

# CFA Newsletter



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#### **CFA Newsletter**

is the newsletter of the Commonwealth Forestry Association

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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the CFA.

## Sustainable Forestry in Papua New Guinea? It is difficult\*



*West Sepik village is dependent on PNG's forests*

PNG has a land area of approximately 463 000 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 60–70% of the land area is still natural forest which includes some large areas of logged over forest. The population of seven million comprises enormous cultural and linguistic diversity, with past isolation of communities in remote valleys resulting in the development of over 800 distinct languages. Most of these tribal groups developed livelihoods dependant on forest resources, and for 80% of the population this is still as important today. The forests are still essential for supplies

of firewood, house building materials, medicinal plants, and hunting for bush meat. Although essential for livelihoods for much of the population, the forests have also been essential for the development of the country, particularly prior to the current mining boom, by providing significant government revenues from industrial logging.

Conventional industrial scale harvesting of PNG's native forests was implemented by selective logging of concessions on a large scale and high intensity prior to independence in the 1970's. After independence in 1975, the number of concessions began to gradually rise, with operations occurring in most provinces by 1985. Much of the early exploitation focused on the Islands

\* *This is the first part of a two-part feature on PNG. The second part will appear in the March 2013 Newsletter.*

Region (e.g. New Ireland and New Britain) where commercial volumes were higher on the more fertile volcanic soils, and access and timber export was relatively simple through the construction of basic logging roads and wharf facilities. By 1992 the majority of concessions on the Islands region had been designated and the industry switched its attention to the mainland's less productive forest (lower commercial volumes) with lower stocking densities.

The continued expansion of logging across PNG was and still is promoted as a sustainable way of generating significant government revenue, which currently brings in PNGK (kina) 120 million per annum from logging royalties and timber export tax. Logging benefits have provided a mechanism for isolated and undeveloped rural communities to gain benefits over the life of a logging project, where there are few if any substantial economic alternatives. Resource owners receive community benefits managed by their representative Incorporated Land Owner Group (ILG) to ensure benefits, in theory, are equitably distributed. Benefits include royalties, annual benefits fund and infrastructure development. However royalties to landowners were set at an appallingly low rate of PNGK 10 per cubic metre until 2008 when it rose to PNGK 30.00 (\$11) per cubic metre. Many argue that the benefits received do not reflect the value of the resource, and the wider damage to the environment.



*Landowners celebrate logging project*

Forestry in PNG should have performed better by now, but even today after 40 years of rainforest logging as opposed to well managed forestry, the industry is still plagued by poor governance, endless accounts of contractual breaches by the logging companies and almost no real delivery of infrastructure benefits

to landowners. Although some isolated village community representatives have received large royalty payments, reflecting the enormous sizes of their forest resources, the transition from subsistence to wealthy landowner overnight has been difficult for landowners not used to financial management. There are endless accounts of the elected community representatives squandering royalties in Port Moresby, the capital city, with little improvement in life for those back in the village. I have travelled to many villages that have had their resources logged, and sadly there is little evidence of long term improvements for most.

Development is short lived for most rural communities that have signed a Forest Management Agreement (FMA). The problems associated with industrial logging in PNG were first highlighted by the Barnett Inquiry in 1987 which claimed that the logging industry was "out of control". Since then the same issues have arisen almost on a yearly basis. I have lost account of the number of reports that contain identical findings. The issues have been thoroughly researched and reported on by the UK's International Institute of Environment and Development, and in 2004 the World Bank's produced a major report for the PNG government, highlighting serious problems. In addition, the NGO the Eco-Forestry Forum (EFF) produces regular bulletins reporting on endless breaches of the logging code of practice by the logging companies, and presents ongoing allegations of ministerial breaches of the Forestry Act in how resources are allocated to logging companies.

In response to the Barnett Inquiry, the Government developed and adopted a new forest policy (National Forest Policy 1991), and introduced new legislation to implement the policy. Concurrently Government and donors agreed on the National Forestry and Conservation Action Plan (NFCAP) under which donors provided significant support for the sector in terms of institutional strengthening (mainly to PNGFA and DEC), training (Government institutions and industry), and infrastructure (education, forestry field housing, vehicles and equipment). A key objective of NFCAP was to place timber production on a sustainable basis.

However the NFCAP failed to deliver. One of the most outrageous projects that highlighted the failure of the NFCAP was the Kiunga-Aimbak road line clearance logging project. The project was issued with a Timber Authority permit for road line logging up to 1 km from the road centre line in 1995. The project was eventually halted for multiple breaches of the 1991 National Forest Policy and failure to provide reasonable benefits to the resource owners. The project resulted in a 195 kilometer long unsurfaced road that was pushed through by the logging company Concord Pacific. The project was the subject of numerous claims purporting widespread corruption, deception of landowners, withholding of royalties, exceeding of Ministerial powers, illegality of logging, environmental degradation and failure to properly apply the relevant sections of the PNG Logging Code of Practice (PNGLCP) and the PNG Environment Act (Melick 2003). In some instances the Kiunga Aimbak project logged over 10 km from the centre line rather than the permitted 1 km. The project was meant to join remote villages to the small township of Kiunga which has services not available in remote areas. The road line did not reach its destination. Ultimately the projects poor performance reflected weak governance in the PNG forestry sector.

Despite endless reports of poor performance the PNG logging industry is heavily defended by its industry proponents. One expatriate logger proudly boasted to me that he had managed the clear felling of hundreds of thousands of hectares of peat swamp forest in Central Sumatra for the controversial Riau pulp and paper company, and that its operations in PNG were equally well managed. Well managed logging operations and sustainable forestry are different issues. The logging industry is defiant in PNG and generally ignores criticism. Reported log exports do not exceed the recommended annual sustainable harvest, but there is no real monitoring of impacts on the forest, consideration of silviculture, and impacts on biodiversity are never mentioned, let alone monitored. A revision of the allowable cut is long overdue too, since most logging concessions are logged out before the predicted life of the concessions.

The PNG Forest Authority and the PNG Forest Industries Association have made presentations to the independent policy think tank Chatham House in the UK, stating that there is no illegal logging in PNG because logging companies follow the relevant laws, but they do admit there are compliance issues (Iko-forestri 2010). The legality of a logging operation is a moot

point when major breaches in the logging code of practice are repeatedly reported. Enforcement of compliance with PNGs relatively strong environmental laws which includes the Forestry Act and Logging Code of Practice has always been a major issue. A logging concession of several hundreds of thousands of hectares will typically only have one designated monitoring officer, who will often have to be supported by the logging company for accommodation and meals. It is inevitable that breaches in practices are overlooked.

#### REFERENCES

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MELICK, D. (2003). A preliminary environmental investigation of the logging operations in the Wawoi Guavi area, Western Province, Papua New Guinea, Greenpeace Australia Pacific.

**Dr Howard Rogers**  
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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/booyongfs>

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## Association news

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### Would you prefer your CFA Newsletter via email?

Those of you who visit our website at [www.cfa-international.org](http://www.cfa-international.org) will be aware that there are now two options to view the CFA Newsletter online; via PDF and 'page-turning' software. The latter gives a more dynamic experience which is geared more towards tablet users. If you have a moment why not take a look and let us know what you think of this new facility.

We have been looking into means of providing more information online in part as a means of saving costs and in this regard we wanted to ask members this question: **Would you prefer to receive the CFA Newsletter as an email attachment rather than in hard copy?** The answers that we receive will help guide our future policy so please let us know what you think by sending an email to [cfa@cfa-international.org](mailto:cfa@cfa-international.org)

### Calling all photographers!



One of the aims of our website is to act as a showcase for forests around the world, and who better to take photos of trees than foresters? We would like to invite you to submit your best photos of

trees, forests and, most importantly, people using forests for our new online gallery. Please take a moment to look at the gallery on our website at [www.cfa-international.org/gallery.php](http://www.cfa-international.org/gallery.php) and see if you have a photo that you could add to our collection.

## CFA joins CLOCKSS to secure access to the IFR

Over the past 10 years we have worked with the University of Oxford to provide free access to the archive of the IFR and its predecessors, the CFA and EFR, stretching back to the first issue in 1920. However, issues since 2002 are stored with our online partners, Ingenta, and we are pleased to announce that through this association we have joined the CLOCKSS initiative.

CLOCKSS (*Controlled LOCKSS*) is a not for profit joint venture between the world's leading scholarly publishers and

research libraries whose mission is to build a sustainable, geographically distributed dark archive with which to ensure the long-term survival of Web-based scholarly publications for the benefit of the greater global research community.

