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ITTO Tropical Forest UPDATE

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A newsletter from the International Tropical Timber Organization to promote the conservation and sustainable development of tropical forests

Responding to disaster

THE STAFF at ITTO would like to convey its sympathies to all readers affected by the tsunami that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, the Maldives and other countries in December 2004. Like most people who watched in horror as the full extent of the destruction became apparent, we want to help in the recovery process in the coming months and years.

What, actually, can we do? Apart from making individual financial contributions, we can redouble our efforts to ensure that ITTO delivers its own brand of development support as efficiently and effectively as possible. This may not sound much, but we believe that every little bit will help.

An outcome of the 37th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (convened prior to the tsunami disaster) should help increase the effectiveness and efficiency of ITTO's field projects. The Council's decision on measures to improve project formulation and appraisal will provide relevant national-level institutions and organisations with training in and new tools for the preparation of well-conceived, targeted ITTO projects that will achieve tangible and sustainable results in the field.

Mangrove ecosystems can help protect against storm

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Cover image A village near the coast of Sumatra lies in ruin after the tsunami of December 2004. *US Navy photo by Philip A. McDaniel*

... Editorial continued

surges and tsunamis, and ITTO is already working with countries to improve mangrove protection and management. An article on page 14 reports the ex-post evaluation of some early ITTO mangrove projects; such evaluations are also helping to improve the quality of new projects. ITTO has several mangrove-related projects under implementation across the tropics in accordance with its Mangrove Action Plan; in the wake of the tsunami we can expect more such projects in South and Southeast Asia to come on stream and make a tangible contribution to the rebuilding process.

It's not only mangrove forests that need attention. Recent landslides in the Philippines, which left over a hundred people dead, have been attributed in large part to forest degradation in the uplands. Elsewhere in the tropics, rural poverty and deforestation continue, apparently unabated, with the possibility that more environmental disasters will occur in the future. It is clear that more assistance is needed in many tropical countries to improve forest management and to make forestry a financially viable and environmentally sustainable land-use option.

For its part, the Council allocated an additional US$10 million* at its 37th session for projects that will, among other things, help develop national-level principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in the Republic of Congo, undertake fire management and post-fire forest restoration in Ghana, and continue the development of a transboundary conservation area in the Emerald Triangle of Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. This shows that ITTO is able to respond with relative promptness, and in a substantive way, to new and emerging issues in national and international forestry. The Council meets twice a year, and it has the capacity to finance new initiatives at each session.

Another activity funded at the last session was the review and revision of the ITTO *Guidelines for the conservation of biological diversity in tropical production forests*. Since these guidelines were published in 1992, new approaches to biodiversity conservation have been designed and tested. The revision, which will be done in collaboration with IUCN, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other relevant organisations, will take these into account with the aim of producing state-of-the-art guidelines for use at the national and forest-management-unit levels.

New grants worth US$10 million no doubt will be welcomed by struggling forestry agencies across the tropics. But this amount, though large by the standards of many international forestry-related institutions, is barely a drop in the ocean of what is needed. The international community must admit that its efforts so far to turn its concern for tropical forests (including mangrove ecosystems) into real and substantive action have been insufficient.

It is becoming increasingly clear that tropical forests are important for the long-term health and well-being of millions of people living in the tropics and, arguably, also for those living elsewhere. The commitment of a great deal more funds, and their wise distribution, is urgently needed.

Alastair Sarre

**The major donors at the session were the governments of Japan, Switzerland, the United States and the Netherlands, while the governments of Finland, Norway, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand also pledged funds. In addition, funds were mobilised from the Unearmarked Fund of the Organization's Special Account, its Bali Partnership Fund Sub-account B and the Working Capital Account.*

Who is logging the Congo?

A new ITTO report has made a preliminary analysis of the forest industry in the Congo Basin

by Manuel Ruiz Pérez[1], Driss Ezzine de Blas[1], Robert Nasi[2], Marieke Sassen[2], Jeffrey Sayer[3], Claudine Angoué[4], Norbert Gami[5], Ousseynou Ndoye[2], Grégoire Ngono[6], Jean-Claude Nguinguiri[7], Donatien Nzala[8], Benjamin Toirambe[9] and Yves Yalibanda[10]

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Payload: log truck in the Republic of Congo. *Photo: CIB*

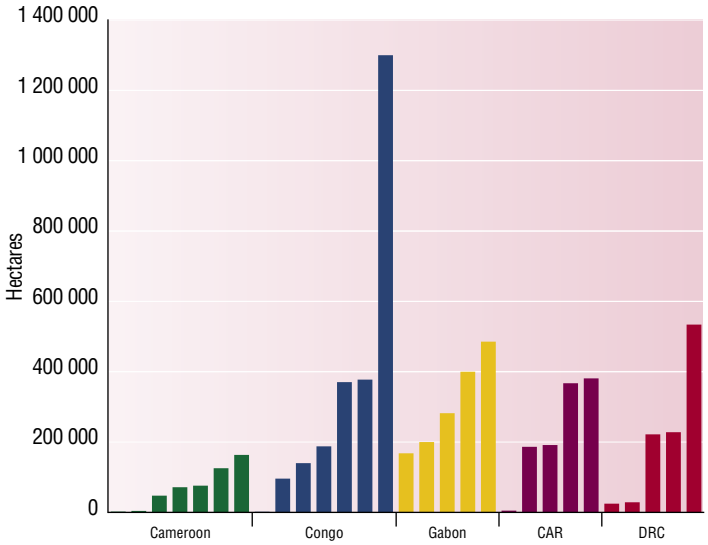
INDUSTRIAL logging has several decades of tradition in the Congo Basin. During this period the industry has evolved and diversified, spreading to all the countries of the region and adapting to local and international conditions—yet it tends to be perceived as static and internally homogeneous (Greenpeace Switzerland no date). We believe that understanding the industry's diversity and characterising the main factors that influence change is an important element of improving national and regional policies aimed at the sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests.

In 2003–04 a multidisciplinary team comprising national and international experts undertook a pilot study funded by ITTO to characterise the Congo Basin logging industry. It was intended as a pioneer analysis, exploratory in its purpose and design but solid enough to offer interesting new results and perspectives that could be applied both at field and policy levels. It builds on previous analyses of the forest sector in the region conducted by national and international institutions such as Tropenbos, the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the FORAFRI project, and the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa conducted in 2003 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The focus of the present study is on forest concessions in five countries of the Congo Basin—Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Republic of Congo. It is based on a questionnaire administered to a non-random stratified sample of 30 concessions across the five countries; an additional concession for which partial information was obtained was added later. The sampling was designed to cover the key types of concessions according to their legal status and capital ownership.

Sample size

Figure 1: Concession size by country



Size and age

The 31 surveyed concessions covered a total area of 7.3 million hectares; individual concessions ranged in size between 1800 and 1.3 million hectares *(Figure 1)*.

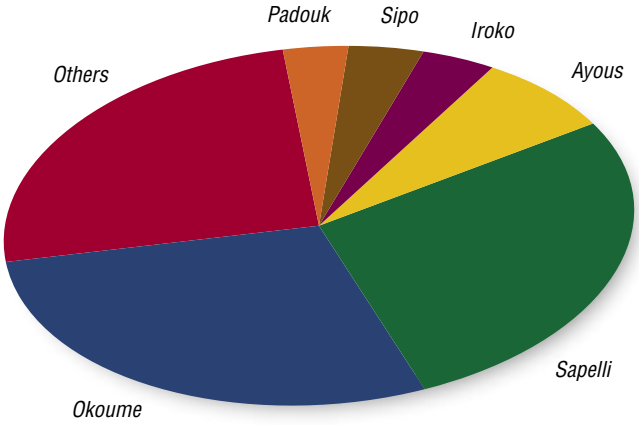
An examination of the age of the surveyed concessions shows two clearly differentiated groups: one in which the concessions were granted in the 1950s to the 1970s, at a time when legal requirements, land pressure and market standards were less challenging, and a second in which the concessions have been established in the last 15 years, with more emphasis on national tenureship. The age of the concession also partly determines the forest regulations that are applicable, with recently awarded concessions required to have a higher percentage of local processing and to accommodate new legal entities—such as community concessions in Cameroon.

Species harvested

The logging industry in the region is organised around two dominant species, okoume and sapelli, but we found that 35 species are logged in significant amounts *(Figure 2)*; these are species that are both

Okoume, sapelli, and the rest

Figure 2: Percentage of total regional production of the 35 main harvested species in the surveyed concessions



saleable and widely distributed in the forest. We found a negative correlation between number of species and distance to port, with distant concessions tending to harvest fewer species. We also identified two logging strategies that represent a potentially important avenue of research: the total production of industrial, large-scale concessions tends to be dominated by one or two species, while small-scale concessions tend to distribute their production more evenly among a larger number of species.

Legal provisions

Although the legal provisions for logging permits vary from country to country, it is possible to group them into categories. The four categories at the top of *Table 1* represent the most common type (21 cases) of logging permit in our sample and share a number of commonalities, notably their focus on medium- to large-scale industrial concessions and the requirement for a management plan.

Another group of permits tends to relate to small-scale and/or temporary concessions: allotments, family allowances and community forests. These kinds of permits are all granted for small areas (less than 5000 hectares in the sample) and do not normally require a management plan, except for community forests in Cameroon, where a management plan has to be submitted before harvesting approval is granted.

As mentioned, forest laws in the region require that concessions, especially those granted for forest management or forest logging units, have a government-approved management plan to guide the sustainable use of the forest within each concession. However, the degree of enforcement of this regulation is variable and generally rather low. The complete lack of a management plan tends to be associated with recently established, short-term permits and small-scale (with the notable exception of community concessions in Cameroon) and nationally owned concessions. The existence of a management plan at different stages of development is associated with older, large-scale, foreign-owned concessions granted for long periods (Pearce et al. 2003).

Harvesting intensity in m^3 per hectare was estimated based on total production and logged area data provided by the concessions for 2002 *(Figure 3)*. The average of the sample was 6.1 m^3/hectare, which falls within usual productivity estimates for the region. A consistently higher intensity was observed in Gabon, where logging concentrates on okoume and few other species are logged to any great extent. However, Central African Republic, where production focuses on sapelli, showed the lowest intensity per hectare.

European markets are the main destination (60%) of the total production volume of our sample, followed by national (20%) and Asian (16%) markets. Exports to other African countries are almost non-existent, the exception being a small amount from the Central African Republic. Foreign-owned concessions export the vast majority of their production, whereas nationally owned concessions tend to share it between national and export markets. Concessions focused on the export market have a higher productivity per hectare than those producing for the local market, indicating a more intense exploitation of the resource.

Table 2 summarises the key characteristics of concessions according to their market orientation. This somewhat simplified, dichotomous classification has a number of nuances. For example, community concessions, focused mainly on the local market and owned by national (community) capital must have an officially approved management plan. However, the *table* helps to portray a

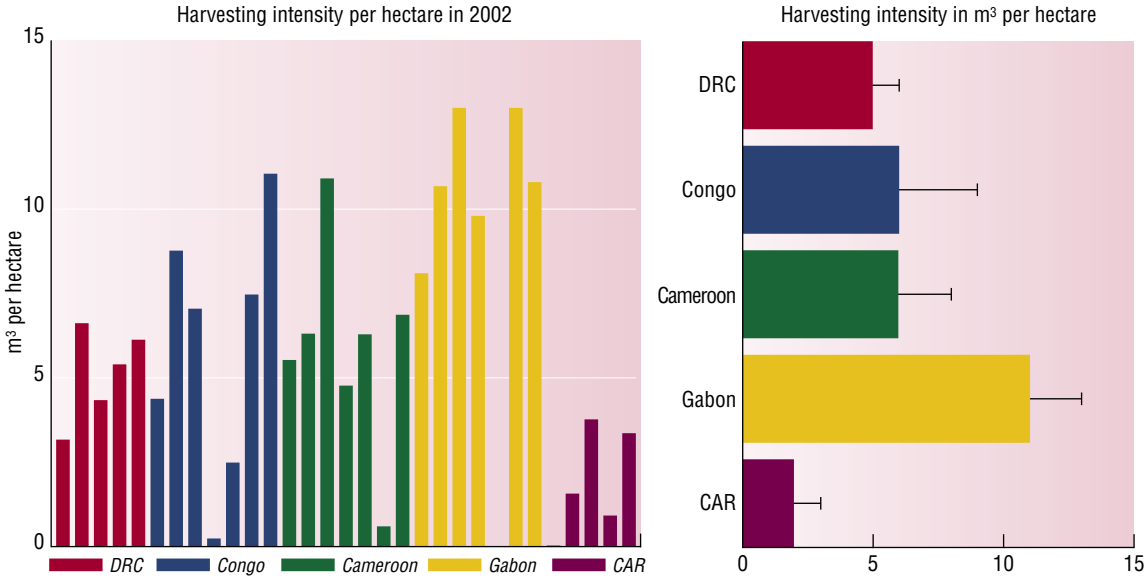
Licence to cut

Table 1: Types of logging permits reported

PERMIT NAME	COUNTRY	COMMENTS	CASES
Supply guarantee (Garantie d'approvisionnement)	Democratic Republic of Congo	Maximum surface granted of 500 000 hectares; requires management plan	5
Logging forestry unit (Unité forestière d'exploitation)	Republic of Congo		4
Forest management unit (Unité forestière d'aménagement)	Republic of Congo/ Cameroon/ Gabon	Most common logging permit, which conditions logging to management	8
Management and logging permit (Permit d'exploitation et d'aménagement)	Central African Republic	Equivalent to the logging permit of a forest management unit	4
Allotment (Lot)	Republic of Congo	Granted for one year; the whole allotted surface can be logged	1
Community forest (Forêt communautaire)	Cameroon	Specifically attributed to community forests	2
Temporary logging permit (Permis temporaire d'exploitation)	Gabon		1
Family tree logging allowance (Coupe familiale)	Gabon	Permit for 300 trees to be cut in a radius of 5 km around the village	2
Special logging permit (Permis spécial de coupe)	Central African Republic	Allows the harvesting of a limited number of trees, specified by the ministry	1

Productivity

Figure 3: Concession and country variations in harvesting intensity in 2002. Error bars indicate standard deviation of mean country harvesting intensity



general view of interactions between markets and features of concessions that warrants further research.

Environmental problems

The questionnaire included a set of questions related to the perception of environmental and socioeconomic problems in the concession, and 'drivers of change'—factors to which concessionaires claimed to respond by changing their practices.

We identified two main types of environmental problem—those produced directly by concession operations (termed 'endogenous'), and those induced but not directly produced by them. Endogenous problems amounted to 37% of the total score of environmental problems identified by the concessionaires, with logging roads and erosion the main issues. Induced problems (63% of total score) were focused on hunting, followed at a large distance by encroachment and illegal logging *(Figure 4)*.

