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Chairman's Column

In my earlier contributions to this Newsletter, I have sought members' advice, suggestions or personal contributions on forest histories in individual countries, proposals for future conference topics, suggestions for enhancing and promoting the value of the CFA to members, and ideas or contacts for fund-raising. Only Executive Committee members have made significant responses; some may think that this is the Committee's role but I believe that all members are equal when it comes to developing our Association and increasing the impact of our profession. So I still solicit your contributions on all these issues. However, I now have a somewhat unusual request.

Should the CFA hold a database of its members' curricula vitae? The Association could do more to help push members towards opportunities and call appropriately on their expertise if such a data bank were available. Many members might suspect that their CVs would be widely distributed beyond just the secretariat; perhaps to avoid this, they could write a biographical page for themselves that the secretariat could hold and that members would not mind anyone seeing. Such material would be of great use also in considering individuals for awards or recommending them to other agencies for work or reference. It would also be of value in helping CFA to ensure members' immortality by providing 'accurate' information for obituaries and posterity.

From Chairman's moans and morbid ideas to vigorous professional debate about the institutional future of our profession. The United Nations Forest Forum, arising in three stages from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, is under review and governments are considering its future role and structure. There is also renewed international debate about the need for and structure of a binding international agreement on forests. UNCED resulted in Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Desertification, adding to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, all of which have elements relevant to forests. Forestry itself was covered by the Non-binding Agreement on Principles, but the opinions of individual countries and regional groupings have fluctuated about the necessity of a formal Convention. These international institutional debates within the United Nations framework take place at high political levels but often with inadequate input from the profession most concerned. For too long foresters have been blamed for the ill-effects of carrying out policies made by others; now is the time to make your voice heard in your national processes and to let your views be known to your national CFA branches and to the Secretariat.

from Professor **JEFF BURLEY**,
Chairman

The international newsletter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association

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

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www.cfa-international.org/Zambia/index.htm

Association News

David Bills new President of CFA

It is with great pleasure that I can inform the Association that the Governing Council has elected Mr David Bills as our new President, succeeding H E Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans. Mr Bills, an Australian forester of great industrial and political experience, has recently retired from the post of Director General of the British Forestry Commission. He is widely known in the forestry profession as he chaired the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry and has been part of UK delegations to the major international policy fora. In thanking Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans for his period of office we welcome David Bills to our community and look forward to having his support as we promote the cause of good forestry.

from Jeff Burley, Chairman



Jimmy Aggrey-Orleans presiding at CFC 2001 in Perth



David Bills supporting CFA at WFC 2003 in Quebec

AGM 2004 and CFA Tour: 21/22 May 2004

The current plan is:

Friday 21 May, 2.30 pm – visit Wytham Woods (please note, no dogs!)

6 pm – CFA AGM, followed by dinner at Green College, Oxford.

Saturday 22 May, 9.45 am – visit the Northmoor Trust, where the British Hardwood Improvement Programme has a number of very interesting trials (including walnut!)

2.30 pm – visit the University Arboretum at Nuneham Courtenay.

The cost of the dinner is likely to be around £35. Other costs would be £10/head or £15/couple for visits/administration. (Pub lunches would be for individuals.)

Further information from:

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Correspondence

Forest Fires

I refer to Peter Moore's interesting article "Australian Forest Fires" in CFN23. It is good to deal with causes and prevention, but it is not enough because in fire-prone areas it is not a question of *if* the fires will come, but *when*; with prevention they may not come so often, but they will still come.

In South Africa's Western Cape Province, at least from about 1950 to about 1980, with its hot, dry and windy summers and very high fire hazard, the indigenous fire-climax *fynbos* (*macchia*) vegetation on the mountain slopes was divided into huge blocks, each block being burnt every few years in spring when the soil still had some moisture left after the winter rains. The time of the year for the burns, and the number of years between burns, had been determined during decades of careful research with the objective of preserving the existing vegetation. This controlled burning

reduced the amount of inflammable material in the vegetation, so it became easier to deal with the unavoidable fires.

In Zambia and Malawi there used to be a similar policy of controlled burning, known as "early burning", i.e. having controlled fires early in the dry season rather than devastating wildfires later in the dry season. Like so many good practices, these controlled fires have been discontinued, at least in the Western Cape, and a few years ago the Cape Peninsula had another serious fire.

Last Christmas, after watching yet another huge fire in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory on our TV screen, I wrote to our god-daughter in Canberra, "You *must* ask the Aussies to reduce the fire load in their forests by applying heavier thinnings and shorter rotations", but she wrote back that the environmentalists won't allow it.

from MIKAEL GRUT

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the deaths of Robert Baltaxe and Alan Lamb, UK. *(Obituary Notices in IFR 6/1)

News of Members and Friends

David Bills leaves FC

David Bills, an Australian, appointed Director General and Deputy Chairman of the British Forestry Commission in December 1995, retired from that position on 31st January 2004. He was awarded a CBE for Services to Forestry in 2001. During his tenure he oversaw the introduction of the United Kingdom Forest Standard and took a leading role in having the industry develop and then adopt the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme recognised by both FSC and PEFC. As a result Great Britain became the first country to have its entire public forest estate (managed by the Forestry Commission) certified by the FSC. He was chairman of the Standing Committee that was responsible for the Commonwealth Forestry Conferences in Zimbabwe and West Australia and the preparation, so far, for Sri Lanka.

Tim Rollinson DG of GB FC.

The Queen has approved the appointment of Tim Rollinson as Director-General of the Forestry Commission. He took up this new post on 24 February 2004.

Mr Rollinson (50) was previously Director of the Commission's Forestry Group, having earlier held posts within the organisation as Chief Conservator for England; Secretary to the Commissioners; Head of Land Use Planning; and in forestry research. He started his career with the Commission in 1976, managing forests in Kent and Sussex, and then the New Forest.

