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The Membership Secretary
Commonwealth Forestry Association,
c/o Oxford Forestry Institute,
South Parks Road,
Oxford OX1 3RB,
UK.

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Commonwealth Forestry News

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Forests in a Changing Landscape

Fremantle, Western Australia 18-25 April

Wally Cox, Chair of the steering committee, promises an attractive programme and some interesting field visits especially to the tall karri in the southwest. The list of keynote speakers itself brings together leading figures from forest management in Commonwealth countries - Marilyn Headly, Jamaica, Mike Chihambakwe, Zimbabwe, Thang Hooi-Chiew, Malaysia, Winston Smit, South Africa; leaders from international forestry - Hosny El-Lakany, FAO and David Cassells, Iwokrama and the World Bank; leaders on institutional issues and people in forestry - Pippa Bird and Dr Mary Hobley of the UK and V.K. Bahuguna, India; leaders from research and education - Dr Salleh, Malaysia, Dr Michele Ivanitz, Australia and the local Professor Syd Shea formerly of the Department of Conservation and Land Management of Western Australia. This is to mention only a few of the much longer list of speakers, many of whom will take up the special topics of the conference:- forest management, forest policy, institutional change, international forestry, planning and education. There is a giant Aussie barbeque at Tumbulgum farm and relevant Conference tours to local forests and to the Southwest. In his message David Bills, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry, considers that Commonwealth countries with a significant proportion of the world's forests, ranging across temperate, boreal and tropical zones, can, through these discussions, make a real contribution to the sustainable management, conservation and development of the world's forests.

The conference is being run jointly with the 19th Biennial Conference of the Institute of Foresters of Australia. Their working dinner is on the 17th and their AGM on the 22nd April. These will be opportunities for Commonwealth foresters to hear about the workings of the Australian professional association. **The Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Forestry Association** will be held in conjunction with the 16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference from 7 - 10 PM, **Thursday 19th April 2001 in the Fremantle Esplanade**. This is an opportunity for all attending the CFC to come together to discuss how the CFA serves the Commonwealth and the world community interested in forests.

CFA took on the administration of the 16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference Fellowships, which were supported by funds made available by the UK Department for International Development, the Canadian International Development Administration and other sponsors.

CFA in conjunction with the Commonwealth Foundation has organised the Small Islands Workshop which will be held 9.30 on Wednesday 18th April in the Fremantle Esplanade (See page 2).

*Look out for the CFA desk in the Fremantle Esplanade and
Join the Commonwealth Forestry Association*

Membership is available to anyone throughout the world with an interest in forestry!

The international newsletter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association

"To promote the well-being of the world's forests and those who depend on them."

CFA. Administrative Office: Oxford Forestry Institute, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3RB, UK.

Telephone:[+44]01865 271037 Facsimile: [+44]01865 275074. E mail cfa_oxford@hotmail.com

EDITOR CFNEWS:

PHILIP WARDLE, 3 CHARLES HILL, ELSTEAD, GU8 6LE, SURREY, U.K.

E mail: 101656.1772@compuserve.com

Web site <http://www.canadian-forests.com/cfa.html>

Association News

Issues Facing the Forestry Sector in Small States and Island Nations

CFA Workshop 9.30 am Wednesday 18th April at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

The Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank have recognised that there are specific challenges to the economic development of small states, and in particular small island states due to their remoteness. A large number of the world's small states belong to the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Foundation is providing support in order to investigate the specifically forestry related issues.

The objective of the workshop is to bring together speakers and participants from small states and islands in order to identify common problems and challenges and to explore possible solutions, including the potential role of the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA). The time will be mainly spent in discussion groups, sharing and learning from the experiences of the participants.

Some of the expected outputs are:

- Suggestions and proposals on how a professional body such as the CFA can assist foresters and local forestry associations from small countries.
- Presentation of findings to the main conference plenary.

Everyone is welcome and there is no additional registration charge. Participants from small states are particularly

encouraged to come to the Conference in time to participate in this workshop. Further details are available from the CFA office, Oxford.

from KEITH JEDDERE-FISHER

CFNews

It has been a long standing practice to include a calendar of "Forthcoming International Events" in the International Forestry Review, while in CFNews we have included a short list of "International Meetings Relevant To Intergovernmental Dialogue On Forests". At a recent meeting of the Publications Committee it was decided that the calendar was not a high priority for IFR, but could be appropriate to CFNews with its orientation to current events in forestry. A calendar in the newsletter could focus on forthcoming CFA international and national branch meetings as well as the broader spectrum of national and international forestry events. Achieving this will depend on CFA branches sending information about their planned meetings. This would be good information for those who may be travelling to your country and would like to join in your events and could lead to the chance of useful additional contributions from the travellers.

