

**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union

# Flames

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

This newsletter has been edited by Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton of Equilibrium Consultants. Managing editors Chris Elliot of WWF International and Simon Rietbergen of IUCN, the World Conservation Union. Design by Helen Miller, HMD UK. Printed on paper manufactured from 100% post consumer waste. Funding for the newsletter has been provided by the German development cooperation ministry BmZ and the Netherlands government.

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The next issue of *arborvitae* will be produced in December 2001 (copy deadline November 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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**Salmon safe:** A US Court of Appeals ruling that the federal fisheries agency violated the law by not considering the detrimental effects of logging on salmon habitat will have an impact on all timber sales affecting salmon habitat under the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan

**Source:** Environment News Service, June 1, 2001

**Logging wars:** Dubbed 'the biggest ever logging operation in the tropical rainforests of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)', the rights to about 36 million hectares of forests have been conceded by DRC's government to representatives of the Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe in return for military aid against rebels in the east of the country. The logging operation is to be run by the Zimbabwean army and Forestry Commission.

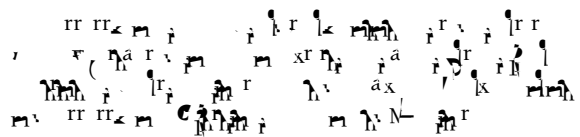
**Source:** *The Observer* (UK), August 26, 2001

**Guyana road:** Guyana's government is planning to build a two-

# news

## from around the world

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### News in brief

**Global health check:** UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan launched a four-year 'Millennium Ecosystem Assessment' on World Environment Day in June. The study, which will involve 1,500 scientists, aims to examine the states of the world's grasslands, forests, rivers and lakes, farmlands and oceans, looking at problems, remedies and management issues. Comments on the draft document *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment User Needs Outline*, can be made via the website.

**Source:** PlanetArk/Reuters, June 7, 2001 and <http://www.millenniumassessment.org>

**Bird extinction:** BirdLife International's newly released '*Threatened Birds of Asia*' suggests that some 300 Asian birds face extinction because of habitat destruction such as deforestation and wetland conversion.

**Source:** PlanetArk/Reuters, June 12, 2001

**Amazon hydro:** The government of Brazil has announced it will undertake an environmental impact assessment of the proposed hydroelectric power plant (planned to be the second largest in the world) on the Xingu River in the Amazon state of Para.

**Source:** PlanetArk/Reuters, August 3, 2001

**Chile road extension:** An estimated one-third of the world's remaining temperate rainforest is found in southern Chile and Argentina. In mid-2001, the Chilean government decided to continue construction of the Southern Coastal Highway (Ruta Costera Sur), which threatens to destroy the country's last major area of primary coastal forest. WWF-US and Chilean partners have designated these forests as priority areas within the southern temperate forest ecoregion. If constructed, the highway will cause deforestation both by its construction and acceleration of timber extraction, conversion to plantations of exotic species and unplanned urbanisation of the coastal zone

**Source:** Valdivian Temperate Forest Ecoregion Program, WWF

**Chainsaw laws in Thailand eased:** In 1978 chainsaw imports to Thailand were banned to help protect forests resources. The Forestry Department introduced the Chainsaws Act, which imposed strict licensing laws to enable the department to differentiate between illegal and legal tools, and helped officials track down the financiers behind illegal logging operations. Every year, forestry inspectors seize about 100 chainsaws from illegal logging operations. However, permission has recently been given to rubber plantation operators to start importing chainsaws again, a move that could contribute to illegal logging.

**Source:** *Bangkok Post*, April 8, 2001

## Protected Areas news in brief

**New International Network for PA managers:** The Protected Areas Learning Network (PALN), is a joint project between IUCN, WRI, CI and UNESCO to help the world's protected areas managers anticipate and cope with global changes brought about by climate change, poverty and population growth.

