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Seat of power?

THE CORRIDORS of power are located mostly in parliaments and palaces and the central business districts of major cities, and not many of us get to walk them. But policymakers, including those in the forest sector, increasingly talk of decentralisation, the process of transferring power from a centralised source to local governments, local communities and other stakeholders.

In forestry, a commonly stated objective of decentralisation is to increase the control that local people have over the management of the forest resource—and their share of the benefits extracted. So are forest tracks destined to become corridors of power? From the evidence so far, this seems unlikely. According to a count conducted for a recent workshop on decentralisation in the forest sector (see *TFU* 14/2 and also page 7 of this edition), up to 60 countries have experimented with decentralised approaches in recent years. But participants at the workshop concluded that "a form of decentralisation that truly empowers local communities or even local governments has not yet occurred in many countries".

Attempts at decentralisation in the forest sector have been particularly common in Asia and the Pacific. Ferguson and Chandrasekheran (page 3) surveyed 21 countries in the region and report on the mixed results that have been achieved. They conclude that "decentralisation is not a panacea, nor is it always efficient or equitable. It is a possible way of improving democratic governance and, in doing so, it may assist poverty alleviation and/or sustainable forest management, but it is not in itself a sufficient measure". They note that in some cases where power has indeed been transferred, many of the abuses of centralised control have simply shifted to local institutions, and there have been moves to recentralise some functions of government.

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Cover image Bangkloy village, Thailand. *Photo: A. Compost*

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Ferguson and Chandrasekheran also suggest that decentralisation should not be rushed: done too quickly, it can overwhelm the institutions it is supposed to empower. In fact, in some places where the centralised monitoring and control of forest resources has been withdrawn prematurely, decentralisation has been blamed for an increase in illegal logging. This issue was taken up in a workshop held in conjunction with the 36th session of the Intenational Tropical Timber Council last July (see page 15 for a report of the session). The workshop brought together members of the Council's Civil Society Advisory Group and Trade Advisory Group to find ways in which civil society, the timber trade and other stakeholders could combat illegal logging and associated trade. The final statement of the workshop, which is published on page 32, makes some wide-ranging recommendations, including for increased involvement of indigenous and other communities in forest-related decision-making, and more support for community forest enterprises.

Many people see decentralisation as an extension of community forestry, whereby people living in or near the forest gain greater access to and control over the resource. Privatisation—the process by which functions formerly run by government are delegated to the private sector—is something of a different case, and there is debate among academics about whether this constitutes decentralisation or not. Regardless, the process of privatisation can have major implications for how the forests are managed and how the revenues they generate are distributed.

The private sector plays a major role in forest management In Latin America and the Caribbean. Tomaselli and Tuoto (page 8) describe a survey they conducted as part of an ITTO project to identify examples of successful private ventures in sustainable tropical forest management. They found that governments have tended to underestimate the cost of sustainable forest management, which therefore has to be met by the private sector. "As the private sector is often not willing … to pay the full bill, the result is less money to implement [sustainable forest management], and growing informality (illegal logging)." Encouragingly, Tomaselli and Tuoto are still able to report that "a significant number of [private-sector] forest operators are doing their best to achieve sustainable forest management."

The continued willingness of operators, both private and community-based, to practice good forest management will depend in large measure on their ability to sell their products at good prices. Richard Murphy (page 12) writes about life-cycle assessment (LCA), which attempts to account for the environmental impact of a product throughout its entire life. In the case of timber, this would be (theoretically at least) from the germination of a seed, through the growth, harvesting, transformation and service-life of the timber, to its eventual disposal. Since timber usually does pretty well in this kind of assessment compared to potential substitute products like aluminium and plastic, some in the timber sector predict that LCA will become a useful marketing tool. But there is a dearth of such assessments for tropical timbers; unless this is addressed, LCA could become yet another area in which tropical timbers fall behind their temperate cousins.

Finally in this issue we describe the start of formal negotiations for a successor agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994 (page 17). In the scheme of things, international organizations are rarely seats of power. Rather, the task of organisations such as ITTO is to facilitate international relations through dialogue and the funding of pilot projects. Over time, this process can help establish international norms, increase the exchange of information across cultural and other barriers, and raise awareness of the international impacts of national actions. It can also help increase the capacity of national and sub-national institutions and communities to enforce forest laws and to maximise the benefits that can be gained from the management of the resource. But it probably won't help much in determining the extent to which decentralisation can address problems affecting tropical forests and their users: in the end, this must be done by each country, probably by trial and error and hopefully in peaceful and constructive ways.

Alastair Sarre

Paths and pitfalls for decentralisation

What effect is decentralisation having on the quest for sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region?

by Ian Ferguson[1] and Cherukat Chandrasekharan[2]

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Decentralising to the federation: Members of the Federation of Vista Hills Kalongkong Upland Farmers Associations, which is managing a forest in Buenavista, Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya, the Philippines, discuss the terms of their community-based forest management agreement, which was developed with assistance from ITTO project PD 21/97 Rev.2 (F).

MANY national governments in the tropics and elsewhere have been re-thinking their role in the management of forests. In recent years up to 60 have opted for a decentralised approach, in which authority over the management and use of forests is—in theory, at least—transferred to lower levels of government. Last April, a workshop convened in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (see *TFU* 14/2 and also page 7 of this edition) explored this phenomenon and recommended ways of improving its implementation. This article, which is based on a paper presented at the workshop, examines the decentralisation process as it has occurred in Asia and the Pacific.

Why decentralise?

Much of the current impetus for decentralisation stems from concerns regarding democratic governance that go well beyond forest issues. Furtado (2001) summed up the perceived advantages and disadvantages of decentralisation in relation to democratic governance. Among other things, it was thought that decentralisation would:

- ensure the provision of social services in a given locale;
- draw on local knowledge and preferences;
- give people at local levels a stronger sense of ownership over projects and programming, thus making these more sustainable;
- enhance the public accountability of bureaucrats, elected representatives and political institutions, thus ensuring greater responsiveness in government;
- promote local self-reliance; and
- promote monitoring, evaluation and planning at the local level and enhance community participation in decision-making.

Furtado (2001) found no evidence that greater decentralisation automatically leads to improved governance or reduced corruption, and Blair's (2000) study of democratic local governance in six countries is similarly equivocal about the gains made. While the progression from participation to representation to empowerment to benefits for all, and thence to poverty reduction, seems appealingly logical, many of the cases studied by Blair had not progressed far beyond initial or nominal empowerment. Whether that reflects barriers or temporary inertia in a slow process is unclear.

What is decentralisation?

The popular conception of decentralisation is that it is a shift from top-down governance towards bottom-up governance. While this is often involved, decentralisation is more complex than that and embraces at least three different forms (Klugman 1994):

- *deconcentration:* the transfer of administrative responsibility for specified functions to lower levels within the central government bureaucracy;
- *delegation:* the transfer of managerial responsibility for specified functions to other public organisations outside normal central government control, whether provincial or local government or state-owned companies or corporations; and
- *devolution:* the transfer of governance responsibility for specified functions to sub-national levels, either publicly or privately owned, that are largely outside the direct control of the central government.

In addition, *privatisation* is one particular variant of devolution that has been receiving widespread attention in a number of countries in recent times. Some would argue that privatisation is not a form of decentralisation but it clearly meets the definition of devolution given above.

Much of the interest in decentralisation is based on the notion that it can improve fairness through the delegation of administration and/or devolution of governance from central government to local communities and thereby help address the goals of poverty alleviation and/or sustainable

forest management (Ferguson 1996). It may also serve goals of maintaining ethnic cultures or assisting disadvantaged minority groups.

Case-studies

We studied decentralisation processes in 21 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, spanning a wide range of forestry contexts and political conditions. Here we highlight some of the paths and pitfalls involved; the lessons learnt from these case-studies are shown in a separate box.

Devolution to district governance

The Philippines and Indonesia are two countries that have taken radical steps to devolve governance to districts and in doing so have created new issues for forest management. In both cases, the re-organisation has as yet failed to transfer the resources that might make the devolution of forest management effective.

In the Philippines, the central forestry agency (DENR) is said by some to have only devolved the difficult responsibilities and to have retained those that represent real power (Chandrasekharan 2003). In Indonesia, district governments have, in some cases, allocated concessions that overlap existing concessions (Rukmantara 2003), and there are concerns that devolution may have shifted corruption to local power elites (Suwondo 2002).

Decentralisation tends to be more successful under a 'strong' central government than under a weak one. It is often constrained by a tendency for centralisation or 'clawing back' the whole or part of what was decentralised

Devolution to village governance

Nepal and the Republic of Korea provide examples of long-standing devolution to villages, one level of government below that of districts. The Republic of Korea established forestry cooperatives to undertake forest protection modelled on the 15th-century self-regulated rural organisations known as *sanrimgae*. These have achieved considerable success in advancing reforestation based on mutual self-help, aided by financial and technical assistance from the central government. However, landowners have sought to reduce the interference of the central government in the functioning of the coordinating bodies and to improve economic efficiency through effective recentralisation to a provincial level (Yoo 1997, Lee & Lee 2002).

In Nepal, villages were made responsible for the planting and protection of trees on government-owned waste lands and in return obtained all rights to the produce. They also managed the protected forests and received 75% of any revenue derived. However, the responsibilities and authorities gained by the villages were often unclear (Singh & Kafle 2000). Subsequently, intermediate levels (provincial and district) of governance have been involved in order to coordinate activities and allocate funds. In addition, community-based participation below the village level was introduced in an attempt to reduce the political wrangling that often characterised village units.

Decentralisation involving customary ownership

Customary or communal ownership, where every individual in the community has a right over forest property, is a decentralised situation and is the common form of land tenure in Pacific Island countries.

In Papua New Guinea, the national government issues timber permits under which it manages the forest on behalf of the customary owners for the 30–50-year duration of the forest management agreement. Management is generally implemented through a developer, including harvesting and the construction of infrastructure. Many landowner companies that were issued timber permits to develop their own resources have contracted foreign companies to conduct logging on their behalf, often on terms that may be inappropriate for, or disadvantageous to, them.

Fiji Pine Limited, a state-owned corporation in Fiji, manages pine plantations on land leased from various communities (*mataqali*). Although the communities are represented on the board of directors, dissatisfaction developed among many of the individual communities regarding the magnitude of the lease payment and other revenues, the degree of employment of ethnic Fijians (especially at managerial levels), and the dissociation of decision-making from the local landowners (Ferguson et al. 2001). This highlights the difficulties of the collective privatisation of management where land is communally owned and where disparities not only exist between communities but also between their expectations of privatisation and those of the national government.

Devolution through privatisation

Under the Household Responsibility Scheme, China has effectively privatised the ownership of trees in forests (but not the land on which they stand) to individual households (Wang et al. 2004). Due to the large populations living in some forest regions, each household may only gain

a small area of forest, usually less than two hectares. The fragmentation of forest ownership and management on this small scale generates low economic efficiency by restricting the application of some technologies such as large machinery and pesticides and may also create ecological problems regarding water quality and biodiversity by fragmenting natural ecosystems. Considerable experimentation is under way in China on the development of more viable kinds of partnership such as various forms of shareholding companies and joint ventures that may enable a more efficient scale of operation and greater access to capital and technology.

Partial reversal of devolution

The issues raised by decentralisation processes differ in unitary and federal systems of governance. In a unitary system, the one central government controls the powers of other levels of government. In a federal system (in which political power is divided between one central and several provincial governments), the powers of the provincial governments derive from the constitution and are not subject to change at will by central government.

In the Australian federation, the control of all land management, including forests, is devolved to the states by the Constitution. Over the past thirty years, however, media interest in and focus on forest issues has increased greatly. As a result, the federal government became involved in the forestry debate through a variety of indirect controls, leading to vigorous political disputes between the two levels of government, especially when parties of different political persuasion were in power. These disputes became so serious that both levels of government recognised the dangers and agreed to develop a joint approach through what are known as regional forest agreements. In effect, this approach formalised and rationalised a role for the federal government in forest management, which the states had previously regarded as solely their prerogative.

Lessons learned from the Asia-Pacific experience of decentralisation

Preparation

1. The objectives of decentralisation are good governance marked by improved efficiency and equity, transparency, accountability and people's participation; balanced and sustainable development; and the empowerment of the people. Achieving an appropriate balance between empowerment of people at different geographic levels (eg national vs district) or in different local communities is the issue.
2. Decentralisation is not a panacea, nor is it always efficient or equitable. It is a possible way of improving democratic governance and, in doing so, it may assist poverty alleviation and/or sustainable forest management, but it is not in itself a sufficient measure. Decentralisation is a long-term process, to be accomplished in phases.
3. Decentralisation does not mean doing away with controls. Decentralisation tends to be more successful under a 'strong' central government than under a weak one. It is often constrained by a tendency for centralisation or 'clawing back' the whole or part of what was decentralised.
4. Careful design and development of the legal basis of decentralisation is a desirable precursor to change, to ensure that the rights and responsibilities are clearly defined and based on adequate consultation, sanctions and grievance procedures, and on systems to implement and monitor them.
5. Decentralisation measures, especially those involving devolution, need to address systemic corruption in existing and potential new structures before initiating change to ensure that corruption is not simply shifted to other levels of government.

Process

6. In a formal sense, democratic governance generally rests on the majority-rule principle. However, an array of other forms of decision-making exist, such as consensus by veto, consultative processes through third parties or the bureaucracy, and direct bureaucratic action in the case of natural disasters. The forms chosen also need to recognise the historical and cultural setting.
7. Where regulation is separated administratively from delegated or devolved forest management, regulatory functions should generally be conducted at least one level of the bureaucratic hierarchy above the latter to provide sufficient independence from local politics and power elites.
8. Collective bureaucratic units may be needed to deal with transboundary issues or provincial/national issues in a federation and deserve special attention in terms of their legal basis to achieve an effective partnership.
9. Information is vital to the functioning of a modern democracy and more attention needs to be given to promoting information about decentralisation goals and strategies through the media and other means of dissemination to assist conflict resolution. The increasing prominence of national media may lead to a partial reversal of decentralisation, especially in federal systems.
10. The positive role of conflict resolution through public debate needs to be recognised and fostered, especially where majority-rule decision-making is involved. Consensus-by-veto approaches should be confined to those situations in which there are only a few stakeholders of comparable strength. Consultative processes by third parties or the bureaucracy and even direct action may be more appropriate than either of the former modes in some situations.

Devolution

11. In addition to providing a proper legal basis and resources, devolution to lower levels has to involve a meaningful transfer of authority to be acceptable and to work effectively. It also has to maintain horizontal equity by ensuring a fair distribution of fiscal and other resources across the units. Too much decentralisation (autonomy) may lead to neglect of the overall national picture and failure to implement nationally planned priorities. Successful efforts can enhance participation, increase the regional share of income from forests, result in better service delivery and improve the sustainability of forests.
12. Devolution to village levels is more likely to be effective when adapted to traditional systems of governance and aimed principally at poverty alleviation and fuelwood supply. Where aimed at commercial wood production, the scale of operation may pose an impediment and require the formation of village collectives.
13. Devolution to customary ownership units is necessary where land or resource ownership has traditionally been customary. The formation of collectives may then have to be encouraged to provide a commercial scale of wood production, leading to sensitive issues of representation in their governance. Small-scale logging and sawmilling can be operated through customary units but require substantial support and a cost-effective framework for certification.

