



FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

Finland/FAO provide €14 million for data collection and management skills*

Finland and FAO signed a €14 million partnership agreement to improve forest data collection and analysis as well as management skills in selected developing countries for sustainable forest management.

The aim of the four-year programme is to help developing country governments protect their forest resources, build sustainable forest livelihoods and provide governments with the knowledge to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The selection process for the three to six countries that will pilot the "Sustainable forest management in a changing climate" programme is under way and should be concluded in the coming weeks.

"FAO is very grateful to the Finnish Government for having the foresight to realize just how important this work is and for providing the financial, technical and political support to carry it out," said Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of FAO's Forestry Department. "It is vital that we strengthen the

information base for sustainable forest management so that developing countries are able to manage their trees and forests based on timely and reliable information," he said. (Source: FAO Newsroom, 27 March 2009.)

Forests and the global economy: 10 million new jobs

Ten million new "green jobs" can be created by investing in sustainable forest management, according to FAO. "As more jobs are lost due to the current economic downturn, sustainable forest management could become a means of creating millions of green jobs, thus helping to reduce poverty and improve the environment," said Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of FAO's Forestry Department. Since forests and trees are vital storehouses of carbon, such an investment could also make a major contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, he added.

Increased investment in forestry could provide jobs in forest management, agroforestry and farm forestry, improved fire management, development and management of trails and recreation sites, expansion of urban green spaces, restoring degraded forests and planting new ones. Activities can be tailored to local circumstances, including



availability of labour, skill levels and local social, economic and ecological conditions.

A number of countries, for example the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, have included forestry in their economic stimulus plans. Similarly, afforestation is an important component of India's rural employment guarantee programme. According to FAO, the global potential is at least 10 million new jobs through national investments.

At the same time, improved forest management and new tree planting could significantly reduce the downward trend in forest cover reported by many countries. This would help to reduce carbon emissions from land-use change and could potentially have a larger positive impact on climate change than any other initiative currently being planned or considered by world leaders. (Source: FAO Newsroom, 10 March 2009.)

WORLD'S HUNGRY EXCEEDS THE ONE BILLION PEOPLE MARK

World hunger is projected to reach a historic high in 2009 with 1 020 million people going hungry every day, according to new estimates published by FAO.

The most recent increase in hunger is not the consequence of poor global harvests but is caused by the world economic crisis that has resulted in lower incomes and increased unemployment. This has reduced access to food by the poor, the United Nations agency said.

"A dangerous mix of the global economic slowdown combined with stubbornly high food prices in many countries has pushed some 100 million more people than last year into chronic hunger and poverty," said FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. "The silent hunger crisis – affecting one sixth of all of humanity – poses a serious risk for

world peace and security. We urgently need to forge a broad consensus on the total and rapid eradication of hunger in the world and to take the necessary actions."

Hunger has been slowly but steadily on the rise for the past decade, and drawing on analysis by the United States Department of Agriculture, FAO projects that the number of hungry people last year (915 million) is expected to grow by about 11 percent this year. The number of hungry people increased between 1995-97 and 2004-06 in all regions except Latin America and the Caribbean.

Almost all of the world's undernourished live in developing countries. In Asia and the Pacific, an estimated 642 million people are suffering from chronic hunger; in sub-Saharan Africa 265 million; in Latin America and the Caribbean 53 million; in the Near East and North Africa 42 million; and in developed countries 15 million in total.

The urban poor will probably face the most severe problems in coping with the global recession, because lower export demand and reduced foreign direct investment are more likely to hit urban jobs harder. But rural areas will not be spared.

The economic crisis also comes on the heel of the food and fuel crisis of 2006-08. While food prices in world markets declined over the past months, domestic prices in developing countries came down more slowly. They remained on average 24 percent higher in real terms by the end of 2008 compared with 2006. For poor consumers, who spend up to 60 percent of their incomes on staple foods, this means a strong reduction in their effective purchasing power. It should also be noted that while they declined, international food commodity prices are still 24 percent higher than in 2006 and 33 percent higher than in 2005. (Source: FAO Newsroom, 19 June 2009.)

FAO IN THE FIELD

Nature & Faune

Nature & Faune is a peer-reviewed international bilingual (English and French) publication of the FAO Regional Office for Africa. Its aim is to disseminate information and promote the exchange of experiences on wildlife, protected area management and the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources in Africa.

