic value to the community.
- Wood and wood-based products are integral to everyone's everyday lives.
- Wood is a naturally renewable and versatile material. As such it should be the benchmark against which other products must be judged.

In order to maximise the positive impact the forest industries have we need to ensure that:

- All wood used in the UK comes from sustainably managed or recycled sources.
- Wood is efficiently harvested, transported and processed into wood-based products.
- More wood-based products are used in more ways so replacing less sustainable materials.

The strategy embraces the three themes of environmental, economic and social sustainability. Under these themes the strategy identifies key topics and aims. The following is a brief summary of these.

Environmental sustainability

Under environmental sustainability the strategy addresses key issues such as combating illegal logging, sourcing wood and wood-based products from sustainably managed forests, and increasing woodland biodiversity. As well as reducing the negative environmental and social impacts of timber transport, and promoting wood in the heat, electricity and transport fuels markets.

Economic sustainability

For economic sustainability we have included initiatives to promote partnerships across all UK countries and regions to devise and implement strategies to boost the sector's competitiveness, and actions to further develop the market for wood.

Social sustainability

The social aspect of sustainable development is often perceived

as less important than the others. This should not be so and is not the case in this strategy. The range of actions the sector has committed to deliver include a commitment to promoting a "safety-first" culture in the forest industries, and to providing a key vehicle for supporting communities.

Where next?

The strategy is not an end in itself, and it is certainly more than just a document. It is a process that is part of a wider initiative to drive the UK forest industries forward so that they can make an even greater contribution to sustainable development both domestically and abroad.

The UK forest industries recognise that effective implementation of the commitments in the strategy will be key to capitalising on the support we have received from government and from ENGOS. Delivery will also benefit the sector as 'triple bottom line reporting' becomes the norm for successful businesses in the UK.

A new representative body has been established in the UK – the Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor). It seeks to provide a mechanism for promoting greater co-operation between the different parts of the sector in the UK with the aim of growing the market for timber. ConFor is a strong supporter of Naturally Wood and is keen to use it to promote the industries' activities with key audiences such as government and environmental NGOs.

If you would like to learn more about the strategy please visit the website: www.fidc.org.uk/sustainableforestry

**Stuart Goodall
ConFor**

Reports from meetings

Yale Symposium on Impacts of Certification in Developing and Transitioning Countries

In June 2004, over 100 participants from 16 countries and partner institutions in the global South were brought together by the Yale Program on Forest Certification to participate in a two-day symposium on the impacts of forest certification. One significant omission of the Conference, however, was the limited participation (a lone buyer from the Southern Cone) of "Economic Chamber" delegates, which often resulted in an unrealistic convergence of views from presenters and the audience.

Four conference sessions were dedicated to the presentation of 4 case studies from each of four geographical Regions – Africa (Gabon, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia), Latin America (Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico), Asia-Pacific (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands) and "transitioning" Eastern Europe (Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Russia). Each of the case studies followed a prescribed template – Introduction; background factors (ownership and tenure, markets); the emergence of certification (support, institutional design, Standards, problems, challenges); reaction to certification; effects and conclusions - intended to draw out commonalities, with a view to shaping future policy and research directions. At the end of each session, two expert commentators offered syntheses and personal reflections, before a question and answer period.

The Yale Symposium also included a panel organized by the Washington DC-based NGO, Forests Trends, on cross-cutting themes including local land rights and traditional land uses, non-timber forest products and the possibility of environmental governance through government policy support. The case studies and discussions also highlighted the unrealistic expectations often placed on forest certification, and the inability of the models of certification initiated after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to address current forestry issues, like equity in forest allocation, intractable or increasing poverty across the global South and a worldwide boom in illegal logging, often tied to local

livelihood needs and the insatiable demand for timber by China and other Asian countries, with weak civil society constituencies that might agitate on behalf of the fate of forests outside their national borders.

Before the end of the second day, many common issues across the global South had recurred in each presentation, but in a forum in which key actors (government, industry players) were largely absent. One consensus view was that certification as a market-based mechanism to sustainably manage native forests has failed on the ground, as few of its NGO promoters in the developing world are well informed or plugged into the global marketplace. Certification was working in those places where markets had been secured, which among the case studies presented meant plantation forests and those native Eastern European forests that had formerly benefited from State protection under centralized governments (good governance) and were now well positioned to supply the demand in Western Europe and North America. The Eastern European cases also demonstrated that certification has a better chance of success where there are no complex customary indigenous rights to grapple with.