Privatisation

14. Privatisation represents an efficient and self-regulating form of decentralisation in relation to the supply of commercial forest goods and services and tends to be conducive to private investment in the sector. But forest production also often involves the supply of non-market goods and services, including those of environmental protection. The legal basis of property rights for private and quasi-private forest management units therefore needs to be well defined, and to include opportunities for participation by all stakeholders in developing the rules, as well as provision for sanctions and grievance procedures.

Conclusion

Democratic governance has many variants but one dominant characteristic: it enables non-leaders to exercise control over leaders through voting. This reduces the scope for leaders to progressively assume and exercise greater powers in their own interests and the consequent threat of tyranny (Michels 1911). Democratic governance involves several overlapping sub-systems, including those dealing with governance, bureaucracy, markets and information (Ferguson & Chandrasekharan 2004); the characteristics of, and interactions between, those systems need to be understood when changes such as decentralisation are contemplated.

The precepts on which decentralisation has been commonly advanced are not yet well-established. The democratic process itself is a work in progress, not a known and fixed target. Decentralisation needs to be tailored very carefully to the situation and may not always be the answer to sustainable forest management or to the alleviation of forest-related poverty. It is, however, worthy of consideration as governments and other stakeholders seek viable paths to sustainable development.

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A background paper by C. Chandrasekharan provides detailed case-studies for most countries in the Asia-Pacific region and can be obtained through editor@ itto.or.jp

The elements of decentralisation

Forest-policy experts at a recent workshop[1] conclude that successful decentralisation requires considerable planning, capacity-building and stakeholder participation

DECENTRALISATION initiatives in the forestry sector need to recognise that:

- decentralisation is a complex and dynamic process that evolves over time, adjusting and adapting to changing contexts. It should be based on a thorough understanding of the specific political, institutional, social, cultural and economic conditions of each country;
- there is significant evidence that a form of decentralisation that truly empowers local communities or even local governments has not yet occurred in many countries;
- as the forest sector intersects with many domains of development and sectors of the economy, decentralisation in other related policy areas can have significant influence. Conversely, decentralisation in the forest sector may give the local community a lever with which to address their interests in other areas;
- it is critical to reach consensus through a consultative, multi-stakeholder process among various interest groups resulting in a clear understanding of roles, responsibilities, authority and accountability at various levels;
- decentralisation should be based on, as well as enhance, information flows, transparency and accountability at all levels;
- appropriate political conditions and provision of financial and technical resources are essential;
- it is not essential to devolve all functions of the forest sector at the same time. Decentralisation may be accomplished in gradual, sequential phases in a mutually agreed and equitable manner at all levels;
- decentralisation can produce sustainable environmental benefits under the right circumstances, but it can also lead to significant environmental problems;
- gender considerations, the education of youth and children, particularly girls, and other equity concerns should be given more attention;
- there is a need to approach decentralisation from an adaptive perspective, monitoring, learning from experience, and revising plans accordingly;
- there is a difference of opinion about the inclusion of transfers of power to the private sector in 'decentralisation'; and
- countries, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional organisations and other organisations and instruments provide opportunities through workshops, partnerships and programs to share information and experiences on decentralisation.

[1]The conclusions summarised here (and in the box below) are taken from the report of the Interlaken Workshop on Decentralisation, Federal Systems in Forestry and National Forest Programs, which was held on 27–30 April 2004 in Interlaken, Switzerland as a country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The report is available at http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/interlaken/Final_interlaken_report.pdf. See TFU *14/2 for a summary of the workshop.*

Capacity-building, technical skills and information

Capacity-building is a process of empowerment that operates at different scales—local and national governments, groups and associations, and individuals—and through a wide variety of means. It is a crucial element of successful decentralisation.

Decentralisation is a process of transferring power (authority, competencies, responsibility and resources) from a centralised source to local government units, local communities and stakeholders with the intention of enabling them to envision, plan and implement actions in forest management relevant to generating and sharing benefits from forests.

Countries are at very different stages of decentralisation and within these countries the contexts and stakeholders are likely to be very diverse. Consequently, needs for capacity-building, technical skills and information-sharing are likely to be quite varied. Effective capacity-building, resources and commitment will be necessary at both national and local levels.

It is clear that capacity-building operates as a catalyst of change at the level of political institutions and organisations as well as individuals. In the case of organisations, capacity-building should aim to encourage cultures that are more sensitive to and supportive of decentralisation. In the case of individuals, it should focus more on skills and attitudes and building on existing knowledge and cultures. Importantly, it should also seek to promote a balance between rights and responsibilities as well as resourcing and financial commitments of the participating stakeholders.

Education is a key element but on its own does not constitute capacity-building. There is a need for a 'political will', which is an emergent property of the interaction of several types of capacities of individuals, organisations and networks. In this context, evolving constitutional, legal, institutional and political frameworks for decision-making are critical to the success of capacity-building.

Notwithstanding the diversity of actors, contexts and needs, the greatest support is likely to be needed by:

- local government units;
- local communities, communes and user groups;
- NGOs and extension agents involved in facilitating and educating about decentralisation processes;
- central governments, as they learn to open up space for empowered partnerships by stakeholders;
- parliamentarians, forest owners, associations and industry; and
- universities and training institutions as they reform curricula and methods to take into account lessons from decentralisation and new approaches such as community forestry, ecosystem management, process facilitation, etc.

These groups would require support in the following areas:

- articulation of their interests, mandates and responsibilities, etc, to effectively participate as citizens in democratic processes;
- planning and envisioning;
- implementation, coordination and networking, especially across domains and competencies;
- negotiation and conflict management;
- monitoring, reflection and adaptation of plans;
- financial management and accounting, especially with respect to benefit-sharing;
- management of participatory processes; and
- ability to listen, diagnose, learn, decide and act in groups.

Learning from success

An ITTO survey of the private sector identified a number of companies whose forest operations are well on the way to sustainability. What can we learn from them?

by Ivan Tomaselli and Marco Tuoto

STCP
Curitiba, Brazil

Inventory: foresters measure and mark a tree during a pre-felling inventory in the Guavirà forest, the management of which is a private-sector success story. *Photo: STCP*

Landed: a log is extracted from Guavirà's forest. *Photo: STCP*

AS PART of ITTO PROJECT PD 48/99 REV. 1 (M,F): 'Sharing of information and experiences on private-sector success stories in sustainable forest management', a major survey was carried out across the tropics in 2001–2003 to identify examples of successful private ventures in sustainable tropical forest management. The findings of the survey, and a number of case-studies, were presented at a conference held in Kuala Lumpur last April (see *TFU* 14/2). This article presents an overview of the findings for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The survey process

The first stage of the project comprised a survey of sustainable forest management (SFM) at the company level in ITTO producer countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, questionnaires were sent to 852 companies, of which 69 responded *(Table 1)*, a low tally considering the efforts made to encourage responses.

Follow-up contact with a number of non-responding companies illuminated some of the reasons for the low response rate. They included the absence of technical personnel in the company with the capacity to answer the questionnaire in-house, a lack of information related to the questions posed, suspicions that supplied information could be used against the responding company, and—perhaps most discouragingly—a lack of interest in the subject.

The questionnaires that were returned were of a reasonably high quality. Nearly 80% were completed almost in totality, while the remaining 20% lacked responses to a number of questions but still contained useful information. An analysis of the questionnaires yielded the following:

- **types of company:** of the 69 responding companies, 97% were privately owned, with the majority small-and-medium-sized enterprises; the remaining 3% were joint ventures between government and private entrepreneurs. No completed questionnaires were received from state-owned companies;
- **forest management:** 94% of surveyed companies had a forest management plan. However, only 54% of such plans were consistent with the ITTO *Guidelines for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests* and *Guidelines for the conservation of biological diversity in tropical production forests*; in fact, 41% of companies surveyed had no knowledge of the ITTO guidelines series. The majority (65%) of surveyed companies practised a 'selection' forest management system, 42% used a 'shelterwood' system, 12% employed clear-felling and 9% used 'ad-hoc' systems (note that some companies practised more than one system, so the total exceeds 100%);
- **logging:** the only harvesting system reported was tractor-skidding. Most respondents claimed to be using reduced impact logging techniques;
- **biodiversity conservation:** endangered species were reportedly present in the forest areas of 43% of companies surveyed. Shooting and hunting in production forests were prohibited by 87% of the companies, while 70% claimed to have areas reserved for conservation or protection;

Low response

Table 1: Responses to questionnaire by companies contacted in the Latin America/Caribbean region

COUNTRY	Total number of companies contacted	Number of responses obtained	% in relation to the responses obtained
Brazil	232	40	17
Bolivia	67	7	10
Colombia	101	5	5
Ecuador	59	6	10
Guatemala	89	1	1
Guyana	10	1	10
Honduras	52	2	4
Panama	6	2	33
Peru	156	3	2
Suriname	9	–	0
Trinidad and Tobago	25	–	0
Venezuela	46	2	4
TOTAL	**852**	**69**	**–**

- **use of non-wood forest products (NWFP):** only 20% of surveyed companies produced NWFP, predominantly medicines, fruits and nuts;
- **forest services, recreation and ecotourism:** most of the surveyed companies (64%) claimed to be providing some type of forest service, including conservation, protection, education and wildlife refuge. Less importance was given to recreation and carbon sequestration;
- **social aspects:** most surveyed companies provided some kind of welfare facilities for their employees and for local communities. The most common benefit provided was housing (70% of respondents), followed by health-care (62%), water (49%), electricity (43%) and education (28%);
- **wood products:** more than half (56%) of companies produced sawnwood, 31% produced plywood and 23% produced secondary wood products such as flooring, mouldings and furniture;
- **security and law enforcement:** 81% of responding companies reported that they had not been involved in court cases related to violations of forest laws in recent years;
- **research and development (R&D):** 51% of responding companies said they were undertaking some kind of R&D activity. International cooperation has been playing an important role in the region's forest research: this is reflected in the fact that 57% of the R&D projects being undertaken by responding companies had external funding; and
- **certification:** 19% of companies had a certified forest, while 78% did not possess any kind of certification. Encouragingly, around 62% of the non-certified forest companies stated that they intended to undertake forest certification in the near future.

Case-studies

Based on the analysis of the first questionnaire, nine companies with strong SFM programs—four in Brazil, three in Bolivia, and one each in Colombia and Ecuador—were selected for assessment in a second stage. A second questionnaire was sent to each; these were mostly completed by the project consultants in cooperation with representatives of the selected companies.

The third stage comprised the preparation of four case-studies, two of which are presented here.

Open and shut case: doors manufactured by La Chonta—another private-sector success story—are ready for transport. *Photo: STCP*

La Chonta

La Chonta is a privately owned company in Bolivia. The company manages 220 000 hectares of tropical forests distributed in two concessions (of government forest land) located in the Guarayos and Bajo Paragua regions in central-western Bolivia. The company employs 350 people and has an annual revenue of about US$4 million.

After the enactment of a new forest law in 1997, the company, whose forest operations until then had been of a 'conventional' nature, decided to embark on a new approach and the forest concession began to be managed in a sustainable way. Today, both La Chonta forest concessions are certified under the umbrella of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

To improve forest practices and adopt SFM, La Chonta has increased the number of tree species harvested, and thus is able to harvest higher volumes per unit area. In the past the company's operations were based on a few valuable species—such as mahogany and cedro—and removals were normally less than 1 m^3/hectare; these species are now rare in the concessions. With the new or 'lesser-known' species (LKS), the company is harvesting 3–8 m^3/hectare, still a relatively small volume compared to operations in some other countries in the region.

La Chonta has two sawmills, both located close to forest concessions (La Chonta and Lago Rey). Part of the production is traded in bulk, while better grades are reprocessed into value-added products. The production capacity of the re-manufacturing facility is around 2000 m^3/year of finished products (doors, mouldings and flooring) and about 20 000 doors are produced annually. The chain of custody is also certified under the FSC.

Wood-processing activities were strongly affected when SFM was adopted, particularly by the increase in volume of new species, the processing characteristics of which were largely unknown. Several actions were needed to improve the efficiency of the mills, including investments to develop new processes and products, and also investments in processing facilities.

The increase in the volume removed reduces harvesting costs (per unit volume) but creates another problem: many of the LKS are not known in the international market and, when accepted, have a low market value. La Chonta therefore faces difficult times, since in many cases the cost of production (particularly given the difficult transport logistics in Bolivia, a landlocked country) is a strong limitation for timbers with no tradition in the market. The domestic market could, in principle, provide an alternative, but it is very small.

The La Chonta experience suggests that introducing LKS is fundamental when adopting SFM. Processing LKS requires an increase in the scale of production (starting in the forest) and the adoption of improved processing technologies

Inroads: a logging road in the La Chonta concession. *Photo: STCP*

Mill-bound: a road train is ready to haul its load to the Guavirà mill. *Photo: STCP*

in order to reduce production costs and increase product values.

Many LKS have a lower market value, well below those of traditional wood species, at least initially and probably for some time. Thus, without a reduction in costs and addition of value, profitability is difficult to obtain, yet is necessary to improve forest practices.

La Chonta's experience also shows that an adequate policy and legal framework, and particularly law enforcement, plays an important role in the promotion of SFM. However, the private sector in Bolivia has ended up paying the full costs of SFM, since the government has no economic instrument or other mechanism to help meet such costs. There was hope that the additional costs could be recovered from the market, but this has proved elusive, with practically no price premium apparent for sustainable produced timber, even when certified.

The changes towards SFM require more than good will. New investments in the whole value chain are needed. This has been a strong limitation for La Chonta, since in Bolivia financial sources for direct investments in the timber industry are limited and, when available, costs are high.

The increasing complexity of the legal framework covering forests and the growing overlap of regulations resulting from an on-going decentralisation process are continuously increasing operational costs. This stimulates informality and corruption, especially when coupled with weaknesses in law enforcement

Guavirá

Guavirá Industrial e Agroflorestal Ltda is a privately owned company in Brazil. Its operation is totally integrated, from forest operations and harvesting to manufacturing (primary and secondary processing) and trading. The company employs about 250 people and its annual turnover is around US$7 million.

Guavirá owns about 80 000 hectares of land in Mato Grosso state. Of this, 58 000 hectares are covered by natural tropical forests managed for production. The forest management plan prepared by Guavirá is considered by state authorities and also by the national forestry agency (IBAMA) as an exemplary model that could be followed by others. Although the company could purchase logs in the local market, currently all timber supply originates from its own forestland.

The forest owned by Guavirá is quite atypical, with a much higher density of a single marketable tree species, cedrinho (*Erisma uncinatum*), than in other parts of the Amazon; it comprises around 50% of total timber removals with a harvestable volume varying between 10 and 15 m^3/hectare (depending on location). This high concentration of a single, valuable tree species is an important competitive advantage for Guavirá and, indeed, may well be the single most important factor in ensuring profitability.

Another factor is the ability of the company to conduct harvesting and transportation operations all year round; in contrast, most operations elsewhere in the Amazon are interrupted by the rainy season and therefore can be sustained for no more than 6–8 months per year. Guavirá can operate all year round because of the nature of the soils and the high quality of roads constructed by the company. The equipment used for harvesting comprises one skidder, one front-end loader and five 70-ton trucks, which is sufficient to supply 85 000 m^3 to the mill each year.