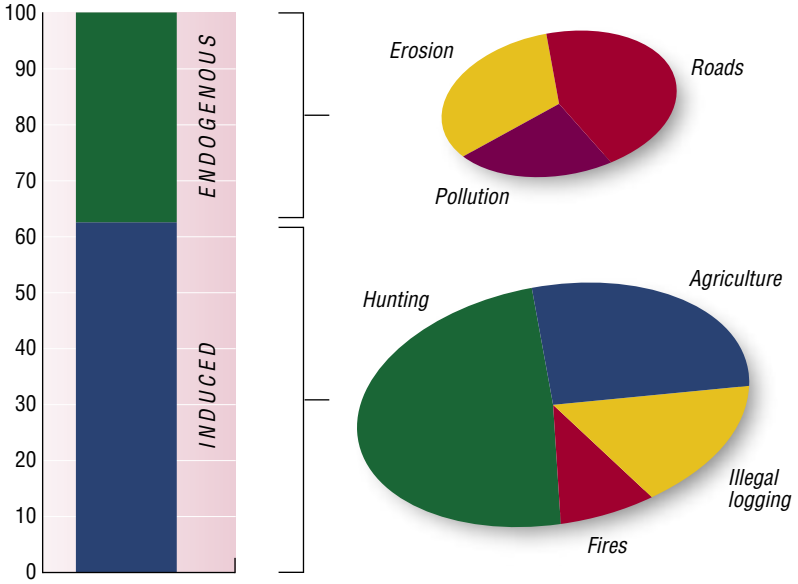
There are differences between countries in the extent of the various types of problems. For example, the incipient logging industry of the Democratic Republic of Congo tended to identify induced problems as the major issues, whereas mature logging concessions such as those in Cameroon and Gabon stressed endogenous problems. Likewise, foreign-owned concessions highlighted the endogenous problems they caused while nationally owned concessions tended to score induced problems more highly.

Concessionaires identified financial constraints as the main socioeconomic problem *(Figure 5)*. This was followed at some distance by insufficient technical and human capacities and the irregular implementation of official regulations and rules. Again, country differences were marked by the statistically significant higher scoring of problems in the Democratic Republic of Congo, consistent with the precarious political situation in that country. In general, very large concessions tended to score lower in their rating of socioeconomic problems than did small concessions.

Logging concessions are dynamic enterprises that have to adapt to, anticipate and promote changes in the whole sector and in a broad domain of activities. An understanding of what makes concession practices change is essential for any attempt to improve logging policies and practices and for the transfer of policies developed in broad international settings to very local conditions. Cluster analysis grouped

Problem areas I

Figure 4: Perception of environmental problems by concessionaires



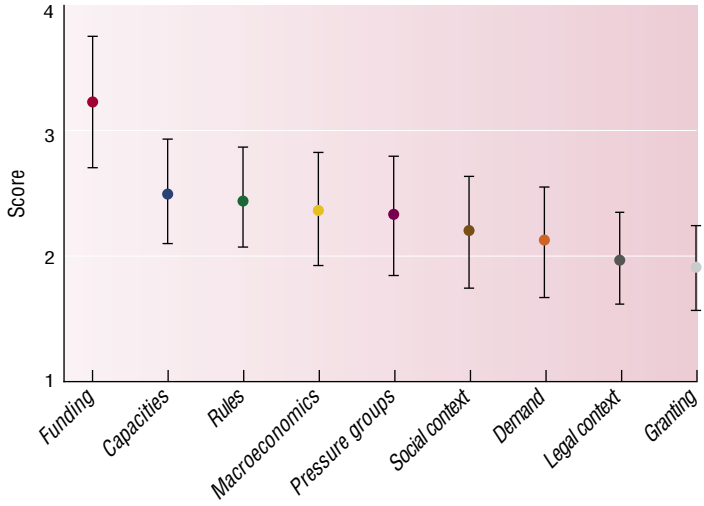
the drivers of change into five main categories: policies, technology, certification pressure groups, markets and institutions *(Figure 6)*. Policy, infrastructure, markets and technology were the key drivers of change identified in our sample; regional and international forest-related institutions like COMIFAC (Conference of Ministers for the Forests of Central Africa), CEFDHAC (Central African Dense and Humid Forest Ecosystems Conference), ITTO and ATO (African Timber Organization) had relatively little direct impact on concession practice, although they may have a strong influence on national policy settings.

Medium-to-large concessions tended to be most influenced by the key drivers of change, whereas small and especially very large concessions tended to be more resistant to them. Concessions owned by foreign capital and those focused on the European market also tended to score a higher influence of these drivers; however, the difference was not usually statistically significant. ITTO as a vector of change scored significantly higher for European-oriented concessions, possibly because it is perceived more as a guarantor of international market stability in Europe than in Asian markets.

This preliminary study offers a snapshot picture of the logging industry in the Congo Basin corresponding to the interactions of four key factors: size, origin of capital, market orientation and the country in which it operates. The study has also unveiled important questions and avenues to be pursued in future work.

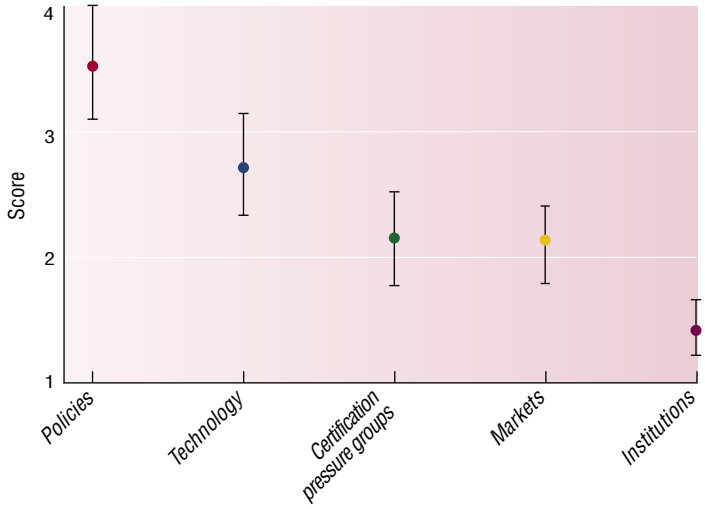
Problem areas II

Figure 5: Average score for each type of socioeconomic problem



Drivers

Figure 6: Average scores for drivers of change



Local vs export

Table 2: Key characteristics of concessions according to their market orientation

	LOCAL MARKET	EXPORT MARKET
Origin of capital	national	foreign
Size of concession	small to medium	large to very large
Management plan	none	in progress/ready
Percent of concession logged per year	high	low
Extent of processing by concessionaire	high	low
Productivity *(volume per hectare)*	low	high
Productivity *(volume per worker)*	low	high

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Pearce, D., Putz, F. & Vanclay, J. 2003. Sustainable forestry in the tropics: panacea or folly? *Forest Ecology and Management* 172: 229–247.

The full report of this study can be downloaded at www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=161&id=804

The incredible Condor

ITTO projects are assisting the establishment of a transboundary 'peace park' in the Condor Range

THE CONDOR mountain range, more than 160 kilometres in length, rises above the sources of the Upper Marañon River, where the Amazon River begins, and runs parallel to the impressive Andes massif. Shared by Peru and Ecuador, this has long been an area of conflict between the two countries, one often referred to as 'the open wound'. It was an area in which disputed borders led to military confrontations during the 20th century.

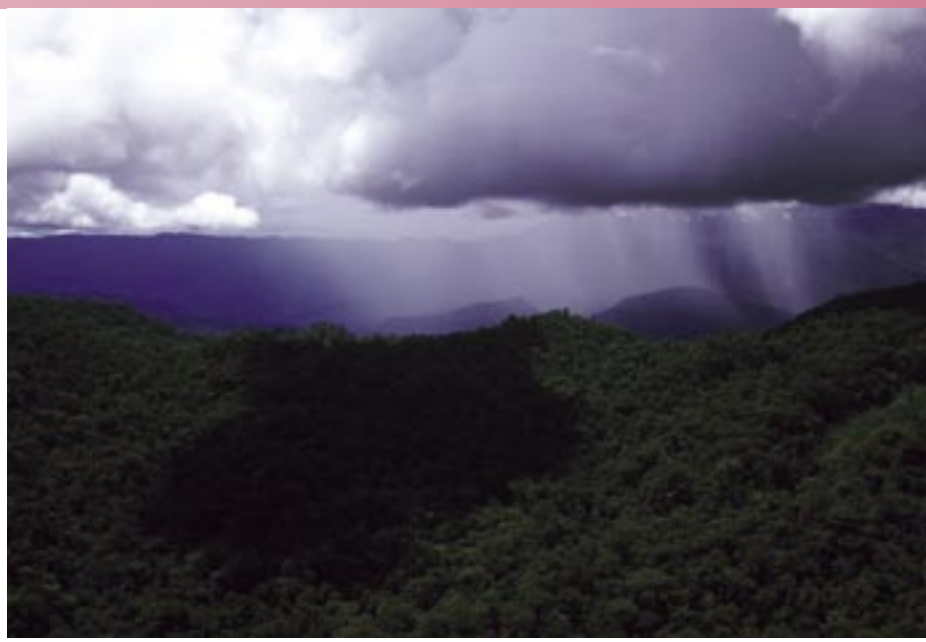

Photo: C. Vega, Conservation International

But beyond its political significance, the region is home to an extraordinary biological diversity *(see box page 11)*. It is a refuge and transit area for species that can live in different altitudinal zones and contains species of both Amazonian and Andean origin. The slopes of the Condor Range on both the Peruvian and Ecuadorian sides are also the ancestral territory of the Awajun, Wampis (mostly Peruvian side) and Shuar (Ecuadorian side) ethnic groups.

In 1998 the two countries fixed the borders of this region and signed a peace agreement, one of the clauses of which stipulated that the region should be designated for conservation purposes. At the same time, however, it was agreed that the region was to be available for development in the form of mining and other economic activities and for the construction of the Amazon road network linking Ecuador and Peru with Brazil.

In 1999 two small 'peace parks' of about 6000 hectares on the Peru side and 2400 hectares in Ecuador were created. These are located between the source of the Kuankus River, which flows towards Ecuador, and the Cenepa River (also known as the Sinip River), which flows towards Peru. The Government of Peru added to the total area by establishing the Santiago Comaina Reserved Zone, now covering an area of 1.64 million hectares.

The establishment of these protected areas was the driving force behind the development of the twin ITTO projects PD 2/00 (F) and PD 3/00: 'Binational peace and conservation in the Condor Range region, Ecuador-Peru'. Implemented under the auspices of the Ministry for the Environment of Ecuador by the Natura Foundation (Fundación Natura) on the Ecuadorian side and the National Institute for Natural Resources of Peru (INRENA) and Conservation International on the Peruvian side, the projects aimed to strengthen mutual cooperation and consolidate a lasting peace between the two countries. Some of the most important outputs of the project have included:

- a regional conservation strategy, with a proposal for the development of a conservation corridor that would integrate the Condor Range into an extensive transboundary scheme (see page 11);
- an information system for the entire range, incorporating the biological knowledge acquired to date by both countries, as well as a common geographic information system;
- the development of dialogues and meetings between indigenous peoples living in the region—the Awajun, Shuar and Wampis. These cultures have a wealth of traditional knowledge about the natural resources of the region and have developed sustainable methods of fishing, hunting, agriculture and timber harvesting. The project strategy on the Peruvian side sought to integrate the cultural values and knowledge of the Awajun and Wampis indigenous peoples into resource and land-use management. To this end, 16 'indigenous conservation promoters' from the local communities were trained so they could help harmonise the conservation ideas of native communities and the concepts contained in Peruvian legislation on natural protected areas, thus guaranteeing a truly participatory process. Work with indigenous communities on the Ecuadorian side is described on the next page; and
- coordination between the two governments for the implementation of concerted conservation actions and the development of bi-national policies in the Condor Range and in the communities neighbouring the protected areas.

The following two articles show some of the activities of the two projects, which were completed recently. Follow-up phases are planned.

An indigenous solution

The Shuar people are committing themselves to conservation and sound forest use

by the Natura Foundation

Quito, Ecuador

THE CONDOR range is home to a culture more than 1500 years old, erroneously called 'Jivaros' by the first Europeans. These people were made infamous in the 20th century by tales told out of context about a tribe of headhunters. Occupying areas of the great regional Chimu culture, which ranged from the Pacific coast to the Morona River and the Upper Marañon River basin in both Ecuador and Peru, they once controlled several ecological areas (from the Andean to the Amazon regions) and thus generated a wide diversity of knowledge and technologies.

In Ecuador, part of this ethnic group is called Shuar, which is settled in the Condor Range and the Transkutuku Amazon region in the lowlands of the Zamora and Upano river basins. About 1200 Shuar families collectively own a territory of about 220 000 hectares.

Towards the southern end of the Condor Range in Ecuador, the borders of the usable land become much narrower and there are fewer hunting grounds. This is where small-scale miners, mostly Andean farmers forced from their lands by droughts, land depletion and poverty, started occupying poor-quality lands across an area of almost 160 000 hectares.

Children of the Condor. *Photo: C. Vega, Conservation International*

Conservation as an asset for the Shuar people

ITTO's financial support helped the Government of Ecuador through its Ministry for the Environment under the coordination of the Natura Foundation to start a process of engagement with the Shuar. These are people with their own dynamics, their own way of understanding the world, their own way of using the land and forest resources (by family groups), and their very specific cultural relationship with and dependency on the forest. As ancestral owners recognised by the Ecuadorian state, the decision to ensure the conservation of this region must involve respecting their identity as an indigenous people.

In view of this, the Natura Foundation implemented the project using the concept of indigenous territory as

the starting point. The Shuar culture does not fragment or divide the components of daily life—such as the economy, spirituality, sacred rituals for planting, chiefs or policies related to skills or knowledge, and the collection and distribution of wealth between families. The territory is everything: it represents the space of the culture, government, economy and spirituality, and provides the basis for the survival of families and of the whole community as a differentiated group of people.

The Constitution of Ecuador describes the country as multicultural and multi-ethnic; it recognises the right of specific cultural groups to organise their own social, economic and cultural life and to be consulted on activities that will impact on their territories. In view of this, the Natura Foundation held an intensive dialogue with the 1200 families of the Shuar community and supported the integration of all the families under a single territorial management structure. As a result, the Shuar appointed their own authorities and jointly considered the fate of their own space and forest.

Self-management

Slowly but surely, the community has begun to perceive its territory as an integrated unit, in which any change in land-use practices within a group of families could impact on all the families and on the forest. People further understand that there are differences between the families that live in areas of low population density and undisturbed forests and those who live with less forest space and are becoming poorer.

Each family has begun to make decisions on the way they will use their plots or farms. Of all the proposals put forward by the 1200 families, one recurred consistently: more than 70% of the forest should be preserved, including ritual areas, high plateaus and forests for hunting and gathering during festive seasons. The rest of the forest should be designated for sustainable use, including for vegetable gardens of less than one hectare per family, 1-hectare areas for cash crops such as corn and green oranges, and 5–10 hectares for pasture lands. Timber harvesting will also be allowed: the low productivity and competitiveness of agricultural production and the livestock production crisis have made this an increasingly attractive option.

At the same time, this internal 'family-based' government decided to establish rules and regulations for its 'life plan' and for forest utilisation in particular. It drafted internal laws to resolve land ownership conflicts and to organise hunting, fishing and gathering activities, and developed annual management plans for family groups.

The same was done for all logging activities. Families agreed that timber was a common heritage that should be used and protected for future generations; they applied stricter standards than those required by Ecuadorian legislation and sought to improve their income levels and reduce pressure on the forests by applying an appropriate felling, transport and marketing system.

The protected Shuar territory

Finally, the Shuar communities made a long analysis of the benefits of having their territory declared a protected area for conservation purposes and for the sound use of resources, as well as for the protection of their national indigenous identity within the Ecuadorian state.

