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REVIEWS

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Chairman's Column

Conferences are encouraging: you meet colleagues, you advance your understanding of issues or appreciate new dimensions, and you often return enthused to pursue new goals. The most recent Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Fremantle, Western Australia was no exception. Indeed the CFA had a good profile and we recruited 45 new members. This is due in no small part to all the behind-the-scenes work of many people, including particularly Bob Newman, Regional Vice-Chairman (Asia and the Pacific). But how does such a conference advance the role of the CFA? What are our priorities?

I would like to use this column to share with you three priorities.

- 1 To increase our membership in both developing and developed countries.
- 2 To increase the benefits members receive from the Association.
- 3 To be truly pan-Commonwealth with members, and ideally national branches, in almost every country.

I make no apology for focusing on membership, for in it lies the Association's great strength. We are an unrivalled network of professionals and others concerned with the well-being of the world's forests and all who benefit from them. Through support and assistance it is one way we as foresters can help meet the imperative of our time - the alleviation of poverty. However, seeking to expand membership, as we must, brings a dilemma. The dues that many in developing countries can afford simply do not cover the cost of the services the Association provides, such as our excellent International Forestry Review and CFA Newsletter. In recent years we have been helped with generous support from the Commonwealth Foundation, but this isn't a long-term solution. But perhaps the contrast of rich and poor suggests an answer. Should those of us who can afford a full membership subscription start to view a small part of what we pay as a way of helping those in what is labeled the 'Third World'? It is altruistic thinking, but we are a registered charity and for me, I see my involvement with the CFA as one way of supporting fellow professionals in tropical countries. The magnificent response of life members to the changes in recent years affirms that a great many of us see our membership of the CFA partly in this light.

So back to my manifesto - a poor metaphor but I write this during the British general election of 2001 - what can actually be done? There are many things and I hope in the coming months you will see developments with all of the above and more. Ultimately this is your Association, it has a unique place in world forestry to bring good and benefit many in sustainable use of the world's forest and tree resources. As chairman my job is to serve, and my aim is for every member to feel that the CFA is one of the most worthwhile organisations to belong to.

Let me conclude by thanking Jag Maini for all his hard work for the CFA over the last four years and to welcoming Mafa Chipeta as the incoming vice-chairman. Thank you all for your continuing support!

from JULIAN EVANS,
Chairman, CFA

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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

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

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Commonwealth Forestry News

Commonwealth Forestry Conference

Fremantle, Western Australia, 18-25 April 2001

Message from the Secretary-General

Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon, in a message to the 16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, noted that because of its broad international representation, the Commonwealth was in a very good position to deal with international forestry issues on a consensual basis. He expressed confidence that the Commonwealth will continue to play a key role in this area, particularly in assisting developing members to work out and adopt effective strategies for the sustainable management of their forestry resources.

Coming to CFC

Flags

Commonwealth of Nations Forestry Conference

Over 400 delegates, including 80 students from Australian Universities, attended this 16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference - the first was in 1920. Participants were from 27 countries, 21 Commonwealth, with foresters coming from Ghana, Uganda, U.K., Canada, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, New Zealand, Vanuatu and Guyana as well as Australia. This session was held jointly with the 19th Biennial Conference of the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

The CFC, which takes place every four years in a different Commonwealth country, was last held in Australia in 1957, so the meeting was very much looked forward to. The theme was "Forests in a changing landscape" and attracted many interesting papers on such matters as Forest management in the Indian sub-continent, the impact of the expansion of plantations in Australia, political will and the national forest estate and frameworks for cooperation in global landscapes.

The Governor of Western Australia, H.E. Lieutenant General John Sanderson A.C., opened the conference at Fremantle Town Hall, after welcoming speeches from Wally Cox (Organising Committee), David Bills (Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry) and Heather Crompton (IFA). Dr Stephen Bass of IIED from the UK, received the top international award for forestry - the CFA Queen's Award for Forestry, which was presented on behalf of Her Majesty by the Governor.

