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arborvitæ

September 2006

The IUCN / WWF Forest Conservation Newsletter

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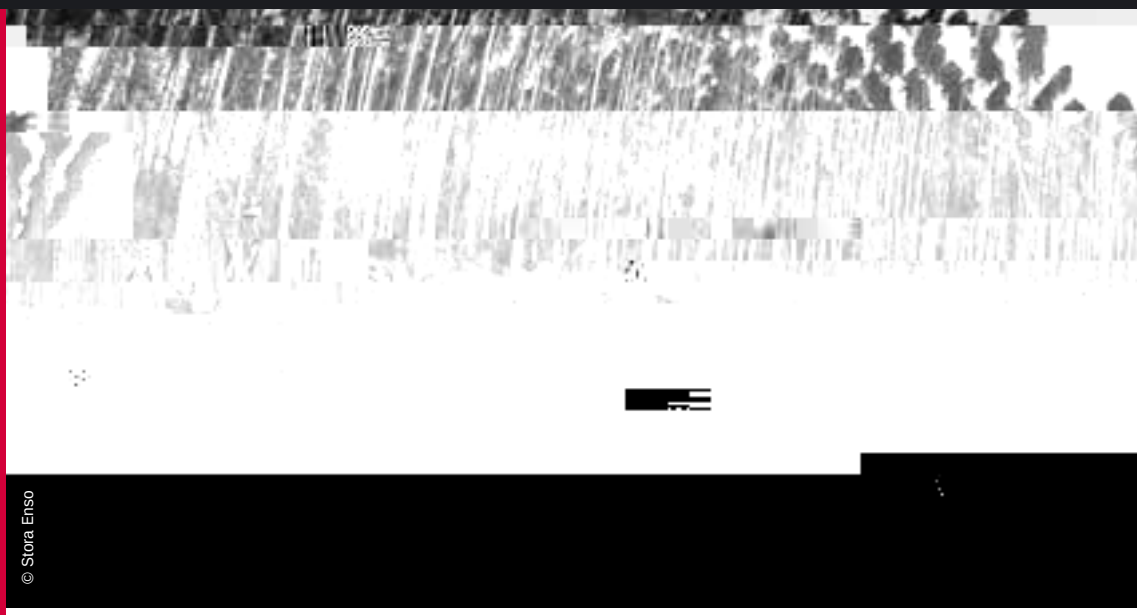

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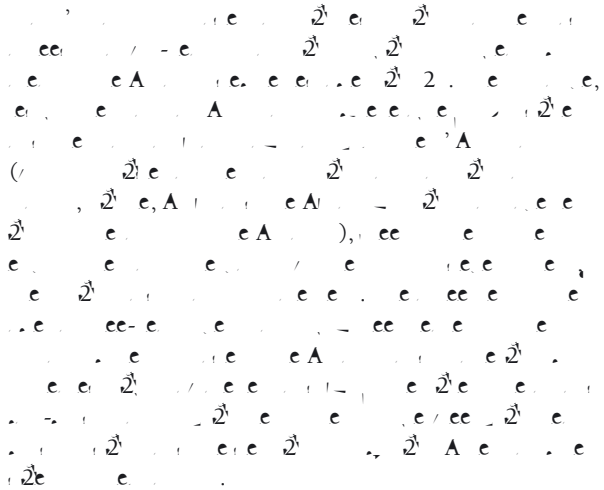
Forest plantations: the good, the bad and the ugly

