

CFA Newsletter



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CFA Newsletter

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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the CFA.

The State of Canada's Forests 2009



Biomass trial conducted in the Eastern Ontario Model Forest in 2008; photo courtesy of FPIInnovations

Canada's forests and forest sector experienced unprecedented pressures on many fronts in 2008, brought on by cyclical and structural economic changes as well as environmental challenges. The global economic downturn hit the country's forest industry hard, and most forest commodities suffered. Existing and emerging environmental challenges—in particular, uncertainty about the potential long-term effects of such disturbances as the mountain pine beetle infestation—also took their toll on the sector. The Government of Canada has taken a wide range of actions to address these issues, placing a high priority on helping forest workers and communities adjust to closures and curtailments.

Recognizing that the long-term

survival of Canada's forest sector in tough economic times and the highly competitive global market depends on diversification and innovation, the government is also supporting new ways of doing business, new markets, new products, new technologies and new approaches to research and development. The work of transforming the sector is well under way and achieving promising results.

The amalgamation of three former Canadian research institutes into FPIInnovations, along with the Government of Canada's Canadian Wood Fibre Centre, has created one of the largest public-private forest products research institute in the world. Through this consolidated network, Canada's forest innovation efforts are guided by three objectives: rethinking how the forest

industry does business, developing the “next-generation” of forest products and processes, and remodeling the way forest research is conducted and applied.

In rethinking how it does business, Canada’s forest industry is looking to identify and capitalize on the features of the forest base that are uniquely Canadian, and is aiming to use forest fibre more efficiently and to be more discerning in choosing which fibre to use for which product.

As it develops the next generation of forest products and processes, Canada can draw on a number of advantages. The nation’s forests are vast and well managed, assuring a steady supply of commercial and environmental services. The resources in those forests are naturally diverse, ideal for an industry that needs a variety of tree species to develop new products. Sophisticated, high-value-added products—like composite building materials, specific-use pulps and papers, nano-crystalline cellulose, and biomass-sourced chemicals and fuels—will go a long way to diversifying Canada’s forest sector and renewing its competitive edge.

The success of forest innovation is closely linked to the way in which knowledge and technologies are generated and applied. Canada’s forest sector is moving toward a new research model in which value comes from transferring technology and ensuring that the scientific community works together toward common goals.

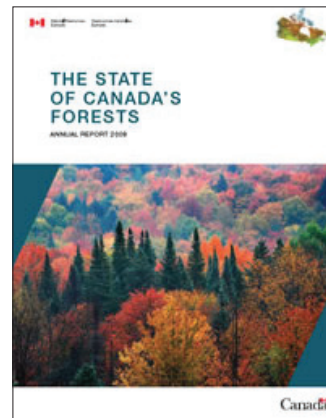
But developing new products and markets is only part of the story. Underneath the enduring success of Canada’s forest sector is a solid commitment to sustainable forest management (SFM). Even in these turbulent economic times, Canada continues to adapt and improve its policies and practices so as to maintain all environmental, economic and social forest values, not just timber values.

The SFM model is built on rigorous planning and management processes that are in place at all levels across Canada—national, provincial, territorial and regional. Integral to the model are wide public consultations, comprehensive assessment and monitoring networks, detailed reporting tools, and mechanisms to adapt practices based on new scientific information.

As the standard of practice across the country, SFM puts Canada in a strong position to tackle immediate problems such as pest and wildfire disturbances and the longer-term challenges of climate change. A variety of initiatives are looking for better ways to prevent and manage wildfires and are bringing agencies at all levels together to assess risks and responses related to native and alien pests.

Canada’s SFM record is well supported by third-party forest certification. Today Canada has the largest area of independently certified forest in the world—some 146 million hectares in 2008. This not only highlights how successfully Canadian forest companies have adopted SFM practices, but it also gives Canada’s trading partners independent verification of the forest industry’s commitment to doing business sustainably.

The economic, social and environmental challenges confronting Canada’s forest sector will no doubt continue in the coming months and years. However, with product innovation and market development under way, and a science-based SFM model that makes it easier to adapt to changing conditions, Canada is charting a path for the future.



The State of Canada’s Forests 2009 was tabled in the Parliament of Canada in September. The report highlights the past year for Canada’s forests and forest sector, and features Canada’s progress toward sustainable forest management and the critical importance of innovation to Canada’s forest sector. Also included are statistical profiles for Canada and its provinces and territories, as well as a sampling of sustainability indicators. To see the complete report, The State of Canada’s Forests 2009, please go to <http://canadaforests.nrcan.gc.ca/rpt>

Association News

Commonwealth Forestry Conference 2010: new video and registration information

A new video has been launched to promote the Commonwealth Forestry Conference to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland 28 June – 2 July, 2010. The hard-hitting images highlight the problems, challenges and opportunities faced by all of us involved in managing the Commonwealth’s forest resources. You can see the video on the CFA website at www.cfa-international.org

Don’t forget to register to attend on the Conference website at www.cfc2010.org, where the programme can also be downloaded. At a time when forests and forestry have never been higher on the international political agenda now is the time to make sure that you keep up to date with changes in policy and science relevant to our profession. We look forward to seeing you there!

Launch of the Queen's Award for Forestry 2010

In 1987, the Association's Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, approved the Queen's Award for Forestry, to recognise outstanding contributions to forestry. The purpose of the Award, which comprises a cash prize and a travel grant to the combined value of £2000, is both to recognise the achievements and support the future work of an outstanding mid-career forester. The CFA is pleased to announce the launch of the Queen's Award for Forestry 2010 and invites nominations from members for individuals

who combine exceptional contributions to forestry with an innovative approach to his or her work.

The Association, which has responsibility for selecting and evaluating candidates, will agree a travel programme in conjunction with the winner that will maximise the benefits to the winner, the hosts and the Association. The successful candidate will be expected to deliver a lecture upon return describing his or her experiences and lessons learned.

Peter Berg, Jerry Leach and Simmathiri Appanah recognised with CFA Regional Awards

New Zealand Forest Owners Association president Peter Berg has been honoured by the Commonwealth Forestry Association. He was presented with the a Regional Award of Excellence by Minister of Forests David Carter at the Forest-Wood Conference in Nelson on 8th October. Reading the award citation, the minister said Mr Berg was an exceptional example of outstanding leadership.

"He has been a champion of forestry as a member, chairman and director of many New Zealand forest industry associations. His efforts have extended to administration, co-ordination, planning and strategy development, with a focus on community, environmental, educational and economic interests."

The citation said that Mr Berg, as a professional forester, has specialised in harvesting and marketing, the development of quality systems and plantation forestry certification. He has also been involved in forestry work in Samoa under the NZ bilateral aid programme.

"He has wide experience in the international marketing and trading of forest products ... in China, Japan, India, the United States and several Southeast Asian countries."

As well as his business interests, Peter has a strong personal interest in forest conservation and in the role of indigenous species in plantation forestry. He has also co-authored and

published two books on NZ forest history. He is an officer of the NZ Order of Merit, lives in Glendowie, Auckland and has a small forest near Port Albert on the shores of the Kaipara Harbour.

Meanwhile, in Australia, Dr. Jerry Leech, was also honoured recently with a CFA Regional Award, presented to him by The Honourable Tony Burke, (Australian Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry) during the Industry Liaison Dinner in association with the 2009 Forest Industries Conference - Forest Futures, on 24th November at the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. The CFA would like to thank the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) and 'Forestworks' who provided generous support for the presentation.

Dr Leech's citation recorded that he has played an exceptional role as a forestry systems practitioner and consultant where his expertise encompasses forest mensuration and management, forest inventory, yield regulation and planning, forest biometrics, forest valuation, statistical analysis and development of growth and yield models. He was a pioneer in the use of computing for forest management in Australia and



Peter Berg (right) receives the CFA Regional Award from NZ Minister of Forests, David Carter.



Dr Jerry Leech (second from right) receives the CFA Regional Award from The Honourable Tony Burke, (Australian Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry). Also pictured are – Bob Newman (left - CFA Vice President, Governing Council) and Michael Bleby (CFA Regional Coordinator for the SE Asia-Pacific Region).

instrumental in the development of yield regulation systems for radiata pine plantations.

