



Just Forests

News

TAKING A LIVELIHOOD APPROACH TO THE JUST DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS-SINCE 1989

Just Forests records 10 years of development/education work in this
Special 10th Anniversary Publication
Winter 99/2000



Price £3

The KNOW-WOOD™ Board is outright winner
of the RDS Forestry Awards 1999

see pages 38 & 39

**“The beam of sustainable resource
use is shining across the world
from Tullamore”**

Prof. David Bellamy

ISSN 1393-8037



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Significant Income Earning Opportunities in Forestry

By Hugh Byrne TD, Minister of State
at the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources.

The Forestry sector employs 16,000 people and the government's strategic plan "Growing for the Future", aims to create 11,000 new forestry jobs by the year 2020. Some 9% of land in Ireland is currently under forest, well below the European average of over 30%.

There are significant income earning opportunities available which make forestry a most lucrative enterprise.

This is borne out by the fact that in the past seven years well over 100,000 hectares of forestry has been planted by about 12,000 landowners. Forestry is important for agriculture diversification and farmers now account for over 70% of all afforestation. This is testimony not only to the earning potential and benefits of forestry for farmers but to its importance as an integral part of rural development. Forestry fits in well with other farming ventures and enables farmers to continue to live and work on their land.

Forestry enhances both urban and rural landscapes for recreation and tourism and contributes to employment in these sectors. The forestry programme takes account of the preservation of historic and scenic landscapes.

Strong environmental and planning controls and extensive consultation with local authorities, Bord Failte and other interests is a key element of the Forest Service approach. Awareness of forestry's role in environmental enhancement and compatibility is a basic principle of our forestry programme. Our world is extremely delicate and fragile and interventions, no matter how seemingly innocuous, can impact on our environment. The way forward is to maintain a balance between economic progress, social advancement and the world we live in.

Forestry has significant environmental benefits. It is an interesting fact that one hectare of forestry can extract and absorb up to 10 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere every year. Forestry also exercises a beneficial influence on global warming and climate. Environmental issues are becoming more complex; even the issue of sustainability has evolved from the idea of sustained yield encompassing all the economic, social and environmental aspects of forestry development. Forestry development carried out on a basis which promotes

sustainability and harmony with our environment, will maximise its economic and social contribution.

The practise and application of forestry itself has broadened in recent years with increasing emphasis on diversity with a stipulation that afforestation in broadleaved varieties is increased to 20% of the annual total, reflecting Irish traditional woodland. Coupled with a growing emphasis on environmental compatibility and an awareness of the non-timber benefits of forestry such as recreational and amenity values, these developments are vitally important in

view of the planned acceleration of forestry planting in Ireland.

The outlook for forestry is very encouraging and I will work to ensure that the objectives of the Government's Plan are met and that forestry will be a major contributor to the Irish Economy.

And finally I would like to wish Just Forests every success for the future.

FARMERS AND OTHER LANDOWNERS FORESTRY IS AN APPRECIATING ASSET, A SOURCE OF INCOME... AND HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

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- * Areas for planting can be as small as 0.1 ha (broadleaves) or 1 ha (conifers).
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- * All premiums are tax-free and are paid shortly after the afforestation grants
- * Other forestry grants relate to forest roads, woodland improvement, amenity/recreational forests, nurseries, harvesting machinery and technical assistance.
- * All Schemes supported by the EU.

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Natural Resources,
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford
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Lo-call: 1890 200223.
Fax: (053) 43834/5/6.



Department of the Marine
and Natural Resources

The Development Imperative

Development means increasing society's ability to meet human needs. Economic growth may be an important component of development, but it cannot be a goal in itself. The real aim must be to improve the quality of human existence - to enable people to enjoy long, healthy and fulfilling lives. At present, for huge numbers of people, life is hard, insecure and unfulfilling. Where the significance of the environment is not understood, development will fail.





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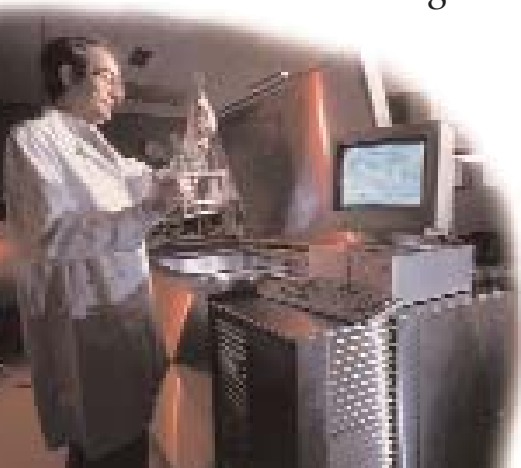
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Coillte congratulates *just Forests* on their good work over the past 10 years and wishes them all the best for the future



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Cover Photo: Professor David Bellamy visits the office of Just Forests.



*Ms Liz O' Donnell, T.D.,
Minister of State at the
Department of Foreign
Affairs, with special
responsibility for Overseas
Development Cooperation
and Human Rights*

Foreword

I am very pleased to have been invited to contribute this foreword to Just Forests' tenth anniversary publication.

I would first like to commend Just Forests for their tireless efforts over the last decade to increase public awareness of the ongoing process of large-scale deforestation, particularly in the tropical rainforests, and of its very serious implications for the health of planet earth, for the maintenance of its rich biodiversity, and for the well being and security of future generations.

The Statement on forests adopted by the International Community at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit points out that forests are essential to economic development and the maintenance of all forms of life. However, we are currently witnessing an unprecedented assault on the world's forests, which are being degraded at the rate of an acre a second, resulting in the loss of unique and diverse ecosystems and in the destruction of indigenous cultures.

