

Contents:

- Restoring the Commonwealth's forests: tackling climate change

Association news

- CFA AGM
- Jim Ball
- John Innes
- Forestry Failure

Forest scenes

- REDD+ Update from Bonn

Meetings

- COFO 2010
- XXIII IUFRO World Congress
- ICF Urban Tree Research 2011

Publications

- Memories of a forester in Nigeria
- Illegal logging and related trade

Around the world

CFA Newsletter

is the newsletter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association

Editor: Alan Pottinger

Contact: The Crib, Dinchope, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9JJ, UK

Tel: + 44 (0) 1588 67 28 68

Email: cfa@cfa-international.org

Web: www.cfa-international.org

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the CFA.

RESTORING THE COMMONWEALTH'S FORESTS: TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Statement of the 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, 28 June – 2 July 2010



The 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference with the theme of “Restoring the Commonwealth’s Forests: Tackling Climate Change” took place in Edinburgh, UK from 28 June to 2 July 2010. The Conference was hosted by the Forestry Commission on behalf of the UK Government, and more than 400 people from more than 40 countries around the world gathered to consider how the restoration of the Commonwealth’s forests could help tackle climate change. The Conference explored the numerous challenges facing forests and society, and this statement sets out these challenges together with some of the opportunities to address them.

The Conference showcased inspiring examples of how it is possible to put back some of the forests and their services that have been lost, and demonstrated how forest restoration can provide real, tangible and deliverable solutions for the world. One of the strengths of the Conference is that its foundation is based on the real experiences of real people, and on their shared values.

Global Challenges

Some degree of climate change is now inevitable, and this will shape our forests, and our societies. Even if the climate were not changing, action would still need to be taken to restore the world’s lost and degraded forests. As had been already highlighted and recognised at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Port of Spain in 2009, sustainably managed forests can deliver on multiple objectives, including climate change goals.

The Conference identified a number of pressing challenges for the forest community globally:

- The challenge of communicating effectively with wider society to ensure that it understands how much society needs forests and what forests can do to mitigate climate change and help them adapt to it;
- The challenge of engaging with other sectors, especially agriculture, to ensure that all sectors are working in partnership for the common good of all. The forestry community must not see itself as a separate sector, but as

- closely related to other sectors such as finance, agriculture, tourism, health and education;
- The challenge of uncertainty. In a changing climate the only certainty will be uncertainty and foresters must learn to live with and to manage risk;
 - The challenge of financial uncertainty. The world financial order is experiencing severe stress at the present time, which makes securing the necessary funding for protecting and restoring the Commonwealth's forests more challenging;
 - The challenge of meeting the needs of many hundreds of millions of forest dependent people;
 - The challenge of addressing the worrying scale of biodiversity loss around the world. Biodiversity is not just a luxury for the rich, but it is a necessity for the poor;
 - The challenge of reversing the worrying decline in forestry training and of improving the image of forestry. Forestry expertise (as well as the forests themselves) is being lost, and we need to equip foresters with a wider skill set, including financial and communication skills;
 - The challenge of ensuring that the Commonwealth's forests are resilient to the changes that are already happening, that forests are helping the Commonwealth's people develop resilience to climate change, and that the Commonwealth's forests are helping to mitigate climate change itself.

Tackling these challenges calls for leadership. One of the great benefits of the Commonwealth is that its institutions can speak for all its citizens, whatever their background or place of residence. There must be leadership at all levels of society to empower people to take the actions necessary to build strong, resilient communities. Action will require education, training and professionalism for the next generation, and there is a need for more collaboration and mutual support.

Alongside these challenges, there is a wealth of opportunity for forests to deliver for society.

A Wealth of Opportunity

The Conference identified the following key opportunities:

- There is increasing political awareness of the full value of forests and what they can provide;
- Evidence shows that there are more than a billion hectares around the world with the potential to be restored to forest;
- Forest restoration is not just a simple matter of planting trees. It is about restoring the functionality of ecosystem services and functions, restoring whole landscapes, improving lives and empowering people to shape a sustainable future for themselves;
- There is a wealth of scientific knowledge and practical expertise at our disposal, together with an effective network in the Commonwealth and its institutions for knowledge transfer and information sharing;
- Representatives of professional forestry associations in the Commonwealth have agreed to set up a working group to provide closer contacts and collaboration amongst themselves;
- The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration has identified a huge potential for forests to restore degraded landscapes globally;
- Efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation are attracting ever-increasing global attention, support and political momentum. Once REDD+ mechanisms are agreed and an instrument with appropriate safeguards is in place, this will help reduce emissions from deforestation;

- New sources of finance are becoming available for forest protection and restoration. Although much has been achieved, there is still work to be done to refine the way in which REDD+ funding will be delivered for multiple benefits, including for livelihoods and biodiversity;
- The business world is adopting new approaches that recognise that long-term business sustainability is best built upon a foundation of environmental and community sustainability;
- The support and engagement of local people and communities is fundamental to success. They need to have a voice and a sense of ownership of their local environments and landscapes;
- Empowering currently disenfranchised and under-empowered groups must be part of any approach, so that they are able to take action and control over the things they can control and influence at the local level, such as land tenure, governance, and the management of local resources;
- The Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development has continued to show leadership, and offers a model of a sustainable forest where conservation, environmental balance and economic use can be mutually reinforcing. The Centre is encouraged to publish its findings and to demonstrate how the wide range of environmental services can be marketed nationally and internationally;
- There are benefits in applying an integrated approach combining business, finance, forestry and community participation in new ways at national, regional and site levels;
- The Commonwealth can provide a critical focal point for sharing educational experiences, knowledge and expertise.

Delivering Change

The 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference has helped make progress in addressing some of the challenges and realising the opportunities set out in this statement.

For many people, climate change is not something that is going to happen in the future. It is already affecting their water supplies and their ability to grow trees and crops. The pressure is on them now to cope with and adapt to significant changes in climate. They cannot wait until international institutions have concluded debates and decided approaches – they need help and action now.

Forests have a vital role to play in the future of the planet and in sustaining life on Earth. The crucial role of forests in providing ecosystem services is critical, and the need to both protect and restore them is urgent. To make the most of the increasing political awareness of the full value of forests and what they can provide, the Commonwealth is encouraged to share these messages widely both within and outwith the forestry sector, and people are encouraged to put actions into practice, to work together in partnerships, and to bring about change.



The Abstracts of papers presented at the CFC are available to download at <http://www.cfc2010.org/downloads/CFC-Abstracts-2010.pdf>

Association news

The CFA AGM

Our 2010 AGM was held on 29th June at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre in the wings of the Commonwealth Forestry Conference. We were rather unprepared for the number of people who turned up, with standing room only for some of the 70 or so people who attended the meeting!

Our Chair, Jim Ball, summarised the review of activities, membership and publications provided in the attached report. The year saw the Association carry out a range of activities and produce four issues of both the International Forestry Review and the CFA Newsletter. The small but encouraging increase in membership figures over the year was a reflection of the continued efforts of members throughout the world to recruit new members.

Treasurer, Marcus Robbins, highlighted the main points of the 2009 accounts. A modest surplus of £1 407 maintained the trend in recent years.

Peter Wood, Vice-President and Chair of the AGM, explained that all members had been sent a list of nominations received for the elected positions, and that all nominees were standing unopposed. He went on to thank CFA President David Bills on behalf of the Association for the previous five years of service before naming the proposers and seconders for the elected positions, as listed in table.