**Source:** *EcoLogic News*, [www.ecologic.org](http://www.ecologic.org), March 2001

**Congo Park extended:** A German-owned logging company, Congolaise Industrielle des Bois, or C.I.B., has given up its lease on a tract of rainforest in the Congo Republic. The 100 square-mile Goualogo Triangle will be added to the adjacent Nouabal-Ndoki National Park. The company retains leases on more than 5,000 square-miles of forest land in Northern Congo, but in 1999 reached agreement with the government and the Wildlife Conservation Society to limit hunting by its cutting crews and to plan its harvest in ways that would limit environmental damage. The decision to set aside the Goualogo tract came after a four-month survey last year of the area by scientists and experts from the conservation group, the company and the Congo Forestry Ministry.

**Source:** *New York Times*, July 7, 2001

**New Russian protection:** A Russian government directive issued in May, 2001 states that 9 nature reserves and 12 national parks will be established over the next 10 years.

**Source:** *Forest Update*, N 70, June 2001

**Benefit sharing:** The US National Park Service is soliciting comments on benefit sharing agreements, which would allow the return of benefits to parks when the results of research lead to a commercially valuable discovery.

**Source:** Stas Burgiel, [bionet2@igc.org](mailto:bionet2@igc.org). For more information on the benefits sharing agreements see: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/benefitssharing>

**Forest protection in Belize:** The US government, assisted by The Nature Conservancy, has concluded a debt for nature swap with Belize, in exchange for the protection of over 9,000 ha of vulnerable forest in the Maya Mountain marine corridor.

**Source:** Environmental News Service

**World Heritage sites:** Ten new Natural Sites were placed on the UNESCO Heritage List at the December 2000. They include 1.03 million ha of mostly forested landscape at the Greater Blue Mountains Area, near Sydney, Australia; the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park in Bolivia (1,523,000 ha) and the Jaú National Park in Brazil (2,272,000 ha), the Kinabalu Park in the State of Sabah, Malaysia and the Central Suriname Nature Reserve.

**Source:** [www.unesco.org/opi/eng/unescopress/2000/00-131be.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/opi/eng/unescopress/2000/00-131be.shtml)

**Gifts to the Earth:** An important old-growth forest in the Mediterranean has been safeguarded as a Gift to the Earth thanks to the extension of special protection to a 200,000 ha area of Velebit National Park in the Republic of Croatia. The area, identified by the WWF Forest Hot Spots campaign as one of the 10 most important forests in the Mediterranean region, has populations of wolves, brown bear and lynx and over 2,700 plant species.

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

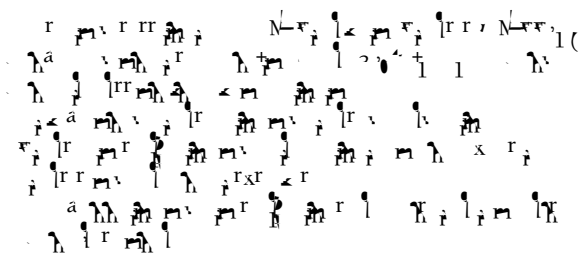
**Community assessment:** Research carried out in the Gamba Protected Area Complex in south-western Gabon into the continued involvement of government employees and local communities trained in ecological survey techniques and participatory rural appraisal (socio-economic studies) revealed that 76.2 per cent of the local community members, as opposed to 7.7 percent of government employees, were still actively carrying out ecological surveys two years after the training. None of the government employees were undertaking participatory rural appraisal after the two-year period, as opposed to 60 per cent of the local community members.

**Source:** *Conservation Biology* 15 (3) 591-595

**Tiger reserve:** The Chinese government is creating a new Hunchun Tiger-Leopard Reserve in Jilin Province, on the Russian border, to provide habitat for Siberian tigers and the critically endangered Amur leopard. Currently, China's tiger population only survives due to migration from Russia. It is hoped to create another tiger reserve, the proposed Wandashan Reserve in the mountains of Heilongjiang, within a year.