Slightly more than half of the world's forests are located in developing countries. The loss of such rich and irreplaceable natural resources can greatly reduce the developmental options of the countries concerned and limit their prospects of achieving sustainable development.

Deforestation is often just the initial step in a larger process of environmental degradation. The shallow and often relatively infertile soils which are exposed, particularly by clearances of tropical forests, can subsequently have their limited nutrients exhausted by inappropriate agricultural practices or leached by rains. This can result in a catastrophic process of erosion and land degradation, culminating in desertification and the impoverishment and displacement of the indigenous populations which had depended on the forests for their livelihoods.

Cumulatively, such local tragedies have implications for us all through their contribution to global warming, shrinkage of the polar ice caps and rising sea levels.

The impact of large scale deforestation and its long-term global implications are now widely recognised and it is a subject on an ongoing international dialogue. However, the task of achieving a broadly acceptable resolution to the problem is greatly complicated by sensitivities about national sovereignty and the right of countries to pursue their own development paths and exploit their natural resources as they best see fit. In particular, there has been an understandable resentment on the part of some of the developing countries at being told, as they see it, by the developed countries how they should conduct their development process. The consequence of this is that progress has been relatively slow.

However, despite the limited progress in the international dialogue on forests there are considerable grounds for hope. Among the most important developments of recent years has been the growing acceptance within the forestry industry of the concept of sustainable forest management. This is a most welcome development and one which reflects the long-term interests of developing countries. It is one which the public, as consumers of wood products, can support and encourage. As consumers, we can help to combat deforestation by ensuring that whatever forest products we purchase are harvested in a responsible manner from sustainably managed forests. Just Forests have pointed the way forward by their efforts to create an informed public opinion and by their advocacy of forest certification. I wish them every success in their efforts in the years ahead.



Irish Aid at work...

Mr. Nick Duff, an Irish Aid project worker and villagers of Gairo in Tanzania, look at photographs of the Wood of Life Exhibition during a visit to Africa by Just Forests.

Photo: Just Forests.

From Wicklow to Oaxaca.

I am writing to congratulate you and your colleagues on the tenth anniversary of your programme Just Forests, which started life as Irish Woodworkers for Africa.

It has given me great pleasure to hear of your progress and the growing interest in Ireland for independent certification and standards. Like you, I believe that these initiatives will not only help in the continuous process of improving forest management, for the long-term benefit of everyone involved, but will also help to build public confidence in forestry and forest industries and products.

As a child, I was taken for picnics in the Wicklow mountains, and I remember the small patches of very young plantations in the very early 1950s. My origins in Ireland are not quickly forgotten. My grandfather was a Dublin lawyer and governor of the Bank of Ireland, and his grandfather a miller in County Wexford. In my professional work, I have travelled to all parts of the world and seen many countries with more forests than Ireland. Most of them are losing their forests steadily. So I am glad that Ireland is a land with a growing forest area in plantations and forest industries, and especially that the importance of the old natural forests is now widely appreciated.

Most people in Ireland perhaps know little about Mexico, but Mexicans also have long memories. It is not forgotten that Irishmen fought here for reforms and justice in St. Patrick's Brigade in the Mexican revolution. Now I am proud to be working here, in collaboration with Just Forests, and in support of good responsible forestry.

Good luck,

Dr. Timothy Synnott
Executive Director
The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).



Tim Synnott, standing beside a strawberry tree in the montane rain forest south of Oaxaca, Mexico, in casual mood after a very successful 2nd FSC General Assembly in June 1999.

Photo: Just Forests.



Introduction.

Mr. Duncan Stewart, Architect and board member of Just Forests

From an architectural perspective I feel that I have a responsibility through my work to promote the use of correct materials in the building industry - i.e. timber from well-managed and sustainable forests. I also feel that I have a role in demonstrating future sustainable technology for this vibrant industry.

I am very committed to working with Just Forests who have developed a network with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) who are an independent and impartial environmental organisation spread all over the world. WWF have harnessed the difficulties and challenges of sustainable development and converted them into workable solutions - as you will see as you read through this timely publication.

Just Forests are the link with WWF and The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). It is very critical that I have up-to-date information on what is going on, so that I can promote the importance of good practices in relation to timber.

In Ireland we are very far behind other countries in our attitudes to sustainable development. Ireland is one of

the biggest importers of iroko (an excellent wood from West Africa) and other tropical timbers which are being rapidly depleted from fragile forest ecosystems.

There is a total lack of awareness among joiners, carpenters and building material merchants as to where their raw materials are being sourced. Irish companies are importing and selling between £30-£40 million of materials bearing misleading claims as to their sustainability.

The Irish people are being misled and this has to be corrected by introducing a credible chain-of-custody (COC) system that traces and verifies claims of origin, felling and production of forest products.

In Europe major changes have taken place which have been slow to develop in Ireland, so it is now very encouraging to see that major initiatives are being undertaken by Coillte, The Forest Service and progressive industries to promote sustainable and well-managed forests.



Welcome to Just Forests..

Tom Roche, Founder/Director

Welcome to this first issue of Just Forests' News. In this special 10th Anniversary edition I

want you to get to know us and it is with great pleasure that I present our organisation to you.

I feel that it is time to give an insight into our organisation and to take you briefly through what our aims and objectives are. We want you to see what we have done and what we hope to do in the future. We are as our name suggests working for the just development of the world's forests and their dependants-you.