Stephen Midgley of CSIRO, Australia; Frank McKinnell, formerly of CALM, Western Australia; Alf Leslie, New Zealand; Colin Sabota of the British Forestry Commission and Gabriel Samol of Papua New Guinea, all received CFA regional awards for excellence presented by H.E. Mr Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans, the President of CFA.

Holding the conference combining the Commonwealth international participation with the national participation of

Flags

members of the Institute of Foresters of Australia worked very well and the benefit gained by both international attendees and the Australians will be immense. Another highlight of the conference was the presence of so many forestry students from Australian universities, which was made possible by very substantial donations from 25

The opening

industry and major tree grower organizations.

The conference recommendations are summarized in "Around the World" below on page 8.

The next Commonwealth Forestry Conference will be held in Sri Lanka in 2005.

from BOB NEWMAN,
CFA Regional Vice-Chairman, (Asia and the Pacific)

Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship March 2002

Each year 12 people are chosen to participate in a three week programme designed to enable Fellows to learn about the Commonwealth. They are expected to promote the Commonwealth after they return home. The participants also carry out a research study which addresses a specific subject of interest.

On a country rotation basis nominees are invited this time from Commonwealth countries including countries in Africa (not Nigeria or Kenya), Bangladesh, Malaysia, Guyana and Caribbean Islands -Dominica, St Lucia and others, Pacific Islands including PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and from Canada, Cyprus, NZ and UK. (Full list includes 40 countries)

Applications may be made through CFA which is a Nominating agency.

Requirements: - a CV of 1000 words, 2 letters of recommendation, a 500 word statement "why you wish to be considered for the Fellowship" and a research proposal.

The Nominating agency may select up to 3 suitable candidates for submission to the Foundation, at least one of whom must be a woman. Criteria support selection of people from the Commonwealth who have a strong interest in and commitment to internationalism and promotion of the Commonwealth and who are outstanding individuals, with interests beyond their own specialty, with good interpersonal skills, aged 30-50 years and willing to

make optimum use of the opportunity. For details: from CFA or see www.commonwealthfoundation.com

Please apply to Mrs Michelle Brooks, Secretary CFA by September 2001.

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the deaths of Neil Malcolm and Ben Voysey, UK.

CFA in PNG

A meeting was held on 15 January in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on the occasion of a visit by Bob Newman, Regional Vice-Chairman (Asia and the Pacific), bringing together 10 participants. The CFC/IFA meeting, the CFA Small Islands workshop and the possibility of support funds, were discussed. The importance of CFA awards was also considered - The Queen's Award for Forestry and Regional Awards. The latter aimed to recognise individuals - private or government - who have made a contribution to Forest Management, Research and Development, Sawmilling, who were community orientated, leaders, innovators. It was proposed to invite Prof Peter Kanowski, visiting PNG, to a joint meeting between PNG Institute of foresters and CFA-PNG Branch and to speak on Forest Policy. Martin Golman thanked Bob Newman and Adam Beaumont for coming and for their support to the branch.

Forest Scenes

The Balga grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea spp.*)

This species provides a time capsule of past fire regimes. In reconstructing the fire history of the Jarrah forest of Western Australia, a broadscale survey revealed that these forests burned every 3-4 years before European settlement. After 1850 the frequency steadily reduced following the first Bushfire Act of 1847 and severe decline in Nyungar Aborigine populations.

from poster by
RICK SNEEUWJAGT
and DAVID WARD

(Black rings in the diagramme indicate fire rings. Balga grass trees may live up to 300 years, thereby providing the record for the survey. (Ed))

Balga Grass Tree - fire history

Balga Grass Tree in forest

CFC arrives

Cautious Optimism on Reduced Impact Logging

Reduced impact logging (RIL) is viewed by many as one way to come closer to achieving the common goal of better forest management. Unfortunately, introducing RIL into commercial timber operations has proved to be difficult and complex. The adoption of RIL practices is constrained by lack of awareness, a shortage of well-trained forest workers and managers, and uncertainty regarding the costs and benefits of RIL.

