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Chairman's Column

In the last issue of Commonwealth Forestry News I outlined the changes that have been made in the management team and office of our Association. These changes have settled down well and there is a good sense of coherence as well as considerable cost savings with increased efficiency. We hope that all members will see the benefits in all of the Association's activities and products.

Our objective is to serve the members and our profession in providing a network of individuals and institutions concerned with global forestry issues, particularly with those that affect Commonwealth countries. In this we seek to provide a high quality journal with an excellent Editor (Alan Pottinger) supported by an outstanding and creative Editorial Advisory Board chaired by Jim Ball. This Newsletter edited and produced by Philip Wardle is one of the best newsletters in our field and provides up-to-date information and ideas about critical issues and current developments. The Publications Committee, chaired by John Brazier, continues to give thoughtful guidance to these two products and to other publication material. The concept of Special Issues of the International Forestry Review has proved most successful, not only in compiling significant literature on a relatively narrow but current subject, but also in attracting the attention and financial support of a number of donor agencies.

Increasingly throughout the world

forestry institutions and individuals have access to the Internet, World Wide Web and e-mail for the sharing of information. The Association's website is an excellent source of information on the activities of the CFA and of linkages to other organizations. Alan Pottinger also helped the Zambian Branch in the creation of their website and again this is a valuable source of information about forestry in that country; Alan is keen to assist other National Branches to create their own sites. I suspect that various donor agencies might offer financial support for this. The UK Branch cooperated successfully with the Institute of Chartered Foresters in Edinburgh to organize a meeting on the impacts on forestry of the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD); other National Branches could follow this idea of collaborating with other national or regional institutions.

At and since the WSSD in Johannesburg considerable attention has been paid to forest issues by the international community of governments, non-governmental organizations and business. There must now be good opportunities for national forest institutions and individuals to follow up this international attention with efforts to obtain more recognition and support for forestry; this is particularly important at the present time when, anomalously, the public status of the profession and academic discipline of forestry is poor.

The international newsletter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association

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

CFA Administrative Office: **Technical Director** Alan Pottinger, **Membership Secretary** Kirsty Leeks

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Chairman's Column (concluded)

Foresters have always been their own worst enemies in dealing with the press and public and we must all do more to learn the techniques of public information and dialogue so that we can portray the many benefits, products and services that arise in forests. To safeguard forests for all their benefits forest management must still be taught and practised although it is likely that the teaching and the practice may take place in non-traditional schools and departments. Increasingly forestry is becoming subsumed within environmental and social studies and other institutions, but foresters must see this as an opportunity to publicize their work in new fora and languages.

For several years I have been trying to promote the idea of a series of Commonwealth forest histories. It is important to collate the major historical facts of forest policy and management before files, posts and individual memories become lost. A number of informal meetings here in Oxford have welcomed the idea and

recognized that an individual country's forest history should be written by a team comprising at least a historian, archivist, policy-maker and forest manager. Forest histories exist for some countries and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations has an active unit that would help any national effort. The Forest History Society in the USA has a massive collection of bibliographic material that could be consulted. At a recent reunion of former Northern Rhodesian/Zambian foresters I described this concept and several members have already sent records, photographs and personal reminiscences. I hope that each National Branch will consider this idea and contact me for further information.

As we come to Christmas and a New Year, may I send all our members my best seasonal wishes and hopes for a successful year in 2003 both personally and professionally.

from JEFF BURLEY, Chairman, CFA

Association News

CFA Zambia Branch

The quest to propel the CFA to practical dimensions continues to be undertaken at a snails pace, although successfully unfolding. The interest in membership is reportedly growing, but the current monetary constraints most Zambians are experiencing do seem to limit the overall desire to meet membership dues. However, I am patiently hopeful that sooner or later a good number of people will begin to afford to pay, especially with the current measures for Branch sustainability we have embarked on.

The CFA Zambia Branch is now a partner with the Community Based Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture (CONASA), which is a consortium of Non-governmental Organisations in agriculture, forestry, rural development and wildlife. The overriding goal for this partnership is to facilitate the development of Community resource Boards (CRBs) using participatory processes to be managed and operated by the direct resource users – the local communities.

We are also promoting the Shilalukey Homeopathic Research Centre by providing technical support to popularize the efficacy of natural remedies. The branch has had the cocktail of plants tested. Results have shown that the cocktail of medicine is not toxic and does contain anthroquinones.

Following the success of the Plant Resources for South East Asia (PROSEA) in promoting and documenting the different plant resources and their subsequent uses supported by the Wageningen University in the Netherlands, I was invited to participate in the 1st PROTA workshop hosted by the World Agro-Forestry Centre (Formerly ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya. The CFA Zambia will be

instrumental in activities to document the vast array of tropical plant resources and their uses for the benefit of both the local and international community.

Our programme to open negotiations with the government on forestry, agriculture and rural development began in 2002 and has already started bearing some tangible fruits. The Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources (MTENR) has included the CFA Zambia Branch in the constituted Task Force Team, appointed by the Minister, to provide technical support to the development of an all encompassing Environmental Policy for Zambia. Zambia has not had an Environmental Policy for a long time now.

The European Union is providing support to the Government through the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources to operationalise the proposed Zambia Forestry Commission. CFA is one of the partner institutions to provide the bulk of support through community driven initiatives.

The International Labour Organisation has invited the CFA Zambia to participate in a regional workshop in October under the theme: Small Scale Development and Job Creation in the Cultural Sector in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It is the feeling of the CFA Zambia Branch that for as long as there is a limited understanding of the benefits from plant and other resources, the wanton exploitation of plant resources will continue. Our emphasis will be the promotion of ethno-Tourism and cultural products made from plant resources such as baskets, mats, including medicines.

from VICTOR KAWANGA

Forestry in Small States and Island Nations

The organisers of next year's World Forestry Congress have approved CFA's proposal to hold a workshop on Small Island Developing States as an official side event on 24th September 2003 in Quebec City.

