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of the United Nations

Forest Harvesting Bulletin

Promoting Environmentally Sound Forest Practices Worldwide

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Logs waiting to be transported out of the forest

FAO



Erosion caused by poor road construction

A. Whiteman

Targeting illegal logging

FAO/ITTO review of best practices to improve forest law compliance

Elisa Peters and Eva Muller

Over the last few years, illegal logging and associated illegal timber trade have become the focus of much attention, both in the private and public sectors. The wide range of illegal forestry operations is now well documented and the complex socio-economic causes of forest crime have been extensively analysed.

The term illegal logging is used to refer to timber harvesting related activities that are in violation of national laws. Illegal and corrupt activities in the forest sector can span the entire industry from wood harvesting and transport, to industrial processing and trade. Illegal cutting includes logging inside protected areas or outside concession areas. Logging within allocated concessions can be illegal if it does not conform to the law. For example, cutting restricted species, over the allowable limit, or before the concession or licence is active, constitutes an illegal act.

Other types of illegal activities include under-reporting the amount cut, false reporting of the species harvested to avoid higher taxes and the poaching of wildlife in areas opened up by timber harvesting. Corruption can occur at many levels, from the issuance of licences and concessions to local law enforcement.

Increased awareness of the magnitude and global implications of illegal activities in the forest sector have

triggered various initiatives to control them in industrialized as well as developing countries.

FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) have joined efforts to compile, analyse and illustrate – through examples of current best practices – the concrete steps that are being taken by governments, the private sector and civil society to restore the rule of law in the forest sector today.

FAO and ITTO have specific work programmes on forest law enforcement and built on their respective experiences to compile the “Best Practices”, from case studies in Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ecuador, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Peru, as well as experiences in other countries and ongoing international initiatives. These countries have all tried with different degrees of success, to implement practices to curb illegalities in the forest sector.

The “Best Practices for Improving Law Compliance in the Forest Sector”, which will be published in September 2005, takes stock of the knowledge and experience gained at the country level, provides a critical overview of best practices and presents guidelines for good governance in the forest sector. It is addressed primarily to decision makers in the forest sector and more particularly to heads of national forest administrations, forest policy analysts,

advisers and mid-level forestry officials. It is also expected that it will serve as basic material for the training of officials of interested countries in order to provide current and future public sector decision-makers with a broad framework for planning and implementing actions to improve legality in the forest sector.

The "Best Practices" document shows that several developing countries are in the process of rationalizing their legal and policy framework, building institutional capacity to foster better law compliance and gathering additional data and up-to-date information about their forest resources and the extent and nature of illegal operations.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector are also important actors in improving law compliance in the forest sector. NGOs can act as watchdogs, gathering evidence on, analysing and exposing illegal operations. Several governments have established partnerships with independent NGOs in an effort to better enforce the law. Forest certification, voluntary corporate codes of conduct, independent monitoring of forest operations and log tracking are examples of initiatives involving the private sector that have proven useful in fighting forest crime.

Those are however, only some of the many examples of what can be done to foster better law compliance in the forest sector. In order to be successful, actions must be integrated into a long term, comprehensive, coherent and step-by-step strategy to prevent, detect and suppress forest crime. A wide range of policy, legal, institutional and technical measures must be put in place in order to discourage illegal activities and facilitate legal behaviour.

The effectiveness of the proposed measures and thus, the usefulness of the "Best Practices" are dependent on the political will of governments to improve forest law compliance. Even well designed initiatives will fail unless there is political commitment at the highest level to address corruption and lack of transparency. There is no easy fix for these fundamental socio-economic problems and the forestry sector may only be able to have a limited impact as the solutions may, to a great extent, lie in other sectors.

Improved inter-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder involvement to address underlying socio-economic and cultural factors are also required. Forest law enforcement and governance should not be dealt with solely through national forest and development programmes, but in collaboration with other sectors, and where possible, within existing mechanisms.

Strategies to address illegal forest activities need to take into consideration the complexity of these acts as well as their underlying causes. Conditions will vary significantly from country to country. Thus, it is not possible to design detailed policy, legal and institutional schemes of general application, or "magic bullets" that, used in the right way, would inexorably lead to better law compliance. The main recommendations of the "Best Practices" document presents general strategic options for action. These will need to be adapted and tailored to the specific context of each country.

