

ITTO Tropical Forest UPDATE

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

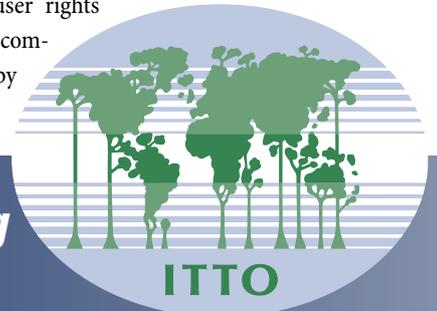


Maybe we should talk

FORESTERS need to become better communicators; we need to talk more. This doesn't mean more international meetings (we probably need fewer of those), it means talking with communities so that we properly understand their concerns.

In this edition of the *TFU* we explore the emerging concept of forest landscape restoration (FLR). It's not just about techniques that work in a nursery or along a planting line; most importantly it is about the roles, rights and responsibilities of stakeholders and how these can be discerned and accommodated by restoration initiatives. The key to it is talk: face-to-face interaction that gives stakeholders the opportunity to influence decisions and benefit from them. Kusumanto (page 9), for example, says that FLR should be implemented using an action-learning or adaptive-management approach by which stakeholders collaboratively, systematically and deliberately plan, implement and evaluate restoration activities. Gilmour (page 7) describes it as a process of learning through experience, which is well-suited to situations that contain a great deal of uncertainty.

Sounds good in theory; can it be done? The Iwokrama experiment in Guyana, although not FLR, suggests that it can. Olav Bakken Jensen evaluated an ITTO project there which has assisted in the development of the Iwokrama Forest (page 16). He reports that the initiative has enabled local indigenous communities to organise themselves to "speak with one voice" on issues related to the management of the forest. The source of this initiative's strength is innovative legislation enacted by the Guyanese parliament that respects indigenous user rights to the forest, complemented by a broad con-



Inside ▶ forest landscape restoration ▶ logging and wildlife ▶ trade barriers ▶ Council outcomes ...

Contents ▶

... Editorial continued

<i>Restoring forest landscapes</i>	3
<i>Balancing restoration and development</i>	4
<i>Adapting to change</i>	7
<i>Who's interests does it serve?</i>	9
<i>Life after logging</i>	12
<i>Iwokrama's plan for SFM</i>	16
<i>How to hurdle the barriers</i>	18
<i>ITTO reinforces commitment to forest law enforcement</i>	21

Regular features

<i>Fellowship report</i>	22
<i>On the conference circuit</i>	24
<i>Recent editions</i>	27
<i>Letter</i>	28
<i>Noticeboard</i>	29
<i>Courses</i>	29
<i>Meetings</i>	30
<i>Out on a limb</i>	32



Editorial Alastair Sarre
Design Justine Underwood
Database Manami Ohshima

The *Tropical Forest Update* is published quarterly in English, French and Spanish by the International Tropical Timber Organization. Content does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of ITTO. ITTO holds the copyright to all photos unless otherwise stated. Articles may be reprinted without charge provided the *TFU* and author are credited. The editor should be sent a copy of the publication.

Printed on paper produced with a minimum of 50% recycled fibre and a minimum of 15% post-consumer waste and without the use of chlorine gas.

The *TFU* is distributed **free of charge** to over 13 300 individuals and organisations in 125 countries. To receive it, send your full address to the editor. Please notify us if you change address. The *TFU* is also available on-line at www.itto.or.jp

International Tropical Timber Organization
International Organizations Center – 5th Floor
Pacifico-Yokohama, 1-1-1 Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku
Yokohama 220-0012 Japan
t 81-45-223 1110
f 81-45-223 1111
tfu@itto.or.jp
www.itto.or.jp

Cover image Orang Ulu warrior (Sarawak, Malaysia) in traditional dress. Photo: Martin Puddy/Getty Images

sultative process and participatory training. According to Jensen, an harmonious relationship has developed between the communities and the Iwokrama initiative, and he is optimistic about the future of forest management there.

Another participatory approach appears to be working for the Ngata Toro community, which occupies an enclave within Indonesia's Lore Lindu National Park. Helmi (page 32) reports that, with outside help, this community has been documenting its local knowledge, customary laws and traditions and mapping its interactions with the environment. This information has been used in a participatory planning process for the long-term management of those parts of their territory that overlap the boundaries of the park.

Talking is important, but sooner or later it must be supported by tangible results. Jensen notes that actual logging is yet to take place in the Iwokrama experiment: the talking and planning have taken years, and still the system hasn't been fully tested. Without the financial rewards there's a strong possibility that at least some stakeholders will become disillusioned, sick of talk, and ready to pursue other routes to economic development and other ways of resolving their conflicts. Maginnis and Jackson (page 4) stress the need to not only tell stakeholders of the benefits, but to deliver them. Proponents say that FLR can bring local economic growth and environmental security, and help reduce poverty; they will have to prove this every time they introduce the concept to a community.

It's not just about immediate financial rewards, either. One of the most important outcomes of the processes pursued by the Ngata Toro community and in Iwokrama has been the formal recognition of traditional community lands, and the granting of access to them. Resolving issues related to land tenure is probably the single most important step in producing better outcomes for forests and their stakeholders. Foresters and forest policymakers around the world are starting to realise this, proving that listening is just as important as talk.

Maginnis and Jackson suggest that practitioners should even take a proactive role in policy development, because they

know what works and what doesn't and how policies can impede or facilitate. Actually there's no reason why the forestry profession, with all its problems, can't become a leader in the discovery of creative solutions to conflicts, poverty and the loss of cultural identity. Articles in this edition suggest we are making some headway in this regard, but the success stories are still too few.

And the task is immense. Of all the planet's biodiversity, the human species is by far the most complex. Orangutan might grieve, chimpanzees might deceive their friends, and dolphins might play practical jokes, but no species can match us for the breadth of our emotions, the height of our aspirations or the intricacy of our societies. The tools of the forester are still too primitive; we need to do much more work on our skills in conflict resolution, action learning, adaptive management, participatory planning and policy development—because we want to deal with stakeholders, not spear-throwers.

Alastair Sarre