CLOCKSS is for the entire world's benefit. Content no longer available from any publisher is available for free. CLOCKSS uniquely assigns this abandoned and orphaned content with a creative commons license to ensure it remains available, forever. For more information visit [www.clockss.org/clockss/Home](http://www.clockss.org/clockss/Home)

## CFA welcomes Ecopush as a new member



Ecopush are very pleased to have recently become members of the Commonwealth Forestry Commission and look forward to engaging with the CFA in support of its objectives.

Ecopush was founded within a climate of ever increasing governmental regulatory-driven policies that are designed to combat climate change, deemed as one of the greatest political, economic and social challenges of the 21st century. Sustainable development, climate change and poverty reduction are key issues for governments, businesses and communities throughout the world. A healthy environment fosters development and supports the growth of global, regional and local economies and communities alike. As a company, we are highly dependent upon sustainable economies and stable functioning political and social communities in order to survive and progress. We play a constructive role towards our responsibility for environmental and social stewardship, and are highly committed to leveraging our people's knowledge, expertise, capital and ideas in order to further drive real quantifiable and effective market-based solutions that contribute towards addressing critical environmental, economic and social issues.

We understand that forest products are essentially ancient commodities, and in some shape or form, will always be in demand. With this in mind, our objective has to be focused upon making sure that all forestry ventures are approached in a sustainable manner, whilst ensuring that local populations can benefit from its resources, and are not compromised by excessive export demands. Ecopush provides financial and modernised cutting edge technological backing in our

promotion and practice of sustainably managed timber operations within developing countries. Through facilitating greater sophisticated practices of timber management within less developed regions, Ecopush supports sustainable timber processing management strategies that preserves the health of forests. Our adoption of modern management practices assists in guarding against the many wood diseases that timber forests are susceptible to, along with aiding the productivity of greater levels of efficiency. Our role within timber management also assists in regulating the balance between meeting present and future demands whilst not compromising the natural timber supply to meet the needs of future generations. This in turn develops a truly sustainable timber economy that local communities can work with for generations to come, whilst satisfying a stable balance between the general market forces of supply and demand.

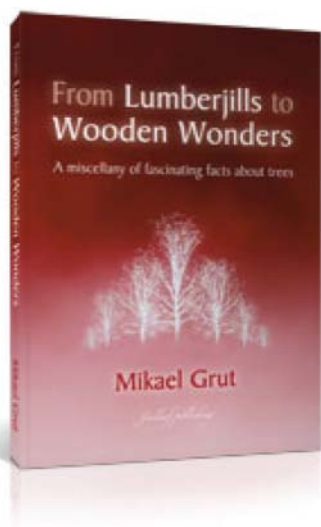
Ecopush are currently involved in the promotion of a sustainably managed timber operation in Guyana. We have teamed up with local Guyanese governmental forestry operatives within the Linden region, and have put together an investment structure to encourage external private financing that yields a solid 15% fixed return. If you would like some more information, you are welcome to download a free copy of our report by visiting: [http://www.ecopush.com/sustainable\\_timber\\_investment/](http://www.ecopush.com/sustainable_timber_investment/)

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## Do you know any fascinating facts about trees?



Following the review of Mikael Grut's book *From Lumberjills to Wooden Wonders* in the previous issue of the CFA Newsletter the author has invited members to submit their fascinating facts about trees to his website [woodenwonders.info/blog/](http://woodenwonders.info/blog/)

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## Forest Scenes

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### Findings of the UK Independent Panel on Forestry



*Charles Lacey (woodland owner), 2nd left, talking to Panel members Sir Harry Studholme and John Varley (Photo IPF).*

Fifteen months after the UK's Environment Secretary announced the formation of an expert panel to give advice on the future of forestry in England, the Panel produced its report in July. The brief was to look not only at the public forest estate but at the management of all woodland, the creation of new woodland and policies to encourage both. No small task and one that involved many hours of debate and reporting.

Given the strength of public feeling regarding the public estate it is no surprise that the Panel spent considerable time looking at the best way to ensure that the benefits of the current estate are managed for future generations. The Panel's proposals to retain the estate in public ownership with a new Charter to define the public benefit duties and an evolved Forest Enterprise to manage it should enable more independent and focussed management. It is important to note that the Panel recommended that the forest management body should be able to buy and sell

land to achieve its objectives, much as Forestry Commission Scotland currently does with its repositioning strategy.

But in my mind the much larger task of the Panel was to call for a transformational change of culture around wood and woodlands, and their usefulness to society (and government). This will be our biggest challenge – to turn around a huge groundswell of feeling into knowledge of forests and forest management. As foresters we know well the benefits that trees and woodlands provide but how do we ensure that these are incorporated into the various and often conflicting government reports that drive policy on job creation, rural regeneration, flood management, climate change, skills delivery, planning, conservation and protection? How do we turn society's great love of trees into knowledge?

This is not an easy task as over the past few generations we have lost our collective knowledge of woodland management. As a nation we have become urbanised and it is no surprise that those who represent us in government and their advisors have little understanding or rural expertise. This has been addressed in a small way by the Panel's work as civil servants, NGO's and politicians have learnt a considerable amount about forestry during this process. One of our recommendations was to move away from political cycles determining forestry policy which in the lifetime of a tree, makes no sense whatsoever to those managing them.

We need to value the products that forests give us to value them in themselves and the best way to do this, in my mind, is to get more woodlands into management. The Panel set clear targets on this front.

There is considerable scope for increased community involvement in both creating and managing forests and perhaps this is the way forward in changing the culture that we seek.

This is the opportunity for a 'big society' response and it will be up to the government to respond positively to the Panel's recommendations so communities with strong bonds to the nation's forests have a hand in managing them.

It also recommended that we have a champion for forestry through an evolved Forest Services. We need a clear voice driving change so forestry is incorporated in economic, environmental and social policies where it can deliver. But it's unlikely that one small government organisation can bring about this change by itself – it will require all professional foresters to help deliver this change. Many are already working to motivate woodland owners to do things differently and to create new woodland owners but this will require investment and new ways of working. The Panel did not have the time or the means to explore how this is done; what it did was set out the direction that it believes government needs to take to ensure that our woodlands are there in the future, providing all the benefits we want from them. It's up to us now, as both foresters and those who value forests, to make sure government listens and to use our collective experience to make it work.

The difficulty remains one of finance. The UK economy is suffering from the current recession as is every other country in Europe and while all agree that our forests provide exceptional

value for money to society, is society prepared to pay for them?

The Right Reverend Bishop James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool, who chaired the Independent Panel, puts it best when he says:

“Our forests and woods are nature's playground for the adventurous, museum for the curious, hospital for the stressed, cathedral for the spiritual, a livelihood for the entrepreneur, and a microcosm of the cycle of life in which each and every part is dependent on the other; forests and woods are the benefactor of all, purifying the air that we breathe and distilling the water of life.

In short, trees are for life.”

Let's hope the government respond in the same vein. The Government is expected to make a response to the Panel's report in January 2013. IPF report can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/reports/>

**Shireen Chambers FICFor**

Executive Director UK Institute of Chartered Foresters and  
Independent Panel member

## News from Guyana

**F**orestry news for Guyana continues to reflect the almost total disregard of the Government for national policies which have been approved by the National Assembly (parliament), and the Government continues its selective application of laws and procedures. The national forest service – the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) – has complained to holders of logging concessions about the low productivity per hectare and the continued focus on the most saleable timbers from the natural tropical rainforest. But the GFC does nothing to curtail the continued export of these same species to Asia (mainly China and India) as unprocessed logs, contrary to all national policies. During August 2012, a single ship carried over 6000 m<sup>3</sup> of such logs for Café Coffee Day, a coffee bar and retail chain based in Bengaluru, India, which is interested in becoming the 'IKEA of India'. This was in spite of a commitment by the owner to process the logs in Guyana, a commitment made at the time of the illegal takeover of a long-established concession in Guyana in 2009. That log shipment was worth about US\$ 1.5 million FOB and the resulting café furniture will be worth 10 or 20 times as much. see <http://www.redd-monitor.org/2012/05/16/through-a-glass-darkly-six-articles-by-janette-bulkan-about-vaitarna-holdings-operations-in-guyana/>.

The GFC has failed to engage with the procurement officers in other parts of Government which continue to over-specify the same timbers when lesser known but still technically adequate timbers would serve for construction work. Guyana has had timbers tested and their properties documented in well known laboratories since the 1920s, and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has funded the most recent duplicative timber tests, yet the GFC has not communicated the results in formats which are meaningful to the urban lumber

yards, construction firms, or building contractors. Guyana has had a building code, with a chapter on tropical timbers, since 1999 but it is an expensive and perhaps little-known document not advertised by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards.