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the deaths of F. Bryan Armitage*, Canada; Mick O'Neill and Priestly Thomson, NZ; and John Wyatt-Smith, UK. * See IFR 4(4)

Message from the Governor General of Australia

From the address of HE the Right Reverend Dr Peter Hollingsworth, AC, OBE, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia on the occasion of the award of CFA Asia Pacific Medal of Excellence in Melbourne.

It is a great pleasure to take part in this National Association of Forest Industries dinner and particularly in the medal presentation of the Commonwealth Forestry Association.

The CFA's Regional Medal Scheme is already serving two important purposes. Firstly it allows the organization to recognize the achievements of foresters and thereby support the careers of professionals across the globe. Secondly the Asia Pacific Region Award has helped to educate the wider Australian community about the broad role of foresters, to break down stereotypes and give people a clearer picture of the contribution they make to the nation's economy.

This is an industry that has contributed also to the establishment of scientific protocols for protecting the environment. International cooperation in this field is essential if we are to protect the planet. This is why the 'cross fertilization' of ideas and practices encouraged by the Commonwealth Forestry Association is so valuable. Bob Newman tells me that where it can be difficult to get agreement in international conferences, the meeting of foresters from Commonwealth countries tend to be able to overcome differences and help to negotiate solutions.

As members of the Commonwealth of Nations, we have inherited something from the Westminster tradition and have a commitment to sharing with other member nations common institutions, processes and, importantly, values. It is through bodies like the Commonwealth Forestry Association that we are able to think laterally and to learn and draw strength from each other, acquiring knowledge of practice, developments and technology. But we also gain reinforcement of fundamental values of parliamentary democracies: accountability, commitment to the rule of law, respect for minorities and human rights and the personal commitment to serve the community nationally and, to an ever greater extent, internationally.

It is highly appropriate therefore, that one of the pre-requisites for winners of the CFA Asia Pacific Medal of excellence is international connections and experience. The recipient for 2001 is a fine role model for what can be achieved through international cooperation. On behalf of HM the Queen, Patron of the Commonwealth Forestry Association, I announce the winner of the 2001 Medal is Dr Bryant Richards.

HE Dr Peter Hollingsworth presents Asia Pacific Medal to Dr Bryant Richards. Bob Newman read the citation

The CFA Asia Pacific Medal For 2001

Dr Bryant Neville Richards, life member of CFA, is recognised for the excellence of his career as a professional forester of both national and international standing. His academic education culminated in a Doctorate of Forest Science from the University of Queensland in 1978, following a PhD in 1960 which included time at Yale. He graduated from The Australian Forestry School, Canberra.

From 1950 to 64 he worked for the Queensland Department of Forestry mainly in research. 1964 – 87 he held various scientific posts at the University of New England including Head of Ecosystem Management and Associate Professor of Natural Resources. He also provided input to the forestry course at the Southern Cross University at Lismore. In his contribution to international forestry he has completed briefs in Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, New Zealand and the USA ranging from Human Resource Development in PNG, Tree and Palm plantation development in Bangladesh and Forest Soils to Tree Nutrition analysis in the Philippines.

His has been a career of over 45 years carried out with commitment and maturity with very sound scientific skills and widely respected in the forestry profession.



World Summit on Sustainable Development

Johannesburg 26 August–4 September 2002



"Fourteen hours to help save the world" – The Guardian airs frustration at the absence of dramatic measures on environment and development emerging from the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. "This is not a sprint, it's a marathon" – Colin Powell, US Secretary of State describing sustainable development.

The negotiations were working towards plans for action in three areas where environmental concerns overlap with the concerns of the poor: increasing access to agricultural technology, to clean water and sanitation and to energy.

A group led by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and FAO, announced an initiative to establish a Global Conservation Trust bolstering the finances of gene banks around the world with the aim of helping to conserve genetic diversity of the world's crops. The World Bank announced a plan to form a panel of experts to tackle questions of new agricultural techniques such as genetically modified organisms (along the lines of the climate change panel) to seek consensus among scientists on these controversial issues.



Some 1.1 billion lack access to safe water and more than twice as many have no sanitation. World governments have already pledged to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who have no access to clean water. An aim at this summit was to add sanitation to that target, the returns on investment in water and sanitation being three times higher than those on water supply alone.

The International Energy Agency estimates that some 1.6 billion people have no access to modern energy supplies and depend on dirty and unhealthy fuels such as cow dung and wood, burning them in poorly ventilated houses. Current policies will in 30 years time leave 1.4 billion people without access to electricity. Support for "micropower" plants drawing their energy from wind or sunlight, is seen as one way of reaching those deprived



populations in rural locations. Seven of the world's largest energy companies announced that they would share technical plans on how to get more solar powered generation plants to rural areas in poor countries

An approach that was promoted at the Summit was the greater use of the so called "type 2 partnership" organized by the UN and involving governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations and local community groups. (Type 1 partnerships are government to government). A number of such partnerships were announced during the course of the summit.

The summit actually achieved a modest success, providing a useful emphasis on fighting poverty rather than on conservation and making progress on a narrow set of issues that fall at the intersection of poverty and environment: water, energy, fisheries and farming. The final declaration includes a promise to phase out farm subsidies and to restore the world's ailing fisheries. The summit agreed to a firm timetable and target for improving water and sanitation and agreed to tackle "energy poverty" and declared an urgent need to increase the share of renewables in energy production.

And by the way China and Estonia announced their ratification of the Kyoto protocol and both Russia and Canada promised to ratify soon. When they have done so, the protocol will have enough support to come into force, despite America's refusal to agree to it.

from THE ECONOMIST 31.8/7.9.2002

The 2002 World Summit: What Does It Mean For Forestry?

