

Contents

- 2-6 News from around the world**
New red list, Living planet report, US Mahogany trade and protected areas
- 7 Meetings and Courses**
Living with the Taiga in the 21st Century
- 8 WWF News**
Assessing Dutch timber companies, restoration in France
- 9 IUCN News**
The World Conservation Congress
- 10-12 Climate Change Feature**
The Convention on Climate Change meeting, new reports on climate change and climate research in brief
- 13 Feature**
Buffer Zone Management in Vietnam
- 14 News from the Forest Floor**
Communities and Forest Management in South Asia
- 15 Certification**
FSC Annual General Conference
- 16 Reviews**

Back issues of *arborvitæ* can be found on the WWF/IUCN Forest Innovations website, at:
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/forests>

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Reaffirming the Vision

The world will have more extensive, more diverse and higher quality forest landscapes. These will meet human needs and aspirations fairly, while conserving biological diversity and fulfilling the ecosystem functions necessary for all life on earth.

In 1995, IUCN and WWF published their global forest strategy: a document that for the first time outlined the steps that the two largest conservation organisations identified as necessary to halt and reverse the loss and degradation of the world's forests. The strategy was important, not least because it forced us to say what we wanted as well as what we didn't want, thus moving beyond a cycle of opposition and towards a realistic, pro-active approach to conservation. Since then, important progress has been made. The world has another 40 million ha of forest protected areas and almost 20 million ha of forests certified to Forest Stewardship Council standards. There are successful community forest management initiatives on every continent. Brazil, China and Cameroon are among 17 countries pledged to create networks of ecologically representative forest protected areas and over 500 companies in 15 countries have agreed to trade only in certified wood products.

But much more remains to be done. Forest loss and degradation continues to occur in many parts of the world and much remaining forest is under increasing pressure. To mark a new century, a second edition of the strategy – *Reaffirming the Vision* – has been published, still broadly aiming in the same direction but with modifications and additions to take account of changes since 1995. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter and is available on the Forest Innovations website (<http://www.iucn.org/themes/forests>). It outlines some key objectives, principles and goals, within the over-arching vision that opens this editorial. As before, these aims transcend the reach of two organisations, and are a global wake-up call, aimed at partners, governments, industry and the global population as a whole. WWF and IUCN will be identifying the particular targets they will address as a contribution to the general strategic aims.

The *Forests for Life* vision challenges many different stakeholders to be involved in defining and implementing sustainable forest management. Over the past five years literally hundreds of groups have been working to put *Forests for Life* into practice around the world. We call on others – governments, companies, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and individuals – to join us in helping achieve the vision outlined in this strategy.

Bill Jackson, IUCN and Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud and Chris Elliot, WWF

The next issue of *arborvitæ* will be produced in May 2001 (copy deadline March 2001). If you have any material to send or comments please contact: Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton, 23 Bath Buildings, Bristol BS6 5PT, UK. Telephone and fax: +44-117-942-8674
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IUCN

Red-listed species

The spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) is listed as vulnerable by IUCN.

IUCN, through its Species Survival Commission (SSC), has for almost four decades been assessing the conservation status of species, in order to highlight taxa threatened with extinction and thereby promote their conservation. The 2000 IUCN **Red List of Threatened Species** indicates that 11,046 species are '*facing a high risk of extinction in the near future, in almost all cases as a result of human activities*'.

The report examined 18,000 species and subspecies around the globe. The new list adds over 200 animal species worldwide to the '*critically endangered*' list, including 11 mammals, 14 birds and 38 reptiles. Habitat loss is a factor in 89 per cent of threatened birds, 83 per cent of threatened mammals and 91 per cent of threatened plants. Forests are by far the most important habitat type for species currently included in the Red List.

Human activity is cited as having caused the extinction of 816 plant and animal species in the past 500 years. However, the knowledge of how many species exist, or used to exist, is still partial. The 5,611 threatened plants currently listed as threatened may represent only a small fraction of the number of species truly at risk since it is estimated that only four per cent of all known plant species have been fully evaluated – and many more remain to be discovered. It is estimated that the Earth has 14 million species, although only about 1.75 million have been scientifically described, and the current extinction rate is some 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than it would be under natural conditions.

