

January 2000

Contents

- 2-5 News from around the world**
No need to buy products from ancient forests, deforestation in the Amazon etc
- 6 WWF News**
New climate change scenarios
- 7 IUCN News**
Forest conservation in Russia
- 8 News from the Forest Floor**
Kalimantan - after the rice project
- 9 Feature**
WWF-World Bank Alliance
- 10 Protected areas**
Beyond the Trees – WWF Conference on Forest Protected Areas
- 11 Feature**
IUCN in SE Asia
- 12 Feature**
Trees that survived the millennium
- 13 Feature**
Forests fires and the IUCN/WWF Firefight programme
- 14 Certification**
Progress in Australia
- 15 Meetings and courses**
The Albertine Rift Conservation Society
- 16 Reviews**
Forests for the Future and more

This newsletter has been edited by Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton of Equilibrium Consultants. Managing editors Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud of WWF International and Bill Jackson of IUCN, the World Conservation Union. Design by Helen Miller, HMD UK. Funding for the newsletter has been provided by the German development cooperation ministry BmZ and the Netherlands government.

Thanks to the following for contributing information, text and advice: Danielle Cantin (Canada), Michele Depraz (Switzerland), Andrew Deutz (Canada), Aimee Gonzales (Switzerland), Shelley Hayes (Switzerland), Andrew Ingles (Thailand), Sam Kanyambwa (UK), Sameer Karki (Thailand), Nick Mabey (UK), Stewart Maginnis (Switzerland), Adam Markham (USA), Chanda Meek (Canada), Peter Moore (Australia), Saskia Ozinga (UK), Edward Parker (UK), Elisa Peter (Sweden), Michael Rae (Australia), Devendra Rana (Switzerland), Simon Rietbergen (Switzerland), Jack Rieley (UK), Glevys Rondon (UK) and David Schorr (US)

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

Printed on paper manufactured from 100% post consumer waste.



The next issue of *Arborvitæ* will be produced in April/May (copy deadline end of March 2000). If you have any material to send or comments please contact: IUCN/WWF, c/o Sue Stalton, 23 Bath Buildings, Bristol BS2 5PT UK. Telephone and fax: +44 (0)117 974 6074. E-mail: enquiries@compuserve.com





Deforestation in the Amazon

A brown Capucin
monkey in the
Amazon

Major landowners involved in illegal deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon are being identified through information collected from satellite photographs. Ibama, the federal organisation in charge of the environment, is publishing the information in an attempt to focus public attention onto the problem. **Rodolpho Lobo**, Chief of Ibama's National Control Department, said: "a new stage begins in the control of deforestation". Eight out of the ten people involved in the largest amount of deforestation are cattle breeders. Ibama officers face regular resistance in their work and within the last year one has been killed and another seriously injured in the area.

Meanwhile, WWF has warned that a new law proposed by the Federal Government could cause the greatest environmental damage ever seen in Brazil. The Brazilian Government's proposal will make it possible to convert natural forests into agricultural land with no official control and encourage the replacement of native forests by eucalyptus and other exotic species, especially in small rural properties in the Amazon and in the Cerrado. Furthermore, it will allow forest exploitation on steep slopes and riverine areas that are presently protected.

The proposed bill is the result of heavy lobbying by the National Council for Agriculture, a farmer's organisation, without any public participation. According to **Robert Buschbacher**, of WWF-Brazil, the law will change the entire environmental legal framework in Brazil. The bill disregards the Technical Chamber of the National Environment Council (CONAMA) that was created to review the 1965 Forestry Code, which was set up to assure democratic participation of all sectors of Brazilian society. The government's proposal also goes against international treaties already signed by Brazil.

Source: *Veja Magazine* and <http://www.panda.org>

Klester Cavalcanti and Alexandre Mansur's article in *Veja Magazine*, Thicket of the Jungle, describing Ibama's work, was one of the eight regional winners in the new Reuters-IUCN Media Award presented in November 1999.

News in brief

Carbon sinks

Planting trees may not be as effective at slowing global warming as proponents claim according to research from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. So-called "carbon sink" forests could quickly become saturated with carbon and become net emitters. This casts doubt on the provision of the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, that allows countries to offset industrial emissions by planting trees, at home or abroad.

Source: *New Scientist*, October 1999

Tajikistan protection

The forests and fauna of Tajikistan have suffered badly as a result of the 1991-1992 civil war and subsequent illegal cutting of forests and poaching. In response, the Association on Protection of Forest and Wild Animals in Tajikistan, a non-governmental, non-profit organisation has been set up.

Contact: Dr. Kokul Kosirov, PB 11, Dushanbe 734025, Republic of Tajikistan; Email: farhod@kokul.td.silk.org

US roadless area protection

In October, President Clinton announced steps to protect 40 million acres (16 million hectares) of federally owned roadless forests, in blocks of 5,000 acres or more. Clinton asked the Forest Service whether 15 million pristine acres still being inventoried should also be protected. However, NGOs are concerned about whether helicopter logging, livestock grazing and mining might still be allowed. Furthermore, some valuable forests, for example the Alaskan Tongass, might be omitted.