Holders of logging concessions have in turn complained to the GFC that logging equipment is wearing out. Concession for duty-free imports of equipment are agreed by the Government's investment support agency GO-Invest but then countermanded by the head of the Guyana Revenue Authority if the applicant is not a politically favoured person.

Rainforest Alliance (RA) was commissioned by the Government of Norway for the second time to evaluate action on the progress indicators ('enablers') prescribed in the revised Joint Concept Note (March 2011) to the Norway-Guyana Memorandum of Understanding of November 2009. A main feature of this MoU was improvement in forest governance. The brief evaluation mission took place during July with input from stakeholders accepted until mid-August 2012. RA has not responded to requests for information about the status of this evaluation report, and no information about the mission was disseminated in the Press in Guyana.

The former President of Guyana (Bharrat Jagdeo) has continued to complain about the slow release of money from the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund, where Norway has deposited US\$ 70 million of grant aid money pending acceptable project proposals from the Government of Guyana. UNDP is the 'partner entity' for the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (indigenous peoples) in respect of the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF). That fund used to be a charge on the central government finance – the Consolidated Fund – but in the national budget for 2012 the ADF was shifted to dependence on Norway's donation.

There were about 100 stakeholder comments on UNDP's project concept note for the ADF in early 2012 but no public response by UNDP to those comments. The full proposal for the ADF has been circulated to 'affected stakeholders' – the Amerindian communities and their representative bodies – but not to the other people who offered comments. UNDP has said that a final version will be posted on a website for information only. In other words, UNDP Guyana appears to be copying the Government of Guyana in restricting flows of information. And there

are indications that a release of 15 per cent of the ADF funds from Norway as part of the full proposal stage will be directed only to villages which voted for the ruling political party in November 2011. It is difficult to see how this approach by UNDP and the acquiescence by Norway represent a model of improved governance, to which Norway claims to be striving.

**Janette Bulkan**  
CFA Governing Council

## Zambian Government targets K12 billion tree nurseries



*Tree nurseries will be central to encouraging tree planting in Zambia.*

**G**overnment plans to establish 11 large-scale tree nurseries in all the provinces and a forestry research centre in Kitwe at a cost of K12 billion in a bid to address deforestation.

Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Wylbur Simuusa says government intends to raise 17.5 million tree seedlings in the large-scale forest nurseries.

Mr Simuusa said in a ministerial statement in Parliament recently that about 5,000 local people will be employed during the planting of the seedlings.

He said an outgrower scheme to produce eight million seedlings valued at K1 billion will be developed while traditional leaders, schools, health facilities and the church among other community-based institutions will be involved in the tree planting exercise.

The minister said government is aware about the current high rate of deforestation and environmental degradation, which can lead to desertification if left unchecked.

Mr Simuusa said the effects of deforestation are being witnessed in certain parts of the country like Mweru wa Ntipa in Kaputa and other parts of Northern, Central, Southern and Western provinces.

"A well managed forest resource is vital for the maintenance of the ecosystem, which we so much depend on," Mr Simuusa said. He said the amount of water discharge from the source of the Zambezi River has drastically reduced due to human activity on the environment.

Mr Simuusa said the reduction in the water levels threatens the future of socio-economic development in the Southern African Development Community region. "Forests are being indiscriminately cleared to pave way for unsustainable poor agricultural methods of farming and charcoal production, with very little consideration of the negative consequences on the environment," he said.

Mr Simuusa said the planting of trees has potential to turn around Zambia's economy hence the need for people to take keen interest in the programme. He said each district will plant a nursery of two to three hectares and 1,550 tonnes of soil will be collected for the exercise. The minister said 452 workers will be engaged per province and at forestry research centres. Mr Simuusa cited Pinus for timber, Eucalyptus for poles, Faldreherbia Albida for animal fodder and nitrogen fixation and Moringa Oleifera for medical purposes as the trees which will be planted.

He said others are fruit trees including the Guava, Lemon, Pawpaw, Pomegranade, Mango and Avocado, which have great food value. Mr Simuusa said forests are renewable natural resources which, with prudent management, can sustain Zambia's economy by providing forest goods, employment opportunities and a balanced eco-system. He said once the tree planting programme is rolled out, it will create 200,000 jobs.

**Victor Kawanga**  
CFA Governing Council

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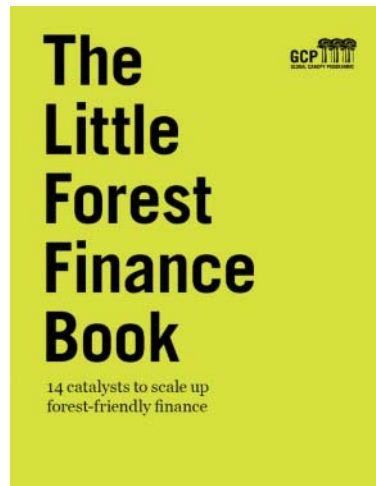
# Publications

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## The Little Forest Finance Book

### Global Canopy Programme

**T**he Little Forest Finance Book's overarching aim is to catalyse an increase in the finance flowing towards forest-friendly development. The book is a reference for decision makers and project stakeholders within governments, NGOs, the private sector, and forest communities who want to understand where forest finance can be raised, how it can best be managed, and the types of activities that it enables.



It seeks to demystify the forest finance landscape, and presents a clear framework of realistic and widely applicable options for decision makers to catalyse further action and debate in this field. As a non-partisan analysis, the Little Forest Finance Book does not favour one proposal over another. We do hope, however, that our work will aid understanding and encourage collaborative dialogue on this vitally important area of research.

Download at [www.globalcanopy.org/projects/little-book-series](http://www.globalcanopy.org/projects/little-book-series)

## Sustainable Community Forest Management: A Practical Guide to FSC Group Certification for Smallholder Agroforests

### The Forest Trust

**W**ith an estimated 558 million people managing 1 billion hectares of agroforests worldwide, TFT's new guide to working with smallholder agroforestry managers is aimed at empowering communities to successfully launch sustainable forest businesses.

Simply written, with multiple illustration and graphics, the handbook is a comprehensive guide for non-profits, businesses, government agencies and community organizations who want to develop a FSC group certificate for smallholder agroforests. The handbook includes:

- step-by-step guidance for many of the most common challenges smallholders face in developing a wood business and becoming certified
- case studies, templates and simple tools and techniques that will be useful for readers who are just beginning a community agroforestry program, or are in the early stages of development
- key questions to ask, and best practices for building long-term community agroforestry program



- explanations of common technical forestry terms and easy to understand examples
- appendices with sample documents and links to additional resources on the web

Based on TFT experts' seven years of experience working on the ground with smallholder agroforestry communities in Southeast Asia, the authors present their approach and recommendations on how to develop programs that are based on collaboration and active participation of local communities and partners.

Comprehensive, pragmatic, realistic, and in an easy-to-use format, the Community Forest Handbook addresses what group managers need to know. While the handbook aims to provide all of the tools for a smallholder group to become FSC certified, it also highlights how smallholder agroforestry farmers can join together to develop viable forestry businesses.

You can download the full Community Forest Management handbook at [http://clients.squareeye.net/uploads/tft/TFT\\_Community\\_Forest\\_Handbook.pdf](http://clients.squareeye.net/uploads/tft/TFT_Community_Forest_Handbook.pdf)



# State of the Forest Carbon Markets 2012 Report

## Forest Trends

The price of forest carbon credits nearly doubled in 2011, leading to a record market value of \$237 million as more country programs embraced mechanisms that use carbon finance to plant or



replenish endangered forests, according to the new report *Leveraging the Landscape: State of the Forest Carbon Markets 2012* (download at [www.forest-trends.org/publication\\_details.php?publicationID=3242](http://www.forest-trends.org/publication_details.php?publicationID=3242)) which aggregates data from 451 individual forest carbon projects around the world, historically.

## International Forestry Review papers discussed on RECOFTC's blog

RECOFTC, The Center for People and Forests, is an international organization with a vision of local communities actively managing forests in Asia and the Pacific to ensure optimal social, economic, and environmental benefits (see [www.recoftc.org](http://www.recoftc.org)). Academic research is of significant value to RECOFTC's work and they are trying to increase connections with the academic world, as well as, and more importantly, introduce their constituency to papers that they see as relevant, growing and enhancing the dialogue between academics and, for example, CF practitioners, policy makers, and donors.

One tool for this is the RECOFTC blog. RECOFTC, in consultation with the Editor of IFR, is inviting the author(s) of a relevant paper published in IFR to write a blog. The paper would be related to community forestry (e.g. markets and livelihoods, conflict management) and they envisage that this would take place a couple of times a year.

