

# arborvitæ

The IUCN/WWF Forest Conservation Newsletter

17

May 2001

**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union

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### 2-6 News from around the world

Deforestation rates, forest footprints,  
Restoration in the Mekong, Amazon

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parks in 22 tropical countries, all in IUCN categories I-II (strictly protected areas) and all subject to human pressure. Despite some problems, 83 per cent had experienced no net clearing since establishment and many had undergone regeneration. Illegal activities, like logging and poaching, were commonest near the edge, suggesting that larger protected areas are safer. Effectiveness was closely related to management effort and factors such as number of guards.

The CI results have been reported as 'proving' the effectiveness of protected areas. While we applaud the initiative and would like to be able to support CI's findings, our own assessments make us slightly wary. CI's use of questionnaires has limitations because it is often politically difficult for staff to criticise their own protected areas. WWF and IUCN have built up a portfolio of information on protected area management effectiveness, based on long-term country studies by experts. Our report *Squandering Paradise* outlines

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

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**Canadian Fraud:** Lost revenue is galvanising British Columbia's ministry of forests into action to ensure that commercial



Produced in association with the IUCN Protected Areas Unit and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)



Ari Komulainen, IKA

## of Europe's Forests

Europe has already lost more than half of its original forest cover (IT alETO.304 572(for)-14.J/F1 1 Igrharri.karjalai TDV).

WWF's new overview of the state of Europe's forests, *Insight into Europe's Forest Protection*, shows that despite inadequate protection Europe still has many biodiversity rich remnants of natural, old-growth forests. The bad news is only 1 in 15 of the remaining forested areas - and only 1 in 2 of the most natural and biologically rich forests - are adequately protected. Europe's protected forests suffer from being too small (9 out of 10 protected forests are less than 10 km<sup>2</sup>) and from inadequate safeguards, and do not represent the wealth of forest types in Europe.

The report identifies the most urgent tasks to safeguard the remaining unprotected old-growth forests and other forests with high nature conservation values. In those parts of Europe where forests are most degraded ecological restoration measures are necessary. Equally important is to raise the standard of forest protected area management to clearly follow principles of biodiversity protection. All this is necessary to properly implement the Habitats Directive within the EU and accession countries.

Even though legal protection remains the major tool for establishing protected areas, new complementary measures should be introduced. One of the most potent tools, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification, ensures protection and promotes the restoration of key forest biotypes in forests managed primarily for wood production. Moreover, FSC-certification decreases the pressure for commercial logging in Europe's remaining unprotected old-growth forests, since it is the only certification system that has a mechanism to ensure protection of high conservation value forests

The report draws on data from a gap analysis carried out by UNEP-WCMC for WWF on the distribution and protection status of different forest types in Europe. The analysis overlaid digital pan-European forest cover maps of potential and current forest cover with a digital map of Europe's protected areas. Digital overlays of these data were undertaken and statistics produced indicating the current state of protection of different forest types. The major findings of the study were:

- 56 per cent of Europe's forest has already been lost and only 6.3 per cent of the current forest lie within protected areas (belong to IUCN management categories I-IV).
- At a national level forest protection (as a proportion of current forest cover) ranges from 11.7 per cent in Belarus to only 0.6 per cent in the United Kingdom.
- A small number (329) of relatively large (>10,000 ha) areas account for 67 per cent of protected forests. 39 of the 50 largest forest protected areas are in Russia.

The analysis of Russian forest protected areas has been furthered by a report from the WWF Russian Programme Office, produced in collaboration with the IUCN CIS office and the Russian Nature Research Institute. The report presents the findings of a study to assess percentages of forests protected on a regional basis, calculate a rating for the regions contribution to forest protection through protected areas and provide recommendations to optimise the protected area system.

**Contact:** harri.karjalainen@wwf.fi or tel: +358-9-7740-1055 for a copy of *n* and for a CD-ROM version of the *an*. This can also be viewed at: [www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/eu\\_gap/](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/eu_gap/). Contact the WWF Russian Programme at [russia@wwf.ru](mailto:russia@wwf.ru) or tel: +7-095-727-09-39 for a copy of *n a n n a: An*.