**Source:** Environment News Service

# news from around the world



**Conservation in disturbed landscapes.** A series of research projects offer tentative evidence that conservation is not always incompatible with human use of forests at a landscape scale and that controlled use may be better than ineffective attempts at protection that result in illegal exploitation. Reduction in mammal populations (especially peccaries) in hunted forest in Bolivia resulted in more complex mosaics of forest patches, due to reduced trampling and seed predation (*Conservation Biology* **15**, 617-623, 2001). Many endemic species in Bolivia were commonest in lightly disturbed forest, suggesting that they were at a competitive disadvantage and can thus profit from a certain level of human disturbance and could thus be maintained in forest areas subject to sustainable forest use (*Conservation Biology* **15**, 634-641, 2001). A study in the Olympic Peninsula of the USA found that species richness of mammals in old-growth fragments was not significantly correlated with isolation or fragment area as such but was significantly and positively affected by the amount of old-growth fragments and old-second growth in surrounding forests (*Global Ecology and Biogeography* **10**, 113-132, 2001). Conversely, a study of shifting cultivation in India found that primary forest remained key habitat for intrinsically rare species and migrants (*Conservation Biology* **15**, 685-698, 2001). In addition, re-colonisation by plants often takes longer than animals, and studies in North America found lower diversity amongst herbal species in woodland that had regrown on former agricultural land than in older woods (*Journal of Ecology* **89**, 325-338 2001). More generally, studies of 50 years of land-use in Michigan found that while habitat changes at a landscape scale did not lead to changes in overall diversity, the types of species changes considerably, leading to changes in community composition (*Global Ecology and Biogeography* **10**, 303-313, 2001). Meanwhile, Tropenbos researchers claim that making bushmeat-hunting illegal in Côte d'Ivoire reduces survival of game animals and that legislation and game management offer the best hope of regulating poaching in protected areas. Currently, over 20,000 hunters take 1500-3000 tonnes of bushmeat from the Tai national park each year (Casapary *et al*, 2001, Tropenbos Institute).



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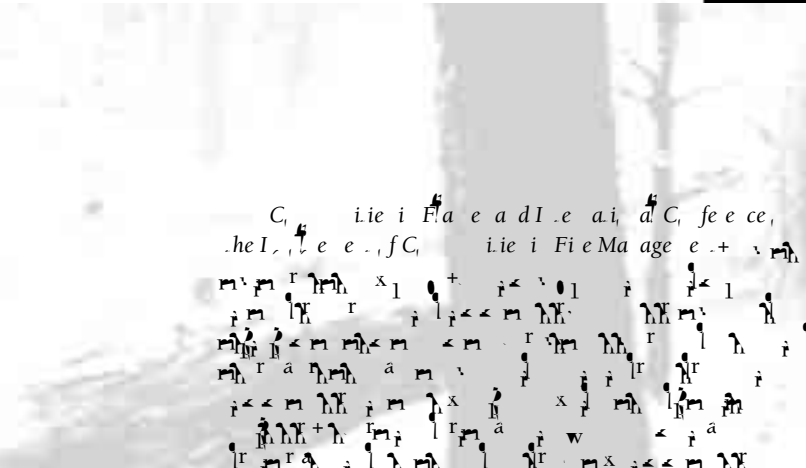
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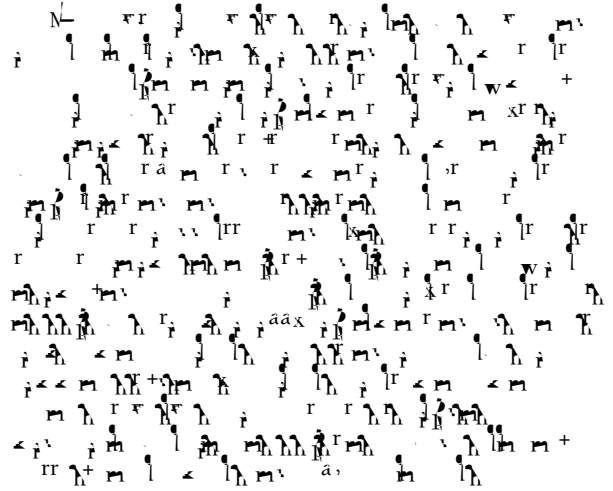
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Further details are available from <http://www.iucn.org/themes/fcp> (IUCN) and <http://www.panda.org/forests4life> (WWF).

**Fighting fire with dollars:** Up to August this year the US Forest Service had spent an average of US\$2,216 per acre burned – as opposed to US\$976 in 1999 and an average of only US\$492 in the 1980s – raising fears of a massive bill for fire suppression in the US this year. The 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Policy mandated the setting up of Fire Management Plans which would allow more wildfires to burn within predetermined limits and help restore fire-dependent forests – whilst reducing the costs of fighting fires. However, to date only 43 per cent of the necessary plans have been completed.