Your contributions are invited.

E mail: 101656.1772@compuserve.com

from PHILIP WARDLE, Editor CFNews

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the death of Ram Swarup, Fiji. Obituaries of Dennis Richardson, John Harold Francois and David Cornelius are published in IFR 3/1

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Stop press

Britain's Public Forests Close For The First Time Ever

As a precautionary measure to reduce the risks of spreading foot and mouth disease the Forestry Commission announced on 1 March 2001 that all its forests were closed to the public and all recreation activities within the Forestry Commission's woodlands postponed. The closure was to be reviewed within two weeks.

Strategic review of CFA membership and the functioning of National Branches Questionnaire

Please return to the address overleaf as soon as possible

Name (optional, but it would be helpful - to follow-up on your suggestions): _____

Country: _____

1. There are many different organisations working in world forestry. What do you believe is CFA's particular role or niche in achieving the CFA mission statement?

2. What are the benefits that you receive or may receive from being a member of the CFA? _____

3. What other benefits do you think could be available to members of the CFA? _____

4. What made you decide to become a member of the CFA? _____

5. How does your membership of the CFA assist you in your professional work? _____

6a. If you have a country branch or chapter, what is its role and what activities is it carrying out? _____

6b. What other activities do you think it could carry out? _____

7a. If you do not have a country branch or chapter, do you think it would be a good idea to form one? _____

7b. What activities do you think the country branch should carry out? _____

7c. Would you be willing to join its National Committee? _____

8. Do you have any other suggestions for improving the effectiveness of the CFA? Please make your suggestion.

reply to address overleaf

Strategic review of CFA membership and the functioning of National Branches

Chairman's Column

Forests, Foresters And The Future Generations

by Jag Maini

The mission of the CFA is 'to promote good management, use and conservation of forests and forest lands throughout the world' or expressed in a different way 'to promote the well-being of the world's forests and those who benefit from them'. The full Mission Statement of the CFA is printed below.

The CFA fulfils this mission through the work of its members carrying out their individual professional duties, through the work of the CFA national branches or chapters, and as an International Secretariat. In order to achieve this, members of the CFA also need to feel that they are benefiting as individuals from their membership.

In January 2001 the CFA Executive Committee decided to carry out a review in order to identify how the achievement of this objective could be furthered through the membership and how the members could obtain the support that they need in order to fulfil their part.

This questionnaire is an important part of this review. There will also be an opportunity to discuss these issues at the Annual General Meeting on the 19th April 2001 at Fremantle, Australia during the 16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference. At the AGM a committee will be elected in order to continue and complete this review.

We would be grateful for your quick response to the questions. Please send your responses to the CFA office (The Membership Secretary, CFA, c/o Oxford Forestry Institute, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3RB, UK). Please use e-mail: cfa_oxford@hotmail.com if you have access to it. All responses should be returned by 31st April 2001.

from KEITH JEDDERE-FISHER,
Membership Secretary

Mission Statement

CFA Mission

To promote good management, use and conservation of forests and forest lands throughout the world.

CFA Objectives

The Association and its national branches will promote:

- universal recognition of the importance of trees and forests in relation to climate, conservation of biological diversity and land and water resources, sustainable agriculture, wildlife, amenity and recreation;
- sustained yield management for the production of wood and other forest products;
- the development of national and international policies in support of good forestry practice;
- collaboration with other national and international organisations with similar interests;
- exchange of information on forestry and forest policy through the *Review* and other publications;
- exchange of people and skills between nations;
- training and employment opportunities.

Please respond to the Questionnaire on page 7 and post your answers to CFA ->

CFA Membership

Membership and Subscription Rates

	£		£
Ordinary member	45	Corporate member	150
Developing country member	10	Subscriber	150
Student member	10		

Membership is available to anyone throughout the world with an interest in forestry!

§

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Commonwealth Forestry Association, c/o Oxford Forestry Institute, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3RB UK

Type of Membership: Ordinary Student Corporate Subscriber Developing Country

Name Position Organisation

Address

.....