A report on a meeting held by CFA (UK Branch) and the Institute of Chartered Foresters (South Scotland Region) 1 November, 2002, Edinburgh, UK.

The aim of this one-day seminar was to highlight the outcomes and discuss the potential implications for forestry of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Approximately 70 people from the UK and overseas gathered to hear a range of talks and enter into a lively debate on how we stand following Johannesburg.

David Minotti (Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs – DEFRA) asked "**The World Summit on Sustainable Development** what did it achieve and what happens next?" WSSD achieved several key goals, namely:

- A boost for multilateralism
- The reaffirmation and reinvigoration of international commitment to implementing Agenda 21
- A recommitment to mainstreaming sustainable development at all levels
- A mandate for intensified action at global, regional, and national levels on a range of issues
- Generation of more than 220 multi-stakeholders partnerships

Minotti outlined the range of meetings that are designed to follow-up WSSD and stressed the need to capitalise on the important gains made in terms of private/public partnerships.

Tim Rollinson (Forestry Commission – FC, GB) presented an outline of the Summit outcomes, the Plan of Implementation for Forests, and listed some of the forestry events that took place at the WSSD in **The World Summit and Forests**. He acknowledged it was difficult to ascertain exactly what had been achieved from a forestry perspective largely because key forestry negotiations had been carried out at the UNFF. He focused on the important move towards strengthening multi-lateral partnerships.

Peter Wilson (Forest Industries Development Council) described the initiative "UK Forest Partnership for Action" in **Building on WSSD: UK forest business perspective** and the measures taken in the UK to create a progressive association between public, private and NGO partners to develop a fair and equitable forestry trading and negotiating consortium. Working together to highlight the benefits of wood and develop a forum to deal with the threats faced by the industry has created a new working environment between organisations that traditionally had little to do with each other. The UK forest industries sector is working to ensure that:

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

Paul Toyne (WWF–UK) took a more pessimistic view of the Summit and suggested that little progress was evident for forestry and the environment in **The World Summit for Sustainable Development: an environmental perspective**. He felt that this was due to the combination of an agenda that was too broad, a spoiling

strategy employed by some nations, and the power of finance ministers to limit the flexibility of negotiation. He was disappointed that the current economic orthodoxy was not challenged. He agreed that engagement with others through new partnerships was essential for the future conservation of the forest resource.

John Hudson's (DFID) presentation focused on the relevance of the WSSD to foresters in **What did it mean for forestry, forests and people?** Perceptions of what was achieved in Johannesburg, needed to be tempered by reference to the Summit's objectives. WSSD was not about the environment. The agenda had moved on to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Mike Dudley's (FC, GB) presentation **International Forest Processes: What? Why?** highlighted the view that the WSSD reflected the shift in focus from policy formulation to practical implementation. He described the relevant regional and international fora and agreements that acted as a backdrop to discussions on global forestry issues and, in common with other speakers, pointed out the growing importance of forging new partnerships.

The issues surrounding public concern over the source of our wood were presented by Andy Roby (Timber Trades Federation) in **Wood for whose good? Tackling illegal logging**. The scale and impact of illegal logging was highlighted and proposals put forward linking producer and consumer countries through a programme of Corporate Social Responsibility for timber related businesses.

David Bills (FC, GB) presented his views on sustainable resources, management and institutions in **Wood is a Sustainable Product (But Only if the Forest Management is Right)**. He illustrated the benefits of using wood for energy consumption and carbon storage, but pointed out that forestry within a sustainable landscape did not necessarily mean restoration of ancient forest ecosystems. He said "The 'ancient' forest was a subject of its time – they were often cultural landscapes, people's needs were different, demands were different. We need to work out what is best for this time, what is sustainable in the full sense of the word".

He added "An important component of sustainability in forestry is the sustainability of forestry institutions like the ICF, CFA and the Forestry Commission making a significant contribution to the 'capacity' needed to deliver sustainable forest management. If institutions are to remain effective then just as forestry has and will continue to change so must they".

In his **summing up**, Duncan Poore reflected the views of many when he spoke of the "high expectations that people have of world summits, and subsequent frustration that these expectations have not been met". But in reminding us of the progress that has occurred in international negotiations on forests in the past 30 years he highlighted the need to "balance perfectionism and pragmatism; to recognise the ideal, but respect the art of the possible".

Presentations in Microsoft PowerPoint and Duncan Poore's summary are on the CFA International website: www.cfa-international.org/WSSDreport.htm

from ALAN POTTINGER

Around the World



September 21 to 28, 2003

The future of forests will be the focus as the world's forestry community gathers in Quebec City, Canada. The first World Forestry Congress took place in Rome in 1926. Since 1949, the event has been held approximately every six years under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Whether you are a forester, a biologist, a sociologist, a scientist, a manager, a civil servant, an economist, a manufacturer, an owner, a teacher, a student, a member of an indigenous or forest-based community, or just someone who is interested in forests, you will be welcome. During this seven-day open forum, you will have the opportunity to freely exchange your knowledge, experience, and views with nearly 5,000 attendees from some 160 countries.

More details are included in the Second Announcement, available on the Congress Web site at www.wfc2003.org or from the Secretariat, XII World Forestry Congress, 800 Place d'Youville, 18th floor, Quebec City (Québec) Canada G1R 3P4
Tel: (418) 694 2424, Fax (418) 694 9922, E-mail: sec-gen@wfc2003.org

The Congress theme, **Forests, source of life**, sets the stage for boundless deliberation and discussion. The Congress will provide a forum for presenting ideas and projects with a direct impact on forest management, conservation, and development.

Discussions are intended to bring together a wealth of knowledge, experience and views that will help guide the development of forestry policies, practices, research, and international cooperation. The Congress will also be a world stage for the latest innovations in the field.