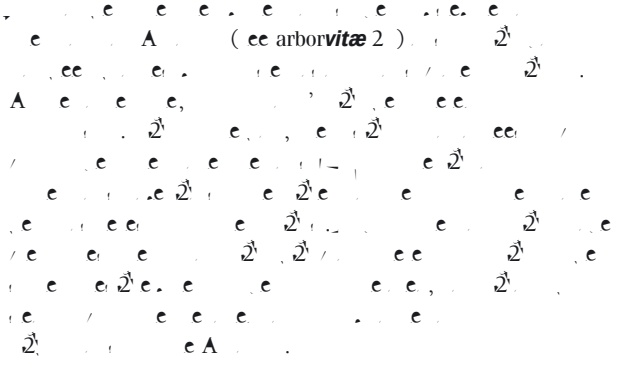
Eucalyptus plantation, Brazil

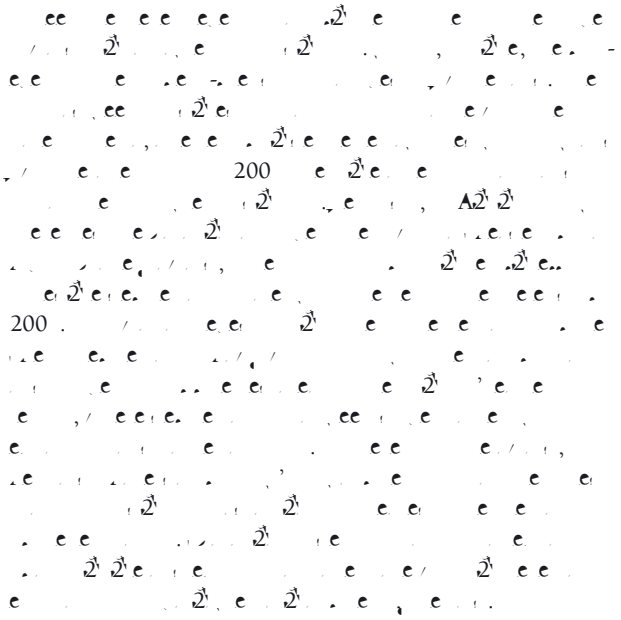
Stewart Maginnis, IUCN and Duncan Pollard, WWF

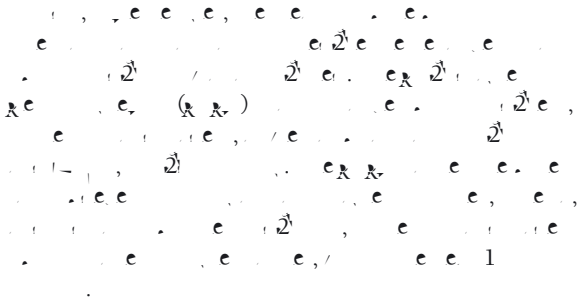
Soy moratorium in Brazil

Brazil's soy industry agrees a two-year moratorium on forest clearing in the Amazon.









Sources: www.planetark.com, July 25, 2006; www.independent.co.uk, July 26, 2006; www.panda.org June 27, 2006, August 30, 2006, September 4, 2006. For more information on the RTRS visit www.responsiblesoy.org.

news in brief

Forestry forensics: A pilot project launched in August will use DNA sampling to track timber and make it harder for illegal loggers to export their product. Funded by the British government the project will use basic DNA-based monitoring to identify the particular tree species of any given piece of timber. While it is sometimes easy enough to do this by eye, it can be hard to spot wood from protected species that is marked up as another common species. In announcing the project, UK Biodiversity Minister Barry Gardiner said "If this project is successful it will waymark the development of a generic DNA-based method of identification, which could revolutionise the application of CITES to timber and enable enforcement bodies around the world to really get a grip on the illegal trade in timber."
Source: www.edie.net, August 1, 2006

Spanish fires ignite suspicion: Spain suffered its most destructive forest fires in more than a decade with at least 124,000 hectares burned this summer. Two-thirds of the fires were in the northwestern region of Galicia where police arrested about 30 people on suspicion of deliberately setting the fires. Both the number and types of fires are suspicious – there have been thousands of fires in Galicia this year, many starting around urban centres. Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba was reported as saying that Galicia was facing "a new typology of fires – strategic and planned, with very bad intentions." And the suspects? Everyone from warring neighbours, property speculators, people hoping for government subsidies for replanting, and unemployed firefighters seeking work. Meanwhile WWF has warned that the scale of the fires can be explained partly by the fact that those who started them know they are unlikely to be punished. "We must put a stop to the sense of impunity with regard to this type of crime," said Félix Romero, head of WWF-Spain's forest programme.
Source: www.planetark, August 21, 2006; www.panda.org, August 8, 2006