Guavirá has also modernised its processing facilities with a view to strengthening its competitive advantage by increasing productivity, reducing wood waste and improving product quality. This involved the construction of a new sawmill with a production capacity of 60 000 m^3/year of sawnwood to replace the existing three smaller ones, the building of a modern secondary processing plant to add value to the sawnwood and to improve wood recovery, and the establishment of a power plant based on wood waste.

The total investment was around US$12 million, about half of which was financed by the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES)—the first such loan by BNDES to a company harvesting and processing timber from natural tropical forests in the Amazon. These investments were important in enabling the company to capture a share of the international market; prior to the commissioning of the new mill, 100% of production was sold in the domestic market, mainly for construction.

Guavirá currently produces 45 000 m^3/year of tropical sawnwood. Higher grades—about 10 000 m^3/year—are transformed into value-added products such as mouldings, decking and furniture components and sold mainly in international markets. As a result of this strategy of adding value to a significant part of the production and trading in the international market, the average selling prices obtained by Guavirá have more than doubled over the last three years, and profitability has also increased.

Value adding: logs harvested in the Guavirià forest are sawn in the mill shown on the left; the resulting sawnwood is further processed in the factory on the right. *Photo: STCP*

Despite its success, questions remain over the long-term economic sustainability of Guavirá's business. The increasing complexity of the legal framework covering forests and the growing overlap of regulations resulting from an on-going decentralisation process are continuously increasing operational costs. This stimulates informality and corruption, especially when coupled with weaknesses in law enforcement. There are serious doubts about the effectiveness with which laws related to property rights will be enforced in the future. Moreover, other land-uses in the area—notably the cultivation of soybeans—are proving more profitable than sustainable forest management.

Some key issues

There is no doubt that the private sector is the main investor in SFM in the Latin America/Caribbean region. Although governments and the private sector have agreed on a range of standards to implement SFM, it seems that most governments have underestimated the need for new and additional funds, leaving the task of implementation to the private sector. Moreover, the private sector is expected to support growing government expenses resulting from excessive regulation and the growing size of the state, with the result that the private sector ends up paying twice for its troubles. As the private sector is often not willing (or has no means) to pay the full bill, the result is less money to implement SFM, and growing informality (illegal logging).

Nevertheless, this survey has shown that a significant number of forest operators are doing their best to achieve SFM. The area of forest under the influence of such regimes is relatively small, and there are few signs that the extent of 'sustainably managed' forest will expand dramatically in the near future. For this to happen, a number of obstacles will need to be removed from the path of those companies committed to the pursuit of SFM.

Property rights

The absence of well-defined property rights for forests has been a key obstacle to the attraction of investments in the forest sector (and, consequently, in SFM) in the region. In most countries in the Latin American/Caribbean region (particularly Bolivia, Guyana, Peru and Suriname), the resolution of conflicts over land-tenure rights and the enforcement of laws on property rights are prerequisites for SFM.

Incentives and financing

For some countries in the region, the level of incentives and the availability of financing for the establishment of forest plantations are already adequate. By contrast, no incentives or financing mechanisms for natural forest management are available in the region.

There is no simple solution to this, but the basic principle is clear: governments and other stakeholders must create an environment in which the investments needed to improve the performance and competitiveness of the forest sector in (particularly the international) markets will be forthcoming. In the end, the market will be the main source of funds for the financing of SFM.

Incentives should also be developed to catalyse adoption and to enhance performance, but other conditions must also be met for the process to be sustained. These include, among other things, appropriate, stable and transparent regulations, economic and political stability, and guaranteed access to forest resources and markets (including international markets).

Profitability

The private sector pursues profits, but SFM is often not as attractive as other investment opportunities: there are usually easier and safer ways to make comparable (or better) returns, both within the forest sector and outside it. Thus, the main policy effort should be to make unsustainable forestry less profitable and to make SFM more financially rewarding.

The absence of well-defined property rights for forests has been a key obstacle to the attraction of investments in the forest sector (and, consequently, in SFM) in the region

However, making SFM more attractive than unsustainable forest management is not a sufficient condition in itself. Timber is not the only business in the world, and investment will flow to other sectors if they are offered a better and/or more secure return. The net result of this would be more forest clearance—to make way for agriculture and other land-uses.

Timber and the circle of life

Life-cycle assessment could be used more for comparing the environmental impact of tropical timber against substitute materials

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AT THE request of the International Tropical Timber Council's Committee on Economic Information and Market Intelligence, I recently carried out a review of the application of life-cycle assessment (LCA) to tropical and other timbers. The aim was to "examine the role of LCA as a potential tool for assisting the competitiveness of tropical timber in the marketplace". So what is LCA, and what do we know about its possible value for determining the environmental impact of tropical timbers?

Long haul: harvesting is just one element to be considered when evaluating timber's environmental credentials. *Photo: CIB*

LCA can be applied to all types of products to analyse a range of environmental impacts—like greenhouse gas emissions, resource depletion, acidification, eutrophication and land-use effects—caused during their entire life-cycle. Often referred to as cradle-to-grave assessment, LCA accounts for the environmental impact caused during the extraction, manufacture, transport, use and disposal of a product.

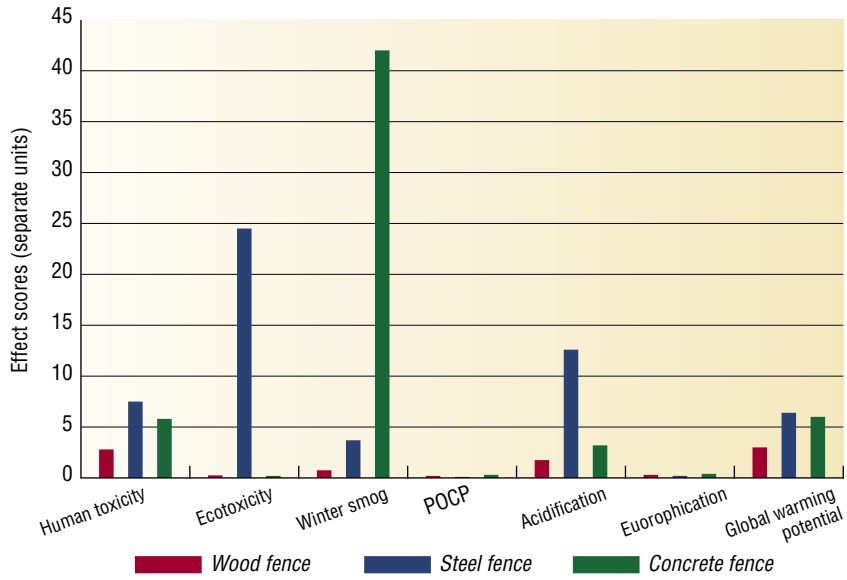
Because LCA includes all stages in the product's life-cycle and looks at a wide range of environmental impacts, it can be very useful when comparing materials of different origins—such as wood, polyvinyl chloride (PVC—a plastic) or aluminium—that can perform the same required function. Using LCA helps us to avoid over-emphasising single issues, such as the extraction or waste disposal phases of a product, when we are trying to understand the total environmental impact caused by a product. It forces us to base our judgements on the impacts of all stages in the product's manufacture, use and disposal.

The good news is that, in general, LCAs have shown timber to be an environmentally superior material to alternatives such as plastics and concrete. An example of such an LCA study is that of Hillier and Murphy (2000), which showed that a treated softwood timber fence caused a much lower environmental impact than alternatives made from steel or concrete over a predicted 50-year service life *(Figure 1)*.

In a comparison of window materials for domestic housing, Frühwald et al. (2003) showed that timber was again superior to other common materials, in this example for its relatively low potential to cause global warming (GWP)—see *Figure 2*. This study also showed that, regardless of the material used for framing, the use phase of the window contributes most to environmental impact, due mainly to heat losses (but also, for wood, to the need for paint). If the contributions of all except the use phase are considered, the contrast between the three materials specified for the frame are even more significant, with the wood-frame material contributing a *negative* GWP (ie *a reduction* in global warming potential) due to the sequestration of atmospheric CO_2 during the growth of the tree and its later locking up in the window frame. The aluminium and PVC window frames both caused a positive GWP (even discounting the use phase) due to the much higher amounts of energy required for their processing.

A hurdle for fences

Figure 1: Summary LCA results from Hillier and Murphy (2000) comparing copper-chrome-arsenic-treated softwood with steel and concrete for fencing *(POCP = photochemical ozone creation potential)*



Tropical timbers

Very few LCA studies have been conducted on tropical timbers to date. This review was able to find only one (VROM 2002) that was in full accordance with the ISO (International

Standards Organisation) 14040 series of standards for LCA. In this, the use of acetylated (a new wood-preservation technique) pine timber from the European Union (EU) was compared with two alternative, naturally durable timbers—larch from Siberia and azobe (*Lophira alata*) from West Africa. The product modelled was sheet piling in an urban waterway in the Netherlands. Though not the primary focus of the study (which was to evaluate the impact of acetylated pine), the results indicated that the LCA profile of azobe compared very favourably with the two softwood species for this product. However, it was also clear that the tropical wood caused higher greenhouse gas emissions in harvesting and transport.

This factor was investigated further in the review of some limited LCA database information. This also showed, unsurprisingly, that a substantially higher energy consumption is considered necessary to harvest and deliver tropical wood to the market in the EU compared to 'local' softwoods.

The goods on wood

Summary of environmental advantages and disadvantages of timber materials in comparison with alternative materials as revealed in LCAs

LIFE-CYCLE PHASE	Advantages for timber	Disadvantages for timber
Raw material origin	CO_2 removal from atmosphere, provision of ecosystem services, renewable with appropriate management	Extensive land-use
Harvesting/extraction	Relatively low energy and material needs	Ecosystem damage, greenhouse gas emission due to disturbance, transport distances
Processing	Low energy consumption, useful by- and co-products, potential for energy generation	Low recovery rates (tropical), transport distance
Use	High strength to weight, good thermal properties	Additives may be needed to enhance durability
End-of-life	Multiple re-use, recycling and energy recovery options, energy recovery can substitute fossil energy needs	Need to segregate contaminated wood, downgrading in recycling

Land-use

There is a further difficulty, and a serious risk of inaccuracy, in LCA studies on tropical timbers. This comes from attempts to include a land-use category in the LCA analysis. It is certainly desirable to assess how the extraction of natural resources like timber can affect land (eg through occupying an area, effects on biodiversity, effects on primary productivity, and changes of land-use from one condition to another), but the methods for doing this in LCA are subject to much controversy. In general, there is great difficulty in truly representing in a relatively simple and comparative way the complexity of the systems involved. The problem arises for tropical timbers when poor estimates of the effects of forest extraction on land-use are incorporated into LCAs. This can lead to heavy penalties appearing to be borne by tropical timbers when their environmental impact in the land-use category is compared with those of temperate timbers or other materials like plastics and metals. Given the uncertainties over LCA methodology and data quality in this area, comparative LCAs between tropical and temperate timbers where the overall conclusion is strongly influenced by the land-use category should be regarded with great scepticism at present.

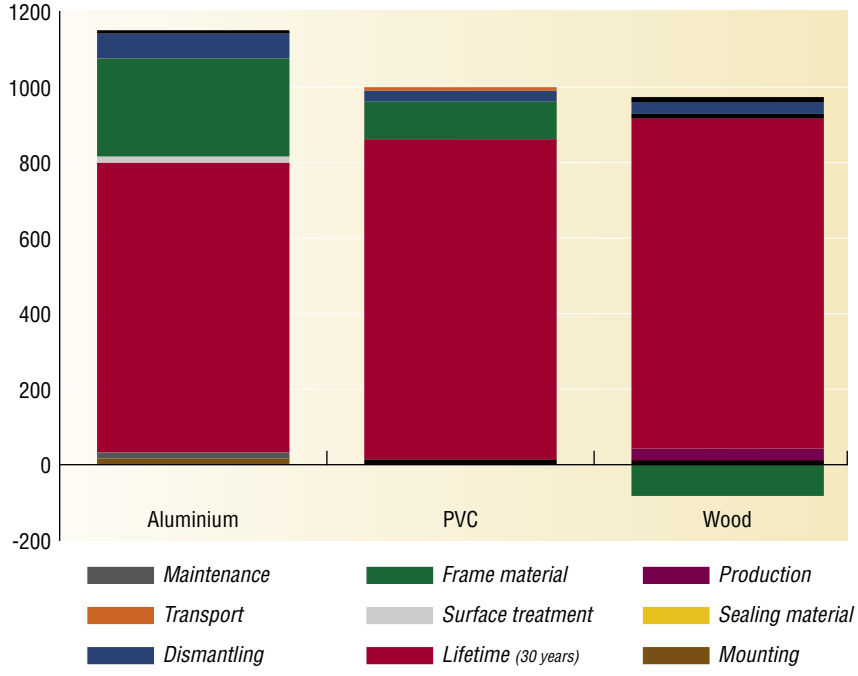
LCAs themselves do not *certify* that a particular area of forest is being managed on a sustainable basis. There are much better and more specific tools for this (see Eba'a Atyi & Simula 2002, Nikinmaa & Lounasvouri 2003) and ITTO, among others, has worked hard to make such tools more widely available. In order to advance the cause of tropical timbers in LCA, it is necessary to study how the integration of good data on the land-use effects from verified, sustainable tropical forest management affect the outcomes of full LCAs on tropical timber products, especially in comparison with some of the assumptions that have existed until now. The combination of LCA results with the results of certification activities will offer a more comprehensive assessment of the sustainable management of an area of tropical forest and of the environmental credentials of products made from that timber.

More LCA studies needed for tropical timber

The study involving azobe referred to above shows that LCA results for tropical timbers can match or be superior to those for temperate timbers. This gives some cause for optimism that better data for LCAs on tropical timbers will show that environmental benefits can be obtained from their sustainable use.

Window warmers

Figure 2: LCA comparison of the global warming potential of materials used for window frames, as indicated by emissions of CO_2 equivalents *(from Frühwald et al. (2003))*



End of the line? Under LCA, the fate of waste wood will help determine the environmental impact of timber relative to that of substitute materials. *Photo: CIB*

However, it would be naive to assume that tropical timber will always be favoured in LCA outcomes—instead, LCA should be used to identify cases where environmental support for tropical timbers is strong and to enable these strengths to be promoted. Attempts to hide behind inadequate data will not support the market for tropical timbers in the medium term because more and more LCAs are becoming available for the competitor materials and the market will respond accordingly to an absence of information. The existing LCA results indicate a strong case for timber as the material of choice on environmental grounds and this positive background needs to continue to be developed to include both tropical as well as temperate timbers.

Convincing the sceptics

Some people are sceptical of LCAs, which they perceive to be distorted or biased and can show varying or even conflicting results depending on how the study is conducted. A safeguard against inadequate studies is the full and transparent presentation of methodologies, data and results in accordance with the widely accepted ISO 14040 series of standards for LCA. This compliance with ISO should be the benchmark when LCA results are to play a crucial role in decisions. In some ways, LCAs are a bit like statistics or even economics—we may not quite like them but we don't have anything better!

LCA is an adaptable tool that provides a real opportunity to include the positive and negative aspects of forest products in a single framework to assess their overall environmental impact. The accumulating evidence from LCA studies on forest products is demonstrating the strong environmental benefits that occur when timber is used instead of alternative materials for numerous products. These benefits occur across all life-cycle stages of wood-based materials, from raw-material acquisition from a renewable and sustainable resource, through low-energy processing that also provides valuable and environmentally sound by- and co-products (bark, energy, particleboard furnish), to durable, high-specific-strength, easily modified products and an end-of-life phase that provides secondary raw material, recovered energy or a mostly benign return through natural composting and biodeterioration.