The latest issue, 23(2), highlighted the "Success stories in management of wildlife and nature in Africa". The theme of the next issue will be "The relevance of mangrove forest to African fisheries, wildlife and water resources".

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FOREST CONSERVATION RECEIVES US\$200 000 FROM FAO

Kampala. Uganda has received a US\$200 000 (U Sh430 million) grant from FAO to implement forestry conservation activities between 2009 and 2012.

The grant will finance the second phase of the National Forest Programme Facility. Uganda is one of the 70 countries supported by the FAO National Forest Programme (NFP). Phase one covered Wakiso, Mukono, Mubende, Luwero, Hoima and Masindi districts. The programme is implemented through a partnership between the Uganda Forestry Working Group, the Government and a network of forest conservationists across the country. (Source: *The New Vision* [Uganda], 9 April 2009.)

EU-funded project GCP/RAF/408/EC

"Mobilization and capacity building for small- and medium-scale enterprises involved in the production and commercialization of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) in Central Africa"

On 11 June 2009, the Director of Forests of the Cameroonian Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Mr Samuel Ebia Ndongo, and the Director of Cooperation and Projects of ANAFOR (the National Agency for Forestry Support), Mr Schadreck Ondoua, and their teams, accepted the "National Management Plan for *Prunus africana*" presented by representatives of CIFOR, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and TRAFFIC.

Prunus africana is a tree native to African montane tropical forests, occurring in 22 countries. The hard wood has multiple uses, particularly for the medicinal properties of its bark, which is the basis of pharmaceutical treatment for prostate problems, which affect between 5 and 15 percent of men aged over 65 in the United States of America and Europe.

Cameroon has been one of the major exporters of *Prunus africana* worldwide since the 1970s with 48 percent (on average 2 000 tonnes yearly) of gross exports since trade records commenced in 1995. A combination of growing demand and unsustainable harvesting has led to the species being included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. All imports of *Prunus africana* to the European Union, the largest market for Cameroon, are currently suspended, until a national plan can be provided that shows how sustainable exploitation and trade can be managed and monitored. This has led to stocks held by pharmaceuticals companies that produce the drugs dropping to very low levels and a negative impact on the livelihood of small-scale harvesters, farmers and enterprises in Cameroon.

The plan has been the product of over two years of work conducted by CIFOR, FAO, the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) as part of the EU-funded project GCP/RAF/408/EC: "Mobilisation et renforcement des capacités des petites et moyennes

entreprises impliquées dans les filières des produits forestiers non-ligneux en Afrique Centrale" and by GTZ as part of the ProPSFE (Programme d'appui au Programme sectoriel forêt et environnement). The Cameroonian Minister of Forestry and Wildlife made a specific request to FAO in October 2008 for the project to support the development of a management plan. FAO requested CIFOR to elaborate such a plan. The authorities accepting the plan, which included representatives of the Cameroonian CITES Management Authority (the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife) and the Scientific Authority (the National Forestry Development Agency), indicated their intent to appropriate the plan and present it at the next CITES meeting in Geneva on 15 July, prior to its official adoption. The plan will also be presented at the First Pan-African Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Forests from 22 to 25 June 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The plan presents a pragmatic approach to sustainable exploitation of *Prunus africana*, setting out the institutional, technical, legal and operational procedures for management and harvesting of *Prunus africana* in Cameroon in the short and long term. It was conceived and developed using a participatory approach to ensure a broad consensus of the many stakeholders, both national and international, involved in the *Prunus africana* chain. This included numerous meetings and consultations organized by SNV and CIFOR with the government, economic operators and the private sector, community forest institutions, nature and conservation organizations, development agencies and research and scientific institutions.

The plan combines published literature and unpublished data, indigenous knowledge, a market chain baseline study and inventory data on *Prunus africana* in Cameroon from CIFOR, a regulatory and policy study by GTZ, and a report on domestication and harvesting by ICRAF. (Contributed by: Verina Ingram, Scientist, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), c/o IITA Humid Forest Ecoregional Centre, BP 2008, Yaoundé, Cameroon. E-mail: v.ingram@cgiar.org or verina_ingram@hotmail.com; www.cifor.cgiar.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE:
www.fao.org/forestry/43055/en/

THE XIII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS (WFC2009)

An update

The XIII World Forestry Congress, which will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 18 to 25 October 2009, will address the role of forests in a changing environment. Increasing pressure on forests, climate change, global deforestation and the challenge of ecological integrity, economic development and social equity need innovative thinking and strategies to conserve and manage forests at the local, regional and global levels. Renowned experts from all over the world, from various organizations and communities connected with forests, including academics, producers, environmentalists, indigenous and rural communities, forest managers, government experts and policy-makers, will be invited to discuss and seek solutions to keep forests in a vital balance.