During the mid-eighties I became somewhat concerned about the rapid decline of the world's forests. As a fulltime furniture maker using mostly tropical wood at the time, I began to question where my wood was coming from. I discovered that Ireland depends enormously on African forests for tropical wood to service the furniture and joinery industry.

I also became concerned that unsustainable logging

practices, in Africa in particular, would severely undermine the great development work carried out by Irish missionaries and development agencies over the decades. In an effort to inform and influence the general public of this threat to African forests, I set up Irish Woodworkers for Africa in September 1989. I also felt it was important to try to influence that sector of Irish society that I myself was a part of -the woodworking sector. This livelihood approach to the problems of unsustainable logging has been the cornerstone of our organisation ever since.

Although we started out in 1989 with a focus on Africa, we soon became concerned with what was happening on the international scene. Because of this development of the organisation in terms of global forestry issues it was decided that the name Irish Woodworkers for Africa did not truly reflect our aims and objectives. In October 1998, we changed our name to Just Forests. We feel this new name is much more telling of our role and concerns for the world's forests as we approach a new millennium.

A look into our past activities.....

"Healthy populations are the cornerstone of wise and equitable development. Sensible development policies protect human health."

Guide to the Global Environment - World Resources Institute (WRI) 1998-99



1991. Tom Roche presents pear trees to the Tullamore girl guides. The trees were donated by Mr. Pat Lawlor, Ballard Nurseries, Kilbeggan.



1990. Some of the children from Arden Vale and Arden View Tullamore, who entered the poster competition on tropical rainforests pose for a picture with their entries.

Education for Change

Just Forests' philosophy has been to educate the children, they are the adults of the future. They will be the carpenters, joiners, timber importers and foresters of tomorrow. If the children understand and appreciate the importance and value of wood, the future of the world's forests will be in safe hands.

Our New Logo

Whether it's a giant multinational trading on the Stock Exchange, a government agency promoting its office or a small community group working at grass roots: one thing they all have in common is that they all like to project an identifying mark. Just Forests is no different. Logos are a very precious asset. Our new logo was designed by Tullamore Artist, Olive Cuskelly of Absolute Design Ltd. Our logo is available to any timber company that is committed to sourcing timber from sound sources. Please contact the office for further information.



1995. Fr. Jim Lynch discusses the qualities of wood with his African visitors and Tom Roche at the Wood of Life exhibition in the Church of the Assumption, Tullamore.

Best wishes to Just Forests

SAVING FOR THE FUTURE



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Local and not so Local

Ever since we started out in our mission to create awareness of the role of wood in our lives, Just Forests has always emphasised the importance of 'working locally'. Our banner cry from the very beginning has been; 'working locally for just development of the world's forests'.

We have never underestimated the importance of influencing the local people. So over the years our campaign has focused on how we could influence the local community including our civil servants and local politicians.

Working with schools, youth clubs, community groups and our more progressive public representatives has proved invaluable. Even today numerous people comment on the work of Just Forests, citing how timely and important it is.

We have never underestimated the importance of influencing the local people. So over the years our campaign has focused on how we could influence the local community including our civil servants and local politicians.

On the home turf
It is of course much harder to campaign in your own home town. You don't enjoy the same level of anonymity as campaigners in



Former President of Ireland Mrs Mary Robinson, (the present UN Commissioner for Human Rights) invites members of Just Forests to Aras an Uachtarain to brief her on the work of the organisation. Left to Right: Mary Humphreys, Tom Roche, President Mary Robinson, Anthony Dolan. 1994

larger, more populated centres do. Often at local level people don't really know what you are lobbying about. Understandably enough tropical rain forests do not figure very high on the agendas of your everyday Irish citizen.

So sometimes misunderstanding can set in. However, we have been very

quick to rectify any such misunderstanding when appropriate.

Environmental issues have increased in public consciousness in more recent times. Hardly a day goes by now that we don't see some reference to 'sustainable development' in our daily newspapers or on television.

Book Presentation to Offaly County Library -1992

Members of Just Forests present Ann Coughlan, Offaly County Librarian, with the book 'Save the Earth'.

Left to Right: Mr. Tony Dolan (Just Forests) Rev. Girvan McKay (Tullamore One World Group); Mrs. Marie McKay (Tullamore One World Group), Ms. Josephine Cuskelly (Artist), Mr. Gary Fitzmaurice (Fitzmaurice Newsagents who kindly donated the book) Mr. Declan Nelson (Offaly County Secretary), Cllr. Ernest McGuire (Tullamore UDC), Ms. Ann Coughlan (Offaly County Librarian), Mr. Tom Roche (Just Forests) and Mr. Sean McCarton (CEO Offaly VEC)





1990. On the road to St. Patrick's Day Parade in Tullamore.

Our first public statement under the Concern Banner.
Photo © Just Forests



Crowned Chief for a Day-1994

Parishioners of the village of Fanantui in north-west Cameroon, crown local parish priest Fr. Rory O'Brien (Ballinamere, Tullamore) and Tom Roche chiefs for the day, during Just Forests' visit to Korup rain forest in West Africa. Photo © Just Forests



Corporate accountability a must?

Just Forests organised a demonstration outside Birr Castle, Co Offaly, to object to Shell's human rights record in Nigeria. NGOs from all over Ireland came to hear Dr. Owen Wiwa, brother of murdered Ogoni Leader, Ken Saro-Wiwa, describe how Shell Oil have destroyed their homeland. Photo © Just Forests

Soil-Erosion

A visit to an Irish-Aid project in Gairo, Tanzania.
Photo © Just Forests



Offaly Exhibition and Conference Centre

Located at Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, this Centre offers modern facilities for conferences, meetings, training courses, seminars, etc. There is ample free car parking adjacent to the Centre.