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), FAO and nine other organizations convened an International Conference on Application of Reduced Impact Logging to Advance Sustainable Forest Management, Kuching, Malaysia, February 26 to March 3, 2001. This was attended by 260 participants, from 36 countries, half of whom were people actively involved in the logging business.

The conference included sessions focusing on key technologies, training, economics, safety and occupational health, practical experiences, policy instruments and research.

In the recommendations:- governments were asked to strengthen monitoring and enforcement of harvesting regulations and to develop industry operating standards and competency criteria. Forest industries were urged to demonstrate commitment to good forest management, enhance skills and capabilities of employees, and develop payment and incentive systems for forest workers that promote and reward quality performance. International organizations were requested to support human resource development and transfer of appropriate technology, information and experiences. Researchers were asked to develop standardized methods for assessing

costs and benefits, and to do practical applied research that supports the adoption of RIL. Report from APFC -<http://www.apfcweb.org>

from PATRICK DURST, FAO, Bangkok

RIL in Africa

More than 50 African logging experts met in Yaounde, Cameroon in May to discuss ways of improving logging practice in Africa's humid tropical forests. The workshop, co-sponsored by IUCN, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the US State Department and the Conference on Humid Dense Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (CEFDHAC), brought together forest concessionaires, environmental non-governmental organizations and national and international forestry agencies to promote the sustainable management of forest ecosystems through reduced impact logging.

from ITTO

Unasylyva golden CD

FAO has released a CD-ROM which contains the entire *Unasylyva* collection from 1947 to 2000 in full text with all accompanying images.

System requirements are: Windows 95/98/NT, Pentium pc, 16MB Ram, CD drive.

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/FODA/UNASYLYVA/unasyly-e.stm>

Association News

AGM 2001

The joint meeting of the Governing Council and the 79th Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Forestry Association was held in Fremantle, Australia on 19th April 2001. The meeting was chaired by the President of CFA, HE. Mr J. Aggrey-Orleans and attended by members from many Commonwealth Countries.

The chairman of CFA, Mr Jag Maini, presented the Annual Report. The President thanked him for all his time and commitment that he had given to CFA. Mr C. Latham presented the accounts. He particularly thanked Professor Julian Evans for his campaign to encourage Life Members to agree to supplementary subscriptions and thanked them for their generous support.

Julian Evans, Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans, Jag Maini

Publication of the *CFA Handbook*, which had been prepared by Mr Peter Wood and Mrs Pratima Michelle, and of *The World's Forests, Rio +8*, with editorial work by Ms Mia Soderland (UNIFF) and Alan Pottinger (Editor IFF), was announced. Both were printed by Write-arm, India.

CFA awards, which were presented at CFC, are covered on pages 4-5 above.

The AGM elected the following officers: President - HE. Mr J. Aggrey-Orleans; Chairman - Professor J. Evans; Vice-chairman - Mr M. Chipeta; Hon. Treasurer - Mr C. Latham; Reporting accountant - Mr Simon Brown. Dr V.K. Bahuguna (India), Mr Piare Lal (India) and Mr Martin Golman (Papua New Guinea) were elected to the Governing Council.

A proposal that affiliate membership with ordinary fee of £15 and developing country fee of £4, with entitlement to receive Commonwealth Forestry News, was considered a good idea. A proposal by the International Forestry Students Association, for collaboration with CFA, was warmly supported. Dr G. Weetman, UBC Canada, put forward a proposal concerning

continuing education in forestry through the CFA.

The next AGM will be held in May 2002 in the UK.

Mafa Chipeta

Some special events

Local Aboriginal people, whose ancestors were the first inhabitants of Australia, did us the honour of sharing insights into their culture, dances, their use of the forest and crafts - at the opening, at the Tumbulgun dinner evening and at Mandaring Weir.

Guide

At the Tumbulgun Farm dinner, Chris Latham and Michelle Brooks combined to give a CFA tie and scarf to guests of honour, the Federal Minister responsible for forestry, Mr Wilson Tuckey and Mrs Tuckey, after the Minister had given a lively speech with forceful expressions in favour of commercial forestry.