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconders
President	Jim Ball	David Bills	Peter Wood
Chair	John Innes	Jim Ball	Peter Wood
Vice-Chair	Reem Hajjar	John Innes	Tony Bartlett

Peter also outlined the process of election of Governing Councillors and explained that the following who were due to stand down this year had accepted a request to stay on for a further three years: Fred Babweteeta (Uganda), Eric Chisanga (Zambia), Marilyn Headley (Jamaica), John Hudson (England) and Thang Hooi Chiew (Malaysia). Peter Wood also invited any members who were interested in serving on the Governing Council to contact Technical Director, Alan Pottinger. All nominations were accepted via a show of hands.

Dr R.V. Singh of India stated his view that the CFA would be strengthened by carrying out more activities in-country, such as hosting meetings. He said that in India such efforts were likely to be the most effective means of making an impact and encouraging new members.

Minutes of the meeting are available for members to view on the CFA website.

Jim Ball CFA Chair 2005-2010



The 2010 AGM marked the end of Jim Ball's term of office as our Chair. His stewardship over the past five years has helped modernise our organisation and steered us into a much stronger financial position, and I know that I reflect the

views of all CFA members when I extend thanks to Jim for his experienced guidance of our strategic management and his typically Scottish financial acumen. But we aren't letting Jim retire! He has kindly accepted members' invitation to act as our President and we all look forward to working with him in that capacity.

Alan Pottinger
Technical Director, CFA

Welcome to the new CFA Chair



The AGM also marked the election of our new Chair, John Innes. John, who has been our Vice-Chair for the past two years, has recently taken up the position of Dean – Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia, Canada where he is closely involved with a

number of international projects. He is also the Vice President for Policy of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. Having worked in Britain and Switzerland in the past, he is interested in how management practices are changing in different countries in response to international issues such as the conservation of biodiversity and climate change. As a past member of the Sustainable Forestry Board, he is particularly interested in certification and how it is promoting sustainable forest management. Further details of the activities of his research group can be found at: <http://sustain.forestry.ubc.ca/>.

Forestry's failure to communicate: what opportunities for the future?

Arriving at the 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference¹ (CFC) as a non-forester attending in order to investigate the effectiveness of communication of forest science, I was surprised to hear eminent foresters openly accept that “the voice of the professional forester is too often missing on the world stage”², and that “so many people are talking on behalf of foresters, but not foresters themselves”³.

A month earlier, over coffee in a typically cramped Oxford cafe I had my first meeting with Alan Lamb and Peter Wood, two trustees of the JWS Forestry Educational Trust⁴. Established in memory of the distinguished forester, John Wyatt-Smith CBE (1917-2002), the JWS Trust aims to improve the communication of forest science for sustainable development in tropical regions. One of the most dedicated

and influential foresters of his generation, John Wyatt-Smith contributed enormously to developing the concept and practice of sustainable forest management (SFM) of tropical forests⁵.

During my brief introduction to the history of forestry and the challenge of improving communications skills in the profession, Alan told of an occasion where John Wyatt-Smith himself had failed to communicate a point of forestry he felt at the time needed to be heard. Despite its sound scientific basis, his interjection had challenged the prevailing sentiment of the meeting. His input was brushed off by the Chair, a Friends of the Earth leader, without any consideration. When John later asked the Chair why his point had been ignored, he was told, “We are here to win ‘the war’” – not, presumably, to get side-tracked by an inconvenient truth. Unfortunately it is precisely the sidelining of such technical details that can scuttle the most well-meaning of policies and programmes. Would John’s point have been considered if it had been communicated better?

With an interest in forestry, I was enthused by the Trustee’s suggestion that I attend the CFC to assist in their investigations into communications in the sector. Early in the week in conversation with the CEO of a UK forestry organisation I heard that “foresters only embrace communications when

they are talking with another forester looking up at a stand of trees”. This turned out to be a common sentiment and I found all but unanimous acceptance in both formal sessions and informal conversations that the communication of forest



Participants at the Commonwealth Forestry Conference hear about management in The Great Trossachs Forest

science needs to be improved. Despite some clear indications that isolated steps are being taken, however, there was little evidence of a coherent plan of action specifically designed to address this issue.

“Never before have we seen such possibility and importance lie before forestry”⁶

Foresters’ approach to communications has been passive at best and without a voice at the ‘top table’, important forestry messages are often obliterated in policy making allowing forests to fall victim to poorly advised policy from a variety of other sectors. However, climate change has now dragged forestry into the

spotlight and the profession has a fantastic platform from which to broadcast its many positive messages. Deanna Donovan, a third JWS Trustee and Environmental Economics Advisor at Joint Nature Conservation Committee, lamented that foresters are not seizing this opportunity. “High profile international reports will say that reducing deforestation and forest degradation could deliver about 20% of required emissions reductions. Such comments, however, make the task look deceptively simple. Decades of foreign development assistance in this sector has failed to halt deforestation due to the complex interaction of social and economic as well as environmental factors”. Suspicions have been raised that forest science does not have a strong enough voice in the preparation of these reports.

“Information cycles turn around so fast these days that if your message is not communicated succinctly, at the right level, at the right time, and in the right language, then it won’t be heard.”⁷

The Conference did carry a number of positive examples of good communications; none more so than from Virgilio Viana, who launched his latest report⁸ for the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). This publication details his transition from forest scientist to politician, and highlights how his department’s astute communications strategy contributed significantly to a 70% reduction in deforestation over 5 years in Amazonas State, Brazil.

Meanwhile, we heard that “sustainable forest management

¹ The 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference was held in Edinburgh, June 28 – July 2, 2010

² Andrew McEwen, President, New Zealand Institute of Forestry speaking at the CFC on the forestry professional bodies

³ Hosny El Lakany – Director of the International Programme, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia speaking at the CFC on “Forestry, Education, Leadership, Institutions and the Future”

⁴ <http://www.jwsforestry.org/>

⁵ John Wyatt-Smith Obituary originally published in the International Forestry Review 2003 http://www.jwsforestry.org/userfiles/file/cfa_orbit.pdf

⁶ Penny Davies – Senior Forestry Advisor, UK Department for International Development speaking at the CFC on “People and Forests: Engaging Communities”

⁷ A CFC Session Chair in informal conversation

⁸ VIANA, V.M. (2010) *Sustainable Development in Practice: Lessons Learned from Amazonas* pp.20-23, 29-37, & 42-46 <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=17508IIED>

requires many different skills sets, and the extent to which a professional forester can tick all these boxes is limited”⁹. A cross-institutional approach can bring expertise from anthropology, agriculture, economics and other sectors besides, with the potential to overcome this limitation and improve outcomes from SFM practice. Current and future generations of foresters must strive to be the focal point and leaders in any such coalition. This will only be achieved by learning to understand the values and motivations of professionals from these other sectors, developing good lines of communication with them, and working productively with all to ensure that sound forest policy emerges.

JWS Trust’s interest in attending the CFC was to float and develop some ideas on its potential role in addressing these communications needs for maximum impact vis-a-vis its charitable objectives. One option could be to incubate relationships with universities offering communications degrees to encourage collaboration between communications students and development forestry projects. The Trust could also kindle relationships between specialist communications schools and university forestry departments, encouraging student collaborations to design and implement communications strategies for forestry initiatives as part of their formal studies.

At the CFC, foresters stressed the need to “exploit the good communicators that we have”, suggesting a possible role for JWS Trust in facilitating communications mentoring in the global forestry community by bringing together accomplished communicators with young talent entering the profession. Lastly, if a suitable hosting organisation could be found, JWS Trust could help to drive the development and delivery of a bespoke pilot communications training module for young foresters. This practical module could ultimately be rolled out on a wider scale and might include activities such as: identifying targets and objectives; preparing a press release; writing for the web; preparing a briefing for government; giving an interview for radio or television; and script-writing for a DVD project.