Subscriptions may be paid by credit card - Visa/Mastercard Account Number Expiry Date

The international community has been seriously concerned about the alarming rates of deforestation and forest degradation and the associated loss of many environmental, economic and social benefits, as well as the consequent impact on the rights, livelihoods, and cultural values of forest dwellers and indigenous people in various parts of the world. This concern was further intensified when the forest issue emerged among the most controversial items on the international policy and political agenda at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Since the Rio conference, a number of international initiatives have helped to clarify a wide range of complex and politically sensitive forest issues and build consensus between the industrialized and developing countries, as well as with a wide range of special interest groups.

This consensus-building process has been greatly facilitated by deliberations undertaken by: the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF); Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF); a large number of international meetings of experts in support of IPF and IFF; the work of the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development (WCFS); and many regional "processes", for example, the eight processes involving about 150 countries engaged in the formulation of criteria and indicators of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

The following two important factors have particularly contributed to the North-South consensus building and to a wider ownership of the outcome of these initiatives aimed at facilitating sustainable management of all types of forests and other wooded lands.

First, the international forest policy deliberations, for example, the IPF, IFF and the WCFS, were co-chaired by senior persons (political, diplomatic and scientific) from both the industrialized and developing countries. Also, most of the international meetings of experts were co-sponsored in partnership between developed and developing countries, as well as by the major groups. (It is worth noting that many commonwealth countries have co-sponsored and co-chaired these meetings and numerous commonwealth experts have played a prominent role in shaping the international agenda for action on forests).

Second, the IPF/IFF proposals for action have received endorsement at the highest political level by, for example, the UN General Assembly, G-8, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), the European Ministers, and other high-level international fora, e.g., the World Forestry Congress and the Commonwealth Forestry Conference, Committee on Forestry (COFO) of FAO.

The establishment of a new body under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, namely, the UN Forum on Forests, has been a major "institutional" step forward to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. One principal priority of UNFF is to formulate its Plan of Action aimed to

facilitate the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposal for action, by mobilizing political, financial scientific and technical support. Hopefully, UNFF will be successful in meeting this critical objective.

From the point of view of most developing countries, international cooperation towards capacity-building is the key prerequisite to attain SFM. Funds for international cooperation are limited and not increasing. The donor community is faced with many diverse and increasing demands, including food security, provision of safe water, protection against serious diseases such as AIDS and malaria, peace-keeping, settlement of refugees, poverty alleviation, addressing the impact of natural disasters, etc. Donors appear to be assigning higher priority to human well-being. The forest community has to learn how to be more proactive and "street smart" in competing for limited funds available. We must learn to explain how sustainable management of forests and other wooded lands contributes to the well-being of people. This argument is particularly evident in low forest cover countries where several hundred million people live in and around forests and other wooded lands and depend on them for their daily subsistence.

The challenges facing foresters in the new millennium are increasingly complex. The traditional perspective on managing forests that focused primarily on sustained yield of wood has shifted to managing forests as ecosystems for multiple benefits, without impairing their capacity to meet the needs of future generations. The professional forester has to deal with many special interest groups at the local, as well as at the national, regional and global levels. Since the formulation of forest policy now requires an open, inclusive and participatory decision-making process, including resolution of conflicting demands, foresters may not always be in a position to "know best".

National forest policy and practices can no longer be formulated in isolation from the international deliberations on forest policy. Is the new generation of foresters adequately trained and prepared to deal with the sociology of decision-making and ecology of forests? Do they fully take into account the trans-boundary, regional and global context within which they are operating?

During the past decades, significant advances have been made in international fora in understanding various aspects of policies and practices of sustainable forestry. Experts from the commonwealth countries have played a leading role in shaping the international and regional dialogues on forests. We now have an agreed agenda for action on forests that requires enhanced international cooperation. In order to seek political, financial, scientific and technical support, the forestry community must learn to be proactive and to articulate effectively how Sustainable Forest Management would support the well-being of the present and future generations.

Jag Maini, Chairman of CFA, is Co-ordinator and Head of the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests, Division for Sustainable Development, Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations

Around The World

Prince Charles becomes Patron of Iwokrama Centre

Prince Charles, who is Prince of Wales and heir to the British throne, has agreed to assume patronage of the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development in Georgetown, Guyana. He visited Guyana and Iwokrama and met with the communities living in and near the forest in February 2000 and was briefed about the Centre's activities.