Daily/weekly rates available

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Best wishes to Just Forests on their 10th anniversary



Time Bomb: Species Loss



"We still don't know exactly how many species there are on Earth, but the best estimate is around 30 million, 1.4 million of which have been officially recorded. If current patterns of deforestation and habitat loss continue, we shall soon be wiping out species faster than we can record their existence. Most at risk are species in the

tropical rainforests - not only the more easily identifiable mammals and birds, but also many thousands of plants and insects.

Loss of species here is about 1,000 to 10,000 times that before

human intervention. There is no precedent for such major loss of genetic diversity, which may leave only half of all tropical species by 2050."

Ireland is the only country in the E.U. that has not ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

See page 15 for what you can do.

Extract: "Saving the Earth"

The Organisation

- who we are.

A cabinetmaker and furniture restorer by trade, Tom Roche, founder of Just Forests (formerly Irish Woodworkers for Africa) emigrated to Australia in 1967. "It cost me £10 and fifteen shillings to travel to Australia under the Australian Government's Assisted Passage Scheme". He was 18 years old and had just finished an apprenticeship in joinery. He found work in Melbourne as a shopfitter and later on an Australian sheep farm. While he was working on the farm, he first saw the connection between trees and survival.

"Every Saturday night, three of us would have to share the same bath water. The last person to have their bath would have to scoop out all the water, pour it into buckets and use it to water the trees around the farmhouse, because without those trees we could not have survived," remembers Tom.

As Tom travelled quite extensively in his youth he became increasingly concerned about global deforestation and wood wastage. After a few years Tom returned to Ireland where he operated a small cabinet making workshop in Tullamore. But during the mid-eighties his consciousness and concern about global deforestation issues increased.

"My response to that concern was to think what I personally could do. I knew there were great voluntary organisations out there like CRANN dealing very effectively with Ireland's shortage of broadleaf trees. However, I thought it was time to take a different tack and start educating people about the importance of wood and making the connection with trees and how to be more aware of that connection," said Tom.

Ireland exploiting the Africans

He was particularly concerned that unregulated forest exploitation in Africa would undermine the great development work carried out over the decades by dedicated Irish missionaries and development agencies.

Ireland had for many decades been getting most of its tropical wood from Africa, and exploiting the Africans by not paying a fair price for it. "So I naively set out to influence that sector of Irish life that had benefited most from African forests -the timber industry," he said. He believed it was time those who had made a good living from African forests, started to give something back. "I felt that financial aid alone to Africa could never compensate for the destruction of their forests, caused by over-exploitation in the name of progress," he said.

In September 1989 Tom Roche founded Irish Woodworkers for Africa (now Just Forests) and used his home as a base for his work. It was a hard and often strenuous task to achieve credibility for the objectives of the organisation, which he so deeply believed in. But Tom

persevered and as time progressed more and more people became aware that Tom's concerns about deforestation and exploitation of the world's forests, were grounds for serious consideration and action to be taken. Irish Woodworkers for Africa Ltd, moved to new premises in Bury Quay, Tullamore in June 1997 and, in January 1998, the organisation was formally established and registered. In October 1998, because of the development of the organisation in terms of global forestry and timber issues and not just specifically Africa, it was decided that the name 'Irish Woodworkers for Africa' did not reflect a true representation of the organisation's world view.

The new name 'Just Forests' was registered in the Companies Office in November 1998 and was also granted charitable status by the Revenue Commissioners.

Just Forests is a 'company limited by guarantee not having a share capital' and is governed by a board of directors. A number of the board members are very experienced in development education work. Other members have professional qualifications and attributes beneficial to the aims of Just Forests, which can be used to further the mission of Just Forests.



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Meet the Board

Ms. Mary Humphreys, Chairperson.

Principal of a Nigerian Secondary School from 1962-67. Worked with Concern in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Yemen and Sierra Leone.

"Having worked in Asia and particularly in Africa for a number of years, I was in a position to see at first hand the environmental devastation caused by the destruction of woodland and forest trees. Many mountain areas in Ethiopia have been completely denuded of trees, resulting in the loss of valuable top soil and laying bare sheer rock. In Tanzania and parts of Sudan woodland destruction has led to scrubland and semi-desert conditions. The programme being undertaken by 'Just Forests' in promoting the concept and practice of sustainable forest management is therefore of utmost importance and I am proud to be associated with this work."



Tony Dolan

Tony Dolan, Farmer with long time interests in development, justice and environmental issues. Formerly worked with One World Group in Tullamore and Midland Development Education Project Portlaoise.

"I became involved in the work of Just Forests because it seems to me to be addressing an issue, i.e. the sustainable development of the world's forests, especially in the tropics, an issue that in many ways encompasses together many of the major themes that concern us all, e.g. justice for indigenous people, fair trade practices, the debt crisis of the developing world, global climate patterns, the protection of biodiversity, the promotion of renewable resources etc"



Dr. John Feehan, B.A.Mod.(TCD)M.A.(TCD)P.hD.(TCD)

John Feehan will be best known to many for his television work on the natural and cultural heritage of the Irish landscape, for which he received a Jacobs Television Award. He has also written extensively on many facets of environmental heritage and history, most recently co-authoring a monumental tome of Ireland's peatlands. Dr. Feehan is a lecturer in environmental resource management at University College Dublin. The maintenance of biodiversity and landscape diversity is to the fore in his teaching and research activities. He is particularly involved in the study of the heritage of forests and peatlands in Ireland. "I fully support the work of 'Just Forests'."