The FAO Forest Harvesting Bulletin

This bulletin is produced annually for distribution to about 5000 individuals, field projects, institutions and organizations interested in environmentally sound forest harvesting and transport, especially in developing countries and in countries undergoing the transition to market economies. The *Bulletin* forms part of the networking and technology transfer activities of the **Forest Products Service** of FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Persons involved in the production of the *Forest Harvesting Bulletin*:

Forestry Officer	Simone Rose
Forestry Officer	Joachim Lorbach

Correspondence and Submissions

Requests for information, to be added to the mailing list for the *Bulletin* and letters or short contributions in English, French, or Spanish to be considered for publication should be sent to:

Forest Products Service (FOPP)
Forest Products and Economics Division, FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Email: Forest-Harvesting@fao.org
Telephone: +39 06 570 52071
Facsimile: +39 06 570 55137
Internet: www.fao.org/forestry

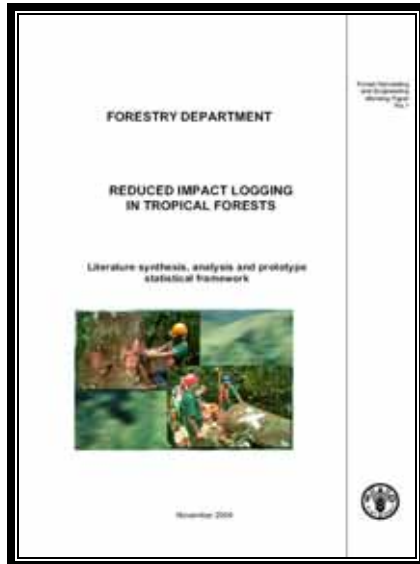
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Eva Muller is the Chief of FAO's Forest Policy and Institutions Service and Elisa Peters is a consultant.

Reduced impact logging in tropical forests: literature synthesis, analysis and prototype statistical framework

FAO Forest Harvesting and Engineering Working Paper 1



There has been an increasing interest in reduced impact logging (RIL), particularly in tropical forests over the last decade. A number of developments have led to the concept of RIL: a political focus on sustainable development at the highest levels, a general consensus about the necessity to manage forests more sustainably, and recognition that better technology is now available to monitor harvesting practices and forest conditions.

There is a general desire to reduce negative environmental impacts all the way down to the operational level. It is also generally recognized that many conventional logging systems will not continue to produce sustainable yields of the same volume

Forest harvesting case study 20

In order to contribute to sustainable rural development practices by improving forest practices among non-industrial private forest owners, two studies were conducted in Solčava, a rural community in Northern Slovenia to encourage technological development in timber harvesting/processing and wood utilization. These were:

- A study of the significance of timber harvesting/processing and wood utilization, the core of which was a survey carried out among forest owners owning more than 5 ha of forests; and
- A study of the developmental incentives among owners by means of two workshops with forest owners and foresters.

The survey covered 58 households that own 82 percent of the private forests in Solčava. The questionnaire comprised 120 questions that analysed present

and/or quality of timber, particularly in non-coniferous tropical forests (NCTF). For these reasons governments are now imposing stricter regulations on forest harvesting and wood markets, and demanding more responsible harvesting practices. The demand for certified wood products has continued to grow. Given the political and market demand for change, the nature of RIL needs to be more clearly defined.

The present Working Paper No. 1 of the Forest Products Service has been prepared, based on a review of articles dealing with logging intensities, logging cycles and waste, residual stand and site damage and the economics of forest operations. It contains over 300 entries and attempts to address the following questions: What have harvesting studies been telling us and, perhaps even more important, what have these studies not told us? What should researchers do to continue promoting or not promoting RIL? Finally, is RIL costly or does it pay?

In Appendix 1 of the Working Paper, a variety of definitions of RIL terminology are collected. Appendix 2 includes tabular summaries on location, descriptive information, logging intensity and cycle, residual density and utilization, site damage, economic aspects and the source of the information. A summary of each report reviewed can be found in Appendix 3.

There are still considerable data deficiencies with regard to planning and inventory, and there is a substantive lack of standardization in data collection. Therefore, readers are invited to send their inputs to Forest-Harvesting@fao.org. It is hoped that this study will contribute to the ongoing worldwide dialogue on reduced impact logging.

For copies of this publication, please contact Simone Rose at Forest-Harvesting@fao.org

conditions and future expectations in the households, forests belonging to households, work performance in timber harvesting, use of wood biomass for energy, machinery and equipment, accessibility of the forest, work qualifications and occupational safety, timber sales as well as information and cooperation with other forest owners.