The Ecuadorian Forest Law only provides for state-owned natural conservation areas administered by the Ministry for the Environment. Since a major part of the protected areas have been created in ancestral indigenous territories, the Ministry for the Environment has tended to relax its requirements by signing utilisation agreements and even partial administration agreements with indigenous communities; lands were not expropriated and land titles were recognised.

However, the Shuar community wanted more security for its land. They requested that until the law is revised by the national government to provide for the establishment of protected areas on private lands, local government areas and indigenous territories, the Shuar territory should be declared a protected area, a status that in any case has already been self-declared by this indigenous group.

Precautionary action: protected areas in the south

In the southern part of the region outside the Shuar territory, the Ecuadorian Condor Range becomes narrower and falls sharply towards the Cenepa River in Peru. The existence of three cultural groups, small-scale miners and owners of farms that were potentially geared for timber harvesting, and the granting of a concession over the territory to two large-scale mining companies (a copper-mining company and a gold-mining company), led the Ministry for the Environment to create a new group of viable conservation areas as a precautionary measure.

A biological reserve is proposed in a large Tepuy-type plateau of 9000 hectares, which has a vegetation formation that is unique in Ecuador. In addition, a wildlife refuge of almost 4000 hectares is proposed for montane forest in an area under concession to the mining companies. This refuge will become a sort of central headquarters from where the biological connectivity and sound use of the entire territory could be organised. Finally, there is a proposal to establish a protection forest in the highland areas of the region, close to the national border, until the mining companies have localised their extraction sites.

The conservation of this area of more than 30 000 hectares under the administration of the Ministry for the Environment and other local partners, in a zone not suitable for agriculture and where mining and forest activities are the real sources of income, has become the focus of regional integration. This focus will hopefully ensure the sustainable management of resources, the mitigation of mining impacts, the sound management of the territory, and the connectivity of both plants and animals.

Building the Condor-Kutuku conservation corridor

The Condor transboundary conservation area is the cornerstone of a more ambitious planned regional conservation corridor

by Martin Alcalde and Luis Espinel

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ITTO Project PD 3/00 Rev.2 (F)

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CI-Peru

THE CONDOR Range is a biogeographical, cultural and socioeconomic unit; it constitutes the central axis of a substantial group of conservation areas on both sides of the Ecuador/Peru border. The development of the transboundary conservation reserve will facilitate the establishment of a major conservation network between both countries and thus become the central link for the development of the Condor-Kutuku Corridor *(Figure 1)*.

The links established between protected areas and surrounding lands provide a valuable opportunity for the coordination of biodiversity conservation actions aimed at sustainable development. The Condor-Kutuku Conservation Corridor is a planning tool that will contribute to the integrated management of natural areas within a socioeconomic, political and cultural framework, creating a new window of opportunity for the integration of conservation management between Peru and Ecuador.

As part of the process of building this corridor, one of the outputs of ITTO PROJECT PD 3/00, which was implemented on the Peru side, was a final proposal for the establishment of the Ichigkat Muja Condor Range National Park *(Figure 1)* within Peru's national system for state-protected natural areas, along with a 5-year master plan. The proposal was developed with the active participation of the local communities in the identification and management of natural protected areas.

Potential park

Figure 2: boundaries of the proposed Ichigkat Muja Condor Range National Park

Condor corridor

Figure 1: the Condor-Kutuku Conservation Corridor straddles the border between Peru and Ecuador

A longer-term goal is to design and develop a participatory process for the consolidation of the Condor-Kutuku Conservation Corridor. This would involve:

- designing the Condor-Kutuku Conservation Corridor based on a participatory approach;
- emphasising biological connectivity and the management of transboundary conservation areas on both sides of the border as a single unit, thus providing an opportunity to highlight the importance of a 'link' connecting the network of protected areas between Peru and Ecuador so as to consolidate the regional vision of conservation corridors;
- provide biological, social, physical and other arguments supporting the viability of the management of the conservation corridor; and
- promote the zoning of the conservation corridor so as to identify programs and sub-programs suitable for the land-uses therein.

Wildlife refuge and endemism

The decision of the two countries to create a transboundary conservation area is particularly inspired because of the high conservation value of the region. Indeed, the region's vulnerability is so marked, its conservation status so high and the importance of its biodiversity so great that the national interests of both countries should be well served through its conservation.

The Condor Range is rich in biodiversity, with more than 4000 plant species, many still to be identified. Perhaps the most striking aspect of the area is the existence of unusual vegetation formations that grow on vertically cut sandstone geo-morphological structures with extensive plateaus near the peaks; these structures have been referred to as 'Tepuy-like' because of their similarity to the Guiana Shield region in Venezuela. They harbour a plant formation that is unique in the world made up of orchids, bromelias and dwarf palms; 27 of the 40 species of orchids collected during surveys conducted under the ITTO projects were reported to be new to science. Other important findings included the Andean bear *Tremarctos ornatus*, classified as an endangered species; the carnivorous plant *Drosera*, a rare species of limited habitat; the marsupial *Caenolestes condorensis*; butterflies *Pseudocharis sp.* and *Macrosoma sp.*; and the fish species *Creagrutus kunturus*. These last four are believed to be new to science.

A total of 142 species of mammals (Mena 2003) have been documented in the Condor Range, along with some 613 bird species (Agreda 2004), of which 44 inhabit the flat plateaus of the Condor Range and are not found in the montane forests below 2000 m in altitude. Six of these species are endemic to the Condor Range and the southeastern region of the Andes.

The photo shows one of the techniques used to survey insects in the region.

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Bug-catcher: an insect survey in progress in the Condor Range.
Photo: C. Vega, Conservation International

Rattan reborn?

Knowledge about Asia's most important non-wood forest product, rattan, is sorely incomplete. An ITTO pre-project has set out some research and development priorities

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FOR SEVERAL decades, many people regarded timber as the only forest product of significant monetary value. However, as forest owners and managers strive to improve the economic viability of natural forest management, more attention is being paid to non-timber forest products. In tropical Asia, rattan is one of the most important of these.

Rattan is the term used for a variety of climbing palms that occur naturally in tropical Asia. There are about 600 species, of which 10% are used commercially; about half of all species are found in Indonesia, the world's largest rattan producer. The most valuable part of rattan is cane and the most popular product is furniture.

The importance of the rattan resource to diverse stakeholders, including millions of small-scale forest users, cannot be ignored, but its management is not always sustainable and its availability, particularly in large diameters, is declining rapidly. Moving towards sustainable rattan development presents many challenges: there's a need for better resource inventories, new nursery techniques for rapid and reliable propagation, improved plantation and harvesting practices, better and more environmentally friendly preservation techniques, a greater understanding of the socioeconomic importance of rattan to small-scale farmers, and more.

Rattan resource: rattan planted in natural forest. *Photo: A. Sarre*

As a first step towards improving knowledge through greater regional cooperation, the Philippines' Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and the Forest Products Research and Development Institute (Department of Science and Technology) implemented ITTO PRE-PROJECT PPD 51/02 REV. 1 (I): 'Application of production and utilisation technologies for sustainable development of rattan in the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] member countries'. The endeavour covered nine ASEAN countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Under the pre-project we surveyed agencies and other bodies involved in rattan research, development and utilisation, compiling a large quantity of primary and secondary data on the extent, production and use of rattan resources in ASEAN countries. The aim was to provide background information for a regional conference on rattan—convened as part of the pre-project—in which strategic issues could be discussed and prioritised.

Regional rattan conference

The Regional Conference on Sustainable Development of Rattan in Asia was held on 21–23 January 2004 in Manila, the Philippines as a follow-up to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)-INBAR (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan) meeting on rattan development in 2000. It was attended by representatives of eight ASEAN member countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) and by invitees from India and ITTO.

The aim of the conference was to determine the needs and opportunities of ASEAN countries as far as rattan production and utilisation technologies and sustainable management were concerned; the *table* shows a prioritised list of research and development needs, developed by the conference, that could be pursued through regional cooperation.

Another outcome of the pre-project was the formulation of a full project proposal, in which efficient rattan production and utilisation technologies would be developed through a collaborative partnership among research institutions in ASEAN countries. The project proposal has been submitted to ITTO for consideration.

Basket of needs

Summary of identified and prioritised technology needs for sustainable rattan development in ASEAN countries

COMPONENTS	NEEDS
1. Resource inventory 1.1 Taxonomy 1.2 Extent of natural stand/ plantation	a) Field guides
	b) An expert from Kew Garden to guide and validate the contents of the field guides
	c) A standard rattan inventory design (standard ASEAN inventory)
	d) Establish a practice to conduct inventory before restocking especially in logged-over areas
	e) ASEAN checklist
2. Nursery activities 2.1 Propagation 2.2 Seedling care and maintenance	a) Further develop the technology using chemical induction to break the phase of grass stage that may hasten growth of rattan
	b) Establish research and development for rattan orchard where male and female species will be identified through molecular techniques using isozyme and DNA analysis
	c) Conduct a study on developing the regeneration system: (1) for natural stand—the seed-rattan method regeneration system to sustain production; and (2) for plantation—clustering/solitary system in time with rotation of support trees
	d) Study proven germination techniques on lesser-used species
	f) Study potential/lesser-used species (anatomical, physiological, chemical analysis)
3. Plantation establishment 3.1 Site requirement 3.2 Site preparation 3.3 Outplanting 3.4 Maintenance and protection	a) Study eco-physiological site characterization, including light and water, with a program to test intercropping with rattan
	b) Document a comparative analysis of Intercropping rattan with other tree species versus rattan as the primary crop
	c) Assess the silvicultural requirements (to link production with utilisation) of potentially commercial but under-utilised rattan species
	d) Undertake ex-situ conservation to establish germplasm and seedbanks; this includes setting up rules and policies similar to biodiversity guidelines
	e) Study harvesting cycle/economic rotation, intensity of other rattan species
	f) Analyse demand versus annual allowable cut to determine sustainable levels of resource supply and demand
	g) Develop a planting technology for edible shoots and cane
4. Harvesting system and grading standards	a) Develop a technology for waste reduction during harvesting and alternative uses of rattan waste products in forest, cane production
	b) Develop appropriate tool for harvesting small- and large-diameter canes
	c) Develop and adopt an ASEAN grading standard
	d) Study the best season/timing of harvest to reduce susceptibility to insect destruction or staining
5. Post-harvest activities	a) Conduct a comparative study on preservation practices used by other ASEAN countries
	b) Apply existing technology; training on kiln-drying for rattan
	c) Improve product design based on market demands for rattan
	d) Share technology on mechanised weaving
	e) Develop improved bleaching technologies that are environment-friendly
	f) Develop new preservation technologies at depot
6. Socioeconomic aspects	a) Study socioeconomic aspects of rattan (includes financial analysis, indigenous knowledge system, gender roles), computation of its contribution to carbon sequestration
	b) Study consumption patterns and market preferences
	c) Review the market chain to determine what is economically viable for farmers
7. Strengthen ASEAN collaboration through a network	a) Establish a national herbarium with a rattan section in each country
	b) Establish an ASEAN database
	c) Establish a seedbank and germplasm
	d) Establish an ASEAN certification system and fair trade practices
	e) Establish an ASEAN rattan network that would discuss and share policies that constrain, complement or support implementation of rattan projects (eg transboundary issues)
	f) Coordinate, compile documents for sharing; eg dissemination of information through electronic bulletin using the website of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia
8. Training needs for rattan production	a) Training on seed production, seed germination and plantation establishment at the community/village level
	b) Training on rattan taxonomy
	c) Training on rattan inventory
	d) Training on rattan harvesting
9. Training needs for rattan processing and utilisation	a) Training on the application of post-harvest technology
	b) Training on processing technologies

Managing mangroves

ITTO projects in Colombia, Panama, Thailand, India and Japan have advanced the cause of mangrove conservation and sustainable management

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Photo: J. Gasana

SITUATED in coastal tropical and sub-tropical areas of the planet, mangrove ecosystems are a very valuable resource. They function as hatchery, nursery, and feeding ground and are habitats that teem with life. Live and decaying mangrove leaves and roots nourish plankton, algae, shellfish, fish, crabs and shrimps. Many of the fish caught commercially and for subsistence in tropical regions spend some time in mangroves or depend on food chains linked to these coastal ecosystems.

Mangroves are also a source of timber and income for local communities, and they perform valuable protective functions, absorbing the energy of storm-driven waves and wind as well as regulating estuarine and coastal water quality through sedimentation and nutrient uptake. But because they often occupy valuable coastal land, they are also one of the world's most threatened ecosystems.

Recognising their importance and threatened status, ITTO supports a broad project program for mangrove conservation, management and rehabilitation. In January/February 2004 we carried out ex-post evaluations of five completed ITTO mangrove projects *(see table)*. The primary purpose of the evaluations was to provide a concise diagnosis, pointing out the successful and unsuccessful outcomes, the reasons for successes and failures, and the contribution of the projects towards ITTO's Objective 2000 and the ITTO Mangrove Work Plan 2002–2006. The evaluations were also designed to draw lessons that might help guide similar projects in the future. This article presents some of the main findings of general interest; it does not describe the individual projects.

Mangrove work

Summary of the five evaluated ITTO mangrove projects

PROJECT/COUNTRY	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	DURATION *(months)*		KEY DATES		ITTO BUDGET *(US$)*
		Planned	*Effective*	*Starting*	*Completion*	
PD 171/91 Rev. 2 (F): 'Conservation and management for the multiple use and development of mangroves in Colombia'	INDERENA	36	53	March 1995	September 2000	905 596
PD 128/91 Rev. 2 (F): 'Management, conservation and development of mangroves in Panama'	INRENARE	36	68	September 1992	December 1997	489 000
PD 157/91 Rev. 2 (F): 'Establishment of an international network for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of mangrove forest genetic resources' (global, but mostly implemented in India)	CSARD (MSSRF)	12	32	September 1991	August 1994	613 000
PD 11/92 Rev. 1 (F): 'Development and dissemination of re-afforestation techniques of mangrove forests' (global)	JAM in collaboration with NATMANCOM	42	42	August 1993	May 1997	815 850
PD 6/93 Rev. 2 (F): 'Manual and a world natural mangrove atlas for mangrove ecosystem restoration' (global)	ISME	24	50	September 1993	November 1997	663 467

INRENARE = National Institute for Renewable Natural Resources (Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales Renovables) (Panama); CSARD = Center for Soil and Agro-climate Research and Development (Indonesia); MSSRF = MS Swaminathan Research Foundation; JAM = Japan Association for Mangroves; NATMANCOM = National Mangrove Committee (Thailand); ISME = International Society of Mangrove Ecosystems; INDERENA = Institute for the Management of Natural Renewable Resources (Instituto de Desarrollo de los Recursos Naturales Renovables) Colombia.

All the projects evaluated were implemented between 1991 and 2000. As is the case with many early ITTO projects, none of those evaluated followed the current format for project proposals. All projects lacked a description of the monitoring and evaluation procedures to be followed during implementation. In many cases there was confusion between objectives and outputs, and outputs and activities. This confusion and the lack of logical frameworks made accurate ex-post evaluation difficult.

Contribution and impact of the projects

All five projects were in conformity with the objectives outlined in Article 1 of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994. The projects were also in conformity with the Yokohama Action Plan, complying with the Plan's Goal 1, Action 4 for reforestation and forest management: to "promote the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of threatened forest ecosystems, *inter alia* mangroves, in collaboration with relevant organisations".

Mangrove man: evaluator James Gasana (left) stands in a Panamanian mangrove forest with a local expert (centre foreground) and government officers.