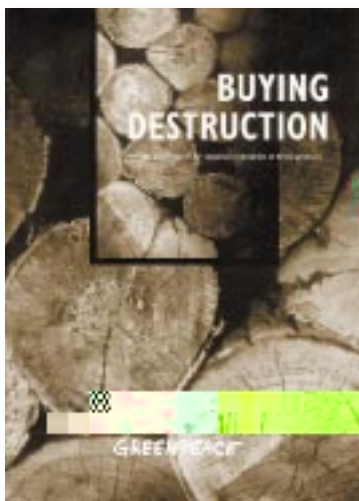
Source: *TRN Bulletin*, no 5, 1999.

Biodiversity and logging

A new species of damselfly (temporarily named *Cebu rectionemis*) has been discovered in a rainforest threatened by logging in Cebu, an island province of the Philippines.

Source: *Environmental News Service* 18/10/99

Protecting ancient forests



A new report from Greenpeace International, *Buying Destruction*, names over 150 companies producing or trading in forest products coming from ancient forests, in Canada, Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, Chile, Russia, Cameroon, Gabon, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Of the top 20 companies profiled, seven are Canadian-owned, four

fully or part-owned by Malaysia, three by France and two by the US. In all the report suggests that at least 7.2 million ha of frontier or other ancient forests are logged each year and in total 72 per cent of "frontier forests" are threatened by logging. Most of the annual loss is from clearcut operations in Canada and Russia. In 1996, Canada was the second-highest producer of industrial roundwood after the US, accounting for 12 per cent of global production, with up to 90 per cent of logs cut coming from ancient forests in some regions.

Although the report presents a bleak picture, there are some signs of change. In Russia, a moratorium on old-growth logging in Karelia and the Murmansk Oblast has been supported by an increasing number of Finnish and Swedish logging companies since its inception in 1996, although attempts to expand this to the old-growth forests of Arkhangelsk and Komi have been less successful. Following a two-year campaign run by the Rainforest Action Network, the US company Home Depot, the world's largest DIY store, announced in August 1999 that it will stop selling goods made from wood cut in ancient forests and other ecologically sensitive areas by 2002. Since then a number of other companies announced similar commitments, including Wickes Lumber, HomeBase, 3M, Dell, IBM, Kinko's, Levi-Strauss, Mitsubishi Motors America, Mitsubishi Electric America, and Nike. A second Greenpeace report, *Re-Source: Market Alternatives to Ancient Forest Destruction* explores the alternatives to old-growth destruction that are currently being pursued by companies in the USA, Europe and Japan.

Sources: *Buying Destruction* and *Re-Source: Market Alternatives to Ancient Forest Destruction* are available on the web at <http://www.greenpeace.org/~forests>.

To order a copy contact: The Forest Campaign, Greenpeace International, Keizersgracht 176, 1016 DW Amsterdam, Netherlands, Fax: +31-20-523-6200
E-mail: forests.publications@ams.greenpeace.org

The Finnish Forest Industry in Russia on the Thorny Path Towards Ecological and Social Responsibility (ISBN 951-97204-3-X) by O Ovaskainen, M Pappila, and J Potry may be ordered from the Taiga Rescue Network office for the price of EURO 14/US\$15.

Contacts: RAN: Michael Brune: mbrune@ran.org. Web: <http://www.ran.org>

Timber trade changes

Trade and prices in tropical timbers continued to fall in 1998, following the 1997 Asian financial crisis, with imports in Thailand plunging by 70 per cent. Preliminary indications are that they recovered somewhat in 1999. Imports continue to increase into China. Secondary wood products consumption rose, especially in the EU and USA. Japan remains by far the largest roundwood importer, with North American consumption increasing and official Russian removals falling heavily in 1998.

Sources: *Tropical Timber Update 9* (3), 1999, *Forest Products Annual Market Review 1998-1999*, UN Economic Commission for Europe and FAO, 1999

Mountain biodiversity at risk

A briefing from the International Development Research Centre focuses on the role of mountain environments in maintaining food crop stability. Six of the 20 plants that supply 80 per cent of humanity's food originate in mountains and diversification – the breeding of new varieties – continues in these areas. As diversity of agricultural crops declines on the plains, the mountain regions are becoming an increasingly important resource, although here as well biodiversity is increasingly at risk.

Source: IDRC briefing number 2, www.idrc.ca

Consumer preferences

Most consumers remain reluctant to pay more for environmentally superior products, but instead expect these to be available at comparable costs, according to a recent report from the UN Economic Commission for Europe Timber Section. However, as costs of competing products approach equality, consumers may be swayed by perceived environmental benefits.