Mr. Duncan Stewart, Architect and Television Presenter of RTE's 'Our House'.

"In my work as an architect and presenter I am very aware of my responsibility to be better informed about sustainable development in order to expose these important issues to my clients and television audiences. This I believe is for the benefit of future generations. Through my involvement with 'Just Forests' I have learned a great deal, which has equipped me with the knowledge I need to influence good and responsible timber usage.

I am confident that in five to ten years, changes will have happened but we must start now."



Mr. Val Hughes, Furniture Maker.

I have been involved in woodwork since 1971. Mainly cabinet making and restoration. For the past eleven years, my work is restoration only. My timber supply is all recycled wood e.g. mahogany, walnut, rosewood bought at auctions and taken from furniture beyond restoration. Since 1971, I have seen so much abuse and waste of tropical woods, that I decided to stop using imported tropical woods. This prompted me to get involved in 'Just Forests', where I hope my small contribution can influence others in the wood working trade.





Mr. Lloyd Scott, National Secretary, The Association of Materials, Technology and Graphics Teachers (AMT>) of Ireland.

Lloyd Scott represents the Association of Materials Technology and Graphics Teachers on the board of Just Forests. He graduated from Thomond College of Education, Limerick in 1988 with a B.Tech (Ed) in wood and building technology (Hons). He now teaches Materials Technology (wood) and Construction Studies in Ashbourne Community School, Co. Meath and has spent time working in Salesian College, Celbridge and Ballymun Comprehensive, Dublin. Lloyd is very involved in representing members of the AMT>.

Fr. Sean McDonagh SSC, Columban Missionary

I worked as a missionary in the Island of Mindanao among the T'boli people for over a decade in the 1970/80's. During that time I saw the tropical forests being destroyed right through the archipelago which makes up the Republic of the Philippines. Even though they only make up 6% of the landmass of the world, the tropical forests are the richest life system on the planet. They are home to millions of species, including animals' birds and plants.

The unprecedented destruction of this life system over the past forty years has been a great catastrophe to life on the planet. Professor Edward Wilson of Harvard University in his book, *The Diversity of Life*, estimates that we are losing, through extinction, about 27,000 species a year. This means that three species are lost every minute.

Apart from the destruction of species, the destruction of the tropical forest causes soil erosion, desertification and the pollution of the marine Eco coral reefs. The main driving force in the destruction of the forests has been the voracious appetite for tropical hardwoods in first world countries like Ireland.

Just Forests attempts to educate the Irish timber sector, importers, traders and consumers about the destruction of the forests and it proposes strategies to minimise forest destruction of the future.



Mr. Tom Farrell, Solicitor, B.C.L., LL.B

Tom Farrell was invited to become a member of Just Forests and was very happy to do so.

Tom Farrell is a native of Tullamore and has been practising as a Solicitor in the town for over thirty years. He is a keen supporter of the objects of Just Forests and considers the role played by the charity to be instrumental in alerting the general public for the need to preserve and restore the natural forests of the world.

Louis O'Dwyer, C.P.A., A.I.T.I.

"A native of county Wexford, married with three school going children, I came to Tullamore in 1966 for a brief tour of duty and was captivated by the Midland people and landscape. By profession I am a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Institute of Taxation. I am a founder partner of the accountancy practice Milne O'Dwyer & Company, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

From a rural Wexford background, I grew up in an environment where the natural order of things was held in high respect. Arising from that nursery, I am an activist in many environmental and anti-blood sport issues and was drawn to the Just Forests movement because of the wider international threat to a healthy environmental balance."



How we are funded.

Our main funders are:

- The Forest Service at the Department of the Marine & Natural Resources;
- The National Committee for Development Education (NCDE) at the Department of Foreign Affairs.
- Trócaire
- Concern

Thank you

This 10th Anniversary Publication

This publication is funded by Trocaire, the National Committee for development education (NCDE) and our advertisers to whom we are deeply indebted.

Just Forests has also received assistance (financial and in-kind) from timber traders with proven commitment to sustainable forest development, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government bodies including the German and Dutch Department's for Development Cooperation, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Over the years...

Just Forests would also like to thank all those who, over the years assisted us financially and in-kind, they include ENFO, Department of the Environment, Concern, Offaly Co Council, Tullamore Lions Club, Tullamore Show Committee and Offaly VEC.

Librarians.

A big thank you is also extended to all the staff of Public Libraries for making their premises available for showing the Wood of Life Exhibition.



Best wishes to
Just Forests
from
Richard Burbidge (Ireland) Limited.

**Suppliers of quality timber
products.**

*Members of the
WWF 1995 Plus Timber Buyer's Group
and the
Irish Sustainable Forestry & Timber
Initiative Buyer's Group*

Where there's life, there's Trocaire

Trocaire's life-saving work doesn't just happen in times of crisis. In poorer countries around the world-in Asia, Africa and Latin America-the needs are long-term as well as immediate.

Based on Trocaire's experience working with people in need for over 25 years, we have developed unique practical and proven strategies. As well as providing vital aid and medical supplies, we support projects in human rights, water and sanitation, healthcare, children's issues, agriculture, education,

income generating initiatives and more. And our own people are there on the frontline working with, supporting and monitoring dynamic local projects run by organisations who know the real needs and the best solutions.

But our people and resources are stretched to the limit. You can help by making a donation to support our vital work or if you want more information, write to us or phone us at the contact address below.