Source: Cable News Network, September 2000; Associated Press, September 2000, IUCN SSC, <http://www.redlist.org/>

News in brief

Australian land clearance continues: After months of panic land clearing by landholders in response to mooted land clearing legislation in Queensland, Australia, the State Government has amended the proposed controls on tree clearing, citing the Commonwealth's refusal to provide funding support as the reason (see **arborvitae** 14). The amendments will result in the removal of protection for vegetation on freehold land classed as '*of concern*' (or vulnerable to extinction) from the Vegetation Management Act. This will mean that only endangered ecosystems, representing just 5 per cent of freehold land, will be protected. It is expected that clearing rates will remain at current levels of around 400,000 hectares a year.

Source: The Woodland Society, Australia

Mahogany moratorium: In August, the Brazilian Government declared a two-year moratorium on mahogany harvesting, apart from concessions that have already been placed under '*environment-friendly logging*', such as FSC certification.

Source: WWF Certification Update, September 2000

UK crackdown on illegal logging: The UK Government has announced a major change in policy over the official procurement of timber and a crackdown against the use of illegally obtained wood in government projects. At the Group of Eight (G8) summit in Okinawa, UK Prime Minister Tony Blair also succeeded in getting agreement from world leaders to '*examine how best we can combat illegal logging, including export and procurement practices*'. Paul Toyne of WWF commented that: '*WWF welcome political support for sustainable forest management and would urge other governments to review their timber and paper procurement policies. There is a real need to effectively manage natural forests of conservation value that are only protected on paper and crack down on illegal logging in these areas*'.
Source: Environment News Daily Service, August 2000

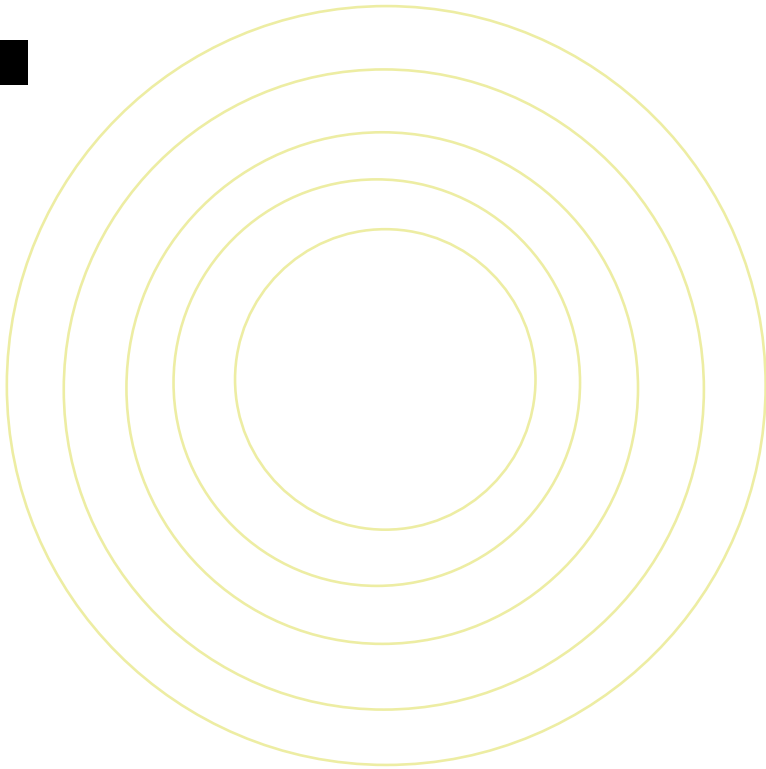
Logging spreads disease: A recent study by researchers at the US Johns Hopkins School of Public Health examining the factors that cause humans to become infected by novel pathogens, found that the intersection of forest hunting and current tropical logging practices may play a central role in the emergence of new diseases.