### Protected Areas news in brief

**Congo initiative:** Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic (CAR) have agreed to share management of 28,000 km<sup>2</sup> of forest – with a core protected area of 7,750 km<sup>2</sup> – (including the protected zones of Lobéké in Cameroon, Dzanga-Sangha in CAR, Nouabale-Ndoki in the Republic of Congo and associated production forests and hunting zones) to create the Trinational Sangha Park. The countries will also co-ordinate actions against poaching and illegal logging in the Congo Basin.

**Source:** Environment News Service, [ens.lycos.com/](http://ens.lycos.com/), December 8, 2000

**BC Deal:** The logging industry and conservation groups in British Columbia, Canada have reached an agreement that will protect almost 20 river valleys in the Great Bear Rainforest covering over 600,000 ha. There is some concern however that the areas are isolated and thus lacking the contiguous protection that is needed for large, far ranging carnivores such as grizzly bears and wolves. The agreement also includes a framework for managing change, including economic development and diversification initiatives for First Nations and local communities and comprehensive mitigation packages for workers and contractors.

**Source:** Raincoast Conservation Society and the Taiga Rescue Network

**Gifts to the Earth:** In February, Turkey declared National Park status for the Kure Mountains (34,000 hectares) and launched a process that will lead to the legal protection of eight other forest hotspots in the country by 2005. It is estimated that the full implementation of this 'Gift to the Earth' will increase the size of protected areas (IUCN I-IV) from 4 to 6 per cent. At the same time, the Republic of Georgia pledged to protect 15 per cent of its forests within strict protected area categories (IUCN I-IV) by 2010 and to ensure that all major forest habitats are represented and the areas are effectively managed.

**Source:** WWF International, [www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)

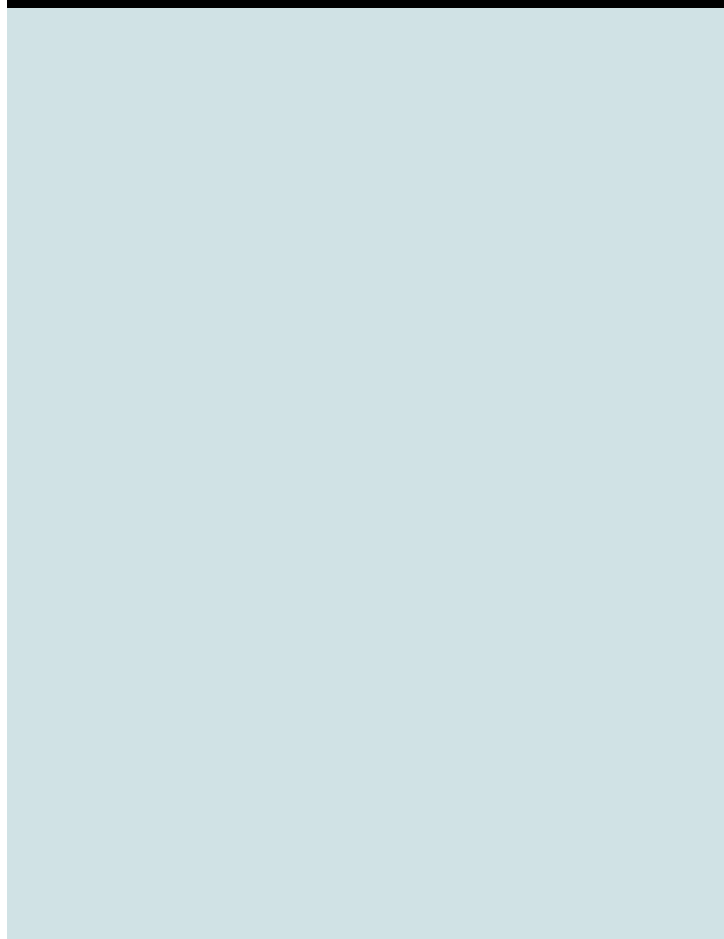


news  
from around the world

Some recent research on forest ecology:

The workshop initiated a fruitful exchange amongst conservation partners that are exploring conservation at broad scales. Whether this is the ecosystem approach (Convention on Biological Diversity), ecosystem-based

## Calendar of events





# Forest

When it began, the Forest Innovations project was the largest collaborative policy project between IUCN and WWF. [Nigel Dudley](#) and [Sue Stolton](#) report on progress over three years.