He is a valued consultant in the development of forest management information systems for both Government and private plantation forestry organisations, particularly in the Green Triangle Region of Southern Australia. His endeavours have included important work for the development of conforming standards for the process of forest valuation. Dr Leech has international experience in tropical and temperate forest management and inventory as a technical adviser and consultant. His work in Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Peoples Republic of China, and Bhutan, has been for United Nations FAO or World Bank projects. A keen supporter of forestry education, Dr Leech has refereed publications and imparted his knowledge as supervisor of post-graduate students, occasional lecturer, examiner and mentor through involvement with the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne and Southern Cross University. Dr Leech has been extensively published. This award recognises his contribution and leadership.

A CFA Regional Award was also recently presented in Malaysia to Dr. Simmathiri Appanah on 30 November 2009. The ceremony took place during the Reception Dinner of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) that was held in Kuala Lumpur.

The Certificate and the Regional Medal were presented to Dr. Appanah by Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom who is currently, among others, the EU-FLEGT-VPA Advisor to the Malaysian Government, and the Chairman of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC). A background to the CFA and its various awards was given by a past recipient of the Award, Thang Hooi Chiew, who also read the 'Citation' for Dr. Appanah.

Dr. Simmathiri Appanah has played an exceptional role in the fields of Forest Research, Silviculture, and the development of Forest Policy. His endeavours as a Forest Ecologist have encompassed practical research into the reproduction, regeneration and rehabilitation of the production rain forests of SE Asia. His research findings have led to innovative practical applications in the management and harvesting of the Region's natural forests. He has displayed valued leadership in Forest Research in Malaysia and in the publication of research work as founding editor of the International Journal of Tropical Forest Science.

Apart from his work in Malaysia, he has played a pivotal role



Dr Simmathiri Appanah (centre) receives the CFA Regional Award from Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom/ Also picture is Dr Thang Hooi Chiew (right).

assisting other countries in the Region (including Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka) to review their Forest Research programmes, and to develop Research management strategies. He has fostered valuable Regional networks and encouraged scientific exchange and collaboration. His work has extended to include the promotion of the National Forest Programme and assistance in forest policy and legislation formulation in many Asia – Pacific countries. This has focused on equitable sharing of forest wealth and supporting legal arrangements, and this award recognises his contribution and leadership in these fields.

His work has been extensively published in several books and many scientific papers. He has also been instrumental in organising many seminars, workshops and conferences, and supervised post graduate students. The CFA congratulates Dr. Simmathiri Appanah on this award, in the knowledge that his work and career has made an outstanding contribution to Forestry in the Region.

CFA raises forestry issues at the Commonwealth People's Forum

The Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) is one of four biennial meetings which comprise the Commonwealth Summit, the others being the Commonwealth Business Forum, the Commonwealth Youth Forum and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The purpose of the CPF is to enable the Commonwealth's civil society groups to discuss issues of interest amongst themselves and work with the Commonwealth Foundation to produce



a Statement which is then presented to the CHOGM. The CFA was invited to participate in the CPF by the Commonwealth Foundation who kindly supported the attendance of Alan Pottinger (CFA Technical Director) at the three-day meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The purpose of the Statement is twofold; first, is that it creates a working document for both the Foundation and civil society organisations to refer to in their activities (an example being a large Commonwealth fisheries project which has just been completed that was an

outcome of the discussions at the previous CPF in Kampala two years ago), and second is that it enables civil society to have a formal voice and interaction with the CHOGM.

Forestry had a pleasingly high profile throughout the meeting and it was possible to develop the draft forest-related inputs (see below) into much more meaningful statements that had been the case at previous CPFs.

The relevant statements in **Port of Spain Civil Society Statement to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting** were as follows:

- *We call* on Commonwealth Member States to: *commit* to reducing deforestation and promoting afforestation through the REDD Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, and *agree* on forest definitions that protect virgin forests;
- *We call* on Commonwealth Member States to: *recognise* that forestry is a key source of livelihood and first line

of defence against climate change, entailing the need to promote forest restoration as a key component of climate change strategy; *support* mangrove conservation initiatives because of the key role of mangrove forests in coastal ecosystem protection; *support* forest communities and institutions in developing knowledge and capacity, facilitate participatory processes and recognise traditional knowledge; *note* and *support* the Commonwealth Forestry Conference to be held in 2010 under the theme '*Restoring the Commonwealth's Forests: Tackling Climate Change*'; and *support* sustainable forest management initiatives, including development of flagship projects.

The full Civil Society Statement can be downloaded at www.commonwealthfoundation.com/uploads/fckeditor/00000206_CPF_2009_%20Final_Statement.pdf

CFA Young Scientist Research Award winner completes work in South Africa

The CFA recognises the fundamental importance of scientific research in the development of our understanding of the growth of forests and their value to society and our planet. Since 1921 the CFA has published leading scientific papers on forest research, and has more recently established initiatives designed to encourage publication of research articles by young researchers (the Young Scientist Publication Award) and distribute our journal, the International Forestry Review, free of charge to developing countries via the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI).

In January 2009, the CFA launched a new initiative, the **CFA Young Scientist Research Award**, with the following terms of reference:

- **Objective of scheme** To provide financial support to Commonwealth students undertaking forest-related research in pursuit of an academic qualification.
- **Age** Up to 35 years of age
- **Nationality and location** Citizen of a Commonwealth

country carrying out research in a Commonwealth country within a recognized academic programme working towards an academic qualification.

- **Educational status** No restrictions.
- **Amount of money available** Up to £1000.
- **Number of awards and their frequency** One award per year.
- **Terms and conditions for use of money** Funds provided to the academic institution. Report provided to CFA of work carried out.

This year's Award winner, Ofoegbu Chidiebere of the Department of Forest and Wood Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, received support from CFA for his research study entitled *An evaluation of the socio-economic impact of timber production with and without the inclusion of biomass energy production: A case study of Mondi Business Paper South Africa (MBP SA) Mkhondo business unit* which is featured in the Forest Scenes section of this Newsletter.

Foday Bojang joins the CFA Governing Council

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Foday Bojang, FAO Senior Forestry Officer at the Regional Office for Africa (RAF), in Accra, Ghana, has agreed to join the CFA Governing Council. Mr. Bojang received his BSc. degree in forestry from the University of Dar Es Salaam, Morogoro Campus, Tanzania, in 1980 and an MSc. in forest management and mensuration from the University of Montana, Missoula, in the United States of America (USA) in 1983. He has had Fourteen years professional and administrative



experience as Assistant Director and as Director of the Department of Forestry of The Gambia from 1984 to 1990 and 1990 to 1998 respectively. He also served as Forestry Officer responsible for reforestation in his own country, The Gambia, in 1980 and 1981. Mr. Bojang joined the then Organization of African Unity (now African Union) in August 1998 where he served as Senior Policy Officer in the Environment and Natural Resources Division and, subsequently, as Head of the Division from 2004 until his departure from the AU in July 2008 to join the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(FAO). At the FAO, Mr. Bojang's responsibilities in his current position include serving as Secretary to the African Forestry

and Wildlife Commission and following up on regional forestry activities.

Publications Committee meeting held via Skype

As part of CFA's continuing commitment to decreasing costs, reducing our carbon emissions due to travel, and increasing the ease with which members can participate in the management of the Association we were pleased to hold our recent Publications Committee meeting

over the internet. As with the AGM we used the free internet facility, Skype, which enables us to either talk or send messages free of charge over the internet. This meant that we were able to link committee members in four locations to discuss our agenda – and we didn't need to leave our respective offices!

Letter

Comments on A View of UNFF-8

Dear Sir,
First of all I would like to congratulate you for excellent articles and information that have been presented in the CFA Newsletters. I would like to comment on one of the articles presented in the CFA Newsletter #45, June 2009.

In the last decades forest resources have received a great deal of attention from the international community. However, when considering the significant international debate on forests it appears that there is a paradox regarding the debate on the importance of forest resources that has recently dominated the international agenda. It suggests to me that all this debate does not go far beyond an exercise of rhetoric rather than an actual concern about forest resources.