The CFC, an engaging and well organised event, brought

the forestry community together and stressed the relevance of their profession in many of the biggest challenges currently faced by humankind. Forestry has the potential to assume a central role in solving these challenges and foresters, having worked alone quietly in the wings for so long, have now been dragged centre-stage in the climate change debate and given their biggest opportunity ever to get their messages heard. Ecosystem services, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, biodiversity loss, energy security, land use conflict, food security – these issues and more are coming into crisis and forestry is central to all of them. The scientific expertise informing public opinion and driving policy on these issues should therefore be coming from forestry. Currently, however, it isn’t.

With funding restricted or under review in many sectors and many countries, the value of Commonwealth foresters congregating under the banner of the CFC will be scrutinised – not least because it requires over £100,000 of development money to make the event fully inclusive and accessible. Did this year’s CFC clarify fully the potential role of forestry, and send foresters away fully motivated to grasp that central role across all major environmental issues? If so, then the conference without doubt has justifiable value. Were there enough foresters in attendance with the will and the capacity to heed that call, solve this communications crisis in the sector, and ensure forestry seizes the high ground on environmental sustainability? If there were, we will surely hear from them and feel their influence soon.

Tony Cardew*

JWS Forestry Educational Trust website: <http://www.jwsforestry.org>

**Tony Cardew developed an interest in forestry while reading Biological Sciences at Oxford University as a mature student. Having worked in business communications, he will go to Canada this month to gain practical forest management experience in British Columbia.*

Forest Scenes

REDD+ Update from Bonn

The latest round of climate change talks took place in Bonn, Germany from 2-6 August 2010. Over 1650 participants gathered to work their way through the latest draft text on Long-term Cooperative Action and develop a text that could be used as the basis for negotiations on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. The main goal of the meeting was to make progress on the current drafts in order to have a workable negotiating text for the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun, Mexico, to be held in December 2010. Many new additions and options were added to both texts, making it look less and less likely for a legally-binding agreement to emerge

in Cancun, as had been originally hoped for at the end of the climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009. Negotiators and politicians alike are now looking towards the possibility of agreeing on a package of implementation decisions in Cancun, and a mandate to negotiate a binding agreement in 2011.

While a small part of the overall climate negotiations, discussion on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks (REDD+) was heralded as one of the few areas of progress in an otherwise disappointing meeting in Copenhagen in 2009. Indeed, many delegates in Bonn had considered the text on REDD+ forwarded to them from Copenhagen as “almost agreed,” with only a few paragraphs of unagreed language (“bracketed text”). However, post-Bonn, the text emerged with little left unbracketed. Some of the more contentious modifications included Bolivia’s opposition to any type of carbon market mechanism behind

⁹ Jan McAlpine – Director, United Nations Forum of Forests Secretariat speaking from the floor at CFC on “People and Forests: Sharing Knowledge”

REDD. Following from an agreed declaration at the World Peoples' Summit on Climate Change (held in Cochabamba, Bolivia in April 2010), Bolivia refused to support developed countries' use of REDD+ to offset their emissions and fulfill their reduction commitments. Text on the general scope and activities to be considered by REDD+ was amended by a Saudi Arabian proposal to include natural and "other" carbon sinks, leaving the door open to include carbon storage activities in REDD. Many parties disagreed with these and other proposals, and requested that all the original text be included in the final draft as an alternative to the modified text. Considering these changes and several others that had left the negotiating text twice as long and full of brackets, a representative of the African Group in the closing plenary of the Bonn meeting said that this divergence of opinions was a "u-turn in REDD+ negotiations." Some saw these modifications as a stalling tactic to hinder progress on REDD+ while negotiations in other areas caught up. The revised texts produced in Bonn are expected to form the basis for the next round of negotiations in Tianjin, China in October, the last set of negotiations en route to Cancun.

On a more positive note, encouraging steps were taken within the Interim REDD+ Partnership, established earlier in the year at the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference. This Partnership is acting as an interim platform for partners until

a REDD mechanism is agreed to under the UNFCCC. The partnership aims to scale up REDD+ actions and finance, and to take immediate action in 2010 to: build a database on REDD+ financing, action and results; use the database to analyze financing gaps and overlaps; facilitate a discussion on the effectiveness of multilateral REDD+ initiatives; share lessons and best practices, and facilitate cooperation among partners; and produce recommendations for multilateral institutions to support enabling local institutions. The Partnership met frequently during the Bonn meeting, and by the end of week had circulated an ambitious draft of their work programme for 2010.

Reem Hajjar and Maria Eugenia Recio

Sources:

Earth Negotiations Bulletin. Summary of the Bonn Climate Talks, 2-6 August 2010. Volume 12 Number 478. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg11/> Please refer to this website for a full summary of the meeting.

Interim Partnership Agreement, Adopted 27 May 2010.

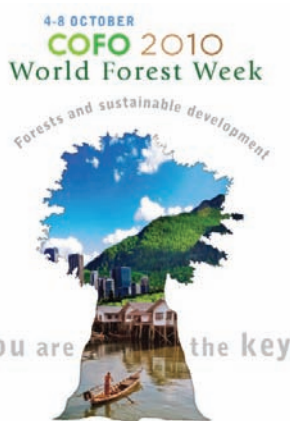
Current working document of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (containing draft text on REDD+)

Meetings

COFO 2010

Forests are key to sustainable development. Although this is a widely held view, there are serious knowledge gaps in understanding how forests contribute to livelihoods, health, education, water and many other areas targeted by internationally agreed development goals. What does society expect of forests and what will be their role in sustainable development? What balance do we need among forests for people, climate change and conservation of biological diversity? Will forest fires become worse as a result of climate change? How will water flows from forests be affected in a changing climate? Are there new sources of finance for forests and how can the benefits of forests be shared widely and equitably? Even if we have the answers to these questions, are we communicating them well? The International Year of Forests 2011 will offer a unique opportunity to further the forest agenda and the forest community should make the best use of it. Are we ready? These questions will capture the attention of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), that will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy from 4 - 8 October 2010.

For the second time, COFO will be held in conjunction with World Forest Week - a series of meetings and events sponsored by FAO and its partner organizations and institutions. The events of the Week will be organized around the key topics of COFO and intend to shed more light on key issues and allow for a more detailed discussion. The outcomes of these discussions will thereby contribute to the negotiations of COFO, helping



members take informed decisions and finding solid answers to the above questions. The World Forest Week is also an opportunity for sharing state-of-the-art knowledge and informing on major accomplishments and achievements.

An innovative initiative of the World Forest Week will be the international scientific conference on Emerging Economic Mechanisms: Implications for Forest-Related Policies and Sector Governance (5-7 October). co-organised by the University of Tuscia (Italy) and FAO, with the support of IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations). By organizing two panel discussions on forest governance and on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD-plus) with participation from heads of forestry and lead

scientists the event is expected to help in removing traditional disciplinary boundaries and fostering a continued science-policy dialogue.

The Committee on Forestry COFO – membership

The Committee on Forestry is the highest FAO Forestry statutory body. The biennial sessions of COFO (held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy) bring together heads of forest services and other senior government officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action. Other international organizations and, increasingly, non-governmental groups participate in COFO. Participation in COFO is open to all FAO member countries.