Source: *Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Paper 16*, info.timber@unece.org

Claims on national park

The Pataxo indigenous people in Brazil are laying claim to the territory of the Monte Pascoal National Park. The Pataxo were expelled from the territory of the protected area and from surrounding land that has been converted into a number of cattle ranches. The national park is part of the Mata Atlantica forest, currently the forest region of Brazil under the most extreme threat.

Source: *World Rainforest Bulletin 28*

Illegal logging in Indonesia's National Parks

A new report from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and Telapak-Indonesia catalogues the problems of illegal logging in two of Indonesia's protected areas – Tanjung Puting and Gunung Leuser National Park. The report concludes that illegal activities are out of control in the park – threatening biodiversity as a whole and orangutans in particular.

Source: *The Final Cut: EIA and Telapak*

Contact: EIA, tel: +44-171-490-7040. E-mail: eiakug@gn.apc.org

Importing threats

Agriculture officials in New Zealand are warning of the threat posed by the painted apple moth (*Teia anartoides*), thought to have arrived in a shipping container from Australia's southeastern mainland or Tasmania, to New Zealand's billion-dollar forestry industry, orchards and some native trees.

Source: *The Dominion* 05/10/1999

Global Witness Appointed Independent Monitor of Forestry Sector

The British environmental and human rights group Global Witness has been appointed as the official independent monitor of Cambodia's forestry sector.

The need for independent monitoring was identified at the 1999 Consultative Group (CG) meeting in Tokyo, made up of Cambodia's donors, to ensure the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) compliance with promised forestry reforms. The IMF's re-engagement, and the World Bank's new Structural Adjustment Credit were conditional on the signing of the deal.

The project, funded by DfID and AusAid, will allow Global Witness to open an office in Phnom Penh and take on local staff. According to Patrick Alley of Global Witness, *"This role gives us a direct formal feed into the enforcement process, and full access to timber related RGC and concession records. If we report forest crime, the RGC has to act. This means there is a chance that illegal loggers might actually get arrested. The RGC's actions will be reported to Hun Sen, through the Council of Ministers, and to the quarterly meetings of the international donors. Forestry reform has a long way to go, but the fact that the RGC have accepted us, a thorn in their side for years, as the monitor, is an indication of the new mood in government."*

Source: Global Witness: Tel: + 44 171 272 6731;
e-mail: mail@globalwitness.demon.co.uk; <http://www.oneworld.org/globalwitness>

Research in Brief

As WWF and IUCN launch a major new study on forest restoration, **arborvitae** presents an overview of recent research on this topic, including highlights from a major conference on forest restoration in Puerto Rico – an island that has undergone major forest regeneration due to agricultural abandonment. A series of research projects around the world show clear links between overall ecosystem quality and the potential of forests to regenerate. Wild animals account for a large proportion of native trees seed dispersal in tropical forests (*4th Annual Puerto Rico Forestry Conference* p 126). In Madagascar, lemurs are needed for successful regeneration of many tree species due to their role in seed distribution (*Conservation Biology* **13**, 794-804). Studies of abandoned montane pasture, dominated by exotic grass species, in Colombia have shown that natural colonisation or controlled grazing are far more effective restoration strategies than grass cutting and planting (*Puerto Rico conference* p 39). Some of the accepted wisdom in restoration is also increasingly being questioned. In Japan, studies of the impact of selective logging on regeneration in sub-boreal forests found that establishment sites around canopy trees influenced the establishment of saplings rather than the gaps caused by selective logging (*Journal of Forest Research* (Japan) **4**, 41-45). In other areas, the ecology has been modified so much that continued interventions are needed to maintain or restore forests. Decline of endangered juniper communities in France has been linked to agricultural abandonment, in that juniper is being gradually replaced by oak and other forest species; here human and livestock actions are needed as part of the restoration process (*Biodiversity and Conservation* **8**). Meanwhile, a new study shows that rising demand for wood fuel is likely to lead to net forest loss in many countries, emphasising the need for further restoration (*Ambio* **28**, 592-594).

Arbor



Professor Ruud Lubbers, the former Prime Minister of the Netherlands (1982-1994) is to be the new President of WWF International. The announcement came at the WWF International 1999 Annual Conference in Sabah, Malaysia. The conference also saw the commitment of a new Gift to the Earth from the Sabah Chief Minister, who announced his government's commitment to fully protect 27,000 ha of the lower Kinabatangan floodplain as a wildlife sanctuary.

A new publication, *The Yaoundé Forest Summit: making a difference*, has been published by the WWF Forest Campaign. The pamphlet, which is in English and French, outlines the key results and decisions of the summit of six African heads of state in March 1999, that discussed options for forest conservation in the region. A seven minute video of the challenges facing the region, and of the summit, is also available.
Contact: Tori Lyall: tlyall@wwfnet.org

Green money, two new reports released by WWF in December 1999 reveal a positive correlation between environmental performance and stock market returns in the forest products industry. The reports, part of WWF's Global Forestry and Finance Initiative (GFFI), seeks to influence institutional investors and persuade them to invest in forest product companies with good environmental performance. In particular, WWF is calling on pension funds to use Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification as one of their criteria for investment decisions.