Coverage of an IFR paper on RECOFTC's blog would help to increase the audience of the paper, as well as the IFR. It is often highlighted that academics have problems making the crossover to non-academics with their papers, and the RECOFTC blog could help facilitate this.

Recently RECOFTC posted a blog on one of the papers published in IFR: "Democratic less-developed countries cause global deforestation" (see <http://recoftc.wordpress.com/2012/10/03/is-democracy-good-or-bad-for-forests/#comments>). The blog has already started a good level of discussion internally as well as among our constituents.

The RECOFTC blog is a platform for experts and leaders from all organizations in the social forestry sector to voice their ideas, publicize their recent achievements, increase awareness of key issues and new resources, and engage readers in discussion on topics related to community forestry.

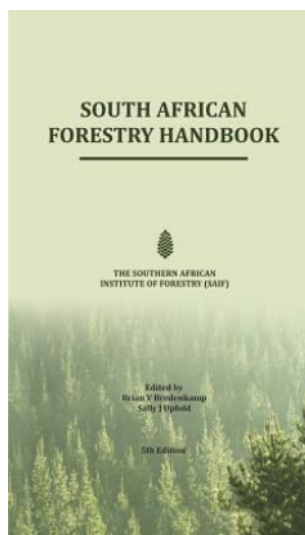
## South African Forestry Handbook

### The South African Institute of Forestry (SAIF)

The Handbook was edited by Brian Bredenkamp and Sally Upfold. The contents include an introduction by Michael Edwards and a brief history of the South African forest industry written by Willie Louw.

The subsequent sections focus on:

- Silviculture of plantations
- Forest management
- Sustainability and risk management
- Forest engineering
- Forest economics



- Non-industrial forests and natural areas
- Timber utilisation and forest products
- Useful information including human resources in the forestry industry

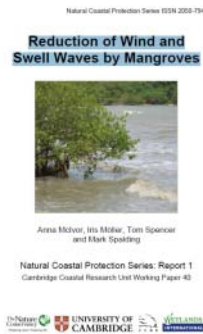
This thoroughly researched Handbook will serve as a hands-on, forestry reference guide to anyone involved in forestry, from senior forestry managers to foresters, in their decision-making.

Download the order form: at [www.saif.org.za/uploads/Forestry%20Handbook/The%20SAIF%20Forestry%20Handbook%20order%20form.pdf](http://www.saif.org.za/uploads/Forestry%20Handbook/The%20SAIF%20Forestry%20Handbook%20order%20form.pdf)

# Reduction of Wind and Swell Waves by Mangroves

The Nature Conservancy and Wetlands International

A new report by The Nature Conservancy and Wetlands International proves that mangrove forests protect coastal populations and infrastructure against wind and swell waves. Preventing damage to coastal

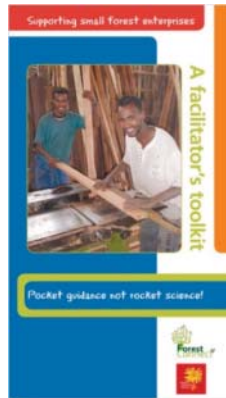


infrastructure and flooding, mangroves reduce wave height by as much as 66% over 100 metres of forest. With coastal populations vulnerable to the impacts of extreme events such as storms and hurricanes, these organisations say mangrove management needs to be included in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts in coastal areas worldwide.

## Recent publications from IIED

**Supporting small forest enterprises – A facilitator’s toolkit. Pocket guidance not rocket science!**

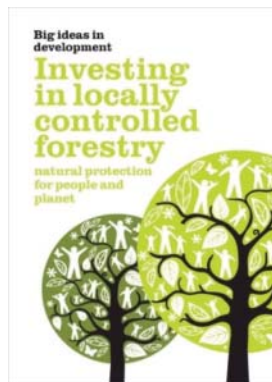
The goal of this toolkit is to help supporters of small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) work more effectively. It is aimed at ‘facilitators’, for example donors at the international level and, most importantly, government



extension services and non-governmental organisations at the national level. Each of the sixteen modules (or tools) provides step-by-step guidance, followed by practical tips based on our personal experiences. We have also included a section pointing the reader to other useful manuals and tools already in existence. At the end of this toolkit is a reference list and a glossary of terms

**Investing in locally controlled forestry: natural protection for people and planet**

As a policy research organisation, the International Institute for Environment and Development has evolved key concepts, theories and ways of working in sustainable development since 1973. The big idea we explore here is investing in locally controlled forestry.



This approach rests on the fact that people living in or near forests – families, communities and indigenous peoples – have significant interest in ensuring the sustainability of the forest resources on which they depend. By supporting these communities’ long-term stewardship of forested land, we can tackle two urgent global issues — forest loss and insecure livelihoods — together.

**His REDD+, her REDD+: how integrating gender can improve readiness**

To change the ways people use forested land, we need to ask questions about the roles of men, women and children. Nearly fifty countries have begun preparing for readiness to reduce emissions from land use and land use changes under the UN-REDD and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility processes. Because gender disparities profoundly shape agriculture and other land use, REDD+ readiness



plans should not only avoid harming women and other marginalised groups, but actively seek to address their needs and harness their strengths. Different genders and generations play different roles in value chains for products that use — or conserve — forest resources. Analysing these value chains provides the data to improve interventions. But planners also need to consider gender differences in control of resources, knowledge, decision-making structures and distribution of benefits.

**Beyond rhetoric: South-South collaboration for REDD+**

Global debates about reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and promoting conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) emphasise the need for strategies to build on



existing knowledge. This briefing describes an example of South-South collaboration in which IIED has helped facilitate a Mozambique-Brazil partnership to share expertise and create a unique REDD+ working group. The initiative provides key lessons for other countries contemplating South-South collaboration on REDD+, including the need for charismatic champions, continuity in government representation and integration across sectors.

**Deep REDD+: lessons from a South-South-North collaboration**

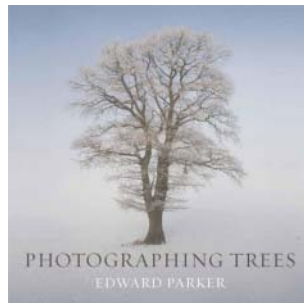


In a knowledge-sharing initiative on REDD+, Brazil and Mozambique joined forces to learn about fighting deforestation and forest degradation. This Reflect & Act looks at the key lessons learnt from the exchange.

## Photographing Trees

**Edward Parker, Kew**

So you think you know all there is to know about photographing trees? Well this book might make you think again. Written by top natural history photographer Edward Parker it covers the subject of



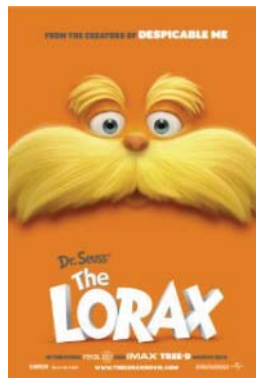
tree photography from every angle, both literally and figuratively. Parker's experience coupled with examples of his work provide guidance for photographers of all levels and budgets. Whether you have the simplest point-and-shoot camera or one with all of the bells and whistles this book will undoubtedly help you get that perfect shot.

## The Lorax

**Universal Pictures**

The Lorax is a 2012 American computer-animated 3D musical comedy film based on Dr. Seuss' children's book of the same name. It chronicles the plight of the environment and the Lorax, who speaks for the trees against the greedy Once-ler.

Through the *Discover the Forest* campaign, the U.S. Forest Service has partnered with the Ad



Council and Universal Pictures to launch a series of public service advertisements (PSAs) and educational materials featuring characters from the animated adventure *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*. The PSAs and the educational materials aim to encourage parents, caregivers and their kids to go out to the forest to experience and reconnect with nature. You can find out more about the *Discover the Forest* campaign at [www.discovertheforest.org/lorax](http://www.discovertheforest.org/lorax)

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# Review

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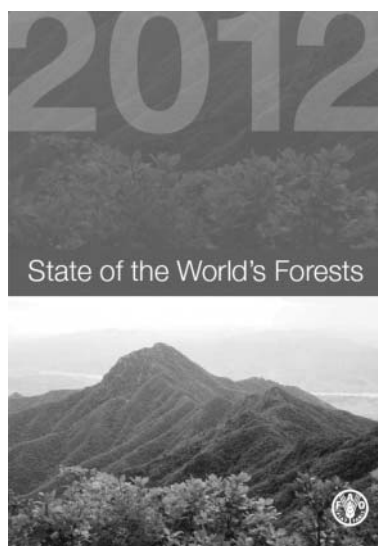
## State of the World's Forests 2012

FAO

At its recent Committee on Forestry (COFO) the Forestry Department of FAO presented its latest report on the State of the World's Forests (SOFO). The aim of SOFO is to report on progress towards sustainable forest management and to analyse major economic trends, focusing on the major role that forests play in the global economy and environment. This latest version, well presented as always, has been considerably slimmed-down by omitting the annexes usually included – on forest areas, production and trade in forest products and other parameters. On-line it is no loss, but in the hard copy I must say it was useful to have all the information together in once place!