Summary of the XXIII IUFRO World Congress

23-28 AUGUST 2010

The XXIII IUFRO World Congress, organized by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), took place from 23-28 August 2010 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Congress was themed, "Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment," and it drew over 2,700 participants from 92 countries, the largest number of participants in the Congress' history. There were also 2,027 presentations and 1,053 posters. The six-day event began with a speech from Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea, and continued with daily keynote speeches from prominent figures in forestry, 15 sub-plenaries, a special discussion led by IUFRO's President on the future challenges of forest education, 150 technical sessions, many poster sessions, side events, and a trade and exhibition area. Participants also attended eight forest-related field trips on the fourth day of the Congress organized to illustrate innovative forest-related projects around the Republic of Korea.

The Congress and its technical and poster sessions focused specifically on: forests and climate change; biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of forest resources; forest environmental services; Asia's forests for the future; forest products and production processes for a greener future; emerging technologies in the forest sector; frontiers in forest and tree health; forests, communities and cultures; and forests,



human health and environmental security.

Despite the intense schedule, sessions were well attended and saw significant discussion on a number of recurring themes during the week. Of particular note were repeated references to the following issues: narrowing knowledge and other gaps between science and policy; the need for the discipline

of forestry and forestry education to evolve with changing demands on forests; the need for greater interdisciplinary work efforts; the importance of adopting more socioecological perspectives, which recognize the social embeddedness of efforts to protect and improve forest ecosystems; and the need for, and role and approaches of, forestry in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Beyond these emerging concerns, participants also took time to discuss and review advances in areas of long-standing concern for forest research, including forest health and statistical modeling of forest growth.

During the closing ceremony, the 2010 Congress Resolution was distributed, which details focal areas for future work and institutional commitments for IUFRO as an organization. Finally, new members of IUFRO's decision-making body, the International Council, were approved and a new president-elect announced.

More detail on the Congress is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/forest/iufro/iufroxiii/html/yimbvol178num5e.html>

UK forestry Institute issues call for urban tree research papers

The Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) has issued an international call for conference papers ahead of a major urban tree research conference that it will host on 13-14 April 2011 in Birmingham, UK.

The conference is a partnership initiative between a range of organisations whose work relates to urban trees. It will focus on the essential role that urban trees and woodlands play within the green infrastructure and the importance of protecting and expanding them. Its main aims will be to identify completed research that remains relevant, research being undertaken currently, and gaps in research where future efforts need to be focused and papers are welcomed that address any topic involving trees and the built environment, in both the social and natural sciences. A full specification for papers, including submission details (deadline 1 November), is given at: www.charteredforesters.org/conference/



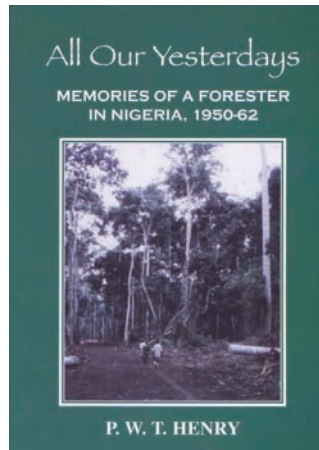
Urban trees in the City of London

Publications

All Our Yesterdays: Memories of a Forester in Nigeria 1950-62

Peter Henry

This book includes the recollections of a Forester in the Colonial Forest Service in Nigeria in the decade prior to Nigerian Independence and the two years after that date. Within the context of the memoirs, with its tales of life in small and larger stations and of pre-Independence elections, he weaves in an account of the work and achievements of the forest service in Nigeria up to 1962, including the establishment of the Forest Estate, its administration and management; also of forestry training at that time and of research into natural and artificial methods of regenerating the tropical high forest. By Independence most of the larger high forests in western Nigeria



were under Working Plans with considerable areas receiving silvicultural treatment under the Tropical Shelterwood System or its variants; also the regeneration of smaller areas under taungya. The re-establishment of forest conditions using taungya was also in progress in many areas of derived savannah.

The paperback book is of 228 pages and has 24 coloured and 63 black and white photographs with 4 maps. It is obtainable from the author at Tre-Athan, 79 Newton-Nottage road, Porthcawl, CF36 5RR (telephone number 01 656 782659 : Email address peterwheny@btinternet.com). The price is £12 plus p&p of £1.50 in UK, £3.50 Europe and £4.50 ROW.

Illegal Logging and Related Trade: indicators of the global response

Sam Lawson and Larry MacFaul

The *Action Programme on Forests* which was produced by the 24th Summit of G-8 leaders (Birmingham, England, 1998), included a section which stated that illegal logging *robs national and sub-national governments, forest owners and local communities of significant revenues and benefits, damages forest ecosystems, distorts timber markets and forest resource assessments and acts as a disincentive to sustainable forest management.* They noted that better information on the extent of the problem was a prerequisite to developing practical and effective counter measures, and pledged to report again in 2000. Since then the subject of forest governance in general and the eradication of illegal logging in particular has continued to attract international attention, not least by the Gleneagles Summit of 2005 (reported in the CFA Newsletter #30 of September 2005) and the EU Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan of 2003 – the heart of which is legislation to require evidence of legality of timber at point of import.

A new report released by Chatham House, an independent body which “promotes the rigorous study of international affairs”, gives a more upbeat account of the recent reduction



in illegal logging than has been perceived since 1998. The study, *Illegal Logging and Related Trade: Indicators of the Global Response*, by Sam Lawson, an Associate Fellow at Chatham House, has been issued as a Briefing Paper and is available at <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/911/>

The report is based on a pilot assessment carried out in 2008-09 in two producer countries, Cameroon and Indonesia, two consumer countries (UK and the USA) and one processing country, Vietnam. The last-named is a country where many of the wood imports are re-exported as manufactured products. The initial study was then followed by further surveys in Brazil, Ghana and Malaysia, and China (defined as a processing nation), France, Japan and the Netherlands. A number of indicators were developed by Chatham House to assess the impact of the commitments to reduce illegal logging, which ranged from awareness-raising to actual reductions in illegal logging and illegal trade in forest products.

The study concludes that illegal logging has declined in three of the producer countries which previously had been badly affected, Brazilian (the Amazon), Cameroon and Indonesia, often driven by pressure from NGOs. The actions of the two processing countries have had less impact, but nevertheless

they have both taken some initial steps possibly under pressure from consumer-country governments and international NGOs. The consumer countries studied have all taken action to help reduce illegal logging and the consumption of illegal wood, although there is “still considerable scope for improvement” especially in Japan where legislation has yet to be introduced to prohibit the import or sale of illegally-sourced wood and in the USA and Japan where there is the need to expand bilateral cooperation with producer countries.

Overall illegal logging may have fallen between 50% and 75% in the Brazilian Amazon, Cameroon and Indonesia in the past ten years, and imports of illegally sourced wood in the seven processing and consumer countries studied may have fallen by 30% from the peak of 2004. This could have protected up to 17 million ha of forest from degradation arising from logging, avoided at least 1.2 billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions and, if the trees had been legally logged, potentially contributed \$US6.5 billion in additional national revenue.

But Chatham House warns that this may have been the

easy bit; illegal logging in producer countries remains a major problem and additional gains may be harder to achieve, although there is still scope for improvements in the control of small-scale concessionaires and domestic timber markets and the enforcement of harvesting regulations in existing concessions. In most consumer countries the limits of what can be achieved by government policies and legislation, and voluntary action in the private sector may have nearly been reached, although Japan’s large market for wood products still remains open to the import of illegal wood.

Finally, the report mentions the current interest in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries and notes that action on REDD must reinforce the existing response to illegal logging, rather than distract from it.

Jim Ball
CFA President

Around the world

Africa: Biofuel demand driving “land grab”

Biofuel demand is driving a new “land grab” in Africa, with at least 5 million hectares (19,300 sq miles) acquired by foreign firms to grow crops in 11 countries, a study by an environmental group said on Monday. The contracts by European and Asian companies for land to grow sugar cane, jatropha and palm oil to be turned into fuel will involve clearing forests and vegetation, taking land that could be used for food and creating conflicts with local communities, Friends of the Earth said in the study.