**Source:** Taxpayers for Common Sense, [www.taxpayer.net/forest](http://www.taxpayer.net/forest)

**Fire around the world this summer:** An abandoned campfire started a blaze in Brazil's oldest national park, Itatiaia, in July. Three hundred fire fighters were involved in dampening the flames. A government minister described the forest fire that burnt more than 600 ha in the TUS(a bmf lar)C Brazil's old1(e)] a.orgurld.3 Tw{(Fir)-18(e ar)-14.1(ound the world this summer: )TJ/F4 11 r: 11.sig

# Rights Trees and Tenure



Sue Stolton

**Secure rights to, and responsibilities for, land and natural resources underpin resource management. Edmund Barrow, of IUCN's East Africa Regional Office (EARO), explores tenure and community management of forests across Eastern and Southern Africa.**

Communal lands are those lands that are held in common by a community of people. They are often managed by a community-based organization, such as a village council or a community trust. Communal lands can be used for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, forestry, and grazing. They are often subject to a variety of legal and policy frameworks, and their management can be complex and challenging.

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Private lands are those lands that are owned by an individual or a private organization. They are often subject to a variety of legal and policy frameworks, and their management can be complex and challenging. Private lands can be used for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, forestry, and grazing.

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## State Lands

State lands are those lands that are owned by the government. They are often subject to a variety of legal and policy frameworks, and their management can be complex and challenging. State lands can be used for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, forestry, and grazing.

## Conclusions

Secure rights to, and responsibilities for, land and natural resources underpin resource management. Edmund Barrow, of IUCN's East Africa Regional Office (EARO), explores tenure and community management of forests across Eastern and Southern Africa.

Contact: [egb@iucnearo.org](mailto:egb@iucnearo.org). This article is based on two reviews available from IUCN-EARO: Alden Wily L. and S. Mbaya (2001): *Land, People and Forests in Eastern and Southern Africa at the beginning of the 21st century. The impact of land relations on the role of communities in forest future* and Barrow, E., Clarke J., Grundy I., Kamugisha Jones R., and Tessema Y. (2001 in press): *Whose Power? Whose Responsibilities? An Analysis of Stakeholders in Community Involvement in Forest Management in Eastern and Southern Africa*. IUCN-EARO, Nairobi, Kenya.