Mr Rollinson graduated from Edinburgh University with a BSc in Ecological Science and Honours in Resource Management. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and was President of the Institute from 2000 to 2002.

Ron Ayling Editor of The Forestry Chronicle

The Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut forestier du Canada (CIF/IFC) National Board of Directors is pleased to announce

the appointment of Dr. Ron Ayling as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Forestry Chronicle*. Dr. Vidar Nordin will be retiring at the end of 2003, after eight years of dedicated service to *The Forestry Chronicle*.

Dr. Ayling has been a member of the CIF/IFC for over 40 years and during that time, he served as a council member and chairperson for the Southern Ontario section. Dr. Ayling has provided invaluable service to *The Forestry Chronicle* over the years as an International forestry associate editor. He received his PhD (Forest Sciences) from the Australia National University in Canberra, Australia and BSCF (Forestry) from the University of Toronto. He has over 30 years of Canadian and international forestry experience, including many years as a senior forestry program officer with the International Development Research Centre (IRDC). In the 1970s and 1980s, he taught forestry subjects at the University of Toronto and Lakehead University. Dr. Ayling also provides consulting services in Social and Community Forestry. The CIF National Board of Directors welcomes Dr. Ayling to *The Forestry Chronicle*.

Peter Berg honoured

The chairman of the CFA New Zealand branch, Peter Berg, was awarded the ONZM (Officer of NZ Order of Merit) in the New Year's Honours. The award recognises his services to forestry in NZ. Peter is President of the NZ Forest Owners Association and immediate past President of the NZ Institute of Foresters, a Board member of the NZ Forest Industries Council and Forest Industries Training and has been engaged in the forestry sector "for close to 50 years".

Mafa Chipeta in FAO

Mafa Chipeta, recently Vice-Chairman of CFA, has been promoted to the position of Director of the Policy Assistance Division, in the Technical Cooperation Department of FAO, from 1 January.

Burning of El Grande



Known as El Grande, the tree stands 79 metres tall and measures 20 metres round the base. The 350-year old *Eucalyptus regnans* was found a year ago in a logging area on the edge of the Tasmanian wilderness world heritage area. Conservationists declared that the tree was dead, the victim of a controlled burning operation. Geoff Law, a spokesman for the Wilderness Society, said the news would reverberate around the world, sully the State's reputation as a clean, green, pristine destination.

Although there are taller trees in Tasmania, El Grande topped the list of this Australian State's most massive giants, with a volume estimated at 439 m³.

from THE GUARDIAN, 11.12.2003

Forest resources of medicinal value, Zambia 9Th to 10Th January 2004



Participants at the Commonwealth centre

opportunities for incorporating traditional knowledge of medicinal plants into effective, modern healthcare provision in sub-Saharan Africa, a region whose health problems are well known internationally.

Local participants made valuable contributions to the proceedings of the workshops not only through their presentations, but also in helping to draw parallels between African experiences and needs, and the experiences and perspectives offered by the international participants, ensuring that the two-day conference was a true meeting of minds.

International participants had further opportunities to learn from local delegates on the second day of the event, when the group was taken on a highly informative excursion to the clinic of a local phytotherapist, Gertrude Mampwe, and to the campus of the Cooperative University, where research is being conducted into sourcing plants from within Zambia for treating numerous ailments.



Participants at dinner

Early January 2004 saw an eclectic mix of young scientists gathering, like giraffes at a waterhole, at the Commonwealth Youth Programme's centre in Lusaka, Zambia for the first conference held in that nation on the subject of forestry and sustainable products, with a particular focus on medicinal plants.

The Zambian Branch of CFA, with the support and involvement of the British Council through their International Networking for Young Scientists (INYS) scheme organised the event, which gathered contributors from the UK, Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark, Australia, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, South Africa and the host country, Zambia, some 25 in all.

International participants and local delegates, from a range of backgrounds (forestry, resource management, medicinal) made strong and thought-provoking presentations on a range of issues regarding the development of medicinal plants as NTFPs and as a support for healthcare. Presentations encompassed matters such as medical validation of plant products; sustainability of supply; NTFP commercialisation by rural communities; and the



Bephen Sichilima, University of Zambia, raises a question.

We thank the British Council not only for their practical and financial support, but for the interest they took in the proceedings and particularly John Mitchell, Director of the British Council, Zambia and his welcoming family for their generous hospitality at the dinner, garden party and cultural event.

The opportunity to meet, and to exchange ideas and experiences was valued both by international and local participants, and was an excellent opportunity for career development and networking for all of the young professionals who attended.

Prior to the conference, a 2-day tour was taken to Livingstone allowing participants to experience first hand one of the natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls and to enjoy the pleasures of the Zambian bush, such as bird watching and rhino spotting! A cultural evening, complete with a traditional Braai next to the mighty Zambezi River, allowed the international participants to experience the beauty of Africa!