Proponents of biofuels argue they are renewable and can help fight climate change because the growing plants ingest as much carbon dioxide from the air as the fuels made from them emit when burned. Critics say there is a risk of the crops infringing on land that could be used for growing food and that destruction of rainforests to make way for palm oil and sugar outweighs any carbon benefits gained from the use of such fuels. “The expansion of biofuels ... is transforming forests and natural vegetation into fuel crops, taking away food-growing farmland from communities, and creating conflicts with local people over land ownership,” Mariann Basse, a Friends of the

Earth Nigeria activist, said in a statement.

The report said Kenya and Angola each had received proposals for the use of 500,000 hectares for biofuels and there was a similar plan to use 400,000 hectares in Benin for palm oil. Rice farmers had been forced off their land for a sugar cane project in Tanzania, it added. “The competition for land and the competition for staple food crops such as cassava and sweet sorghum for agrofuels is likely to push up food and land prices,” the study said. Other studies have suggested biofuel expansion would not be harmful and could even be beneficial for African agriculture.

Last month, researchers from Britain’s Imperial College, carbon trader CAMCO, and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) said biofuels would boost investment in land and infrastructure. They said this could have a positive effect on food production, and if properly managed would not mean destroying natural forests.

reuters.com

Brazil government gives go-ahead for huge Amazon dam

Brazil’s government has given the formal go-ahead for the building on a tributary of the Amazon of the world’s third biggest hydroelectric dam. After several failed legal challenges, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva signed the contract for the Belo Monte dam with the Norte Energia consortium.

Critics say the project will damage the local ecosystem and make homeless 50,000 mainly indigenous people. But the government says it is crucial for development and will create jobs. Bidding for the project had to be halted three times before a final court appeal by the government allowed Norte Energia,

led by the state-owned Companhia Hidro Eletrica do Sao Francisco, to be awarded the contract.

At the contract signing ceremony in Brasilia on Thursday, President Lula said he himself had criticised the dam before he learnt more about it. “You cannot imagine how many times I spoke against Belo Monte without even knowing what it was about, and it is precisely during my government that Belo Monte is being unveiled,” he said. “I think this is a victory for Brazil’s energy sector. We will persuade them that we took seriously into account the environmental and social issues,” he added.

The proposal to build a hydro-electric dam on the Xingu

river, a tributary of the Amazon in the northern state of Para, has long been a source of controversy. The initial project was abandoned in the 1990s amid widespread protests both in Brazil and around the world. Environmental groups say the 6km-long (3.75-mile) long dam will threaten the survival of indigenous groups, and the lives of up to 50,000 people could be affected as 500 sq km (190 sq miles) of land would be flooded. Officials have dismissed the criticism and promised the winning consortium will pay \$800m to protect the environment. "The government has signed a death warrant for the Xingu river and condemned thousands of residents to expulsion," local Indian leaders said on Thursday.

The 11,000 MW dam would be third largest in the world,

after the Three Gorges in China and Itaipu, which is jointly run by Brazil and Paraguay. It is expected to cost between \$11bn and \$17bn, and provide electricity to 23 million homes.

With Brazil's economy continuing to show signs of growth, ministers say hydro-electric plants are a vital way to ensure power supplies over the next decade - and at least 70 dams are said to be planned for the Amazon region. Critics say the Belo Monte plant will be hugely inefficient, generating less than 10% of its capacity during the three to four months of the year when water levels are low.

www.bbc.co.uk

Ghana: Schools establish clubs to fight desertification

Students and pupils of 30 educational institutions in the Upper West Region have established environmental clubs in their respective schools to sensitize their peers and the public on good environmental practices as their contribution to combating desertification in the Region.

Mr Asher Nkegbe, Acting Regional Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), made this known to newsmen in Wa on Monday at a validation workshop on socio-economic baseline studies carried out by the EPA in some selected communities in the Region. He said the clubs had started drawing their plans and programmes and that funds were being sourced to implement them through the National Action Plan to combat Desertification.

The workshop which attracted 100 participants from all the nine districts in the Region, was expected to validate studies conducted on land use management, wildlife biodiversity, energy and water resource management among others, in the communities that are piloting the programme to combat desertification. He said EPA had successfully sensitized the 30 pilot communities where the baseline studies were conducted and that these communities had established Community Environmental Management Committees to fight desertification. Mr Nkegbe said the capacities of the environmental management committees would be built for them to come out with their own work plans.

ghananewsagency.org

Global: Eco-proteins from insects

Could insects be the healthy and nutritious answer to the world's growing food shortages? According to FAO, the commercialization and marketing of edible insects could create money-making opportunities and add key nutrients to the diets of vulnerable populations. In Laos, this innovative project could have a significant impact, chronic malnutrition being a major development challenge. "When we sell, on average, we can earn 1 million kip (115 US dollars) a month," says Ms Vankham, a cricket farmer for the past five years. She's now receiving support from FAO in the form of expert advice and equipment to try and recreate that success with grasshoppers.

Insects have been found to be very nutritionally balanced, with little fat, rich in amino acids, iron and vitamins but also, unexpectedly delicious. In an effort to fully explore the various facets of eating insects, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific even organized an international workshop, entitled "Forest Insects as Food: Humans Bite Back" (Chiang Mai, Thailand, February 2008). According to Patrick Durst, FAO's Senior Forestry Officer at the FAO Regional Office, "The important thing is to ensure food safety, hygienic raising and collecting, so we avoid chemical residues and ensure that the quality of the food is really good."

For some 2.5 billion people, eating insects is part of the diet already. So what is it about Western culture that makes it prejudiced against one abundant and readily available food resource? It's all about cultural choices. On the one hand, the

West has closed its mind to insect eating, although it consumes shrimp and lobster. On the other hand, eating raw flesh (roast beef, sushi) is now commonplace. So is eating live animals (oysters). By shunning insects, Westerners have forgotten that they are one of the most nutritious foods available, high in protein and cholesterol free. In addition, insect farming (or "mini-livestock") may provide a cheap and simple alternative in dry grassland environments.

Moreover, it is eco-friendly as well as a low-input, sustainable form of agriculture (and livelihood). Insects appear to be highly efficient in converting biomass to protein: cooked grasshopper, for instance, contains up to 60 percent protein with as little as 6 percent fat. Like fish, insect fatty acids are unsaturated and thus healthier. Some 1700 insect species are consumed in Africa, Asia and Latin America - with China, Japan, Thailand, South Africa and Mexico among the largest consumers. For centuries, insect consumption (also known as Entomophagy) has been part of the everyday diet of many of the world's human inhabitants. Pliny, the first-century Roman scholar and author of *Historia Naturalis*, wrote that Roman aristocrats loved to eat beetle larvae reared on flour and wine. Before European settlement, the Australian Aborigines had Witjuti grubs as their favourite delicacy. Nowadays, one of the most famous culinary insects, the agave worm, is still eaten on tortillas and placed in bottles of mezcal liquor in Mexico. In the night markets of Thailand, crisp, fried locusts and beetles are favourite snacks to be consumed with an ice cold beer.