The combined results of the projects, which have collected and disseminated a vast quantity of new information on mangroves, confirm the value of mangrove ecosystems; wherever possible, they should be protected in their natural state or—where they have been damaged—restored or rehabilitated. As results in Colombia, India and Thailand show, restored degraded areas can offer numerous environmental and socioeconomic benefits. In this regard, one important lesson is that planning for mangrove resource management should emphasise multiple-use objectives. Mangrove forest zoning should be carried out in coordination with development plans, particularly through integrated coastal zone management approaches.

The environmental impact of projects PD 157/91 and PD 171/91, which all had sizeable field activities, was quite positive. In the Indian and Colombian mangrove projects, the technical performance regarding desalinisation was very high. As for PD 11/92, positive environmental impacts were visible in the planted plots.

Where a project's impacts on the forest sector was weak or lacking, this was due to:

- poor project design and a lack of clear objectives;
- a failure to identify and involve stakeholders and project end-users;
- a lack of an information strategy;
- insufficient consideration of the institutional context for the use of the project's results and their sustainability;
- poor development of social organisation processes in beneficiary communities; and
- a lack of institution-strengthening objectives.

In relation to local communities

While none of the projects incorporated a clear strategy for the mobilisation of stakeholders in its design, all communities involved responded positively to project activities. Nevertheless, in terms of the sustainability of benefits and impacts, mixed results were achieved as far as community development was concerned. In the projects in Colombia and India, considerable attention was paid to mangrove-based development options and to working with and strengthening community-level institutions. But for the other projects, impacts at the community and institutional levels were negligible.

... mixed results were achieved as far as community development was concerned. In the projects in Colombia and India, considerable attention was paid to mangrove-based development options and to working with and strengthening community-level institutions.

For the host countries

All projects were relevant to the policies of the host countries and contributed to the management and conservation of mangroves, as well as to development needs that might not have been addressed sufficiently by other programs. This was particularly the case for projects PD 171/91 in Colombia and PD 128/91 in Panama. In Colombia, the project demonstrated practical management techniques for the Caribbean mangroves that will also have relevance

Mangrove barbeque: a common use for mangrove wood is the production of charcoal, which is used locally for cooking and also often exported to the US, Japan and elsewhere as fuel for barbeques. *Photo: J. Gasana*

for Pacific Coast mangroves; national policies relating to mangroves were also improved by the experiences gained through the project. In Thailand, the government implements policies that aim to slow the loss of mangroves and that encourage the reforestation of degraded areas. In India, the government supports mangrove management and conservation programs underpinned by sound ecological knowledge, greatly derived from the project; it is also providing guidance and financial support to states and territories for the preparation and implementation of management action plans.

To ensure that projects respond better to the needs of beneficiaries and that their objectives are met and results sustained, there is a need to open up the project formulation process to greater stakeholder input—in identifying the problems and objectives and in choosing strategies.

Main lessons learned

In all cases, the five projects made important contributions to awareness about mangrove problems. Important factors contributing to their success were the quality of the project staff, the political commitment of the beneficiary institution, the role played by project steering committees (in particular the interest of donors), the involvement of stakeholders in project activities, and the quality of project design.

Mangrove projects should be designed not simply for forestry but for sustainable development. The setting of the objectives of future projects requires a good balance between forestry issues (conservation/management) and socioeconomic and institutional issues. Capacities at community and institutional levels should be assessed and the need for strengthening those capacities should be taken into account in the setting of objectives, outputs and activities.

The planning and development of mangrove projects should take an incremental adaptive approach. To ensure that projects respond better to the needs of beneficiaries and that their objectives are met and results sustained, there is a need to open up the project formulation process to greater stakeholder input—in identifying the problems and objectives and in choosing strategies.

Lesson learned from sustainable use pertaining to mangroves point to viable low-impact activities that would be compatible with their conservation, such as various forms of nature-based tourism, fisheries and timber harvesting that are non-intensive and non-destructive of mangrove forest cover. Mangrove systems are assets that can provide a basis for sustainable development, in which the development of local communities can be pursued and the integrity of the ecosystem can be maintained. Narrowly focused, sectoral solutions have not always been effective; an integrated approach to the management of coastal zones and river basins may be the best way to protect and sustainably use the marine environment, including mangroves. Several factors and pressures being felt by mangrove systems and elsewhere can also be attributed to inland activities.

Conference on mangroves

The five mangrove projects generated a wealth of publications, scientific articles and experience. To maximise the dissemination and uptake of project results, we propose the convening of an international workshop in which experts from these projects meet and synthesise their experiences in a form that can be shared easily with other countries.

State of play for tropical timber

After several years in the doldrums, what are the short-term prospects for tropical timber exports?

by Michael Adams

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IT IS NOW seven years since the tropical timber trade suffered the trauma of a global decline in commodity prices precipitated by the Asian financial crisis of 1997–98. Free-on-board (FOB) prices for tropical timber are only now showing signs of clawing their way back. But rising shipping costs are eating into the profit margins that exporters might otherwise be seeing from recovering prices.

Price trends

Figures 1–3 show long-term price trends for some tropical logs, sawnwood and plywood. The prices are shown as an index, with January-1997 prices serving as the base. If the line is above 100 then prices have increased above those in January 1997; if the line is below 100 then prices have fallen.

The graphs show that the impact of the events of 1997–98 was severe on the tropical timber trade. This was particularly so in Asia; prices for Asian logs, sawnwood and plywood plummeted in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

The market for West African redwood timbers such as African mahogany, sapele and utile, consumed mainly in Europe, was less affected by the crisis but suffered from weak economic performance and slowing housing starts across Europe, most notably in 2000–02.

Plywood hit hard

The 1997–98 Asian financial crisis whacked plywood markets around the world. Prices for tropical plywood nose-dived and, at their lowest, were some 40% below pre-crisis levels. After many false starts towards recovery in 2000–01, tropical plywood prices are now inching towards 1997 parity.

Latin American exporters have benefited from the US housing boom, which has sustained growth in the plywood industry in the region. Historically low interest rates in the US have meant that homeowners could borrow cheaply to rebuild or buy anew, even while the US economy was otherwise stagnant or in recession.

Plywood producers in tropical Asia, notably in Indonesia and Malaysia, trade mainly with Japan, Korea and, in recent times, China. The Japanese economy has turned the corner from a long recession and, as consumer confidence returns, the housing market has steadied. With this, and a shortage of logs for plywood manufacture, FOB prices have been rising.

Wholesale prices in the Japanese market have lagged behind movements in export prices for logs and plywood, and Japanese importers have had difficulty maintaining on-selling margins. This situation has been aggravated by the move to use more imported softwood plywood and softwood logs for plywood manufacture.

Competition from China

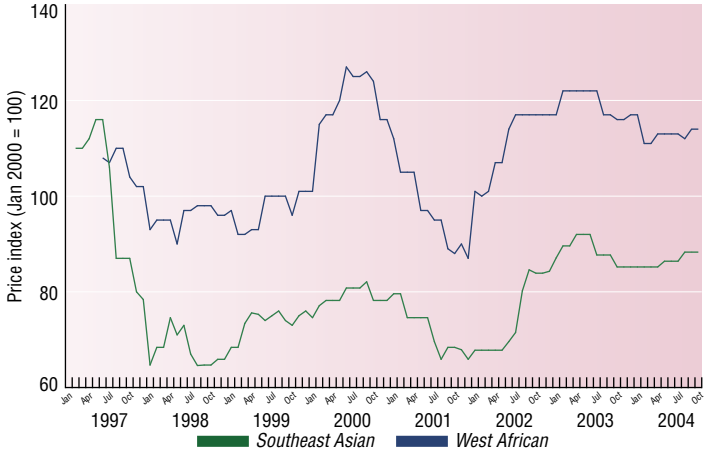
The plywood story would not be complete without mentioning the startling performance of Chinese producers. Until about three years ago China imposed hefty duties on imported logs and wood products, including plywood, which had significant and often unintended consequences for the trade.

China's 1998/99 decision to cut back drastically on the domestic harvesting of logs (because of killer floods in the Yangtze and Yellow river basins) deprived local mills of raw materials. Recognising this, the Chinese government established new import rules, including the abolition of import duties on logs.

These new rules have completely altered the trade in wood products. China has shifted from being a major importer of tropical plywood to being only a minor player. In tandem with the tariff changes, the country has quickly become a massive consumer of logs and, in a few short years, has developed its plywood manufacturing sector to the extent that Chinese exports of plywood now rival those of Indonesia and Malaysia in terms of volume and quality.

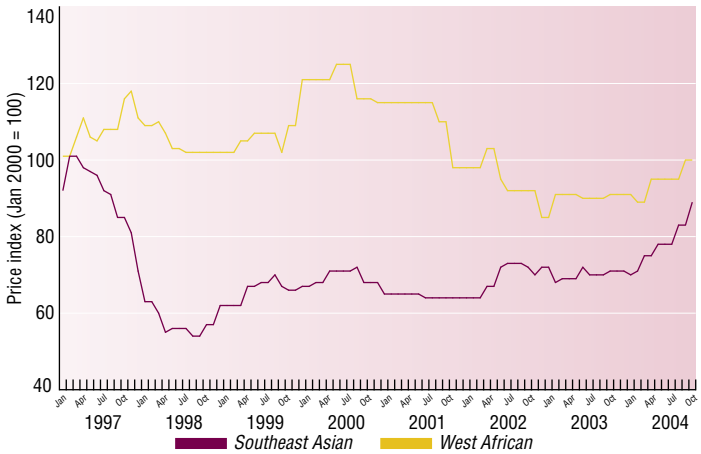
Doldrums

Figure 1: FOB price trends for Southeast Asian and West African sawnwood, 1997–2004



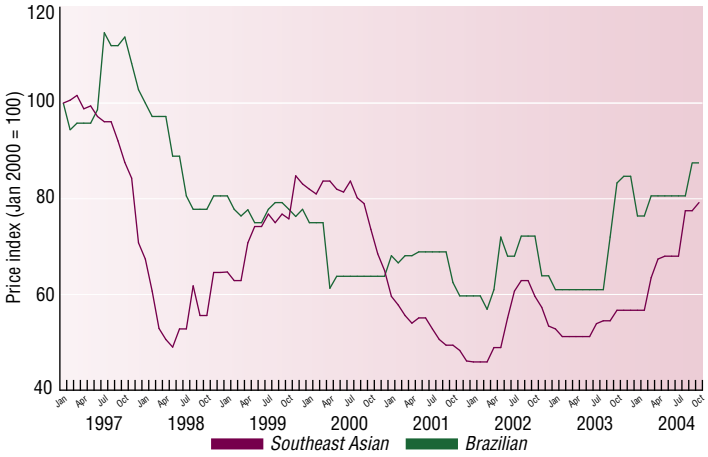
Towards recovery

Figure 2: FOB price trends for Southeast Asian and West African logs, 1997–2004



Languid recovery

Figure 3: FOB price trends for Southeast Asian thinply and Brazilian virola plywood, 1997–2004



Such was the daring and efficiency of the Chinese plywood manufacturers that they penetrated the European market for okoume plywood by importing okoume logs from Africa, making the plywood in China and shipping it to Europe at competitive prices. Today China is a leading (if not the world's biggest) plywood exporter.

Shipping costs increase

Despite improving prices, the going has been hard for tropical timber exporters in the face of rising ocean freight costs, especially over the past 18 months. These have been driven up by high fuel costs and by a shortage of freight opportunities brought about by Chinese importers, who are filling up available shipping space. Importers trading FOB are facing increased shipping costs from West Africa, Southeast Asia and South America.

For example, in January 2004 exporters in Gabon and Cameroon reported serious shortages of freight space and very limited northbound sailings because of the re-routing of vessels due to demand from Chinese importers. Container freight opportunities remained available but at higher costs. However, it was the reduction of available cargo space that was of greatest concern, and log and lumber stocks at ports rose fast. This problem added to the already difficult financing situation for exporters; banks remained reluctant to advance finance in what they viewed as a high-risk business. The net result was that some producers had to slow production and lay off workers.

West African shippers reported that ocean freight rates for Europe moved up by about €10/m³ within the space of just one month. Making matters worse, exporters reported that shipping opportunities for Asia were 'catastrophic', with very limited immediate availability and delays of up to two months for shipments to Asia from Gabon. Freight rates for Asia shot up by a further US$23–30/m³ (liner terms) for most logs and by US$14/m³ (charter terms) for okoume logs. The situation had not improved by late 2004.

It is not only the exporters who are feeling the pressure of rising ocean freight costs. In Japan, rising charter rates and bunker oil prices have pushed up transport costs.

Shipping companies began asking Japanese importers for a US$3–4/m³ increase in freight charges for March 2004 shipments from Sarawak. On top of this, freight costs from Papua New Guinea (two ports loading and three ports discharging) were quoted at a record US$38/m³. Towards year-end ocean freight charges increased again, bringing the rate to US$35/m³ for Sarawak loading.

Analysts of the Japanese log market have commented that the fleet of log-hauling vessels is aging and that there are now fewer log-carriers on the high seas.

The sharp increase in tropical log FOB prices has made sales' negotiations with Japanese plywood mills—which use the imported logs in their mills—very difficult. In the first half of the year importers had to cut margins to secure sales and even, at times, to sell below cost to generate turnover in Japan's very dull plywood market. Fortunately, the plywood market did pick up later in the year and the better wholesale panel prices meant that plymills could pay slightly more for logs.

On the other side of the Pacific Ocean in South America, Brazilian and Peruvian exporters face many of the same problems as exporters in other regions. Freight and container rates rose so fast over a short period *(see Figure 4)* that Chinese importers of Peruvian timber complained that the rates were so high that they had begun to impact on trade-flows.

Brazilian timber exporters, who earned almost US$5 billion for the country in 2003, faced the additional problem of delayed shipments resulting, they say, from poor administration of the ports. According to data from the Port of Itajaís (State of Santa Catarina), for example, wood product exports of 110 866 tonnes accounted for 26% of the port's total exports in 2003 and goods could be cleared from the export warehouses in around ten days. However, now it is taking about three weeks to get shipments away.

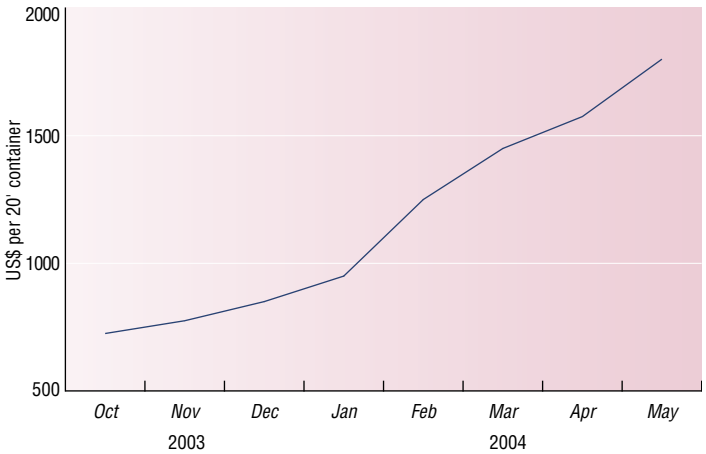
This results in higher export costs that cannot easily be passed on to overseas buyers. The industry reports that some export orders have been cancelled due to delays caused by the logistical problems in this port.