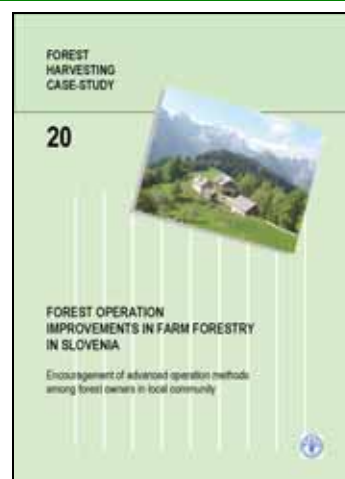
By comparing advantages and obstacles in areas of equipment, qualification and integration of forest owners, the priorities for encouraging technological development which should alleviate the trend in declining economic significance of forestry and at the same time ensure environmental protection – were identified.

Expert meetings were organized where an assessment of development options related to forest operations served as a link between the survey and workshops. The workshops themselves were organized on the

principle of full participation aimed at the forest owners who have a clear vision and sufficient courage to assume a leading role in this sector within the study area.

Group procedures, conducted among Solčava's forest owners, were a new and valuable lesson for all participants. First results indicate that large blunders or resentment did not occur, whereas to exult in possible success is still premature. Interest groups were formed, the principal actors are known and what follows this is the realization of technological initiatives, which are close to owners and should lead to sustainable utilization of forests and a holistic development.

The case study proved to be a highly enlightening lesson for all those who will be involved in similar endeavours, not necessarily due to the precise quantity, but due to the complexity of approach, selection and application of methods.



Copies of this case study will be available later this year. For more information contact Forest-Harvesting@fao.org.

Forest operation improvements in farm forests

The Workshop on Forest Operation Improvements in Farm Forests was held from 9 - 14 September 2003 at Hotel Plesnik in Logarska dolina (Valley of Logarska), Slovenia, at the invitation of the Government of Slovenia, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training and with the cooperation of IUFRO.

The workshop provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and share information on the state of the art of knowledge for the improvements of forest operations in farm forests considering in particular cost efficiency of operations, environmental impacts, the social dimension in terms of employment and income as well as contribution to rural development.

Issues on sustainable forest operations and improved utilization using existing low-cost farm equipment were discussed. New approaches in the field of farmers' cooperation with industrial forestry, wood processing industry, and wood-based energy sector as well as with the contractor's sector were also examined.

Special attention was paid in particular to the reduction of environmental impacts and waste, the assessment of the importance of forest operations in supporting agriculture based farming activities, farmers' partnership in the field of forest operations and the role of wood processing and its marketing.

The workshop also dealt with issues relating to workers health and safety standards in farm forest operations, accident prevention, vocational training and on the job training, use of contract workers, work organization and control as well as post harvest assessments.

The workshop was aimed at all persons involved in forestry, in particular in developing, planning and executing forest operations and management, as well as in teaching, training and extension work and in administrative and policy advisory services.

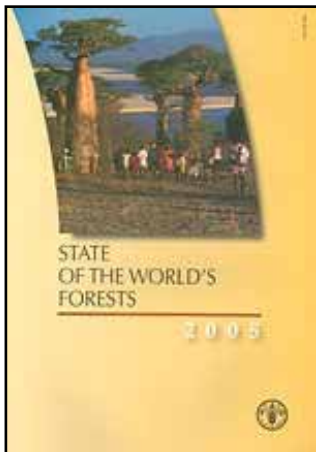
This publication contains the papers submitted at the workshop and is preceded by the Report on the Workshop that was adopted at its conclusion.

Several specific conclusions and recommendations were made in the Workshop Report to the joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, member countries, forest research institutes and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).



For copies of this publication, please contact Forest-Harvesting@fao.org.

State of the world's forests 2005



State of the World's Forests – now in its sixth edition – presents a global picture of the forest sector, providing the latest information on activities and developments.

The theme of the 2005 edition – “*realizing the economic benefits from forests*” – recognizes that the

economic viability of the forest sector is a prerequisite to safeguarding the environmental, social and cultural functions of the resource.