Timber-based products also have a range of negative impacts on the environment; the *table* summarises the main environmental benefits and disadvantages of timber materials (temperate and tropical) as revealed in LCAs in overall comparison to non-timber materials.

LCA is presently gaining in global significance. This is an exciting development and it is time for the tropical timber interests to take up the opportunity it presents.

Conclusions and recommendations

- In general, LCAs show timber-based products to have favourable environmental profiles in comparison with alternative materials
- The great majority of the LCAs conducted to date on timber products are based on temperate timbers—there are very few available LCAs on tropical timbers. Without action on the part of the tropical timber interests, this disparity is likely to increase
- Transparent and complete (to the ISO 14040 standard) LCAs are needed to provide underpinning information for communication of the environmental credentials of tropical timber products in comparison with alternative materials ('green' claims)—these demand best-practice in LCA and high-quality data
- If capacity is not built in tropical countries to develop *local* familiarity and competence in LCA techniques, there is a risk that tropical timbers will be represented inadequately in the market or, even worse, 'external' LCA studies may be done on the basis of inadequate data—especially for harvesting systems and land-use impacts
- LCA information has a key role to play in supporting the overall sustainability assessment of tropical timbers for both local and export uses. However, a co-ordinated effort is needed to:

  1) stimulate further LCA work and training of direct relevance to tropical forests and products; and

  2) establish a recognised centre where LCA information for tropical forests and products is collected and made available to LCA practitioners and the wider public, in a web-based form. ITTO could act as a centre for such an effort

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Council adds to its program on tropical forests

The International Tropical Timber Council pledged a further US$6 million for new projects and activities

A PROJECT to evaluate the commercial stocks of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in Peru and to formulate a strategy for the sustainable management of the species will be undertaken after benefiting from part of the US$6 million pledged by the International Tropical Timber Council at its 36th session last July.

The Council, ITTO's governing body, financed ten projects at the session, including one that will support collaborative forest management in Surigao del Sur in the Philippines, another that will bring greater transparency to tropical timber trade flows in China, and another that will strengthen capacity in Indonesia to utilise efficient wood-processing technologies. See page 18 for more information on the projects and pre-projects financed.

Point taken: Delegates chat during a break in proceedings at the 36th session of the International Tropical Timber Council. *Photo: Earth Negotiations Bulletin*

The Council session was notable for the parallel convening of a workshop comprising representatives of the tropical timber trade and civil society (see below). This workshop presented a report to Council in which it urged ITTO and its member states to take aggressive steps towards combating illegal logging and illegal timber trade, and made a number of specific recommendations.

The major donors at the session were the governments of Japan, Switzerland and the United States, and contributions were also pledged by the governments of Norway, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand and by the Common Fund for Commodities. In addition, funds were mobilised from the Unearmarked Fund of the Organization's Special Account and from its Bali Partnership Fund Sub-account B.

Trade, civil-society organisations agree on measures to combat illegal logging

An unusual gathering of the tropical timber trade and civil society has urged ITTO and its member states to take aggressive steps towards combating illegal logging and illegal timber trade.

The Workshop on Illegal Logging and Illegal Trade, held over two days in conjunction with the 36th session of the Council, was attended by seven representatives of the tropical timber trade under the banner of the Council's Trade Advisory Group (TAG), and eight representatives of civil-society organisations within the Council's Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG).

In a report issued by workshop participants to the Council, the TAG and CSAG agreed that illegal logging and illegal trade were major concerns.

"This problem has serious social and environmental impacts, undermines honest industry, discourages investment in responsible forest management, and diminishes forestry's contribution to social and economic development."

"For this reason, both TAG and CSAG were very pleased that the [Council] formally recognised the problem in 2001 and has begun to take steps to address it."

However, the two groups agreed that ITTO and its member states could do much more to combat illegal logging and illegal timber trade.

For example, it recommended that additional support be given to ITTO's existing initiatives on trade statistics' discrepancies, and that country-level projects be encouraged to promote transparency in the tropical timber trade and access to information.

According to co-chair Dr Andy White, of the non-governmental organisation Forest Trends, full transparency and easy access to all forest trade data are crucial if illegal trade is to be eliminated.

"Transparency is a first step," he said. "We're not going anywhere without at least trying to get good data."

The workshop also recommended three actions that ITTO could take in the short term. These were:

- conduct an international conference on the transportation of timber products, involving representatives of financial institutions, customs, shipping, and transport sectors, with the view of identifying weaknesses which have allowed for illegal trade;
- conduct an international conference on indigenous and other community forestry, forest tenure, policy and other regulatory barriers to management and trade, and their relationships to illegal logging and illegal trade; and
- strengthen and expand the ITTO project window to finance private-sector/civil-society partnerships to advance sustainable and legal forest management and trade.

The Council subsequently made about US$440 000 available to implement these three recommendations.

According to Dr White's co-chair, Mr Barney Chan of the Sarawak Timber Association, the greater understanding of the transport sector that would arise from the first of these short-term recommendations would be particularly useful.

"This is a link in the chain that has not really been scrutinised in the context of forest law enforcement, and if we can study it now in detail we might gain some very useful insights," he said.

Dr White was supportive of the concept of the joint CSAG/TAG workshop, but cautioned that members of both groups would be taking a great interest in the extent to which Council addressed the recommendations.

"Success will be measured on action by the Council," he said. "The people who participated [in the workshop] on both sides appreciated the opportunity to engage on this issue but are wary about not being taken seriously. There is a strong appetite in both groups for action."

The Council's Chair, Ms Jan McAlpine, expressed her pleasure at the outcomes of the workshop.

"This has been an historic event," she said. "That two groups with often contrasting views could sit down and jointly propose such strong and substantial actions is a credit to them. It is also a credit to the Council to move so quickly to implement the most immediate of the recommendations."

Ms McAlpine said that the workshop could lead to more rapid action to combat illegal forest and timber-trade activities.

"Sometimes it takes civil society and trade to lead governments in contentious areas," she said.

"By tackling these often divisive issues head-on and agreeing on a common agenda for action by ITTO, the workshop could potentially greatly assist governments to increase cooperation in this area."

The full text of the CSAG/TAG statement is published on page 32. *For more information on CSAG contact: Dr Andy White, awhite@forest-trends.org. For more information on TAG contact: Mr Barney Chan, belachan@aol.com*

See the IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin coverage of the session at http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/ittc36/

Promote trade in sustainably produced timber, says Council chair

Positive support from importing countries and consumers of forest products from sustainably managed tropical forests can improve the sustainable management of those critical forests and help reduce deforestation, according to an ITTO official.

"Negative campaigns targeting tropical timber may instead undermine long-term sustainability and not achieve their intended objectives," said Ms Jan McAlpine, the current chair of the International Tropical Timber Council.

"We are very concerned about the loss of natural tropical forests, the poverty of many people living in or near such forests and the threat of extinction of the wildlife in them," she said.

"It is important for people who use tropical timber products to understand that restrictions on tropical timber trade actually discourage efforts to promote sustainable forest management. Unless natural forests are able to generate significant revenue for their owners and residents, they will be replaced by other land-uses, such as the cultivation of soybeans, oil palm and other crops."

A better approach, said Ms McAlpine, is to encourage sustainable forest management through a variety of incentives, including market incentives.

Among the measures available to the private sector are voluntary codes of conduct for industry, providing new technologies—such as GIS and satellite remote sensing—for use by tropical forest governments, the certification of sustainably managed forests, and the ecolabelling of products so that consumers who purchase those products can be reassured that they are derived from sustainably managed forests.

"However, many tropical timber countries lack the capacity to immediately implement sustainable forest management in natural tropical forests to enable them to certify their forests," said Ms McAlpine.

During the session the Council heard a report on a way to give countries credit for their efforts to achieve sustainable forest management—a 'phased approach' to certification, in which the first step is the assurance that the timber was legally acquired and produced.

"ITTO was one of the first international organisations to address the important issue of illegally harvested timber and has several projects addressing this issue," said Ms McAlpine.

ITTO has also embarked on a major study of export-import data discrepancies with the voluntary cooperation of six producing countries and four consuming countries representing some of the most extensive tropical forests on the globe. The Council also received a report on progress on this study during the session.

"This and other work being undertaken by the Organization, including its project work, will help those producers who wish to obtain certification to acquire some of the basics needed to get it—and so hopefully help them to increase their market share in importing countries," said Ms McAlpine.

"It is important that markets remain open to tropical timber in the meantime," she added.

"Otherwise, countries have no incentive to protect these forests or to manage them sustainably. Ultimately, that will be bad for forests and the people and wildlife who live in them, and disastrous for all of us."

Negotiators stake their ground

More time is needed to secure a new agreement on ITTO's future

NEGOTIATORS trod a wary path during the first part of a negotiating conference for a successor agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), 1994. This agreement, which is due to expire at the end of 2007, is the treaty under which ITTO operates.

The United Nations Conference on the Negotiation of a Successor Agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), 1994 met at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 26–30 July 2004. The conference was held under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and included over 160 delegates from ITTO member countries and other governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental observers. Ambassador Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos (Brazil) was nominated and accepted as President of the Conference and Jürgen Blaser (Switzerland) as Vice-President.

Over the course of the five-day meeting, delegates met in two working groups, one dealing specifically with the Preamble and chapters I–IV and the other with chapters V–XI of the draft working document (TD/TIMBER.3/4). The negotiations proceeded amicably, although it became clear by Friday morning that more time would be needed to finalise the terms of the new agreement.

There appear to be six main areas of contention.

Scope: delegates spent a considerable amount of time discussing the successor agreement's objectives. Many noted the importance of listing objectives related to certification, non-timber forest products, transparency on subsidies, fair prices for tropical timber, community forestry and ecosystem services. Some delegations suggested a change of the Organization's name—to the International Tropical Forests Organization—to reflect the broad nature of its work.

Frequency of Council sessions: On the number of Council sessions per year, Japan, Switzerland, Cameroon and the USA proposed specifying one regular meeting and one meeting of an executive board each year. Venezuela, supported by Brazil, Colombia, Nigeria and the Republic of Congo, objected. Japan expressed flexibility in maintaining current language on "at least one" regular session per year. Alternative texts specifying "at least" "one" or "two" regular sessions per year remain bracketed. An ITTA, 1994 reference to "one in a producer country" is also bracketed, reflecting the fact that countries are not in agreement on reducing the number of meetings to one per year.

Executive board: delegates discussed a proposed article on establishing an executive board. This would comprise the Council chair and vice-chair, committee chairs and vice-chairs, caucus spokespersons, a representative of the host country (Japan), and representatives of six producer and six consumer countries and would supplement the Council's work, particularly should the number of Council sessions be reduced to one per year. The content of the article was not discussed and the entire article remains bracketed.

All ears: delegates tune in to the debate during the first part of the UN Conference on the Negotiation of a Successor Agreement to the ITTA, 1994. *Photo: Earth Negotiations Bulletin*

Funding sources and mechanisms: this issue relates to the funding of the Organization's work program, including its project program. Delegates agreed to text mentioning the current structure of ITTO's accounts, which are the Administrative Account, the Special Account, the Bali Partnership Fund and other accounts "as the Council shall deem appropriate and necessary". Delegates noted that further discussion was needed on the bracketed text referring to a work program account: this would receive assessed contributions from each member country based on gross domestic product and would be used to finance the Organization's essential operational work as defined in the biennial work program.

Distribution of votes and assessment of contributions: this article was not discussed in the designated working group because delegates agreed it required the attention of a joint working group. In the current agreement, the assessment of a country's financial contributions to the Organization's administrative budget is made depending on the number of votes allocated to that country, and this, coupled with the proposal to establish a work program account, makes this an issue upon which many members place a high priority. For now the entire article remains bracketed and will be addressed at the next session of the negotiation.

Obligations and compliance: proposals were made to curtail the rights of members to participate in certain Council processes (decision-making, the submission of project proposals, etc) if they fail to meet their obligations with regard to meeting assessed contributions and information-sharing/provision of statistics. No agreement was reached on these proposals and they remain open for negotiation.

During the closing plenary, delegates decided that the conference would reconvene in Geneva on 14–18 February 2005.

This synopsis has been compiled by the ITTO Secretariat drawing on the summary text prepared by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin. *The Bulletin can be obtained at www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/itta/. Documents for the negotiating conference can be downloaded at www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?intItemID=1942&lang=1&m=7844*

ITTO's new work

Projects to assist the development of plantations in Ghana, undertake an inventory of mahogany in Peru's natural forests, and strengthen the capacity to promote efficient wood-processing technologies in Indonesia were among those funded at the 36th session of the International Tropical Timber Council, held in Interlaken, Switzerland last July

Towards sustainable timber production in Ghana: Stage I. Improving shoot borer resistance and developing silvicultural systems to maximise mahogany plantation success (Ghana; PD 105/01 Rev.3 (F))

Budget ITTO: $337 027
Government of Ghana: $160 282
MTU: $93 272
Total **$590 581**

Implementing agency Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) in collaboration with the School of Forest Resources and Environment Science of the Michigan Technological University (MTU)

Funding source Japan

Mahogany is a valuable tropical timber, but supply is threatened by the over-exploitation of natural forest reserves and by the effects on plantations of a single pest, the shoot borer *Hypsipyla robusta*. This project aims to increase the production of plantation-grown African mahogany (including *Khaya* and *Entandrophragma* spp) in West Africa and of other mahogany species in other areas of the world. Specifically, it will develop, demonstrate and disseminate an integrated plantation establishment strategy for several mahogany species through improved silviculture and pest control.

Integration of forest management units into sustainable development units through collaborative forest management in Surigao del Sur, the Philippines (PD 167/02 Rev.2 (F))

Budget ITTO: $630 907
SUSTEC & Surigao Development Corporation: $281 750
Total **$912 657**

Implementing agency Sustainable Ecosystems International Corporation (SUSTEC)

Funding sources Japan, USA, Republic of Korea, Norway

Sustainable forest management (SFM) has been promoted in the Philippines, but currently there is limited implementation on the ground and it is practised in very few forest management units (FMUs). Moreover, corporations traditionally carry out the planning and implementation of forest management in FMUs in isolation of other sectors and stakeholders, thus failing to integrate the FMUs into larger sustainable development units. The aim of this project is to improve and accelerate the implementation of SFM in the Philippines within an integrated sustainable development framework, and to contribute to integrated sustainable development within the selected sustainable development unit (SDU), thus addressing the factors that limit progress towards achieving the ITTO Objective 2000. It will showcase SFM within the context of the SDU by fully integrating SFM into sustainable development.

Strengthening national capacity and regional collaboration for sustainable use of forest genetic resources in tropical Asia (Malaysia; PD 199/03 Rev.3 (F))

Budget ITTO: $343 440
Government of Malaysia (FRIM): $51 000
APAFRI: $30 000
IPGRI: $150 000
Total **$574 440**

Implementing agencies Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)

Funding source Japan

The tropical forests and forest genetic resources (FGR) of the Asia-Pacific region are threatened by deforestation, forest fragmentation and habitat degradation. Although the importance of FGR conservation is recognized in many countries of the region, the establishment of national FGR programs has been hampered by a lack of commitment by policymakers and by a limited national capacity to conserve and manage FGR.