Impact of house-building activity

Prospects for growth in timber import markets are mixed. *Figure 5* shows trends in US housing sales and US house prices. Sales of new single-family

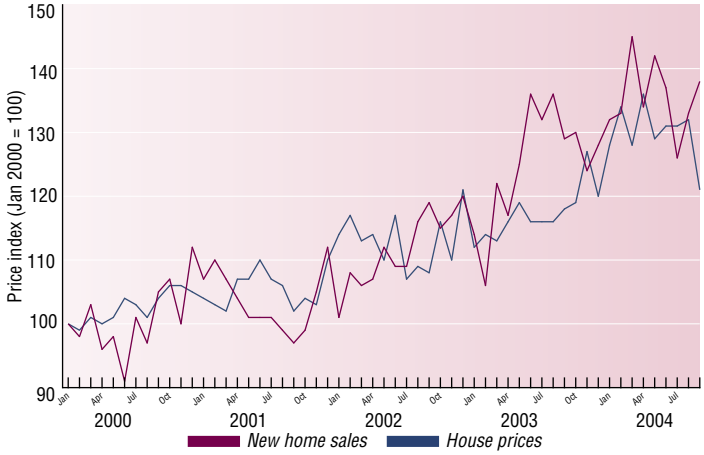
Uncontained costs

Figure 4: 20' container costs, Callao, Peru to China



Housing boom

Figure 5: Indices of US new-housing sales and house prices, 2000–2003



homes have been rising strongly since 2003 and house prices have increased substantially. The US Commerce Department reported that new-home sales rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.21 million units in September 2004, a 3.5% increase over the month before. This rate was 7% above the sales pace seen in September 2003.

Economic conditions in the US, low interest rates (and hence low home-loan rates), employment growth and solid house-price performance continue to invigorate demand for housing and this is spurring the consumption of building materials. Exporters of wood products to the US market have seen volumes and prices grow steadily for the past 24 months or more. However, the firming prices for lumber and panel products could moderate in coming months in response to a forecast cooling of housing starts and the increasing supply of wood products.

South American plywood manufacturers have invested heavily in production capacity to take advantage of the rising demand and prices in the US. Perversely, this increased capacity, coupled with the forecast slowing of building in the US, could, say analysts, lead to a decline in plywood prices of up to 15% in 2005.

Japan

Southeast Asian and Pacific Island exporters of tropical wood products rely heavily on the Japanese market, and movements in the Japanese house-building industry have a direct impact on export volumes and tropical timber prices.

2003 was a relatively good year for housing starts in Japan and the year-end figure of 1.16 million units represented an increase of almost 1% over 2002 and the first year-on-year increase in three years.

The trade press in Japan suggested that a boost was given to starts in 2003 by the fact that a special tax break on housing loan interest was set to expire at the end of that year. However, to the delight of the building industry, the Japanese government announced at the end of 2003 that this tax break would be extended to the end of 2004 in order to further stimulate housing development. From 2005 the tax break will be cut in increments.

European Union

After bottoming out in the first half of 2003, the economies of the larger European countries began to strengthen in the second half of the year. The average growth rate for the EU in 2003 was a modest 0.8%. A rebound to average growth rates of 2% for the EU is projected for 2004, reaching a predicted 2.4% in 2005.

The rebound in 2003 was driven by a surge in the growth of exports, while there was virtually no contribution to growth from domestic demand. However, rising oil and other commodity prices have dampened global growth, which in turn will affect economic growth in the EU. The sharp appreciation of the euro against the US dollar is also beginning to weaken growth prospects in the euro-area manufacturing sector.

Forecasts presented at the 57th EUROCONSTRUCT Conference in Stockholm suggest an improved performance of the construction sector for 2005 and 2006, with growth rates of 1–2% annually. The segment with the strongest growth prospects is civil engineering, which is forecast to grow by 9.6% in the period 2003–06. The non-residential segment could increase by 4.4%, while the residential segment is expected to experience the weakest growth in these years.

Prospects?

At the time of writing, builders in the western consumer markets were starting to head for their Christmas holidays, bringing to an end building activity for 2004. The new year holds no great promise of improvement for tropical timber exporters, with currency woes adding to the difficulties brought about by greater competition and rising shipping costs. The US dollar could well decline by up to 20% against major currencies; this will slow growth in Europe, putting at risk the stuttering recoveries in Germany and France and keeping the economy of the Netherlands in the doldrums. All this means the likelihood of slowed housing activity in that market.

2003 was a relatively good year for housing starts in Japan and the year-end figure of 1.16 million units represented an increase of almost 1% over 2002 and the first year-on-year increase in three years.

The Chinese government has already taken steps to cool the Chinese economy and the measures are having an impact, but no one in the tropical timber trade should read this as a sign that trading conditions will ease. Chinese producers are and will remain the major competitors for tropical timber product exporters and will continue to make deep inroads into the markets for added-value timber products.

How to improve the regeneration of African mahoganies in the northeastern block forest of the Democratic Republic of Congo

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THIS ARTICLE presents a study that assessed management options for African mahogany timber species in the Ituri region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through analyses of regeneration ecology and seedling performance in disturbed and undisturbed forests.

DRC contains over 50% of African rainforests and about 8% of the world's remaining tropical moist forests. Although it has large tracts of potentially productive tropical forest, its formal timber production has been extremely low for the past decade (ITTO 2003), due in part to the progressive collapse of the country's road systems and the unstable political landscape (Wilkie et al. 2000). This situation may change soon, as the DRC government has already allocated over 20 million hectares of forest to multinational logging companies and aims to increase formal annual timber production from less than 100 000 m^3 currently to over 1 million m^3 by the year 2006–2007.

African mahoganies, which include species from the genera *Khaya* and *Entandrophragma*, are among the most valuable timber species in Africa. Five species of the group are represented in DRC's Ituri region, including *K. anthotheca*, *E. angolensis*, *E. candollei*, *E. cylindricum* and *E. utile*. These five, along with *Milicia excelsa*, make up nearly 90% of timber currently exported from eastern DRC. The sustainable management of these species is therefore of great importance; continued poor management could pose great environmental and societal risks for the whole of central Africa and beyond.

Objectives

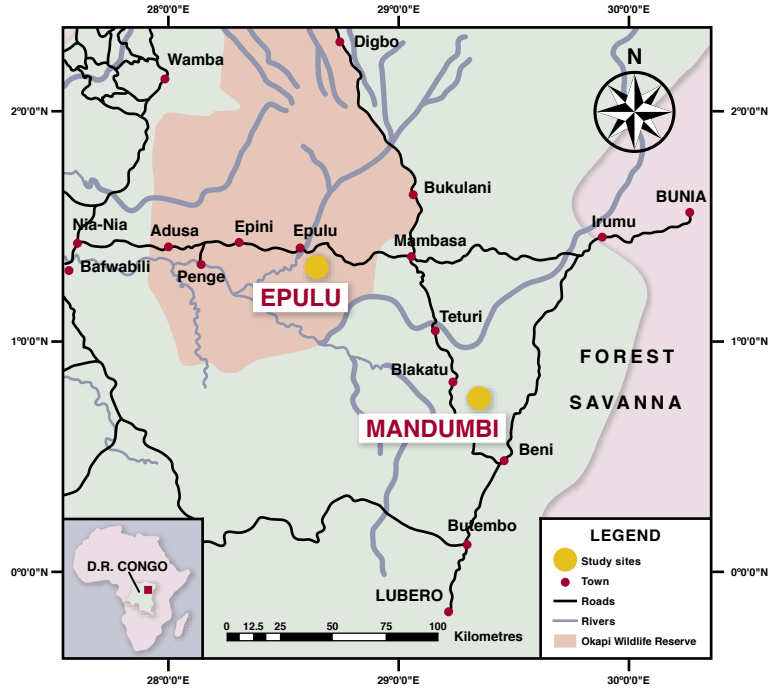
The main objective of this study was to assess management options for African mahoganies (*Entandrophragma* spp and *Khaya* spp) in northeastern DRC. Previous studies have shown that African mahoganies often do not regenerate well after selective logging (Mwima et al. 2001; Hall et al. 2003). The regeneration failure of these major timber species after selective logging has been blamed on insufficient canopy openings, low seed availability and dispersal, and a lack of soil disturbance in logging gaps. In addition, in eastern DRC, logged forests are generally invaded rapidly by landless farmers from the densely populated eastern highlands, who take advantage of logging roads to enter the forest interior and establish agricultural frontiers, eventually leading to large-scale forest degradation and a loss of biodiversity.

Specific objectives of the study were to assess the importance of seed availability, dispersal limitation, soil disturbance, and light availability on the establishment and early growth of African mahoganies and to evaluate the combined impacts of selective logging and shifting agriculture on forest structure, tree species diversity and composition, and timber tree regeneration. The main hypotheses tested were: 1) insufficient seed availability and dispersal limit seedling recruitment in logged forests; 2) soil disturbance promotes seedling establishment; 3) single-tree harvesting provides insufficient light levels for the successful recruitment of African mahoganies; and 4) the combined effects of selective logging and agriculture result in severe degradation and the impoverishment of natural forests.

Race to the top: African mahogany seedlings grow very rapidly in a small clearing in the Ituri forest. This 18-month-old seedling is over 2 m in height. *Photo: J-R. Makana*

Study site

Figure 1: Map locating study sites. The insert shows DRC within the African continent



Methods

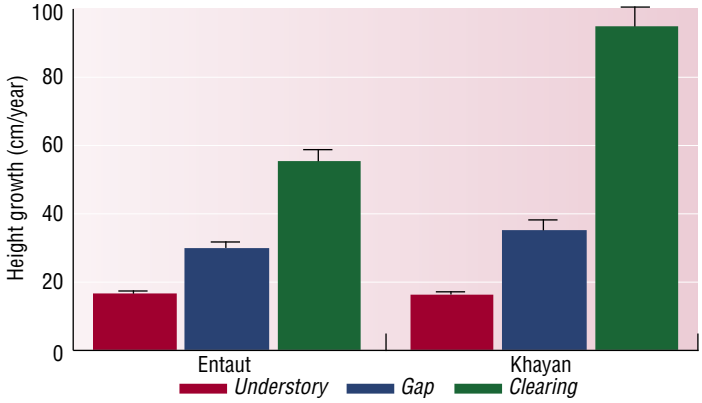
The study was conducted at two sites in the Ituri region *(Figure 1)* in the northeastern part of the DRC forest block. The first site (Mandumbi) was a logging concession and the second site was located at Epulu, in the 1 350 000-hectare Okapi Wildlife Reserve. The elevation in the region is in the range 700–950 m above sea level. Mean annual rainfall is about 1700 mm, average annual daily temperature is 23.5° C and there's a dry season from December to February. The first three hypotheses were tested using a split-plot experiment involving seed addition, litter removal and canopy cover. The fourth hypothesis was evaluated by comparing forest structure and tree diversity and composition between secondary and mature forest stands in logged and unlogged forests.

Results

Three major findings were made in this study. First, although African mahoganies have all been considered to be light-demanding species, the investigation revealed important differences in light requirements between the three species studied. The light-demanding nature of African mahoganies was confirmed for *K. anthotheca* and *E. utile*, whereas *E. cylindricum* was exceptionally shade-tolerant. Second, it was observed that secondary forests resulting from the abandonment of slash-and-burn agriculture offer favourable conditions for the regeneration of most African mahoganies, supporting the hypothesis that large canopy openings associated with some kind of soil disturbance are necessary for the successful regeneration of these species in moist tropical forests *(see Figure 2 and the photo)*. Third, African mahoganies were more abundant in the semi-deciduous forest of Mandumbi in the transition zone between closed canopy forest and eastern savanna woodlands than in the moist evergreen forests of western Ituri (Epulu). In addition, seed availability and dispersal strongly hindered the natural regeneration of African mahoganies in selectively logged forests; seed addition in canopy gaps substantially improved the recruitment of these species. Litter removal did not improve seedling establishment, probably due to high seed and seedling predation on exposed mineral soil. However, the combined occurrence of canopy gaps and litter removal offered the best conditions for seedling survival and growth. Secondary forests had a lower diversity of large trees than mature forests and the dominant species of mature forest were poorly represented in them.

Gap analysis

Figure 2: Height growth rates of seedlings of two African mahogany timber species as a function of canopy cover in the Ituri forest *(ENTAUT = Entandrophragma utile; KHAYAN = Khaya anthotheca)*



Conclusions

These findings suggest that intensive silviculture, perhaps involving the use of shifting cultivation in a taungya-like system, appears necessary to achieve the sustainable management of African mahoganies and other disturbance-adapted timber species. In this context, biodiversity conservation will likely be assured by the zoning of forests into multiple-use, timber production and strict protection areas.

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ITTO fellowships offered

ITTO offers fellowships through the Freezailah Fellowship Fund to promote human resource development and to strengthen professional expertise in member countries in tropical forestry and related disciplines. The goal is to promote the sustainable management of tropical forests, the efficient use and processing of tropical timber, and better economic information about the international trade in tropical timber.

Eligible activities include:

- participation in short-term training courses, training internships, study tours, lecture/demonstration tours and international/regional conferences;
- technical document preparation, publication and dissemination, such as manuals and mongraphs; and
- post-graduate studies.

Priority areas: eligible activities aim to develop human resources and professional expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- improving transparency of the international tropical timber market;
- promoting tropical timber from sustainably managed sources;
- supporting activities to secure tropical timber resources;
- promoting sustainable management of tropical forest resources;
- promoting increased and further processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources; and
- improving industry's efficiency in the processing and utilisation of tropical timber from sustainable sources.

In any of the above, the following are relevant:

- enhancing public relations, awareness and education;
- sharing information, knowledge and technology; and
- research and development.

Selection criteria: Fellowship applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria (in no priority order):

- consistency of the proposed activity with the Program's objective and priority areas;
- qualifications of the applicant to undertake the proposed fellowship activity;
- the potential of the skills and knowledge acquired or advanced under the fellowship activity to lead to wider applications and benefits nationally and internationally; and
- reasonableness of costs in relation to the proposed fellowship activity.

The maximum amount for a fellowship grant is US$10 000. Only nationals of ITTO member countries are eligible to apply. The next deadline for applications is 21 April 2005 for activities that will begin no sooner than 1 August 2005. Applications will be appraised in June 2005.

Further details and application forms (in English, French or Spanish) are available from Dr Chisato Aoki, Fellowship Program, ITTO; Fax 81–45–223 1111; fellowship@itto.or.jp (see page 2 for ITTO's postal address) or go to www.itto.or.jp

More on illegal timber

Increasing international enforcement cooperation to control transboundary trade in illegally produced logs and timber

18–19 October 2004
Bangkok, Thailand

This conference was organised by the Environmental Investigation Agency and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement. It attracted about 50 participants from ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] member countries, particularly from enforcement and customs institutions, and representatives of regional and international organisations involved in activities related to the control of illegal logging/trade.

The meeting heard a wide range of presentations on experiences related to illegal logging/trade and on enforcement models and activities. The meeting concentrated mainly on the regional context of Southeast Asia, but some more general initiatives were also discussed. ITTO's representative briefed the meeting on ITTO's work, including its forthcoming international conference on the transportation of timber products and illegal trade. Some outside-the-region initiatives were also discussed; of these, the Lusaka Cooperative Agreement on Wildlife Enforcement was felt by participants to be of particular interest and could inspire new arrangements in the Southeast Asian region.

The meeting concluded with the identification of measures that could be implemented by non-governmental organisations, industry and national enforcement institutions.