In addition to the main program, the XII World Forestry Congress will offer a variety of outings, visits, and study tours throughout Canada and the United States, combining technical and scientific dimensions with the cultural attraction of a rich and beautiful land. Also featured will be an exhibition where nearly one hundred organizations and companies will showcase their products, services, and achievements. Before, during, and after the Congress, attendees will be able to participate in many side events and seminars related to the main theme.

Discussions will be based on the Congress theme **Forests, source of life** and deliberations will explore the three following areas: (A) Forests for People, (B) Forests for the Planet, and (C) People and Forests in Harmony. Discussions will also examine the sustainable development of forests on an eco-regional basis. There will also be discussions on key issues and situations specific to individual ecological zones (tropical, temperate, boreal forests, etc.) and major socio-cultural units (countries, regional groupings).

World Bank forest policy and strategy

On October 31, 2002 the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank unanimously approved a new forest policy and strategy aimed at increasing the livelihoods of some 500 million people living in extreme poverty, who depend on forests, while improving the environmental protection of forests in the developing world.

They emphasized the crucial importance of achieving a balance between environmental protection, and efforts to help poor people manage resources. The revised Forest Strategy covers all forest types and has been built on three equally important interdependent pillars:

- Protecting vital local and global environmental services and values provided by forests
- Harnessing the potential of forests to reduce poverty
- Integrating forests in sustainable economic development

The new policy will seek to expand the average of 8 percent of forest areas under protection in developing countries, and strictly maintain a ban on logging in these critical forests. In addition, by re-engaging in areas of forests outside the protected areas the new strategy will work to improve the livelihoods of those who depend on forests, most of whom are poor. In this regard, the strategy puts special emphasis on community forest management and agro-forestry; while conserving the environment through sustainable practices, and reducing environmentally destructive logging.

World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn explained that "the old approach of Bank disengagement from forestry

clearly has not worked. The new course of action is centered on improving the protection of the environment and biodiversity while increasing the livelihoods of the poor. This is exactly what the international community committed to do at the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development.

from the WORLD BANK

ITTC in Yokohama

The International Tropical Timber Council held its 33rd Session in Yokohama, Japan from 4–9 November. This session marked several new departures. The Council established a Civil Society Advisory Group to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between producers, consumers and civil society. The aim is that its contribution should complement that of the Trade Advisory Group.

Tropical timber producers face enormous difficulties in meeting the standards set by certification schemes. The potential role of phased approaches to certification was discussed. To give impetus to the quest for sustainable forest management in the tropics seed money is to be provided to facilitate partnership between timber producers and civil society organizations that will both guide forest practice and increase market access

In view of concern about the disastrous and frequent forest fires in Southeast Asia and other tropical regions and threats to human health caused by smoke haze, a project was set up to make the services of forest fire experts available to tropical countries, to work with governments and local fire management staff to devise appropriate strategies for managing fire.

\$6.6 million were pledged to fund projects and pre-projects.

Congo Basin Partnership

The Congo Basin Partnership was launched during the WSSD in South Africa. It has the goal of supporting a network of 10 million ha of effectively managed national parks and protected areas and 20 million ha of well managed forestry concessions, and promoting economic development, poverty alleviation and improved governance. The forests of this region of central Africa contain the world's second largest block of intact and interconnected tropical forest, rich in biodiversity and economic potential.

The participating countries of the Congo basin are Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Republic of Congo. The partners are:

- Governments led by the United States include France, Germany, Japan, South Africa and the United Kingdom;
- International organizations: EU, ITTO, World Bank;
- Non government organizations: Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF, World Resources Institute/ Global Forest Watch, Forest Trends, the American Forest and Paper Association and the Society of American Foresters.

USAID plans to fund the Central African Region Program for the Environment with up to \$15 million per year. Funding the ITTO involvement in the initiative would involve \$3.5 million per year.

from ITTO

Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG)

G-8 launched an action programme on forests in 1998, which gives high priority to eliminating illegal logging and illegal timber trade. This programme motivated a partnership on forest law enforcement for East Asia between the World Bank, the UK and the US, which led to the FLEG East Asia Ministerial Conference in September 2001. The Conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration, whereby participating countries commit themselves to intensify national efforts and strengthen bilateral, regional and multilateral collaboration to address forest crime and violations of forest law. A regional task force on forest law enforcement and governance was created to advance the declaration's objectives.

Over the last decade, African governments have raised the issue of sustainable forest management. Recently, ministers of several countries in Africa have expressed interest in focusing on issues of FLEG. The African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Ministerial planning meeting took place in Brazzaville in June, co-hosted by the Government of Republic of Congo and the World Bank, sponsored by France, UK and USA and facilitated by Jeff Sayer, WWF and Jean Prosper Koyo, World Forestry Congress.

from KERSTIN CANBY, World Bank

CITES 13 November 2002

At the 12th conference of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora, held in Santiago, Chile 3–15.11.2002

Argentina introduced and delegates adopted the proposal to include the Monkey Puzzle – *Araucaria araucana* in Appendix 1.

Nicaragua and Guatemala introduced the proposal to include Big leaf Mahogany – *Swietenia macrophylla* in Appendix 2. In a secret ballot the proposal was accepted, 68 in favour, 30 against, 14 abstentions.

from IISD

Doha Round in trouble

Hopes that the Doha Round of talks to liberalise trade would mark a great advance, especially for the world's poorest, are fading. When trade ministers inaugurated the talks, under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), they said this would be a "development round" particularly to benefit poor countries. One of the main ways in which Europe and the US could help would be to dismantle their systems of farm support. Farm-trade liberalization seemed possible: the Bush administration had called for it and the European Union needed it to ease accession of new members. But the seriousness of the US in this effort has to be judged against the ugly reality of its farm bill, passed in May, which promises \$180 billion of subsidy over ten years. And now to seal the fate of farm reform, France and Germany have done a deal on Europe's common agricultural policy that underwrites its generously funded existence out to 2013.