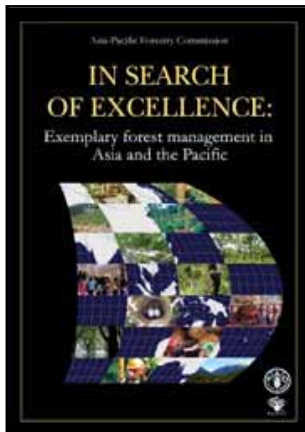
Part I covers topics related to forest resources; the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests; the institutional framework; and the international forest policy dialogue.

Part II focuses on five issues in greater detail: the challenges and opportunities associated with enhancing the economic benefits from forests; experiences and lessons learned with regard to realizing the economic benefits from agro-forestry; the economics of wood energy; ways in which tariffs and non-tariff measures affect trade in forest products; and the reasons many violent conflicts occur in forested regions, noting how forests can help in the transition to peace.

Copies in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish. may be downloaded from the FAO Forestry website <http://www.fao.org/forestry/index.jsp>.

In search of excellence: Exemplary forest management in Asia and the Pacific

This publication reflects the outcome of an ambitious initiative to identify instances of exemplary forest management in the region and examine the core components of high quality forest management in an effort to illustrate good forest management to a wide audience and encourage others to take up some of the most promising ideas, methods and approaches. More than 170 nominations were received from 21 countries in the region.



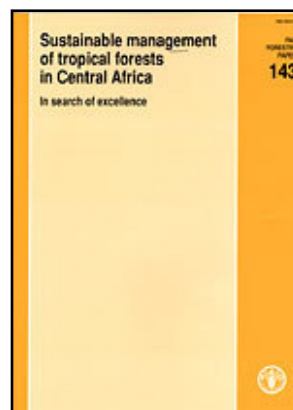
Twenty-eight case studies were selected. Each tells a compelling story of innovations in meeting management challenges and of initiatives that might provide learning experiences for other forest managers.

The book shatters the myth that there is no positive forestry being practiced in the region and celebrates the triumphs of forest managers, farmers and local communities in balancing the range of socio-economic and environmental demands made on forests. In doing so, it reveals monumental accounts of innovation, perseverance and dedication from across the region – stories that should inspire and motivate others to redouble their efforts to protect and manage effectively the region's spectacular forests.

For copies of this report Patrick.Durst@fao.org

Sustainable management of tropical forests in Central Africa: In search of excellence

FAO Forestry Paper 143



To highlight the numerous efforts undertaken in forest management in Central Africa within the past 20 years, FAO, within the framework of the FAO - Netherlands Partnership Programme and in close collaboration with regional and international organizations, launched an initiative entitled “In search of excellence” to identify and document

successful examples of sustainable management of Central African forests.

Using an open, transparent and participatory approach, 24 nominations originating from nine countries were obtained. This document describes these forests and contains in-depth analyses in the form of 14 case studies. The management practices identified demonstrate the evolution of the forest sector in Central Africa.

It is hoped that this compilation of information will constitute a source of inspiration for the actors in the forest sector and will lead to more widespread application of improved forest management practices which include all aspects of sustainable development.

Copies of this document are available at http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/006/y4853e/y4853e00.htm

News from the field

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

From 31 January – 3 February 2005, FAO and the Lao Department of Forestry organized the first Tri-Partite Review (TPR) and Regional Project Advisory Committee (RPAC) Meeting of the project in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The meeting was followed by a field trip to a test and demonstration site in Khammouane Province. While the TPR involves traditionally only representatives of the donor, project countries and FAO, the RPAC meeting opened its doors to everybody with an interest in sustainable forest management.

Efforts in improving forest harvesting continue to attract considerable interest and a variety of organizations sent representatives to present, listen and discuss. The Tropical Forest Foundation, the Sarawak Timber Association, the Tropical Forest Trust, the Indochina Office of the Worldwide Fund for Nature and the Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development Project were all represented and greatly enhanced the sharing of experiences, especially the ones not directly related to the project.

All the presenters convinced the audience that progress towards achieving sustainable forest management in Asia is being made. At the same time, the consensus remains that achievements come about only slowly and that some steps forward are unfortunately followed by some steps backward. The meeting was organized very well and the field trip provided valuable insights into the challenges forest management is facing not only in Lao PDR but throughout the Asia-Pacific region.



Hands on training: receiving the last instructions

The demand for training in the use of RILSIM is also on the rise. A number of training courses throughout the region are planned for 2005. The first one was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, on 28 February and 1 March 2005. Twenty-three participants from various government institutions, harvesting companies, the Tropical Forest Trust and the Indochina Office of the Worldwide Fund for Nature attended the training course that was jointly conducted by Gary Man of the USDA Forest Service and the Thomas Enters of FAO's Regional Office. The course was financially supported by the Government of Viet Nam and the USDA Forest Service.