Mrs Michelle Brooks and
Mr Wilson Tuckey

The closing session of CFC was chaired by Dr Kweku Afriyie, Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines, Ghana. He introduced the closing address made by Mr Kim Chance, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Australia, who dwelt on the decision by the new government of the State to constrain the commercial use of old growth forest for timber in favour of environmental benefits, the implications for local economies and the adjustments that would be needed. In presenting the Minister with a CFA tie and scarf Bob Newman warmly expressed concern about the measures.

On the post conference tour, tree planting to commemorate the gathering of Commonwealth foresters from all the continents was done and the Commonwealth Forestry Conference chair was presented to Manjimup Timber Park.

Caribbean tree planters

Keith Liddelow, Chris Haynes, David Bills

Later we were walking high among the crowns of the Karris in the Valley of the Giants on the Tree Top Walk - a triumph of engineering, allowing old and young, able and disabled to reach into this environment, yet with minimum visual and physical intrusion.

Tree top walk.

Presentation

The award was presented on behalf of Her Majesty by the governor of Western Australia, H.E. Lieutenant General John Sanderson A.C. with the following citation:

"Stephen Bass is Deputy Director of the International Institute for Environment and Development. He holds degrees and professional qualifications in Agriculture, Forestry and Landscape Design and is working with outstanding success in international forestry. He has played an increasingly important international role in building linkages between forests at the communal level and the international initiatives to which individual nations have signed up; he has played an equally important part in helping forestry and foresters to deal with the lateral pressures on forests that arise from other sectors competing for land and natural products. In particular he has played a leading role in the development of certification and in the assessment of its impacts on people and forests. He has played a very important role in encouraging south-south links between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries; as well as maintaining a broad influence in the international arena; he will continue to contribute to policy development and human resource development, particularly in developing countries. He is a worthy winner of the year 2001 Queen's Award for Forestry."



Stephen Bass and HE. Lt. Gen. John Sanderson

Stephen Bass Accepts Queen's Award

I am honoured to accept the Queen's Award for Forestry. But if I have contributed anything, it has been by learning with many forestry friends, as well as - crucially - leaders in other fields.

People matter: So I must start by thanking Philip Stewart of the Oxford Forestry Institute, who asked why foresters make detailed tree inventories and stand models, but rarely even list the people who value those trees. Later, Ali Gohar and Tariq Husain hosted me in Pakistan's northern mountain communities, helping me go beyond 'people inventories', to assist forest management by people.

Policy matters: If people matter as much as trees, then participatory policy processes must be as important as silvicultural processes. I have relished working with my colleague James Mayers and IIED's collaborators in many developing countries, to observe - and sometimes to facilitate - 'policy that works'. We now have many stories of engagement in policy - by small farmer associations, by community groups, and enlightened companies - proving that ordinary people can change policy for the better.

And how important are those bold forest officers I've worked with (in places as different as South Africa, Himachal Pradesh and Grenada) who are breaking down the walls of the old 'fortress forestry' authorities. They know that, as The Economist likes to say, the only true comparative advantage left is knowledge of your stakeholders.

Innovation matters: But policy still has a bad name. The 'sustainable development' initiatives of the '90s brought about a curious policy inflation. (You can hardly begin to manage a forest these days without jumping through all kinds of policy and legal hoops.) Sustainable development has become misinterpreted, either as about what you cannot do, or as a comprehensive, paralysing list of what you must do - and nobody is interested in the whole list. I have learned much from colleagues in the energy business, who get to grips with sustainable development as a new field of 'can-do' conditions nurturing

innovation and investment. Put these conditions central to business planning, they say, try something small and significant that people really want: celebrate it where it works, and then move on to more ambitious terrain. It can cause pain, but one thorn of experience is worth a whole forest of policy words.