See the certification page (14) for more details of the two reports – the *Future of the Forest Sector: Maximising Environmental Benefits and Stock Market Returns and Sustainable Forestry Pays*.

For more information, contact Alison Lucas at WWF's Forest For Life Campaign
Tel: +44-1483-419-266.



Indonesia's infamous Mega-Rice Project has finally been scrapped. Yet what may come next could be even worse. Jack Rieley of University of Nottingham reports.

On 13th July 1999 President Habibie ended one of the most unsavoury and unsuccessful episodes in the history of land development in Indonesia. The Mega Rice Project initiated by former President Suharto in 1995, which had been put on hold since shortly after his downfall in 1998, was consigned to the scrap heap. An ill-conceived attempt to convert one million hectares of peat wetland in Central Kalimantan into rice paddies was put to rest. In the course of its implementation three trillion Indonesian Rupiah were squandered and all the swamp forest within the area was removed or degraded. No productive rice has been grown and one million hectares (the size of Northern Ireland) lies devastated and useless. Its biodiversity has gone. The natural resource functions have been disrupted, probably irreparably, by more than 4,500 kilometres of drainage channels, excavated for irrigation and to prevent flooding. After only two years the main channels are losing water and silting up. People are nonetheless still using them to gain access to the interior. All remaining timber is being removed and, in the process, debris is set alight and the surface peat catches fire, generating more of the dense, unhealthy haze that has beset Southeast Asia in recent years.

Prospects for the future?

This new decree provides formal recognition of the failure of the Mega Rice Project but also creates the mechanism for another land development disaster that could be even greater in extent and environmental damage. Future development of the area has been rolled up into a new 2.8 million ha economic development zone. The over-riding premise is land conversion to food crops and plantations, especially oil palm and rubber. There is little reference to environmental protection.

The decrees and other legal instruments governing these changes contain some provisions that are potentially good,



Through the Alliance, the two organisations are enhancing their combined convening power, international presence and technical skills to promote forest conservation and best practices in forest management. The World Bank is the largest provider of development assistance in the world, lending approximately US\$30 billion a year for projects and programmes aimed at reducing poverty in the world's poor countries. WWF is the world's largest independent conservation organisation, sponsoring more than 13,000 projects in 157 countries and with a network of 27 national organisations.

To achieve its targets, the Alliance is forging links with local and international 'agents of change'. During 1999 three governments – the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland – funded Alliance activities and Norway and Finland have also promised support in 2000. These funds were used to develop projects that attracted additional funding, including several Global Environment Facility proposals for the management of protected areas in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and Colombia. For example, in Liberia the Alliance supported the Society of Conservation of Nature in Liberia and other organisations to initiate planning for conservation and natural resource management of the highly threatened Cestos-Senkwehn forests.

Support for independent certification is at the centre of the Alliance's priorities. Where market conditions warrant, this may lead to the labelling of products as being from a certified source. Elsewhere, supportive public policies will be needed to create conditions and incentives for managing to internationally accepted standards. There are other settings – in parts of South Asia for example – where alternative systems of verification may suffice to ensure that best practices are being followed. In Indonesia, for example, the Alliance has joined with GTZ, Germany's

technical development organisation, to support collaboration between the Indonesian ecolabelling institute (Lembaga Ekolabel Indonesia), the Forest Stewardship

The Conference, organised by WWF's Forests for Life Campaign, will focus on the themes of protected area system design and management effectiveness of forest protected areas.

Since their inception the triennial United Nations Lists of Protected Areas have consistently revealed an exponential rise in both the number and extent of protected areas around the world. Many people in the protected area community around the world are, however, questioning whether the growth in the reserve network is really delivering the benefits that the figures would imply.

Two of the major causes for this concern are that:

1. the "right" areas may not be included in the system leading to inadequate protection of species or ecosystems or gradual erosion of conservation values within ineffectively designed reserves;
2. despite the best efforts of managers, existing protected areas may be ineffectively managed and unable to face the threats and pressures to which they are subjected.

The Conference is an opportune moment to look ahead to The Fifth World Congress on Protected Areas - 'Benefits Beyond Boundaries' (WPC 2002) to be held in September 2002 at Durban, South African. WPC 2002, a once-a-decade global gathering of some 2-3,000 individuals, will examine all aspects and types of protected areas.

It is proposed that WWF, working together with the WCPA Task Force on Management Effectiveness, will develop the two main themes from the Bangkok conference as workshops at WPC 2002.