The first chapter reviews the key issues and events which have been covered in the ten issues of SOFO up until now, and this interested me personally, given my own involvement in SOFO since its first edition in 1995. At that time the stark divisions between the countries of the world regarding an international forestry convention, and between NGOs and many countries over national forest policies and actions, had been revealed in the run up to Rio in 1992, but had begun to change from confrontation to dialogue with the appointment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF). The recurrent editions of SOFO have reported on the 5-yearly Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA), with that of 1997 including trends not only in deforestation but in forest management and utilization as well while the issue of 2001 contrasted the two seemingly opposite trends of localization and globalization in forestry, referring to the decentralization of forestry planning and the expanding global trade in forest products. In 2007 progress towards the realisation of sustainable forest management was reviewed and in 2009 the outlook studies for the regional forestry sectors were analysed, which was continued in 2011.

The theme of this year's edition is the critical role that forests play in production and consumption systems, and as usual this



is explored authoritatively and in depth. The second chapter looks at the history of forests in human times, both the impacts that forests have had on people and, as importantly, the impact of people on the forests. While SOFO reviews the negative impact of people on forests in causing deforestation, it also rightly draws attention to examples of the return of forests when the population has declined – as happened in Europe, for example, after the collapse of the Roman empire and then again in the fourteenth century when bubonic plague led to widespread abandonment of croplands and the return of the forest. Posing the question *Is deforestation inevitable?* the chapter optimistically concludes that it is not, pointing to the slow-down in forest loss that has occurred in recent years and to the

development of the concept of sustainability in forestry.

Developing the concept further in Chapter 3 *Forests, forestry and forest products for a sustainable future*, the authors consider the matter within the context of a world population expected to increase to nine billion by 2050, at which time reliance on fossil fuel will no longer be possible any more than the degradation or depletion of forests will be acceptable. Four broad strategies are proposed for a sustainable forestry future:

- The planting of trees, and investment in ecosystem services;
- The promotion of small- and medium-sized forest enterprises, combined with gender equity
- The increased use of wood for energy, and the re-use and recycling of wood products; and
- Enhanced communications among donors and recipients, and the coordination of development

SOFO 2012 is available in hard copy from the Food and Agriculture Organization (Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma, Italy) or on-line at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3010e/>

**Jim Ball**  
President, CFA

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# Around the World

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## Zimbabwe: Deforestation still rampant

**W**ith the extensive reforestation efforts that have been going on for a while now in Zimbabwe, it boggles the mind as to why the country's forests keep decimating. Most areas that used to be characterised by dense forests are now miserably bare.

In its report on the state of the environment in Zimbabwe in 1997, UNDP reported that deforestation was one of the major environmental problems facing the country. "About 70 000 to 100 000ha of forest cover is estimated to be declining at a rate of 1,5% per year," said the report. After the revelation, the government drafted what it termed National Strategy, which consisted of reforestation, promotion of non-consumptive use of forest resources and increased agro-forestry, among other programmes. This, they said, was meant to encourage sustainable management of forests. But reports say Zimbabwe lost 21% of its forest cover between 1990 and 2005 — a loss of approximately 312 900 hectares on average. From the look of things, the strategy hasn't yielded results. In fact, loss of forest cover has increased rapidly between 2005 and 2012.

There are a number of activities taking place that would help explain why the country continues to lose trees. Because the government has to date still not managed to provide enough electricity to its people, trees continue to be cut to sustain energy needs. Going around the country's highways, bundles of firewood (most of it from indigenous trees) can be seen the whole way. The sale of firewood has become big business in Zimbabwe and will continue to be as long as electricity remains a problem.

There are reports that people who recently invaded Save River Conservancy, are seen frequently transporting truck-loads of cut down (indigenous) trees for sale as firewood in Masvingo. Regrettably, unlike eucalyptus and other fast-growing tree types, indigenous trees take a very long time to reach maturity, between 75 and 150 years on average. The *Brachystegia Spiciformis* tree, locally known as the Musasa (Shona) and Igonda

(isiNdebele) for instance, is slow-growing and takes up to 250 years to fully mature. When indigenous trees are cut down, some of them can be lost forever.

Veld fires, which are turning out to be a persistent problem in the country, have done their fair share of damage to the country's forests. In spite of the heavy fines put in place, offenders seem to always go undetected. It is still unclear why people start forest fires, although in some parts it is believed to be a hunting mechanism to catch mice and other animals for the pot. Last year, the Forestry Commission embarked on a vigorous tree re-planting exercise that meant to see a total of 10 million trees planted countrywide. Although the target was met, it is most likely that the bulk of the newly planted trees have since been wiped out by veld fires.

The most serious threat to what's left of the country's forests seems to be the tobacco farming industry, which is (ironically) being hailed as a huge success, following the land reform programme. The new crop of tobacco farmers, most of whom are still small-scale, insist they cannot yet afford to purchase coal to use in curing their crop.

As a result, they have been cutting down trees to use in the curing process. Furthermore, they mostly target indigenous trees, which burn for longer. On a visit to Makoni district in Manicaland province last year, which is dominantly a tobacco-farming area, I could see large amounts of indigenous trees piled at almost every farm visited.

In an effort to curb the practice, a statutory instrument was drafted that would require each tobacco farmer to have a personal woodlot on his farm, from which he would collect wood for curing the crop. But because the policy has not yet been made mandatory, most farmers have evidently chosen to ignore the initiative. In the meantime, Zimbabwe remains one of the top 10 countries facing deforestation in the world.

[thestandard.co.zw](http://thestandard.co.zw)

## U.K.: London maps trees in 3D

**T**he company BlueSky has recently completed the mapping of all trees in the London, UK area. The project entitled 'ProximiTREE' assessed these trees for both height and tree canopy size.

Using Bluesky's tree map The Ecology Consultancy (TEC) and the Green Roof Consultancy (GRC) have undertaken a Green Infrastructure (GI) Audit on behalf of Hammersmith London Business Improvement District (BID) to assess the quality and extent of existing GI resources and provide recommendations for enhancing urban greenspace. Derived from aerial photography the Bluesky tree map, called ProximiTREE, details the exact location of all trees and includes measurements of tree

height and canopy extent. Forming part of the City wide 'Drain London' project, the work will consider all elements that form the network of natural and semi-natural spaces in the west London district. The long-term aim of the project is to increase the quality and quantity of green space and enable climate change adaptation. The study specifically looked at the contribution of trees to the urban landscape and their vital role in reducing the effects of storm water flooding, providing wildlife habitat and green corridors, minimising the urban heat island phenomena and improving the environment for residents, business and visitors.

[3dvisworld.com](http://3dvisworld.com)

## Australia: Expert calls for no further logging limits

A forest industry expert says there will be major ramifications if the State Government's forest management plan further limits areas which can be logged. Submissions closed last week for the Government's draft forest management plan, which will determine what happens with forests in the state's south from 2014 until 2023. Plantall Forestry consultant David Wettenhall says there is already an excessive amount of forest area that is protected by conservation reserves and there would be no environmental benefit in further restrictions.

He says forests can be protected without being in reserves and the Conservation Commission needs to recognise that in the plan.

"The forests that are available for harvesting actually are very important conservation areas in their own right," he said. "They contribute a lot to the wildlife and flora. The real threat to the ecosystems is when we clear forests, not when we manage them on a sustainable management basis."

Mr Wettenhall says additional limits would severely hurt an already struggling industry. "Western Australia has got over 50 per cent of the forests in formal conservation reserves and

only about 35 per cent of the forests are available for logging," he said. "A lot less than half of our forests are available for logging so the balance of them are effectively conservation reserves."

But, conservationists say WA could be cashing in on carbon credits from next year if it bans the logging of native forests in the South West. Last week, the Commonwealth Government announced Australia would sign up to the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol. The decision means Australia will be able to trade in carbon credits generated by the protection of forests that would otherwise be logged.