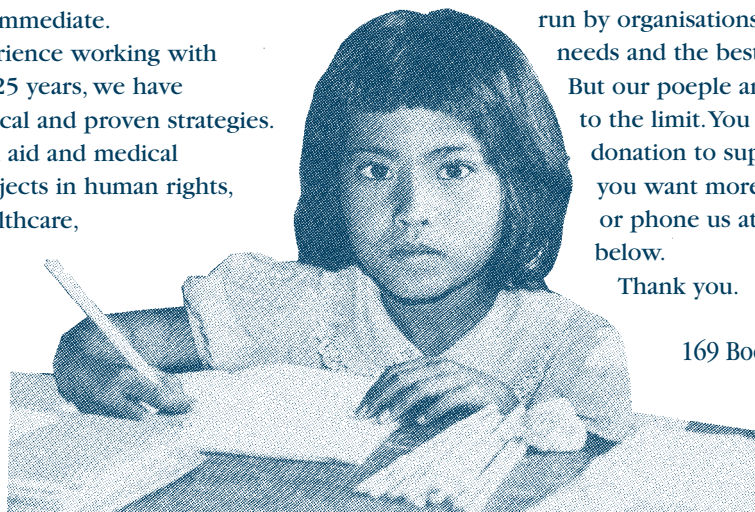
Thank you.

169 Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock,
Co. Dublin.

Tel. (01) 288 5385

e-mail: info@trocaire.ie

Internet: www.trocaire.org



*Best Wishes
to
Just
Forests*

TROCAIRE AT WORK

**Irish Woodworkers for Africa Limited, T/A Just Forests,
Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.**

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st January 1999

Income

Department of the Marine and Natural Resources	27000
NCDE Grant (80% of Allocation)	7303
Deposit Interest	289
Trócaire	2500
Share Dividends (Credit Union)	218
Miscellaneous Income (Presentations to Groups)	345
Department of the Environment	1000
Offaly County Council	1000
	39655

Projects Expenditure

Salaries and PRSI	21880
Travel and Subsistence	7281
Phone	978
Rent	1903
Light and heat	153
Advertising and Promotion	1541
Insurance	250
Consultancy Fees	1424
Transport	461
Printing and Stationary	1154
Repairs and Renewals	69
Sundries	844
Bank Interest/Charges	86
Staff Training	177
Membership and Subscriptions	510
Depreciation	413
	39124

Surplus of Income Over Expenditure	531
------------------------------------	-----

Approved by the board on 16th April

Signed: Mary Humphreys
Director

Signed: Louis O' Dwyer
Director

Our Mission

Just Forests believes that a credible system of independent forest certification will help to put a stop to unsustainable forest exploitation in developing and developed countries, as this system takes into account the economic, social, cultural and environmental considerations of forests. As a member of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Just Forests believes that by trying to influence the wood consumer of the need to purchase wood from well managed forests, they will be contributing to sustainable forest development and thus ensure the healthy survival of the world's forests, their inhabitants and the international timber trade.



Logs from a community forestry project in Oaxaca, Mexico, on their way to the saw mill.
Photo © Just Forests

Val Hughes

Specialist in conservation and restoration to all periods of furniture and associated crafts.

132 Arden Vale,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.

Phone: 0506 22600

*Best wishes to
Just Forests on its
10th Anniversary.*

Our Aims & Objectives are ...

- to highlight the importance of forests and wood in our world;
- to foster a holistic "wood culture" in Ireland;
- to research, develop and promote sustainable relationships between our demands for tropical timber and equitable third world trade;
- to ensure that these demands do not impact negatively on the lives or environments of people and wildlife in tropical wood producing countries;
- to demonstrate to the government, local authorities and the public at large the strong and weak points in present forest policies and management structures and how they effect developing countries;
- to promote awareness and understanding of global forestry issues within the timber trade sector, the construction industry and the public at large in Ireland;
- to demonstrate how all wood consumers (by their purchasing power), can advance sustainable forest development by supporting credible, third party forest certification initiatives and fair trading practices.

We do this by means of the following:

- The hands-on, Wood of Life Exhibition -a travelling exhibition
- The KNOW-WOOD™
- Seminars
- Lobbying
- Publications
- Presentations to Groups
- Attending and participating in national & international conferences

13.3. "There is now international consensus that degradation of natural resources, poverty and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption are not separate issues but are in fact closely interconnected and can be contributory factors within and between nations".

*Department of Foreign Affairs White Paper
Irish-Aid on Trade and the Environment.*

Wood from the trees

what they mean to us!

WOOD is one of the earth's most versatile and probably most familiar natural raw material and the important role it plays in our daily lives often goes unnoticed. Each day millions of people around the world derive their livelihoods working with wood. The quality of our lives has been greatly enhanced because of this wonderful resource.

Its myriad of uses is staggering. Wood, in its easy to recognise natural state provides us with furniture, building components, musical instruments, sporting equipment, household utensils, etc. In its altered (processed) form, its role is not so obvious, yet it is there under the guise of paper, fabric, glue, alcohol, rubber, food, medicine, etc.

The purpose of Just Forests' Wood of Life Exhibition is to heighten awareness of the implicit role wood\trees play in our lives - from the man or woman who works with wood for a living to the African and others who need it merely to survive. Our attitude towards wood\trees needs to undergo drastic re-appraisal if this great life enhancing resource is to continue to be of benefit to all of mankind.

WOOD IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In many developing countries fuelwood is the major source of energy for cooking and heating, supplying as much as 97% of total consumption. Within the next few years 3,000 million people will face acute fuelwood shortage. (FAO. Rome.)

For many years African countries have been our main suppliers of tropical hardwood. That supply is rapidly coming to an end.

DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS

For centuries native Irish-grown wood was the only wood available to the artisan and those involved in all aspects of construction.