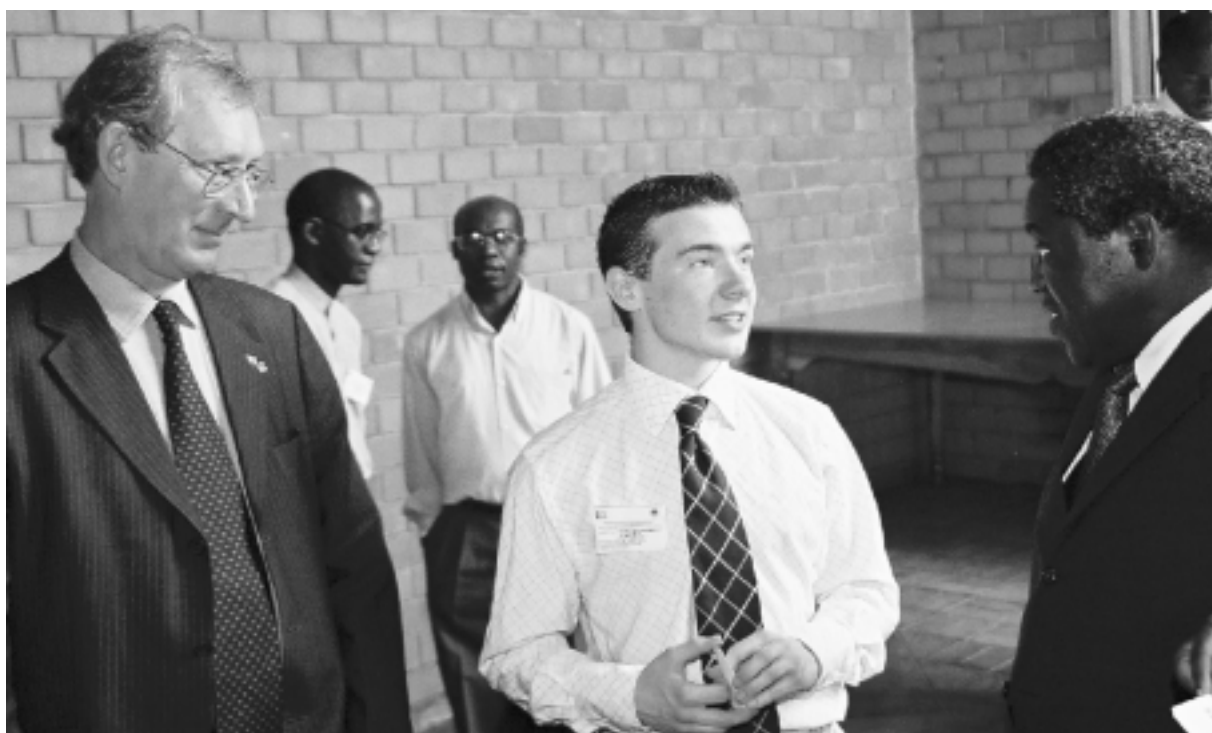
The International Participants wildlife spotting

The experience has demonstrated how the CFA and its national branches can create excellent opportunities for information dissemination, supporting young professionals within the forestry/resource sectors, and aiding the professional development of those sectors in Africa and other economically developing regions. We strongly urge other CFA National Branches to take on similar initiatives and support small events such as this, which can significantly advance the profession and those working in it, both in host nations and internationally.

from **ANDREW HEAVER & MARDI MACGREGOR**

The opening

The Minister of Science Technology and Vocational Training (MSTVT) Hon. Abel Chambeshi, MP, officially opened the Symposium. He admitted that in his earlier years as a young man, he did not bother to stop and marvel at God's creation. This time



Mr Tim David, British High Commissioner, Andrew Heaver, CFA UK, and the Hon. AM Chambeshi, Minister for Science, Technology and Vocational Training.

though, after acquiring some knowledge on forests and the living organisms that inhabit them, he is a changed man who now looks at the forest with a new light. According to the **Worldwatch Institute**, more than 6 000 forest plants are used worldwide as natural medication and over a million types of medication have active ingredients derived from forest plants. Forests were not only important to the rural dwellers, who are said to be keepers of the forest, but to all of us.

A Zambian Parliamentary delegation that was sent to Senegal in 2001 returned home with the recommendation that Zambia should pay more attention to funding the research into herbal medicines and that the traditional practitioners should submit efforts towards integrating their art with that of modern medical

practices and the country should be prepared to subject this aspect of its natural resource and traditional knowledge to the rigours of scientific investigation, codification and research for the benefit of future generation. His Ministry was interested in any plan of action towards the development of phyto-medicines, drawing of course from the store of indigenous knowledge systems, that the symposium may come up with.

The Minister expressed his gratitude to the local organising committee and the various institutions and individuals who had worked hard to make the symposium a reality and thanked most sincerely Mr. John Mitchell, Director of the British Council in Zambia, and his Excellency Mr. Tim David the British High Commissioner, for their support.

For proceedings contact: kawangavikyahoo.co.uk

Around the World

17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference

"Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction"

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 28 February to 5 March 2005
contact: forlib@sltnet.lk or libby.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

XXII IUFRO World Congress

International Union of Forest Research Organisations,
8–13 August 2005

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Congress Theme: *"Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology"*

For more information contact:

The Congress Manager, OzAccom Conference Services,
PO Box 164 Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 Australia

Tel: +61 (0)7 3854 1611 Fax: +61 (0)7 3854 1507 Email: iufro2005@ozaccom.com.au Web site: www.iufro2005.com

UNECE and forestry

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is based in Geneva. Its membership includes all countries of Europe, Turkey and Israel, Russia, USA and Canada. These countries include the major part of the world's temperate forests and their output accounts for more than half the value of world output of forest products.

UNECE and FAO have been working together to promote sustainable forest management in the UNECE region for over 50 years. The UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, which were founded simultaneously, have cooperated closely ever since.

The strategic direction of the programme of work of the two bodies is being reviewed in 2003/2004. The first step in the process is a consultation of stakeholders. Comments and suggestions are welcome from government departments responsible for the forestry and forest product sectors, international organisations (governmental and nongovernmental), experts, trade and industry associations (national, regional or global), associations (e.g. of workers, forest owners etc.), research institutes or individuals.

Comment and suggestions have been invited on the following broad topics:

What should be the strategic objective of the integrated programme of the two bodies? What major work areas, main activities and outputs, and methods of work should be adopted? What resources should it aim to mobilise, and how? Is the formal structure (mandates, permanent bodies etc.) adapted to the needs?

How should success be measured and monitored?

