

# arborvitæ



Partnerships are not new. In the decade since the Earth Summit, many partnerships and networks have emerged that cut through the boundaries between governments and civil society organisations, and between national and international institutions. Partnerships can mobilise and catalyze action. Economic globalisation and the increasing influence of the private sector make the emergence of such relationships not only possible but desirable, even unavoidable.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) encouraged this trend by calling for the involvement of non-state actors ('Major Groups' including businesses and NGOs) in the implementation of a UN programme of action. More than 250 partnerships resulted and the list continues to grow. However, partnerships do not operate in a vacuum. The failure of governments to agree to adequate action-oriented decisions with specific time bound measures – as required by the General Assembly mandate for the WSSD – combined with the failure to agree criteria for the partnerships or the negotiation of a framework for corporate accountability have given rise to concerns that WSSD partnerships are being put forward as a surrogate for meaningful commitment by governments.

Not all partnerships are created equal and each should be evaluated on its own merits. The key characteristic of an effective partnership – inside or outside the WSSD context – is commitment. There can be no substitute for the commitment of every partner, which translates into, for instance, the undertaking of new approaches with new actors, the provision of increased resources and capacity, or the adoption of targets and timetables for action.

'Good' partnerships have no reason to shy away from an objective evaluation of their successes and failures. This enables the partners and others to learn from the experiences and adapt their approaches based on these lessons learned.

In response to the high profile of partnerships as a result of the WSSD, we have made partnerships the special focus for this **arborvitæ** (itself a partnership between IUCN, WWF and the World Bank). Forest issues have featured in a number of major partnerships, that were announced at the WSSD, including those focusing on Asia, the Congo Basin and the Amazon. These and other partnerships, like the recently launched Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, offer opportunities to mobilise society to address the challenges of sustainable development in a changing world.

We invited the **arborvitæ** contributing organisations to describe some of their own partnerships – with industry, governments and communities – and to reflect on how these might develop in the future. We have found that partnerships are indeed valuable where they reflect real commitment.



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Reviving deforested and degraded landscapes so that they benefit local communities is possible if we draw our inspiration from diverse forest restoration success stories around the world. Sharing these on-the-ground examples and encouraging their replication is the motivation behind a new global partnership facilitated by IUCN, WWF and the UK Forestry Commission. Other partners include the Government of Kenya, the International Tropical Timber Organisation, the Centre for International Forestry Research, the UN Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and CARE International.

The initiative – known as the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration – will be a ‘meeting point’ for governments, communities, organisations and others who are engaged or interested in restoration activities that pave the way for sustainable development – in the North and the South. The rapid loss and degradation of forests worldwide has been well documented. Rarer is an analysis of how this affects the 1.8 billion people who depend on these forests and woodlands, where a healthy ecosystem means food, medicine and fuel. Denied the social safety nets that many take for granted, the rural poor rely heavily on wild resources, which are often under threat. Thus forest restoration must involve more than just planting trees. It must bring back forest goods and services to the people who depend on them.

The overall goal of the partnership is to contribute to building assets and improving prospects for people and

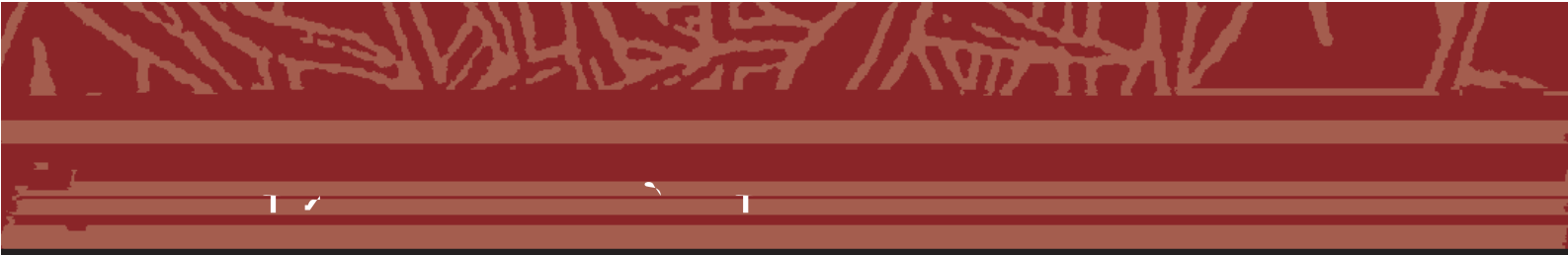
nature through restored forest landscapes – a goal that is as relevant in the northern Mediterranean and Scotland as it is in Uganda and the Lower Mekong. A number of activities will be undertaken including the exchange of information on where and how forest landscape restoration could be undertaken or reinforced and an analysis of how forest landscape restoration contributes to the implementation of existing international and regional laws and agreements. The partnership will also support the presentation of case studies, highlighting the lessons learned from field projects, and will organise regional workshops and an international workshop on forest landscape restoration. Finally, the partnership will develop and promote a forest landscape restoration investment portfolio.