This project will develop national and regional capacity among the countries of tropical Asia to conserve and sustainably use FGR and to share information. Specifically it will:

a) develop a regional program to coordinate national activities and support selected countries in their efforts to conserve FGR for sustainable use; and

b) develop a regional mechanism and capacity for sharing information on and use of FGR in seven selected Asian member countries of ITTO.

Evaluation of commercial stocks and strategy for the sustainable management of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in Peru (PD 251/03 Rev.3 (F))

Budget ITTO: $351 000
UNALM/FCF-WWF: $176 978
Total **$527 978**

Implementing agencies National Agrarian University of La Molina—Faculty of Forestry (UNALM/FCF) in collaboration with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Peru

Funding sources Japan, USA

Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) is the most important commercial forest species in Peru and is subject to intense harvesting stimulated by high prices in international markets. Such high prices have encouraged illegal logging to the detriment of the environment and the Peruvian forest sector. The approval of the listing of mahogany in Appendix II of CITES in November 2002 set an important imperative for establishing an in-country monitoring and control system for this species. However, the CITES national scientific authority is concerned that reliable information is currently not available and therefore considers it essential to conduct an assessment of stocks in all mahogany-producing forests of the country, particularly production forests.

This project will generate integrated, comprehensive, updated and highly reliable information on mahogany stocks from Peru's Amazonian forests in order to establish the annual allowable, sustainable cut at the national, regional and local levels. Specifically, it will prepare a detailed map of the natural distribution of *S. macrophylla*, undertake a forest inventory based on field sampling and comprehensive review of previous forest assessments, and prepare a proposal for a national conservation strategy for *S. macrophylla* based on sustainable forest management.

Pre-project for the conservation and management of genetic resources in the natural tropical forests of Ecuador (PPD 59/02 Rev.2 (F))

Budget ITTO: $84 305
CORMADERA: $50 435
Total **$134 740**

Implementing agency Corporación de Desarrollo Forestal y Maderero del Ecuador (CORMADERA)

Funding sources Japan, USA

Ecuador recognises that it is losing its native forests—and, with them, an enormous genetic wealth—at an alarming rate. This pre-project will carry out a feasibility study and develop a business strategy for the implementation of a forest seedbank. Together with identified seed sources, a forest nursery and a genetic test area, the seedbank will form the basis of a genetic resource management and conservation strategy for the natural tropical forests of Ecuador. Under the pre-project, a project proposal will be formulated and submitted to ITTO in order to facilitate the implementation of this strategy.

Identification of *Gonystylus* spp (ramin), potency, distribution, conservation and plantation barrier (Indonesia; PPD 87/03 Rev.2 (F))

Budget ITTO: $66 766
Government of Indonesia: $23 500
Total **$90 266**

Implementing agency Forest and Nature Conservation Research and Development Center, Forestry Research and Development Agency, Ministry of Forestry

Funding sources Japan, USA, Norway

Gonystylus spp, widely known as ramin in the tropical timber trade, comprise one of the most valuable tree genera in Indonesia. The strong demand for ramin products has led to the genus's over-exploitation and scarcity, as evidenced by the dwindling supply of ramin timber. In order to conserve this precious genus, the Government of Indonesia has ratified its inclusion in Appendix III of CITES and recently issued a policy banning its harvest and trade. While the economic value of ramin products is recognised in Indonesia, reliable information on the resource base, distribution, silviculture and conservation is not available.

This pre-project will provide baseline information on ramin covering its resource base potential, distribution and conservation, and constraints to plantation development; and it will prepare a full project proposal based on the results of the data collection.

Identification of a rehabilitation and management project for the degraded secondary forests of the Mvila Department in Cameroon (PPD 92/04 Rev.1 (F))

Budget ITTO: $61 452
Cameroon (FONJAK): $15 000
Total **$76 452**

Implementing agency Fondation Fritz Jakob (FONJAK)

Funding source USA

The forests of Mvila have been degraded by intensive and unregulated logging and slash-and-burn agriculture and can no longer fulfill their ecological and socioeconomic functions. This pre-project will develop a project proposal to be submitted to ITTO that will implement a strategy to restore the forests' ecological and socioeconomic functions by attracting financing through the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.

Evaluation of the status of forest resources in Côte d'Ivoire (PPD 94/04 Rev.1 (F))

Budget ITTO: $52 402
Government of Côte d'Ivoire: $11 726
Total **$64 128**

Implementing agency Ministry of Water and Forest Resources

Funding sources Japan, USA

The civil war that broke out in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2002 has led to the degradation of forests by displaced populations and has also contributed to increased illegal logging and agricultural activities in forestlands. As a result, the state of the forest environment and its biodiversity has been altered and forest management capacity has become disorganised. This pre-project will provide better knowledge of the current status of forest resources and management capacities during the post-conflict period as a basis for the development of improved forest policies.

Model of rehabilitation and sustainable utilization of mangrove forest at Langkat, North Sumatra (Indonesia; PPD 95/04 (F))

Budget ITTO: $50 166
Government of Indonesia: $7490
Total **$57 656**

Implementing agency Directorate General of Land Rehabilitation and Social Forestry, Ministry of Forestry
Funding source Japan

Langkat District in North Sumatra Province of Indonesia has around 35 000 hectares of mangrove forests, most of which are heavily degraded. Driven by strong market demand during the last two decades, more and more local people have been using mangroves for charcoal-making, and have been clearing mangrove forests for shrimp culture.

This pre-project will establish baseline data on the condition and distribution of these mangroves and their stock volume as well as assessing government policies regarding mangroves, stakeholder concerns and the roles of different institutions. Thematic maps will be developed as planning and monitoring tools. The main output will be a full project proposal to develop a model for the rehabilitation and sustainable use of mangrove forests in Langkat District.

Improve strategies and assess training needs to achieve sustainable forest management in Suriname (PPD 97/04 Rev.1 (I))

Budget ITTO: $94 832
Government of Suriname: $22 310
Total **$117 142**

Implementing agency Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control
Funding source Japan

The ITTO technical mission to Suriname in August 2003 observed that, despite the best efforts of the Government of Suriname, the country is still far from implementing sustainable forest management, in part because of insufficient institutional capacity, including in the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control. In line with the recommendations of the mission and through a participatory process, this pre-project will develop a strategy for achieving sustainable forest management, assess training needs both in the public and private sectors, and design an effective training program.

Strengthening the capacity to promote efficient wood-processing technologies in Indonesia (PD 286/04 Rev.1 (I))

Budget ITTO: $765 140
ISWA: $204 140
Total **$969 280**

Implementing agency Indonesian Sawmill and Woodworking Association (ISWA)
Funding sources Japan, Switzerland, Republic of Korea

It is estimated that the total installed production capacity of the Indonesian wood-processing industry was around 30 million m^3 in 2000, comprising 19 million m^3 in sawmill and 11 million m^3 in plywood industries. However, wood-processing efficiency levels are low compared to neighbouring countries. This 36-month project will increase the contribution of the wood-processing sector to the national economy through the application of appropriate processing technologies, based on the findings and recommendations derived from an ITTO pre-project (PPD 57/02 REV.1 (I)) and an ITTO technical mission in 2001.

Specifically, the project will improve national skills and capabilities in processing technologies and in product quality management and identify product standards, quality/grading requirements and technical regulations for sawnwood products in international markets. Twelve training courses in sawing and other basic wood-processing techniques, product quality management, and industrial management will be organised for practitioners, managers and supervisors of woodworking factories. The project will also facilitate the establishment of small-scale training and testing facilities in existing wood-processing factories in Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan and eastern provinces.

Demonstration of rubberwood processing technology and promotion of sustainable development in China and other Asian countries (PD 103/01 Rev.4 (I))

Budget ITTO: US$349 641
Government of China: US$236 429
Total **US$586 070**

Implementing agency Research Institute of Wood Industry, Chinese Academy of Forestry
Funding sources Japan, Common Fund for Commodities

This project will support the development of the rubberwood industry in China and increase its contribution to the national economy through the more efficient utilisation of existing rubberwood raw materials. It will also introduce technical guidelines for rubberwood sawing, the use of environmentally acceptable chemical treatments, and efficient drying techniques.

Systematisation and modelling of economic and technical information to train professionals related to the production, processing and marketing of timber products (Colombia; PD 203/03 Rev.2 (M))

Budget ITTO: $150 968
Universidad del Tolima: $119 615
Total **$270 583**

Implementing agency Universidad del Tolima
Funding sources Japan, USA

This project will help raise capacity in Colombia's timber sector by developing dynamic simulation models and implementing a system containing economic and technical information on the timber process production chain for 15 potential timber species. The system and models will be applied and used in the training of personnel of institutions involved in the various stages of the timber production chain in two of the country's major forest regions.

Transparency in trade flows and distribution of tropical wood products in China (PD 171/02 Rev 4 (M))

Budget ITTO $259 956
Institute of Forestry Policy and Information: $123 628
Total **$383 584**

Implementing agency Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry
Funding sources Japan, USA, New Zealand

This project will increase transparency in the supply, stocking and distribution of tropical forest products in China. It will provide information to domestic and foreign traders on tropical wood product flows and information on the development of distribution channels. The aim is to improve trade flows for tropical forest products and reduce trading costs for the benefit of both importers and exporters.

Analysis of the current status and development of a project proposal for the strengthening of the forest statistical information centre in Honduras (PPD 93/04 (M))

Budget ITTO $30 348
Government of Honduras $7050
Total **$37 398**

Implementing agency Administración Forestal del Estado, Corporación Hondureña de Desarrollo Forestal (AFE-COHDEFOR)
Funding sources Japan, USA

This pre-project will assess the current status of databases, forest information collection and management methodologies, and statistical systems operating in the forest sub-sector, with a view to formulating a full project proposal based on identified strengths, potential and needs. The project to be formulated will be aimed at strengthening the Forest Statistics and Information Centre as a pillar of sustainable development in the country's forests.

In addition to the projects and pre-projects described above, funds from donors, the Bali Partnership Fund and the Special Account were committed at the last Council session to a wide range of policy initiatives.

**The prefix PD in the bracketed code denotes project and PPD denotes pre-project. The suffix F denotes Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management, M the Committee on Economic Information and Market Intelligence, and I the Committee on Forest Industry. Budget amounts are in US dollars.*

Producers

Africa
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gabon
Ghana
Liberia
Nigeria
Togo

Asia & Pacific
Cambodia
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Malaysia
Myanmar
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Thailand
Vanuatu

Latin America
Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Ecuador
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Mexico
Panama
Peru
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Venezuela

Consumers

Australia
Canada
China
Egypt
European Union
- Austria
- Belgium/Luxembourg
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

Japan
Nepal
New Zealand
Norway
Republic of Korea
Switzerland
United States of America

Making secondary forests a priority

A mid-term evaluation of an ITTO project finds that it is performing a useful function in the development of plans for the sustainable management of secondary forests in Ecuador

by Alfredo Gaviria

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Resting on their laurels? The author (left) poses with the owner of one of the project's pilot areas. The dominant commercial species in this secondary forest is laurel (*Cordia alliodora*).

THE country of Ecuador is relatively small compared to most other South American countries. However, the Andes mountain range and the cold Humboldt and warm El Niño sea currents have made it one of the world's most biologically diverse nations.

Conservation organisations have identified a number of 'hot spots' across the planet in which biologically rich natural forests are threatened by clearing and other pressures, and have classified them as global biological conservation priority areas. One of these is the Chocó-Darién-Western Ecuador hotspot, which extends for 1500 km along the western flank of the Andes Mountain Range across Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

The moist tropical forests of Ecuador and the wealth of biological diversity found in these forests are seriously threatened by the expansion of single-crop farming and other production activities. Only 6% of an estimated original area of 80 000 km² of forests remain, and these are spread throughout the region, particularly in the province of Esmeraldas. The early devastation of these forests was related to an agricultural boom along the coastal region during the first decades of the 1900s, and over the past four decades logging activities have made further inroads. Over the past five years, a number of companies involved in the planting and harvesting of oil palm have also contributed to the loss of forest in the region.

ITTO PROJECT PD 49/99: 'Pilot plan for the sustainable management of 10 000 hectares of secondary forest in San Lorenzo, Esmeraldas' commenced in November 2001 in the northern part of the province of Esmeraldas. The project is being implemented by the Sustainable Forest Management Corporation (Corporación de Manejo Forestal Sustentable—COMAFORS), a private Ecuadorian non-profit organisation.

The project has two specific objectives: 1) to establish and implement a pilot plan to facilitate the management and valuation of 10 000 hectares of secondary forests and to reverse the process of forest degradation through the sustainable management of resources and community training; and 2) to provide the Ecuadorian Ministry for the Environment with technological packages for the sustainable management of secondary forests at the regional and national levels.

Visiting the area during a mid-term evaluation mission in May 2004, I observed that the project is experiencing difficulties and limitations as a result of a range of external factors. These include pressure for the conversion of these lands for the production of palm oil, the worsening of the conflict in neighbouring Colombia, and a national economic crisis. In combination, these factors have led to a reformulation of some of the project's action strategies and the reorientation of ongoing scheduled activities.

Despite the difficulties, however, activities have been carried out in 22 pilot plots and 64 neighbouring plots, which cover an area of 533 hectares of secondary forest. Demonstration and experimental forest management activities have been implemented in these forests; the aim is to replicate these in local communities within the area of influence, which covers an area of about 8000 hectares.

Experimental silviculture

During field visits I observed the application of weeding, liberation and girdling practices, as well as enrichment-planting activities with native and exotic species. A diagnostic sampling approach developed by Ian Hutchinson is being used to estimate the potential productivity of plots adapted to the particular circumstances of the project area.

Training

The project's target beneficiaries are farmers belonging to three distinct groups: black communities, Chachi indigenous communities, and mestizo communities (or settlers). These three groups have a basic knowledge of forest management and they currently log whitewood species and sell standing timber to logging companies. In most cases they have shown significant interest in forest management and a willingness to engage in it. Many of them have also carried

out logging operations independently and are familiar with timber marketing procedures, although up until now they have found it difficult to negotiate fair and remunerative prices.

One of the main activities implemented by the project has been ongoing training through field days, in which people in the local communities receive practical training on secondary forest management and different silvicultural treatments; they also attend workshops covering topics related to the introduction of forest management and the formulation of management plans. Beneficiaries acknowledge the importance of this training and the technical assistance provided by the project team, and demonstrate that they have assimilated the knowledge received. The owners of the pilot plots are considered to be local technicians by the project team as a result of the training they have received.

Technological tools

Based on the experiences gained over the last few years, the team will prepare a set of tools for improving the management of secondary forests and the capture of benefits from such management by local communities. This will include various types of learning tools, especially technical and promotional sheets, that provide practical knowledge that can be easily and readily applied. The packages will include information and guidelines on: simple land-use management techniques, inventory methods, the application of silvicultural operations, harvesting and processing techniques, production management systems, markets and marketing, and ongoing monitoring mechanisms.