In her article *A View of UNFF-8*, Dr. Davenport called attention to a very important point regarding to the heavy focus on just forest and climate change while many other important values seem to be neglected or left aside. In fact, it is fair to say that in the last decades the focus has been placed on environmental functions of forest resources while their economic functions have not have received the same attention. However, when one notes rates of deforestation, particularly in tropical areas, as for example the case of Africa where forests are disappearing at alarming rates, it is fair to assume that this focus has not been able to reduce deforestation.

The big challenge is to find ways to actually avoid deforestation. There is no single answer to this question however evidence suggests that the answer is not via more restrictive legislation allied to an excessive bureaucracy. Unfortunately this approach has been adopted worldwide. This unfriendly environment contributes to undermine opportunities to improve forest management and, although not intentional, even to promote illegal forest activities. One can assume that economic functions of forests must be always considered otherwise it increases the potential risk that the forest area be converted to other uses. In short, in my opinion, in order to conserve

and preserve forest resources, real actions are necessary to be taken, for example, to stimulate forest management as a way to conserve forests rather than encourage utopian solutions based on slogans, such as 'save the forests' that have been promoted by environmental organizations.

This pressure from environmental groups is not only towards the management of native forest resources but is also present against tree plantations, particularly against plantation of exotic species. For example, in Brazil these organizations have promoted campaigns against such plantations suggesting that they qualify as 'green deserts'.

In addition, I would like to add that it is often very difficult to develop forestry activities due to a highly restrictive legislation allied to an excessive bureaucracy. For example, in Brazil, if we consider a case where a land owner has an area of forest, he/she has two options: (i) to request permission to cut the forest and transform the land in an agricultural one, including pasture; or (ii) to develop forest management. In the first case once the landowner receives the permission the land can be converted to agricultural use and he/she is free to grow as well as harvest the crop or sell the cattle. In the second case if the landowner opts to develop forest management, he/she must present a management plan, requests permission to transport the wood and so on. As one can infer this situation generates a complete anti-stimulus environment to promote forest activities vis-à-vis agricultural activities, even though the idea behind this excessive bureaucracy and restrictive legislation was to protect the forest resources.

Deforestation continues to advance in the Amazon Region even though environmental matters continue to predominate in the development of forest policy. I therefore consider that less bureaucracy and less restrictive legislation could have a more positive result than the present situation.

Sebastião Kengen
Brasília, Brazil

Forest scenes

An evaluation of the socio-economic impact of timber production with and without the inclusion of biomass energy production: A case study of Mondi Business Paper South Africa (MBP SA) Mkhondo business unit

The discussion on climate change is leading to a re-interpretation of tree plantations in South Africa; prompting the adoption of forest bioenergy system as one of the cost effective 'carbon mitigation options'. In an analysis of this changing paradigm special emphasis was put on socio-economic aspects of



Ofoegbu Chidiebere outside the Department of Forest and Wood Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.



One of the community facilitators speaking with one a villager in Bon Esperance; one of the surveyed villages.



Old belfast; a typical sample of houses on Mondi plantations.

tree plantations focusing on integrated pulpwood and forest bioenergy systems with special attention on harvest residues recovery for bioelectricity production and construction and operation of bioelectricity plant.

This study assesses the socio-economic concerns of integrated pulpwood and forest bioenergy systems with special attention on harvest residues recovery for bioelectricity production and construction and operation of a bioelectricity plant.



A sample of one of the Mondi plantations.

Structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews were used to estimate the values of direct and indirect benefits that adjacent rural communities derive from Mondi Plantations in the Piet Retief areas of South Africa. Twelve villages were randomly selected from 56 villages on Mondi Plantations in Piet Retief and Iswepe areas (six villages from each area) for

sampling; a systematic random sampling of ten households per village was carried out within the selected villages.

The study revealed that adjacent rural communities on Mondi plantations in Piet Retief and Iswepe areas enjoy direct benefits such as employment opportunities, free collection and utilization of harvest residues, utilization of non-timber resources, and free accommodation. Indirect benefits that these communities enjoy include: free farmland and graze-land and various social benefits such as borehole water, cemetery etc arising from the company's corporate social responsibility programme.

The possibility of using harvest residues for bioelectricity production was also examined in the case of final clear felling in Mondi forest plantations at Piet Retief. The study developed and described a scenario of a 5MW bioelectricity generation facility, requiring an annual volume of 11,708.46 dry tons of residues as feedstock for its operation. The feedstock source is available from annual harvestable hectares of plantations from Mondi forest in Piet Retief and Iswepe areas.

Using NPV and IRR analytical tool, the study estimated the economic impacts of integrated pulpwood and bioelectricity production, compared to conventional pulpwood production operation. The result showed that integrated pulpwood and harvest residue recovery for bioelectricity production is a profitable means of producing renewable energy. The approach was found to increase the profitability of conventional forest operations.

Ofoegbu Chidiebere

CFA Young Scientist Research Award winner 2009

Combating climate change – a role for UK forests

The United Kingdom Forestry Commission (UK FC) hosted a presentation in November 2009 of the main findings of the report *Combating climate change – a role for UK forests, sub-titled An assessment of the potential of the UK's trees and woodlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change*. The report, which was published the month before the Copenhagen meeting of the UNFCCC, was the UK's response to the 2007 global 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); it is believed to be the first such national study.

It was prepared by an independent panel of scientists at the request of the UK FC, with the following objectives:

- Review and synthesise existing knowledge on the impacts of climate change on UK trees, woodlands and forests.
- Provide a baseline of the current potential of different mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Identify gaps and weaknesses to help determine research priorities for the next five years.

Noting that the *status quo* is not an option, and that action taken now to plant trees would only have a significant impact on the UK's emission reduction target in more than fifty years time, the panel proposed an increase of 4 per cent in the nation's forests, woodlands and trees. This would increase the UK's tree cover from 12 per cent at present to 16 per cent, still well below that of most other European countries.

Considering that the harvesting and use of wood could

considerably increase the mitigation potential of the UK's forests, the panel identified the following benefits:

- An increase in the carbon stored in products used in buildings from an estimated 19 million tonnes (or 70MtCO₂ equivalent) to 29 Mt by 2019;
- A saving of approximately 7MtCO₂ equivalent arising from the burning of fossil fuels at present, through conversion to sustainably managed wood fuel within five years;
- Tree growth does not depend largely on nitrogenous fertilisers, thus storing carbon without releasing nitrogen into the atmosphere as the greenhouse gas N₂O or nitrates into stream flow.

The panel emphasised that tree planting can help society adapt to climate change, especially in urban areas through the provision of shelter and shade, the reduction of the ambient temperature, and runoff control. It recommended that foresters should contribute to the debate to increase the public's knowledge and awareness, and also that policy incentives would have to be re-designed to reward adequately the provision of non-market benefits of tree planting, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation.

This short note can only give the flavour of the contents of this most important report; it reviews the UK's forest policies and the state of its forests, assesses the evidence for the impacts of climate change now and in the future and summarises the contribution that the UK's forests can make to mitigation. It

reviews the scope for the nation's woodlands to adapt to climate change and then puts the UK's forestry sector in the broader context of land use and sustainable development; finally it summarises the conclusions and identifies future research needs.

The full report is available from the (UK) Stationery Office

at £30, but there is a free 20 page synthesis available, which can be ordered on-line from customer.services@tso.co.uk or from the website www.tsoshop.co.uk

Jim Ball
CFA Chair

News from the UN Forum on Forests: Implementing SFM, the International Year of Forests 2011 and the International Year of Biodiversity 2010

Agreement has been reached on an ad referendum¹ text on the “means of implementation for sustainable forest management (SFM)” during an informal consultation that took place in New York in September. The implementation of SFM, especially the funds to pay for it, is central to funding the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, which was agreed at UNFF7 in 2007, but negotiations had stalled on this issue at the 8th Session of the UNFF, held earlier in 2009.

The agreed *ad ref* text states that an expert group will be established to make proposals for strategies to mobilize resources including, among other things, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund. The text also establishes a process to facilitate and catalyze implementation of SFM and the non-legally binding instrument. A one-day special session of UNFF 9 will convene

for the purpose of adopting the agreed text. You can see the agreed text at : <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/docs2/Agreedtext>

The UNFF has also issued a report on preparations for the International Year of Forests in 2011, for which the UNFF is responsible. A concept paper is being developed outlining the objectives for the Year and providing recommendations on how member States, and others, can observe the Year. An official logo and website are being prepared, and the UNFF is collaborating with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to identify areas of synergy with the International Year of Biodiversity, which will be held in 2010 (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>).