Knowledge of context matters: Today's experience, however, can all too quickly become tomorrow's irrelevance. It is a changing landscape. We must learn to keep a much keener eye on the changing opportunities and threats for forestry. Duncan Poore stressed this to me twenty years ago, and it remains key today. If we don't engage with the broader changes, we may keep on dreaming up forestry solutions to problems that are actually caused outside the forest sector - which are therefore bound to fail.

Professional excellence matters: I hope I have made it clear that, if my work has any authority, it is through close observation of many national and local 'leaders'. So I should like to plead that future awards should recognise that many such leaders are women; and international work should not shade out grassroots work. Leadership is shared and arises from many, very real local contexts. My early thoughts on using the Queen's Award fund are, therefore, to work with some Commonwealth training institutions to promote excellence among younger foresters within their local contexts - especially in understanding the big picture, in stakeholder interactions, and in policy engagement.

I'll finish with a story of four tailors in one street, let us say in Perth. Times were difficult, and one tailor thought to put up a sign claiming he was 'the best in Perth'. Inspired by this (or perhaps threatened by it), the next followed with a board identifying him as 'the best tailor in Australia'. The third responded with a big display claiming nothing less than that he was 'the best tailor in the world'. If only many more of us were like the fourth tailor, whose modest sign proclaimed merely that he was 'the best tailor in the street'.

from STEPHEN BASS, IIED, UK

CIFOR meeting on funding for Sustainable Forestry

Nearly a decade ago, the Earth Summit appealed for increased funding for sustainable forest management, particularly for developing countries; so far both domestic and external responses have been poor.

CIFOR helped advance progress on the issue by convening an international workshop of experts, held in Oslo 22-25 January 2001, funded by Norway and the United Kingdom with co-sponsorship by Brazil, Denmark, Malaysia and South Africa. The six-country steering committee was chaired by CIFOR Deputy Director General, Mafa Chipeta. Seventy experts from 40 countries attended the meeting, which was the third in a series after one in Pretoria (1996) and in Croydon, UK (1999). The outcomes target governments, the private sector and international bodies concerned with promoting forest management and sound policies for it, including the recently established United Nations Forum on Forests. Full details are on the CIFOR website www.cifor.cgiar.org/fsfm/index.htm

Among the key messages from Oslo are: the need to pay attention to create enabling conditions for investment, including fairer trade and prices; reducing levels of actual and perceived risk to private investors; and decreasing disincentives that raise operational costs and reduce returns, such as over-regulation, poor infrastructure and undeveloped markets. The Oslo workshop also discussed the Investment Promotion Entity, a new financial mechanism, proposed at the 1999 meeting, to offer investment brokerage services to public and private investors. Experts proposed further analysis of the concept while not precluding pilot activities in the meantime.

from MAFA CHIPETA,
CIFOR

Commonwealth firefighting mission in the United States

In the northern hemisphere summer of 2000, the western United States of America experienced one of its worst wild-fire seasons on record. The fire situation was exacerbated by a long period of drought, severe fire weather conditions, and dry lightning storms that started hundreds of new fires throughout the northern Rockies, into southern Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, and into the Sierra-Nevadas. By late July 2000, the fire situation in the interior West was so severe that the US authorities only had enough resources to attack a proportion of existing fires and new fire starts. USA officials called on support from Canada, Australia and New Zealand to provide experienced fire team leaders.

A total of 96 trained and experienced fire commanders and fire support specialists from Australian and New Zealand (ANZ) fire and forest management agencies were deployed in the United States of America over a six week period. The Australian contingent were drawn from state agencies in Tasmania, Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. The ANZ taskforce arrived in Boise, Idaho on 11 August and were provided with a comprehensive briefing at the National Interagency Fire Centre. A second taskforce of 15 aviation and equipment specialists from Australia were deployed to Montana later in August to take up duties in aerial reconnaissance and aerial suppression.

Personnel were initially assigned to three fire complexes in northwest Idaho and Montana within a radius of 150 km of Missoula. Throughout their stay, members of the task force performed a variety of roles in incident management teams and Area Command. The compatibility between the Incident Control Systems used in Australia, New Zealand and the US ensured that ANZ officers were effectively integrated into the US fire control organisation. Canadian firefighters from Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were also assigned to fires in Idaho and Montana and worked alongside their ANZ counterparts, renewing historic bonds amongst several Commonwealth nations.