With the advent of colonisation and exploration of Africa and other continents, merchants and traders began to introduce strange, beautiful, exotic woods to this country. For many years these fascinating and beautiful tropical woods with their excellent properties were reserved for the highest quality architectural joinery and cabinet work.

Children of Korup, Cameroon, West Africa.

Photo © Just Forests



IN RECENT YEARS THAT TREND HAS CHANGED

These exquisite woods which craftsmen of yester-year fashioned so skillfully and left us a rich legacy of beautiful interior adornment, have today been relegated to toilet seats, cattle carriers, painted shopfronts and may even be found in significant amounts discarded in municipal dumps and tip-heads.

The following line from an early Irish poem lamenting the destruction of Ireland's forests could very well apply to many countries today where forests are threatened by over-exploitation.

Cad a dheanfaimid feasta gan adhmada, ta deire na gcoilte air lar. (*What shall we do without timber, all the woods are cut*)

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) commenced in 1973. It provides for a strict regime of restriction on import/export and re-export of endangered species of wild fauna and flora and their products. The convention was signed by Ireland in 1974, but has not yet been ratified. Ireland is the only country in the EU that has not ratified CITES.

At the moment there are twelve timber species listed in the CITES appendices. Only one African timber species is listed (Afromosia), despite the knowledge that many of the woods we import from Africa "...are going through a process of rapid depletion and biological degradation within many of their range countries, particularly in West Africa, due mainly to over-exploitation". (Origirigi, in litt. 1993.)

Ireland still imports the equivalent of 25 acres of African forests every day.

The minister with responsibility for implementing CITES has failed to answer our letters please write encouraging her to ratify this important convention without delay.



Act Now

Write, telephone or send a fax to the minister with responsibility for implementing CITES, urging her to ratify this very important convention without any further delay; Ms. Síle De Valera T.D., Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Mespil Road, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Phone: 01 667 0788 - Fax: 01 667 0825

Please send a copy of your letter and any reply you may get from the minister to us at Just Forests.

Irish reminded of responsibility to import wood from ecologically managed forests.

By Dick Hogan, *Irish Times*, March 9th 1999.

Has the Irish joinery industry a case to answer? Perhaps it has. Ireland imports the equivalent of 30 acres of African forest each day - which raises a question about global ecology and our role in it.

The time has come to take responsibility says Mr. Tom Roche, an original member of Just Forests.

Mr. Roche who has spent a lifetime working with wood as a cabinet maker and furniture restorer, says that much of the wood coming into this State is drawn from uncertified forests - forests which are not managed properly with a view to restoration, replacement and the overall health of the ecosystem.

Now the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is to be extended to Ireland. The organisation, says Mr. Roche, "promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests."

The FSC is an international, independent, non-governmental agency founded in 1993. It has produced 10 principles and criteria for the forest management, covering such issues as environmental impact, tenure, community benefit and indigenous rights.

Last January an Irish FSC steering committee was established to apply the organisation's principles to Ireland's afforestation programme. A draft document will be ready for public perusal towards the end of this year and a final version will be submitted to the FSC for endorsement.

Once the new standards are accepted they will become the minimum requirement for FSC certification in Ireland.

"Since our foundation in September 1989, Just Forests (then

known as Irish Woodworkers for Africa) has always taken a livelihood approach to development issues affecting the world's forests," Mr. Roche says.

"Just Forests believes that everyone who depends on wood for their livelihood has an obligation to secure the long-term survival of the timber trade by ensuring that the wood they use comes from well-managed forests."

He says there are now 145 forest sites in 27 countries independently assessed by FSC-accredited certifiers. More than 12 million hectares have been certified, including tropical, temperate and boreal forests.

The FSC initiative in Ireland includes a cross-section of interest groups, including Coillte, the Irish Timber Council, the Society of Irish Foresters, the Irish Timber Grower's Association and the Woodlands of Ireland organisation.

"All the major players in the forestry industry have come on board. It's a significant development and it means we have secured a commitment to guarantee the better management of forests here at home.

"There is concern about the species mix in Irish forests and that is one of the issues which will be addressed by the FSC. The focus will also be to ensure that the management of our forests will be more amenable to the protection of wildlife. This is an important initiative and one that will have far-reaching implications throughout the State."

Of course, the other aim is to make sure that the Irish joinery industry will accept wood only from certified and well-managed forests," Mr. Roche says.

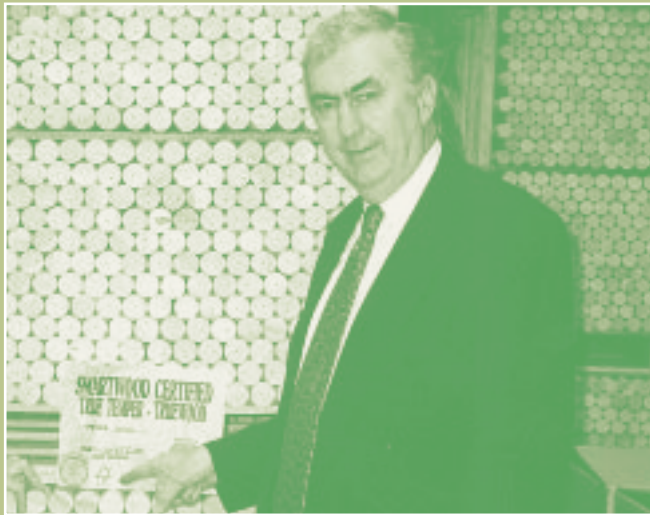
Thanks to The Irish Times for permission to reprint this article. © Irish Times Newspapers.