The Centre is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Iwokrama rainforest, a 360,000 hectare reserve that has been made available to the international community by the Government and people of Guyana. Half of the forest area is protected as a wilderness preserve while the other half is used for environmentally sustainable social and economic development. The focus for the Centre's work is an action research programme that aims to demonstrate how tropical rainforests can be conserved and sustainably managed while still providing substantial local and national economic benefits.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon and Angela Cropper of Trinidad and Tobago, Chairperson of the Iwokrama Centre's Board of Trustees, welcomed the Prince's decision. They expressed the hope that the Patronage will help to generate greater international awareness of the Centre and to attract more support for its valuable work.

The Iwokrama Rainforest Programme was launched on the initiative of Guyana under the auspices of the Commonwealth and with initial support from the Global Environment Facility. It has received support from Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Commission, United Nations Development Programme, private foundations and individuals. The United Kingdom is currently its largest donor.

For further information, please contact: Mr David Cassells, Director-General, Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development, 67 Bel Air, Georgetown, Guyana

E mail: iwokrama@solutions2000.net

Web site: <http://www.sdn.org.gy/iwokrama>

from CNIS 17,
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, December 2000

United Nations Forest Forum

The Organizational meeting of the UNFF which concluded on 16 February at the UN, New York, decided to locate the UNFF Secretariat in New York. The first substantive session of the UNFF is to take place on 11-22 June 2001, in New York, two meetings will be held in Geneva and one in Costa Rica and the fifth meeting in New York. It was decided to elect a new Bureau every year, along the lines adopted by CSD. The current Chairman of the UNFF is Ambassador Mubarak Rahmtalla of Sudan and the Vice-chairs are Slamet Hidayat (Indonesia), Knut Oistad (Norway), Gustavo Suarez de Freitas (Peru) and Alexey Kornienko (Russia). The informal, high-level Interagency Task Force on Forests ITFF presented a Statement of Intent to form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Informal consultations on the multi-year programme of work of the UNFF followed on 13-16 February. A common view shared by delegations was that the UNFF's major tasks include facilitating the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as monitoring progress in the implementation.

The International Meeting of Experts on Financing Sustainable Forest Management (Oslo Workshop) was held

on 22-25 January 2001, in Oslo, Norway. This government-led initiative in support of the IPF/IFF and UNFF was co-sponsored by Brazil, Denmark, Malaysia, Norway, South Africa and the United Kingdom and organised by the Center for the International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Seventy experts from 40 countries, including representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, financing institutions, international organizations and academia participated in the workshop. The focus was on the issues of attracting private capital in SFM, effectively utilising available financial mechanisms and resources, and considering new mechanisms including a global forest fund. It also discussed the feasibility of the "Investment Promotion Entity (IPE)" concept as recommended by the IFF. Further information: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/fsfm/index.htm>

Australia has prepared a summary, consolidating the IPF/IFF proposals for action. "The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and The Intergovernmental Forum of Forests - Summary of Proposals for Action" <http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/forestry/sustainability/international/ipf-iff-coverage.html>

Meetings Relevant To Intergovernmental Dialogue On Forests in 2001:

12-16 March Rome, Italy. 15th Session of FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO).

12-16 March, Montreal, Canada. Convention on Biological Diversity: 6th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 6).

18-25 April, Fremantle, Australia. 16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference.

16-27 April, New York, USA. 9th Session - the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

14-15 May 2001, Brussels, Belgium. Round Table Meeting of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Pan-European Forest Process).

21 May - 1 June 2001, Bonn, Germany. 14th Session of SBI and SBSTA of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC).

28 May - 2 June 2001, Yaounde, Cameroon. 30th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council.

11-22 June 2001, New York, USA. First substantive session of the UNFF.

from TIINA VÄHÄNEN, UNFF

FAO on Trees Outside Forest

FAO invites you to suggest bibliographic references and other information which deserve to be included in the Annotated Bibliography on "Trees-Outside-Forest (TOF): Concepts, Functions, Dynamics and Assessment". The FAO Forest Conservation, Research and Education Service, in the framework of its programme on Trees-Outside-Forest, is preparing a Source Book including an annotated bibliography, to be published in 2001. The main subjects to be covered are: definitions, terminology, concepts, classification, functions (goods and environmental, socio-economic, cultural services), resource management and qualitative and quantitative assessment of Trees-Outside-Forest.