Further information: www.unece.org/trade/timber/strategic-review

Forest Resource Assessment 2005

The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Resources Assessment met in September 2003 in Radebeul (near Dresden), at the invitation of the Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture of Germany. The team noted a strong need for the specific regional FRA work in addition to the Global Forest Resource Assessment 2005. The MCPFE, Montreal process, EU, EUROSTAT, ENFIN and other current and potential partners in the region, need comprehensive and reliable FRA data. The preparatory work for a comprehensive report to the next Ministerial Conference, to be held in Warsaw in 3-4 years, should start soon after the global FRA 2005 is launched.

The global meeting of FRA national correspondents held in Rome in November 2003, was the biggest meeting ever on Forest Resources Assessment. About 130 people from 110 countries participated, including 30 experts from countries of the UNECE region. Its main objective was to facilitate the countries' reporting in the framework of the global FRA 2005 update. It provided a number of proposals for improving the FRA 2005 contents (reporting tables, guidelines, thematic areas reporting, the proposed terms and definitions, etc).

Taken together with the comments from UNECE's Radebeul meeting, the outcome helps FAO to make a final version of the global FRA 2005 more streamlined, while preserving to the extent possible, the time series and consistency of the database with findings from the previous FRA rounds. The final version of the FRA 2005 guidelines will be available in January 2004.

Forest Products Markets in 2003

Trade in further-processed sawn softwood products is expanding within the UNECE region, but also from imports, such as plantation-grown softwood from the southern hemisphere. Sawnwood prices have been weak in the North American oversupply situation, but some strengthening in prices is evident in Europe.

Throughout the UNECE region, increasing imports of furniture from outside the region are displacing domestic production, negatively affecting both sawn hardwood and panels demand. Although production of wood-based panels is at record levels, the industry faces short-term overcapacity and low prices.

Russian paper consumption will grow faster than in Europe, as per caput consumption levels converge on those of Europe and North America. In Europe, woodpulp now accounts for less than half of the raw material used for paper production as the use of recovered paper continues to expand rapidly.

The area of certified forestland has grown to approximately 160 million hectares worldwide, of which most is in the UNECE region. In environmentally-conscious markets, certified forest products are gaining recognition, but mainly at the business-to-business level. Public procurement policies, in favour of wood products originating from sustainably managed forests, may become important drivers.

info.timber@unece.org

from UNECE TIMBER BRANCH NEWSLETTER,
January–March 2004

Education

Jim Henderson in NZ

The arrival of a former senior staff member of the Aberdeen University School of Forestry “Big” Jim Henderson in March is being used as an opportunity for the still significant group of Aberdeen Forestry graduates in NZ to get together for a reunion in Wellington. Former students are still active in research, forest management and marketing, although a number are now retired. It is now more than 30 years since NZ last sponsored students to Aberdeen as part of their tertiary training, while others went to Edinburgh, Oxford and Bangor.

Industry

The Marcus Wallenberg Prize

The 2004 prize will be awarded to the Finnish engineer Paul Olof Meinander. He developed a significant modification of the design of the paper machine that improves both the efficiency of the economic and environmental performance. The new design is called the POM Wet End Concept.

During paper making, fibres are fed to the paper machine in a water slurry, in which the fibre component makes up less than one percent. On the so called ‘wet end’ of the paper machine, water is drained off and the fibres form the paper sheet. Very large amounts of water are circulated.

With the POM-technology water is handled in another way leading to a considerable reduction in the size of the wet end. There are significant savings in capital cost, reduction of the energy required in the process, improved control and improvements in paper quality. Increased cleanliness leads to reduced stoppages and reduced use of chemicals. Paper grade changes are faster which means less lost time on the paper machine.

Mr Meinander founded a company in 1993 to commercialise the POM concept. The concept has proved its significance to the industry with 20 installations in full commercial operation in mid 2003.

from Prof. JEFF BURLEY, Chairman of the Prize Selection Committee

Developments in NZ forest industry

The sale of the Central North Island Forestry Partnership was completed in October. The partnership, formerly owned by Fletcher Challenge Forests and the Chinese company CITIC, has been in receivership for a couple of years. Total forest area is around 170 000ha on more than 180 000 ha of land. The forests were sold to the US Harvard University endowment fund. Management of the estate, which produces more than 3 million m³ of logs annually, will continue to be conducted by the two existing bodies – A log export venture set up in partnership with major NZ forest owner Carter Holt Harvey under the name of Silva Limited, and the Timber Management Company (TMC), set up after the receivership and which took over management of the forests from Fletcher Challenge Forests. The sale is seen by the NZ industry as a good development, bringing stability, greater freedom to supply the local log processing market and possibly a shift away from the short term thinking which is driven by significant debt funding requirements.

Fletcher Challenge Forests have just announced the sale of their forests (a little over 100 000 ha) to a consortium of four New Zealand property investors – Trevor Farmer, Ross Green, Mark Wyborn, and Adrian Burr – and a United States fund, Prudential Timber Investments who also represent the Ontario Teachers’

Pension Plan. Prudential have announced that NZ forest management company PF Olsen and Co Ltd will manage the forests and John Galbraith, former General Manager in the Carter Holt Harvey group of companies, has been appointed their NZ based manager.

Carter Holt Harvey has announced it is selling its paper tissue business, however this does not mean it is ruling out expanding the wood-fibre processing businesses it intends to focus on when it sells out of tissue. The company has Credit Suisse First Boston working on an exit from its tissue business either by a sale to another company, private equity investor or public share sale. The New Zealand share market’s second-largest company has decided it is better at managing wood-fibre businesses. Chief executive Peter Springford said the company wanted to be positioned for opportunities in its chosen area and there were “some opportunities out there”.

from PETER BERG

Research

Phytophthora ramorum in tree species

Confirmation of three new findings of *Phytophthora ramorum* in tree species has raised concerns about the recent spread of the disease to trees in Britain. The first confirmed UK case of disease on trees, found on a single southern red oak tree (an American species) was announced on 5 November 2003. The new cases, at two locations in the south west of England, have been found in beech, horse chestnut and holm oak and are associated with previous adjacent findings of the disease in rhododendron. All the sites are being closely monitored.