In the final session, Peter Dauvergne, Director of the Environment Program, Liu Institute for Global Issues, summarized research gaps and emerging themes in certification. He noted that most of the case studies identified the benefits, rather than drawbacks, of certification (3rd party audits; increase transparency and accountability along chain; worker health and safety; help some communities get financing, often through aid agencies and NGOs), and suggested that more research attention was needed on the factors linked to certification failures and successes. In his view the intermediate factors between certifiers and end users can decide the success and failures of certification.

The connection between forest certification and illegal logging was brought out in some of the case studies and considered another interesting area for future research. Dauvergne opined that in reality it was very difficult to keep illegal timber out of the

output of even certified forest management units (FMUs), and that between 40 to 50 percent of total volume can be illegal. Companies are adept at avoiding taxation, paying the minimum through transfer pricing, evading governmental rules, and collateral corruption. To its credit, certification tends to bump into these issues, while forestry companies, in their turn, try to cordon off permissible areas of scrutiny. A depressing conclusion of the Symposium was that certification seems to be not only tangential to what is happening to forests in the developing world but

sometimes is diverting the energies of concerned governments and NGOs from the bigger problems like illegal logging.

The 16 case studies and other relevant papers on forest certification are posted on the Yale Symposium (<http://www.yale.edu/forestcertification/symposium/index.html>) website.

Janette Bulkan

A future for plantations

In September, 70 participants from 20 countries met in the medieval city of Lugo in Galicia province of north-west Spain to discuss Economics and Management of High Productivity Plantations. It was organised jointly by IUFRO (section 4.04.06 Planning and economics of fast-growing plantations forests) and the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC). The meeting lasted four days, 27-30 September 2004, of which one was devoted to field visits to plantations of *E. globulus*, *P. radiata* and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) all of which grow well in this 'wet', maritime region of Spain.

Each day consisted of a keynote address (by the writer, Jim Carle (FAO), and Dr Gabriel Toval (ENCE, Spain) on each of the three days respectively), followed by 8-12 papers in the later sessions. Three themes emerged. First, in many of our lifetimes forest plantations will become the principal source of industrial lumber and wood fibre. While the data on plantation areas are often questionable their extent and continuing expansion is not in doubt. Secondly, mean productivities in many plantations are astonishing – we saw the examples of Jari and Aracruz in Brazil amongst others – and there is little to suggest that yield will not be sustainable. Indeed, the opposite is expected as genetic improvement strategies

increasingly have an impact. Thirdly, the shift from public to private sector investment or ownership is matched by increasing interest in and by smallholders and owners finding it worthwhile to establish woodlots of just 1 or 2 hectares. This was as evident throughout the countryside of Galicia, with many holdings of less than one hectare, as it is for example in South Africa where big players like Mondi and SAPPI source a significant part of their requirements from numerous smallholders.

There are conflicts over plantations too, not the least the definition! Overall, though, this superbly organised meeting by Juan Gabriel Alvarez (USC) and Chris Goulding (Forest Research Institute, New Zealand) affirmed the hugely important role plantations are coming to play. It is a matter of working with this resource to deliver the range of products and services it is well able to supply. And, by integrating them with strategies of conservation and management of natural forest, the plantation takes its place in the broader sweep of the landscape: they complement not substitute other forest formations.

The papers and more details can be found on website: www.lugo.usc.es/iufro/

Julian Evans

Poplars

Poplars are very much at the 'cutting edge' of developments in forestry plantations. Traditionally their fast growth and ease of reproduction by cuttings has meant that they have provided a wide range of goods and services in developing and developed countries alike, ranging from industrial roundwood and poles, pulp and paper, reconstituted boards, plywood, fruit boxes, furniture etc to fodder and fuel, shelter and shade and the protection of crops and livestock. New uses now include phyto-remediation, or the rehabilitation of polluted and degraded sites, the absorption of nitrogen and carbon sequestration.

In addition, programmes concerning the genetic modification of poplars are being vigorously followed in many countries, both with developed and developing economies. The poplar genome has been mapped, the only tree species so far, and there is significant progress in genetic manipulation to provide resistance against pests and diseases, improve technical properties and growth and yield.