In the Netherlands an innovative research project started recently at the University of Wageningen to investigate the industrial extraction of insect protein for their food and feedstock sector. With 1 million Euro funding received from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the project aims at working towards a future in which citizens will “put out their feelers” to new proteins. This is foreseen as a gradual process, involving the addition of insect proteins into a range of products. Also under discussion is the promotion of insects as animal (poultry, pig and fish) food. In 2006, the city of Wageningen metamorphosed into the City of Insects. Throughout the whole duration of the 7-day festival, more than 50 activities were promoted by the Laboratory of Entomology of Wageningen University, awarded the Academic Year Prize for its research quality and plan to convey this to the general public. Edible insect products may currently be found at local supermarkets – directly on the shelves, where they are prepared as “bugsnuggets”, “bugsballs” and “buglibars”.

Meanwhile in the UK, “Tequilalix” lollipops, containing a real edible worm, may be ordered online (www.edible.com) along with barbeque worm crisps, giant toasted leafcutter ants, scorpion vodka, baked tarantulas and a range of other products. People who do have some resistance to insects are warned by Mr Durst: “If they can have an open mind”. Just as erratic weather patterns threaten agriculture and a growing population leaves farmland exhausted from overuse, insect farming could become a lucrative option. Thailand already can’t satisfy its growing demand for insects with home-grown produce and imports from countries including Cambodia and Myanmar. “The vision of FAO is not just to reduce chronic malnutrition in Lao PDR,” emphasizes FAO’s Representative to Laos, Serge Verniau “but also, to feed the grand metropolises in the future, from Calcutta to Shanghai and even New York to Rome.”

[ftp.fao.org/fo/data/Upload/Edible_Insects/Nutritionally%20Eggs_traordinary.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/fo/data/Upload/Edible_Insects/Nutritionally%20Eggs_traordinary.pdf)

Global: International Year of the Forest logo launched

The UN Forum on Forests Secretariat is pleased to launch the logo for the International Year of Forests 2011 that has been developed in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information. The International Year of Forests 2011 logo is primarily intended for three kinds of promotional use: information, fund-raising and use by a commercial entity. The International Year of Forests 2011 (Forests 2011) logo is designed to convey the theme of “Forests for People” celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world’s forests. The iconographic elements in the design depict some of the multiple values of forests and the need for a 360-degree



perspective: forests provide shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; are a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us. The International Year of Forests 2011 (Forests 2011) logo is available in the six official United Nations languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Member States are encouraged to translate the text “International Year of Forests 2011” into local languages and send the translated text only in EPS (graphic) file format via email to the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat at forests@un.org, so that we can make the logo available in your local languages.

Global: Scientists show tropical forests exploited like oceans

A new study documents waves of forest degradation advancing 120 km across East Africa in just 14 years. Scientists from 12 organisations in Europe, Africa and the USA showed that forest exploitation started with the removal of the most valuable products first, such as timber for export, followed by the extraction of less valuable products such as low value timber and charcoal in strict sequence. This ‘logging down the profit margin’ in tropical forests follows the same pattern of removal seen for fish in unmanaged oceans.

The study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* tested an economic model that predicts the sequential removal of products from high-to-low value. Researchers visited forests at varying distances up to 220 km from Tanzania’s largest city, Dar es Salaam, in 1991 and again in 2005, tracking the trees that remained. They found that waves of degradation moved, on average, 9 km a year out from the city. For example, charcoal extraction extended 50

km from Dar es Salaam in 1991, but in 2005 it was found up to 170 km from the city.

In 2005, on average, forests had 48 tree species per sample and stored 46 tonnes of carbon per hectare at 200 km distance, but this had declined to only 14 species and 5 tonnes of carbon in the forests closest to the African city.

Dr Antje Ahrends, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and lead author of the paper said, “The degradation waves have spread rapidly. Urban migration and rising demand for timber, particularly in China, are amongst the major reasons for this. By the end of the study, high value timber logging production took place over 200 km from the city. This is very likely to be unsustainable.”

The ability to predict forest degradation is essential if new plans to protect forests using payments for ecosystem services are to be successful. Such schemes, like the proposed ‘Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation’ (REDD) being negotiated under the UN Framework Convention

on Climate Change, may channel billions of dollars into conservation and poverty alleviation if these instruments can be shown to verifiably reduce carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and degradation.

Co-author on the study, Professor Neil Burgess, University of Copenhagen and WWF, said “REDD would create incentives for developing countries to conserve tropical forests and to adopt low-emission strategies for sustainable development. REDD could rapidly cut carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and degradation, which are currently responsible for 15% of total emissions from human activity”.

Much logging in Tanzania is illegal resulting in major financial losses. A trade survey by TRAFFIC estimated that in 2005 some 96 per cent of harvested timber was exported illegally, losing the Tanzanian government an estimated US \$58 million of revenue. Charcoal burning is similarly mostly illegal,

but carried out by local people

who have no alternative means of income, and is used in towns by poor people to cook their food. Policy interventions therefore need careful tailoring to the type of degradation activity, and care needs to be taken to provide alternative income sources and prevent increasing levels of poverty in an already poor country.

Co-author Dr Simon Lewis, University of Leeds, added, “This study highlights the value of strong interdisciplinary research coupled with large-scale and long-term datasets. Both are needed if scientists are to provide the knowledge to assist managing the natural world sustainably whilst benefiting local people.”

Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

Global: World Bank palm oil strategy is reckless, say NGOs

In advance of a major international meeting about World Bank investments in palm oil, a consortium of indigenous peoples’, oil palm smallholders’, and non-governmental organisations is demanding the World Bank maintains its current freeze on funding the sector until it has a credible strategy to address the sector’s manifold problems.

“The World Bank Group says it is ‘aware of negative environmental and social impacts, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas emissions, land use conflicts and questions over land tenure and human rights’”, points out Norman Jiwan, a Dayak from West Borneo and department head in the Indonesian oil palm monitoring NGO, SawitWatch, “but the ‘framework’ document they have produced looks like business as usual to us. No new standards, nothing about how they address the deficient legal frameworks in Indonesia and Malaysia, and no measures at all to curb global warming.”

In a carefully worded statement submitted to the World Bank prior to a public consultation in Frankfurt, the consortium insists that reforms must come first before global investment restarts. “Existing smallholder schemes in Indonesia deprive people of land and burden us with debts”, says Cion Alexander, representing the independent national Oil Palm Smallholders Union (Serikat Petani Kelapa Sawit). “The World Bank says it wants to help smallholders, but it needs to sort out our problems instead of investing in expansion. The draft document says nothing about how the Bank will address our

concerns in Indonesia.”

Environmental and human rights groups in Europe are likewise frustrated, as Knud Vöcking of Urgewald notes: “The World Bank’s consultation held in Amsterdam in June received solid proposals from Urgewald and other NGOs on how to improve the Bank’s social and environmental performance in lending for oil palm development, including the need to uphold the right of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and to withhold Bank finance in areas with unresolved land conflicts. We are dissatisfied that the authors of the Bank’s framework have left our core inputs on rights and accountability to one side.”

Tom Griffiths of the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) comments: “The World Bank’s own audit recommended a major overhaul of its procedures for identifying and addressing social and environmental risks. This reform proposal was backed by the World Bank President Robert Zoellick himself in a letter to NGOs in August 2009. Despite this, the Bank’s draft framework document fails to address the risks. It seems that Bank staff are reckless.”

The consortium has called on the World Bank Group to rethink its draft strategy and then engage in further discussions with affected peoples. Meanwhile, they have called for the current suspension of World Bank funding to be maintained.

forestpeoples.org

China: Chopsticks - the cutlery conundrum

Some 45 billion chopsticks are used and chucked away in China each year. Campaigners want to change that, but face huge economic and cultural obstacles.

For the humble chopstick, life is predictable. Start off as a tree, one of the 25 million felled each year for the purpose. Spend a brief few weeks, newly-whittled, encased in paper. Then wind up on someone’s plate, where you are expertly used to shovel noodles, or rice, or meat into a mouth.