Thanks Franklin!: The Chinese tallow tree is invading the US Gulf coast forests – as a direct result of the forest damage caused by hurricanes Rita and Katrina, according to a recent report by US Geological Survey biologist Stephen Faulkner. The two hurricanes together blew down around 13.6 million cubic metres of hardwoods and left gaps that are now being filled by the fast-growing, pest-resistant alien invader. The ornamental tallow tree was introduced to the US by Benjamin Franklin in 1772 following a trip to China. In a letter to a prominent member of the colony of Georgia, Franklin wrote: "I send also a few seeds of the Chinese Tallow Tree, which will I believe grow and thrive with you. 'Tis a most useful plant."
Source: www.newscientist.com, August 16, 2006; www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu

Planted Forests Code

Jim Carle of FAO reports on how the Planted Forests Code is being developed.

Some participants at the IMPF China dialogue

Contact: Jim Carle, jim.carle@fao.org

The Forests Dialogue on plantations

Gary Dunning, Executive Director of TFD, reports on their work to facilitate discussion and learning on forest plantations.

TFD is an ad-hoc group of leaders committed to the conservation and sustainable use of forests and cognizant that facilitated and supported dialogue can lead to better solutions for all interested stakeholders.

Contact: Gary Dunning, info@theforestsdialogue.org. For more information on the IMPF dialogue, visit www.theforestsdialogue.org/ifm.html

Plantations for people?

Can large-scale plantations be developed in ways that promote livelihoods and respect human rights? Marcus Colchester of the Forest Peoples Programme assesses the problems and possibilities.

New challenges, new standards:

Community reforestation for watershed protection in Mexico

Citlali Cortés Montaño of WWF Mexico reports on a watershed restoration programme in Mexico.

Check dams complemented the reforestation

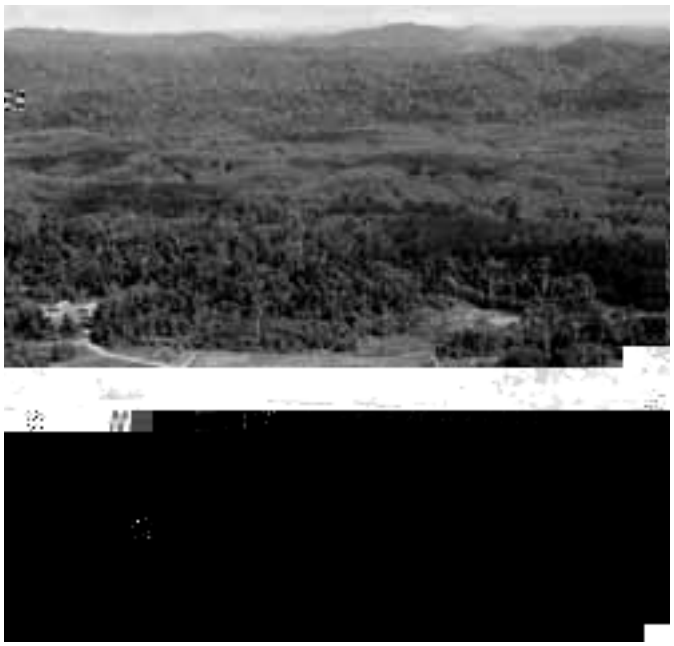
Managing forest plantations for ecosystem goods and services

Jürgen Bauhus and Joachim Schmerbeck of the Institute of Silviculture at Freiburg University discuss how the provision of ecosystem goods and services is an important, though poorly understood, role of forest plantations.

Contact: Citlali Cortés Montaño, ccortes@wwfmex.org.