An intensive survey programme of retail outlets, nurseries, gardens and other established planting areas has been underway since the first finding was confirmed in April 2002. Precautionary eradication and containment action will continue, and surveillance will now be increased to reduce the risk of spread of this pathogen into the wider natural environment.

Phytophthora ramorum is the pathogen associated with the disease currently affecting oak trees on the west coast of the USA. Symptoms of disease were first noticed on rhododendron in Europe in 1993, although the causal pathogen was not identified until 2001. Subsequent surveys have shown it to be present in at least nine European countries, including the UK.

from GB FORESTRY COMMISSION AND DEFRA

Special Feature

Valuation or Pennies from Heaven?

A number of reports on the value of woodlands in the British scene appeared in 2002/3. Like London buses such things do not, it seems, come singly but in groups.

The documents are:

1. Social and environmental benefits of forests in Great Britain, Phase 2, K.G. Willis, et al., 2003 (Newcastle University for Forestry Commission).
2. Economic analysis of forest policy in England, CJC Consultants 2003 (for Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and H. M. Treasury);
3. South West England Woodland and Forestry Strategy Economic Study by Land Use Consultants and Wall, 2002 (for SW England Conservancy of the Forestry Commission and SW England Regional Development Agency);
4. Woodland wealth appraisal for the east of England, P. Selman and J. Powell 2003 (for East England Conservancy of the FC and East England Development Agency).

All can be downloaded from the internet addresses listed at the foot of the article.

Why all these enquiries just now? First and foremost because the value of timber grown in the UK has fallen massively in the past 3 decades. For example the index (1996=100) of prices of conifers sold standing in Forestry Commission forests fell in real terms, that is after inflation, from 200 in 1973 to 40 in 2003. This massive fall has left forest owners of all kinds wondering whether and if so how, to continue to practise forestry. One way is to persuade one's banker that there are non-commercial values provided by forests which are desirable and valuable. The process of attempting to account for some of these non-market benefits began in Britain in a serious way with a 1972 cost-benefit analysis. Much later was Professor David Pearce's study "Assessing the returns to the economy and to society from investments in forestry" (Paper 14 in *Forestry expansion: a study of technical, economic and ecological factors*, Forestry Commission, 1991). Recently money valuations of amenity and biodiversity have been added to those available for carbon storage and unpriced recreation. But the general tenor remains that, at current wood prices and with prevailing economic tests, investment in woodlands is a mug's game, while planting for amenity in the broad sense is wise.

Study no.1 from Newcastle University provides estimates of the social and environmental benefits identified in terms of their marginal values (as inputs to forest management), and their total value across all British woodlands. The benefits covered are unpriced forest recreation (valued at between £1.66 and £2.75 per visit to English and Welsh state forests), landscape amenity, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water supply and quality, pollution absorption, and preservation of archaeological artefacts. The study is impressive because it uses appropriate methodologies for valuing each benefit, and recognises the attributes of forests that are relevant (e.g. location and forest structure in the case of recreation, landscape type for landscape amenity, species, growth rate and management regime for carbon sequestration). Thus, for landscape the study adopted a choice experiment approach to investigate public willingness to pay (WTP) for visual access to certain generic forest landscapes. Choice experiments, a variant of the contingent valuation (CV) technique (very broadly CV uses

suitably checked questioning of people to find what they would be willing to pay for a visit), are commonly used to determine individuals' preferences for the attributes of a good or service. The whole study is an impressive piece of work but it would be naïve to claim that it represents the whole truth: assumptions have to be made and methodology is never static.

The second report, by CJC Consultants, addresses these questions:

- a. What outputs are required by society from woods and forests?
- b. What outputs can be delivered by the private sector, and do the benefits of intervention outweigh the costs?
- c. What is the economic rationale that may support the use of forest policy as a means of furthering the sustainable development agenda?
- d. What changes are required to forestry policy or strategic delivery mechanisms?

Its analysis is rigorous, comprehensive and balanced. At the end of the discussion of the value of creating more woodlands its message will appear bleak to many foresters.

The only valuable contribution of planting turns out to be the enhancement of the amenity of the countryside visible from existing houses. Among many useful insights, Chapter 10 provides a critique of the sustainability concept and its different species. This should be required reading by those who toss the word sustainability in at the least provocation as if using the word makes the argument irrefutable.

The third report claims to provide "an initial exploration of the non-timber values of woodlands and forests in SW England". The first part is filled with tendentious material on values, for example the report counts in the processing not only of local timber but also imported, and again on recreation through horse riding, it estimates that "22000 people ride in woodlands..... and they contribute £23 million to the regional economy" quietly ignoring the fact that this group does not only ride in woodlands. Figures on both quantities and values per unit are shown without any indication of the sources used. Forest recreation is valued at some £3 of spending (*sic*) per visit (not the inferred value from travel cost or contingent valuation analysis). In relation to timber output, values of the gross output (broadly sales) of wood processing industries in the region are given. Gross output implies that the output of other industries which are inputs to the wood-using industry in question are incorporated here. If a similar approach were used for an industry such as glue-making, one would clearly get double counting. The approach naturally yields impressive numbers, but has next to no relevance for decision making, and, in particular, investment of public money to support the activity. Hence the recommendations forming the second half of the report have no logical basis, depending for their acceptance on goodwill, trust and no doubt the feel-good factor which stimulates some sponsors to justify their actions.

Report number 4 from East England has at least the merit of noting its sources. Here again however the favoured treatment is to report gross estimates for values of various attributes. The extrapolations are in several cases breathtaking. A massive effort is devoted to deriving values of gross output, indirect effects (that is the value of activity in industries supplying the timber-using industry), and induced effects (defined as activity generated by spending by the labour force in the industry and its supplying industries). The scope for double counting is obviously very great. This document presents a mass of facts and assertions. Its interest lies in its inventiveness, not its dependability.