For more information please contact Patrick.Durst@fao.org

LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Within the framework of the DFID Trust Fund Project Strengthening Participatory Approaches in Ghana, Guyana & Uganda, two small pilot studies were commissioned in Guyana to address the socio-economic issues of chainsaw and mobile sawmill lumber production.

Both small-scale chainsaw sawmills and mobile sawmills have become extremely important in the wood processing industry in Guyana. In the case of mobile sawmills, the study found that the lower capital investment, coupled with the higher productivity and efficiency rates were making mobile sawmills quite popular with the local industry.

Chainsaw logging was found to be a major contributor to the national lumber production and royalty revenue and a major source of employment for dependent communities. The low recovery rates are still a cause for concern and identified as an area where improvement is required.

For more information contact Claus.Eckelmann@fao.org

HEADQUARTERS

Environmental impact assessments

A new publication on the application of environmental assessment in forestry is under preparation. It will complement existing publications by FAO on assessing environmental impacts of forestry activities and will present updated information in light of recent developments and perceptions about environmental and social values of forests.

It will take account of recent progress in the field of environmental assessment and the application of environmental impact assessment tools in forestry, and will place the relevance of these tools in the context of sustainable forest management, also vis-à-vis other instruments which have been developed since Rio.

The document will be aimed particularly at middle-to-high level forest managers in developing countries. By disseminating this information, FAO also expects to increase the knowledge of forestry professionals and natural resource managers in general, on the close links between sustainable forest management and impact assessment and mitigation.

A case study on the integration of environmental assessment (EA) in forest management is being carried out in Cameroon. The objectives of the study are to analyse the situation of EA, and study examples of application and the problems facing different actors (the promoters/private sector, authorising and monitoring agencies, and civil society) and suggest an approach to EA in forestry integrated with the other tools of SFM.

For more information, please contact Laura.Russo@fao.org

Chainsaw logging – a challenge for sustainable forest management

Indiscriminate logging of forests can result in loss of livelihood opportunities – especially with regard to forest-dwelling and forest-fringe communities – and the environmental services that the forests provide. Attempts to address the concerns related to chainsawing require a critical assessment of the issues at the forest resource base, primarily access to the raw material for chainsawing in addition to the market conditions that make such an activity an attractive business.

The FAO review of chainsaw logging in Ghana sought to highlight positive and negative impacts of this practice and the approaches of policy makers to dealing with the issue. The report examines the past actions or inactions that have encouraged illegal timber harvesting activities as well as the capacity of the Forestry Commission (FC) to deal with them.

Law enforcement and governance play important roles in the control of illegal forest activities; hence, the various elements of governance in practice in Ghana have been reviewed in order to determine how chainsawing can be minimized and how transparency, accountability, civil society participation, law enforcement, and the tracking of chain sawn lumber improved.



Brisk trade in chainsaw lumber

Inglis

The cumbersome nature of the allocation of the timber utilization permits for the provision of lumber to the local communities and the impracticality of its implementation are also highlighted. The study describes the factors affecting the future sustainability of the trees both off-reserves and on-farm, which form a very significant part of the raw material base for the timber industry. Policy interventions are traced from 1991, when chainsawing was legalized in Ghana, to 1998, when it was banned. The effectiveness of the policy responses thereafter is analysed. The characteristics of the local lumber market and the role played by chain sawn lumber are discussed.

Among its findings, the study highlights the fact that about 60 to 80 percent of the chainsaws used in chainsawing belong to lumber dealers located far from the source of the timber. Hence, focusing on the operators alone with regard to alternative livelihood schemes would not be effective as the dealers would find other means to

reconnect the chain. Measures to make the trade in chainsawn lumber less profitable, so affecting all categories of ownership, e.g. through the payment of the real prices for logs to the farmers and the payment of the appropriate forest fees, may be more effective.

The use of task forces to monitor the activities of chainsaw loggers and attempts to increase the lumber supply to the local market through the supply of 20 percent of the output of the sawmills are two strategies currently in place to control chainsaw logging. However, 20 percent of the output of the sawmills is inadequate to meet the estimated local demand for lumber. Therefore, more innovative measures are required to encourage the sale of more lumber on the local market. The estimated lumber demand of the furniture and construction industry is more than 95 percent of the total local lumber demand. Chainsawn lumber constitutes more than 70 percent of the lumber retailed locally.