Jim Ball
CFA Chair

¹ I am grateful to Peter Csoka of the UNFF Secretariat for an explanation of this term. Evidently ad ref means that the text was agreed, but the right to make a final decision is retained, for example because the parties don't know how the rest of the agreement would look like. In this case the whole text was in fact agreed so it is not really ad ref anymore, but since it was done by an informal process the final agreement has yet to be formally made.

Small-scale timber growers in South Africa

Introduction

Woodlots were established as early as 1893 in King Williams Town by the State to provide firewood and building material for rural blacks. It was, however, the 1980s and 1990s, almost a decade later that saw an unprecedented growth of small-scale timber growing (STG) in rural communities of South Africa (SA) driven by industry's role players. Some schemes and/or programmes that have contributed to this growth include Project Grow by SAPPI, Khulanathi originally by MondiBP – now currently being run as a standalone business, Siyathuthuka linked to NTE and UCL, and those Programmes ran by NCT, TWK and Ikusasa. Such STG is predominantly oriented for pulp and paper product due to shorter rotation compared to other product regimes like sawlogs.

Although the policy environment responded, through the National Forest Action Programme (NFAP) in 1997, by internalising STG issues in part. This however did, and has, not translate to any meaningful and tangible benefits for STG.

Similarly, their organisation from an industry perspective did not take shape although industry bodies like the Forest Owner Association (FOA) and the South African Timber Growers Association (SATGA) existed until 2002. It was the establishment of Forestry South Africa (FSA) in 2002 that sought, for the first time, to mainstream STG issues into the industry's affairs – an association born by former organisations amalgamation and featuring STG representation. FSA today represents more than 20 000 STG scattered between KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces. The formation of Amahlathi Emerging Entrepreneurs' Forum in 2005 added impetus in small forest enterprise representation – although their membership cannot be qualified. The following sections provide descriptions, and challenges and opportunities for STG in the SA.

Small-scale timber growers in SA context

While there have been a number of STG definitions, the following has been commonly used – ‘a person, family and/or community that plants trees for commercial timber



Small-scale timber growers.

production on an area nominally exceeding 100 ha in extent, predominantly of eucalyptus or wattle species, utilising minimum technological operations, employing approximately or less than 11 people at a given point, and with a turnover and/or asset value of less than R5m'. Small-scale timber growers constitute about 95% of the industry by number (see table), although their value is minimum making about 4% of the industry production capacity mainly for pulp. This 4% equivalent capacity generated about ZAR288 million (US\$32 million) of income during 2006.

Extent of STG activity coverage in South Africa based on 2006 figures

Programmes	No. of growers	No. of hectares	Average size
Project Grow	9 810	15 000	1.5
Khulanathi	3 000	7 000	2.3
NCT Forestry Coop	1 600	25 000	15.6
TWK Agriculture Ltd	500	1 800	3.6
Siyathuthuka	2 860	4 560	1.6
Independent growers	+200	809	4
Government led projects	6 200 (11 projects)	2 584	0.4
Total	24 170	56 753	4.1

Challenges and opportunities for STG in SA

While there is no doubt about the forest sector importance in the SA economy, questions have been raised regarding value of its small forest enterprises (SFE) including STG. This cannot be adequately justified by their current state of affairs – the answers lie in their future opportunities. In order to tap onto such opportunities reflected below, a number of challenges for SFE in general must be addressed and these include:

- Access to skills development opportunities;
- Access to financial and non-financial support and services;

- Cost of legislations and lack of incentives;
- Lack of communication and access to information – extension;
- Access to growth and development opportunities¹;
- Infrastructure development conditions;
- Market and marketing deficiencies part. contract and procurement negotiations disparities;
- Access to technical and technological support; and
- Dispersed and uncoordinated strategic approaches and instruments.

There are two principal and categoric areas of opportunities for STG in SA, and these are economic and governance reforms and new areas for afforestation potential. The economic and governance reforms comprises of about three processes:

- Land reform – an average of ±60% of the current afforested land (1.226 million HA) is under claim by communities, and thus, likely to change hands;
- Forest sector charter² identifies seven elements where SFE and/or black economic empowerment (BEE) will benefit including equity (minimum of 25%), preferential procurement (10 – 15%), enterprise development (1% NAT) and skills development (3% pay roll); and
- Restructuring of State forestry assets (about 65 000 HA) – the decision has been taken to transfer the remaining category B and C assets to the rightful owners of land, which are communities.

Similarly, there are two key new afforestation potential

opportunities, and these are (1) greenfields afforestation in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal (40 000 HA), Eastern Cape (100 000 HA), Mpumalanga (3 000 HA) and Limpopo (6070 HA), and (2) conversion of wattle jungle into manageable plantation predominantly in Eastern Cape (about 10 000 HA). All the overall new afforestation of 150 000 HA will come from rural communities, which constitute STG although such projects particularly from the Eastern Cape are most likely to be of medium size due to stronger communal tenure land system.

Conclusions

The development of STG in SA has been driven by strong and stable market, and through partnerships. The demographics

¹ There is currently four provincial growth and development assessment processes underway – for which their outcomes presents opportunities for STG.

² It is a cooperative sector value chain economic transformation and growth instrument negotiated and agreed (signed on May 22, 2008) to by both the Government and the Industry linked to BBBEE Act 53 of 2003.

change as a result of democracy brought along both challenges and opportunities. In pursued of opportunities – some highlighted above, challenges can be addressed, and in turn, create a striving and sustainable STG enterprises. While this seems as a toll order, it can be facilitated through partnerships, and there are already good baseline initiatives to this end.

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Around the world

Asia: A rebirth for the forests of Asia

Over-exploitation for wood and fuel, land conversion to agriculture, forest fire, expansion of desert areas, drought and illegal logging, in the past, were among the factors that have caused major degradation of Asia's forests. More recently, as awareness of the problems and excesses grew, efforts at rehabilitation began to emerge. Some of the rehabilitation successes started with government programs then spread to industry, non-government organizations and local communities.

The growing economies in Asia, home of 14% of the world's forests and more than 60% of its population, create many challenges and opportunities – economically, environmentally and socially – for the forests, which play important roles in these countries.

Forest scientists from various regions in Asia, who have responded to this challenge through an initiative called *Keep Asia Green*, will be among those discussing the history, current status, success and failures of forest rehabilitation efforts in their countries at the 2010 IUFRO World Congress in Seoul on 23-28th August 2010 (see www.iufro2010.com).

“The Seoul discussions around *Keep Asia Green* – the lessons learned and success stories – will allow those from any part of the world confronted with the degradation of forests, to assess what approaches could be adopted and applied successfully to address the challenges they face at home”, says IUFRO President Professor Don K. Lee.

www.iufro.org

Canada: Boreal forests store carbon but need help

The world needs to do more to protect boreal forests and peatlands, which store more carbon than any other ecosystem and help mitigate the effects of climate change, a Canadian report said. Boreal forests, found in northern areas like Canada, Russia, Scandinavia and parts of the United States, cover 11 percent of the earth and store 22 percent of all carbon on the land surface in soil, permafrost, peatlands and wetlands.

“Action is needed to conserve a region that contains ‘The carbon the world forgot,’” said the 36-page report from the Canadian Boreal Initiative, an environmental group. The report said the 208.1 billion tonnes of carbon estimated to be stored by Canada's boreal forest and peatland was equivalent to 26 years worth of the world's 2006 carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning. It's not clear if the Canadian government, which walked away from the Kyoto Protocol climate pact, might use the report as a possible way to win concessions in international talks on curbing greenhouse gas emission.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said earlier this month that climate talks in Copenhagen next month should take account the role of the ability of Russia's forests to absorb carbon dioxide when setting climate change targets. The Canadian report said boreal forests and peatland had a net cooling effect on the climate because they can remove

carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it underground. But these gases are released when the forests are logged or soils are disturbed, accelerating global warming, it said. The report complained that the Kyoto climate pact focused almost exclusively on tropical forests, offered no incentives for forest conservation and excluded peatlands. “Because the boreal forest is the largest terrestrial carbon storehouse on earth, keeping the boreal carbon reservoir in place is essential to avoid accelerating climate change.”