These regional reports are exercises in spin, here trying to persuade outsiders of the great value of forests, using glossy presentation, and gross output measures (rather than net of the costs of obtaining the benefits described). Behind both is the thinking familiar among many Continental foresters, that is to emphasise the ongoing flows of revenues, with the underlying suggestion that any action to upset the balance of costs and returns will end in serious losses of benefits. Yet the idea of questioning whether, and how operationally, to keep the factories running is, it seems, anathema.

Value of woodland landscape

Assessment of the value of Woodland Landscape Functions for Local Communities by Tim Lynam, Rob Cunliffe, Isaac Mapaure and Isau Bwerinofa, CIFOR 2003 illustrates a particular use of valuation. The authors stress that: “It is important to clarify what is meant by value as used in this project. We use the term value to reflect an index of preference ordering. The value of a good or service is the relative degree to which it is preferred in comparison with other goods and services available at that time and location. Value is a dynamic and relative concept etc.”

During the process of developing a management plan for Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique the presence of people in the park and its immediate surroundings was identified as a major management concern. The objective of the park was the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. Local people were recognised as users of natural resources, but park management wanted to ensure that use of resources did not undermine conservation, recreation and knowledge generation objectives.

Research was carried out to develop an approach to estimating local values for landscape units to relate to formal biodiversity conservation values. This was to provide information for park managers and to ensure that views of local communities were clearly expressed.

In the assessment of local value, first a scientific team developed an hypothesis of the landscape unit value being the ratio of benefits derived from the unit to the costs of procuring them. The larger this ratio, the more valuable was the site. A ‘community resource use assessment team’ (CRUAT) was elected by the people of the village. This team mapped the landscape and identified the recognisable units and listed the goods and services that emanated from each unit weighting them according to relative importance.

Web site addresses

[www.forestry.gov.uk/website/pdf.nsf/pdf/sebreport0703.pdf/\\$FILE/sebreport0703.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/pdf.nsf/pdf/sebreport0703.pdf/$FILE/sebreport0703.pdf)

<http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/evaluation/forestry/whole.pdf>

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/woodlandwealthfinalreport03.pdf/\\$FILE/woodlandwealthfinalreport03.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/woodlandwealthfinalreport03.pdf/$FILE/woodlandwealthfinalreport03.pdf)

www.forestry.gov.uk/wsoodlandwealthreport_03/pdf

from **ARNOLD GRAYSON**

The costs were estimated as a function of distance and any physical or institutional barriers that increased the labour cost of using the resources.

A very large number of products were used by local people. The goods that contributed most to the values of the landscape units were water, land for agriculture and houses, construction materials (poles, fibre, thatching grass and reeds), firewood, household and craft materials (wood for tool handles, pestle and mortar, reeds for mats), various wild foods.

Landscape units were valued for the goods and services that the people derived from them. The sum of stocks of resources was a good predictor of value local people assigned to a location. Neither costs of distance nor traditional regulation played much role. Strictly enforced national park regulations, which excluded users, did reduce the value assigned. In short the value assigned was completely determined by the tangible benefits that could be derived. A key perspective to emerge was that community members want to be able to stay where they are and not be forced to move.

The assessment of biodiversity value was limited to analysis of the extent of woody species. The key vegetation types were found to be the thicket and forest communities. The conservation valuation was limited in that it omitted consideration of ecological services. For example flood plain communities have little biodiversity interest in terms of woody plants, but will be of much greater importance in terms of herbivores or birds.

A process of overlaying community and biodiversity evaluations was used to identify units with highest conservation value and had also been designated by the community as of high value for goods and services. This is where the greatest conflict can be anticipated.

from **PHILIP WARDLE, Editor CFN**

Wilderness is worth more

A recent article in the US Journal of Science was cited as stating that the wilderness converted to human use each year actually costs economies \$250 billion. It would cost the world \$45bn to effectively protect threatened areas of temperate and tropical forest, mangroves, coral reefs and so on. In return these global reserves would supply humans with at least \$4,400bn in “goods and services”, a benefit cost ratio of 100-1.

Of 300 cases surveyed, five were studied in detail: intensive logging of a Malaysian forest, Cameroon forest converted to small scale agriculture, mangrove swamp in Thailand turned to shrimp farming, Canadian marsh drained for agriculture and a Philippine coral reef dynamited for fishing. In each case the value of the natural system – as storm and flood protection, for sustainable hunting and tourism, or to soak up CO₂ – outweighed the returns from human use. The Malaysian forest would have been 14% more valuable left standing, the Canadian marsh would have returned 60% more if left alone for hunting, trapping and fishing.

David Constanza of University of Vermont said “Economics has traditionally focused on the market. But we have been finding out that a lot of what is valuable to humans takes place outside the market”.

from TIM RADFORD, *The Guardian*

Usefulness or beauty

Nature published a report suggesting that by 2050 a quarter of the world’s animal and plant species would die out as a result of global warming. While most people feel that purging the world of its diversity of animals and plants is somehow wrong, the feeling

precedes a rational explanation. The conservation movement has been trying to provide one, but its efforts have for the most part failed.

Our concerns about biodiversity seem effete and self-indulgent. If we are presented with a choice between growing food to avert starvation and protecting an obscure forest frog, the frog loses every time. So conservationists have sought to confront utilitarianism with utilitarianism. If the rainforest is destroyed we may never find the cure for cancer. Many of the world’s indigenous people depend upon a wide range of species for their survival. And all this may be true, but it doesn’t solve the problem of justification. Most of us don’t need biodiversity to survive.

Utilitarianism also suggests that the value of biodiversity is exhausted once it ceases to be useful to us. Once a rainforest has been screened for pharmaceuticals, it offers, according to this doctrine, no further benefits. Arguing for biodiversity on the grounds of human need sets this trap.