The Conference will initiate the process of preparing for a WPC 2002 workshop on protected area design and management effectiveness by:

- increasing awareness amongst decision makers, opinion formers and politicians of the current state of forest protected areas worldwide;
- preparing a publication summarising current knowledge, experiences and issues surrounding system design and management effectiveness;
- endorsing a process for developing and testing a rapid system for assessment of protected area management effectiveness;
- developing a comprehensive Conference website with all papers and discussions.

For more details: Contact Devendra Rana at WWF on devendra.rana@wwfnet.org

New Park for Madagascar

A new 31,160 ha national park, Andringitra, was dedicated in Madagascar in October 1999. It lies between Ranomafan and Isalo National Parks, and includes a range of habitats from moist forests to dense montane forests and high mountain prairies. Inhabitants from the nearly 200 villages in the area have participated in making the decision to conserve and develop the park.

Source: Environment News Service, 8/10/99

Assessing Canada's National Parks

The Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks was set up by the Secretary of State (Parks) in 1998 to:

- Identify and define issues, threats and challenges pertaining to ecological integrity.
- Examine and assess present approaches, methods and programmes developed by Parks Canada and their effects on ecological integrity.

Many of the basic underlying causes of forest decline are shared across the region. They arise from weak governance, poor or short-sighted economic planning, inequitable access to decision-making and the benefits of development, lack of incentives for responsible private sector behaviour, market failure, poverty, lack of skills, knowledge and resources to do things better, and unclear decision-making processes. Conflicting, unclear or inadequate law and policy are also a major concern. Many national protected area systems are inadequate and designated protected areas are poorly managed or mismanaged. Land use and tenure conflicts and insufficient local participation are additional issues for forest conservation.

Although large forest rehabilitation programmes are under development in many Asian countries, there are inadequate technical packages and implementation capacity, and substantial gaps exist in forest policy and guidelines related to such schemes.

IUCN's forest related activities in the region

About half of IUCN's portfolio of work in the region is related in some way to forest conservation. This includes the work being carried out in country and regional thematic programmes (such as the regional forest, biodiversity and sustainable use programmes). Activities include, or have included, the development and implementation of conservation strategies and associated policy instruments, regulatory mechanisms, national planning procedures, protected area systems, species action plans, environmental impact assessment procedures and education curricula that impact upon forests. In addition, field projects have been designed and implemented for identifying and assessing the biological diversity of forests, and protecting endemic and endangered species. This has included flora and fauna surveys, assessments of

conservation status, updating lists of rare and threatened animals, and the development of indicators for habitat conservation. IUCN is also involved in supporting the collaborative management of protected areas; the development of conservation management plans for specific forest areas of high priority; addressing policy issues related to rehabilitating degraded forests in the Lower Mekong Basin; and, facilitating policy reform for mitigating damage caused by forest fires. Field projects in Lao PDR and Vietnam are developing and testing incentives and systems for the sustainable use of non-timber forest products.

These efforts are significant and useful, but there are some gaps in their geographical coverage, in the issues or problems being addressed, and in the range and intensity of approaches being used. The planning, monitoring and evaluation cycles for the different country and regional thematic programmes have yet to be harmonised and brought under the region's overall strategic framework, and both the mandate from stakeholders and the financial support for forest conservation activities need to be strengthened. These are the challenges that the regional forest programme, based in Bangkok, is now addressing.

Future Directions

The central themes of the current programme include: the assessment of forest biodiversity; establishment and management of forested protected areas; promotion of collaborative forest management; development of models for the sustainable use of non-timber forest products; and sustainable use of forests outside of protected areas. In addition, it will be necessary to assess the impact and relevance of programme activities and to do more to learn and disseminate important lessons from IUCN's work.

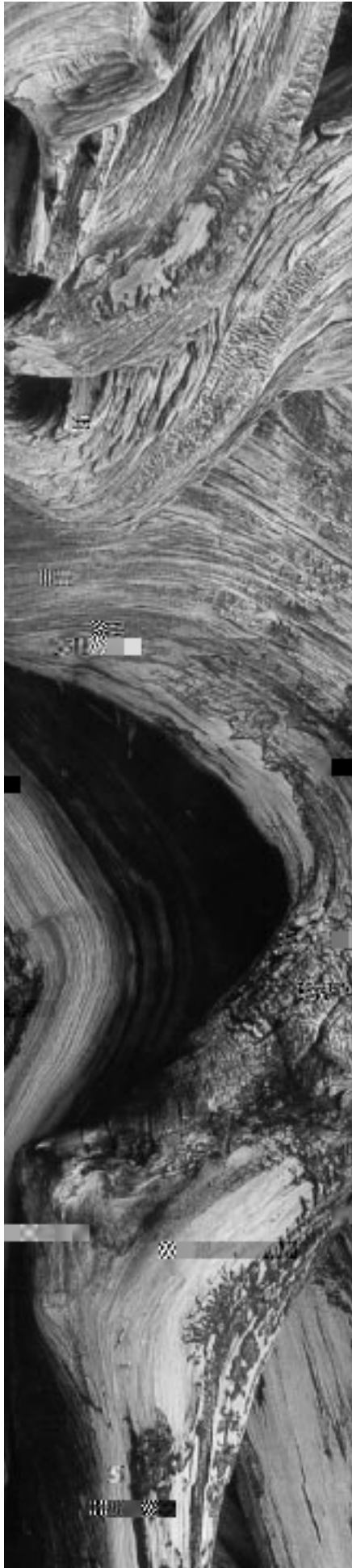
New activities are likely to address forest rehabilitation and restoration; mitigation of the negative impacts of forest fires; identification of critical forest ecosystems; understanding the impacts of climate change; capacity to prepare national and regional positions for key policy events; trade in forest products; and trans-boundary forest and watershed management. The programme could also expand geographically to include more activities in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, India and the Philippines.