The congress will encompass a week of presentations, discussions, round tables, parallel events and exhibitions, focusing on the following main issues: (a) Forests and biodiversity; (b) Production for development; (c) Forest in the service of people; (d) Caring for our forests;

(e) Developing opportunities; (f) Organizing sustainable forest management; and (g) People and forests in harmony.

A large Forestry Fair will be held in tandem with the congress. Various public organizations and private enterprises connected with forestry and related sectors will exhibit. In the two weeks following the congress, study and recreational tours will be offered to introduce participants to the country's varied forests and landscapes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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WORKSHOP ON BUSHMEAT

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, together with CIFOR, FAO and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) will organize a workshop on the sustainable use of bushmeat, from 15 to 17 October, in Buenos Aires, Argentina (www.cbd.int/ts). The meeting is organized in conjunction with the XIII World Forestry Congress (WFC) and workshop results will be presented at WFC plenary session 1.6. "Wildlife associated with forests".

The purpose of the meeting, pursuant to decision IX/5 of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, is to support Parties in their efforts to implement further the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity. The unsustainable hunting and trade of bushmeat, and their impacts on non-target species, have been identified as issue to be addressed as a matter of priority.

The meeting will build on previous efforts of the CBD Liaison Group on Non-Timber Forest Products including bushmeat, which developed and published recommendations for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife-based resources (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/9 and CBD Technical Series 33, available in English and French at www.cbd.int/ts). Specifically, the meeting will focus on the situation of bushmeat hunting in tropical moist forests, with the aim of discussing and consolidating further the above-mentioned recommendations. The meeting will be held in English and participation is by invitation only.

For more information, please contact: **Caroline Belair, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, World Trade Centre, 413 St Jacques, Suite 800, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9. Fax: 1 (514) 288 6588; e-mail: secretariat@cbd.int or Caroline.Belair@cbd.int; www.cbd.int**

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY RESEARCH (CIFOR)

CIFOR's strategy 2008–2018. Making a difference for forests and people

CIFOR has a new strategy that focuses its resources on critical global issues influencing the world's tropical forests and the people who depend on them. "Forests are now receiving a level of attention that we haven't seen for many years, if ever, and there's no doubt that climate change is a major reason for this," said Andrew Bennett, Chair of CIFOR's Board of Trustees. "So, CIFOR must ensure it represents the best interests of tropical forests and the people who depend on them, and informs the global climate debate with relevant, thorough and up-to-date research."

The new strategy will see:

- governance, livelihoods and environmental services remain as CIFOR's key programme areas, but with a greater emphasis on interdisciplinary research;
- CIFOR continue to engage in diverse, collaborative partnerships, but with greater relevance and purpose; and
- CIFOR continue to communicate its research findings in a tailored and targeted manner, but with greater deployment of electronic and interactive channels.

At the end of the priority-setting process, six research domains were selected for inclusion in CIFOR's future research agenda: (1) Enhancing the role of forests in mitigating climate change; (2) Enhancing the role of forests in adapting to climate change; (3) Improving livelihoods through smallholder and community forestry; (4) Managing trade-offs between conservation and development on the landscape scale; (5) Managing the impacts of globalized trade and investment on forests and forest communities; and (6) Sustainably managing tropical production forests.

CIFOR will continue to base itself in Bogor, Indonesia, and to concentrate its research on the Amazon basin, the Congo basin, dryland Africa and Southeast Asia.

"Forests are being hailed as a potential solution to the global climate crisis," said Frances Seymour, CIFOR Director General. "Huge sums of money are being projected to conserve tropical forests – sums that could finally invert the political and economic priorities that drive deforestation. But carbon sequestration is not the only reason why forests are important. Forests harbour over

half of the world's terrestrial biodiversity; they sustain the livelihoods of over a billion people worldwide; and they provide a whole range of other ecosystem services, including water filtration, soil stabilization and the raw ingredients for much of the world's medicine," added Seymour.