Then that’s it. It’s time to face the great landfill in the sky.

Millions of chopsticks meet their end like this. In fact, billions - 45 billion a year in China alone, taking with them some 100 acres of birch, poplar and bamboo forest a day. It is one reason why attempts are under way to turn the Chinese off their disposable cutlery and on to the longer-lasting kind.

In 2006, the Government introduced a 5% tax on all disposable wooden chopsticks following petitions from schoolchildren and citizens’ group. Since then, efforts to curb

the wooden sticks' use have increased. A BYOC (Bring Your Own Chopsticks) movement has been actively petitioning for sustainable options for some time. Described by the China Post as a collection of "young yuppies", they carry around their own implements when dining out. Occasionally, claims the Post, restaurant owners take it upon themselves to reward the yuppies' efforts with a complimentary bowl of soup. Greenpeace launched a campaign with the slogan "say no to disposable chopsticks." In 2008, activists dressed as orangutans invaded corporate cafeterias - Microsoft, Intel and IBM among them - to discourage diners from going disposable.

Then, earlier this year, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce joined with five other government departments to warn that companies using disposables could soon face legal restrictions. They claimed to "aim at decreasing the use of the throwaway utensil". "Production, circulation and recycling of disposable chopsticks should be more strictly supervised," they explained. It's a stark about-face for the Chinese government. Prior to the measure, they had actively encouraged disposables' use. They were, reasoned authorities, more hygienic than their reusable cousins.

The debate over throwaway instruments, while raging in China, is by no means limited to chopsticks. In the UK, disposable cutlery is thought to be used for an average of three minutes before being discarded. Plastics - including convenience cutlery, crockery and cups - account for 7 per cent of office waste (the overwhelming bulk, unsurprisingly, is paper). That's before the countless millions of knives, forks and spoons churned out by fast food restaurants, cafes and supermarkets are taken into account. Recent years have seen the rise of the Carry Your Own Cutlery (CYOC) movement, while websites such as Recyclethis.co.uk offer readers advice on how to reuse their plastic implements.

Increasingly, retailers are under pressure to offer - if not reusable - then at least recyclable options. Starbucks recently pledged to introduce renewable materials during its next round of store upgrades and has committed to using entirely recyclable cups by 2015. Pret a Manger, meanwhile, has pledged to go "landfill-free" by 2012. Not everyone has been so quick to change. McDonald's, while using recycled paper in much of its packaging, defends its choice of plastic cutlery on the grounds that washing up would waste energy.

How effective China's measures will be remains to be seen. The BYOC has been slow in picking up active support, and the government's waste warning, while a step in an environmentally-friendly direction, is more bark than bite. Legislation is looming, though as yet there are few concrete incentives for diners to trade in their disposables. Wooden chopsticks cost restaurant owners a fraction of what the more durable alternatives do, since the cost of sterilisation is high. What's more, the alternative melamine-resin chopsticks have a notoriously high formaldehyde content, which is neither great news for the environment nor diners' health.

Polls by news outlets have found broad support for reusable items. Some 84.2 per cent of participants told a recent Sina.com poll that they would swap for more durable options. Still, analysts point out that the authorities' interest is divided. Environmentally, cutting down on chopsticks makes sense. Economically - in the short term at least - it doesn't. More than 300,000 people are employed by the wooden chopstick industry, across 300 factories. Exports of their wares bring in \$200m a year. In 2009, it was claimed that 300 restaurants in Beijing had ceased to provide disposable chopsticks. In a country of some 1.3 billion diners, there's a long way left to go.

independent.co.uk

China releases ten-year forest protection plan

China's State Forestry Administration (SFA) held a press conference recently to announce that the recently published "National Plan for the Use and Protection of Forest Land (2010-2020)," had been passed, in principle, by the State Council. The document outlines the department's ten-year program to expand and protect China's forests. Currently, the area of forested land per capita in China is only 22% of the world's average. According to the plan, China expects to have 312.3 million hectares of forested land (including land set aside for forestation) and 223 hectares of forest reserves by 2020, increasing total forest reserves by around 1.2 billion cubic meters. According to the plan, over 23% of Chinese land will be covered by forests by 2020. The plan also details long-term goals involving forest management, productivity, and controlling forest use. The SFA hopes ultimately to increase national forest reserves to 15.8 billion cubic meters. This, along with other efforts, reflects the nation's growing commitment to environmental

protection. But forest degradation remains a costly side effect of the nation's rapid economic development. SFA statistics demonstrate an increase in the misuse of land covered by forest, listing over 39,000 cases of illegal land use from 2006 to 2008, resulting in a total loss of 49,000 hectares of forest land. Ecological damage brought about by deforestation has contributed to desertification and an increased number of natural disasters in recent years. China has experienced some 15 landslides this year, including the deadly mudslide in Gansu's Zhouqu county that, as of Friday, had claimed over 1,400 lives. The landslides are likely caused by soil erosion from deforestation and climate change.

Zhan Jian, deputy director of the SFA, expects the ten year plan to be a milestone in forest conservation and expansion. The plan also marks a step toward addressing global climate change as well as domestic ecological damage.

eeo.com.cn

India: Claims of growth in India's forests 'misleading'

Native forests in India are disappearing at a rate of up to 2.7% per year. The figures, published in an analysis of the country's forest cover, stand in stark contrast to those of a 2009 survey by an Indian governmental organization, which said that forests have expanded by 5% over the past decade.

India is among the most densely forested countries in the world, and in 2008 the government announced goals to increase forest cover by nearly 10% by 2012. The India State of Forest Report 2009 by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) indicated that the outlook was good.

But William Laurance, a conservation biologist at James Cook University in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, and one of the authors of the analysis, to be published in the journal *Conservation Letters*, says that while the figures showing that forest cover in India has grown are "technically correct", they are also "misleading".

"We found a very real and serious loss of native forest," he says, adding that it could put India ahead of most other countries in terms of deforestation.

India has been busy planting trees, including non-native eucalyptus and acacia, to provide timber and fuel wood — and in some cases to earn money from selling carbon credits under the Clean Development Mechanism established in 2001 as part of the Kyoto Protocol. The country now ranks second globally in terms of total land area under plantation. Laurance says that much of India's claimed growth in forest cover has come from plantations, and that this is masking a fall in native forests. "The Indian government has made a big deal of increasing forest cover. But they are not distinguishing between natural and artificial forests," he says.

This is bad for the environment because replanting native forests with non-native trees damages local biodiversity, says Neil Burgess, a conservation biologist at the University of Copenhagen. "Most plantations of non-native trees have very low biological value. They are only good to store carbon," he says.

This distinction between native and non-native trees is important for an accurate picture of the state of the world's forests, says Laurance. In the analysis, the researchers assessed data on the growth in Indian plantations collected for the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It estimates that plantations grew by around 15,400 square kilometres a year between 1995 and 2005. The researchers subtracted the rates of plantation expansion from the growth

in total forest cover as measured by remote-sensing imagery, and found that coverage of native Indian forests actually declined by 1.5–2.7% between 1995 and 2005 — an "alarming" average of 2.4% a year and a loss of more than 124,000 square kilometres over the decade.

The researchers checked these figures against changes in forest biovolume (the volume of wood and other above-ground forest material), estimated from field observations in the FSI report. They found a loss in native forest biovolume of around 2.7% per year.

Laurance says that some assessments of forest cover, such as that carried out by the FAO, do not distinguish between native forests and plantations. They rely on relatively coarse data from sources including the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer satellites, which have a resolution of 1.1 square kilometres per pixel. But the Indian Remote Sensing satellites used by the FSI have a much higher resolution — up to 23.5 square metres per pixel — so the agency has the means to distinguish native forests from plantations of non-native trees.