The success of the programme depends on achieving integration and coherence of the secretariat's forest related activities in the region. It will involve consulting and engaging commissions, members and partners in the development and implementation of programme, articulating the vision and capacity of IUCN to donors; and, receiving the required support for implementing the programme.

As many of us prepare to enter the third Millennium since the birth of Christ, some of the world's oldest and most impressive inhabitants have already begun their fourth, fifth and even seventh. In the White Mountains of California some bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*) are approaching 5,000 years old, while a number of Europe's venerable olive trees (*Olea europaea*) were almost certainly growing at the time of Christ and the largest Italian Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) could be over 4,000 years old. In woodland in the west of England, a small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*) has already celebrated its 6,000th birthday, while the common yew (*Taxus baccata*) growing at Fortingall in Scotland, may be an astonishing 9,000 years old. It seems likely, as more research is carried out into the true ages of ancient trees, that there could be individual trees alive today in some remote wilderness that are over ten thousand years old!

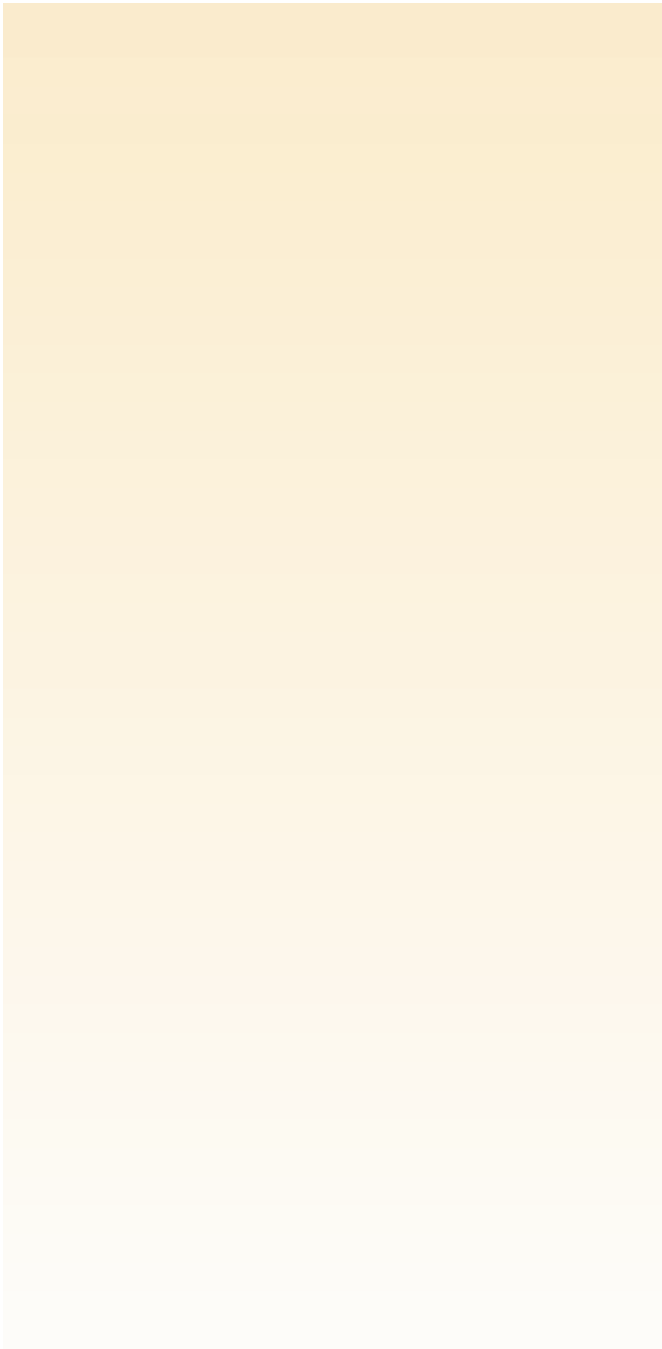
Since the earliest of times mankind has had a special fascination with ancient trees. Around the world many large, slow-growing trees have been and still are the objects of deep respect and often, religious reverence, making them sacred and setting them apart from other trees.