Board meeting: Local people have experience in using timber from the forest. Here, *Cordia alliodora* logs are converted to boards in the forest before being transported to the market. *Photo: A. Gaviria*

Converted: The establishment of oil palm plantations is a major cause of deforestation in the secondary forests of northern Esmeraldas. *Photo: A. Gaviria*

National plan for secondary forests

Under an arrangement with the Ministry for the Environment, a Ministerial Resolution will be formulated and issued once the technological packages are ready with a view to promoting the implementation of forest management in secondary forests at the regional and national levels. The Ministry for the Environment has appointed two high-ranking officers to be part of the inter-institutional group that will formulate this special regulation; it has also entrusted COMAFORS with the formulation of a National Plan for Secondary Forests, which demonstrates the high priority that the Ecuadorian government is giving to secondary forests.

To what extent will secondary forest management be adopted as a land-use option in the Esmeraldas region, particularly in the face of currently lucrative alternatives such as the production of palm oil? Time will tell, but work on secondary forest management regimes and complementary policy development are certainly essential if the secondary forests are to attract the interest of local land-users. This ITTO project is making a useful start in that direction.

Translated from the Spanish by Claudia Adán.

Fellowship report

A study tour to the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu afforded some insights into the minds of local foresters

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WITH funding from ITTO, I visited the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji to observe first-hand the forms of forest management that these countries are applying. In this article I summarise the findings of this study tour, highlighting some of the areas of common concern in these countries and comparing them to Papua New Guinea (PNG), my home country.

Objective

The objective of the study tour was to observe how each country was managing its forests. This was done by first talking to available foresters and some landowners from selected project areas in each country, using both structured and unstructured interview methods, and then making site visits to observe the types of forest management that are taking place. My main purpose for taking this approach was to evaluate the understanding by foresters of 'forest' and 'forest management'—and their roles in the latter.

Some observations

All countries have codes of logging practice that are in use, some more effectively than others. Fiji in particular has gone a fair way in applying the principle of sustainable forest management.

The ways in which forestry legislation has been framed with regards to forest resource appropriation are slightly different in different countries. The Solomon Islands and Fiji have delegated the task of securing forest resources for development to government agencies other than the forestry departments—provincial governments in the case of the Solomons and the Native Land Trust Board in Fiji. The government forestry agency only becomes involved at the time of granting the final approval for timber extraction. In PNG and Vanuatu the government forestry agency is responsible for securing access to the forest resources and then for granting approval for extraction. The situation in PNG is slightly different to that in Vanuatu in that, for large-scale operations, the government negotiates a contract (in the form of a project agreement) with the contractor on

On the way up: the author stands in a newly established tree species' trial plot (provenance) at Markham in PNG.

Fellowships awarded

Twenty-nine fellowships worth a total of US$151 490 were awarded at the 36th session of the International Tropical Timber Council in July 2004. Awardees were:

Einard Rafael Joffre Rojas (Bolivia), to prepare a masters' thesis on the valuation of tropical forest ecosystems; **Ubirajara Contro Malavasi** (Brazil), to complete a training internship on methodologies to evaluate nutrient and water use by tree species; **Jean Avit Kongape** (Cameroon), for the preparation of a guidebook on procedures related to the management of production forests in Cameroon; **Diangha Mercy Nambu** (Cameroon), to attend an international conference on multipurpose trees in the tropics; **Yongdong Zhou** (China), to undertake a study tour of the processing and utilisation technologies of *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* plantation woods in Australia; **Verónica Duque González** (Colombia), to attend a short course on the diversified management of natural tropical forests; **Yohanna Cabrera Orozco** (Colombia), to undertake a study tour to learn how to improve the durability of some Colombian plantation species with low-toxicity preservatives; **Théophile Bouki** (Congo), to undertake doctoral research on the local management of forest resources and its impact on the conservation of forests; **Martin Mba Obame** (Gabon), to conduct doctoral research on conflicts and development in southeastern Gabon; **Abraham Addo-Ansah Allotey** (Ghana), to take a training course in social forestry for sustainable rural development; **Andrew Akwasi Oteng-Amoako** (Ghana), to publish a manual on rural wood preservation in the tropics; **Dzigbodi Adzo Doke** (Ghana), to take a masters' program in environmental science; **Yolanda Renita Hawker** (Guyana), to undertake a masters' degree in forest product technology; **Bempah Nsiah** (Ghana), to complete a masters' thesis on the use of mycorrhizae for the improvement of some indigenous timber tree species for the restoration of mined areas; **Ariel Estuardo Nieves Antillón** (Guatemala), to take a course in the diversified management of natural tropical forests; **Ahmed Parul Rishi** (India), to take the Smithsonian environmental leadership course; **Shanmughavel Piramanayagam** (India), to prepare a digitised inventory of tropical timber resources in India; **Paimin Sukartana** (Indonesia), to attend an international conference on environmentally compatible forest products; **Tati Rostiwati** (Indonesia), to conduct PhD research on mechanisms of shade adaptation of locally important tree species in Sulawesi; **Bhoj Raj Khanal** (Nepal), to conduct masters' research on the institutional capacity of community forest groups for the marketing of forest products; **Nirjala Raut** and **Yogendra Yadav**, both from Nepal, to undertake masters' programs in forestry; **Shadrach Olufemi Akindele** (Nigeria), to prepare a document on volume functions for common timber species of Nigeria's tropical rainforests; **Manuel Antonio Soudre** (Peru), to undertake a masters' program on tropical forest management; **Patricia Ojeda Rondón** (Peru), to take a course in the diversified management of natural tropical forests; **Dennis Morgia Gilbero** (Philippines), to attend a training course on biodiversity monitoring and assessment techniques; **Mirko Meoli** (Switzerland), to undertake a training internship on the inventory and restoration of degraded forest in Congo; **José Rafael Lozada** (Venezuela), to prepare a PhD thesis on vegetal succession in harvested forests in the Imataca Forest Reserve; and **Omar Ernesto Carrero Gámez** (Venezuela), to attend a course on the principles of economics for the analysis of investment and design of natural-forest policies.

Fellowship reports available

The following ITTO fellowship reports are available on request from the authors:

Community forestry and poverty reduction in Nepal: perspectives on forest dependency, benefit sharing, resource governance and overall livelihood benefits to the poor. ***Contact:*** *Mr Balram Dhakal, PO Box No 19464, Kathmandu, Nepal; dhakalbalram@hotmail.com*

People's perception and participation towards integrated natural resource conservation: a case study from Nepal. ***Contact:*** *Mr Shiva Kumar Wagle, Assistant Forest Officer, District Forest Office, Kapilbastu, Nepal; wagleshiva@yahoo.com*

behalf of the landowners. The landowners are able to negotiate directly with a contractor when the volume to be harvested is less than 5000 m^3 in any one year and is to be used mainly for domestic processing. In Vanuatu, the landowners negotiate their own contract with a contractor and the head of forestry either grants approval for or rejects the contract.

All four countries (including PNG) face financial and transport difficulties in implementing the code of logging practice effectively and in undertaking other forestry activities.

Another major issue, particularly for the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and PNG, is how to deal with land tenure. A noted concern that came out of my discussions with foresters was that they often did not know how to deal with the customary owners. This is due partly to the type of forestry curriculum that was being taught to forestry students until recently, in which it was generally assumed that the forests were owned by the state. In their attempts to apply in the field the kind of forest management principles they gained from attending forestry schools, these foresters quickly found out that there was no forest for them to work in. A lot of work still needs to be done to equip foresters with the necessary skills for working effectively in what is often a difficult social, political and economic environment and for managing relationships with the customary owners.

There is also a lot of confusion among foresters in the four countries about some relatively new forestry concepts and terminology. The international community seems to be generating new terms at a rapid rate, but their quick adoption in the field is unlikely when many foresters are still grappling with the difference, for example, between 'sustainable forest management' and good old 'forest management'. In this light, how useful are the international processes that generate these terms? There may also be a lack of understanding in the international community about the local and national contexts in which forest management is being undertaken. I feel that the international community (including ITTO) needs to do some more work towards understanding how developing countries in particular understand 'forest management' and 'sustainable forest management', so that the programs and plans they develop can be applied more effectively.

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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

Ruminating on ramin

*Tri-national workshop on trade in the commercial timber species, ramin (*Gonystylus *spp)*

15–16 April 2004
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The primary purpose of this workshop, which involved Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, was to consider the preliminary results of a project implemented by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia on the trade in the commercial timber species, ramin (*Gonystylus* spp). This project undertook an assessment of the efficacy of the listing of the species under Appendix III of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including an analysis of the effectiveness of implementation measures undertaken in the three participating countries. The workshop also considered the findings of national workshops on the same theme held earlier in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Events leading to the listing of Gonystylus *spp in Appendix III of CITES underscore the need for rebuilding goodwill, confidence and trust, particularly between Indonesia and Malaysia*

The outcomes of the workshop are reported here in some detail in light of Indonesia's proposal to uplist ramin to the CITES Appendix II at the 13th Conference of the Parties to CITES, which was taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, as this edition went to press. The results of the COP will be reported in the next edition.

The first-ever attempt to propose the inclusion of ramin in the appendices of CITES was made by the Netherlands, a non-range state, during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) held in Kyoto in 1992. Specifically, the proposal called for the inclusion of *Gonystylus bancanus* in Appendix II of CITES; however, it was rejected at the ninth COP held in Fort Lauderdale following opposition mounted by the range states, including Indonesia and Malaysia.

Concerned with the considerable decline in the Indonesian population of ramin exacerbated by rampant illegal logging, Indonesia unilaterally included *Gonystylus* spp in Appendix III of CITES in April 2001.

Malaysia expressed opposition to Indonesia's listing on the grounds that no prior consultation had been undertaken with other range states and that, consequently, the mechanism needed to ensure effective control had yet to be established. Accordingly, Malaysia requested Indonesia to consider postponing the entry into force of the notification, but the request was turned down as Indonesia considered that postponement would create confusion and indicate inconsistency on its part.

Workshop proceedings

The program for the first day of the two-day tri-national workshop commenced with a welcoming address by TRAFFIC and opening addresses by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. These were followed by a series of presentations and discussions on topics that included the ecology and status of ramin, experiences under the Appendix-III listing, CITES procedures, and the ramin trade. The second day was devoted to a facilitated discussion of the problem tree with a view to generating a solution tree. The workshop ended after the conclusions and recommendations were summarised and closing remarks made.

Most of the problems encountered in implementing the listing of *Gonystylus* spp in Appendix III of CITES have stemmed from a lack of understanding and familiarity with CITES procedures, particularly in respect to transhipment. In this regard, the explanation given by the CITES Secretariat regarding trade in Appendix-III specimens was very useful. The need for capacity-building to properly enforce the CITES provisions was emphasised.

On the ecological status of *Gonystylus* spp, it was noted that among the 30 species identified, *Gonystylus bancanus* was subject to the most consistent demand and extraction. However, the listing in Appendix III made by Indonesia is applied at the genus level and therefore covers all the species in the genus.

Regarding implementation in Indonesia, the listing of *Gonystylus* spp was driven by concern about the rapid decline in the population of the genus caused principally by rampant illegal logging. Although conceding that illegal logging was partly a domestic problem, Indonesia was of the view that international demand and trade were also triggers for such activities. As CITES was an instrument governing international trade of listed species, Indonesia considered the listing of *Gonystylus* spp in Appendix III of CITES to be an appropriate measure. Since the implementation of the listing was being hampered by problems related to a lack of understanding and familiarity with CITES procedures, inter-agency coordination and species identification, the workshop was informed that Indonesia was considering proposing the uplisting of *Gonystylus* spp into Appendix II of CITES, under which a 'non-detriment finding' (NDF) would be required for exports of the genus (Indonesia did indeed propose this uplisting, and the proposal will be considered at the 13th COP). Moreover, in acknowledging that the problem of illegal logging in Indonesia was pervasive and covered other species as well, Indonesia was also contemplating proposing the listing of merbau in the appropriate appendix of CITES.

In Malaysia, problems related to a lack of understanding and familiarity with CITES procedures, inter-agency coordination and species identification had also been encountered. Other factors affecting implementation include the long common border with Indonesia, which makes effective enforcement a challenging task; the false declaration of the country of origin of cargoes; discrepancies between the harmonised-system (HS) codes used in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore; the capacity of customs in species identification; consignments of ramin logs and sawn timber entering Malaysia through the free commercial zones and barter trade zones; and the Barter Trade Agreement between Indonesia and Malaysia, which does not require the presentation of documents from the exporting country. The workshop was informed of the rationale for Malaysia's reservation on the listing of *Gonystylus* spp in Appendix III of CITES and measures being undertaken to plug the loophole with regards to transhipments involving the free commercial zones. Malaysia also called for greater cooperation

with Indonesia in monitoring the sizeable volumes of sawn timber entering Malaysia under the Barter Trade Agreement. Malaysia further informed the workshop that the uplisting of *Gonystylus* spp to Appendix II of CITES might not be a solution if the current problems of implementation were not addressed and resolved.

As an entrepôt, Singapore informed the workshop of measures undertaken to check on ramin under transhipment, although the Singapore Endangered Species Act did not provide for inspection inside free trade zones. Singapore was also monitoring the stockpile of ramin imported prior to the entry into force of the listing by Indonesia. The workshop noted the bilateral arrangement between Indonesia and Singapore, under which Singapore does not release statistics on imports from Indonesia.

Workshop recommendations

Given the circumstances leading to the convening of the workshop, the process of reaching agreement on its recommendations during the second day was protracted. Based on the outcomes of the national workshops held earlier in Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as the discussions held during the course of this workshop, tentative agreement was reached on the following five specific measures:

- improve existing mechanisms for the rapid exchange of information on interdiction of infractions involving trade in ramin;
- disseminate information on all national export and re-export requirements for the export of ramin to the three participating countries;
- harmonise custom codes on ramin cargoes and products;
- clarify statistical data discrepancies through consultation between CITES management authorities and the customs departments of the three countries; and
- create a tri-national task force on CITES ramin trade law enforcement to help resolve illegal trade and to frame long-term cooperative action.

Observations

CITES is an intergovernmental treaty governing the international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. It is therefore rather remarkable that a non-governmental organisation, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, has taken the initiative to bring the three governments together on the ramin issue. The fact that TRAFFIC managed to convene the workshop at all is an achievement in itself, but the effectiveness of the initiative in actually addressing and overcoming the problems of implementation remains to be seen. The tentative nature of the recommendations of the workshop is an indication of this uncertainty.

Events leading to the listing of *Gonystylus* spp in Appendix III of CITES underscore the need for rebuilding goodwill, confidence and trust, particularly between Indonesia and Malaysia. It will be interesting to see whether the decision of Indonesia to formally submit a proposal for the uplisting of *Gonystylus* spp to Appendix II of CITES, and the possible proposal to list *Intsia palembanica* (merbau) in one of the CITES appendices, will contribute to this end.

Reported by Amha bin Buang, ITTO Secretariat

CITES update: ramin listed on Appendix II

As this edition went to press, the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) agreed to include ramin on CITES Appendix II. The listing proposal submitted by the Government of Indonesia forms the basis for the listing, which includes all species in the *Gonostylus* genus, and all products of ramin wood. The COP was meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 2–14 October 2004. For more information see www.cites.org

Certification effects

The effects of forest certification in developing countries and emerging economies: a symposium

10–14 June 2004
New Haven, Connecticut, USA

This collaborative symposium organised by the Yale Program on Forest Certification in collaboration with a range of partners, including ITTO, explored the social, ecological and economic effects of forest certification in developing and transitioning societies.