The United Nations hopes a major climate meeting in Copenhagen in December will lead to a broader framework to expand or replace Kyoto, whose first phase ends in 2012. Any effective and affordable response to climate change should include preserving the world's remaining, carbon-rich old-growth forests,” said Steve Kallick, of the Pew Environment Group's International Boreal Conservation Campaign. This would require drastic cuts in industrial emissions and a vast increase in the area designated off limits to the kinds of industrial disturbances likely to release more carbon into the atmosphere, the report said.

www.reuters.com

Brazil: Amazon deforestation 'record low'

The rate of deforestation in the Amazon has dropped by 45% and is the lowest on record since monitoring began 21 years ago, Brazil's government says. According to the latest annual figures, just over 7,000 sq km was destroyed between July 2008 and August 2009.

The drop is welcome news for the government in advance of the Copenhagen summit on climate change. Welcoming the news, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva described the drop in the level of deforestation as "extraordinary". He said climate change was the most challenging issue the world was facing. The Brazilian government will undoubtedly view the latest figures as a boost to its green credentials coming just before the Copenhagen summit in December. At the summit, the Brazilian government seems certain to present its efforts to reduce destruction in the Amazon as a key part of its strategy to combat climate change.

The environment ministry is said to be proposing that around half of a 40% cut in Brazil's carbon emissions would come from reducing deforestation. The Brazilian government wants to see an 80% reduction in the deforestation rate by 2020.

The environmental pressure group, Greenpeace, welcomed the latest drop as important, but said that there was still too much destruction in the rainforest. In a statement, it said the president would be happy if, in 11 years time, the Amazon was being destroyed at a rate of a little less than three cities the size of Sao Paulo a year. Some environmentalists believe that the fall in deforestation may be connected to the economic downturn, and that when things improve, the Amazon could face renewed pressure.

news.bbc.co.uk

UK: Ghost trees 'haunt' London square

The stumps of 10 rainforest trees, complete with their roots, have been placed around Trafalgar Square to highlight the issue of deforestation. Laser beams will mark the height the trees would have reached in the wild in comparison to Nelson's Column. The legally logged trees will highlight deforestation in countries like their native Ghana which has lost 90% of its rainforest in the past 50 years.

The artist, Angela Palmer, went to a logging camp to locate trees for the exhibit. Ms Palmer said: "The concept is to present a series of rainforest tree stumps as a 'ghost forest' - using the

negative space created by the missing trunks as a metaphor for climate change, the absence representing the removal of the world's 'lungs' through continued deforestation."

The project has seven indigenous species - Denya, Dahuma, Danta, Hyedua, Mahogany, Wawa and three varieties of Celtis. The installation, which highlights the threat of deforestation faced by tropical forests, will be shipped to Thorvaldsens Plads in Copenhagen for the start of the UN Climate Change summit in December.

news.bbc.co.uk

USA: Disney commits \$4 million to rainforest conservation in the Amazon and Congo

The Walt Disney Company will invest \$7 million in forest conservation projects in the U.S., the Congo Basin, and the Amazon in an effort to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Disney's investment is being made in partnership with three conservation groups: Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund.

Working with Conservation International, Disney will contribute \$4 million to the Tayna and Kisimba-Ikobo Community Reserves in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and the Alto Mayo conservation project in the Peruvian Amazon. The reserves will protect habitat for endangered populations of gorilla and okapi in the Congo and the Andean spectacled bear and yellow-tailed woolly monkey in Peru. The projects will fund community forest management and sustainable development activities around the reserves, reducing deforestation from logging and slash-and-burn agriculture.

The investment is the largest-ever corporate contribution to reduce emissions from deforestation, according to Peter Seligmann, CEO and chairman of Conservation International. "This commitment by Disney... will help build confidence in these activities that generate such compelling climate, local community and biodiversity benefits," he said in a prepared statement. "Disney's leadership points the way to the key role tropical forest conservation must play in emerging climate change policies."

Disney will provide another \$2 million for a reforestation project of native hardwoods in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The project is run by The Nature Conservancy. Disney also will invest \$1 million in The Conservation Fund's reduced impact logging operation in Mendocino County, California.

news.mongabay.com

India: Forest cover has increased since 1997, says report

Days ahead of the climate change summit in Copenhagen, where India will demand incentives for increasing forest cover, New Delhi came up with a comprehensive report that showed that its forest cover continued to grow and that it had the potential to become the largest carbon sink in the world.

The 'India State of Forest Report 2009', an exercise undertaken by the Forest Survey of India, shows that a total of 78.37 million hectares of land — or 23.84 per cent of the country's geographical area — was under forest area in 2007. This was an increase of 0.18 million hectares, 0.23 per cent, over 2005.

From 1997 to 2007, India's forest cover had grown by 3.13

million hectares, a rise of 4.75 per cent. Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh pointed out that while India's forest cover had shown an average increase of 0.3 million hectares per year in the past one decade, countries like Brazil and Indonesia had seen their forests reduce at the rate of about 2.5 million hectares per year in the same period. Brazil and Indonesia have been pushing for monetary support for countries which reduce their deforestation as forests act as global carbon sinks. India has proposed similar compensation for increasing the forest cover.

According to a recent study, India's forests absorb about 11 per cent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

www.indianexpress.com

Kenya: With land evictions, Kenya aims to reduce impacts on important ecosystem

The Kenyan government has begun forcibly evicting thousands of people in an attempt to halt environmental degradation in the Mau Forest, one of the nation's most critical ecosystems. The 400,000 hectare forest is one of Kenya's most important water catchment areas, providing seasonal rainwater through a network of rivers to millions of Kenyans and an abundance of wildlife. Over the last 20 years, a quarter of the forest has been destroyed, largely because of illegal logging and charcoal burning.

"The Mau catchment provides water to various basins and parks including the Mara River, the only perennial river in the region," said Anne Mwangi, a spokeswoman for the World Wildlife Fund in East Africa. "Reports indicate that water flow in the Mara River has reduced considerably over the last 10 years. Extensive deforestation in its watershed, burgeoning human settlements, inappropriate land use and the proliferation of tourist facilities have all contributed to this reduced flow." Environmental and humanitarian groups, meanwhile, agree on the need to protect the forest, but the manner of the evictions is causing concern — particularly given Kenya's fragile coalition government and past tribal conflicts over land.

The forest is the traditional home of the Ogiek people, a small indigenous tribe, but in recent years outside groups have moved in. "The Ogiek have lived in and cared for the Mau Forest for hundreds of years," said Fiona Watson, research

and field director at Survival International, an organization promoting the rights of indigenous cultures. "It's doubly tragic that the very people who have conserved the Mau Forest for so many generations are now threatened with eviction because of deforestation caused by outsiders."

The evictions are scheduled to take place over the coming few months. An estimated 30,000 families are expected to be relocated. Rivers in neighboring Ethiopia and Tanzania are also fed from the Mau Forest catchment, as is Lake Victoria — Africa's largest lake — and the Maasai Mara game reserve, one of Kenya's most primary tourist attractions.

Kenya's power infrastructure has also been affected by shrinking water resources, including the 60 megawatt Sondu Miriu hydropower scheme and numerous geothermal plants. This year, severe droughts in Kenya led to rolling blackouts across the country, the closure of hydroelectric plants, and steep increases in power prices.

According to the United Nations, which started a \$400 million campaign to save the forest in September, the rivers in the Mau ecosystem have the potential to generate 518 megawatts of hydro electricity, or 41 percent of Kenya's total need. The ecosystem is estimated to be worth \$275 million each year.

greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com

Gambia: Casamance foresters commend Government

Forestry officials from the Senegalese region of Casamance have commended The Gambia for being one of the countries in the sub-region to be admired for its successes and giant strides in community forest management.

