



IUCN

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The IUCN/WWF Forest Conservation Newsletter

December 1998

10

Contents

2-5 News from around the world

Floods in China, EU aid policies, typhoon in Central America

6 WWF News

Forestry and finance initiative

7 IUCN News

Forest workshops

8 Feature

The Congo Basin

9 Feature

Fighting forest fires in Greece

10 Meetings and Courses

Taiga Rescue Network, international model forest network, underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Europe, Africa forests forum, PAN Parks workshop and 7th tropical dendrology course

11 Feature

The Web and the Weaver: culture, spirit and forests

12 News from the forest floor

Small-scale forest management in British Columbia

13 Certification

Principle 9 agreed

14 Feature

50 years of IUCN

15 Feature

Web sites

16 Reviews

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The editors and authors are responsible for their own articles. Their opinions do not necessarily always express the views of WWF or IUCN.

Printed on paper manufactured from 100% post-consumer waste

All protected areas, according to the IUCN definition, should be "especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity". However, the World Commission on Protected Areas recognises the wider social and environmental importance of protected areas and that many also support the needs of human communities. In addition to strict conservation, scientific research and wildlife habitat, many have great value in watershed and soil protection, carbon sequestration, recreational benefits, defining indigenous territory and the maintenance of cultural and spiritual values. Protected areas are therefore becoming more flexible in their aims and management. WCPA argues for a range of protected area management categories to reflect these different objectives of management, while stressing that all protected areas must have a strong biodiversity conservation emphasis.

This more inclusive strategy has many practical conservation benefits. Some early protected areas – where in extreme cases human communities were evicted from

The next issue of the newsletter will be produced in May 1999 (copy deadline mid-April).

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News in brief

Everglades restoration

The Clinton administration is proposing a US\$8 billion "rescue plan" for the Florida Everglades "aimed at restoring the fragile ecosystem over the next two decades". This calls for restoring natural water flow over tens of thousands of square miles by tearing down levees, filling canals, developing water storage facilities, and anti-pollution efforts. Clinton is expected to present the proposal next summer; however, the funding for the scheme is still in doubt.

Source: *Greenwire* 7 October

Fall in tropical hardwood production

The Asian financial crisis has led to "complete chaos" in tropical timber production, according to the timber committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The market for tropical forest products is in decline, with production and export down 25 per cent on 1997, despite a halving of the price of some products due to devaluation of currencies.

Source: UNECE

Ten year decline in European Union forests confirmed

A European Commission survey, carried out with the UN Economic Commission for Europe since 1987, shows that the proportion of trees with moderate or severe defoliation has more than doubled over ten years. Decline has continued despite reduced air pollution over much of Europe and the Commission suggests that a long-term decline in soil quality, caused by drought, acidification and heavy metal leaching, is a contributory factor.

Source: *Greenwire*

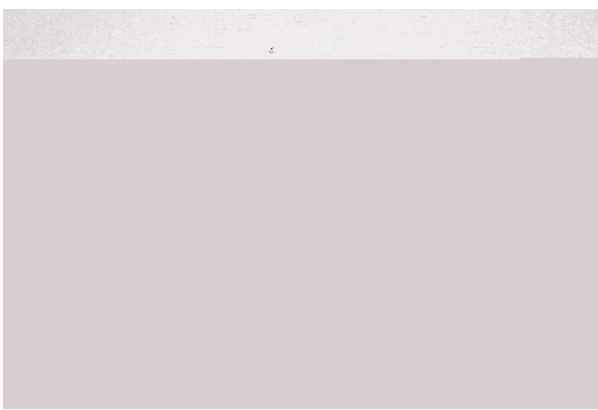
Illegal logging a growing problem

Research by WWF has found evidence of illegal logging in over fifty countries around the world, particularly in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the former Soviet Union. This illegal activity often focuses specifically on pristine forest and protected areas, thus posing a particular conservation threat.

Nigel Dudley

Mobil poised to re-enter uncontacted indians' territory in Peru

Mobil is reported to be about to enter remote rainforest, where two years previously it cut 659 km of tracks and detonated explosives in a search for oil. The forest is known to be home to three groups of indians, all of whom have actively resisted attempts by outsiders to contact



Private conservation initiatives in Chile

WWF is collaborating in efforts

Chile is a country rich in biodiversity and endemism. Yet legal and illegal forestry and agricultural practices threaten much of this richness. The government estimates that 120,000 ha of native forest is affected each year by these activities and 45 percent of mountainous country suffers serious erosion.