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WWF/IUCN Forest Vision

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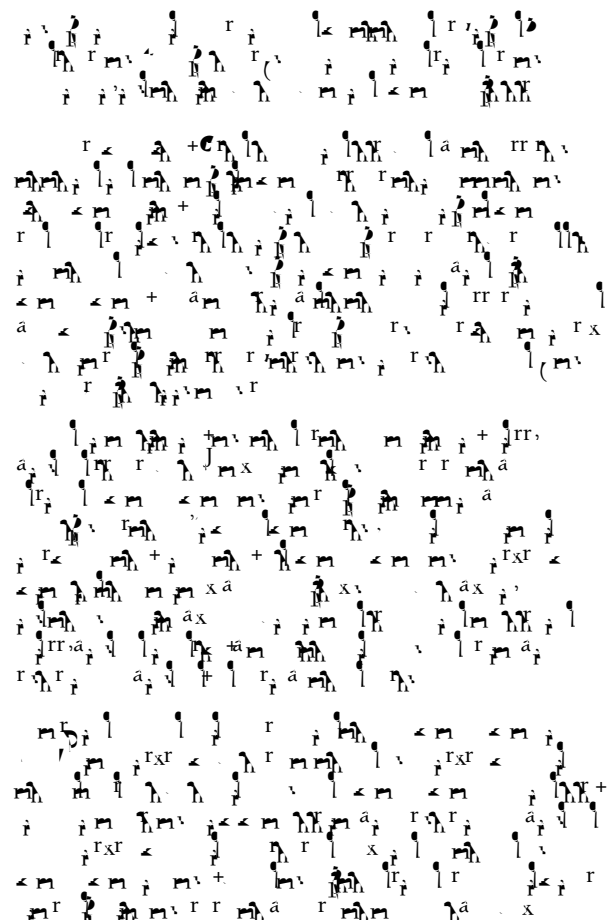
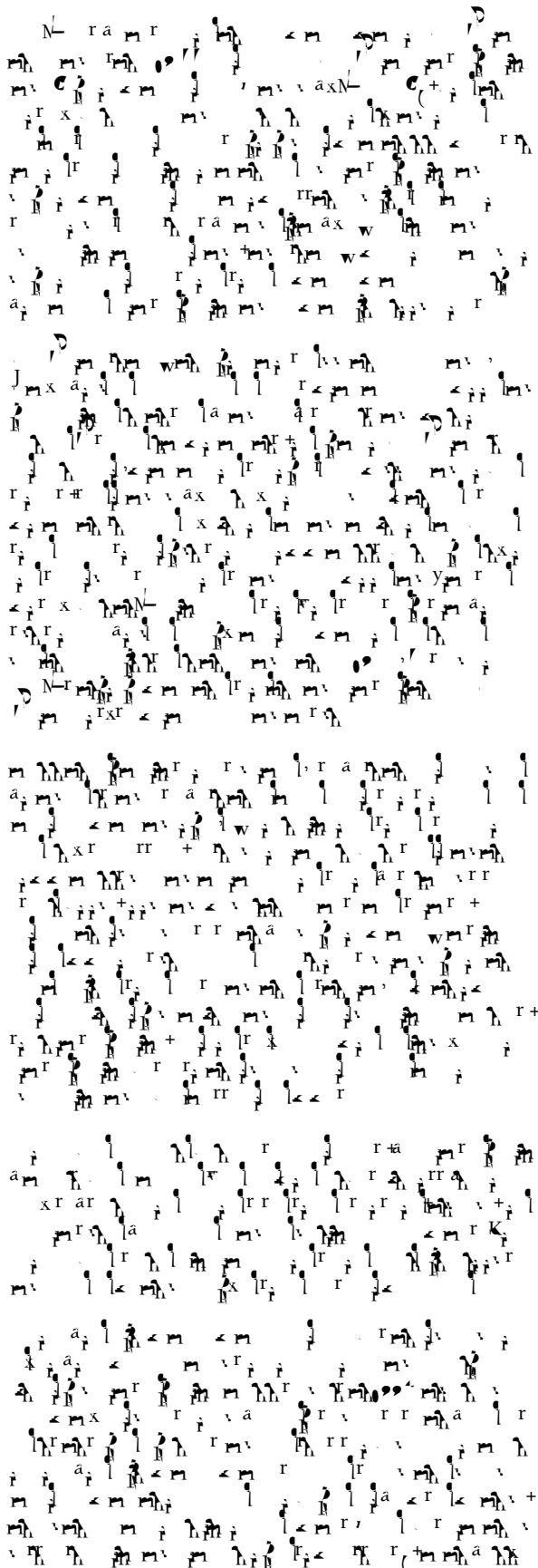
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WWF news in brief

Staff changes: Jack Hurd (jhurd@wwfint.org) is the new Co-ordinator for the WWF/ World Bank Forest Alliance, based in Gland, having previously worked for WWF in Cambodia. He replaces Rod Taylor, who has taken a new position as forest co-ordinator for the Asia and Pacific region, based in Bali (rodtaylor@walacea.wwf.id), who is joined in the office by Ketut Deddy (kdeddy@yahoo.com).

Malaysia petition: WWF Malaysia has launched a petition to highlight the urgency in rethinking highland development strategies. Over the years, the condition of the fragile forested highlands ecosystem has deteriorated due to uncontrolled development, like housing, agriculture and tourism, with a consequent loss of water quality. The petition will eventually be handed over to Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister.