The Conservation Council's Piers Verstegen says that is good news for the South West. "The logging industry is clear felling and wood chipping giant 600 year old Karri trees in our South West for next to no economic return," he said. "But the decision to allow forest carbon credits means the forest will be worth much more economically if we protect them from logging and instead manage them to preserve their capacity to take carbon pollution out of the atmosphere."

abc.net.au

## Canada: Forest sector requests ongoing support for industry on the move

The Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) is asking the federal government to use Budget 2013 to continue to build on the existing momentum of innovation and transformation in the job-rich forest sector. This should include replenishment of the successful Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT) program.

The original \$100 million IFIT program generated 107 applications and was over-subscribed by a factor of five, demonstrating the significant appetite by the Canadian forestry sector to develop and commercialize new innovative technologies in the areas of bio-energy, bio-chemicals, and new solid wood projects. About a third of these project applications were for world-first innovations. By investing \$300 million over the next three years in IFIT, the government will continue to support the ambitious Vision2020 agenda of the Canadian forest sector.

"We know the government is facing an era of fiscal restraint," says the president and CEO of FPAC, David Lindsay. "However by continuing to demonstrate support for our transformation agenda the government will maximize the return on its significant investment in industry transformation to date, help the Canadian sector lead the world in innovative products and unleash the potential of Canada's vast forest resource."

FPAC is also asking the government to improve innovation, productivity, and competitiveness by:

- Using the purchasing power of Public Works and Government Services Canada to kick start demand for existing and emerging forest products – from building materials to biofuels to pharmaceuticals – all products

that have graduated from the innovation development process.

- Taking action to increase the number of skilled tradespeople, particularly through immigration reform and efforts to engage Aboriginals and women in non-traditional roles. This will help the forest products sector reach its goal of recruiting 60,000 new employees by 2020.
- Permanently extending the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance provisions for manufacturing equipment to help attract capital and encourage first-of-kind commercial applications of technology.
- Broadening access to the Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit program.
- Continuing to adequately fund Canada's research agencies such as FPInnovations.
- Taking action to fix a monopolistic rail system that is resulting in high rates and poor service and impacting our ability to be competitive and service emerging markets.

"We truly appreciate how the government has been there to help Canadian forest companies develop a dynamic future-oriented industry that is creating jobs and supporting rural communities," says Lindsay. "We need continuing smart and strategic support so the sector can reach the ambitious goals of our Vision2020 and become a world leader in supplying new innovative products to global markets."

forestindustry.com

## Cameroon: Stop oil palm plantations from destroying africa's ancient rainforests and local livelihoods

In the southwest region of Cameroon, a New York-based agri-corporation, Herakles Farms and a US non-profit organization All for Africa are involved in a land deal that is about to destroy over 70,000 hectares (300 square miles) of rainforest and the livelihoods of thousands of rural Cameroonians. If the project goes forward, farmland and forest will be replaced by a giant palm oil plantation.

The concession concerns the homelands of the Oroko, Bakossi, and Upper Bayang peoples in the Ndian, Kupé-Manengouba, and Manyu divisions of Cameroon. This plantation will have major impacts on up to 45,000 Indigenous Peoples in 88 villages who are dependent on the forest for their livelihoods. The giant plantation will also fragment and isolate the region's protected areas, including Korup National Park, Bakossi National Park, Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, Nta Ali Forest Reserve, and Rumpi Hills Forest Reserve.

Herakles has moved forward despite widespread opposition to the project. Protests against Herakles Farms have erupted in several areas. Petitions and letters from local villagers and local

leadership, representing thousands of individuals, have decried the activities of Herakles Farms. Locals cite an alarming lack of transparency, their lack of consent, the illegal demarcation and clearing of land and the biological, economic, and cultural importance of the area as reasons for opposing the project. A recent film and report from the Oakland Institute provide additional evidence of this widespread opposition. Despite this evidence, Herakles Farms maintains their stance that the project enjoys an "outpouring of support from communities."

There are known and affordable alternatives to this industrial project if one wants to really promote sustainable agriculture and human development in the area. In the three Herakles Farms' nurseries, thousands of seedlings are ready to be planted. If the company truly wants to promote sustainable agriculture, it must hand over these seedlings to the local farmers and allow them to grow palm in a sustainable way, which should rely on diversified and environment friendly agricultural production.

[culturalsurvival.org](http://culturalsurvival.org)

## Europe: EU trade agreements "might finally tame the destroyers of the world's forests"

Trade agreements founded in concerns for justice and poverty could become a 'revolution in the rainforest', according to a report released at a high-level European Parliament conference on forest in October. The report, 'Forest Stands', by award winning journalist Fred Pearce looks at the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme and specifically the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between the EU and timber producing countries. It calls VPAs a 'template for ensuring civil society engagement and changing the balance of power'.

The high-level event "Guardians of the Forest?" was hosted by MEPs Yannick Jadot and Fiona Hall with EU Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs delivering the keynote speech. Its timing was important with just six months to go before the March 2013 implementation of the EU Timber Regulation which will make it an offence to place illegal timber on the EU market.

Commissioner Piebalgs said, 'Illegal logging has a devastating impact on some of the world's most valuable remaining forests and on the people who live in and from these forests. The EU is one of the biggest global markets for timber products and as such we are both part of the problem and the solution. This is why the EU has taken the lead in the global fight against illegal logging and especially illegal timber imports into Europe.'

FLEGT VPAs are legally binding bilateral timber trade agreements between timber producing countries and the EU. They are supposed to be negotiated with the full involvement of interest groups including civil society and the timber industry. The conference brings together representatives from 12 countries with direct experience of negotiating VPAs. Liberia's Matthieu Thee Walley has said 'The VPA has played a key role in strengthening the voice of communities and NGOs in national level decision making. If other processes like REDD and other sectors (palm oil) would have used similar consultative process the situation in Liberia would be better than it is now.'

Although FLEGT has been in process for 10 years, it is still early days for the initiative. Many commentators, including FERN, are concerned that the initial governance improvements will be undermined if the EU Timber Regulation is not adequately enforced once it is enacted. Saskia Ozinga, Campaigns Coordinator for FERN, said today, 'Good forest governance is vital for any sustainable solution to illegal logging. The EU has played a key role in improving forest governance through FLEGT, but these gains are fragile and there is still much to do. It is vital that EU Member States renew their enthusiasm for FLEGT.'

[fern.org](http://fern.org)

## Europe: European Commission capitulates to pressure from NGOs to impose stricter rules on biofuels

**T**he European Commission recently announced a proposal to limit the use of crop-based biofuels to 5% and additionally introduced the requirement to report the Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) effects of biofuels. This is despite a consensus from international scientists, academics, agriculturalists, and businesses, that ILUC is not a scientifically established principle, and is almost impossible to accurately calculate.

A seminal report by Copenhagen Economics notes that there are significant limitations to the ability of ILUC to reflect the detailed dynamics of agricultural systems. The dangers of taking decisions using areas where the science is incomplete, are extremely serious.

The Commission's two measures follow weeks of intense pressure and lobbying activity from environmental and

developmental NGOs. The former have mistakenly accused the EU's biofuels policy of driving deforestation while the latter have made sweeping generalizations and claimed that the use of all food crops to create biofuels was the cause of rising world food prices.

Limits on all crop-based biofuels are unnecessary and will not resolve the issue of rising food prices, while the introduction of ILUC factors – even if for 'purely reporting purposes' – will add significant burden to industries who will now be forced to calculate these hypothetical values on the basis of faulty science. The Commission should not give in to NGO pressure and must stop formulating policy on the grounds of science that is not sufficiently advanced to justify building policy around it.

[disarmingthegreens.it](http://disarmingthegreens.it)

## India: Gaining from rain - precipitation is an indicator of tropical forest biodiversity

**P**olicymakers seeking to conserve forests in southern India should focus on those receiving the highest levels of rainfall, according to new research. Scientists from the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) found rainfall to be the most important environmental determinant of species richness in the Anamalai region of the southern Western Ghats.

The Western Ghats comprise just six percent of the Indian landmass yet contain almost a third of all plant and vertebrate species found countrywide. This includes 1,500 endemic flowering plants. While regarded as one of the "Hottest Hotspots" of biodiversity in the Old World tropics, the Western Ghats teeter on the brink of ecological collapse. Between 1920 and 1990 forest cover declined by more than a third, resulting in more numerous and smaller forest patches. Scenarios generated by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also predict that India could experience warmer temperatures and less predictable rainfall as a result of climate change, particularly if the summer monsoon becomes shorter and more intense. The wet, rich and biodiverse forests are exactly those most at risk from the effects of more prolonged drought and human pressures.

"While we cannot control rainfall itself, what we can do is conserve those landscapes that have high rainfall," said Shijo Joseph from the Center for International Forestry Research, the lead author of the study. With forests vanishing, the recommendations from this research could be particularly timely as policymakers struggle to assign limited budgetary resources to maximize conservation returns.

