



Edited
by
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Humanitarian timber project

Phase 1 of a two-phase project funded by OCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) to develop field guidelines for humanitarian workers on the procurement, logistics and use of timber in emergencies is complete. Download the first draft of *Timber: a guide to the planning, use, procurement and logistics of timber as a construction material in emergencies (draft)* in either A5 or A4 format from www.humanitarian-timber.org. The details of Phase 2 of this project are yet to be finalized, but it will include a formal review of the draft guidelines later in 2007. Until this process is clarified, comments on the current draft should be sent to contact@humanitarian-timber.org. To order a hard copy of the Phase 1 report please send your postal address and the number of copies required with 'Timber guideline – hard copy request' in the subject line to lsu@un.org

Sustainable forest management indicator database

The Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Indicator Database (<http://www.sfmindicators.org>) is a new website that sets out to: 1) facilitate communication between people who work with indicators in SFM (and in other sustainability initiatives); 2) create a useful tool for indicator research and indicator selection processes; and 3) create an international forum for sustainable forest management indicators. The site features a database of indicators, including for each indicator a rationale, a basic description, methods, who it is used by, examples of reporting and other information. The database can also be edited by anyone who registers. In addition to the database, the site offers a forum where discussions can take place and a blog space where users can create their own blogs. User entries from individual blogs are then automatically compiled into a single summary blog page for easy reference.

Carbon Credit Support Program

The Global Forestry Services Carbon Credit Program (GFS CCSP) aims to ease and enable access to carbon related forestry projects. It was developed in response to the large volume of requests received from the global business community to aid in the development of carbon forestry projects to mitigate the effects of global warming and obtain 'carbon neutral' status. The objectives of the CCSP are to: 1) provide a structure for the design, development and implementation of carbon forestry projects to generate carbon offsets and tradable credits; 2) facilitate comprehensive 'project due diligence' to ensure project viability; 3) facilitate project development between partner organizations and clients; 4) support value-added services of existing forest management through risk analysis and strategies involving carbon offsets; and 5) support carbon forestry projects and forest management through international standards of certification. For more information on the Carbon Credit Programme, go to <http://www.gfsinc.biz>

E-Newsletter 'Echo from the Rainforest'

Sarawak Forestry Corporation launched *Echo from the Rainforest (ER)*, a monthly e-newsletter for timber-related communities, in early 2007. *ER* aims to be a platform for all timber-related stakeholders to speak out and share information, keep abreast on latest developments and inform each other on the latest news in the timber industry. The newsletter is available free of charge and is sent via email on a monthly basis. For more information, contact Sally Sheriza Ahmad, Executive, Public Affairs, Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd; sally@sarawakforestry.com; www.sarawakforestry.com

Billion tree campaign

Within two and a half months after the launch of its Billion Tree Campaign in 2006, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported over 165 million tree planting pledges. As of March 2007, more than 655 million pledges had been made, with a reported 3.5 million seedlings already planted. Under this campaign, people, communities, organizations, business and industry, civil society and governments are being encouraged to plant trees and enter tree planting pledges on the campaign website (www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/). The objective is to plant at least one billion trees worldwide during 2007. According to the campaign website, the idea for the *Billion Tree Campaign* was inspired by Professor Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate for 2004 and founder of Kenya's Green Belt Movement, which has planted more than 30 million trees in twelve African countries since 1977. When a corporate group in the United States told Professor Maathai it was planning to plant a million trees, her response was: "That's great, but what we really need is to plant a billion trees."

New Leaf for Bangor Forestry

On 1 August 2006, the School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences (SAFS) at the University of Wales, Bangor, re-launched itself as the School of the Environment and Natural Resources (SENr). SENr, together with the University's School of Biological Sciences (SBS), the School of Ocean Sciences (SOS), and research-led units including the Biocomposites Centre and CAZS Natural Resources comprise the University's newly-formed College of Natural Sciences.

As well as running undergraduate degrees in *Forestry* and *Conservation and Forest Ecosystems*, SENr has been actively building on the strengths of its existing full-time postgraduate programs with the launch of three new forestry-related MSc courses in 2006 and further planned innovations from 2007.

Master's courses in Environmental Forestry and Agroforestry are now complemented by the Erasmus Mundus MSc in Sustainable Tropical Forestry (SUTROFOR) which is run in conjunction with partner European Universities (see www.sutrofor.net and TFU 16(4)). There are also increased postgraduate distance-learning opportunities (see distance.bangor.ac.uk). In addition to the distance learning MSc in Forest Industries Technology, the University has just launched two further innovative distance-learning courses—MSc in Forestry and MSc in Forestry and Forest Products. In addition, 2007 will be the inaugural year for the new Erasmus Mundus MSc in Sustainable Forest and Nature Management (SUFONAMA – see www.sufonama.net).