The partnership does not seek to establish a parallel policy process or duplicate the efforts of others but rather to weave a thread through existing activities, projects, processes and institutions in order to encourage and reinforce the positive roles and contributions of each of them to meeting human needs and maintaining ecological integrity through forest landscape restoration. The outputs of the partnership will be fed into the work of the UN Forum on Forests and Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other agreements and arenas relevant to forests.

www.glo-partnership.org







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IUCN has been working with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to strengthen civil society participation in the African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (DAFLEG) process, leading to a ministerial meeting. This has included the Apepar





Lafarge is one of the first industrial groups to become a WWF Conservation Partner, with a relationship that began in 2000. Lafarge has significant experience in site-based restoration, as demonstrated in Bamburi in Kenya where, starting in 1971, the Swiss agronomist René Haller began experimenting with the rehabilitation of a disused quarry site. Today this area contains more than 200 coastal forest species and a famous nature trail and has attracted 100,000 visitors per year since opening to the public in 1984.

It seemed natural for Lafarge to invest in supporting WWF's Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) programme. FLR seeks to integrate socio-economic and biodiversity needs through the restoration of goods and services provided by forests within a landscape. This programme is one of the three core objectives of WWF's global Forest for Life Programme, alongside forest protection and management.

The partnership with Lafarge has evolved over the last three years with a focus on reducing Lafarge's environmental footprint. The two organisations are

The World Bank/WWF Alliance (Alliance) can perhaps best be described as a partnership between two organisations designed to catalyse further partnerships with a wide array of forest conservation stakeholders – a partnership within partnerships. As such, the Alliance serves as an appropriate example of the theme of this issue of *Arborvitæ*: that separate institutions can combine their respective strengths to leverage results greater than they could have achieved on their own.

When the Alliance was formed in 1998, it set ambitious targets for forming new protected areas, improving the management of existing protected areas, and achieving independently certified sustainable forest management. These targets were set at levels that could only be achieved through the dedicated contributions of organisations from government, the private sector and civil society.

The two core members of the Alliance, the World Bank and WWF, first evaluated their own attributes (see figure, bottom right) and realised that by combining their unique qualities they could together motivate an array of stakeholders to join in achieving progress toward a vision for improved protection and management of the world's forests.

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The Alliance works with partners in two main arenas: a) regional activities, and b) learning and capacity building initiatives. Regional activities support forest conservation and sustainable use by providing seed funding to develop projects likely to attract larger sums from external sources. Regional activities also include pilot projects designed to develop and test innovative approaches to forest management and protection. The latest annual report describes over 30 regional activities in World Bank client countries in diverse regions of the world.

Two of the most successful regional activities, reported in *arborvitæ* 21, resulted in the announcements of large-scale protected area initiatives in Brazil's Amazon Basin and Central Africa's Congo Basin. These initiatives, which benefited from early Alliance organisational and technical





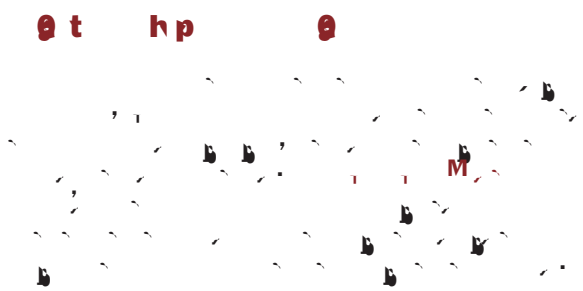
assistance, are dynamic partnerships – led by governments with support from private organisations – with the promise of forming vast networks of interconnected protected areas and well managed forests.

Another example of an Alliance-supported regional activity is a consortium formed to resolve common obstacles to sustainable forestry in Central America. Most forest landowners in the lowland tropics of Central America agree that it is difficult for sustainable forest management to compete with the economic benefits of alternative land uses such as illegal logging and agriculture. Compounding this problem, the development of management tools relevant for forest managers is often relatively expensive, inconsistent, of varying quality and seldom oriented toward resolving common obstacles to sustainable management. To address these obstacles, the Alliance is supporting WWF-Central America, the Tropical Agricultural Center for Research and Higher Education (CATIE) and Oregon State University (OSU) by providing funding for an analysis of certified forestry operations in Central America, development and testing of a biological monitoring protocol for High Conservation Value Forests in Guatemala and Nicaragua, and development and testing of a step-wise approach to certification in Nicaragua. By strategically supporting the efforts of the consortium between WWF, CATIE and OSU, the Alliance is hoping that the resulting tools will be utilised by forest certification practitioners throughout Latin America.