Government efforts to protect natural areas began over a century ago, and the first nature reserve was established in 1907. Today over 14 million ha is protected in 92 units, representing nearly 19 per cent of the country's land area. This large area is difficult to manage however, and conservation objectives are compromised by ineffective legislation and by illegal extractive activities such as logging and cattle ranching inside protected areas.

Private citizens have helped support the national protected areas system by securing funding allocations for management, defending State protected areas against damaging activities, supporting new designations, and sponsoring environmental education. But, seeing profound changes in areas outside of the national system, they are now doing more: buying land to create private protected areas. The movement began with the 1990 purchase of 500 ha of forest to protect habitat of the endangered Chilean Huemul (the South Andean Deer, *Hippocamelus bisulcus*) by the



New publications continue to appear on options for measuring natural composition and the impacts of disturbance.

In Montana, USA, research has focused on the



Mapping the Congo Basin

WWF, IUCN and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre have been collaborating on a unique

Fires are a critical problem for forest management in Greece. WWF is launching a two-year campaign to combat forest fires and encourage sustainable forest management. [Aristotelis Papageorgiou](#) reports from Athens.

Forest fires are one of the most common environmental catastrophes in Greece. Most forest fires are started intentionally and occur near to urban areas or to development projects, where land is, or is potentially, of high value. Land developers seek to take advantage of vaguely worded legislation and an absence of land use and tenure maps. At the same time, the forest service and other relevant authorities are unable or unwilling to control illegal development activities in forests. At a central level, the government has not shown the political will to take the tough, yet necessary, decisions which will clarify legislation and establish an effective forest fire protection policy.

This summer was one of the worst for forest fires in the last few years, with more than 150,000 ha of forest burned and six people killed. In addition to the forested areas around Athens, forest fires have destroyed large parts of forests with high biodiversity value, such as on Taygetos (a major Mediterranean "Hotspot") and in the Olympus mountains (a national park).

WWF Greece, one of the few NGOs in Greece with "hands-on" experience and capacity on forest conservation issues, is launching a campaign against forest fires in Greece. The campaign "Forests For Ever" ("ever" in Greek is "panda") was launched by WWF Greece at a press conference held recently in Athens. Extensive press coverage of the event confirmed once again the active interest of the public in this issue.

Activities

The campaign includes three main activities:

- 1 Present and secure an institutional background for the long-term protection of forests from fire.
- 2 Establish an effective and functional fire prevention plan in selected forest areas.
- 3 Contribute to the restoration of forests surrounding Athens.

WWF Greece will compile all relevant information and analyse the legal pitfalls linked to forest fires in Greece.

A report will be produced including WWF's proposals for long term solutions to these problems and will be presented to relevant state authorities and other stakeholders in both national and international (EU) fora. Key issues include

identification of gaps in legislation, encouraging the production of accurate land tenure maps and addressing the problems of responsibility for forest fires being split between four ministries. Next, WWF will focus on the organisation of forest fire prevention in six selected forests, such as Olympus, Taygetos and areas around Athens and will present an operational fire prevention plan for each of the areas. At present, no Greek forests have fire protection plans, despite the importance of the threat. Once the plans are completed WWF will push for their effective implementation. WWF will also organise two model reforestation activities in areas that have been affected by fire, in order to promote the restoration of burned forests and achieve the participation and awareness of the public. WWF will commit itself to caring for these sites over a long period of time, effectively "adopting" them. Maximum media coverage will be sought, in order to secure the interest of the broad public and increase political pressure on the government. It is hoped that the reports can be launched at a major conference in Greece in May 1999. This will be the first time that a large environmental NGO has presented a comprehensive package of proposals for fighting the underlying causes of the problem of forest fires in Greece. Although WWF does not expect to resolve these

news

from the forest floor

12

Forest management in British Columbia is all too often a tale of woe, as large companies clearcut ancient forests. However, in other areas local communities are organising to manage their forests sustainably, for profit and people. [Mark Poffenberger and Steve Selin report.](#)