Source: US Newswire, September 20, 2000

Fires Update

Cutting fires: Not for the first time, the debate on forest fires is raging in the US. Following the burning of 6.2 million acres of forests and wildlands in 13 western states this year, the timber industry is attempting to gain support for more commercial logging. The industry alleges that the 70 per cent decline in timber harvests over the last decade has been a major factor in the wildfires, and that it '*stands to reason that if there is more wood in forests, there is a better possibility of a fire*'. The U.S. government is thus proposing to protect 40 million acres of National Forest from fire through widespread thinning to reduce the fuel available for fires. However, to make the thinning economically profitable and of interest to logging companies, taking of larger trees will be required as a commercial incentive. Since some of these forests had been excluded from logging for environmental reasons, conservation NGOs have expressed concern on how these operations would be planned and supervised.

Source: Forests.org, Inc. USA, September 2000



Temperate rain forest at risk: The Valdivian temperate rain forest in Chile and Argentina, the second largest temperate rainforest in the world, is under threat. Of the original 54,000 square miles of forest, only 40 per cent remains and even that area is highly fragmented. In the Chaihuin-Venecia area of Chile, a Chilean forestry company, Bosques S.A., is converting rainforest to eucalyptus plantations. The company has already destroyed more than 58 square miles of forest, in violation of Chilean law.

Source: [http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/may/11/temperate-rain-forest-chile-argentina](#)

New publications, new chair for WCPA in Jordan

The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) held an important workshop in Amman as part of the World Conservation Congress. A new chair was elected, new directions agreed and three new publications launched at the meeting. [Sue Stolton](#) gives an overview.

Protected areas of one sort or another now cover almost a tenth of the earth's terrestrial surface (though barely 1 per cent of the oceans). The interest in, and expectations from, these critical habitats are increasing daily. Delegates at the two-day global meeting of Commission members in Jordan,

in protected areas and the importance of both terrestrial and marine environments (see picture).

WCPA's role as a source of expert advice received an important boost with the publication of three new books in the series of Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines, edited by Adrian Phillips and produced in association with Cardiff University. The volumes cover indigenous and traditional peoples; management effectiveness and financing protected areas. All can be downloaded in PDF format from the WCPA website. A new booklet was launched as well – *Protected Areas – Benefits beyond boundaries* – laying out the aims and work of the commission in simple terms.



WCPA

WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS

on the eve of the World Conservation Congress, watched WCPA moving forward into a new and exciting phase of its life, with fresh projects, new personnel and a new image. After two highly successful terms, Adrian Phillips finished his time as chair, and the number and warmth of the tributes paid at a farewell dinner speak powerfully of how much the Commission has flourished under his direction. Kenton Miller, currently of the World Resources Institute and a former Director General of IUCN, was elected as the new chair and stated that in the new phase of the Commission's life he wanted to focus effort down onto a smaller number of key areas, particularly in the lead-up to the World Parks Congress now to be held in South Africa in 2003 (see page 6).

Reports from every region, and from an impressive range of specialist groups, showed the WCPA has a new image as well. A website was also launched in Amman, designed and supported by NOAA, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the efforts of the late Nancy Foster, former vice chair marine - who sadly died in June - and Bud Ehler, Nancy's successor (see <http://wcpa.iucn.org>). A new logo has been designed and adopted with acclaim. It stresses the human elements