Meanwhile, alternatives markedly inferior to the WTO approach are gaining ground. A proliferation patchwork of bilateral deals, which will make it much harder to make progress at the WTO, is what is now taking shape.

from The ECONOMIST, 2.11.2002

(See special feature "WTO, Doha and forestry" below)

International Forest Products Statistics

Ed Pepke writing in the Forest Products Journal (May 2002, Vol.52, No.5) provides a concise review of the collection and dissemination of forest products statistics by the UN organizations: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). This touches the history and the reasons behind these collections. The article goes in to the organization and method of collection, validation and estimation. It also describes the effort to respond to change, to maintain contact with the country suppliers and users of the data and to work with countries to improve the statistical collection.

www.unece.org/trade/timber

New BC forest code

On 5 November 2002, British Columbia introduced legislation to make forest practices more efficient and effective while maintaining environmental standards.

Under the new Forest Practices Code, which comes into effect in spring 2003, Government will determine the specific standards and rules that forest companies must meet to conserve biodiversity, old growth, wildlife habitat and other values. Forest companies will have more flexibility in deciding how best to achieve government requirements. Government enforcement will conduct about 50,000 inspections a year, with higher penalties for non-compliance. The independent Forest Practices Board will continue to audit and report on companies' compliance. The new Code emphasizes environmental protection, science-based management, public involvement and open reporting. Public input has been incorporated into the Code. An independent panel of experts will help develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the Code's effectiveness, with regular public reports and options for continual improvement.

from DANIEL de BELLEFEUIL, Canadian High Commission, London

Biodiversity in England

At the launch of a new five-year strategy for biodiversity in England, Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, said: "Forestry is one of the best examples of sustainable development, and woodland biodiversity plays an important role in enhancing the quality of life of local communities. Healthy, thriving and diverse eco-systems are essential to our quality of life and well-being. Conservation and biodiversity are right at the heart of our approach to managing woodlands."

"Biodiversity has an intrinsic value. But it also has an economic value because the English countryside is one of our major tourism and leisure assets. Trees, woodland and forests are quintessential features of the landscapes and environment of almost every part of England."

The Forestry Commission led preparations for the woodland section of the strategy which has four key aims:

- to protect woodland from external threats, such as development and pests;
- to conserve our native and ancient woodland;
- to ensure that forestry enhances other habitats and contributes to wildlife conservation;
- to fulfill forestry's potential as one of the best examples of sustainable development.

from FORESTRY COMMISSION, GB

British Wood Fuel Resources

As part of the drive to promote sustainable energy, the Forestry Commission is leading a ground-breaking project to estimate the size of the wood fuel resource available from British forests. Partners in the project include Forest Research, Forest Enterprise, the Forestry Contracting Association and the forest industries.

The study will examine the potential wood fuel resource from Forestry Commission forests and apply harvesting and environmental constraints to give an actual wood fuel availability. The approach will be applied to private-sector forests and will also assess the wood fuel resource available from short rotation coppice, primary processors of timber and arboricultural operations.

from FORESTRY COMMISSION, GB

Research

BRAHMS database

In July 2002, Dominic Gondwe from the Forest Research Institute Malawi (FRIM) visited Oxford for 3 weeks to work with Denis Filer to finalise the Seed Manager integration with the Botanical Research and Herbarium Management System – the BRAHMS database. The group is now revisiting the idea, with Dominic's help, of strengthening the seed bank database network in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, RSA and Zambia. The group has also developed close ties to the Kew Millennium Seed Bank project which is providing valuable seed bank support in the SADC region. One of the key reasons for the merger is that conservation-type projects (e.g. MSB) usually also collect botanical vouchers and there are close links to the herbarium side of things. BRAHMS is documented on www.brahms.co.uk
from DENIS FILER

Who Owns the World's Forests?

Despite efforts to address deforestation and forest degradation in recent decades, these problems have steadily increased throughout most of the world. Insecure property rights are a key underlying cause of forest degradation.

This insecurity undermines sound forest management, for without secure rights forest holders have few incentives – and often lack legal status – to invest in managing and protecting their forest resources. Additionally, growing interest in developing markets for environmental services also has brought new attention to property rights issues.

Globally 77% of world forest area is publicly owned and administered by governments, 4% is reserved for communities, 7% is owned by communities and 12% privately owned by individuals or firms.

A major transition is underway in forest tenure, presenting both opportunities and challenges for the global forest community. Currently, at least 25 percent of developing countries' forests are owned or administered by indigenous or other communities. This percentage has doubled over the past ten years and it could double again in the next decade. Three major trends contributing to this unprecedented tenure transition:

- Legal reforms to recognize community-based property rights;
- Government devolution of limited rights to indigenous and other communities;
- Changing public forest concession policies.

This transition in public forest tenure presents an historic opportunity for governments to make real headway in establishing conditions for effective forest conservation. But ambitious and concerted actions will be necessary, including: better knowledge on actual forest tenure and property rights to ecosystem services, greater awareness of transition strategies, major investments, markets and finance must be creatively leveraged to support tenure reforms.

from ANDY WHITE and ALEJANDRA MARTIN,
Forest Trends, USA
www.forest-trends.org

Special Feature

WTO, Doha and forestry

Over the years, multilateral trade negotiations carried out under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) were one of the main international mechanisms for reducing restrictions to free trade. Through these the provisions of GATT were revised, improved and extended, with the result that there have been substantial reductions to many tariff and non-tariff barriers. More recently, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules have given more importance to international standardization and the need to follow general rules and principles in trade relationships.