The International Poplar Commission, one of the specialised

bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), meets every four years and discusses technical matters in its specialised working groups. Its terms of reference cover the family Salicaceae, that is the poplars (*Populus*) and willows (*Salix*). The next Session will be held in Santiago, Chile from 29 November to 2 December 2004. Over one hundred and fifty voluntary papers have been submitted and peer reviewed for consideration and 22 countries have submitted detailed reports on progress in the conservation.

The voluntary papers and a synthesis of the national reports are available on <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/ipc> This site also includes a list of references to the vast amount of literature produced since 2000 on poplars and willows. Hard copies of the abstracts of the voluntary papers, the synthesis of the national reports and the list of publications can be obtained from Mr Jim Carle, Secretary, International Poplar Commission, Forestry Department, FAO, Viale Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy. E-mail Jim.Carle@fao.org

Jim Ball

Cutting down on illegal logging: conservation platform on illegal logging at 3rd IUCN World Congress

This three-hour panel discussion, convened by ITTO in cooperation with IUCN, was moderated by Ms Jan McAlpine of the US State Department and focused on the theme of illegal logging. It asked how can international organizations help to reduce this threat and to increase the trade in legally produced and traded timber products? Speakers included Kazuyuki Morita of the Japan Forestry Agency, the ITTO Secretariat's Steven Johnson, James Gasana of Swiss Intercooperation and the Swiss State Sec-

retariat for Economic Affairs, Yati Bun from Papua New Guinea's Foundation for People and Community Development, Robianto Koestomo of the Association of Indonesian Forest Concessionaires, Chen Hin Keong of TRAFFIC Malaysia, and Stewart Maginnis from IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme.

Mr Morita said that Japan's role as a major importer of logs and plywood made it a significant player in efforts to reduce illegal logging. The country's timber importers had declared that they

didn't want to use illegally sourced timber, and the government was working in support of this aim, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr Morita called for more work on the definition and scope of the term 'illegal logging', which would be essential for policy development at the international level.

Dr Johnson presented some of ITTO's work in the prevention of illegal logging and illegal timber trade, including an investment of more than US\$5 million in field projects with specific objectives for improving forest law enforcement. He also mentioned two major ITTO-sponsored international conferences to be convened in 2005; one of these will focus on the transportation of timber products by bringing together representatives of financial institutions, customs, shipping, and transport sectors, with a view to identifying weaknesses that have allowed illegal timber trade. A second international conference will focus on indigenous and other community forestry, particularly with respect to issues of forest tenure and regulatory barriers to management and trade, and their relationships to illegal logging and illegal timber trade. Dr Johnson highlighted efforts to improve the quality of information on timber production and markets, but noted that statistical weaknesses remained an obstacle to the fight against illegal logging and illegal timber trade in many countries.

James Gasana summarized some of the experiences gained through ITTO projects that have established and strengthened tropical transboundary conservation reserves. Some of the problems encountered in such reserves include illegal logging, illegal encroachment, the transport of illegally harvested products, poaching, and incompatible management in adjacent areas. He reported that successful law enforcement in such reserves required high-level political commitment to the transboundary approach, the formalisation of cooperative approaches, the strong involvement of civil society, a scientific underpinning for management, and the nurturing of a culture of stewardship within local communities. Both Gasana and Johnson before him stressed the need for better information on the status of the management of protected areas.

Yati Bun outlined some of the problems that illegal logging activities can cause in indigenous and local communities. He said that one of the important roles of the international community was to publicize such activities and to support national-level responses aimed at preventing them.

Mr Robianto said that illegal logging and illegal timber trade created a vicious circle that led to bankruptcy in the forest sector, the massive lay-off of forestry and timber workers, and increased

illegal activities. He called on international organizations and importing countries to campaign for the use of legal logs – and against the consumption of illegally obtained logs.

Mr Chen described the state of forest law enforcement in Malaysia, particularly as it related to the trade of *ramin*, a timber now listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Some of the challenges facing Malaysia in dealing with the *ramin* listing included the need for increased coordination between Malaysian states, the reconciling of laws related to native customary rights and land and compensatory issues, the continued development of reliable log-tracking systems, and the closing of gaps in the barter trade system, particularly with neighbouring Indonesia.

Mr Maginnis highlighted the results of increased dialogue between civil society and the private sector over the issue of illegal logging, which had been brought about through processes initiated by IUCN, ITTO and others. He said that a tripartite approach involving government, civil society and the private sector was an essential part of combating illegal logging and illegal timber trade. One starting point would be to define the parameters of legality, which would require a further process of trust-building between the three sectors, which could be facilitated by international organizations such as ITTO and IUCN.