Speaking at a day's sensitisation forum in Bwiam, Foni

Kansala in the Western Region, foresters from Casamance said they have a lot to learn from The Gambia in terms of forest management while recognising their failure in the management of their own forest as expected. Paul Habibu Sanyang from Casamance said: "We know The Gambia is leading many countries in community forest management and

that is why we are here to learn from you.” He said looking at their region, one will know that the forest is indeed being exploited. Momodou N Bah, a forestry officer in Foni Kansala, said, The Gambia government had made several researches with the help of experts before implementing the community forest management policy in the country.

Bah said before one can succeed in community forest, ownership must be given to the people, saying “That is why in The Gambia the whole process started from the grassroot

level”. Participants from both The Gambia and Casamance called on authorities both ends to come together to help stop the exploitation of the forest in their border villages. The forum was funded by ENDA dialogue politics, an organisation in Dakar, Senegal and implemented by the Saint Joseph’s Family Farms in Bwiam, Foni.

allafrica.com

Zimbabwe: Two million trees planned

Harare City Council in conjunction with its partners has embarked on an ambitious four-year greening project to plant two million trees as part of global efforts to address issues of climate change.

Harare Greening Project co-ordinator, Mr Percy Toriro, said 250 trees have been planted in Warren Park so far while more would be planted before the National Tree Planting Day in December. He said ornamental trees would be planted on

road verges, major thoroughfares and on centre islands while fruit trees are encouraged at home level. Indigenous trees would also be planted on open spaces that used to have such trees.

Harare’s trees have been decimated in search of firewood because of erratic electricity supplies.

www.allafrica.com

Uganda: Museveni orders eviction of encroachers

President Yoweri Museveni has directed water and environment minister Maria Mutagamba to immediately evict encroachers in all forest reserves. Appearing before the parliamentary committee on commissions, statutory and state enterprises, Mutagamba said the President’s directive was issued on October 15.

“The President has realised the dangers of forest encroachers. He has noticed the destruction, especially around the lake shores, and he wants encroachers evicted before 2011,” Mutagamba told the committee. She explained that because of the sensitivity of the matter, her ministry had organised a stakeholders meeting to set out the modalities before going to the ground to evict people. Mutagamba told the committee, chaired by Reagan Okumu, that she had written to the third deputy prime minister, the local government and internal affairs officials, to meet and brain storm over the matter.

The meeting, the minister said, will also discuss how the encroachers would be compensated. The committee, however, opposed the idea of compensating the encroachers, saying it would encourage illegal settlers. According to the President’s directive, the evictions should start with Namwasa Forest in Kiboga, Mpanga Forest in Mpigi, Bukaleba in Bugiri and forests in Mubende and Hoima districts.

When the committee toured forests recently, it established that the number of encroachers had increased, most especially in western Uganda. Uganda has 506 forest reserves. Over 350,000 illegal settlers are believed to be living in the reserves. Though the directive targets people who settled in the forests before 2005, Mutagamba asserted that even those who settled in forests with unique features like streams, rivers, lakes, would be evicted.

allAfrica.com

Global: U.N. forest plan could threaten species

A United Nations plan to protect the world’s tropical forests to fight climate change could threaten more animals and plants with extinction. The U.N. scheme, to be discussed at climate talks in Copenhagen, could save some species, while inadvertently endangering many others, according to the team of international researchers.

Under the plan, called REDD, or reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation, poor countries will be paid to protect their trees to try to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Funded by a carbon market, it will let rich nations cut their emissions more cheaply.

In a paper published in Current Biology magazine, the

scientists warned that the market may target forests that are cheap to protect and rich in carbon and neglect those that have less carbon but more endangered animals and plants. “We are concerned that governments will focus on cutting deforestation in the most carbon-rich forests, only for clearance pressures to shift to other high biodiversity forests which are not given priority for protection,” said the team’s joint leader, Alan Grainger, of the University of Leeds.

Clearing forests for timber and farmland emits nearly a fifth of the greenhouse gases blamed for climate change, according to U.N. estimates. Deforestation has threatened species such as the mountain gorillas of Africa and the giant pandas of Asia.

The scientists, from Britain, the United States, Germany,

Switzerland and Singapore, said concentrations of carbon and biodiversity in tropical forests only partially overlap. They said up to 95 percent of damage to REDD-protected forests could be displaced to nearby unprotected forests. Their report cited the example of the Peruvian Amazon, where the creation of forest reserves contributed to a 300 to 470 percent rise in damage to forests in adjacent areas. State workers and public money may be switched to REDD forests, leaving unprotected areas at risk, the paper said.

The scientists also fear that REDD could, perversely, lead

countries to delay forest protection measures that they might otherwise have taken anyway, as they await the new agreement and the rewards it might bring. They urged countries meeting in Denmark to add rules on safeguarding biodiversity to the text of any deal and consider giving incentives to poor nations that address the issue. "Despite the best of intentions, mistakes can easily happen because of poor design," Grainger added. "A well designed REDD can save many species."

www.reuters.com

Kenya: Country roots for farmers in bid to increase forest cover

The Government is counting on farmers to increase Kenya's forest cover by up to 10 per cent -the level it was at independence. Lined up are incentives such as loans at low interest rates and endowments to motivate farmers to grow trees on their land to mitigate the effects of decades of deforestation. Planting the trees to achieve this level should take five years, it says.

Kenya has less than two per cent forest cover of the country's 58 million hectares. "People who plant trees on their farms will be able to access financing from the forest conservation and management fund that was created under the Forests Act (2005)," said Mr D.K. Mbugua, director of Kenya Forest Service (KFS). He added: "Those who plant trees on plantations for commercial purposes can obtain loans at low interest rates. On the other hand, those who just want to plant trees for the sake of conservation can get endowments," he said.

The government is also counting on possible compensation from the developed world for their role in global warming believed to have affected poor nations more. "We expect that the Copenhagen meeting in December will result in increase in carbon trade which local farmers can take advantage of," he said. He, however, said making local industries to pay for carbon emission was still a challenge due to lack of data on levels of pollution.

Africa, led by the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, has been pushing for the pollution compensation and gave the Developed World a \$67 billion demand. The global carbon credit market is estimated to be \$60 billion. The world emits over 30 billion metric tonnes of carbon annually. The government says the turn to agro-forestry is informed by the realisation that relying on natural forests cannot boost the nation's forest cover, which has been rapidly declining. Last year, trees on farms covered about 10 million hectares compared to one million hectares of natural closed- canopy forests.

Kenya is in the middle of a heated environment debate, fuelled by the wanton destruction of the five water towers -- including Mau Complex-- that has led to food, water, and energy crises ever witnessed. Intruders of water catchment areas have over the years cut trees for settlement, farming, and commercial charcoal burning. As a result, some rivers whose tributaries come from the water towers have either dried up or their water levels have dropped significantly.

In the recent drought, River Tana's inflows dipped to a historic low of 5 cubic metres per second. The decline in water levels has reduced electricity generation, causing a sharp rise in charges as KenGen, the power producer, increased its thermal output. Pastoralist communities living downstream have borne the brunt of dwindling water levels while nationally agricultural output has taken a hit, leading to high food prices and starvation. Environmental experts say that each country should aim at a national forest cover of 10 per cent.

KFS has launched a strategic plan focused on this cover in the next five years. "It will be an uphill task to meet the 10 per cent target since 80 per cent of the country is made of arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs)," said Noah Wekesa, the minister for Forestry and Wildlife. The minister said the government will take tree planting campaigns to the ASALs to boost conservation efforts. Mr Mbugua said the government will use drought-resistant tree species like Acacia in ASALs.

Apart from the government, non-governmental organisations, and private companies are planting trees in their engagement with the communities. Observers have said relying on planting only the key water towers would not achieve the globally recommended national forest cover of at least 10 per cent.

allAfrica.com

UK: Gordon Brown proposes £10 billion fund to fight climate change

Gordon Brown proposed a new global fund today to "kickstart" the Copenhagen climate change process and encourage poorer countries to start cutting greenhouse gas emissions immediately. Just days ahead of the vital UN-sponsored climate change conference in the Danish capital,

Mr Brown proposed a £10 billion rich-world fund - to which Britain would contribute £800 million - to give incentives to developing countries to halt deforestation, develop low-carbon energy sources and prepare for the effects of a warmer climate.