Over 100 experts from 36 countries attended to hear results from 16 country-level case-studies in four regions (Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa), followed by an analysis by two commentators and an open discussion. The event drew a diverse group including practitioners, donor-agency representatives, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the academic community and the private sector. The presentations provided a valuable opportunity to compare the forest certification experiences of different countries and regions and to identify areas for further research.

To complement case-study presentations, an NGO, Forests Trends, organised a panel on crosscutting themes that discussed local land rights, traditional land-use, local economies, and governance.

Following the symposium, the case-study researchers, editors and commentators participated in a two-day workshop to revise the case-studies and incorporate comments received throughout the symposium. Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Press intends to publish a book presenting the case-studies as well as regional and overarching themes.

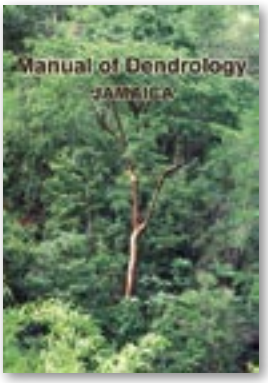
For more information, including presentations and the texts of many of the case-studies, go to the symposium's website, www.yale.edu/forestcertification/symposium

Recent editions

Edited by Alastair Sarre

Parker, T. 2003.* Manual of dendrology. Jamaica. *Jamaican Forestry Department, Jamaica, West Indies. ISBN 976 610 504 9.

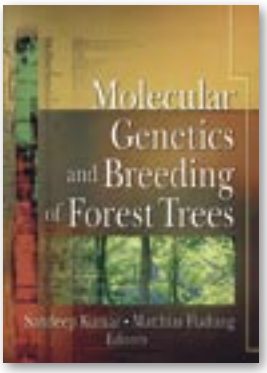
Available from: *Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, 173 Constant Spring Road, Kingston 8, Jamaica; Tel 876–924 2667; Fax 876–924 2626; forestrydepartment@forestry.gov.jm*



The purpose of this very nicely produced manual is to provide an easy-to-use guide to Jamaica's native trees. It is designed to benefit foresters during inventories and fieldwork, ecologists in vegetation and habitat studies, and naturalists and visitors as they travel the countryside. It contains a key for the identification of 150 tree species and a host of high-quality photos.

Kumar, S. & Fladung, M. (eds) 2004.* Molecular genetics and breeding of forest trees. *Food Products Press, New York, USA. ISBN 1 56022 958 6.

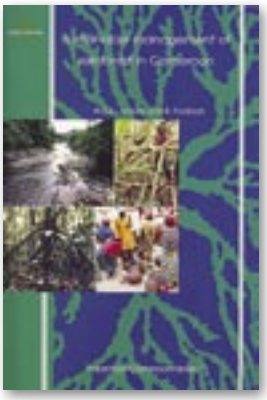
Available from: *Food Products Press, 10 Alice St, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580 USA; orders@haworthpress.com; US$59.95*



The aim of this book is "to integrate tree transgenesis and functional and structural genomics in the context of a unified approach to forest tree molecular biology research for the benefits of students and researchers alike". What does this mean? 'Functional genomics' is the analysis of the roles played by all the genes of an organism, while another term for transgenesis is genetic engineering. The many authors of this book show how genomics is speeding up the science of genetic engineering and how this work could produce significant advances in tree-breeding technology in coming years, with possible benefits in yield and wood quality in plantation trees. Some authors allude to the risks of such work, including possible ecological impacts. The species focused on in the book include poplar, *Pinus* species, aspen, and *Acacia* species.

Jonkers, W. & Foahom, B. 2003.* Sustainable management of rainforest in Cameroon. *Tropenbos-Cameroon Series 9. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands. ISBN 90 5113 071 6.

Available from: *Tropenbos International, PO Box 232, 6700 AE Wageningen, the Netherlands; Tel 31–317–495 500; Fax 31–317–495 520; tropenbos@tropenbos.agro.nl; www.tropenbos.org*



The Tropenbos-Cameroon Programme, which was co-financed by ITTO, commenced in 1992 (and field research ended in 2002). It aimed to develop methods and strategies for natural forest management directed at the sustainable production of timber and other forest products and services. Such methods "had to be ecologically sound, socially acceptable and economically viable". This book synthesises the results of ecological, social and economic research carried out in a forest east of Kribi in southern Cameroon; among other things it proposes a modified logging method, silvicultural treatments and a sustainable timber production level.

Kanmegne, J. 2004.* Slash and burn agriculture in the humid forest zone of southern Cameroon. Soil quality dynamics, improved fallow management and farmers' perception. *Tropenbos-Cameroon Series 8. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands. ISBN 90 5113 071 6.

Available from: *Tropenbos International, PO Box 232, 6700 AE Wageningen, the Netherlands; Tel 31–317–495 500; Fax 31–317–495 520; tropenbos@tropenbos.agro.nl; www.tropenbos.org*

This book presents the author's doctoral thesis, which characterised the traditional slash-and-burn land-uses in forest in southern Cameroon, assessed the major effects of land-use change on soil nutrient stocks, flows and biological quality, and explored alternatives for sustainable land management.

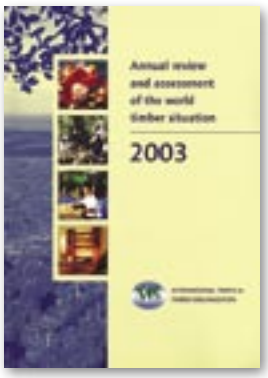
Scherr, S., White, A. & Khare, A. 2004.* For services rendered: the current status and future potential of markets for the ecosystem services provided by tropical forests. *ITTO Technical Series 21. ITTO, Yokohama, Japan. ISBN 4 902045 10 9

Available from: *the Information Officer, ITTO Secretariat, ahadome@itto.or.jp (see page 2 for full contact details)*

This report, which ITTO commissioned from a team at Forest Trends, examines issues surrounding payments for the services rendered by tropical forests. It is the first study of its kind to focus on tropical forests. See *TFU* 14/2 for a detailed summary of the findings.

ITTO 2004*. Annual review and assessment of the world timber situation 2003. *ITTO, Yokohama, Japan. ISBN 4 902045 11 7.

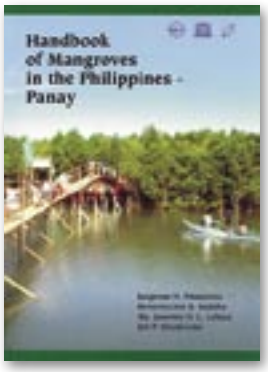
Available from: *the Information Officer, ITTO Secretariat, ahadome@itto.or.jp (see page 2 for full contact details)*



This is the latest in a long-running ITTO series that compiles the most up-to-date and reliable international statistics available on global production and trade of timber, with an emphasis on tropical timber. It also provides information on trends in forest area, forest management and the economies of ITTO member countries. The document is based on information submitted by member countries through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, supplemented by other sources as necessary.

***Primavera, J., Sadaba, R., Lebata, J. & Altamirano, J. 2004*. Handbook of mangroves in the Philippines—Panay. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Aquaculture Department, Iloilo, Philippines.**

Available from: *Sales and Circulation, SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloio 5021, Philippines; Tel 63–33–511 9172; Fax 63–33–511 8709; sales@aqd.seafdec.org.ph; US$20 + postage.*



This handbook provides information on more than 30 species of mangroves on Panay Island and surrounding areas. Beautifully illustrated and nicely produced, it should be a useful guide to the mangroves of the central Philippines for researchers, land managers, schools and the general public. The authors dedicate the book to "present and future generations of Filipinos … so they will learn to respect and appreciate this important ecosystem, and be captivated by its diversity and beauty".

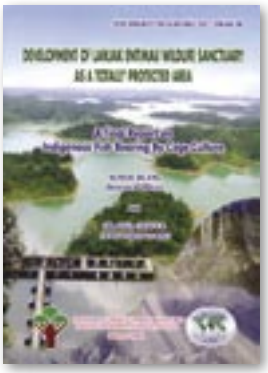
Sánchez, H., Andrés Ulloa, G. & Arsenio Tavera, H. 2004*. Manejo integral de los manglares por comunidades locales: Caribe de Colombia. *An output of ITTO Project PD 60/01 Rev. 1 (F). Ecosystem Directorate of the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development, National Corporation for Forestry Research and Development (CONIF), Bogota, Colombia, and ITTO, Yokohama, Japan. ISBN 958 33 6323 5.

Available from: *the Information Officer, ITTO Secretariat, ahadome@itto.or.jp (see page 2 for full contact details)*

This substantial and well-illustrated volume contains, among other things, detailed descriptions of Colombia's Caribbean mangrove forests and their wildlife, data on the growth dynamics of mangrove species, a primer on mangrove restoration and revegetation, suggestions for the development of integrated plans for mangrove management, and information on efforts to conserve and manage populations of crocodiles in the Bay of Cispata.

Silang, S. & Chai, P. 2004*. Final report on indigenous fish-rearing by cage culture. *Forestry Department, Sarawak, Malaysia and ITTO, Yokohama, Japan.

Available from: *the Information Officer, ITTO Secretariat, ahadome@itto.or.jp (see page 2 for full contact details)*



This short report presents the results of a study on the rearing of three indigenous fish species and one exotic species in the buffer zone of the Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary. Still in its infancy, the production of indigenous fish such as semah, tengadak and mata merah has considerable commercial potential in Sarawak because of the popularity of such fish—and the high prices they fetch—in the marketplace. This study, conducted as part of ITTO PROJECT PD 16/99 REV.2 (F), found that the first two of three indigenous species have the potential to be mass-produced by cage culture and can be recommended to local communities and interested stakeholders. Such potential growers, however, may need assistance in establishing their industries, since the growth rates of the native species are relatively slow and it may take up to five years after start-up before the first fish can be sold in the market. Results for the third of the indigenous species, mata merah, are still pending.

Call for papers on experiences in community-based forest industry

The ITTO Secretariat invites the submission of papers describing experiences in community-based forest industry development in the production of one or more of the following products: i) timber and timber products; ii) non-timber forest products; and iii) forest-related environmental services. It particularly encourages the submission of papers from local communities in tropical countries, and from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working with such communities.

ITTO recognises that the development of a socially responsible, community-based forest industry could play a crucial role in the achievement of sustainable forest management in tropical countries and in reducing poverty in local communities. However, many communities lack the capacity to undertake industrial activities, including product processing and development, business management, marketing and gaining access to financial resources.

To address these problems and to promote socially responsible community-based forest industry, the International Tropical Timber Council approved, at its 36th session in July 2004, a study to identify and review experiences of about 20 community-based forest industries in ITTO producer countries. As part of the study, ITTO hereby invites papers from such communities and from other observers and stakeholders describing their experiences in developing community-based forest industry.

The study will also analyse opportunities for and constraints to the development of community-based forest industry, with a view to developing strategies that ITTO could adopt to assist producer countries in promoting community-based forest industry development in support of the sustainability of the tropical forest sector.

For further information or to submit a paper, contact Dr Hwan Ok Ma in the ITTO Secretariat (ma@itto.or.jp). The deadline for the submission of papers is 31 March 2005.

INRENA gets new chief

Mr Leoncio Álvarez Vásquez became chief of INRENA last May, replacing D. César Álvarez Falcón, who had served in the post since 2003. Mr Álvarez Vásquez is from the region of Ancash and was previously Vice-minister of Fishing in the Ministry of Production.

Reported by Fernando Rios

Sustainable forest management working group agreed in Côte d'Ivoire

Participants at a workshop organised within the framework of ITTO PROJECT PD 124/01 REV. 2 (M) in Abijan, Côte d'Ivoire last July have agreed on the creation of a national working group for sustainable forest management and certification.

The workshop was attended by about 80 people representing a wide range of stakeholders, including government, forest industrialists, forest workers and community leaders. Five stakeholder groups—the forest administration, forest concessionaires, NGOs, local communities and research organisations—will be represented in the working group. It will be a non-profit association comprising a general assembly of 15 members (each group of stakeholders represented by three members), a technical committee of five members (one from each stakeholder group), a president and a technical coordinator. International NGOs and donor agencies will be able to attend working-group meetings as observers.

The objectives of the working group will be: to influence public opinion on the need for conserving the country's natural forests; to promote sustainable forest management and certification; and to develop synergies and partnerships between stakeholders. Some specific activities that would advance work towards these objectives were outlined. Workshop participants also called on donors to support the activities of the working group.

Reported by Parfait Mimbimi Esono

Regional restoration workshop series completed

Participants in a series of six regional workshops believe that ITTO's *Guidelines on the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests* are a valuable resource for explaining the concepts and strategies of forest landscape restoration.

The guidelines were published in 2002 as a policy tool for decision-makers, providing guidance on the approaches that could be taken and the actions that should be considered when embarking on forest landscape restoration.

Reporting on the outcomes of the workshops at the 36th session of the International Tropical Timber Council, Intercooperation's James Gasana said that the aims of the workshop series were to promote an understanding of the guidelines, receive feedback on them, and encourage further regional or country-level initiatives in forest restoration and secondary forest management. He said that participants generally recognised that the guidelines are filling a knowledge gap and were successful in clarifying the concepts and strategies of degraded forest restoration and land rehabilitation. They also recognised that the guidelines could be adapted to the conditions and realities of their own countries and should be incorporated in national forestry programs and action plans.

In collaboration with a range of partners and using feedback from the workshop series as a guide, ITTO is now preparing a handbook that will help practitioners to apply forest landscape restoration in the field. After its publication in 2005, ITTO will convene a series of ten national-level workshops to introduce the handbook to field workers and policymakers in the tropics.

ITTO is also a major sponsor of the forthcoming international workshop on forest landscape restoration, which will be held in Brazil next year (see page 30 for contact details).

Courses

NGO leadership, development and social change

17 January–4 February 2005
Cavite, the Philippines
Cost: US$2500 + US$700

This course enables the leaders and managers of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to develop and refine core competencies strategic to the management of development organisations in an era of rapid globalisation. The course is designed to increase the learner's ability to: describe and critique NGO social-change strategies; review concepts and theories of leadership and allow them to reflect on their own leadership style and behaviour; and identify characteristics of effective leaders and to apply them to existing NGO leaders. The highlight of the course is the simultaneous application of individual and team learning with learners in Bangladesh, Peru and the USA.

The course serves as the gateway or entry course to the Postgraduate Diploma in NGO Leadership and Management in Bangladesh or via on-line course offerings by the Global Partnership Program (www.global-partnership.net). Upon successful completion of the diploma course, a qualified candidate may pursue the Master of International and Intercultural Management degree at the School of International Training.

Contact: *Education and Training Program, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Y.C. James Yen Center, Silang 4118, Cavite, Philippines Tel/Fax 63–46–414 2417; 63–2–886 4385; Education&Training@iirr.org; www.iirr.org*

Participatory monitoring and evaluation

February 28–March 18, 2005
Cavite, the Philippines
Cost: US$2500

This course, which is designed for development-project executives, research study leaders and extension officers who are managing and/or implementing community-based development activities, examines participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) at the community, program and organisational levels. Selected cases are presented and discussed. PM&E concepts and theories and methods, tools and techniques that have been tested and used in the field are shared.

