

## Toolkit for phased approach to certification

ProForest recently published what it calls the Modular Implementation and Verification (MIV) Toolkit. According to ProForest, the toolkit is a practical tool for the phased or stepwise implementation of forest management standards and certification, providing a set of predetermined modules which, like the standards themselves, cover legal, technical, environmental and social issues. Each of the modules covers a topic or issue such as management planning, health and safety and conservation and all the modules together cover all the requirements of the standard. Through these modules, says ProForest, the MIV Toolkit provides the basis for a consistent and credible phased approach to certification.

Copies of the MIV Toolkit can be downloaded free of charge from [www.ProForest.net](http://www.ProForest.net).

## RIL software available

RILSIM, the 'Reduced-Impact Logging SIMulator', is financial modelling software designed to permit users to estimate the cost and net revenue associated with logging operations so that they can compare the short-term financial costs and returns expected from reduced impact logging (RIL) with those expected from conventional logging under identical local site conditions. The purpose of the software is to help users learn about RIL and its potential financial advantages as compared to conventional logging. RILSIM is available free of charge: while supplies last, a CD-ROM with a printed user's guide can be obtained from Tan and Associates (4/20 Vongsdhavi Gardens, Samakee Road, Nontaburi 11120, Thailand, [tlc@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:tlc@loxinfo.co.th)), the distributor, or from Thomas Enters ([Thomas.Enters@fao.org](mailto:Thomas.Enters@fao.org)) at the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand; in either case please provide your complete mailing address. The software can also be downloaded from <http://blueoxforestry.com/RILSIM/rilsim-download.htm>.

## Plantations on show

A recent edition of *Bois & Forêts des Tropiques* contains articles on various plantations in the tropics, including teak in Tanzania, *Eucalyptus* in Congo, *Khaya senegalensis* in Benin and *Gmelina arborea* in Costa Rica. The journal can be subscribed to (at a cost of €85.85/year) by contacting: Lavoisier abonnements, 14, rue de Provigny, 94236 Cachan Cedex, France; [abo@lavoisier.fr](mailto:abo@lavoisier.fr); [www.lavoisier.fr](http://www.lavoisier.fr)

## Forest resource accounting

The latest edition of *c&i India Update* (Vol 2, No 1, October 2003), an output of ITTO PROJECT PD 8/99 (F), contains articles on forest resource accounting by Madhu Verma, Katar Singh, P.C. Kotwal, Narvin Horo and Kirin Mali. The newsletter is part of the project's strategy to facilitate debate on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (C&I) in India and to make progress in their implementation. The project's two key objectives are: to develop and operationalise a functioning system of C&I, with

community participation, through refinement of the Bhopal-India Process for Sustainable Forest Management following the guidelines contained in the ITTO C&I; and to establish institutional capability for implementing C&I.

For a free subscription to *c&i India Update* contact: IIFM-ITTO Project Cell, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal 462003, India; Tel 91-755-277 5716; Fax 91-755-277 2878; [www.iifm.org/sfmindia](http://www.iifm.org/sfmindia); [itto@iifm.org](mailto:itto@iifm.org)

## New appointments in Gabon

In February 2004 Mr Michel Mbomoh Upiangu was appointed Gabon's Secretary-General in the Ministry in Charge of Forests. Mr Mbomoh Upiangu had previously served as Regional Coordinator of the Environmental Information Development Association and Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry in Charge of Forests. He replaces Mr. Jean-Boniface Memvie, who retired recently. In addition, Mr Paul Koumba Zaou was appointed General Inspector in the ministry; previously he was a technical adviser to the Minister. Ms Célestine Ntsame Okwo was appointed technical adviser in charge of international cooperation.

## Another kind of teak

*Tectona grandis* is the teak species with which most of us are familiar. However, Professor Anacleto M. Caringal is urging protection for a much lesser known species, *T. philippensis*, which is endemic to southern Batangas in the Philippines. He reports that this species, once used in the construction of the giant treasure-ship galleons that plied the Manila-Acapulco route during the 1700s and 1800s, is now listed as endangered by IUCN and that there may be as few as 4300 specimens in the wild. Recognising this and partly as a result of the awareness-raising efforts by Professor Caringal and his colleagues in the Philippine Teak Tree Conservation Project, the local government in Batangas has just passed legislation designed to protect the habitat of this important species.

Professor Caringal would like to hear from people interested in the conservation of this species; write to him c/o the Faculty of Tropical Forestry, College of Agriculture, Batangas State University, Masaguait, Lobo Batangas 4229, the Philippines; [prince\\_tectona@yahoo.com](mailto:prince_tectona@yahoo.com)

## Splitters

Writing in the January 2004 edition of *NFT News* (a newsletter on the improvement and culture of nitrogen-fixing trees), Turnbull reports on an imminent division of the present *Acacia* genus into at least five genera. According to Dr Turnbull, there are about 1350 species of *Acacia* distributed throughout the world in tropical and warm-temperate countries. The details of the split are still being debated, with some botanists proposing that the largest subgenus *Phyllodineae* (960 species, including *A. mangium*, *A. auriculiformis* and *A. mearnsii*) take on the *Acacia* genus name to minimise the number of species for which renaming would need to occur.

## Expo in Mexico

Mexico, which recently became a member of ITTO, is hosting its annual Forestry Expo in Guadalajara on 1-4 July 2004. The Expo, which is being organised by the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), aims to enable the exchange of experiences, information, knowledge and forestry technology within Mexico and between Mexico and other countries. It is part of CONAFOR's strategy to promote sustainable forest development as the fundamental objective of Mexico's new forest policies. See page 30 for contact details.