The lovers of fine art never suggest that money and effort should be spent on old masters because one day somebody may want to eat them. They defend their value, while accepting the conflict between their protection and other social needs.

The special problem of conservationists of nature has been the colonial model of exclusion. For tourists with exclusive access to protected places they are heroes. To the excluded local people they are villains. If every time a public gallery was built, thousands of us were kicked out of our homes, we would feel the same about art.

It is surely sufficient to say that wildlife should be preserved because it is wonderful. If we are to protect the world’s animals and plants, we must do it for ourselves, as the world would be a poorer place without them.

from GEORGE MONBIOT, *The Guardian*, 13.1.2004

Forest scenes

Trees and the greenhouse

Arguments about the benefit of trees to offset carbon emissions came to the fore again in the negotiations in Milan in December 2003, on the rules for giving countries carbon credits for tree planting projects under the Kyoto protocol.

The World Bank’s Plantar project in Brazil will grow eucalyptus trees to produce charcoal for the local pig iron industry. The project, which promises to be the first sink project funded under the Kyoto protocol, aims to demonstrate how carbon finance for well-managed forests can reduce destruction of native forests, help conserve their unique biodiversity, help conserve local community use of forest fruits and other non timber products and secure high quality employment in rural areas.

Fern, a European conservation group says that the project does nothing to combat climate change while exacerbating local environmental problems and the social inequalities and access to land problems.

Nobody argues with the basic premise that CO₂ is incorporated in trees during photosynthesis. However there are grave concerns about the permanence of these carbon sinks. There are uncertainties. Tropical forests may in some circumstances be net emitters of CO₂, carbon can be rapidly released in forest fires, forest in mountains may reduce reflection of sunlight, increasing climate change.

On balance, carbon sinks can make a contribution to the effort to slow climate change. Recognising the difficulties of achieving reductions in fossil fuel emissions, sinks can play an important transitional role according to the IPCC.

from VANESSA HOULDER, *Financial Times* 5.12.2003

See also CFR 75(1) and 77(3)

But is Kyoto dead?

“This protocol cannot be ratified”. “There are no decisions about ratification apart from the fact that we are moving towards ratification”. Statements by Russian officials in November 2003. What Russia eventually decides will determine Kyoto’s fate. The rules require 55 countries representing at least 55% of the industrial world’s greenhouse gas emissions in 1990 to ratify the pact before it can come into force.

Kyoto actually allocates Russia extremely generous allowances for emissions, based on Soviet era emissions levels. Since the collapse following the demise of the USSR a lot of polluting industry was eliminated, so that Russia would automatically exceed its emissions targets. It could then sell the excess as “emission credits”.

With the departure of the United States from the treaty, the price of these emission credits collapsed. So perhaps Russia wants the EU and Japan to make up the difference in some way. Final decision may not come before the Russian presidential election. In the meantime rumours of Kyoto’s demise appear exaggerated.

from THE ECONOMIST, 6.12.2003

International meetings of forestry interest

February 2004

4 Feb. *Annual Conference, International Society of Tropical Foresters.* Washington, D.C. Contact: Dr. Les Whitmore, President, ISTF, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD20814USA. Fax: +1-301-897-3690; istf.Bethesda@verizon.net; www.istf-bethesda.org

18–20 Feb. *17th Annual Conference of the Society of Tropical Ecology – Biodiversity and dynamics in tropical ecosystems.* University of Bayreuth, Germany. www.bitoe.k.uni-bayreuth.de/gtoel

March 2004

4 March. *Quality hardwoods – what future.* Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, UK. www.rase.org.uk/conferences.

29 March – 1 April. *Human Dimensions of Family and Farm Forestry International Symposium.* Pullman, Washington, USA. IUFRO.

Contact: familyforestry@wsu.edu;
www.familyforestrysymposium.wsu.edu/

31 March. *17th Annual Global Forest Industry Conference.* Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Contact: angie.dosanjh@ca.pwc.com

April 2004

1–2 April. *The trees of history – Protection and exploitation of veteran trees.* Torino, Italy. www.mafservizi.it
ViewCongress.asp?IDC=112&PAGE=-1.

2–3 April. *People in Parks: Beyond the Debate – Achieving Conservation in Human-Inhabited Protected Areas.* ISTF, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Contact: Yale ISTF Conference, istf@yale.edu, www.yale.edu/istf/

12–14 April. *Management of Tropical Dry Forest Woodlands and Savannas: Assessment, Silviculture, Scenarios.* Brasilia, Brazil. IUFRO. Contact: Professor Dr José Imaña Encinas, Tel 55-61-2736026; Fax 55-61-3470631; iufro@unb.br

14 – 16 April. *Rauli, The Richness of Temperate Forests: Silviculture, Genetics and Industry.* Valdivia, Chile. IUFRO. www.infor.cl/webinfor/PW_SimposioIUFRO2004/SIMPOSIO/espanol/marc_espanol.htm

19–24 April. *International Congress: Silvopastoralism and Sustainable Forest Management.* Lugo, Spain. Contact: brita.pajari@efilfi, www.efi.fi/events/

21–23 April. *3rd International Symposium on Sustainable Management of Forest Resources- SIMFOR 2004.* Pinar del Rio, Cuba. Contact: C. Fernando Hernandez Martinez; Fax: 82-77-9353; fhernandez@af.upr.edu.cu

21–24 April. *FOREXPO 2004, The European Forestry and Forest Management Trade Fair.* Mimizan, France. Contact: Fax: 33-5-56-81-78-98; info@forexpo.fr; www.forexpo.fr

May 2004

7 May. *International Workshop: Evaluating Effectiveness and Efficiency of Forestry Incentive and Assistance Programmes in Europe.* Ljubljana, Slovenia. Contact: brita.pajari@efilfi, www.efi.fi/events/

10–12 May. *7th International seminar on GIS in developing countries (GISDECO): GIS Capacity Building & infrastructure.* Malaysia, www.eis-africa.org/events_upcoming.