However, many of the world's ancient trees and the environments that support them are under threat. In California, for example large numbers of ancient coastal redwoods, many over a thousand years old, have been felled during the 1990's. In Amazonia the rate of



deforestation has been accelerating over the past decade at a time when pioneering research has been discovering that several species live to well over a thousand years. And in Chile, although protected by both national and

feature



FSC trial in Australia

The recently elected Labor government in the State of Victoria, Australia, campaigned on a platform that supported assisting an FSC trial in an area of the State's forests. The Minister for the Environment and Conservation, Ms Sherryl Garbutt, has confirmed the new government's intentions for the trial project.

WWF-Australia's Resource Conservation Programme Leader, Michael Rae, said, "WWF believes the FSC system offers great scope to improve forest management in Australia's native forests and plantations. The Federal and State governments' Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) completed thus far have failed to gain community support because the forest reserve boundaries and the logging practices the RFAs enshrine are widely believed to be inadequate to protect the environmental, social and economic values of the forests."

"Ms Garbutt's decision is commendable. The Minister has supported the idea of a trial of the FSC system in Victoria to see if it can offer the same benefits in solving forest disputes it has in other countries," Mr Rae said.

WWF's intention is to hold discussions with environmental groups, local timber companies, and other stakeholders with a view to conducting a trial along similar lines to the FSC trial held in Sweden.

Source: Michael Rae, email: MRae@wwf.org.au

Certification news in brief

NGOs have expressed concern about the on-going FSC certification process of areas of eucalyptus plantations run by Aracruz in Brazil. Locally, over 50 civil society organisations in Bahia and Espirito Santo are monitoring the process and point to various problems in the procedures being adopted by the certifier SCS.

Contact: Saskia Ozinga, Fern/ WRM, www.gn.apc.org/fern, tel: 44-1608-652895, fax: 44-1608-652878

Russian Certification

Issue no 20 of *Russian Conservation News* (RCN) is dedicated to forest conservation and certification. Views on certification are given from all sectors – including a negative article from Evgeny Kuzhmichov, Associate Director of Russia's Federal Forest Service. Special focus is given to voluntary certification with reports from Khabarovsk Krai, Komi and Karelia.

To obtain a copy of this issue, contact Stephanie Hitztaler, rcn@glasnet.ru or tel: +7 -095-332-40-66.

Certification in Romania

The first formal meeting of the Romanian Working Group on Forest Certification took place in Brasov in September, 1999. A second meeting was held in October to discuss the creation of a web page on certification in Romania.

Contact: Ioan Abrudan, e-mail: abrudan@unitbv.ro

Certification on the air

A series of TV programmes to promote forest certification in Latin America were aired in November 1999. The series is produced by Televisa, the world's largest Spanish-speaking television network, and covers certification activities in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, including interviews with local communities, landowners, loggers, sawmill owners, national regulatory agencies, and NGOs.

Contact: Paulo Lyra, e-mail: paulo.lyra@wwfnet.org



WWF launched the Global Forestry and Finance Initiative (GFFI) in 1998, in response to the continuing loss of forest area worldwide and the related negative impacts which have placed increasing pressure on forest product companies.

Aimed at institutional investors, GFFI seeks to highlight the benefits of investing in forest product companies with good management practices. Specifically, it argues that the globally recognised Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification scheme is one of the best indicators of sound environmental management in the forestry sector.

Under GFFI, WWF is committed to providing investors with the latest evidence on the impact certification is having on forest product companies. Two recently released reports reveal a positive correlation between environmental performance and stock market returns: *The Future of the Forest Sector: Maximising Environmental Benefits and Stock Market Returns and Sustainable Forestry Pays*.

Key findings in the reports:

- While the results are not yet conclusive, the reports found that investors in forest product companies can expect better returns on their investments by focusing on companies that have been certified to FSC standards.
- Companies embracing the voluntary certification scheme enhance their competitive edge in the marketplace, as well as their overall value.
- The benefits of FSC certification for forest companies are many, including product differentiation, price premiums, maintaining market access, improved forest productivity and stakeholder relations, reduced insurance and capital costs, and increased value of their key assets—mainly the forests.
- Companies adopting high standards of forest management are better placed to expand their business and generate positive results for investors.
- Improved forestry management in the short-term may result in higher costs. Yet this is often offset under a longer-term perspective by improved sales potential, a lower risk premium and superior stock returns.

Contact: Chris Elliott on CElliott@wwfnet.org or see WWF's web site on www.panda.org.