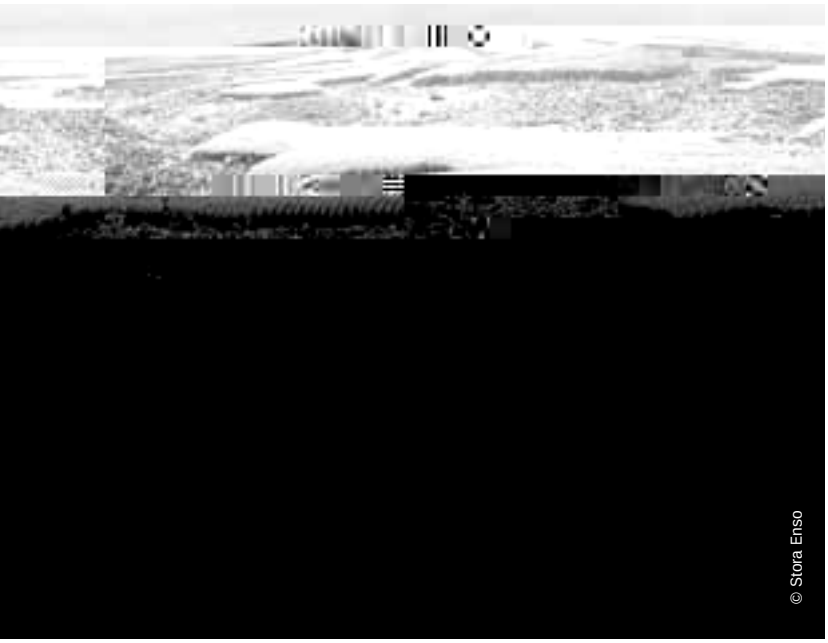
Plantations can provide regulating services such as biodiversity conservation

This article is based on a paper to be presented at a scientific



Fast-wood: towards a holistic approach

Antti Marjokorpi, of the Finnish-Swedish pulp and paper company Stora Enso, describes their approach to fast-wood plantations.



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The Veracel plantation in Brazil is embedded within the landscape mosaic

Contact: Antti Marjokorpi, antti.marjokorpi@storaenso.com

Potlatch Plantations, USA: focus on connectivity

A new report by the National Wildlife Federation, a US-based NGO, highlights ways in which plantation managers are integrating biodiversity and non-timber values into their plantation systems. One of the cases quoted is that of Potlatch Corporation, which manages over 200,000 hectares of forest lands in Arkansas. These forests include intensively-managed native loblolly pine and natural stands of pine, sweetgum and oak species. Potlatch is managing the forests with the long-term objective of creating a landscape mosaic with a more balanced cover type distribution. A key element of their landscape-level approach is the assurance of connectivity. An inventory in 2005 identified places that were more than 0.8 km from existing connectivity features (such as stream management zones or riparian areas) and corridors of at least 91 metres wide were established in these areas to connect them to the larger landscape.

In 1995, Potlatch signed a Habitat Conservation Plan with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, committing to the conservation of habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), an endangered species that was living in older natural stands of loblolly pine on company forestlands. Potlatch is now planning to create a 5,670-hectare contiguous RCW conservation area with recruitment sites containing artificial cavities.

Source: *The Possibility of Plantations: Integrating Ecological Forestry into Plantation Systems.* National Wildlife Federation, US. The report can be downloaded at www.nwf.org. See review on page 16.

WWF news in brief

Just published: *The Keep It Legal* manual and *Responsible Purchasing of Forest Products* guide by WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN). Available on www.panda.org/gftn, these publications offer guidance to organizations wanting to develop or strengthen their responsible purchasing policies and address difficulties arising from the possible trade in illegal forest products.

Andy White of the Rights and Resources Group,
Gary Bull of the University of British Columbia and
Stewart Maginnis

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Khare, A., S. Scherr, A. Molnar and A. White. 2005. Forest Finance, Development Cooperation and Future Options. *Review of European Community & International Environmental Law.* 14 (3): 247-254.

This article is based on Bull, G.Q. et al. (in press, November 2006). Industrial Forest Plantations Subsidies: Impacts and Implications. Journal of Forest Policy and Economics: 9 (1): 13-31.

Contact: Andy White, awhite@rightsandresources.org

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