FAO would appreciate your contribution at your earliest convenience, no later than 15 December 2000. **Email:** michelle.gauthier@fao.org.

from MICHELLE GAUTHIER,
FAO, Forestry Department, Rome

Special Feature

Forestry in Russia

In CFN 11 we noted news of a change in the organisation of forestry in Russia. A press release of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation of September 11, 2000 clarifies the official position. Some key points from an unofficial translation and from articles referring to the change, are quoted below:

"The Government of the Russian Federation issued a decree dated August 31, 2000, in which it approved the new Statute of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). According to this document, MNR shall pursue state policy and exercise management in the sphere of the exploration, use, reproduction and protection of natural resources, protection of the natural environment and provisions for environmental safety.

"Its responsibilities lie in the following spheres: management of the use and protection of inland water bodies; utilisation, protection and conservation of the forest estate, and forest reproduction; protection of the natural environment; state environmental assessment; protection, oversight and regulation of the use of objects of the animal world and their habitats; waste management, with the exception of radioactive wastes; state oversight over land use and protection; atmospheric protection; state regulation of protection of Lake Baikal.

"A proposal has been submitted to the Government of the Russian Federation to rename the ministry the "Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection" and it has been proposed to establish five State Services within the Ministry: the State Environmental Protection Service, the State Water Service, the State Forest Service, the State Geological Service, the State Environmental Assessment Service. It is expected that these state services would be headed by Deputy Ministers of Natural Resources

"The MNR is currently paying special attention to ensuring continuity of the function of the state environmental assessments, or expertise (SEE) to ensure continuation of the SEE activities in full accordance with the Federal Law of the Russian Federation "On Ecological Expertise", the "Statute of the Procedure for Carrying Out the State Ecological Expertise" dated June 11, 1996 and other regulations. Instructions have also been given to preserve the structures and the key personnel of the federal and territorial bodies of the SEE."

This statement appears to be sensitive to initial reaction to the decree. The abolition of the federal forest service and a number of other agencies dealing with natural resources

and the environment and the transfer of their responsibilities to the Ministry of Natural Resources by Presidential decree of 17 May, 2000, gave rise to considerable discussion. A matter causing much comment was the transfer of the functions of *Rosleskhoz* and the State Committee on Environment to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

There was also an Extraordinary Conference on Nature Conservation that took place on 13 June, 2000 in Moscow, addressed by the Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Yatskevich and attended by 368 representatives from NGOs, Government, State Duma, regions, as well as representatives from a number of Embassies in Moscow and mass media. On the 7th of June the issue was discussed in the Duma itself.

A group of Russian NGOs wrote in July 2000 to the President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn "The creation of State Committee on Ecology was one of the largest achievements of democratic formations in Russia, starting in 1985. Its establishment complemented the ongoing activities of the Russian Forest Service, which had a proud history of over 200 years. However, with his liquidation of these agencies, President Putin gives practically full freedom to the unsustainable exploitation of our natural resources, which will potentially lead to ecological harm that can impact countries beyond Russia and even the ecological balance of the planet".

The "Forestry Gazette" (July) quotes the Head of the Agrarian Deputy Group N.M. Kharitonov who reacted to the abolition of the federal Forest Service of Russia, expressing the view that "it was one of a few, if not the last, structures, that discharged its civil obligations conscientiously and honestly enough. In the last decade it did not loose its management units, but strengthened them. It did not move to commercial industrial activities, on the contrary, in compliance with Russian legislation, it removed units that dealt with industrial cuttings and wood processing from its structure. Managers and experts of the Federal Forest Service of Russia directed much effort toward development of the basis for Forest Legislation and the Forest Code."

The new Ministry takes on responsibility for vast resources of immense environmental as well as economic importance, Russian forests account for 22% of the world's forests, Lake Baikal contains one fifth of the world's fresh water, so it is important both for Russia and for the world that this reorganisation is effective.

Forest Scenes



Prosopis juliflora

Mesquite

The most important tree from Texas to southern California. Thorny branches, feathery grey leaves, masses of yellow flowers and honey sweet pods. Wide branches cast thin, hot shade for fifty feet, where dry gravel is covered with beans avidly eaten by animals. One kind, called screw bean, bears pods tightly twisted into spiral coils like a piece of rope. It takes water to produce so much good food, so mesquite is an indicator of ground water in the desert - though it may be hard to dig as deep as its roots go.

from GRAHAM BAKER