The presentations were followed by questions and comments from the floor. A representative from Greenpeace questioned the need for more work on defining 'illegal logging', and called on governments to do more to prevent the import of illegally produced and traded timber. Another speaker asked whether governments in the timber-producing countries were doing enough to limit illegal logging and called on international organizations to bring more pressure to bear. Yet another identified the lack of investment in natural tropical forests (as compared to that available for timber and non-wood plantation projects in the tropics) as a factor that contributes to low forest values and, often, illegality.

ITTO's focus on forest law enforcement will continue at the upcoming 37th session of the International Tropical Timber Council, where final reports on case studies in Malaysia and Honduras will be presented and where a draft report on several bilateral studies of trade statistics' discrepancies will be tabled.

From ITTO (www.itto.or.jp)

Forest scenes

NORTH KOREA

Forestry in North Korea

I visited North Korea for two weeks in May 2004 to evaluate a short-term project which was supporting control of a large-scale outbreak of the Siberian Caterpillar, *Dendrolimus superans sibiricus*. The 2 400 km journey round trip by road to the project site and back gave me a glimpse of forestry and land use in what was historically known as the 'hermit kingdom' and is still a reclusive country.

The Korean Peninsula, whose feudal society had held aloof from the rest of the world, was colonized by the Japanese in 1905. The subsequent fight for freedom, led by Kim Il Sung, began in the 1930s and liberation followed the fall of Japan in 1945. The Peninsula was then divided into the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Korea (PDR Korea, or North Korea) and the Republic of Korea, or South Korea, after the war and armistice of Panmunjon in 1953. Both sides emerged from the war with their forests more or less destroyed, and subsequently both countries have actively promoted reforestation. Originally, and even into the 1970s, North Korea was economically stronger than South Korea, due to the modernisation of the economy started by the Japanese and continued by Il Sung, while the south depended on agriculture and light industry. The situation has now been drastically reversed,

the income per head of DPR Korea in 2002 has been estimated as only \$760, while that for South Korea was \$10 000. A commitment to heavy industry and mining has continued to this day in the north, illustrated by today's rural population of 37% of the total, compared with its richer neighbour China where more than 80% is still rural.

Politically DPR Korea is ruled by one party, the Korean Workers' Party (KWP), according to the nationalist ideology of 'Juche', or self-reliance, which has supplanted Communism since 1992. But the economy and society are opening up. In 2002 wages were raised while enterprises were told that they should raise prices to cover costs. Recently, some market reforms have been introduced, including 'farmers' markets'. Are some cracks appearing in the hermit's shell? And if so, what would it mean for the forestry sector?

The climate of DPR Korea is described as continental, with extremes of temperature. At Wonsan, on the east coast, the hottest month is August when the average daily minimum and maximum temperatures are 20° and 27°C respectively, while the coldest month is January with temperatures of -8° and 1°C. Forests cover about 8 million ha, or 68% of the country (cf 63% in South Korea), or 0.3 ha/person. Most of the country is upland or mountainous, with only about 20% cultivable plains to the west and, to a lesser extent, to the east. The mountains dictate that most

forests, whatever their objects of management, have a protective function. All forest land is State-owned, with responsibility for forest management divided between the Ministry of Forests, which looks after the production forests, or just over half the total area, and the Ministry of Lands and Environmental Protection, which takes care of the protection forests including the extensive roadside plantations, windbreaks and some watersheds. But the division of responsibility is by no means clear-cut.

The important commercial species for timber, both for export and internal use, were *Pinus koreaiensis* (Korean pine), and *Larix leptolepis* (Japanese larch). The former is grown for seed both for food and oil. Most Provinces have an agro-forestry university, which produce over 100 graduates annually.

We drove directly from the capital on a wide paved road over the central spine to the eastern coast. Rice is grown in paddy fields in the valley bottoms, with maize on the lower slopes. But due to the famine arising from the drought and floods of the late 1990's uncontrolled cultivation is spreading higher up the hillside onto steep slopes and into the forest remnants. Erosion will inevitably result due to the lack of terracing. This picture was repeated as we then drove north to Chonjin along the coast over mountain ranges that come down to the sea, interspersed with coastal plains. Potatoes have been introduced as an alternative crop, especially in the north of the country, and we ate them in a variety of imaginative recipes – as pappadums, pancakes and ravioli for example. But whether the cultivation of potatoes will be more sustainable, or whether it will result in the loss of yet more forest, remains to be seen.