Research in brief

A new forest policy, called the Natural Forest Conservation Program (NFCP), has been adopted in China. The policy emphasises expansion of natural forests and increasing the productivity of forest plantations. Policy tools which may have wider relevance for other countries, particularly developing countries (*Science* **288**:5474, 2135-2136). A review of forestry in the Ukraine draws a depressing picture of post-war ravage, a declining industry, outdated production methods and gross inefficiencies. There is a well-intentioned list of objectives for forest management but little sign of their implementation (*Forest Policy and Economics* **1**:2, 139-151). Constraints and opportunities to forest policy implementation in Albania also provides a depressing overview of the current state of forestry and suggests a range of measures including better policy, improved legislation and greater public participation in the formulation of forest policies (*Forest Policy and Economics* **1**:2, 153-163). Despite there being plenty of evidence that environmental damage can be reduced and profitability increased by a range of forestry good practices, destructive logging practices, in particular in the tropics, remain commonplace. The main reason seems to be that reduced-impact logging is in some cases more expensive, thus reflecting the need for fiscal mechanisms to promote sustainable forest management (*Conservation Biology*, **14**:4, 951-956).

news from around the world



Gold threat to World Heritage site: The Canadian Kinross Gold Corporation and other developers may be allowed to explore in the Bystrinsky park reserve in the Russian Far East. The reserve, established by the Kamchatka regional government in 1995, and declared a World Heritage Site in 1996, holds several unexplored gold deposits, which the Russian government wants to develop by shifting the park's border about 50 kilometres north.

Source: *The Globe and Mail*, Canada, August 8, 2000

Protection wins over logging: August saw the declaration of the new 3,370 ha Atleca Landscape Zakaznik (regional nature reserve) in the Vologda region of Russia. The reserve protects one of the least disturbed old-growth forest areas in the region, with many threatened and vulnerable species including three red-listed species. The declaration is particularly important, as this is the first time a forest lease has been withdrawn to create a nature reserve. The area had .[(le4m-0.0 7.8403 333.0992 682.6489 Tm/Cs8 c 0 TD(se

arborvitæ

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The subscription for 2001 – three issues of Arborvitæ – is US\$20, £12, CHF30.

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The conference focused on the important role of multiple-use, traditional and indigenous forest management both in forest use and forest conservation, with a particular focus on Russia. With more than half of the world's coniferous forests, the Russian taiga is of crucial importance for its significant biological diversity. Yet, Russian forests are increasingly threatened. The future of Russian forests is more urgent than ever before following the recent closure of the government agency responsible for the design and management of the zapovedniks (strict nature reserves – IUCN category I) and the only one with environmental regulatory power.

TRN decided to highlight those positive alternative forest uses which respect the natural balance of the ecosystem while providing socio-economic benefits to local, forest-dependent communities: community forestry; non-timber forest products (NTFPs) harvesting, processing and commercialisation; ecosystem-based forest management; traditional indigenous forest use; recreation and ecotourism. A trade fair of NTFPs from across Russia was organised to display the richness and diversity of the products, as well as a presentation on NTFP marketing and product development.

On the second day of the conference, participants assessed the role of forest certification, foreign investments, legislation and policy tools in making multiple use forest management a realistic option. Recommendations included: better use and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements; improved environmental and social standards for foreign investment in the timber industry in Russia; practical support for developing Forest Stewardship Council certification in Russia; and development of protocols for relationships between non-governmental organisations and indigenous peoples. An information workshop was also organised to discuss the recommendations on how to develop a PACT for Forest PACT initiative.

Calendar of events

Dutch timber companies surveyed

Most Dutch timber companies do not give adequate information about the sources of their timber and some are apparently making deliberately misleading claims, despite a pledge by the Netherlands government that all tropical timber imports would be from sustainable sources by 1995. [Monique Grooten](#) reports on new research by WWF Netherlands.

Although the Netherlands has made encouraging public

The IUCN forest programme ran 'Forest Ecospaces, Biodiversity and Environmental Security' an interactive session at the IUCN World Congress in Amman, Jordan in October 2000.

feature: climate change

10



The collapse of the climate convention talks at the Hague in November 2000 is one of the most disappointing setbacks

Although forests have proved relatively resilient to past climate changes, today's fragmented and degraded forests are more vulnerable. Adaptation of species to climate change can take place through the ability of individual plants to cope with change, adaptive evolution or migration to suitable sites, with the latter probably the most common response in the past. The challenge for conservationists is not necessarily to prevent change, but to keep rates, scales, and intensities of change in ecosystems within the historic range of variability for those systems – or at least to come



climate change





The conference, boldly entitled '*Certification for the People*' to reflect its social theme, was attended by 187 people from 36 countries. The four-day main meeting included presentations and workshops on indigenous peoples' rights, workers' rights, community forestry, the certification of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and the certification of small forest enterprises. Other sessions covered High Conservation Value Forests (Principle 9), standards harmonisation, and co-ordination with other 'Green' and Fair Trade programmes and with ISO standards.