Reported by Emmanuel Ze Meka, ITTO Secretariat

Beefing up the Asia Forest Partnership

Regional workshop on strengthening the Asia Forest Partnership

30 August–1 September 2004
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Pursuant to ITTC Decision 3(XXXV), ITTO provided funds to the Government of Indonesia to convene this workshop aimed at strengthening the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) as a Type 2 Initiative of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The AFP is one of two Type 2 initiatives on forests launched in conjunction with the WSSD in 2002 (the other being the Congo Basin Forest Partnership—CBFP).

With 28 partners comprising 16 governments including the European Commission, eight international organisations (including ITTO) and four civil-society organisations, the AFP seeks to promote sustainable forest management in Asia by focusing on five urgent issues: good governance and forest law enforcement; capacity for effective forest management; control of illegal logging; control of forest fire; and the rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded forests and lands.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- refine and operationalise the goals of the AFP and the mechanisms for its implementation;
- draw from experiences and lessons learned in similar partnerships, especially the programs and activities of the CBFP;
- formulate the programs and activities of the AFP; and
- formulate the structure and modalities of the AFP.

In addition, the workshop discussed the issue of developing minimum standards of legality, timber tracking and chain-of-custody systems, and verification systems among AFP members.

Following the opening, the scene for the workshop was set by presentations made on the history of the AFP and on the lessons and experiences gained from the CBFP and ASEAN. A review of the AFP since its inception was undertaken covering its initial, present and future positioning, revisiting its goals, approaches and implementation, and considering the development of its structure and mechanisms.

Three working groups were then instituted to discuss, review and suggest improvements to the AFP. Working Group 1 deliberated on issues related to partners and membership, decision-making mechanisms and structure, the role of focal points and the more active participation of partners. Working Group 2 focused on the AFP workplans, including the development of a workplan template as well as procedures and decision-making mechanisms to refine, adopt and implement the workplans. Other relevant issues concerning networking for information-sharing, the role of the AFP Information Sharing Secretariat, external communication, and funding strategies and opportunities were addressed by Working Group 3.

There seemed to be a lack of understanding and familiarity among delegates with regard to the *modus operandi* of the AFP as a Type 2 Initiative of the WSSD—which is that the AFP is voluntary, multi-stakeholder and self-organising and based on mutual respect as well as the equal and shared responsibility of partners comprising governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society. Thus far, the AFP has been a loose partnership with a low level of formalisation in terms of its rules and procedures. In the absence of a sizeable commitment on funding, information-sharing is the AFP's current core business

through its Information Sharing Secretariat hosted by the Centre for International Forestry Research and the AFP website. Partners are encouraged to propose activities for the AFP workplans but are expected to communicate and work actively with other partners in refining and implementing these workplans. Partners are also invited to mobilise resources for the AFP workplans, but many of the contributions made so far have been in-kind. A few of the workplans are being implemented involving some of the partners.

While the need to avoid the full-blown formalisation and bureaucratisation of the AFP was recognised, its attractiveness as a new and unique initiative was also less evident. There has been hesitation on the part of some partners and potential partners amid concern about whether the AFP should focus on information-sharing or active implementation on the ground; stay low-key or be more visible; be a policy or technical forum; and operate at the regional, national or local level. Following deliberation of the issue within the working groups and at the plenary, a draft proposal on strengthening the AFP was informally introduced and discussed. In essence, the proposal calls for some structure and mechanisms for the partnership, including the establishment of a secretariat, focal points for partners, regular annual meetings, periodic workplans, the formation of a taskforce to formulate rights and responsibilities of partners, and the establishment of a trust fund. No definitive decision was reached on the proposal, which will be brought up for consideration by the AFP at its fourth meeting.

In the context of strengthening the AFP, the workshop also deliberated on the three main areas covered by the AFP workplans, namely forest fires, the rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded forests and lands, and combating illegal logging and associated trade. The transcending theme was how the AFP workplans covering these areas could be further refined and consolidated with a view to ensuring that they would make a real difference on the ground. The recommendations of the workshop in this regard will be presented for the consideration of the AFP at its fourth meeting.

More time was devoted to combating illegal logging and associated trade in the region. Several presentations were made including on on-going AFP workplans, namely the framework for cooperation among customs agencies and other relevant agencies in the Asia-Pacific region, and the development of minimum standards of legality, timber tracking, chain of custody and verification systems among AFP partners. On the framework for customs cooperation, follow-up work, some of which had been funded, was being undertaken to: identify legal measures needed in importing countries, build on the AFP workplan on standards of legality and wood tracking, prioritise bilateral relationships and convene key customs agency representatives. The Malaysian Timber Certification Council offered to host a meeting to formulate guidelines for systems to verify and assess the legality of timber in the context of sustainable forest management. It is intended that a project proposal for the formulation of the guidelines be submitted for the consideration of the AFP at its fourth meeting.

The AFP can only be as effective and relevant as its partners want it to be. In general, there is still interest in the AFP but its future will depend very much on the commitment of its partners and its ability to find a strategic niche in a dynamic and volatile region. The proceedings and recommendations of the workshop were considered by the AFP at its fourth meeting, which was held in Tokyo, Japan on 8–10 December 2004.

Reported by Amha bin Buang, ITTO Secretariat; eimi@itto.or.jp

Collaborative work on mangrove atlas

Meeting of the inter-agency consortium on the World Atlas of Mangroves

12–13 October 2004
Rome, Italy

This meeting brought together six international organisations with expertise in mangrove management and conservation to plan the production of a revised World Atlas of Mangroves.

ITTO worked with the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) on the first edition, published in 1997. The new edition will take advantage of new and improved monitoring/mapping methods, as well as the wide experience brought to bear by the project partners. In addition to ITTO and ISME, experts from FAO's Forestry Department, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme and the United Nations University's International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) are actively collaborating in planning and implementing activities to produce the revised atlas.

Preliminary work by FAO, ISME and UNEP-WCMC is focusing on updating country mangrove descriptions from the first atlas in close collaboration with local experts, as well as the collection and analysis of available information on the past and current extent of mangrove areas. Existing satellite imagery will be interpreted and analysed where data gaps exist.

These initial activities are being funded from ITTO's 2004–2005 work program. The substantial work and cost of producing colour maps and photos, compiling all case-studies and mangrove descriptions and publishing a high-quality atlas in three languages will be carried out via an ITTO project which was funded at the recently concluded 37th session of the International Tropical Timber Council. This project has been developed in close consultation with partners, who will participate actively in its implementation and make financial or in-kind contributions to the project budget. The atlas will be published together with a shorter brief for mangrove policymakers that will contain key findings and policy options for sustaining mangrove ecosystems.

Further details on this activity are available from the ITTO Secretariat (johnson@itto.or.jp) or on the website established by FAO (www.fao.org/forestry/site/mangrove-atlas).

In search of options on a framework on forests

Meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All Types of Forests

7–10 September 2004
United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA

At its 5th Session to be held on 16–27 May 2005, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) will consider, among other things, the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, with a view to making recommendations to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) and through it to the UN General Assembly. This meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All Types of Forests (AHEG PARAM) was convened to provide scientific and technical advice on the issue. It attracted a good turn-out of more than 140 participants comprising 70 experts, 40 representatives of member states, and 30 observers from international organisations and major groups.

The core of AHEG PARAM's work, drawn from its assigned tasks and the prescribed preparations for its meeting, covered the following:

- analysis of complementarities, gaps and duplications as well as review of relevant experiences of existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests;
- consideration of other outcomes of the international arrangement on forests (IAF);
- providing, for the consideration of the UNFF, a balanced range of options related to the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests; and
- taking account of reports prepared by states, member organisations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the UNFF Secretariat as well as outcomes of UNFF sessions.

Complementarities, gaps, duplications and relevant experiences

The IAF comprises the United Nations' response since the Earth Summit in 1992 to the issue of forest loss and degradation through the International Panel on Forests (IPF), its successor the International Forum on Forests (IFF), and the current UNFF. AHEG PARAM participants remained concerned about the continued loss of forest cover and forest degradation. A strengthened IAF should, therefore, focus on integrating policy and action, ensuring effective implementation on the ground and securing adequate means of implementation—including through better international cooperation on sustainable forest management (SFM).

Other outcomes of the IAF and implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

Views regarding progress in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action were mixed. In cases where progress was being made, the catalysts for implementation included political commitment, national forest programs, criteria and indicators of SFM, certification, partnerships, the CPF, and the sharing of experiences and information. Obstacles encountered ranged from difficulties in making forests a priority on national and international agendas, insufficient means of implementation (particularly financial resources), ineffectual policy dialogues, constraints in reporting, ambiguous goals and targets, inadequate use of partnerships, and the sheer number of the proposals for action. A wide range of views and suggestions were offered on how greater progress could be achieved.

Options on parameters of a mandate for a legal framework

AHEG PARAM recognised the need to reach agreement on the overall goals, objectives and targets for any future arrangements on forests. While combating deforestation and forest degradation through the promotion of SFM could provide the gist for the overall goal, the group identified a wide range of 14 possible objectives. The idea of having specific targets to be achieved within a specified period of time was raised but countered by those who considered it premature. Many experts felt it was essential for financial

modalities to be considered for all options, that a change in the IAF was needed and that it would be important to build on the achievements of existing processes.

The wide range of options for future arrangements conceived by the group fell broadly into two categories: non-legally binding and legally binding instruments. However, these two approaches might not necessarily be mutually exclusive and caution should be exercised in any attempt to draw a distinction between them.

Developing the IAF

All non-legally binding options pointed to the need to strengthen the IAF. Towards this end, a range of nine possible aims and nine general features of a strengthened IAF were offered. These options would not preclude the possibility of the IAF being further developed into a legally binding instrument in the future. The experts identified several ways in which this non-legally binding option could be developed:

- strengthening the IAF financially and politically, including in its mandate and secretariat;
- developing voluntary guidelines to support the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action;
- developing the CPF with a commitment on SFM, predictable means of implementation and strengthened reporting and secretariat;
- establishing a political, scientific and cooperative intergovernmental body to finance projects related to SFM; and
- developing regional and thematic arrangements to provide inputs to global meetings.

On institutional modalities, recommendations included strengthening the institutional structure of the IAF and its secretariat; strengthening the CPF; linking the IAF to FAO and UNEP and locating the secretariat in Rome; and expanding the bureau of the IAF to include representatives of regional processes and the CPF. Proposed financial modalities included the establishment of a trust fund; developing a project approach similar to ITTO; and accessing existing financial mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

A convention or protocol approach

In presenting the legally binding option, the AHEG PARAM offered eleven possible aims for the convention or protocol. It would be necessary to define the relationship of the convention or protocol with other legally binding instruments related to forests, international and regional processes as well as organisations. The need to balance the economic, social and environmental aspects of SFM in the convention or protocol was also emphasised. As the negotiation of a convention or protocol would take time, transitional arrangements might be required. Alternatively, existing arrangements could continue in the interim.

Under the convention or protocol approach, the group presented two basic options:

- a framework convention addressing matters of common interest and providing for regional and thematic protocols, thereby giving flexibility to deal with varying themes or regional situations; and
- a protocol under an existing international convention such as the Convention on Biological Diversity or the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The coverage of the legally binding instrument and its relation to other existing legally binding instruments would require careful assessment. A convention or protocol might pave the way for the establishment of a dedicated forest financial mechanism or provide access to existing funds such as the GEF. Concern was expressed that countries might face new obligations without having additional financial means to fulfill these obligations. All implications should be examined before committing to a new legally binding instrument.

The general expectation with regard to the outcome of AHEG PARAM was that participants in their individual capacity as experts would provide clear scientific and technical advice to the UNFF on the issue of developing a legal framework on all types of forests. With a good turn-out of the experts, however, the real challenge was to synthesise the rich array of thoughts, ideas, views and proposals generated at the meeting into a coherent report to the UNFF. Initial reactions to the group's report were understandably mixed. Even as the meeting was drawing to a close, an announcement was made on a country-led initiative to be convened in Mexico in January 2005 with a view to deepening understanding of the various options. With intense interest shown in all quarters, the consideration of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests will no doubt be one of the issues dominating the 5th session of the UNFF in May next year.

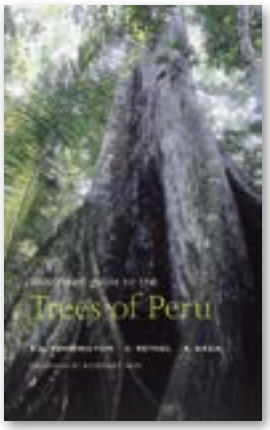
Reported by Amha bin Buang, ITTO Secretariat; eimi@itto.or.jp

Recent editions

Edited by Alastair Sarre

Pennington, T., Reynel, C. & Daza, A. 2004.* Illustrated guide to the trees of Peru. *DH Books, Sherborne, UK. ISBN 0 953 8134 3 6. £40.00 (including postage in the UK).

Available from: *DH Books, The Manse, Chapel Lane, Milborne Port, Sherborne, DT9 5DL, UK; dhb@davidhunt.demon.co.uk*

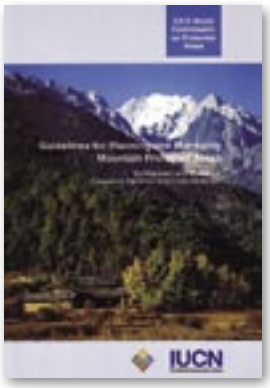


This 848-page, hardcover book provides the first comprehensive generic account of the Peruvian tree flora, one of the richest in the world. It describes 980 genera, including those that are commonly cultivated or naturalised in Peru. Identification keys to families and genera are provided together with over 900 line illustrations and nearly 200 colour illustrations. The publication should serve as an important guide for foresters, botanists, students and tourists and will be useful not only in Peru but in other Andean countries such as Ecuador and Bolivia that share many of the same tree species.

From the publisher's notes.

Hamilton, L. & McMillan, L. (eds) 2004.* Guidelines for planning and managing mountain protected areas. *IUCN – The World Conservation Union, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. ISBN 2 8317 0777 3.

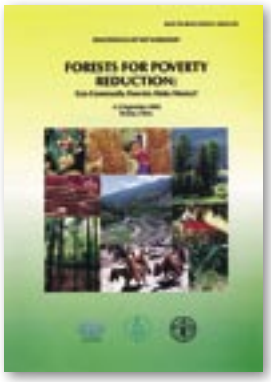
Available from: *IUCN Publications Services Unit, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK; Tel 44–1223–277 894; Fax 44–1223–277 175; info@iucn.org; www.iucn.org/bookstore*



These guidelines are an update of a set of 161 guidelines published in 1992. They have been synthesised by the editors on the basis of a workshop of 59 scientists and managers from 23 countries that convened in 2003 in South Africa's Drakensberg Mountains. According to the editors, the thesis of the workshop was that mountains possess biophysical and cultural characteristics which merit special consideration and treatment in the matter of preservation and conservation. These include their three-dimensional nature involving steep slopes, altitudinal belts of varying ecosystems in a short distance, their different exposures or aspects and climates, and their frequent characteristics of spirituality, remoteness, inaccessibility and great cultural diversity. The guidelines are designed at a general level for mountain planners and managers; it is hoped that they will assist in the formulation of specific guidelines at the national and protected-area levels.

Sim, H.C., Appanah, S. & Lu, W.M. 2004.* Forests for poverty reduction: can community forestry make money? *RAP Publication 2004/04. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Bangkok, Thailand. ISBN 974 7946 51 3.

