

Community forestry network in China

The Forestry and Society Network, established in 1992, is a nationwide community forestry network in China designed to collect, disseminate and exchange experiences, models and other relevant information on community forestry. Its English-language website is now available at www.cfnetwork.com.cn

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Private-sector experiences on show

The Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia is currently implementing an ITTO project (PD 48/99) designed to facilitate access to and promote the use of data, information and experiences on examples of successful forest management at the forest management unit level. Under the project, a global survey has been conducted and a study of forest concession management undertaken in each of the three tropical regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean). The survey involved both information-gathering through questionnaires and field visits to selected concessions for the compilation of detailed case-studies. The findings of the project will be presented at the *International Conference on Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests: Private-sector Experiences*, to be held 13-15 April 2004 in Kuala Lumpur. Contact details are given on page 30.

Timber yield toolbox

The UK Department for International Development and the Oxford Forestry Institute (OFI) have developed an Excel-based tool for regulating forest timber yield in mixed tropical forest "using minimal data". According to OFI, the tool, called Myrlin (Methods of Yield Regulation with Limited Information), "will be particularly useful for obtaining a reasonable estimate

of a sustainable yield when the only data available is a single inventory". The software is available for free download at www.myrlin.org, or contact Ms Nell Baker, OFI, Department of Plant Sciences, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3RB, UK; Tel 44-1865-724333; nell.baker@ntlworld.com

Colombian forest policy update

The Colombian National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) recently published a policy document (No 3237) with the aim of stimulating commercial reforestation in Colombia. CONPES papers are prepared by teams from both public and private sectors and are tools for the budgeting and implementation of national policies. In recent years such policies have focused on natural forest conservation, but reforestation has recently been receiving more attention. A PDF version of 'Policy to stimulate commercial reforestation in Colombia' (in Spanish) can be downloaded at www.dnp.gov.co/ArchivosWeb/Conpes/3237.pdf.

At the same time, the Colombian government is taking steps to develop a National Competitiveness Agreement aimed at stimulating timber industry development. Currently the forestry sector contributes only 0.2% of gross national product, despite the country's large area of natural forest and considerable potential for reforestation. A draft of the agreement has been released to encourage dialogue on the issue; copies and more information could be obtained from pnhurtado@minambiente.gov.co.

Reported by Antonio Villa Lopera

Peru forest strategy

Another document published recently (September 2003) is Peru's National Forest Development Strategy, 2002-2021. The document has been prepared to encourage rural development and sustainable forest management and to act as a guiding tool for national forest policy. Copies can be downloaded at www.endf.org.pe or obtained from: Eng José Dancé Caballero, Av. Pablo Carriquiry No 315, Lima 27, Peru; endf@endf.org.pe

Fellowships awarded

Twenty-six fellowships worth US\$156 000 were awarded at the 35th Session of International Tropical Timber Council in November 2003. Awardees were:

Ms Michele Geovana Pontin (Brazil), to undertake a masters program in wood science; **Mr Sérgio de Mattos Fonseca** (Brazil), to undertake a postgraduate program in environmental science; **Mr Clair René Banga** (Cameroon), to undertake a masters program in techniques and methods of environmental information management; **Mr Appolinaire Nankam** (Cameroon), to undertake the same masters program as Mr Banga; **Mr Benjamin Ndzelen Serkfem** (Cameroon), to undertake a masters program in environment and development education; **Ms Xiaohui Wang** (China), to attend a short course on forest management; **Ms Mónica Concepción Salazar Oviedo** (Colombia), to undertake a masters program in tropical agroforestry; **Mr Hamleth Valois Cuesta** (Colombia), to undertake a course in tropical dendrology; **Mr Jean-Pierre Kampé** (Congo), to do a masters degree in natural science and agronomy; **Mr Samuel Asirifi Boateng** (Ghana), to do a training course on forest productivity; **Mr Ernest Gordon Foli** (Ghana), to conduct PhD research on silvicultural interventions in tropical moist forest in Ghana; **Dr Raquel Simone Thomas** (Guyana), to attend a short training course on project management; **Dr M. Sujatha** (India), to attend a short training course on land degradation and sustainable rural livelihoods; **Dr Kulvia Singh Bangarwa** (India), to participate in the 1st World Congress of Agroforestry; **Mr Eddy Nurtjahya** (Indonesia), to conduct PhD research on the revegetation of tin-mined land using mixed local tree species on Bangka Island; **Ms Enny Widayati** (Indonesia), to conduct PhD research on sulphur phytoremediation using pulp sludge and plant-microbe interactions to accelerate the revegetation of coal-mined land; **Mr Maung Maung Than** (Myanmar), to conduct PhD research on plant ecology in a restored mangrove ecosystem; **Mr Shiva Kumar Wagle** (Nepal), to conduct masters research on people's perceptions of integrated resource conservation; **Mr Bhim Nath Acharya** (Nepal), to undertake masters research on markets for timber and non-timber products from community-managed forests; **Mr Ramón José Chiari López** (Panama), to undertake work on a masters thesis on forest harvest planning in plantation forests; **Mr Michael Taketo Jonathan** (Papua New Guinea), to attend a short course on managing conflict in community-based forestry; **Mr Moisés Pascual Acevedo Mallque** (Peru), to prepare a document systematising information on 100 Peruvian timbers; **Ms Myralyn Aguda Abasolo** (Philippines), to prepare a masters thesis in plant genetic resources conservation and management; **Dr Kudzo Atsu Guelly** (Togo), to prepare a document on the geographic distribution and domestication of the timber species *Pentadesma butyracea*; **Mr Kossi Adjossou** (Togo), to prepare documents for a study on biodiversity conservation in riparian forests in Togo; and **Ms Osmayra Zoraida Araque** (Venezuela), to prepare a masters thesis on the anatomy of a family of lianas and its implications for forest management.