The Copenhagen Launch Fund would cover the years 2010/12 and deliver funds to poorer states on a "payment by

results” system, under which those which showed they were taking action to halt climate change would receive more cash. Mr Brown said the Launch Fund would allow the world to break the “deadlock” over a deal at Copenhagen and “get moving on climate change as quickly as possible. It would make sure that some of the poorest countries, who are most affected by climate change... can get help so they can mitigate climate change and adopt and make the changes that are necessary.

“This is a start that could happen in 2010 and go through to 2012 and set a trajectory to getting all the big results over the next decade. I think it is very important that the deadlock is broken. That means that the poorer countries must have an understanding that the richer countries will help them adapt

to climate change and make the necessary adjustments in their economies. We have got to provide some money to help that. Britain will do so, the rest of Europe will do so and I believe America will do so as well.

“That starts rolling the changes that are necessary to get the ambitious agreement we want at Copenhagen. Our ambitions are very high. Countries are making big announcements about cutting carbon. At the same time, we have to finance it, otherwise there would be no deal. This initiative from Britain, which I believe will be supported by other countries, is to get the financing sorted out.”

www.independent.co.uk

Global: CO2 from forest destruction overestimated

The carbon dioxide emissions caused by the destruction of tropical forests have been significantly overestimated, according to a new study. The work could undermine attempts to pay poor countries to protect forests as a cost-effective way to tackle global warming.

The loss of forests in countries such as Brazil and Indonesia is widely assumed to account for about 20% of all carbon dioxide produced by human activity – more than the world’s transport system. The 20% figure was published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2007 and was widely quoted after being highlighted by the Stern review on the economics of the problem. It is repeatedly used by Prince Charles and others as an incentive to push efforts to include forests in carbon trading.

Curbing emissions from deforestation is one of the main issues being discussed at a UN climate meeting in Barcelona this week, before crucial talks in Copenhagen next month. But researchers led by Guido van der Werf, an earth scientist at VU University in Amsterdam, say that figure is an overestimate and that the true figure is closer to 12%. Publishing their analysis in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, they say the 20% figure was based on inaccurate and out-of-date information. “It’s a tough message because everybody would like to see forests better

protected and it is difficult to tell them that carbon dioxide emissions are less important than assumed. Still, the good news of lower emissions is no bad news for the forests,” said Van der Werf.

The lower figure could make it harder to agree ways to reward forest protection, he said. “If you want to put a price on carbon [in forests] then you would get less carbon for your money now.”

The study showed previous assessments exaggerated the rate of tropical deforestation. It also took into account soaring emissions from fossil fuel burning since 2000, which reduces the relative role of deforestation. The scientists say 12% is an estimate, and the figure could be between 6% and 17%, but that the original 20% figure was equally uncertain.

Van der Werf said an important finding of the research was the previously unquantified emissions from tropical peatlands, which they say could be as high as 3% of global CO2 – more than the aviation industry. “The total contribution of deforestation and peatlands is about 15% and is still a substantial contribution to global CO2 emissions, and therefore remains a significant opportunity for global CO2 reduction,” he said.

guardian.co.uk

Global: Massive potential for forest restoration on a worldwide scale

Land areas around the world totalling more than the size of Canada have been identified as having potential to be restored to good quality, healthy forests, a new study has found.

As the global effort to help tackle climate change by reversing the Earth’s alarming loss of forests steps up, scientists using sophisticated satellite mapping have produced a world map identifying areas in which more than a billion hectares of former forest land and degraded forest land has restoration potential.

That’s about six per cent of the planet’s total land area, and restoring forests to some of these lands could be achieved without prejudicing other vital land uses, such as food

production. The Global Partnership on Forest Restoration (GPFLR) also says that the needs and rights of indigenous peoples and others who depend on forests must be respected when considering restoration projects. GPFLR will now work with individual countries and local communities to deliver restoration where communities benefit.

“With a global population already approaching seven billion, and forecast to increase to more than eight billion by 2025, the pressure on all of our natural resources is immense,” says Tim Rollinson, chairman of the GPFLR and Director-General of the British Forestry Commission. “At the same time, the Earth’s forests continue to shrink, and what’s left is increasingly being degraded. We know how to restore forests

and make them sustainable. We now also know where we should do it, so we should be getting on with it.”

The findings were announced today in London, England, at an international meeting of the GPFLR, of which the IUCN and the British Forestry Commission are founding members.

The assessment has revealed that the potential to restore the world's lost forests is much greater than the previous estimate of 850 million hectares. The GPFLR partners say that forest restoration can have a significant impact on climate change as well as improving lives, and that urgent action on restoration should be taken hand in hand with efforts to stop the continuing global loss and degradation of forests.

Preliminary analysis indicates that by 2030 the restoration of degraded forest lands could make the same contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gases as that which could be

expected from avoided deforestation (70 Gt of CO² emissions), and perhaps as much as twice that amount. The GPFLR will work with countries over the next year to clarify and refine these figures on a country-by-country basis.

“Forest restoration experiences around the world provide evidence that, although it is impossible to replace a pristine forest once it's gone, many of the functions it originally provided can be restored,” says Stewart Maginnis, Director of the IUCN's Environment and Development Group. “Forests provide such vital services, such as clean water and fresh air, that we can win on all fronts by bringing them back to life. We need to protect the forests we have left, and restore what we've lost.”

www.ideastransformlandscapes.org

Rwanda: Government loses \$2.6 million on tree felling

It has been revealed that government loses over US\$2.6m annually due to tree felling by 80 percent of the country's families who use firewood as fuel. Speaking during a live telecast, the Natural Resources Minister, Stanislas Kamanzi, said that tea factories in the country are the second in cutting down trees which puts the country in a serious danger of deforestation, in the absence of counter measures. According to Kamanzi, the loss incurred is valued at 5 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The town hall style meeting was held to brief the public on the forthcoming National Tree Planting campaign slated for November 13 to 21. The campaign is set to be launched on, November, 16, in the Western Province District of Nyabihu. According to a statement, 26 million trees are expected to be

planted countrywide on 145,000 hectares of land, however, so far only 650,000 trees have been planted.

According to the 2020 vision, 30 percent of the country's land which is not covered with water should be planted with trees. “This is all because the development we are aiming at may not be accomplished if we don't protect the environment,” Kamanzi said. He further said that strategies are in place to protect the forests and national parks that are shared between Rwanda and her neighbours; Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The official in charge of the campaign, Jean Claude Nyamarere, said during the meeting that 70 percent of the trees planted last year have matured.

allAfrica.com

Global: The Prince of Wales hails a significant step forward in finding a solution to deforestation

On 20th November the Prince of Wales praised governments for reaching a consensus on emergency funding to tackle tropical deforestation. The consensus comes in the form of an inter-governmental report produced in the same month by the Informal Working Group (IWG) of 35 countries that was set up after the meeting of world leaders convened by The Prince at St James's Palace in April.

The IWG report outlines a process that would reward rainforest countries for reducing deforestation rates. Payments would be made on a performance basis, and by ensuring that the forests were worth more alive than dead the financing is aimed at encouraging rainforest countries to pursue more sustainable forms of economic development.

Speaking at a meeting at St James's Palace to discuss the report, The Prince said that he had been heartened by the Working Group's findings and the support that these had received. The meeting was attended by two Heads of State – President Jagdeo of Guyana and President Bongo of Gabon – senior ministers from 18 countries, including the UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Ed Miliband, business leaders from a range of regions and industries, and many of

the world's leading environmental NGO's (non-governmental organisations).

In a short keynote speech The Prince said: “I have been enormously encouraged to hear the findings from [the IWG] report. It does seem that we have arrived at a consensus on how emergency funding might be deployed in the near future.”

Tony Juniper, Special Advisor to The Prince's Rainforests Project and former Director of Friends of the Earth hailed the report as a breakthrough: “This is the first time there has been a consensus among governments on a mechanism to deal with the underlying causes of deforestation, which are mainly economic.” Tackling deforestation is vital because rainforests play a crucial role in preserving life on the planet. They regulate rainfall, cool the climate, preserve biodiversity and, most importantly, store vast amounts of carbon. Tropical deforestation is a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions and ending the destruction of the world's rainforests is essential if the battle against climate change is to be won.