Dr. Maharaj Muthoo, the newly appointed Executive Director, addressed the members, and met one-on-one and in small groups with as many members as possible. He will be taking up his position in January. Dr. Timothy Synnott, the current Executive Director, will continue working in the Secretariat as Director of Forest Policy.

The FSC Secretariat presented the latest information on FSC's growth - 231 FSC certified forests covering an area of 17 million hectares, and perhaps more significantly 658 manufacturers with chain of custody control, spread over 35 countries. This translates into more than 4,000 separate FSC labelled product lines. Looking to the future, FSC's five-year strategy was outlined.

The meeting included discussions by indigenous leaders, especially those from Canada, on the problems faced by those working in regions where indigenous laws and tenure rights have not been well addressed in national laws and agreements. It was noted that the FSC may not guarantee that indigenous people will be treated with full respect and given full authority to exercise their rights to forest resources. In other areas however, such as Sweden and Bolivia, indigenous leaders reported success in their efforts to work with FSC certification, and contrasted this with the weaknesses of other schemes such as the Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme, in addressing indigenous peoples' rights.

The importance of worker health and safety and working conditions in both forestry and the wood processing industries was emphasised. Recommendations were made as to how these issues could be better addressed by certification bodies in forest and 'chain of custody' evaluations.

Contact: Matthew Wenban-Smith at wm@soilassociation.org.
For more information on the FSC visit their web site at: <http://www.fscoax.org/>
or contact FSC at fscoax@fscoax.org

Certification News in Brief

New FSC Director:

New Economics Journal

www.elsevier.com/locate/forpol

Forest Policy and Economics from Elsevier Science is a companion volume to *Forest Ecology and Management*. It is edited by Professor Max Krott of the University of Goettingen, Germany and published in co-operation with the European Forest Institute.

International directory

www.devdir.org/

The Directory of Development Organizations, is a compilation of over 18,500 contacts of the main sources of assistance available for private sector development and poverty alleviation in developing countries, with particular attention to the development of (non) financial markets for micro and small enterprises.

Valuing biodiversity

www.grain.org/publications/gtbc/issue5.htm

The wealth of Africa's biodiversity is increasingly being realised both by governments and the private sector for its economic potential. *Privatising the Means for Survival: The Commercialisation of Africa's Biodiversity* from Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) reviews policy options open to African governments and civil society groups concerned about the appropriation of African biological resources by transnational corporations.

New series on innovative forest-related themes

Contact EC LNV, Wageningen, fax: +31-317-427561

www.minlnv.nl/inm

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs); their role in sustainable forest management in the tropics is intended to support policy in forest management, biodiversity conservation and NTFP activities. *Natural forest management by local groups in the humid tropics* discusses the experience of recent projects on sustainable forest management by local groups. Conclusions are reached as to what extent it is advisable to incorporate sustainable forest management into broader rural development projects. *National forest programmes; from political concept to practical instrument in developing countries* describes the history of national-level forest planning and the endeavours by international donor and other organisations to have these plans integrated and to use them as a basis for project funding. *The challenge of including forests as sinks within the clean development mechanism* (CDM) summarises the debate on whether or not to include afforestation, reforestation and deforestation activities within the CDM established under the Kyoto Protocol.

Minority Rights

Contact Minority Rights Group at minority.rights@mrghmail.org

A new publication focuses on pygmy people of Central Africa – *The Batwa Pygmies of the Great Lakes Region* – and how they have been impacted, first by agriculture and then logging and the establishment of game parks.