"We need to know what key environmental drivers are acting on the region to help prioritize land for conservation," added Joseph.

When researching the structure and composition of Anamalai forests, scientists found that rainfall was the primary factor influencing tropical forest diversity. An increase in annual rainfall from 400 millimeters (mm) in thorny scrub regions to 4,500 mm in rainforests resulted in a threefold increase in species richness.

Though this generalization is applicable to the Western Ghats, it may not hold true for all the Old World tropics. In tropical Asia, for example, high rainfall areas such as Mt. Cherapunji, Assam, are characterized by relatively low plant species richness. And in tropical Africa, two high rainfall sites (over 5,000 mm/year) in southwestern Cameroon had only marginally more species than sites from northeastern Gabon that receive less than 2,000 mm of annual rainfall.

Still, in the context of climate change, focusing only on those areas that are currently rich in biodiversity could also be incredibly short-sighted. A study last year of European protected areas suggests that by 2080 climate perturbations could lead to new environmental conditions that are no longer suitable for more than half of vertebrate and plant species in the parks.

"Here come the need to preserve contiguous land areas of varying environmental gradients to ensure species corridors are kept open to combat climate change," Joseph said.

The findings from the present study may allow limited conservation resources to be channeled into areas with the richest set of species. The crucial role of rain cannot be understated, according to scientists.

Instead of trying to influence precipitation, we can instead try to follow what nature is providing," Joseph concluded.

[mongabay.com](http://mongabay.com)



# Indonesia: Banks and funds put on notice on Sumatra pulp mill investment risk

**B**anks and other financial institutions have been asked for assurances they will not provide investment support to Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) plans for additional pulping capacity in already massively deforested Sumatra.

A letter to financial institutions, signed by 60 environmental and social non-governmental organisations, highlights that APP's record on keeping promises to investors is as bad as its record on keeping to a series of commitments to abandon its assault on native forests housing critically endangered Sumatran tigers and elephants.

"We believe that potential investors should be as concerned with APP's practices as the major companies no longer buying paper and packaging materials from the company," said WWF International Forest Programme director Rod Taylor.

"If potential reputational risk is not enough, alarm bells should ring over the company's default on nearly \$US14 billion of debt in 2001 and the company's current conduct in US courts over meeting obligations to some of its former investors."

APP's new mill would produce between 1.5 and 2.0 million tonnes per year of bleached hardwood pulp, making it the

largest single pulp line in the world. Respected Sumatra NGO coalition Eyes on the Forest has estimated that APP and supplier companies have already pulped more than two million hectares of natural rainforests in Riau province Sumatra alone.

The letter highlights APP's failures to honor environmental covenants given during restructuring of some of its debt and to the continuing loss of major customers (such as Disney, Hasbro, Mattel, Unilever, Nestle, Danone, Xerox, Mondi) as a result of concerns about its deforestation practices, community conflict and business and reputational risks to buyers.

"Indonesia is a potentially promising place to conduct investment in pulp and paper, with its humid climate and year-long sunlight which enables pulp wood to mature much quicker compared to subtropical countries, unfortunately this is being brought into disrepute by the destructive practises of APP which continues to rely on natural forest clearing for its pulp supply," said WWF Indonesia's Conservation Director, Nazir Foead.

**WWF**

## Global: Forest conservation is key to food security

**O**ver 1 billion people worldwide depend on forests to sustain their livelihood, and billions more depend on forests to provide them with clean air and water.

In addition, it has been noted that forests are home to an estimated 80 percent of a diversity of plants and animals. But over the years many forests have been subject to destruction and degradation. However, some scientists are devoting their lives to conserving and rebuilding these precious life sources.

Terry Sunderland is one such scientist. He is a senior researcher with the Center for International Forestry Research, CIFOR, based in Bogor, Indonesia. He has spent many years in central Africa, and is an expert on the continent's dry forests, biodiversity and food security.

He said one of the challenges of forest conservation in the past has been either just focusing on forest conservation. or just concentrating on protecting the livelihoods of those who depend on forests.

"One thing we are doing at CIFOR is looking at conservation and development and people's livelihoods as a single thing, if you like, and integrating conservation on a landscape scale," explained Sunderland.

He said a big challenge to the integration process is that it involves multiple scales of involvement.

"It's all very well in approaching local people, and talking to them about how they conserve and manage their environment. Then you have the government over-lapping claims on a particular landscape, and we have regional claims on a particular landscape, and you have multi-national claims on a particular landscape. It's like peeling back an onion," said Sunderland.

Sunderland, who spent many years in central Africa, said he found that small-scale farmers in Africa do take measures to protect their land from degradation.

"Small-scale farmers do tend to practice what we consider very low impact agriculture. It is the larger expansion of agriculture crops, in particular palm oil, biofuel, which are the main contributors to deforestation and land degradation," said Sunderland, who added people become more vested in their land if they have tenure. "Tenure is the fundamental contributor to what people do on the land. If you have access rights, the long term result is you will invest in protecting it. If you don't, then people would tend to invest in more destructive practices."

Sunderland said biodiversity contributes to food security on many levels.

"We are now dependent on only 20 crops for our food security. At any one time, it is estimated that over 2,000 crop species contribute towards human food security, and 95 percent of food consumed is based on only 20 of those. A few of those—rice, wheat, and maize—contribute to more than 50 percent of global food consumption," explained Sunderland.

By narrowing our genetic base in terms of food, said Sunderland, we are exposing ourselves to enormous risks, particularly with climate change. He said widening our bio-resources not only provides nutritional benefits to humans but also provides more resilience to the dramatic effects of climate change.

**voanews.com**

## Global: UN announces Forest Heroes Award winners

The UN's social media team has compiled videos featuring the work of each winner of the first Forest Heroes Award, issued by the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Awards were issued to one winner in each region, in addition to a special award for Jose Claudio Ribeiro and Maria do Espirito Santo of Brazil, who were murdered after working to halt illegal logging in the Amazon.

With the International Forest Heroes Programme and Awards, the UNFF Secretariat seeks to honor people working in "quiet and heroic ways" to sustain, protect and manage forests.

UNFF received 90 nominations from 41 countries in all five geographic regions, and selected 15 finalists, whose actions embody innovative and grassroots initiatives, "tapping into the multiple values of forests," UNFF notes.

The winners include Paul Nzegha Mzeka from Cameroon for promoting bee farming, watershed protection and the conservation of community forests. Anatoly Lebedev from Russia won the Europe award for his work against illegal logging and promotion of the rights of indigenous communities and conservation of Siberian tigers. Shigeatsu Hatakeyama from Japan won an award for tree planting for the delivery of ecosystem services, while the North America award was shared by Rhiannon Tomtishen and Madison Vorva of the US for raising awareness of the impacts of palm oil production on orangutan. Finally, Paulo Adario of Brazil won the Latin America award for addressing deforestation and promoting the sustainable use of the Amazon forest.

[biodiversity-l.iisd.org](http://biodiversity-l.iisd.org)

## Indonesia's flawed forest investment plan endorsed

A network of Indonesian civil society organizations and indigenous peoples groups wrote to the Forest Investment Program (FIP) sub-committee that met in Istanbul early in November, urging members to prioritize legal reforms in the forestry sector. The sub-committee endorsed the Indonesian Plan while the substantive and process flaws remain intact.

Managed by the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the government-represented sub-committee was asked to address long-standing issues with the Forestry Law, which does not recognize the communal rights of indigenous people over the forests and criminalizes people who live in the forest areas. Indonesian civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations emphasized forest policy change as a major consideration before endorsing. They argued that "without a complete commitment to resolve basic forestry problems, including the Forestry Law, any new program or project will only continue perpetuating problems or the business as usual approach of the government and companies."

The endorsement of the Indonesian Plan entails the allocation of \$70 million grant and concessional loan under FIP financing that will support community forestry and forest carbon management programs. An additional \$105 million financing is also being proposed.

With this greenlight, questions arise if and how fundamental concerns over the participation, legal foundations, standards, policy implications of forest investments, and safeguards under Indonesian FIP would be addressed. Indonesian groups also highlighted compliance issues with the ADB, IFC and World Bank's policies on safeguards, gender and development as well as frameworks for consultations.

The money will soon get out the door but it appears the administering financial institutions and the Forestry Ministry have yet to deal with major forest governance issues, which could have impacts on the implementation and outcomes of the Plan.