The involvement of public officials who are expected to regulate the trade makes the monitoring of the trade in chain sawn lumber problematic. The alienation of traditional authorities and tree-tenure insecurity on the part of farmers has promoted their collusion with and participation in the chainsaw lumber trade. The Forest Services Division (FSD) has inadequate resources for intensive inspections of permits for chainsaw logging. The study finds that cooperation between the FSD and the Community Forest Committees has the potential to improve the monitoring of such inspections in the rural areas.

The study concludes that the three main factors driving chainsaw logging and lumbering are: an inadequate supply of legal lumber to the local market; weak law enforcement and governance structures; and rural economic decline.

Recommendations have consequently been made towards the realization of a scenario that would facilitate the regularization of chainsawn lumber production as well as possible alternative livelihood schemes.



Chainsaw lumber on the market in Ghana

Inglis

For more information contact Simmons.Rose@fao.org or Dominique.Reeb@fao.org

Meeting reports

Team of Specialists on Gender and Forestry

Since its establishment in 2004, the Team of Specialists on Gender and Forestry in Europe (including Eastern Europe and CIS) and North America has been working assiduously to fulfil its mandate. The team has met twice: first in Rome in April 2004 and then in Düsseldorf in November 2004.

The team is addressing issues under three broad headings and met 18–19 June 2005 to discuss progress made so far in Zvolen, Slovakia.

- Gender structures in forest organisations;
- Gender structures in forest ownership; and
- Gender and the perception of forests.

Gender structures in forest organisations

A preliminary review of the gender structure in forest organizations in 29 countries was conducted. The results of the review were used to develop a model for analysing gender structures in forest organizations at the national

level. This model incorporates among other things, information on the economic, social and cultural impacts of the forest industry on the GDP of the selected countries as well as the prominence of gender issues in society and the reflection of this in legislation.

Gender structures in forest ownership

An overview of the state of knowledge of gender and family forest ownership was undertaken in 9 countries. However few countries have responded so far to the questionnaire.

Gender and the perception of forests

Preliminary results from a recent study on the perception of forests and trees on migrants in Germany are now available. The study will be finalized in December 2005.

For more information contact Simmons.Rose@fao.org

APO Anna Springfors returned to Sweden in January 2005 after a one year stay with FAO. We take this opportunity to extend to her our gratitude for her work with us on harvesting, gender issues and microfinancing. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

17th Session of COFO

The seventeenth session of FAO's Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held from 15 – 19 March 2005 with the Ministerial Session on 14th March.

COFO is FAO's governing body in forestry and is made up of senior government officials of all FAO member countries that wish to participate. The nature of COFO has evolved over the years, and today it is seen as a forum where forestry officials from member countries can discuss forest policy issues of international relevance and, increasingly, cross-sectoral issues.

There is now greater opportunity for informal participation and discussion in side events that do not compete with morning plenary sessions devoted to the discussion of formal agenda items. Attendance by intergovernmental organizations and international NGOs representing academia, forest owners, industry, indigenous people, youth and other civil society groups has grown.

The 2005 session addressed many new and emerging issues in forestry, especially the linkages between forestry and the internationally agreed development goals, including those engendered by the UN Millennium Declaration – while emphasizing the basic fact that the environmental and social benefits of forests cannot be

realized without a fundamental economic base to forest management. The vital role of forests in achieving the MDGs – particularly poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability, but also all other goals – was one of the key themes reiterated throughout the week.

COFO also emphasized the strengthening of FAO's Regional Forestry Commissions as venues for regional forest policy dialogue and recommended that they too should elevate the importance of forestry on the political agenda and emphasize forestry's contribution to poverty alleviation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The side events featured a wide range of technical and policy topics including bioenergy, law compliance and the changing interface of forestry and agriculture. The role of the forest sector in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of areas affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004 was on the agenda of both the Ministerial Meeting and COFO.

The background documents and reports; including recommendations for action to be taken by countries, Regional Forestry Commissions, FAO and key partners can be found in FAO's five official languages on the FAO Web site www.fao.org/forestry.

AUTO EVALUATION OF THE FOREST HARVESTING BULLETIN

FAO is undertaking an auto-evaluation of the Forest Harvesting Bulletin. To help us to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the information we have produced so far, please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire following the link below.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=286631212482>