Available from: *Patrick B. Durst, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 39 Phra Atit Rd, Bangkok 10200, Thailand; Tel 66–2–697 4000; Fax 66–2–697 4445; Patrick.Durst@fao.org*



This report presents the proceedings of a workshop held in Beijing, China, in September 2003. It contains a wide range of papers on the roles of community forestry in the generation of income in countries ranging from China, Viet Nam and Cambodia to the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Thailand.

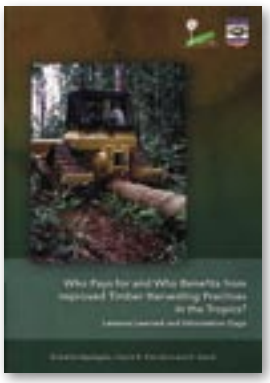
Luoma-aho, T., Hong, L.T., Ramanatha Rao, V. & Sim, H.C. (eds) 2004.* Forest genetic resources: conservation and management. *Proceedings of the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme Inception Workshop, Kepong, Malaysia, 15–18 July 2003. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute Regional Office of Asia, the Pacific and Oceania, Serdang, Malaysia. ISBN 92 9043 624 7.

Available from: *IPGRI Regional Office for Asia, the Pacific and Oceania, PO Box 236, UPM Post Office, 43400 Serdang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.*

The workshop reported in this substantial volume was designed to lay the foundation for initiating forest genetic resources networking in the region via the Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme. This network will now be supported by ITTO PROJECT PD 199/03 REV.3 (F): 'Strengthening national capacity and regional collaboration for sustainable use of forest genetic resources in tropical Asia', which was funded at the 36th session of the International Tropical Timber Council. The aim is to develop national and regional capacity among the countries of tropical Asia to conserve and sustainably use forest genetic resources and to share information on such resources.

Applegate, G., Putz, F. & Snook, L. 2004.* Who pays for and who benefits from improved timber harvesting practices in the tropics? Lessons learned and information gaps. *Center for International Forestry Research, Bogor, Indonesia. ISBN 979 3361 42 5.

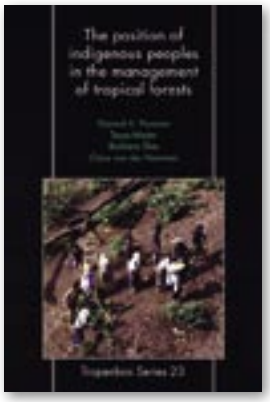
Available from: *CIFOR, PO Box 6596 JKPWB, Jakarta 10065, Indonesia; Tel 62–251–622 622; Fax 62–251–622 100; cifor@cgiar.org; www.cifor.cgiar.org*



This short publication advocates the disaggregation of the components of reduced impact logging and the calculation of costs and benefits of each from different perspectives. The authors suggest using RILSIM ('Reduced Impact Logging Simulator'), a software package developed by Dennis Dykstra partially in response to request from the forest industry for a way of disaggregating the costs of different RIL techniques (see *TFU* 14/1 page 28). In their analysis, the authors focus on the perspective of logging contractors and their equivalents, since these are the actors most commonly responsible for adopting RIL; convincing them of the benefits of different RIL components is therefore of central importance in their uptake.

Persoon, G., Minter, T., Slee, B. and van der Hammen, C. 2004.* The position of indigenous peoples in the management of tropical forests. *Tropenbos Series 23. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands. ISBN 90 5113 073 2.

Available from: *Tropenbos International, Lawickse Allee 11, PO Box 232, 6700 AE Wageningen, the Netherlands; www.tropenbos.org*



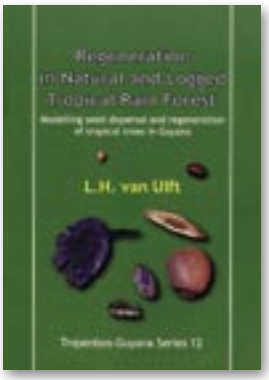
This book canvasses some of the international policy developments related to indigenous peoples, and analyses the situations of such people in Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Colombia, Ecuador and Africa. Several definitions of 'indigenous people' are provided; one of the clearest is given in a convention of the International Labour Organization (ILO):

> *Peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonisation or the establishment of present state boundaries and who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions.*

Some definitions, including the ILO definition, distinguish a sub-group of indigenous peoples called tribal peoples. The book contains a chapter that discusses issues relevant to indigenous peoples in efforts to decentralise natural resource management.

van Ulft, L.H. 2004.* Regeneration in natural and logged tropical rain forest. Modelling seed dispersal and regeneration of tropical trees in Guyana. *Tropenbos-Guyana Series 12. Tropenbos-Guyana Programme, Georgetown, Guyana. ISBN 90 5113 076 7.

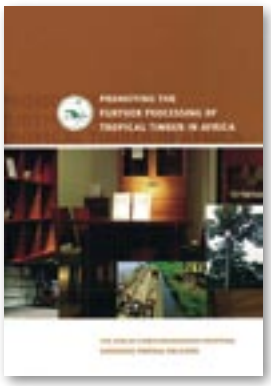
Available from: *Tropenbos International, Lawickse Allee 11, PO Box 232, 6700 AE Wageningen, the Netherlands; www.tropenbos.org*



The aim of the study presented in this book is to develop a model for simulating the long-term effects of natural and logging-related disturbance on tree-species diversity and dynamics, focusing particularly on the seed and seedling stages of regeneration and using data collected in rainforest in central Guyana.

ATO 2004.* Promoting the further processing of tropical timber in Africa. The African Timber Organization Ministerial Conference proposal for action. *African Timber Organization, Libreville, Gabon.

Available from: *African Timber Organization, BP 1077, Libreville, Gabon; oab-gabon@internetgabon.com*



The proposal for action presented in this publication arose from a series of workshops held in member countries of the African Timber Organization and an international, ministerial-level conference convened in Libreville, Gabon in March 2003. Developed under ITTO pre-project PPD 15/98 REV.2 (I), the proposal for action covers a period of ten years, from 2004 to 2013. Its main elements are: a general description of the further-timber-processing context in Africa, an analysis of constraints and various industrialisation policy options, a national and regional strategy proposal, a set of actions relating to identified strategies, and a proposal for monitoring the implementation of the action plan.

IUCN sets its agenda

The 3rd IUCN World Congress was one of the largest conservation gatherings ever staged

THE 3RD IUCN World Conservation Congress, which was held in Bangkok in November, attracted 4900 people from across the world, including nearly a thousand scientists, over 200 business representatives, more than 40 ministers of foreign affairs, environment, agriculture, tourism and fisheries, and hundreds of environmental activists and community leaders.

The IUCN Members Business Assembly, which was convened in the latter part of the Congress, voted on over a hundred resolutions and recommendations on conservation policies and actions and laid out the organization's priorities for the next four years. Among other things, IUCN:

- called for a moratorium on the further release of genetically modified organisms;
- established a World Conservation Learning Network to build the capacity of conservation and development professionals; and
- pledged to work with indigenous peoples, especially in the management and establishment of protected areas.

Cutting down on illegal logging

The first part of the Congress, called the World Conservation Forum, comprised over three hundred small events and plenary sessions. Among these, ITTO convened a three-hour panel discussion in cooperation with IUCN. Moderated by Ms Jan McAlpine, current Chair of the International Tropical Timber Council, this discussion focused on the theme of illegal logging, which is a significant threat to sustainable forest management in the tropics and elsewhere. How can international organisations help to reduce this threat and to increase the trade in legally produced and traded timber products?

Speakers included Kazuyuki Morita of the Japan Forestry Agency, the ITTO Secretariat's Steven Johnson, James Gasana of Swiss Intercooperation and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Yati Bun from Papua New Guinea's Foundation for People and Community Development, Robianto Koestomo of the Association of Indonesian Forest Concessionaires, Chen Hin Keong of TRAFFIC Malaysia, and Stewart Maginnis from IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme.

Mr Morita said that Japan's role as a major importer of logs and plywood made it a significant player in efforts to reduce illegal logging. The country's timber importers had declared that they didn't want to use illegally sourced timber, and the government was working in support of this aim, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Johnson presented some of ITTO's work in the prevention of illegal logging and illegal timber trade, including an investment of more than US$5 million in field projects with specific objectives for improving forest law enforcement. He also highlighted efforts to improve the quality of information on timber production and markets, but noted that statistical weaknesses remained an obstacle in the fight against illegal logging and illegal timber trade in many countries.

James Gasana summarised some of the experiences gained through ITTO projects that have established and strengthened tropical transboundary conservation reserves. He reported that successful law enforcement in such reserves required high-level political commitment to the transboundary approach, the formalisation of cooperative approaches, the strong involvement of civil society, a scientific underpinning for management, and the nurturing of a culture of stewardship within local communities. He also stressed the need for better information on the status of management in protected areas.

Yati Bun outlined some of the problems that illegal logging can cause in indigenous and local communities. He said that one of the important roles of the international community was to publicise such activities and to support national-level responses aimed at preventing them.

Mr Robianto said that illegal logging and illegal timber trade created a vicious circle that led to bankruptcy in the forest sector, the massive lay-off of forestry and timber workers, and increased illegal activities. He called on international organisations and importing countries to campaign for the use of legal logs—and against the consumption of illegally obtained logs.

Mr Chen described the state of forest law enforcement in Malaysia, particularly as it related to the trade of ramin, a timber now listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Some of the challenges facing Malaysia in dealing with the ramin listing included the need for increased coordination between Malaysian states, the reconciling of laws related to native customary rights and land and compensatory issues, and the closing of gaps in the barter trade system, particularly with neighbouring Indonesia.

Mr Maginnis highlighted the results of increased dialogue between civil society and the private sector over the issue of illegal logging, which had been brought about through processes initiated by IUCN, ITTO and others. He said that a tripartite approach involving government, civil society and the private sector was an essential part of combating illegal logging and illegal timber trade. One starting point would be to define the parameters of legality, which would require a further process of trust-building between the three sectors, which could be facilitated by international organisations such as ITTO and IUCN.

The presentations made by the panelists can be downloaded at www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=809. More information on the outcomes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress can be obtained from www.iucn.org/congress/index.cfm

Courses

ProForest Summer Training Programme

11–15 July 2005
Cost: £200–850 (depending on the number of days)
Oxford, UK
Language: English

This program provides a range of courses dealing with current issues for those involved in forest management, forest product supply chains, certification and sustainable natural resource management. Training courses will be available in the following subject areas:

- Introduction to Certification and Standards (1 day);
- Forest Certification in Practice including Practical Auditing (4 days);
- Responsible Purchasing in Practice including Product Tracing and Chain of Custody (2 days);
- High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) and Biodiversity Monitoring (2 days); and
- Climate Change Policy and Forests (1 day).

Contact: *ProForest, 58 St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1ST, UK; Tel 44–1865–243439; Fax 44–1865 790441; info@proforest.net; www.proforest.net*

Masters degree in management, access, conservation and trade of species: the international framework

3 October–15 December 2005
Language: Spanish and English (with simultaneous interpretation)
Universidad Internacional de Andalucía, Baeza, Spain

This contributes towards a master's degree that will provide participants with the tools for understanding how major international multilateral agreements work. The course is appropriate for those who are involved in, or wish to become involved in environment-related policymaking or the implementation of international agreements at the executive level. A small number of scholarships are available.

Contact: *Rector, International University of Andalusia, Sede Antonio Machado, Palacio de Jabalquinto, Plaza de Santa Cruz, s/n. 23440 Baeza, Jaén, Spain; Tel 34–953–742775; Fax 34–953–742975; machando@unia.es; www.unia.es*

Small-grants program for community forestry in South and Southeast Asia expands

The European Union-funded, UNDP-managed small-grants program for activities which promote tropical forests in South and Southeast Asia (SGP PTF) has been expanded. The SGP PTF provides small grants of €20 000–150 000 on a competitive basis for community-led initiatives that promote the sustainable management of tropical forests. Since January 2003 the SGP PTF has received a total of 724 formal proposals from community groups in Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam and, of these, 69 have received funding.

The SGP PTF has now expanded into Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Formal calls for proposals have been announced in Malaysia and Sri Lanka and a formal call for proposals in Indonesia is expected in January 2005. A total of 171 formal applications for funding have so far been received in Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Efforts are under way to further expand the SGP PTF activities into Cambodia and Lao PDR and, if successful, calls for proposals are expected to be announced in the first quarter of 2005. The SGP PTF is mandated to carry out grant-making activities until December 2007 and has a total budget of €15.1 million.

The SGP PTF focuses on the rural poor who live in or are from forests in the region. The practice and principle of the SGP PTF is that individual country programs are country-led both in terms of their overall strategy and project selection. Application procedures for grants take into account the generally low capacity of community groups and applications in the form of short concept papers in local languages are encouraged.

For further information on this funding facility go to the SGP PTF website at www.sgpptf.org or contact the Regional Program Coordinator, Mark Sandiford, at mark.sandiford@undp.org

Courses are in English unless otherwise stated. By featuring these courses ITTO doesn't necessarily endorse them. Potential applicants are advised to obtain further information about the courses of interest and the institutions offering them.

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ride" on the services rendered by tropical forests. Therefore, the challenge was to make the tropical timber trade a catalyst for sustainable development and to increase the currently very low level of international payments for the ecosystem services provided by forests.

Reform government regulations

Several speakers argued that government policies towards the timber trade must provide more incentive to the timber industry to introduce sustainable forest management practices. Scott Poynton called on governments around the world to examine ways in which they could act to reduce the trade in illegal wood products, a prerequisite for increasing prices for legally produced timber. Virgilio Viana proposed that all certified timber from natural tropical forests should be exempt from taxes and duties, which would amount to a payment for the environmental services provided by tropical forests.

Several panellists and participants also called for an end to perverse subsidies in agriculture and forestry that distorted land-use decisions and deprived developing countries of export revenues that could be channelled back into conservation and sustainable management of forests.

Panelists and participants also spoke of the need for clearer and more secure property rights over forests.

Saúl Monreal and other participants in the Mexican event referred to the role of plantations in reclaiming degraded land, relieving pressure on natural forests and contributing to sustainable development. Several speakers from the floor were plantation owners themselves, and a discussion of the pros and cons of exotic species and the underlying causes of land-use change helped to clarify some of the important forestry issues in Mexico.

The full deal for forests

Governor Viana said that the policies of his government had earned Acre the nickname of 'the forest state'. He said that the Antimary State Forest example showed that it was possible to create, in a remote forest, a sustainable development regime. The timber industry was playing a crucial role in this; equally crucial, he said, was that the communities living in the Antimary forest were the biggest beneficiaries of the sustainable management regime. Those people loved the forest and wanted to keep it for their children, and for their children's children. The timber industry, if promoted in the right way, would help them do that.