How do conservation organisations co-ordinate research? How do we manage the tricky relationship between conservation and development? How do we ensure that lessons from the field make their way into policy? In 1998, the German government department BMZ made the bold decision to fund IUCN and WWF for three years to look at these questions. The Forest Innovations project also aimed to help the two conservation organisations work more closely together and to build links with the German technical development agency GTZ.

### Developing conservation tools

At the project's core was the development of conservation tools, aimed at implementing broad-scale approaches to conservation. The project worked with several partners,

# Innovat

including the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the World Bank, and with local IUCN, GTZ and WWF offices in Central America, the Congo Basin and the Mekong countries.

Forest Innovations looked at challenges facing the world's protected areas – recorded in the book *Partnerships for Protection*. Two side projects looked at the status of protected areas. One, funded by the WWF-World Bank Alliance, assessed forest protected areas in ten forest-rich countries and created a new Alliance target for management effectiveness. The second, funded by WWF Netherlands, resulted in the book *Squandering Paradise* that provides the most detailed assessment available of threats to protected areas globally. With WCPA, the project developed methodologies and a framework for assessing management of protected areas, which was launched at the World Conservation Congress last year (see *arborvitae* 16). It is being implemented initially through a four-year project assessing World Heritage sites with UNESCO and by using a methodology developed for Africa. Forest Innovations worked closely with WCPA in the promotion of assessment, running workshops and lobbying governments. Assessment identifies strengths, weaknesses and suggests interventions to improve management.

The need to integrate environmental and social functions of forests at a landscape scale formed the impetus for research with EPFL. Meeting conservation goals also necessitates addressing human needs and balancing the trade-offs involved is usually only possible at a landscape scale. The project developed methods for assessing landscape-level forest quality and tested these in three continents (see *arborvitae* 16), before working with IUCN and WWF to develop a



Convention on Biological Diversity and Commission on Sustainable Development. At the IFF, we influenced policy through development of position papers, drafting inputs for formal interventions and through a side meeting on protected area effectiveness, attended by 12 governments.

The fact that the world's two largest conservation organisations spoke with one voice, sometimes with partners like the World Bank, created and maintained an important profile and impact. We influenced the development of the UN Forum on Forests with respect to stakeholder participation and inclusion of IUCN/WWF priorities in its work programme, including through the 8-country response coordinated by GTZ. More generally, the project revised the IUCN/WWF *Forests for Life* strategy through workshops in Costa Rica, Madagascar, France and Switzerland and the agreed policy was published as a three-language brief – *Forests for Life: Reaffirming the Vision* – at the World Conservation Congress. This was developed on a regional basis with WWF to produce a set of Africa-wide policy priorities. Through the project, we have become the 'advisor of choice' for many governments, NGOs and other partners in the international arena.

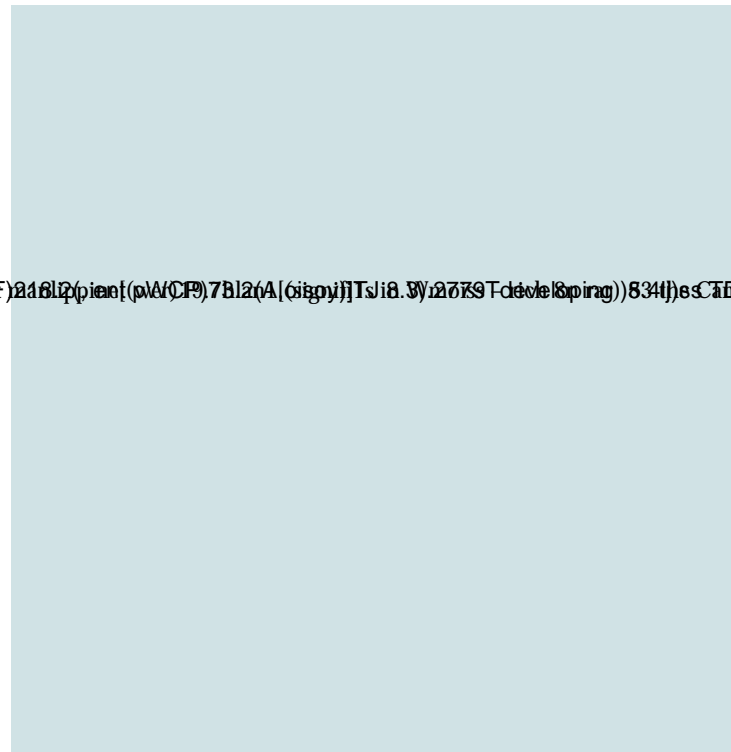
Extension of the ideas developed by the project was of key importance. A lot of material was produced, including five books (one in two languages), seven pamphlets, nine newsletters and six newsletter 'specials', over 50 papers and reports (varying from published papers to working documents), a dozen PowerPoint presentations and a website.