The most recent completed round of negotiations was the GATT Uruguay Round, which was officially concluded in April 1994. Since that date countries have been implementing the commitments they made in that Round.

After the failure in Seattle, USA in late 1999, WTO finally succeeded in launching a new comprehensive round of negotiations at its Fourth Ministerial Conference held in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001. At Doha a *Ministerial Declaration* was signed which began the process which has been called the "*Doha Development Agenda*".

Work has now begun on addressing a range of issues that are specified in the Doha Declaration. Some continue earlier efforts (such as completing what was agreed to in the Uruguay Round), others are new. Work also includes reviews, clarifications, interpretations, procedures to be followed, definitions etc on the many agreements that make up the GATT-WTO rules and regulations.

Key dates of the Doha Development Agenda are:

- **Start:** January 2002
- **Stocktaking** (including decisions on whether to proceed on some issues): 5th Ministerial Conference, September 2003
- **Completion:** negotiations to be completed by 1 January 2005
- **Decision on adopting and implementing results:** Special Session of WTO Ministerial Conference – date to be determined

Many of the subjects to be addressed in the Doha negotiations are of interest to forestry, but only a limited number will be specifically addressing forestry issues. Of the subjects indicated in the Declaration those of most direct interest to forestry are to be addressed under the subjects of market access and trade and environment

a) Market access for non-agricultural products

The aim under this item is to reduce or eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers on a range of products, including forest products. The text also specifies the reduction or elimination of tariff peaks, high tariffs, and tariff escalation, all issues of relevance to forestry.

b) Trade and Environment

Negotiations will focus on clarifying the relationship between trade measures taken under the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and existing WTO rules and trade obligations. MEAs of special note for forestry are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol.

Ministers also instructed the WTO Committee on Trade and

Environment (CTE) to pay particular attention in its on-going work to the following aspects, which are of considerable interest to forestry:

- The effect of environmental measures on market access, especially for developing countries, with topics of special interest to forestry being recycling, recyclable packaging, waste paper content, and eco-labelling.
- Environmental labelling requirements will be considered by both the CTE and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (CTBT), particularly the impact of eco-labelling on trade and whether existing WTO rules stand in the way of eco-labelling policies.

Issues that many in forestry and in the environmental community would like further clarification on include: whether actions taken for environmental reasons which act as trade barriers are legitimate within WTO rules; what exceptions are possible under Article XX; and whether boycotts or bans by sub-national bodies are GATT/WTO-legal.

Work will continue on implementing the Uruguay Round agreements. Of great relevance to forestry will be the work on the *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)* and the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)*. The former concerns conditions surrounding inspection and quarantine; while the latter covers the use of technical regulations for purposes other than legitimate health, safety, product quality, and environmental protection.

The outcome for Forestry?

Since the Doha Development Agenda has just begun, little concrete can be said about likely results. There are many issues in the Doha Round that may result in benefits to forestry trade but the benefits are unlikely to be substantial. The overall impact for forestry should be for continued progress in the directions set in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

Further tariff reductions will occur, with the reductions phased in over a period of years. Because tariff rates on forest products are already generally quite low in developed countries, efforts will probably be directed to extending reductions to a wider range of countries than previously, speeding up reductions already underway, and increasing the reductions on products that still remain a problem, such as panels and secondary processed wood products. In the case of developing countries, rates are higher and therefore there is more scope for further reductions to be made. Of note is the fact that as Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariff rates decline, the special tariff preferences that assist many developing countries, such as under the GSP scheme, become less valuable.

The negotiations also aim to reduce or eliminate non-tariff barriers (NTBs), by strengthening the rules surrounding them. Forestry will also benefit from the continuing scrutiny and the fine-tuning of existing Agreements, particularly to the SPS and TBT Agreements.

What forestry gets from the negotiations will be influenced by the effort that forestry interests put into the process, and the extent to which they clearly identify issues that are important to them. These negotiations are between governments. It will therefore be necessary for forestry interests to push their case within their own national governments, since trade negotiations such as these necessarily depend on governments to identify priorities and make trade-offs between sectors and products.

from JIM BOURKE

News of members and friends

Mr. Pekka Patosaari head of UNFF

Mr. Pekka Patosaari has been appointed as the Coordinator and Head of the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests. A forester and educator by training, he joined the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Helsinki in 1984 and was, from 1990, Director of Forest Policy Development. Mr. Patosaari served for five years as Chief Coordinator of the Pan-European Process, also known as the Helsinki Process of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. In 1996 he was designated Knight of First Class of the Order of the Lion by the President of Finland. 1997 – 2000 he had the portfolio of forestry and the environment in the Finnish Embassy in London. Mr. Patosaari has been involved in Finland's international cooperation programmes in China and also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of CIFOR.

Jeff Burley CBE, Chairman of CFA, honoured by SAF

At the 2002 SAF National Convention in October, Jeff Burley, director of the Oxford Forestry Institute at Oxford University,

was awarded honorary membership in the Society of American Foresters in recognition for his distinguished service to forestry.

Throughout his career, Jeff has been involved in the planning, management, and conduct of research in numerous developing countries. He spent four years with UNESCO as expert in forest genetics for the Agricultural Research Council of Central Africa, assisting the government research programmes in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He has undertaken some 40 consultancies for a range of donor agencies and companies. This included servicing as an overseas member of the Technical Committee for the Canadian Government's Model Forests Program and as an adviser to the USDA Forest Service on its strategic planning for international forestry.

Jeff Burley is immediate past-president of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and current chair of the British and Irish Hardwoods Improvement Program. He is also a corresponding member of the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences, and Foreign Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry.