The experience provided a unique opportunity for ANZ organisations to benchmark their procedures for forest fire control and management, and for individual members of the task force to develop their expertise and establish networks with counterparts in the US and Canada.

A comprehensive report by Rick Sneeuwjagt (Western Australia) on the ANZ fire fighting deployment to the US is available on the web at http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/projects/fires_in_usa.html. This report identifies the lessons learned by the ANZ taskforce and makes recommendations designed to assist firefighting agencies in these countries to explore new skills in complex emergency management, and to manage future international firefighting missions.

from LACHLAN MCCAW,
Manjimup,
Western Australia

Southern African Forestry book

The Southern Africa Institute of Foresters (SAIF) have published a magnificent two volume book entitled 'South African Forestry Handbook 2000'. It is 734 pages of information, data, advice and reports prepared by many of the leaders of South African forestry. Copies can be obtained from: Southern Africa Institute of Foresters, Postnet Suite 329, Private Bag X64, Menlo Park 0102, South Africa.

from JULIAN EVANS

Working Forests in the Tropics

February 25-26, 2002-Working Forests in the Tropics: Conservation through Sustainable Management hosted by the University of Florida/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation and The Forest Management Trust in Gainesville, Florida. This forum was created to provide an interdisciplinary forum for sharing and synthesis of scientific, management and policy information about tropical forests. This conference was conceived as a vehicle for identifying opportunities to make the products and services these "working" forests provide appear competitive with alternative land use options. The conference will bring together academic and non-academic scientists (national and international agencies, NGO and private sector) and students interested in tropical forest ecology, conservation, management and policy. website: conference.ifas.ufl.edu/tropics/ or contact the University of Florida, IFAS Office

from SHARON BORNEMAN,
University of Florida

Australian Forestry students at the 16th CFC

Some 70 forestry students - from the Australian National University, Southern Cross University, and the University of Melbourne - participated. They had a number of goals. Australian forestry students have played a strong role in the International Forestry Students Association over the past 5 years, and the CFC was an ideal opportunity to expand their interaction with forestry and foresters internationally. A second goal was interaction with Australian forestry professionals. A third goal was to get the student bodies of the three universities, to meet and work

together. A fourth goal was to take advantage of the conference location, in Western Australia, and introduce students to the rich diversity of forests and forestry in Australia's southwest corner. The students conducted an evening discussion forum, which saw the widest-ranging discussion of the Conference. The success of this forum emphasized the reciprocal benefits of a strong student presence at CFA and IFA events.

from PETER KANOWSKI, ANU

Around the World

CHOGM

The 2001 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is to be held in Brisbane, Australia, from 6 to 9 October. They will consider resolutions from the 16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference.

16th Commonwealth Forestry Conference recommendations

Recognising -

- globalisation impacts on the forestry sector, but the consequences vary widely at national and local levels;
- national policy requires accountability and transparency;
- the future of forestry lies in the profession embracing challenges of science and technology, as well as communicating with and engaging with all stakeholders, in the management of forests.

The conference recommends:-

To CHOGM

- give full support for implementation of IPF/IFF proposals and action through UNFF;
- support partnerships between government, communities, NGOs and the private sector and the UNFF Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
- renew efforts to address issues of illegal logging, stakeholder participation and forest fires through existing international fora;
- support international initiatives to establish comparability and equivalence between and mutual recognition of forest management certification schemes.

To Nations, Governments and civil society

- political debate on forest policy should recognize the link to basic human needs, climate change and biodiversity;
- in pursuit of participation in national forest planning, should encompass a wide spectrum of consultation, support community and participatory management and support partnership in research between scientists, industry and government;
- the economic environment should support forestry, plantations and industry investment and provide market based instruments which allow delivery of goods and services that ensure optimum benefit;
- reform education and particularly continuing education and ensure accessibility of simple and affordable technology to all.
- invite the Commonwealth Forestry Association, representing forestry and related interests throughout the Commonwealth, to build links with Commonwealth government forestry departments and receive financial support:- to expand information sharing, facilitate professional exchange programmes and support continuing professional development. This is seen as an important way to strengthen forestry and related professionals throughout the Commonwealth.

