

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

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.

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.sgptf.org or contact the Regional Program Coordinator, Mark Sandiford, at mark.sandiford@undp.org

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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.