Laurance says he is hopeful that the United Nations' REDD+ initiative to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation — which includes a focus on conservation and sustainable management of forests — will encourage India and other countries in similar situations to distinguish between native and artificial forests, and pay more attention to protecting the former. He says that countries such as Norway — the programme's first and largest donor — will be interested more in paying to stop deforestation of native forests than in expanding plantations.

Bhaskar Vira, an environmental economist at the University of Cambridge, UK, says that he thinks "there is probably some truth" in the study's finding. But he warns that not all the trees planted each year reach maturity and show up in satellite imagery. Because the authors subtracted the FAO figures for the total area covered by plantations from a satellite-based estimate of total forest cover, the study may have overestimated the amount of deforestation taking place.

Laurance agrees that the data on plantations is "rough", but points out that the calculations of loss in biovolume used Forest Survey of India data. The figures derived were similar to his estimates for deforestation, so he is confident in the results.

nature.com

Indonesia: Ministry wants money for planting trees

Indonesia hopes to renegotiate its US\$1 billion deal with Norway on reducing carbon emissions by curbing deforestation, hoping Norway will accept tree planting as an eligible part of the program. "We hope REDD+ activities could be applied in the Indonesia-Norway climate deal," Hadi Daryanto, director general of forest production at the Forestry Ministry, told The Jakarta Post.

REDD stands for "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation". REDD+, however, incorporates carbon emission reductions from conservation, sustainable

forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks through reforestation. The current letter of intent (LoI) between Indonesia and Norway states that their climate change partnership is focused on "REDD+", but the province hosting the pilot project "must have large undisturbed tracts of rainforest, and professionally documented plans for forestry intentions and other projects that may cause environmental degradation". The initial LoI did not include compensation for tree planting efforts, although the United Nations REDD+ interpretation does recompense some reforestation endeavors

Negotiators representing the two countries are slated to

meet in Jakarta from Aug. 18-19 to discuss implementation of the proposed climate partnership. The Indonesian negotiating team will be led by Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, a former Energy and Mineral Resources Minister and the acting chief of the Presidential Work Unit for Development Monitoring and Control (UKP4). "Companies can also play a role in decreasing emissions by planting trees on degraded land, and therefore should be eligible for funds from Norway," Hadi said.

The government launched a program to plant 1 billion trees this year, and has invited private sector participation. Negotiators from Indonesia and Norway would verify details of the forestry moratorium, Wandojo Siswanto, head of the climate change working group at the Forestry Ministry, said. "We want to elaborate the terms of a forestry moratorium because the LoI could be dangerous for the Indonesian economy," Wandojo said. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono signed the LoI with Norway in May, after which the government issued a moratorium on natural forest and peat land conversions.

The 1997 Forest Law does not recognize natural

forestland. "We need to have the same understanding of the term 'natural forest', and stipulate whether it only covers primary forests, or also production forestland," Wandojo said. The moratorium on peat land should also be clarified because many plantation activities have been transferred to residents living in settlements located in peat land areas, Wandojo added.

Greenpeace Indonesia Activists and the Indonesian Environment Forum (Walhi) have proposed a land swap system for companies that have secured permits to operate in peat land areas. The idea has been criticized because most carbon credits for companies would be extended by local banks, Hadi said. "Costs associated with the land swap concept are too high. Local banks providing plantation credits could collapse, including giants like Bank Mandiri and Bank Negara Indonesia (BNI)" Hadi said. Hadi estimated that there were at least 30 new industrial forest concessions (HTI) and plantation estates that have secured permits to operate in peat land areas.

thejakartapost.com

Mauritania plants trees to hold back desert

Mauritania has launched a tree-planting program aimed at protecting its capital from the advancing desert and coastal erosion, a project that could eventually extend thousands of kilometers across Africa. President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz planted the first of some 2 million trees that are meant to form a "green belt" around the capital, Nouakchott, and curb erosion elsewhere in the desert nation that straddles black and Arab Africa. "The aim of this green belt is to stop the advancing desert and stop encroachment by the sea, which is threatening the town with floods," Ba Housseynou Hammadi, minister for the environment and sustainable development, said. "This belt will also play an economic role. Some of the trees that have been chosen can be used for firewood. Others will produce gum acacia, which is (a natural gum) sought after for pharmaceutical products," Hammadi added.

It will take four years to plant the trees in Mauritania. The project is part of a broader anti-desertification plan, the "Great Green Wall," launched by the African Union in 2005 to try to create a 15 km-wide wall of greenery stretching 7,000 km between Africa's east and west coasts. The plan is to plant a number of desert-resistant species of tree across 11 nations in Africa's Sahel region, to the south of the Sahara, to ease erosion and improve the quality of the soil for farmers in a region prone to drought and food shortages.

African leaders met in June to try to seek progress for the idea, but it has so far failed to take off due to a lack of funding and some skepticism over how effective it would be and whether the trees would be looked after.

reuters.com

Nepal: UML protests proposed change to Forest Act

CPN-UML has suggested to the prime minister not to make any amendments to the existing Forest Act which curtails the rights and privileges enjoyed by forest user groups. The ruling party has pressed the prime minister at a time when the Ministry for Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) has said that the user groups are misusing their rights and resorting to deforestation. The amendment has proposed drastic curtailment of the rights of forest user groups. Submitting a memorandum to the prime minister, the UML has strongly raised concerns of the Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) and its objection to the amendment proposal.

The party's natural resources management department's letter stated that the MoFSC is attempting to hide its own corruption by shifting the blame on forest user groups. The party has also demanded action against the Ministry officials involved in deforestation in the Tarai as per the findings of the National Vigilance Center and the Commission for the

Investigation of Abuse of Authority.

The letter signed by head of the department, Pradeep Nepal, further stated that the issue does not lie within the priority of cabinet given the fragile political situation facing the country. It further said that the proposal to increase the tax amount from 15 to 50 percent is an attempt to weaken the groups. The party demanded that all works relating to extension of national parks and wildlife conservation should be stopped immediately.

MoFSC, on the other hand, has already sent the amendment proposal to the Ministry of Law on Monday, Forest Minister Deepak Bohara said. FECOFUN had earlier issued a press release making the same demand.

Former general secretary of FECOFUN, Bhola Bhattarai, said, "This is an example of politicization in FECOFUN," adding, "The organization could have gone to the prime minister himself, but it chose to send the letter through UML."

myrepublica.com



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.

Join the CFA

What you get

Membership of the CFA entitles you to all of the benefits of the Association, including receipt of the CFA Newsletter and the International Forestry Review (hard copy and online access – see below for details). For more details of membership benefits visit our website at www.cfa-international.org

How you can join the CFA

There are several ways you can join:

- o via telephone at + 44 (0)1588 672868
- o or our website at www.cfa-international.org
- o or by contacting our office at: CFA, The Crib, Dinchope, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9JJ, UK

Annual subscription rates

Student	Standard*		£15
	Plus		£30
Ordinary	Standard*	Developing country	£15
		Developed country	£60
	Plus	Developing country	£30
		Developed country	£75
Institution		Developing country	£190
		Developed country	£275
National Forestry Association		Developing country	£30
		Developed country	£120

*All membership categories include both hard copy and online access to the International Forestry Review except 'Standard' subscriptions which do not include a hard copy.

Reduced price membership is available to organisations participating in the Program for Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) administered by the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP). Visit www.cfa-international.org for more details.

For more information on the CFA visit our website at www.cfa-international.org