WWF's report *The World's Top Ten Most Vulnerable Forest Ecoregions* highlights the most vulnerable forests across the globe and the threats that they face. The vulnerable forests were calculated on the basis of the proportion that remains from the forest's original area, and amount of the current forest area legally protected.

The analysis shows that many of the world's most biologically significant forests – rich in rare species, habitats and ecological processes – remain vulnerable as they still lack effective protection or management. They are at risk in the future to deforestation and degradation by logging, population pressures, pollution and other forms of human activity.

The Top 10 include; the Southern Pacific Islands (currently with 0.2 per cent protection), the Naga Manapuri Chin Hills in Southeast Asia (0.8 per cent), the Cameroon Highlands (1.6 per cent), the Ganges-Brahmaputra (1.8 per cent), the Congo Basin (2.1 per cent), the Amazon (2.1 per cent), the Andean Yungas (2.1 per cent), the Himalayas (2.1 per cent), the Borneo (2.1 per cent) and the New Guinea (2.1 per cent).







The Sarstoon-Temash National Park (STNP) is located in Belize's southernmost Toledo District. With a land area of 168km<sup>2</sup>, the park is the second largest protected area in the country. STNP protects a wetland complex and encompasses the country's most highly developed riverine mangrove, with red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) as the dominant species.

In recent years, Toledo's pristine resources have captured the attention of international and national developers, and the District's previous isolation is being steadily eroded. There are already 17 forestry concessions, and strong indications that others, adjacent to the park itself, might be granted in coming years. A new paved highway from Belize City to Toledo is currently being completed, which the Government of Belize hopes to extend eventually across the border into Guatemala.

STNP was created in 1994. At first, the five indigenous communities living adjacent to STNP were largely unaware of its existence. The government had never thought to consult the communities before creating the park; it neither established a permanent government.

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

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## Reviews in brief

### Livelihoods Connect

Contact: [www.livelihoods.org](http://www.livelihoods.org), email: [livelihoods-connect@ids.ac.uk](mailto:livelihoods-connect@ids.ac.uk)

The UK Department for International Development has a new internet service supporting the implementation of sustainable livelihoods approaches. The website includes key documents, distance learning materials, networking information, discussion boards and FAQs on livelihoods approaches and aims to encourage lesson learning and exchange of experience. *nn* offers a free Email Update service and is produced by the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.

### Gold Wars

Available from: Forest Peoples Programme, 1C Fosseyway Business Centre, Stratford Road, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, GL56 9NQ, email [info@fppwrm.gn.apc.org](mailto:info@fppwrm.gn.apc.org)

For 40 years, gold hunters, ranging from individual miners to Canadian and South African companies, have invaded the territories of Guyana's Amerindians. *nn* *nn* *nn*, *an* *an* *nn* *nn* *nn* *a* *an* has been written at the request of the Akawaio and Arecuna communities and is a comprehensive account of mining in Guyana and particular problems in the watershed.

### Flying to nowhere

Available from: Lynx Edicions, Passeig de Gràcia 12, E-08007 Barcelona, Spain, email: [lynx@hbw.com](mailto:lynx@hbw.com)

Some 1186 bird species are threatened by extinction and for the first time *a* *n* *B* contains information and maps for them all. The book, produced by BirdLife International, has been written and reviewed by a thousand leading experts and includes notes on threats, status and conservation measures.