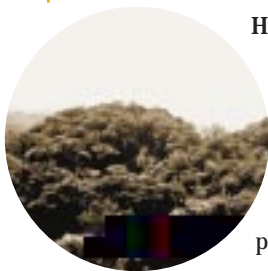
Regional framework for effective conservation of Albertine Rift montane forests, Africa



A priority-setting workshop, organised by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), was held in Kampala, Uganda in July 1999. The workshop brought together NGO and government

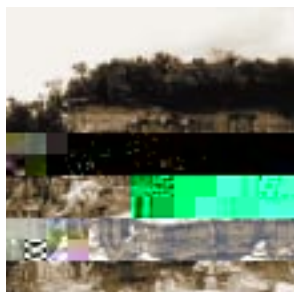
representatives, who despite the region's political instability, work towards the conservation of montane forests in the Albertine Rift region (the area along the western branch of the Rift Valley crossing western Uganda, eastern D R Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and northern Zambia).

These forests are highly diverse, provide services for local people, watershed protection and climatic regulation. The forests are under increasing threat resulting from an expansion of human demands upon land and resources and from a lack of effective conservation measures.



Hon. Baguma Isoke, Minister of State for Lands, Water and Environment of Uganda, was the Guest of Honour and opened the workshop. He emphasised the importance of cross-border co-operation in conservation and welcomed the regional initiative promoted by ARCOS.

Participants recorded information on the conservation and management status of individual forest areas, along with details of ongoing and planned conservation initiatives, many of which are community-based. In addition the priority constraints to forest conservation were identified in each country. Future opportunities and priorities were discussed, and a shortlist of priority and feasible activities was prepared together with responsibilities for follow up, which will be co-ordinated by ARCOS. A focal group was established in each country to monitor effectively follow up activities.



The workshop developed a number of recommendations focusing particularly on the better understanding of the region's forests, provision of effective information, exchange of experiences, collaboration on conservation actions for critical sites and a biannual forum.



The workshop was supported by WWF/World Bank Alliance, FAO (TCDC/TCCT Experts Programme), Tropical Rainforest Programme of the Netherlands Committee for IUCN, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and The Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, UK.

A concise summary and final report of the workshop are available. For further information, contact ARCOS: c/o WCMC, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL, UK.
Tel: + 44(0) 1223 277314 Fax: + 44 (0) 1223 277136, Email: samk@wcmc.org.uk
Web Site: <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/arcos>

From top right corner: Nyungwe forest, East lowland gorilla, Lake Kivu and Hills above the Semliki river. Photographs courtesy of the ARCOS website.

Calendar of Events

Convention on Biological Diversity

5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
15-26 May 2000, Nairobi, Kenya

Contact: CBD Secretariat, World Trade Center, 393 Jaques St, Suite 300, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9
Tel: +1-514-288-2220
Fax: +1-514-288-6588
E-mail: chm@biodiv.org
Web: <http://www.biodiv.org>

Confédération Européenne du Liège

1st World Congress on Cork Oak and Cork

15-17 June 2000 (provisional), Parques das Nações, Lisbon, Portugal

Contact: Agro.Ges, Av da República, no 412, 2750-475 Cascias, Portugal
Tel/fax: +351-1-483-5743
E-mail: agrogres@mail.telepac.pt
Web: <http://www.agrogres.pt>

Kyrgyz-Swiss Forestry Support Programme

International Symposium: Management of Juniper Forests
6-11 August 2000, Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Contact: Irina Yunusova, LES-IC, P.O. box 2011, Central Post Office Bishkek, 720000, Kyrgyzstan, CIS.
Fax: +996 312 279 634; +996 312 279 057
E-mail: irina@lesic.elcat.kg

Taiga Rescue Network

Boreal Forests of the World V

18-22 September, 2000, Moscow

Contact: TRN, Box 116, S-962 23, Jokkmokk, Sweden
Fax: +46-971-17039
Email: taiga@jokkmokk.se
Web: <http://www.snf.se/TRN/>

Saving the trees for the people

Available from: Minority Rights Group, 379 Brixton Road, London SW9 7DE, UK. Email: minority.rights@mrgmail.org

A new report, *Forests and Indigenous Peoples of Asia* edited by Minority Rights Group International discusses the growing mobilisation of indigenous peoples against environmental destruction and loss of livelihood. The report analyses recent changes in governmental policy towards indigenous peoples and forest-dwellers and offers an overview of relevant international agreements. It includes recommendations designed to safeguard and promote indigenous rights in the region.

A chance to learn

Available from: Department of Natural Resource Sciences and Co-operative Extension, Washington State University, PO Box 646410, Pullman, WA 99164-6410, USA

There are very few books in English describing the work and experiences of Russian Foresters. *A History of Russian Forestry and its Leaders* aims to fill this gap. After a brief review of forest history, use, policy and management the book looks at leading figures in Russian forestry from the 17th until the mid-19th century. The life and work of individuals involved forest science, soil science, forest ecology, valuation and management are reviewed chronologically building up a fascinating picture of how forestry in Russia evolved.