Outbreaks of Siberian Caterpillar typically occur periodically; the location in the north of the country, on the Chinese border, where the project was operating had suffered such attacks in 1996-7, 1984-6 and in 1974. Several conifers may be attacked, but here larch, *Larix gmelini*, had been defoliated over an area of 24 000 ha in 2003 and was being attacked over 33 000 ha by the time of our visit. Young spruce (*Picea koraensis*) was also being attacked but, unlike the larch, was being killed. The defoliation was not only reducing the increment of the economically important larch, and exposing it to attack by other pests, but the caterpillars also caused skin irritation to humans. This was significant in this culturally sensitive area, where many people visit the historic sites where Kim Il Sung, the “Perpetual President”, fought a guerilla war against the Japanese and where the “Dear Leader” Kim Jong Il, was borne in 1942.

One of my strong impressions was of the competence of the staff of the Ministry of Forestry. Most of my visit was to forests in Ryanggang Province, which was 92% forested (1.22 million ha) and I had the opportunity to meet and talk with several of the Provincial staff. Over half of forest area was managed for timber and pine seed, the latter from *Pinus koraiensis*. The rest of the forest area is managed for conservation and protection. I was told that there are county-level management plans and the forest management maps that I saw were well presented and clearly

marked with compartment boundaries. We visited at least one small (1 200 ha) wildlife reserve for deer, bear, and perhaps tiger.

We visited three nurseries, where I was struck not only by the competence and enthusiasm of the staff, but also their willingness to try out new ideas and to make do with few resources. The headman of one nursery in particular had partially switched production over to the use of polythene tubes and had developed a system of transporting bare-rooted seedlings in polythene rolls. Not exactly cutting-edge science for most of us, but very significant in a country whose people are cut off from contact with the outside world. For his enterprise he had been given a state award – third class.

I did not manage to obtain information on the national area of plantations nor on the afforestation programme, but since firewood provides much domestic energy many of them are for fuel. We often saw lorry loads of firewood entering the cities. In Ryanggang Province we were informed that between 13 000 and 15 000 ha are afforested yearly with *Acacia* (for firewood), larch (for timber) and pine (for timber and pine seed oil). Most of the planting is done in ‘farm forests’ under responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, supervised by staff of the Ministry of Forestry.

Growth rates in the mountainous north of the country, at around 1 800 m altitude, are slow. I measured diameters of dominant trees in larch stands of known age that had an annual increment of 0.3 - 0.4cm/year. Soils are sandy and infertile. Larch regenerates naturally, in the past after catastrophic fires, usually in mixture with birch. Pressure of visitors is high around the historic sites, but we were told that there are now very few fires. Spruce later enters to give mixed species stands. At altitude of 2 000m we visited the 132 000 ha Man and the Biosphere Reserve (IUCN) on Mt Paekdu, consisting of old, open stands of pure larch (*Larix daurica*?) some said to be 500 years old.

Forests are highly important to the people of Korea, as a source of goods including firewood, as a source of income from employment and, at the national level from timber exports, but most importantly from the protection they offer to the watersheds of this mountainous country. Recent natural disasters are putting these forests under pressure from clearing for agriculture. Paradoxically, faster economic growth could put them under even greater pressure.

But my abiding memory is of the friendly, helpful and competent foresters we met and talked with – admittedly through an interpreter, for there is little knowledge of English, but I believe that our questions concerning forestry at least were answered as honestly as they were able. Maybe, just maybe, I was fortunate enough to visit the country when the very first steps were being taken to open up the economy, just as in China 25 years ago. If so, then I shall look forward to re-visiting DPR Korea some time in the future to see the social, economic and landscape changes that will inevitably occur.