By 1993, public concern about the visual impact of clear-cutting in British Columbia and the loss of jobs as large industries started squeezing out small operators resulted in the establishment of the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program by the provincial government. The project targeted the Vernon Forest District and aspired to develop alternatives to clear-cutting and methods to enhance community income from wood-based enterprises. The project's broader goal was to develop sustainable forest management systems that combined old forestry values with new objectives of environmental protection and ensuring community economic and social stability. Greenpeace was elected as an independent, third-party evaluator to conduct Canada's first forest certification process. The evaluation sought to determine "whether alternative silviculture practices that did not use clear-cutting techniques could protect the integrity of the forest at the landscape level and among stands of trees"

Under the programme, 65 small cutting contracts were made with local operators, resulting in 161,000 m³ of wood harvested between 1993 and 1996. Special arrangements allowed small timber processors to purchase needed timber, often a problem in typically larger volume sales. A variety of alternative cutting methods were used including selective felling, clear-cuts with reserves, small clear-cuts, shelterwood systems and seed tree systems. From an environmental perspective, these generated benefits. Visual quality was enhanced, and the ecosystem was better protected in terms of soil and water conservation, management of diseased species and in creating habitat for wildlife.

From a social standpoint, the results of the programme were also successful. Foresters from the Ministry of Forestry involved in the project were very sensitive to the community's input into decision making regarding the laying out of timber sales and determining the felling methods. Although the alternative felling techniques were 18 to 42 per cent more expensive than conventional clear-felling, the approach protected forest integrity for other economic enterprises like

recreation, while enhancing the future availability and quality of timber. Furthermore, the use of more sustainable logging techniques allowed the project to access 10 to 20 per cent more land, without citizen protest, than would not have been possible if clear-felling had been used. Alternative logging also employed more individuals than clear-felling methods. Finally the alternative methods allowed the logs to be certified, adding to their market ability.

An important aspect of the project was the experience with alternative methods for selling timber from the project sites. Unlike typical sales, where the timber is sold on the stump, in the Vernon project the timber was sold after it had reached the wood yard. This allowed smaller wood-products manufacturers easier access to the materials and increased financial returns on wood sales. By holding the timber in the log yard, more elaborate and profitable sorting systems could be developed, including woods for acoustic guitars, logs for home construction etc. However, due to constraints on Greenpeace staff time, only 3 per cent of the total volume felled in Vernon was certified and only half of this has sold. And companies have yet to pay a premium for the certified timber.

Overall, the Vernon project has been a financial success. The Ministry of Forestry originally estimated a \$1 million profit but in May 1995 Price Waterhouse reported a net profit of \$2 million, approximately twice the income that would have been realised with conventional clear-felling, with fewer associated costs from environmental damage. The value added through more intensive sorting is estimated to range from 11 to 42 per cent. The Vernon experience is important in illustrating how environmental concerns can be met through more sustainable logging practices without sacrificing economic performance. Furthermore, alternative logging actually expanded the harvestable timber base by allowing light felling in more sensitive areas. These practices are estimated to generate 3-4 jobs per 1000 m³ of timber produced, verses only one half-time job under conventional clear-cut logging methods.

The preceding article has been extracted from *Communities and Forest Management in Canada and the United States*,

certification

Principle 9 agreed

After long debate, a new formulation for Principle 9 of the Forest Stewardship Council's Principles and Criteria covering maintenance of high conservation value forests, has been agreed by the working group. [Anders Lindhe](#) was in the group that met in Chetumal, Mexico, in September 1998.

All twelve working group delegates attended the meeting, which was facilitated by James Sullivan from the FSC. The final text proposals were voted upon in plenary, with almost everything being agreed through full consensus. Changes were also agreed to principles relating to conversion and plantations, consistent with the overall philosophy of the discussion. These now need to be voted on by the FSC membership.

EU logo proposed

WWF has criticised the European Commission's forestry strategy released in November, calling its proposal to create an EU logo for environmentally certified timber as "the last thing we need". The Commission's paper was produced following a request from the European Parliament for an EU strategy on forestry. However, the main new proposal was to develop an EU logo for forest products certified as coming from sustainable sources – in effect creating direct competition with the FSC. The European paper manufacturers' body, CEPI claimed to have worked closely with the Commission's agriculture and industry departments "to ensure that the strategy takes account of certain key principles," including the need to improve the competitiveness of the EU forestry industry. CEPI gave a cautious welcome to the idea of an EU logo for certified timber.