The consortium is noteworthy not just because it is a creative partnership and regional activity, but also because it utilises Alliance learning and capacity building tools, which aim to promote best practices and foster sustainable forest management and improve protected area management by training, developing methodologies and toolkits and disseminating information. Examples of these tools are

- a guide for biological monitoring for forest management in high conservation value forests in Meso-America, utilised by the consortium mentioned above;
- a toolkit and training manual to facilitate forest certification in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, to be utilised by national working groups on certification and forest management auditors; and
- a scorecard for evaluating management effectiveness of protected areas, to be used at the site-level by protected area managers.

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While the Alliance has demonstrated that the operational goal of achieving progress through partnerships can work, WWF and the World Bank realise that they must do more to implement the concept effectively. An independent midterm analysis noted that, while impressive progress has been made toward the Alliance targets, the Alliance must more effectively mainstream activities into World Bank and



Since 1999 IUCN, with the financial assistance of the MacArthur Foundation, has been implementing the Parks for Peace Project (PPP) in three transboundary protected areas in Central Africa: Virunga in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Volcanoes in Rwanda and Kibira in Burundi. The objective of PPP is to improve protection of the areas concerned while enhancing the livelihoods of the people who have suffered from violent conflict in the region.

Even before the war, relationships between conservation agencies and other institutions in the region were often characterised by competition and sometimes conflict over money, authority and the control of resources. Through establishing dialogue committees involving all relevant stakeholders, PPP has been able to reduce misunderstandings – and help stakeholders manage conflicts. The dialogue committees are now recognised as an impartial consensus building mechanism by both governments and rebels. The code of conduct for the management of Virunga, Volcanoes and Kibira that the committees are helping to develop will translate this consensus into clear rules to be respected by all parties, even in times of conflict.

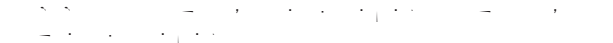
In the meantime, PPP has also been using its partnership strategy to mobilise practical support for nature conservation activities in the region. For example, an agreement was concluded with the World Food Programme's Food for Work initiative to provide food for more than 500 park guards and their families. This facilitated the organisation of thousands of patrols, the rehabilitation of monitoring paths, the seizure of illegal hunting and fishing equipment and the recovery of land subjected to illegal cultivation.



While over-endowed with biological diversity, developing countries are frequently under-represented at the international environmental negotiation table. The views of small developing countries in particular are rarely taken into account. This not only leads to unbalanced commitments, but also undermines the legitimacy of the implementation of these environmental agreements.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is more complex than most agreements. Following the likely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in 2003, operationalising the so-called Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) will demand tremendous efforts. Challenges include the definition of carbon baselines and the determination of project additionality, assessment of leakage and ensuring that Afforestation and Reforestation (A&R) activities are environmentally sound and socially equitable. While the issues involved are technically complex, decisions on them are highly political, with clear winners and losers between and within countries.

Over the last two years IUCN, in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), organised three workshops to explain the technical issues and discuss the implications of upcoming international decisions on A&R for people and the environment with governments and NGOs from 18 Latin American countries – many of them IUCN members. This approach is starting to generate results. For example, following the third regional workshop held in Montevideo, Uruguay in February 2003, six Latin American countries submitted a common text on modalities for A&R projects to the UNFCCC secretariat. The ultimate goal is that carbon credits bought in Latin American countries will be good not only for the climate but also for people and biodiversity.





The Greater Annamite region of Vietnam and Laos contains some of the richest and least explored forests on the planet; in the last few years several new mammal species have been discovered including the saola, a bovine species. The area also has the large-antlered muntjac, several endemic douc langurs, or 'five-coloured monkeys' and one of two remaining populations of the Javan rhinoceros. In all, 25 IUCN Red List mammal species occur and the occurrence of similarly high levels of plant diversity has encouraged scientists to speculate that the area has remained stable for an extremely long time, allowing







Ma a e e G de N e. f. IUCN  
Ca e V B, ec ed A ea, B, ec ed  
La d, ca e, / Sea, ca e.

G, d W, d, G, d B, e, e.

The image shows a musical score on a light brown background. It features a vocal line with lyrics in Romanian and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Ma a e e G de N e. f. IUCN", "Ca e V B, ec ed A ea, B, ec ed", "La d, ca e, / Sea, ca e.", and "G, d W, d, G, d B, e, e." The piano part consists of chords and arpeggiated figures. At the bottom of the page, there is a large empty rectangular box.