"With this new strategy, we've tried to find the right balance. To respond to the opportunities presented by this unprecedented focus on forests, without losing sight of our core purpose, which is to advance human well-being, environmental conservation and equity."

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CIFOR's vision

We envision a world where:

- forests are high on the political agenda;
- people recognize the value of forests for maintaining livelihoods and ecosystems;
- decisions that influence forests and the people who depend on them are based on solid science and principles of good governance, and reflect the perspectives of developing countries and forest people.

The guest author for this issue of *Non-Wood News* is CIFOR scientist Ms Patricia Shanley. Her interesting article can be found on page 3.

CIFOR's landscape mosaics project

As more of the world's forests rapidly disappear and become increasingly fragmented, conservation efforts have focused on establishing protected areas to conserve these key ecosystems that support a diverse array of flora and fauna. More recently, conservationists and scientists have observed that protected areas are necessary but not sufficient for the conservation of biodiversity. In this context, the role of multifunctional landscape mosaics including and surrounding protected areas has become increasingly important for conservation.

These landscapes include everything from agricultural land, agroforests and settlements to patches of remaining forest dotting the terrain. What has shaped, and continues to shape, these mosaics are human activities, most commonly

communities that are driven by their needs to sustain their livelihoods often in the face of poverty. These landscapes are also affected by government laws and policies regarding land management and biodiversity conservation, which determine how and for what these lands can be used.

The evolution of these mosaics, therefore, needs to be understood from a dynamic point of view, considering all the elements that shape them in a certain length of time. This requires effective tools to monitor the changes in biodiversity and livelihoods in these mosaics, which are in or near to protected areas.

It is because of the need to develop an integrated strategy to address these complex and often conflicting ecological and social dynamics that CIFOR and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) launched the Biodiversity Platform in 2006. In June 2007, the Biodiversity Platform launched its inaugural project, "Integrating livelihoods and multiple biodiversity values in landscape mosaics", in five tropical countries with high levels of biodiversity: the United Republic of Tanzania, southwest Cameroon, Sumatra (Indonesia), the northern Lao People's Democratic Republic and eastern Madagascar.

The project focuses on informing and facilitating a negotiation process on land-use rights allocation. To support and inform this process, the project is conducting a series of research activities to collect and analyse socio-economic and biophysical data, and to investigate the potential for reward mechanisms for environmental services. (Source: CIFOR News, 46, November 2008.)

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF NATURAL FIBRES (IYNF) 2009

An update

Fact sheets

A set of fact sheets in PDF for low-cost printing have been developed, which you are encouraged to print and distribute to any interested audience. Please note that all the PDF files of all our information products, in all languages, have now been unprotected, as some people have had problems adapting them to different printing formats.

These new versions are available for download from the IYNF-2009 Web site: English: www.naturalfibres2009.org/en/iynf/media.html

NATURAL FIBRES 2009 CONFERENCE

The Natural Fibres 2009 Conference, organized by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, will be held from 14 to 15 December 2009 in London, United Kingdom, to celebrate the International Year of Natural Fibres. This conference will focus predominantly on the industrial applications of natural fibres and includes presentations on fibre extraction, fibre processing, biocomposites, geotextiles, biomimetic materials, animal fibres, natural fibres for the developing world and more.

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French: www.naturalfibres2009.org/fr/afnf/ressources.html

Spanish: www.naturalfibres2009.org/es/afnf/recursos.html

Poster

An IYNF-2009 poster (13.5 x 40 in [34.3 x 101.6 cm]) has been produced in English. The poster can be downloaded from the IYNF-2009 Web site at: www.naturalfibres2009.org/en/iynf/media.html

Newsletter

To subscribe to the IYNF-2009 newsletter, send an e-mail to mailserv@mailserv.fao.org, leave the subject line blank, and put the text subscribe IYNF-2009-L in the body of the message.

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When is a fibre natural?

The International Year of Natural Fibres (IYNF) celebrates fibres produced by plants and animals. It does not include modern manufactured artificial and synthetic fibres such as rayon, nylon, acrylic and polyester. Tree fibres are not covered by IYNF, but will be one focus of the International Year of Forests in 2011. ♣