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Text proposals

13

Principle 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

- 9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.
- 9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.
- 9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.
- 9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes. High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:
 - a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (eg endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distributions and abundance
 - b) forest areas that are in or contain, rare threatened or endangered ecosystems
 - c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (eg watershed protection, erosion control)
 - d) forest areas fundamental to meet basic needs of local communities (eg subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

Addition to Principle 6

- 6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: entails a very limited portion of the Forest Management Unit; and does not occur on High Conservation Value forests; and will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the Forest Management Unit.

Addition to Principle 10

- 10.9 Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion. manager/owner is not rshall not occur, exce3Hc(Newsed tb048(for

The meeting was opened by Her Majesty **Queen Noor** of Jordan, IUCN's Patron, who called on IUCN to devote significant effort to linking environment and security. "The Middle East is typical of how environment-based issues can impact negatively on political and regional events," she said, noting that "we in Jordan made equitable water sharing a cornerstone of our 1994 peace accord with Israel." French Prime Minister **Lionel Jospin** highlighted two themes that emerged from the event. "The first is the need to change consumption patterns," he said, "and the second is the emphasis on the links between environment and security."

The ceremonies brought together leaders of the world's conservation movement, heads of state, scientists and business leaders. Some 300 IUCN members participated in twelve symposia, the results of which led to an "*Appel de Fontainebleau*," which proclaimed: "We have imagined tomorrow's world. It is a world that celebrates and nurtures the essential diversity of life, of cultures and peoples. It is a world in which we will embrace a new environmental ethic that recognises that without nature there is no happiness, no tranquillity, no quality of life. We seek harmony in nature and unity among peoples, for without these, life on earth is not sustainable."

The 50th anniversary events in Fontainebleau were marked by the launch of: the *Reuters-IUCN Media Award*, the first of its kind at a global level. The *IUCN Business Advisory Panel* was also launched. Senior corporate representatives will advise IUCN on partnership opportunities to promote sustainable development. The President of Volkswagen France, **Michel Le Paire**, announced that he had secured the support of BBD, the world's largest advertising agency, to help launch an international awareness campaign in favour of IUCN's goals to foster sustainable development.

The IUCN council, assembled at Fontainebleau, appointed Dr Maritta Koch-Weser as the organisation's new Director General, to succeed David McDowell in early 1999. Dr Koch-Weser, an anthropologist by training, has field experience in international development related to the

environment, along with management and financial skills derived from her extensive work in the environmental and social departments at the World Bank.

At Fontainebleau, IUCN reaffirmed its commitment to working towards forest conservation. Professor Jeff Sayer, former head of IUCN's forest programme and currently Director of the Center for International Forestry Research, gave a lecture on "Globalisation, localisation and protected areas". We reprint a summary below.

We live in a rapidly changing world. Processes of economic integration and growing economic influence of corporations are leading to greater efforts among people in all countries to protect the lifestyles and habitats that they value. Market forces will be the primary determinants of patterns of land use in the future, managers of protected areas ignore this reality at their peril. Globalisation challenges managers of protected areas in two ways. First, it forces us to realistically confront the trade-offs between global conservation values and local development needs, and to decide how we might address these tensions. Second, it requires us to look more carefully at the widely accepted paradigm of achieving conservation objectives through ecologically based local-area management. For conservation organisations, the first challenge is clearly defining objectives and priorities on what to conserve. This should be followed by mobilising the best available science and emerging techniques of working with local human communities to determine the most efficient way of achieving the agreed conservation goals at the least social cost. Greater transparency, objectivity and fairness must be essential elements in the process of allocating land for various purposes. For conservationists, the critical task is to determine the optimal extent, location and management of areas needed to achieve an acceptable balance between the development needs of local people and global biodiversity conservation needs. The inevitable trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and other uses of natural areas are more likely to be widely accepted if they are made

reviews

16

Les Aires Protégées d'Afrique francophone

Gérard Sournia (ed.)

Editions Jean-Pierre de Monza, Paris, 1998, ISBN 2-908071-58-4

Price: 120 French francs

Two themes run through this book about francophone