Correspondence

Bob Buckman writes

There is substantial concern in the United States about the well being of England's Oxford Forestry Institute, which it seems is in deep trouble, its very survival being in question. Should we be concerned about OFI. Yes and here's why:

- OFI and its predecessors have made many substantial contributions to tropical forestry. The institute has graduated well over 1000 students in its graduate and undergraduate programs, many of whom occupy top forestry positions throughout the world.
- Its forestry library, said to be the best in the world, has been an invaluable source for scholars the world over.
- OFI's competence in research and policy has provided major contributions to forestry everywhere, especially in the developing world. It remains a major player and a magnet for forestry research and education for both the developing and industrial worlds.

Due to painful budget choices, Oxford has chosen to emphasise basic studies in plant sciences. The bare-bones reality is that the

institute needs financial and political support if it is to maintain its place as a major contributor to both global and domestic forestry.

I have written to the members of the Society of American Foresters to alert them to this situation, reminding them that SAF has a stake in maintaining strong forestry institutions both in the US and around the world. Making clear our concern, helping to identify donor or foundation support, highlighting the benefits that OFI has to offer are ways to help to avert the loss should doors of the institute close forever.

On a political note, Prime Minister Tony Blair has accorded high priority to forestry as part of the United Kingdom's own development strategy and assistance program. Would not a reminder from a variety of sources be appropriate to British authorities that maintenance of the educational and research programs of OFI aimed at developing countries would be one of its most significant contributions to world forestry.

Prof. Robert E Buckman of Oregon State University, was earlier chief of research in the US Forest Service and a president of IUFRO.

Education

Oxford Forestry Institute

As a consequence of major changes in structures and financing within the University, and following the recent retirement of the Institute's director, Professor Jeff Burley, the Oxford Forestry Institute has been fully incorporated into the Department of Plant Sciences.

Research into forestry issues continues, as previously, in the areas of ecology, silviculture, sustainable management and biodiversity (genetics to taxonomy). Prospective research students and others who wish to make enquiries are asked initially to contact Mrs Jackie Grant. The MSc Forestry course – Science, Policy and Management – is currently in abeyance. The Oxford Forestry Institute's Library and Information Service remains part of the Plant Sciences Library within the Oxford University Library Services.

Details of the activities of staff in forestry and other fields within the Department can be seen on www.plants.ox.ac.uk/.

International Meetings of Forestry Interest

January 2003

13–15 Jan. *Symposium on history and forest biodiversity – challenges for conservation.* Leuven, Belgium. Contact: Sofie Bruneel.
Fax 16-32-97-60; Email: sofie.bruneel@agr.kuleuven.ac.be;
URL: www.agr.kuleuven.ac.be/lbh/lbnl/forestbiodiv/

February 2003

3 Feb. *Annual Conference, International Society of Tropical Foresters.* Washington, D.C. Contact Fax: +1- 301-897-3690;
Email: istf@igc.apc.org; URL: www.cof.orst.edu/org/istf
3–7 Feb. *International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management,* Guatemala City, Guatemala.
Contact: Eva Mueller/Alastair Sarre, Fax: +81 45 223 1111,
Email: rfm@itto.or.jp
17–21 Feb. *ITTO/IUCN workshop on Increasing Effectiveness of Transboundary Conservation Areas in Tropical Forests,* Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. Contact: Eva Mueller/Alastair Sarre,
Fax: +81 45 223 1111, Email: rfm@itto.or.jp

March 2003

4 March. *16th Annual Global Forest Industry Conference.* Vancouver, B.C. Canada. Contact: Joleen Wright,
Email: joleen.wright@ca.pwcglobal.com;
URL: www.pwcglobal.com/customer
6–7 March. *Australasian Forestry Law & Policy Conference.* Sydney, Australia. URL: www.countryconferences.com.au
10–13 March. *Forestry and Rural Development in Industrialized Countries: Policy, Programs, and Impacts (IUFRO).* Rotorua, New Zealand. Contact: Dell Bawden, Fax: 64-7-352-7875;
Email: bal@wave.co.nz
11–15 March. *Properties and Utilization of Tropical Woods (IUFRO).* Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Contact: Gan Kee Seng,
Fax: 60-3-636-7753; Email: ganks@frim.gov.my
11–15 March. *4th World Symposium on Logistics in the Forest Sector (IUFRO).* Rotorua, New Zealand.
Email: econpapf@yahoo.com;
URL: <http://members.surf.eu.fitotaniemi/sympnz.htm>
11–15 March. *Forest Products Research: Providing for Sustainable Choices (IUFRO).* Rotorua, New Zealand. Contact: Lesley Caudwell, Fax: 64-7-343-5507; Email: alldiv5iufroz@forestresearch.co.nz; URL: www.forestresearch.co.nz/site.cfm/alldiv5iufroz

April 2003

6–12 April. *World Perspective on Short Rotation Forestry for Industrial and Rural Development (IUFRO).* Nauni, Solan, India.
Contact: Kartar Verma; Fax: 91-1792-52242;
Email: khuranasolan@yahoo.com
27 April–1 May. *Australasian Forestry – A Strategic Vision,* Queenstown, New Zealand.
URL: www.forestry.org.nz/conf2003/home.html.
28–30 April. *Fourth Ministerial Conference On The Protection Of Forests In Europe.* Vienna, Austria. Contact: Peter Mayer, Fax: +43-1-710-77-02-13; Email: liaison.unit@lu-vienna.at.
URL: www.mcpfe.org
28–30 April. *Second international expert consultation on the role of planted forests.* Vienna, Austria. Contact: Peter Mayer, Fax: 1-710-77-0213; Email: liaison.unit@lu-vienna.at; URL: www.mcpfe.org/