Jim Ball

Publications

Your Obedient Servant – Tales of a Uganda Forester

By George Leggat. Edited by Arnold Beaton, James Lang Brown and Henry Osmaston

Published by Henry Osmaston, ISBN 0 9518039 5 6

Obtainable from The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Temple Meads, Bristol, U.K. BS1 5QH. Or James Lang Brown, Wheelwright's Cottage, North Brewham, Bruton, Somerset, U.K. BA10 0JL

112 pp; 17 coloured plates, 1 map

Price £7 plus packing and postage

When I started reading this book I imagined that it was to be in the form of a diary of the life of a colonial forester, starting from

school days, briefly covering university and war service and expanding over the sixteen years of service in Uganda from 1946 to 1962. In fact, although it starts like this and is arranged chronologically, its subtitle of ‘Tales of a Uganda Forester’ is an accurate description. The whole is embellished with 17 coloured plates, 2 from the author's collection and the remainder from that of James Lang Brown, co-editor. It was written in 1983, but published in 2004 after one of the editors obtained a copy from the author before he died in 2000.

Some two thirds of the volume relate experiences from his early years in Uganda as a District Forest Officer, much of which was spent in the remote West Nile District in the Northern Province.

The tales include adventure, romance, tragedy and murder. The style is a delight - quietly humorous, effective, self-effacing and, in places, poetic and romantic. The introductory parts give some clues to the author's personality and interests - among which outdoor pursuits dominate, but the reader has to create for himself a total picture of the character who is telling the tales through his comments on the persons and scenes he describes and must bear in mind that the events took place some 20 years previously; the record is thus subject to selective recall of detail some of which is not without distortion and error.

This book is not an important contribution to the history of tropical forestry, Uganda or the Colonial Service, but it does add insight and should assist historians with snap shots of the life and

motivation of those who tried to launch the Uganda Protectorate and other territories into full nationhood.

Like the editors and publisher, I served in Uganda and knew the author. Undoubtedly, shared experiences added to my delight in this book; nevertheless, I thoroughly recommend it as bedside reading to anyone with an interest in forestry, the Colonial Service or Uganda. The publisher and editors have done a magnificent job by adding a subtle Introduction and bringing this delightful volume to the public.

Michael S Philip

The Joint FAO/ILO Committee: Fifty years of international cooperation in forestry

by **T.J. Peck and E.G. Richards**

Published by ILO, ISBN 92-2-116052-1
82 pp

The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in Groningen, Netherlands recently, by looking back on 50 years of highly successful contributions to forest operations, safety and health and social issues by a dedicated group of practitioners. This publication marks the achievements of the Committee.

It decided to transform itself into a Network of experts with lighter, more modern structures and methods, but the same emphasis on

cooperation between practitioners, aimed at putting sustainable forest management into practice in the UNECE region. It identified its area of comparative advantage as cooperation between practitioners, on the implementation of sustainable forest management, especially in the social field (safety and health, employment, participation, gender issues etc.). Over the years the Committee has studied such diverse subjects as vocational training, forest fire prevention, logging operations, and the use of pesticides. For more information contact christopher.prins@unece.org

From from UNECE Weekly no.86

Meetings and events

February 2005

13-15 February 2005. Working forests in the tropics: policy and market impacts on conservation and management University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Website: conference.ifas.ufl.edu/tropics/

28 February – 5 March 2005. 17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Theme: Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction. Website: www.commonwealthforestry.org

March 2005

17 March 2005. Woodland Access: The Ins And Outs a conference to be held at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, UK. The Royal Agricultural Society of England, The Royal Forestry Society and The Woodland Trust. Contact: rfshq@rfs.org.uk

13-18 March 2005. Forestry Ministerial Meeting and 17th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), FAO, Rome, Italy. Contact: Michael.martin@fao.org

April 2005

5-8 April 2005. Sustainable forestry in theory and practice: recent advances in inventory and monitoring, statistics and modelling, information and knowledge management and policy science, Edinburgh, UK. Forestry Commission, UK and EFI and ESRI. Website: www.iufro-edinburgh.org.uk

May 2005

18-19 May 2005. International Conference on Multifunctionality of Landscapes - Analysis, Evaluation, and Decision Support. Justus-Liebig-University Giessen. Website: www.sfb299.de/conference

July 2005

10-17 July 2005. 4th International Canopy Conference, University of Leipzig, Email: horchler@uni-leipzig.de

August 2005

8-13 August. XXII IUFRO World Congress, Brisbane, Australia. Theme: Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology. Website: www.IUFRO2005.com

September 2005

12-15 September. International Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition, Bioenergy 2005 in Wood Industry, Jyväskylä, Finland. The Bioenergy Association of Finland (FINBIO), European Biomass Association (AEBIOM), Itébe, France; Finnish Sawmills Association. Website: www.finbioenergy.fi/bioenergy2005



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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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