[bicusa.org](http://bicusa.org)

## Kenya: U.N. urges action on deforestation

The top United Nations environment official has called on Kenya to act on a roadmap for reversing deforestation in the East African country. "Kenya has already signaled its intent to build up this natural capital as a vibrant and sustainable engine for growth and prosperity," U.N. Environment Program Executive Director Achim Steiner said at the conclusion of a three-day conference at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. "There now exists a unique opportunity to translate this pioneering and commendable intention into implementation.

"The outcomes of this meeting provide an agenda for moving beyond an era when forests were seen as unproductive land that could be turned into something more valuable by cutting down the trees," he said.

Deforestation deprived Kenya's economy of \$68 million in 2010, a UNEP release said Thursday. "Trees continued to be felled due to a multiple and complex reasons, including unregulated charcoal production, livestock grazing and human settlements," UNEP said.

Kenya's new constitution calls for an increase in forest cover to 10 percent, which – coupled with increasing public demand to halt and reverse deforestation – "has the potential to trigger unprecedented investment in the forest sector," the UNEP release said.

[upi.com](http://upi.com)

## Norway fund tightens rules to protect forests

Norway's \$650 billion sovereign wealth fund has started asking companies it invests in to minimize their impact on rainforests, green groups said on Friday, welcoming a shift they hoped would make it rethink some deals. The fund, one of the world's biggest investors, made the changes to its guidelines in September without fanfare. "We hope this will mean Norway stops investing and pulls out of many companies that are damaging rainforests," said Nils Hermann Ranum, spokesman of the Rainforest Foundation Norway.

Environmentalists have in the past accused Norway of investing uncritically in industries that threaten forests, such as palm oil, oil and gas, cattle ranching, logging, pulp and paper and hydropower dams. A central bank official did not comment on the specific accusations but said the fund, which manages the country's surplus oil revenue, had a long-running policy of not investing in companies that damaged the environment.

The fund's guidelines, posted online, said Norway "expects companies to manage risk associated with the causes and impacts of climate change resulting from greenhouse gas emissions and tropical deforestation." The companies had to provide information on the impact of their work on forests over time and how it complied with international standards to protect forests, according to the rules.

The fund's guidelines had referred to global warming in the past, but it was the first time they had mentioned rainforests, said the green groups. The rules did not spell out sanctions for companies that did not comply. But Norway's fund has withdrawn investments in the past from firms that fail to comply with guidelines on human rights, child labor and other areas.

"We see this as a significant signal . . . But the language is vague and needs to be followed up by clear measures," said Truls Gulowsen of Greenpeace. Norway, rich from oil and gas exports, has set up a number of programs to protect rainforests including two worth \$1 billion each for Indonesia and Brazil and one worth \$750 million for Guyana. The countries get payouts for meeting targets for slowing deforestation over several years.

But a report from the Rainforest Foundation and Friends of the Earth Norway earlier this year said Norway's fund had invested \$13.7 billion dollars in 73 companies in sectors that damaged forests. "The invested amount is 27 times higher than what Norway spends annually on rainforest protection said the study, entitled "Beauty and the Beast, Norway's investments in rainforest protection and rainforest destruction".

reuters.com

## Nigeria: Global warming, deforestation most potent threat to environmental preservation

Hajia Fati Abubakar, a former First Lady, says global warming and deforestation constitute the most potent threat to the effort at preserving the global environment. Abubakar said this in her address of welcome at the LPG multi-stakeholders meeting organised by Access Africa Initiative, an NGO, in collaboration with Oando Petroleum Plc on Tuesday in Abuja. Abubakar, who was chairman of the occasion, observed that Nigeria had the highest deforestation rate of primary forest due to indiscriminate use of firewood as the source of cooking energy.

She said that the practice which is most common in the rural areas due to the lack of access modern sources of energy, posed a serious challenge to food production. She urged Nigerians to change from using kerosene cooking stove to Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Abubakar said that the new initiative was capable of combating some global environmental challenges. "This initiative is capable of combating global warming, poverty, deforestation and ensuring the empowerment of women. We are on the right track to finding a solution to the reality of environmental degradation and its consequences in Nigerian economy and the well-being of the citizenry."

Also speaking, a former Minister of Information, Mr John Odey, said that Africa and Nigeria, in particular, were endowed with many natural resources that could sustain the continent. "Africa as a whole and Nigeria in particular, is endowed with many natural resources and fossil resources as well, yet Africa's infrastructure is the most deficient in the developing world." He decried the level of poverty, lack of information and knowledge that had denied people access to cleaner cooking fuel. "Statistics have shown that about 112 million people in Nigeria are still cooking with kerosene, firewood and charcoal, and 90 per cent of this number is made up of rural people," he said.

In his remark, NLC President Abdulwaheed Omar commended Oando and Access Africa Initiative (AAI) for their concern for the citizens of Nigeria. He urged the government to subsidise the cost of a cylinder of gas to make it affordable. He assured Nigerians that the NLC would collaborate with the government to ensure that the price was affordable and the products accessible to the people.

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## Nicaragua: EcoPlanet Bamboo – first to achieve carbon validation for bamboo plantations

In a major milestone for both the forestry and climate change arenas, EcoPlanet Bamboo has become the first company to receive carbon validation through the VCS (Verified Carbon Standard) for its large scale commercial bamboo plantations in Nicaragua.

EcoPlanet Bamboo converts degraded land in some of the poorest parts of the world into commercially productive bamboo plantations, not only sequestering and storing significant volumes of atmospheric carbon dioxide, but providing growing timber markets with a sustainable alternative source of fiber. In a country and category that have traditionally not benefitted from significant carbon finance, this achievement solidifies the social and environmental impacts that the Company is making, both locally, regionally and internationally.

Validation by the Rainforest Alliance of an initial 816,000 tons of carbon dioxide from the reforestation of 3,370 acres of highly degraded land is a major policy achievement for a species that has until now fallen in a grey area between agriculture and

forestry. Despite its contribution within forests globally, bamboo's ecological status as a grass combined with its unique growth patterns have made the quantification and understanding of its carbon sequestration benefits challenging. As the first company to develop accurate scientific methods for the measurement of such benefits, EcoPlanet Bamboo is driving international policy for the inclusion of bamboo within the ongoing forestry and land use debate.

"This VCS validation not only provides EcoPlanet Bamboo with the ability to continue to expand internationally, but lays the benchmarks for the development of an industry that is projected to reach \$20 billion by 2015," says Troy Wiseman, CEO of EcoPlanet Bamboo.

EcoPlanet Bamboo is a global leader in the sustainable production of certified bamboo timber with operations in Central America and South Africa.

[financialpost.com](http://financialpost.com)

## Uganda: Timber tax evaders undermine sustainable trade

A new report has warned that if the underpayment of taxes currently estimated at 50% on imported timber from DR Congo to Uganda continues illegal logging will escalate leading to further destruction of forests. The report entitled, "Timber movement and trade in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and destination markets in the region stated, "In Uganda, underpayment of duties and taxes on imported timber was estimated at 50% in 2011 is the main issue in the illegal trade."

It added, "The most obvious economic impact of the trade is the reduction of legitimate tax revenue to the State but of potentially more significance is the distortion of the market resulting from tax avoidance. The dealer who avoids taxes gains a competitive advantage which forces other dealers to engage in the same malpractices in order to compete and survive.

Illegally imported timber, according to the report to be launched at Entebbe Resort Beach Hotel on Monday was commissioned by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) also affects the competitiveness of locally produced timber, lowers prices and ultimately acts as a disincentive to the indigenous timber producers. It also states that illegally traded timber increases the risks to investors, reducing their willingness to invest in timber processing or timber production.

The illegal timber trade in DR Congo, according to the report is driven by poverty and limited alternative economic activities

combined with strong demand for high quality hardwood timber in the neighbouring countries. "The trade is illegal in the DR Congo because of lack of capacity in the public administration which is an economy wide issue that goes beyond the forestry sector. Measures designed to improve the trade and mitigate the associated environmental, social and economic issues should be focused on capacity development in the DR Congo," stated the report.

The report also revealed that the biggest market for the timber is Kenya with an estimated import of 32,100 cubic meters followed by South Sudan at 10,700 cubic meters and that Uganda imports 8,700 cubic meters while Rwanda imports 7,000 and Burundi's 1,000 cubic meters. The total volume amounts to 60,000 cubic meters.

"There is a lot of illegal timber trade, we do not know how big it is but the report has come with an estimate and it also describes the routes for the timber," David Duli, the director of WWF Uganda- Country Office told New Vision in an interview. "We are going to get governments and institutions to monitor since this is a regional problem."

Mahogany is the main species going to the Kenyan, Ugandan and Rwandan market while South Sudan market is dominated by soft woods such as white Nongo and Nkalati.

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