To the International Community

- give attention to the needs of small island developing states and small nations, taking account of the diversity that forestry embraces, with sensitivity to local concerns, indigenous knowledge and competence;
- through UNFF to explore the actual impact of forestry instruments on local forestry practice;
- promote accessibility for all to reliable information, as through IUFROs global information service.

To the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry

- future CFCs to involve community and other interest groups and other professionals in the programme;
- involve the student community and link to host country professional organizations.

UN Agencies collaborating on forests

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) was established at its inaugural meeting on 4-5 April 2001 in Rome. Its establishment followed the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and was based on the experience of the high-level, informal Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF) during the last six years. The initial membership of the CPF comprises

- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR);
- Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (DESA);
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- World Bank

The Secretariats of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) have been invited to join the CPF.

The mission of the CPF is to support the work of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) in the promotion of the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and in the strengthening of political commitment to this end.

The major tasks of the CPF are to contribute to the development and implementation of the UNFF Plan of Action and to assist the UNFF in monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the UNFF, in particular, on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

from TIINA VÄHÄNEN,
UNFF

The CFA Regional Awards For Excellence

Regional awards were presented at CFC by the President of CFA, HE Mr Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans.

As the framework of the Commonwealth Forestry Association now consists of 6 regions throughout the world, regional recognition for outstanding foresters can be realised by means of awards known as Commonwealth Forestry Association regional awards for excellence. These awards commenced in 1998 and for the year 2001 there are 5 awardees.

- ❖ Dr Frank McKinnell of Western Australia whose professional forestry career has encompassed outstanding domestic and International Forest research.
- ❖ Mr Gabriel Samol of Papua New Guinea whose professional career has illustrated his commitment to sustainable forest management and particular concerns for those who's lives depend on forestry activity.
- ❖ Mr Stephen Midgley is an Australian who is in Canberra with the CSIRO Division of Forestry & Forest Products. He is an outstanding and widely respected researcher in Tree species in Australia and South East Asia.
- ❖ Mr Colin Sobota works for the Forestry Commission of Great Britain. His major contribution to a Human Resource Programme, which saw the merger of the traditional blue collar and white collar staff groups into the unified workforce, has helped pave the way for important cultural change throughout the Forestry Commission.
- ❖ Dr Alfred Leslie who is located in New Zealand has had a great and beneficial and far reaching influence on forestry students in Australasia and Africa and he is well known as an outstanding leader in world forest policy. Everyone in forestry globally would have the warmest feelings for Alf upon his receiving this recognition of his standing.

Gabriel Samol

Colin Sabota and HE Mr Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans

Stephen Midgley and HE Mr Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans

Alf Leslie

Workshop participants

CFA, with the support of the Commonwealth Foundation, organised a one-day workshop, at CFC, on the Issues Facing the Forestry Sector in Small States and Island Nations of the Commonwealth.

The objective was to bring together participants from small states and islands to identify common problems and challenges and explore possible solutions, including the potential role of the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA). All the conference participants who received sponsorship from UK DFID, Canadian CIDA and the Commonwealth Foundation attended, along with a good number of others.

The work of Mrs Michelle Brooks, in handling sponsorship and Mr Keith Jeddere-Fisher, in preparing this meeting, is gratefully acknowledged.

His Excellency Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans, President of the CFA, opened the workshop and Prof. Peter Kanowski, of the Australian National University, set the background for the day's discussions, presenting elements of successful policy processes. Three working groups set out to identify issues in small states and islands under three categories: challenges facing professional foresters; policy issues affecting forests and woodlands; technical constraints. Findings were presented and further group work looked for solutions to the issues and in particular what role the CFA may have in supporting forestry and those working in the sector in these small nations. The official report will be published by CFA shortly.