Contact: *Education and Training Program, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Y.C. James Yen Center, Silang 4118, Cavite, Philippines Tel/Fax 63–46–414 2417; 63–2–886 4385; Education&Training@iirr.org; www.iirr.org*

Rural development management

2–20 May 2005
Cavite, the Philippines
Cost: US$2500

This course, which is designed for senior and mid-level development managers, covers development issues, managing sustainable and people-centered development programs, and managing development organisations. It addresses aspects of program and project planning, implementation and evaluation. Participants are introduced to real-life experiences in rural development. The course is built around observations of community-level development efforts in the Philippines.

Contact: *Education and Training Program, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Y.C. James Yen Center, Silang 4118, Cavite, Philippines Tel/Fax 63–46–414 2417; 63–2–886 4385; Education&Training@iirr.org; www.iirr.org*

Gender mainstreaming: from programmatic to organisational transformation

14–25 November 2005
Cavite, the Philippines
Cost: US$2,250

This course will provide mid- and senior-level development professionals with the tools to influence decision-makers within their organisation towards systematic gender mainstreaming. The course builds upon a review of previous and current experiences in gender mainstreaming within the participants' organisations, programs and/or projects. Using a 'gender audit' tool, participants deepen their understanding of previous gender mainstreaming efforts within their own organisation. The audit will give focus to the following dimensions: political will, technical capacity, accountability and organisational culture. Opportunities will be given to go through real-life exercises in preparation for the planned change process to mainstream gender within their own organisations.

Contact: *Education and Training Program, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Y.C. James Yen Center, Silang 4118, Cavite, Philippines Tel/Fax 63–46–414 2417; 63–2–886 4385; Education&Training@iirr.org; www.iirr.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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- Conduct studies that identify best practice for the role of civil-society participation in forest law enforcement (eg assistance with monitoring committees).
- Support national and regional studies and workshops to understand the scope of indigenous and other community forestry, policy and other regulatory barriers, and their relationship to illegal logging and illegal trade.
- Increase project support for community forest enterprises, including technical assistance to help communities understand and comply with national laws, and to develop equitable alliances with the large industry players.

Recommendations for action in the short term

- Conduct an international conference (with associated background studies) on the transportation of timber products, involving representatives of financial institutions, customs, shipping and transport sectors, with a view to identifying weaknesses which have allowed for illegal trade.
- Conduct an international conference on indigenous and other community forestry, forest tenure, policy and other regulatory barriers to management and trade, and their relationships to illegal logging and illegal trade.
- Strengthen and expand the ITTO project window to finance private-sector/civil-society partnerships to advance sustainable and legal forest management and trade.

We appreciate the opportunity to jointly prepare these recommendations, and look forward to other opportunities to provide advice to the Council.

Workshop participants

TAG: ***Barney Chan*** *(workshop co-chair), Sarawak Timber Association (Malaysia);* ***Ivan Tomaselli****, ABIMCI (Brazil);* ***Paul Rasmussen****, DLH (Denmark);* ***Jean-Jacques Landrot****, Interafrican Forest Industry Association (France);* ***Brent McClendon****, International Wood Products Association (USA);* ***Dani Pitoyo****, BRIK/APKINDO (Indonesia);* ***Dick McCarthy****, PNG Forest Industries Association (PNG)*

CSAG: Andy White (workshop co-chair), Forest Trends (USA); **Cleto Ndikumagenge**, IUCN/CEFDHAC (Cameroon); **Chen Hin Keong**, Traffic International (Malaysia); **Yati A. Bun**, Foundation for People and Community Development (PNG); **David Young**, Global Witness (UK); **Alberto Chinchilla**, ACICAFOC (Costa Rica); **Hildebrando Rufner**, COICAP (Peru); **Yam Malla**, Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (Thailand).

Meetings

11–15 October 2004. **Eucalyptus in a Changing World**. Aveiro, Portugal. IUFRO 2.08.03. ***Contact:*** *Nuno Borralho, RAIZ-Instituto de Investigacao da Floresta e Papel, Herdade da Torre Bela, Ap. 15, P-2065 Alcoentre, Portugal; Tel 351–263–480035; Fax 351–234–931359; www.aveiroiufro.com; conference@aveiroiufro.com*

17–22 October 2004. **Towards Better Management Practices in Tropical Humid Forests: Developing Principles and Recommendations for the Amazon Basin**. Belem, Brazil. IUFRO 3.05.00. ***Contact:*** *Plinio Sist, CIRAD-Forêt, Convênio Cirad Forêt EMBRAPA, Projeto Ecosilva, EMBRAPA Amazonia Oriental, Travessa Dr. Eneas Pinheiro, 66095-100 Belem, PA, Brazil; Tel 55–91–299 45; Fax 55–91–276 7939; plinio@cpatu.embrapa.br*

24–29 October 2004. **International Symposium on Wood Sciences**. Montpellier, France. IUFRO 5.00.00. ***Contact:*** *Département Forêts du Cirad, ISWS, TA 10/1673 Rue JF Breton, 34398, Montpellier Cedex 5, France; Fax 33–4–6761 5725; iawa-iaws-symposium@cirad.fr*

1–5 November 2004. **Monitoring the Effectiveness of Biological Conservation.** Vancouver, BC, Canada. ***Contact:*** *John Innes, Professor, Chair of Forest Management, Department of Forest Resources Management, University of British Columbia, Forest Sciences Centre; Tel 1–604–822 6761; innes@interchg.ubc.ca; http://fcsn.bc.ca/conferences/mebc/index.html*

31 October–3 November 2004. **VIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Estudiantes de Ciencias Forestales**. La Molina, Peru. ***Contact:*** *Mariana Ibárcena Escudero (Organizing committee president), Av. La Molina s/n La Molina-Perú; alecif_peru@universia.edu.pe; www.lamolina.edu.pe/eventos/forestales/congresolatforest/*

17–21 November 2004. **International Symposium on Ecological Restoration**. Santa Clara City, Cuba.***Contact:*** *Grecia Montalvo, Empresa Nacional para la Protección de la Flora y la Fauna, Carretera Central km 306, Banda Placetas, Santa Clara, Villa Clara, Cuba Cp: 50 100; Fax 53–42–208430; sisre@ccb.civc.inf.cu* ***or*** *grecia_montalvo@yahoo.es*

17–25 November 2004. **People and Nature: Making a Difference**. 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress. Bangkok, Thailand. ***Contact:*** *Ursula Hiltbrunner, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, 28 rue Mauvernay, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland; Tel 41–22–999 0232; Fax 41–22–999 0020; www.iucn.org; ursula.hiltbrunner@iucn.org*

24–26 November 2004. **Colombia's VIII National Forestry Congress (Congreso forestal nacional)**. Bogota DC, Colombia. ***Contact:*** *Alberto Leguizamo Barbosa, La Asociacion Colombiana de Ingenieros Forestales (ACIF), Calle 14 No 7 - 33 Of. 403, Bogotá DC, Colombia; Tel 57–1–2 81 8215*

22–25 November 2004. **International Conference on Multipurpose Trees in the Tropics: Assessment, Growth and Management**. Jodhpur, India. ***Contact:*** *Dr V.P. Tewari, Organising Secretary; Tel 91–291–272 2588; Fax 91–291–272 2764; vptewari@afri.res.in*

6–17 December 2004. **10th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**. Buenos Aires, Argentina. ***Contact:*** *UNFCCC Secretariat, PO Box 260124, D-53153, Bonn, Germany; Tel 49–228–815 1000; Fax 49–228–815 1999; secretariat@unfccc.int; unfccc.int*

13–18 December 2004. 37th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and 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***

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; Fax 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***

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*

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*

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/*

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*

April 2005. Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation Workshop. Brazil (exact date and location to be advised). 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***

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*

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*

24–26 May 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***

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*

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/*

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*

7–12 November 2005. 39th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and 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*

and trade (national, regional and international), including the extent, nature and impact of illegal logging and illegal trade. The extent and nature of illegal logging cannot be reliably estimated and addressed without better data on all aspects of timber production and trade. ITTO has already invested heavily in the development of statistics and databases, but this has not always led to significantly improved data, accessibility or public confidence in its quality.

- Provide additional support and expand ITTO's existing initiative on trade statistics' discrepancies, with the important change of encouraging collaboration in data collection with other institutions including other national agencies, NGOs and the private sector.
- Support studies on the extent and nature of illegal logging (including roles of and impacts on the informal sector and local communities) at national and regional levels with the input of civil society, the private sector and governments in order to assure balanced and fair representation of the facts.

3 **Encourage transparency, improved access to information and quality of published data.** Increased transparency and access to information are essential for progress in the effort to combat illegal logging and illegal trade. Governments and other stakeholders need to be able to generate and verify data in a transparent and accessible manner. This will include mechanisms for independent third-party monitoring, protocols for data verification and publication of data, and ensuring easy access to information.

- Encourage country-level projects to promote transparency and access to information, in particular regarding concession allocation, mapping, management plans, and revenues from taxes and fines and how they are distributed.
- Support studies to identify best practices in independent third-party monitoring as a tool to combat illegal logging and promote consumer market confidence.
- Ensure that all ITTO projects to develop national-level databases and management information systems include protocols for transparent data collection and verification through multi-stakeholder processes, and guarantee improved transparency and access to information.
- Ensure that all ITTO data on tropical forests, forest products and trade are made publicly available in an easily accessible manner (eg through the web).
- Encourage ITTO to undertake an evaluation of how its data are collected, managed and made public.

4 **Support country efforts to review and/or revise laws and regulations to ensure they are efficient, enforceable and equitable; address underlying governance problems; and improve implementation.** This would involve the revision or harmonisation of laws and regulations through consultative processes, and recognition that any revisions should respect the rights and interests of indigenous and other local communities and the private sector (for example, by avoiding over-regulation).

- Support comparative studies and regional and international workshops to assess relevant laws and regulations (including fiscal, forest tenure, and harvesting rights' policies) with the aim to identify lessons and guidance for potential revisions to legal frameworks. These should link to similar initiatives under way by other international organisations.
- support country-level projects to help governments clarify property rights (eg cadastral systems, mapping, legal recognition, physical demarcation) and processes to mitigate conflicts if/when they arise (eg between concessions, indigenous land and protected areas).

5 **Encourage national, regional and international trade regimes to promote legal trade.** Actors within the financial sector, transport sector, international customs and trade arrangements involved in the financing and trade of forest products need to be involved in the development of constructive solutions to promote legal trade. There is an urgent need to reach outside the forest community to study and align national, regional and international trade mechanisms to ensure that all practices promote the legal trade of forest products.

- Conduct studies and associated workshops between industry, government, civil society and international bodies on the roles of trade regulatory bodies (eg the World Trade Organization) that relate to illegal logging and illegal trade, and the responses that consumer governments may develop to combat illegal trade.
- Conduct studies and associated workshops between industry, government, civil society and international bodies involved in the transportation of timber products (eg financial institutions, customs, shipping, transport), with a view to identifying weaknesses that have allowed illegal trade.
- Conduct studies and associated workshops between industry, government, civil society, the financial sector and international bodies on the linkages between corruption, money-laundering and other associated issues related to the finance sector and illegal logging and illegal trade, to identify actions for governments, financial institutions and other actors.

6 **Promote systems to assess and verify the legality of forest products.** There is a need to encourage the assessment and development of technology and systems—including efforts by industry to improve self-regulation—to enable consumer market confidence and to enhance legitimate trade, and step-by-step approaches towards verifying legality.

- Support audits of existing governmental systems to analyse whether current systems are adequate, how they are being implemented and how chain-of-custody systems can be improved.
- Support the development and adoption of log-tracking systems as a means of verifying legality, recognising that effective log tracking is a necessary step towards certification.
- Support reviews of industry voluntary codes of conduct and agreements between companies and communities in order to foster the development of credible self-regulation and protocols for monitoring.

7 **Promote increased involvement of local communities in forest management and trade.** Recognising that indigenous and other communities are major stakeholders in tropical forests, there is a critical need to include them in decision-making processes, as well as to provide them with technical assistance to implement legal forest management and improve their ability to protect their rights. These steps will promote transparency, reduce the potential for corruption and ensure greater equity.

- Ensure that all ITTO projects and studies related to illegal logging involve meaningful consultation with communities, other members of civil society and the private sector.

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Out on a limb

The International Tropical Timber Council's Civil Society Advisory Group and Trade Advisory Group convened a joint workshop on illegal logging and illegal trade in conjunction with the 36th session of the Council. This is the joint statement issued by the two groups at the conclusion of the workshop

ILLEGAL logging and illegal trade are major concerns of both the ITTO Trade Advisory Group (TAG) and the ITTO Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG). Rightly or wrongly, much of the tropical timber trade is now characterised as illegal. This problem has serious social and environmental impacts, undermines honest industry, discourages investment in responsible forest management, and diminishes forestry's contribution to social and economic development. This is not a new problem, but one that has long plagued the forest sector globally.

For this reason, both TAG and CSAG were very pleased that the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) formally recognised the problem in 2001 and has begun to take steps to address it. We are both appreciative of the invitation by the Council for us to conduct a workshop on illegal logging and illegal trade, which took place on 19–20 July 2004, with the purpose of making specific recommendations to the ITTC and its member states. We are appreciative of the contributions, encouragement and assistance of the Swiss government that made this possible.

To begin, both the TAG and CSAG would like to highlight the following points:

- we recognize that all countries—producer and consumer—have a role and responsibility in helping to eliminate illegal logging and illegal trade;
- we recognise that illegal production and trade is not only an issue of timber, nor an issue only for tropical countries. There are numerous problems in other sectors, and in countries in the temperate zone;
- whilst the workshop and its recommendations focus on illegal logging and illegal trade of timber, the workshop recognised that the issue of legality in the forest sector encompasses a much wider range of issues including workers' rights, wildlife management and trade, gender and child labour, corruption and money laundering as well as issues of conflict timber;
- we recognise that one of the drivers of illegal logging is related to the fact that, in most cases, only timber brings a financial return to forest management, which must also cover the cost of social and other environmental obligations. For this reason, both CSAG and TAG encourage the development of other sources of revenue for forest owners, such as payments for ecosystem services; and
- the workshop recognised that capacity-building remains a critical need, and will be necessary for the implementation of all the following recommendations. In particular, capacity-building needs to be extended to related sectors such as judiciary, transportation and customs, and ITTO should ensure that all of its training support involves relevant staff from member states.

Before presenting our specific recommendations, the chair of TAG and the co-chair of CSAG would like to express our group's appreciation for the personal support of Dr Jürgen Blaser and his team at Intercooperation, Kerstin Canby of Forest Trends who served as the secretary, and Professor Rodolphe Schlaepfer of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, who demonstrated remarkable humour and flexibility in facilitating the workshop.

Specific recommendations

The following recommendations can be addressed by ITTO through its policy work, projects at national, regional and international levels, and activities within the ITTO work program—as well as by independent actions by the ITTO member states themselves. These efforts need to recognise and respect the sovereignty of ITTO members and should be conducted in a manner which fosters the sharing of lessons between governments and other stakeholders.

1 **Most importantly, we urge ITTO and its member states to take an even more aggressive stance in the fight to combat illegal logging and illegal trade.** In particular, we encourage consumer countries to cooperate more actively with customs and enforcement agencies in producer countries to identify and address illegal trade.

2 **Improve basic data and understanding of timber production**

Trading civilities: participants at the TAG/CSAG workshop discuss possible actions to reduce illegal logging and associated trade. *Photo: K. Takahashi*

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