In October 2007, His Royal Highness established The Prince's Rainforests

Project (PRP) to develop a consensus around how the rate of rainforest destruction might be slowed. After a great

deal of research and analysis, working across governmental, business and NGO sectors including the major rainforest nations of the world, the PRP published a report in March 2009 which concluded that emergency funding was needed urgently to encourage more sustainable forms of development in rainforest countries.

It was this PRP report that formed the basis of the meeting of world leaders and senior international figures which The Prince hosted at St James's Palace on 1st

April. Following this meeting, an Informal Working Group on Interim Finance for REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) was established by

both the major rainforest countries and the main developed nations. The group, known as IWG-IFR, recently published its findings outlining a mechanism to save the CO2 equivalent of the annual emissions of the USA over a period of five years.

The proposed new mechanism would reward countries on a performance basis

for changes in deforestation rates at the national level. Payments would be made after agreed targets to cut forest loss have been achieved. In this way, the new mechanism would encourage rainforest countries to see the conservation of their

forests as a valuable asset. Currently, countries have incentives to clear forests for economic reasons, but the new proposals ensure that they are worth more alive than dead.

At today's meeting two countries, Brazil and Guyana, provided examples of interim finance in action and explained how they have tackled the problem. The meeting also included representatives of other rainforest nations including Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia.

There was encouraging news from the developed nations who attended the meeting. Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change, indicated UK Government support for the proposals; the Norwegian Government, represented by Hans Brattskar, has shown exceptional leadership by funding the two examples of interim funding provided at the meeting; and the US

Ambassador Louis Susman read a letter from Senator Leahy (Chairman of an Appropriations Sub Committee) announcing that the US has allocated a sum of \$275m for tropical forests in 2010.

www.rainforestsos.org

USA: Forest Service says trees can slow climate change

National forests can be used as a carbon "sink" with vast numbers of trees absorbing carbon dioxide to help slow global warming, the Forest Service chief said recently, but that goal must be balanced. He's also concerned about the risk of catastrophic wildfires that produce massive amounts of carbon dioxide. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said his agency is trying to manage forests to combat climate change while still easing the risk of wildfires that have increased in frequency and intensity, in part because of global warming.

Forests now store enough carbon to offset about 16 percent of the nation's fossil fuel emissions, but that number could be reduced or even reversed if wildfires and insect infestation continue to increase, Tidwell said. "Disturbances such as fire and insects and disease could dramatically change the role of forests, thereby emitting more carbon than currently sequestered" by tree stands across the country, Tidwell told the Senate Public Lands and Forestry Subcommittee. Elaine O'Neil, a research scientist at the University of Washington's School of Forestry, said wildfires in California alone released emissions equivalent to that of seven million cars a year from 2001 to 2007.

The Forest Service and Interior Department spent about

\$2.4 billion last year fighting fires, double the average amount spent a decade ago. Tidwell said he hopes to increase the resiliency of federal forests through projects such thinning out young trees and underbrush to control wildfires. Some fires must be allowed to cleanse and regenerate forests that are overly dense, he said.

Lawmakers are looking at the role of forests in climate change, with the goal of including national forests as a key part of a climate change bill being considered by the Senate. "In my view, it is time to manage the nation's forests to address climate change and unlock their potential," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., the panel's chairman.

Proper management can ensure healthy forests that create carbon offsets that can be used to help minimize the cost of carbon reduction in other parts of the economy, Wyden said. Use of such offsets — which now are excluded from the Senate bill — would "finally provide a way to truly account for the economic benefit that federal forests provide to our environment," Wyden said. "We can create good-paying, green jobs while preserving our treasures and helping our climate," he said.

The Associated Press

Global: Palm oil funding frozen

World Bank President Robert Zoellick has announced a global freeze of all World Bank Group funding of the palm oil sector. The decision follows a detailed complaint by Indonesian and international NGOs which triggered an audit showing how staff of the Bank's private sector arm were disregarding due diligence procedures,

thereby contributing to land-grabbing and forest destruction. The audit found that staff should look into the wider impacts of lending and not just the facility or processing plant being capitalised.

The Bank has now committed to a participatory engagement with stakeholders to develop a new investment strategy for the sector. The review will look into the structural obstacles posed

by Indonesian laws and policies which prevent adherence to the Bank's safeguard policies and will also review the soy and cocoa sectors in Latin America and Africa. An issues paper to

kick-start the consultation is promised within two months.

www.fern.org

India: Parts of India experiencing desertification

Deforestation and overgrazing are among the factors being blamed for turning almost a quarter of India into desert, according to a study published this week. The study's authors report that northern and western India are the hardest hit, as shown by satellite mapping. The study, published by the Space Applications Center and the Current Science journal states, "There has been a long-pending need for desertification/land degradation status mapping of the entire country based on scientific methods." Researchers added that over 200 million acres (80 million hectares) were under desertification - areas already considered desert or under threat.

India accounts for 2.4 percent of the world's land mass, yet it supports roughly 16.7 percent of global population, as well as 18 percent of its cattle. "There is tremendous pressure on our land-based natural resources," it said. Other causes taken

into account were "changes in the frequency and amount of rainfall, water and wind erosion, as well as harmful agricultural practices."

A total of 32 percent of India was described by the study as undergoing "land degradation." The states where this is most pronounced are Rajasthan, Kashmir, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Other research, conducted by consulting firm McKinsey and Co., shows that water needs throughout India would double by the year 2030.

India's large agricultural sector, driven by demand for rice and other crops, is expected to consume some 53 trillion cubic feet (1.5 trillion cubic meters) of water by 2030. This figure, according to the McKinsey study, is almost double that of China.

www.redorbit.com

UK: London using tree pollarding lessons brought back from Spain

Specialist staff from the City of London Corporation are implementing innovative beech and oak tree pollarding techniques across sites in Burnham Beeches, Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath following a recent expedition to Spain. A City of London Open Spaces delegation visited the Basque Country as part of a visit designed to increase knowledge about pollarding, a sustainable method of managing veteran trees that can be traced back over 500 years. Participants surveyed and worked on trees in northern Spain including Leitza and Areso (Navarra) and Aiako Harria Natural Park (Gipuzkoa) alongside local arboricultural experts and site managers before returning on October 9th.

Sue Ireland, Director of Open Spaces at City of London, said: "This visit was a tremendous success and helped to build on our existing expertise in pollarding. Over 90% of ancient pollards in the UK are under the City's management but unfortunately we cannot afford to experiment with different techniques due to their relatively small number. The close working relationship that we have developed with our colleagues in Spain has enabled us to pool our knowledge and resources, which will help to improve the management

of our precious pollards and beautiful woodlands in both the UK and Spain."

This visit was a follow-up to one that took place in February 2007 when some 40 trees were pollarded using both traditional (with an axe) and modern (using chainsaws) methods. No immediately visible differences were detected between the two techniques, although the research results will be studied in more detail before a full report is produced.

Pollarding is a traditional tree management technique that was common place in England and regularly carried out in Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches until around 200 years ago. A crop of wood was obtained from the trees by removing branches but not felling the tree, but animals were able to graze underneath without damaging the branches. One consequence was that the trees cut regularly live longer than normal and it is their great age that makes them so important for biodiversity and heritage. Pollarding stopped when other fuels became more widely available but these 'lapsed' pollards, those not cut for many years, have many problems because the branches are now very heavy and the trees are splitting and falling over.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk



The CFA

The Commonwealth Forestry Association

The Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) is the world's longest established international forestry organization, tracing its history back to 1921. Today it unites foresters, scientists, students, NGOs and policy makers throughout the world in a unique international network that provides professional support to its members and forms a key element of civil society.

The CFA supports the professional development of those working with trees and forests by promoting the conservation and sustainable management of the world's forests and the contribution they make to peoples' livelihoods.

The CFA is managed on behalf of the membership by the Governing Council, which is composed of representatives from all countries who have members. It is run on a day-to-day basis by a small UK-based Secretariat consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Technical Director, Membership Secretary and Finance Manager. The Secretariat is advised by committees for Finance and General Purposes, and Publications. The Governing Council appoints one member from each region, the Regional Coordinators, to work closely with the Secretariat in the Executive Committee to implement the plans of the CFA in accordance with the overall objectives.

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