May 2003

19–23 May. *Rural Livelihoods, Forests and Biodiversity.* Bonn, Germany. Contact: Levania Santoso, Research Assistant, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Fax: +251-622-100,
Email: L.Santoso@cgiar.org.
URL: www.cifor.cgiar.org/livelihoodconference.asp
22–24 May. *International Conference Economics of Sustainable Forest Management,* Toronto, Canada. Contact, Fax: +1 416 978 3834, Email icsfm@larva.forestry.utoronto.ca.
URL: www.forestry.utoronto.ca/socio_economic/icesfm/
26–31 May. *34th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council.* Panama City, Panama. Contact: Collins Ahadome, Fax: +81 45 223 1111, Email: itto@itto.or.jp, URL: www.itto.or.jp
26 May–6 June. *Third Session Of The United Nations Forum On Forests (UNFF-3).* Geneva, Switzerland. Contact Mia Soderlund, Fax: 212-963-4260; Email: unff@un.org;
URL: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm

June 2003

4–6 June. *Fourth International Conference on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development.* Siena, Italy. Contact: Gabriella Cossutta, Fax: 44 (0) 238 029 2853; Email: cossutta@wessex.ac.uk;
URL: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2003/ecosud03/index.html
7–12 June. *Tree Biotechnology 2003 (IUFRO).* Umeå, Sweden.
Contact: Ulrika Hjelm; Fax: 46-90-786-5901;

Email: treebiotech.2003@genfys.slu.se, URL: www.genfys.slu.se
8–14 June. *Management of Mountain Forest Ecosystems under New Environmental Conditions (IUFRO).* Prague, Czech Republic.
Contact: Vratislav Balcar; Fax: 420-443-42393;
Email: balcar@volhmop.cz.
8–17 June. *Uneven-aged Forest Management: Alternative Forms, Practices, and Constraints (IUFRO).* Espoo, Finland. Contact: Sauli Valkonen, Fax: 358-9-8570-5361; Email: uneven@metla.fi;
URL: www.metla.fi/tapahtumat/2003/uneven-aged/index.html
13–15 June. *EUROFOREST 2003.* Saint-Bonnet-de-Joux, France.
Contact, Fax: 33 (0)3 80 44 33 78; Email: info@euroforest2003.com; URL: www.euroforest2003.com

July 2003

6–11 July. *XVth International Plant Protection Congress.* Beijing – China. Contact: Ms. Wen Liping; Fax: +86-10-628-15913;
Email: ippc2003@ipmchina.net; URL: www.ipmchina.net
20–24 July. *10th North American Forest Soils Conference,* Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. URL www.fs.fed.us/forestsoilsconference.
26 July–1 August. *International rangeland conference,* Durban, South Africa URL: www.ru.ac.za/institutes/rgi/firc2003/IRC2003.htm

August 2003

17–24 August. *3RD International 'Wind and Trees' Conference – "Strong Winds and Trees: ecology and management" (IUFRO 8.08.02).* Zurich, Switzerland. Contact: Reinhard Lassig; Fax: 41-1-7392389; Email: laessig@wsi.ch,
URL: www.wsi.ch/forest/waldman/waldman-en.ehtml
25–30 August. *2nd Congress of Conservation of Biodiversity in the Andes and the Amazon Basin + 4th Ecuadorian Botanical Congress,* Loja, Ecuador. Contact, Ranier Bussmann, Email: rbussmann@natureandculture.org, URL: www.natureandculture.org

September 2003

8–17 Sept. *World Parks Conference,* Durban, South Africa.
Contact: Peter Shadie, Email: pds@iucn.org ;
URL: wcpa.iucn.org/wpc/wpc.html
10–14 Sept. *Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines (IUFRO).* Borovetz, Bulgaria. Contact: Scott Schlarbaum, Fax: +1-615-974-4733; Email: tenntip@utk.edu
14–20 Sept. *Tropical Savannas and Seasonally Dry Forests,* Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. Contact, Toby Pennington, Fax: + 44 (0) 131 248 2901, Email: t.pennington@rbge.org.uk.
URL: www.ectf.co.uk
16–18 Sept. *International Workshop "Wind Effects on Trees."* Karlsruhe, Germany.
URL: www.ifh.uni-karlsruhe.de/ifh/science/aerodyn/windconf.htm
17–19 Sept. *Information interoperability and organization for national and global forest information systems.* Quebec, Canada, (IUFRO). Contact: Dr. Alan J. Thomson, Fax: +1-(250) 363-0775. Email: athomson@pfc.forestry.ca.
21–28 Sept. *XII World Forestry Congress.* Quebec City, Canada. Contact: Fax: 418-694-9922; Email: sec-gen@wfc2003.org
URL: www.wfc2003.org/

October 2003

14–18 Oct. *Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe – Values and Utilisation.* Rakhiv, Transcarpathia (Ukraine). Contact: Brigitte Commarmot, Fax: 41-1-739-22-15; Email: rakhiv_2003@wsl.ch; URL www.wsl.ch/forest/waldman/rakhiv_2003/
19–30 Oct. *Sixth Conference Of The Parties To The Convention To Combat Desertification (CCD COP-6).* Bonn, Germany. Contact: CCD Secretariat; Fax: 228-815-2898/99; Email: secretariat@unccd.int; URL: www.unccd.int/

November 2003

3–8 Nov. *35th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council,* Yokohama, Japan. Contact, Collins Ahadome, Fax: +81 45 223 1111, Email: itto@itto.or.jp, URL: www.itto.or.jp

August 2005

8–13 Aug. *XXII IUFRO World Congress,* Brisbane, Australia.
Contact: Russell J. Haines, Queensland Forestry Research Institute:
Fax: 61-7-389-69714; Email: hainesr@qfril.se2.dpi.gld.gov.au

2005

17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, Sri Lanka

The web sites of EFI, ETRN, CIFOR and Gyde Lund's Forest Information Update, are acknowledged as sources.

from NELL BAKER



Seasons Greetings Best Wishes for 2003



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