Meetings

7–9 February 2005. **Wood Protection under Tropical Environments**. Kumasi, Ghana. IUFRO 5.03.07. ***Contact:*** *Oteng Amoake; Tel 233–51–60122; Fax 233–51–60121; oamoako@forig.org;* ***or*** *Robert White, Tel 1–608–231 9200; Fax 1–608–231 9592; rhwhite@fs.fed.us*

13–15 February 2005. **The Working Forests in the Tropics: Policy and Market Impacts on Conservation and Management**. Gainesville, Florida, USA. ***Contact:*** *Jennifer M. Anderson, University of Florida, IFAS Office of Conferences and Institutes, Tel 1–352–3925930; jmanderson@ifas.ufl.edu; www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/tropics*

14–18 February 2005. **United Nations Conference for the Negotiation of a Successor Agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994 (2nd part)**. Geneva, Switzerland. ***Contact:*** *Alexei Mojarov, UNCTAD Secretariat; alexei.mojarov@unctad.org*

28 February–5 March 2005. **17th Commonwealth Forestry Conference: Forestry's Contribution to Poverty Reduction**. Colombo, Sri Lanka. ***Contact:*** *Conservator General of Forests, Forest Department 'Sampathaya', PO Box 3, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka; Tel 941–286 6616; Fax 941–286 6633; forlib@sltnet.lk*

1–4 March 2005. **Forest Leadership Conference.** Toronto, Canada. ***Contact:*** *ForestLeadership, 353 St Nicolas - Suite 101, Montreal, QC, H2Y 2P1, Canada; Tel 1–514– 274 4344; Fax 1–514–277 6663; info@ForestLeadership.com; www.forestleadership.com*

1–5 March 2005. **Malaysian International Furniture Fair 2005**. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ***Contact:*** *MIFF Sdn Bhd, Lot 19A, 19th Floor Menara PGRM, 8 Jalan Pudu Ulu, Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Tel 603–9282 2888; Fax 603–9286 1551; info@miff.com.my; www.miff.com.my*

March 2005. **Conservation Biology and Ecosystem Functioning in Plantation Forests**. Bordeaux, France. IUFRO 8.00.00. ***Contact:*** *Alain Franc; Tel 33–1–4549 8982; Fax 33–1–4549 8839; franc@athena.paris.inra.fr; www.iufro.org/*

7–9 March 2005. **International Seminar on Synergistic Approach to Appropriate Forestry Technology for Sustaining Rainforest Ecosystems**. Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia. ***Contact:*** *The Secretariat, International Forestry Seminar, Faculty of Agricultural and Sciences and Food, University Putra Malaysia Kampus Bintulu, PO Box 396, 97008 Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia; Tel 60–86–855469; Fax 60–86–855416; for_tech@btu.upm.edu.my; www.btu.upm.edu.my*

9–11 March 2005. **World of Wood**. Savannah, Georgia, USA. **Contact:** *International Wood Products Association (IWPA), 4214 King Street West, Alexandria, Virginia, USA; Tel 1–703–820 6696; Fax 1–703–820 8550; info@iwpawood.org; www.iwpawood.org*

3–10 April 2005. **Brazil Forestry Study Tour: Working Conference on Pine and Hardwood Plantations and Forest Products Manufacturing in Southern Brazil**. Curitiba, Brazil. ***Contact:*** *Mark Willhite; bwillhite@juno.com; www.worldforestinvestment*

4–7 April 2005. **Sustainable Forestry in Theory and Practice: Recent Advances in Statistics, Modelling and Knowledge Management.** Edinburgh, Scotland. IUFRO 4.11.00, 4.02.00, 6.12.00. ***Contact:*** *Keith Reynolds, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Corvallis, OR, USA; Tel 1–541–750 7434*

4–8 April 2005. **Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation Workshop.** Petropolis, Brazil. Organised by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and co-sponsored by ITTO. ***Contact:*** *Carole Saint-Laurent, Senior Forest Policy Adviser, IUCN, Coordinator, Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, 70 Mayfield Avenue, Toronto, Canada M6S 1K6; Tel 1–416–763 3437; CarSaintL@bellnet.ca*

5–8 April 2005. **Sustainable Forestry in Theory and Practice: Recent Advances in Inventory and Monitoring, Statistics and Modelling, Information and Knowledge Management and Policy Science.** Edinburgh, UK. ***Contact:*** *Evelyn Hall, Forest Research, Northern Research Station, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9SY, UK; evelyn.hall@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; www.iufro-edinburgh.org.uk*

6–9 April 2005. **Panelexpo 2005. 2nd International Seminar & Exhibition on Plywood and Panel Industry.** New Delhi, India. Co-sponsored by ITTO. ***Contact:*** *Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry, 12/22 East Patel Nagar (1st Floor), New Delhi 110 008, India; Tel 91–11–2575 5649; Fax 91–11–2576 8639; fippi@fippi.org; www.panelexpo.com*

16–27 May 2005. **5th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**. New York, USA. ***Contact:*** *Mia Söderlund, UNFF Secretariat; Tel 1–212–963 3262; Fax 1–212–963 4260; unff@un.org; www.un.org/esa/forests*

1–3 June 2005. **The Global Forest and Paper Summit 2005**. Vancouver, Canada. ***Contact:*** *Forest Products Association of Canada, Suite 504 - 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6C 3E1; Tel 1–604–775 7300; Fax 1–604–666 8123; info@globalforestpapersummit.com; www. globalforestpapersummit.com*

20–24 June 2005. **5th International Conference on Forest Vegetation Management: Useable Science, Practical Outcomes and Future Needs**. Corvallis, Oregon. ***Contact:*** *Dr Robin Rose, Director, Vegetation Management Research Cooperative, College of Forestry, Oregon State University, 308 Richardson Hall, Corvallis, OR 97330 USA; Fax 1–541–737 1393; Tel 1–541–737 6580; robin.rose@oregonstate.edu*

21–23 June 2005. **38th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees.** Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. ***Contact:*** *Information Officer (Mr Collins Ahadome); Tel 81–45–223 1110; Fax 81–45–223 1111; itto@itto.or.jp; www.itto.or.jp*

10–17 July 2005. **Canopy Ecology—Tropical versus Temperate Forests**. Leipzig, Germany. ***Contact:*** *Wilfried Morawetz, University of Leipzig Institute for Botany; Tel 49–341–973 8590; Fax 49–341–973 8549; morawetz@uni-leipzig.de*

26–28 July 2005. **Symposium on Tropical Rainforest Rehabilition & Restoration: Existing Knowledge and Future Directions**. Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. ***Contact:*** *Secretariat, Symposium on Tropical Rainforest Rehabilitation & Restoration, c/o Research & Development Division, Yayasan Sabah Group, 12th Floor, Menara Tun Mustapha, PO Box 11201, 88813 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia; joan@icsb-sabah.com.my; www.ysnet.org.my/symposium.htm*

8–13 August 2005. **Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology**. XXII IUFRO World Congress. Brisbane, Australia. ***Contact:*** *Congress Manager, PO Box 164, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006, Australia; Level 2, 15 Wren St, Bowen Hills QLD 4006, Australia; Tel 61–(0)–7–3854 1611; Fax 61–(0)–7–3854 1507; iufro2005@ozaccom.com.au; www.iufro2005.com/*

10–15 September 2005. **Meeting of IUFRO Working Party 7.03.04 (Diseases and Insects in Forest Nurseries**. Uherske Hradiste, Czech Republic. ***Contact:*** *Dr. Zdenka Prochazkova, WP Coordinator, FGMRI RS Uherske Hradiste, 686 04 Kunovice, Czech Republic; Prochazkova@vulhmuh.cz*

20–24 September 2005. **VII Plywood and Tropical Timber International Congress and VI Machinery and Timber Products Fair.** Belém, Brazil. ***Contact:*** *WR São Paulo; Tel 55–11–3722 3344; wrsp@wrsaopaulo.com.br*

30 September–6 October 2005. **8th World Wilderness Congress.** Anchorage, Alaska. ***Contact:*** *8th WWC Secretariat, The WILD Foundation, PO Box 1380, Ojai, CA USA 93024; Tel 1–805–640 0390; Fax 1–805–640 0230; info@wwc.org; www.8wwc.org*

7–12 November 2005. **39th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and the Associated Sessions of the Committees**. Yokohama, Japan. ***Contact:*** *Information Officer (Mr Collins Ahadome); Tel 81–45–223 1110; Fax 81–45–223 1111; itto@itto.or.jp; www.itto.or.jp*

23–25 November 2005. **5th Iberoamerican Forest and Environmental Law Congress**. Mexico. IUFRO 6.13.01. ***Contact:*** *Fernando Montes de Oca Dominguez, Tel 52–33–3615 0473; fernandomontesdeoca@imdefac.com.mx*

Forest in his state. A forest management plan for sustainable, multiple use has been prepared and is now in the early stages of being implemented. The project warrants particular attention for three particular achievements. First, it has resolved longstanding land ownership and tenure problems, granting legal rights to the forest's inhabitants—106 rubber-tapping families—to participate in the management of the forest and to benefit from its use. Second, it has facilitated the organisation of these families into associations and provided them with assistance to improve their production of and trade in non-wood products, including rubber, Brazil nut and oils such as copaiba oil. And, third, it has established a system of sustainable commercial timber production—the first ever in a publicly owned forest in the Brazilian Amazon—in which a large share of the timber stumpage revenues is paid to the rubber-tapping families. According to Governor Viana, this project is serving as a model for the development of a sustainable forest-based industry in the rest of Acre state.

Nevertheless, the capacity to create such a regime remains very low in many countries. Mr Attah, for example, spoke about the low literacy rates in many African countries, particularly in rural areas, which can limit the negotiating power of such communities and their ability to benefit from logging and trade. Mr Viadas reported a survey undertaken in Mexico City for the purpose of the dialogue in which people were queried on the role of tropical forests in sustainable development. A large majority of respondents (83%) had no idea either of what sustainable development was or what role tropical forests might play in it.

Illegal logging and illegal trade must be conquered

Several speakers noted that illegal logging and illegal trade were major hindrances to sustainable development. Scott Poynton said that illegally produced and traded timber undercut the markets for legally produced timber, reducing prices and threatening the financial viability of the legal trade. The continuing presence of significant quantities of illegal and unsustainable timber in international markets led Mr Poynton to conclude that the timber trade was not contributing to sustainable development.

Brigid Shea, on the other hand, felt that the trade was contributing to sustainable development in most countries despite problems caused by a few unscrupulous operators. She believed that identifying legally produced timber in the market should take priority over the certification of good forest management. Illegality and corruption are potent scourges of sustainable development and a major threat to the tropical timber trade. Ms Shea also felt that the trade's contribution to sustainable development needed to be reviewed regularly and further enhanced. Several speakers from the floor at the Guadalajara event noted the problems with illegal felling of forests in their country and called for more local control over forests as a step towards combating this problem.

Definitions

The definition of 'tropical timber trade' used in the discussions was:

the sale and shipment to international destinations of products containing timber derived from tropical forests

Certification was defined as:

the (independent) verification of the sustainability of a forestry operation and/or the timber arising therefrom

Certification is a useful mechanism

Certification can be a useful tool in the pursuit of sustainable forest management. Mr Attah, for example, said that market demand for sustainably produced timber has been a key driver for improvements in forest management in some forests of the tropics. Certification, he said, had the potential to increase the contribution of the timber trade to sustainable development, but only if it was used as an incentive for development rather than a barrier to trade.

Mr Attah said that many tropical producers lacked the expertise to introduce sustainable forest management practices overnight; the international community, and the buying public, needed to be patient while skills were learned. Closing markets to non-certified timber would be disastrous to the economies of many tropical countries and counter-productive to the stated aim of encouraging sustainable forest management. Mr Attah and others stressed the need for the various certification schemes to stop fighting each other and instead devote their energies to promoting best forest practices in the tropics.

Brigid Shea pointed out that certification was still very much a creature of developed countries, with more than 90% of the certified forest area in either North America or Europe. She also said that demand for certification was being driven more by retailers than by final consumers, and that it was not yet an important marketing tool in the United States.

Scott Poynton remarked that while his organisation was an enthusiastic supporter of certification, it would be some time before this tool could be applied widely in many parts of the world. In the meantime, simply demonstrating the legality of timber would have a "massive" impact on the levels of returns generated from investments in forest management and wood-processing.

Supplement timber with payments for ecological services

Jose Carlos Carvalho said that tropical forests performed services that were valuable to the global community, such as biodiversity conservation and the storage of vast quantities of carbon, but these services were not being paid for. Add this to the generally low prices received for most tropical timber and it wasn't difficult to see why forests were being replaced with more remunerative land-uses such as agriculture and cattle-grazing.

Virgilio Viana said that people outside the Amazon often said how important tropical forests there were, particularly for their conservation value, but Amazonian people lived in often appalling conditions. In effect, the rest of the world was asking these people to put their aspirations for development on hold for the greater good, and the world was taking a "free

▶ continued on page 29

Out on a limb

Tropical timber and sustainable development: is the trade delivering?

THE TROPICAL timber industry and its associated trade employ millions of people and make large contributions to livelihoods and export earnings in some of the world's poorest countries. On the other hand, the industry has been criticised for, among other things, causing forest degradation and paying insufficient attention to community concerns.

In June and July 2004, ITTO convened two panel discussions, one in São Paulo, Brazil and the other in Guadalajara, Mexico, to discuss the question: 'is the tropical timber trade contributing to sustainable development?' It brought together prominent people in industry, government, trade and civil society and invited participation from a total audience of nearly 300 people. This report summarises the outcomes of these two panels.

Background

The first panel was conducted on 16 June 2004 in cooperation with the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) during UNCTAD XI in São Paulo, Brazil. The second was convened on 1 July 2004 in cooperation with the Forestry Commission of Mexico in Guadalajara, Mexico during the 2nd Mexican Forestry Expo. The following ten senior policymakers and practitioners were invited as panellists:

- **Alhassan Attah**, Manager, London Office, Ghana Forestry Commission (São Paulo panel);
- **David Boulter**, independent, and former Chair of the International Tropical Timber Council (moderator of the Guadalajara panel);
- **José Carlos Carvalho**, Secretary of Environment, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil (São Paulo and Guadalajara panels);
- **Scott Poynton**, Executive Director, Tropical Forest Trust (Guadalajara panel);

- **Saúl B. Monreal Rangel**, Manager of Commercial Forest Plantations, National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR; Guadalajara panel);
- **Brigid Shea**, Manager of Government and Environmental Affairs, International Wood Products Association (Guadalajara panel);
- **Ivan Tomaselli**, Vice President, Brazilian Association for Mechanically Processed Timber, Brazil and President, STCP Consulting (moderator of the São Paulo panel);
- **Eduardo Viadas**, Host of the 'Planeta Azul' radio program, Mexico City (Guadalajara panel);
- **Jorge Viana**, Governor, State of Acre, Brazil (São Paulo panel); and
- **Virgilio Mauricio Viana**, Secretary of Environment & Development, Amazonas State, Brazil (São Paulo panel).

The UNCTAD event was opened by Carlos Fortin Cabezas, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and Manoel Sobral Filho, ITTO Executive Director. The Mexican event was opened by Carlos González Vicente, Coordinator General of Production and Productivity of CONAFOR, and ITTO representative Steven Johnson.

The main points raised during the dialogue at these two events are summarised in this article, which has been compiled by the ITTO Secretariat with the aim of informing work to promote a tropical timber trade based on sustainably managed forests. The intention of the dialogue was not necessarily to provide a yes-or-no answer to the question of whether the timber trade is contributing to sustainable development, or to try to quantify the contribution, but to explore the nature of and limits to any contribution and to suggest ways in which it could be increased.

Recognise the efforts of tropical countries

The tropical timber industry gets a bad press, particularly in developed countries, but many positive initiatives have been taken and success stories in sustainable tropical forest management are becoming more common.

Jorge Viana, the governor of Acre state, described a project (financed by ITTO) being conducted in the newly created Antimary State

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