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Joint forest management growing

According to a pamphlet published in 2002 by the Joint Forest Management Monitoring Cell of India's Ministry of Environment and Forests, India boasts 14.1 million hectares of forest under joint forest management (JFM), most of which has come about in the last 15 years. The pamphlet defines JFM as a forest management strategy under which government and village communities enter into an agreement to jointly protect and manage forestland adjoining villages and to share responsibilities and benefits. The village community is represented through an institution formed specifically for the purpose; this institution is known by different names in different states but is most commonly referred to as the Forest Protection Committee (FPC). States with the most land under JFM are Madhya Pradesh (4.3 million hectares), Chattisgarh (2.8 million hectares) and Andhra Pradesh (1.7 million hectares).

For copies of the pamphlet contact: Winrock International India, 7 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057, India; Fax 91-11-641 6004; rupfor@winrock.ernet.in; www.winrockindia.org

Canada led world growth in forest certification in 2003

According to Forest Certification Watch's 2003 Year in Review, certified forest areas worldwide grew by 31% in 2003 to reach 173 million hectares (427 million acres), mainly due to a doubling of certified lands in Canada, which reached 56 million hectares. The three dominant North American forest certification programs—Forest Stewardship Council, Canadian Standards Association and Sustainable Forestry Initiative—all contributed significantly to the Canadian surge in certified areas.

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Megawati launches national forest and land rehabilitation campaign

According to Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri, there is plenty of talk about combating crimes in Indonesia's forestry sector, but little to show in terms of actual results. "Ways to combat forest crimes have only become topics of discussions," she said. "Forest crimes cannot occur without the knowledge of the people and cooperation among certain parties. I thus ask all Indonesians to maintain our forests."

President Megawati was speaking at a ceremony to launch Indonesia's National Forest and Land Rehabilitation Movement in Gunung Kidul district, Yogyakarta last January. Gunung Kidul was chosen as the venue for the launch of the regreening campaign because of its success in turning barren areas into arable land.

During the ceremony, President Megawati and about 100 local people planted teak seedlings in the village of Karang Duwet. Megawati expressed hope that the campaign would improve the people's welfare and reduce environmental destruction.

The National Forest and Land Rehabilitation Movement is designed to rehabilitate a total of 3 million hectares of forests and lands by 2007. The government has allocated a budget of Rp1.26 trillion (about US\$150 million) to the program, which will focus on re-greening at least 29 river basin areas in 15 provinces. To many environmental organisations, however,

the rehabilitation program would be more useful if it is regarded as a complement to the halting of natural-forest destruction.

Sources: Kompas, Antara News Agency, Laksamana.Net; reported by Budhita Kismadi

Peru's congress distributes revenues

The Peruvian Congress enacted a law last December to allow the distribution of revenues generated from illegal timber confiscated by the country's National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA). INRENA will receive 30%, Fondebosque 20%, the Program of Registration of Lands and Rural Census (PETR) 10% and the National Commission of Andean and Amazonian Towns (CONAPA) 5%. The regional government in whose jurisdiction the forest resource was extracted will receive 20% of revenues and the local district government will receive 15%. Each recipient institution will be required to use the funds for programs linked with sustainable forest management; for example, local and regional governments will invest their proceeds in projects linked to environmental conservation and the development of ecotourism.

In another development, the governments of Peru and Brazil have signed a protocol under which they will cooperate on the implementation of projects, training and technology and knowledge transfer aimed at creating a control system for forest fires in Peru. As part of the protocol, Brazil will send a specialist to assess the current status of Peru's forest fire warning, monitoring and control systems, assign specialists to assist in the training of Peruvian technicians, and provide background materials to assist in the training. The two countries will share the costs of implementing the protocol.

Reported by Mauro Rios

ITTO launches new website

ITTO recently launched a newly designed website. The new site contains detailed information on ITTO's program of work, as well as downloadable *TFU* articles, a large library of reports, news releases and other resources, and more. Intuitive navigation along with keyword searching in English, French and Spanish make finding information easy. The site is updated regularly, with recent updates and upcoming events featured on the home page. Bookmark www.itto.or.jp today!