22–23 May. *International Conference on Economics of Sustainable Forest Management (IUFRO),* Toronto, Canada. Contact: Hans Jöbstl, Fax: 43-1-476544429; joebstl@mail.boku.ac.at

23–27 May 2004. *The Urban Woods – to be used by everyone.* Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: Johanna From, johanna.from@svsmd.svo.se www.svo.se/urbanwoods

June 2004

6–18 June. *2nd International Conference on Forest Measurements and Quantitative Methods and Management & the 2004 Southern Mensurationists Meeting.* Hot Springs, Arkansas, USA. Contact Mike Strub mike.strub@weyerhaeuser.com, www.mensurationists.com

26–29 June. *Forest Genetics and Climate Change.* Vernon, B.C. Canada. Contact: Alvin Yanchuk; Fax: +1-250-387-0046; Alvin.yanchuk@gems4.gov.bc.ca

27 June – 2 July. *1st World Congress of Agroforestry 2004. Working Together for Sustainable Land-use Systems.* Orlando, Florida, USA. conference.ifas.ufl.edu/wca.

July 2004

20–23 July. *36th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council.* Switzerland. Contact: Collins Ahadome: Fax: 81-45-223-1111; itto@itto.or.jp; www.itto.or.jp

August 2004

15–20 August. *Forest Diversity and Resistance to Native and Exotic Pest Insects.* IUFRO 7.03.07. Hammer Springs, New Zealand. Contact:

Andrew Liebhold, Fax 1-304-285 1505; aliebhold@fs.fed.us; iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/

16–22 August. *11th International Conference on Root and Butt Rots (IUFRO),* Poznan-Bialowieza, Poland. Contact: Malgorzata Manka, Fax: 4861-848-77-11; mmanka@owl.au.poznan.pl

23–29 August. *Social Roles of Forests for Urban Populations (IUFRO).* Hokkaido, Japan. iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/

September 2004

1–2 September. *Forest IT 2004 in the Mobile Environment – Congress and Exhibition.* Jyväskylä and Jämsänkoski, Finland. See: www.forestit.net/

3–7 September. *International Conference: Continuous Cover Forestry and EFI 11th Annual Conference,* Bangor, UK. Contact Anu Ruusila anu.ruusila@efi.fi.

12–16 September. *Regenerating Mountain Forests – prerequisite for sustainable management.* Kloster Seon, Bavaria, Germany. (IUFRO). See www.forst.tu-muenchen.de/iufro2004.html.

15–18 September. *Forests soils under global and local changes: from research to practice.* International symposium. Bordeaux, France. Contact: carnus@pierroton.inra.fr

27–30 September. *The economics and management of high productivity plantations.* University of Santiago de Compostela, Lugo, Spain. Contact: Dr Juan Gabriel Alvarez, Tel + 34 982 252303. Email: algonjg@lugo.usc.es

October 2004

21–23 October 2004. *EnviroInfo Symposium 2004: 18th International Conference, Informatics for Environmental Protection,* Geneva, Switzerland. www.siang.ch/environinfo2004.

21–23 October 2004. *International Conference: Evaluating Forestry Incentives and Assistance Programmes in Europe – Challenges to Improve Policy Effectiveness.* Warsaw, Poland. Contact: brita.pajari@efilfi, www.efi.fi/events/

27–29 October 2004. *Open Space: People Space: An International Conference on Inclusive Outdoor Environments.* Edinburgh, UK. Contact: openspace@eca.ac.uk, www.openspace.eca.ac.uk

February 2005

28 February – 5 March 2005. *17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference.* Colombo, Sri Lanka Contact: Libby Jones: Fax: 44-0-131-314-6137; libby.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

March 2005

13–18 March. *Forestry Ministerial Meeting and 17th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO),* FAO, Rome, Italy. Contact: Michael.Martin@fao.org

August 2005

8–13 Aug. *Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology XXII IUFRO World Congress,* Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia. Contact: The Congress Manager, OzAccom Conference Services

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

from NELL BAKER

Forest scenes

Pot or kettle in the Straits of Malacca?

Indonesia's forestry minister, Mohammed Prakosa, has called for a global boycott of Malaysian wood products as Jakarta officials believe that protected trees from Indonesia are being smuggled across the border to Malaysia, "laundered and re-exported". The Malaysian minister for primary industries, Lim Keng Yalk, vehemently denied the claim. He admitted that there were problems, such as the long porous border between the two countries, but said that Indonesia needed to improve its law enforcement as well.

This spat comes a week after British and Indonesian environmental groups released a damning report exposing illegal trade in ramin from Indonesia through Malaysia and on to the rest of the world, often via China and Hong Kong.

from THE GUARDIAN, 14.2.2004

Courts versus rainforest in Ecuador

According to official figures 150,000 ha of primary forest are felled each year in Ecuador. The Wood Industry Association reckons that

70% is illegally felled. Four years ago the Environment Ministry, with the help of the Inter-American Development Bank and the German Government, came up with a scheme to delegate control of logging to the private sector and civic groups.

The first stage involved setting up 'Green Surveillance' a body comprising NGOs, the police, the army and the ministry with the responsibility of policing the transport of illegal timber. The team, financed from the sale of confiscated wood, captured six times as much illegal wood as previously. This angered some loggers, but the real problems started when the government hired Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), a Swiss company, to administer logging licences in return for a tax on legal sales of wood.

The timber industry claims to be in favour of controls on illegal logging, but in practice has been the main opponent of the new system. Timber companies claimed that it breached the constitution by handing over a government function to a private firm. On October 28th 2003, the country's Constitutional Tribunal, under pressure from timber companies, struck down the innovative and effective scheme to outsource the regulation of logging.

from THE ECONOMIST 1.11.2003

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