Summing up

This workshop provided a good opportunity to hear broad based views on forestry issues as it brought together a wide section of the Commonwealth community. Professor Peter Kanowski (ANU) stimulated the first session by discussing

Forest Policy Inflation and Capacity Collapse. Research by IIED indicated that forest policy could not progress unless there were some common elements including participatory processes which engaged civil society, that there were agreed goals on what forests should be managed for, that priorities were set to address these goals, that there was extra-sectoral engagement, devolution of power, monitoring and information sharing and democracy of knowledge.

In the group sessions, which dealt with technical constraints and policy issues affecting foresters and forests, it was clear that the participating countries shared many concerns. Tenure issues, difficulties in implementing policies, policy-making under pressure were donor driven, issues with participation, conflicting land use, lack of human resources, lack of funds, lack of appropriate information, political hurdles and forest revenue not being returned back to the forestry sector for sector development were just a few of the points that were discussed in this session.

In the last session, which addressed the topic of 'How could the Commonwealth Forestry Association assist in bridging some of the gaps affecting forestry in the Commonwealth Small Island and Countries', some persons felt that the CFA could:

- play a facilitating role between funding agencies and practitioners;
- stimulate interaction through arranging conferences, workshops;
- set up a Forestry Commonwealth Institute for the delivery of continuing forestry education;
- support information and communication by such initiatives as creating linkages via the internet (chat groups etc), placing publications on the web etc.

from RAQUEL THOMAS, IWOKRAMA, Guyana

Technical constraints

Forest Tenure And The Dominance Of Aid Agencies In PNG

Papua New Guinea is a country which relies on Foreign Aid as in many developing countries. Foreign aid should be provided to assist countries in overcoming their debt burdens and to relieve the pressure on the budget and allow expenditures for major project developments. Success and failure of the donor assistance for these projects are dependent on the quality of the design, planning and implementation and rely on the process of consultation and partnership arrangement involving both the donor and the recipient country alike. The knowledge about the intricate land tenure arrangements entwined within the government administrative and legal systems and the social values of the community is of paramount importance.

Success is not an issue in this respect, but failure is. In most cases failure may be attributed to lack of advance consultation and lack of understanding of the culture and local situation of a given country. For example, in Papua New Guinea, like in other Melanesian countries, lack of comprehension by the Donor agencies of the local land tenure concept, embedded in the Forestry and Lands legislative framework, does result in the funding of programmes which are not sustainable.

Landowners do have much to gain from their land and at the same time have a lot to contribute in decision making. The policies drawn up by donor agencies, often are not compatible with the local and the national goals and objectives. For instance the policy framework of the Donors is oriented globally and tends to classify issues at a broader scale and not specifically to the needs in terms of the economy, environment and the people locally.

Coupled with this, is the lack of trust of the government systems and processes, so that Donors tend to wield project designs and concepts over the government to be implemented without having effective consultation. Even to the extent of hiring project consultants who seem to have little or no background in what they are doing. And who, if they do possess the skills and background, somehow tend to "invent new wheels" along the process purely for their self interest.

The situation is gloomy for PNG when the land owners are the decision makers on how their forest can be managed. Whether it be the National Government, Non Governmental

Organisations or the Donor agencies who dream up new policies of Globalising the forests in the world, where do land tenure systems such as those of Melanesia come in to play in "Global Forestry Village" concept and Sustainable Forest Management? At the end of the day it is the landowners who will decide the fate of the future of their forests, whether it be for conservation or for economic development.

In PNG, as in other less developed countries, with a falling economic situation and the bulk of the population in the rural forest rich areas, the likely scenario for the landowners is to convert the forest to monetary benefits and infra structural development. The challenge for the Donor Agencies, NGOs and the Government, is to work in harmony and to strike the right balance in the context of SFM for these less developed and poor landowners who are rich in forest resources in Melanesia.

from MARTIN GOLMAN, Forest Authority PNG