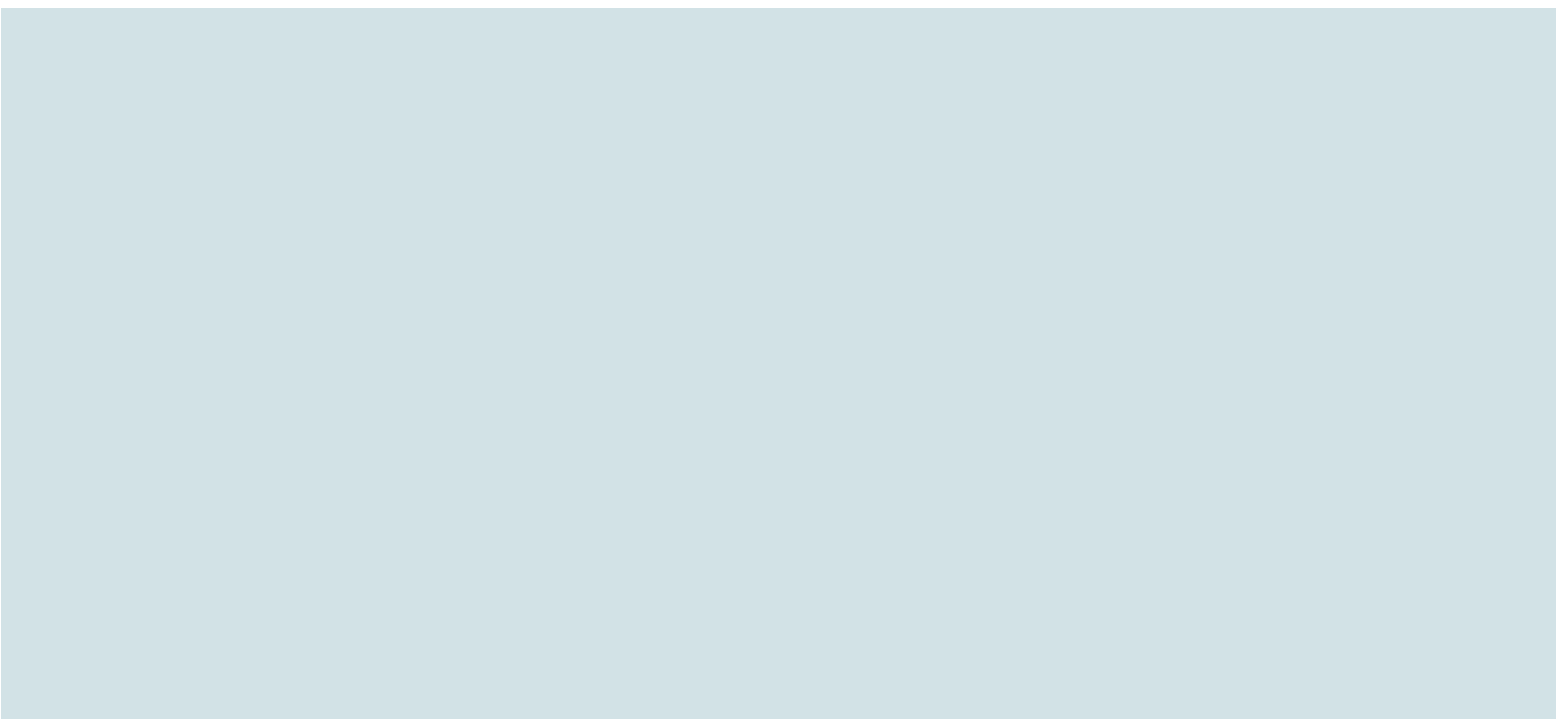


Contact: Sean White, Chief Technical Advisor, Mt. Elgon Conservation and Development Project, Email: mecdp@imul.com

## IUCN news in brief

**Grants for Nature:** The Netherlands Committee for IUCN has developed a 'Small Grants for the Purchase of Nature' (SPN) scheme, with support of the Netherlands Postcode Lottery. The objective of SPN is to 'support local NGOs in the purchase of vulnerable nature, with the aim to conserve biodiversity for the long term'. SPN will support projects in tropical countries and in Eastern Europe and CIS-countries. Local NGOs from tropical countries can send proposals to the SPN secretariat ([spn@nciucn.nl](mailto:spn@nciucn.nl)). Project proposals should meet the criteria and formats. NGOs from Eastern Europe and CIS countries should contact the secretariat of the EECNET Action Fund ([eaf@eucc.nl](mailto:eaf@eucc.nl)).





**Community Involvement**

Available from: The Tropenbos Foundation, Wageningen, the