Ms. Nora Dempsey admires a display at the Wood of Life exhibition in Cork City Library. Photo: Valarie O'Sullivan



Congratulations to True Temper Ltd

Cork firm is the first to stock FSC certified wood in Ireland.



Mr. Domhnall MacDomhnaill, Managing Director, True Temper Ltd., proudly points out to the FSC logo on his consignment of Ash garden tool handles from Pennsylvania, U.S.A. Photo © Just Forests

At a function in Dublin last year distinguished American politician and Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, Governor Tom Ridge symbolically handed over the first consignment of certified ash to Cork-based garden tool manufacturing firm True Temper Ltd. This development is enabling True Temper Ltd, who employs 80 people at their Cork plant to achieve its environmental objectives and meet the demands of both consumers and progressive environmentally conscious

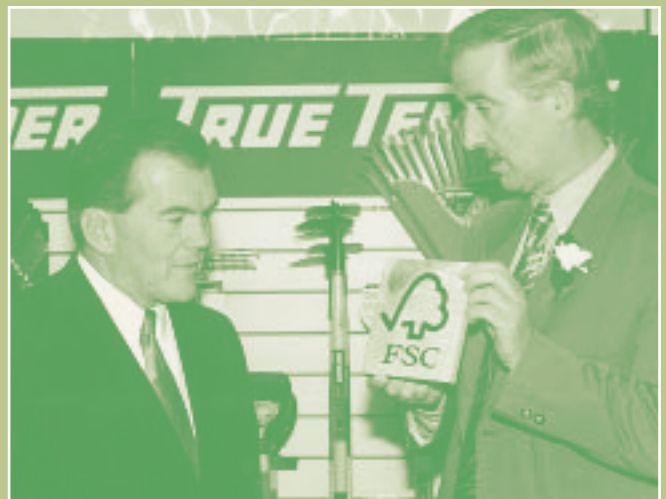


Mr. Domhnall MacDomhnaill, presents Dr. Justin Stead, Manager of the 1995 PLUS Group with a spade. The handle is made from FSC certified ash. Photo © Just Forests

retailers in the trade at home and abroad. True Temper are members of the 1995 PLUS group.

Governor Ridge took the first decision in the U.S. to have a state's forests independently certified as being well managed and sustainable. The forests owned by the State of Pennsylvania (which accounts for 21% of the state's forests) are currently being certified by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), a certifier accredited by The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

As B&Q plc are major buyers of True Temper tools this move guarantees True Tempers association with B&Q. Just Forests have been to the forefront in promoting independently certified wood in Ireland. A number of Irish timber traders and other interested parties have been meeting over the last twelve months for the purpose of forming a timber buyer's group. The new Irish group will be known as the 'Irish Sustainable Timber & Forestry Initiative'. The founding meeting is expected to take place later this year. (See page 32)



Tom Roche, Director of Just Forests and FSC Contact Person in Ireland presents Governor Tom Ridge with a wooden replica of the Forest Stewardship Council logo. Photo © Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture.

Certification is working....

Well over 15 million people world-wide are employed in forestry and forest based industries. The production and processing of timber products in Germany alone employs 500,000 people. In Sweden, Canada, Finland and a host of tropical countries the forestry and timber sector is one of the most important, if not the most important sectors of industry. In Ireland an estimated 22,000 people are employed in the forestry and timber sector.

Since our founding in September 1989, Just Forests (then known as Irish Woodworkers for Africa) have always taken a livelihood approach to development issues effecting the world's forests. Just Forests believes that

Obituary

Just Forests were sad to learn of the tragic deaths of Jos Beerlink, Caroline Dubois and Samuel Ndoumbe Manga who died in a fatal car accident in Cameroon on 11th February 1999.

Jos was involved with our very good friends in the WWF-Belgian office on a forest certification project. Samuel was a professor at Yaounde University and a member of the national certification working group in Cameroon and Caroline worked for WWF-Cameroon.

We extend our sincere sympathy to their family, friends and work associates on their great loss.

**Wishing continued success to
"Just Forests"
On their 10th anniversary**

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everyone who depends on wood for their livelihoods has an obligation to secure the long-term survival of the timber trade by ensuring that the wood they use comes from well-managed forests.

Over the past 10 years conservation of the world's forests has become an increasingly high-priority concern. The destruction of rainforests and the consequential social and environment costs have been enormous. Loss of biodiversity and encroachment on the rights of indigenous and traditional peoples has resulted in the development of more sustainable ways of managing forests.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was set up to seek solutions to these problems. The creation of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was a remarkable achievement as it brought together traditionally opposed groups to work towards practical solutions for improved forest management world-wide in all forest types tropical, temperate and boreal.

Over 15 million hectares certified

There are now 145 forest sites in 27 countries independently certified by FSC accredited certifiers. Ninety-three of these sites are in the more industrially developed regions and include Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, while 'developing countries' account for 52 sites in the following countries; Belize, Bolivia, Brazil,

Costa Rica, Honduras, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Zimbabwe. As of 31st March, 1998 the total area of certified forests had reached over 15 million hectares with natural forests accounting for 88.7% of the total area certified. Other forest types certified include plantation forests (8.5%) and a mix of natural/plantation forest, which accounts for 2.8% of the total currently certified.

Regional Office for Africa

Some of the more progressive developing countries are now looking more closely at independent forest certification as a market tool. However despite this great success in certified forests globally, grave concerns were expressed at the recent FSC Annual Meeting which took place from the 4th - 7th December in Oaxaca, Mexico, by a number of FSC members at the small uptake in forest certification in developing countries but particularly in Africa.

In what is seen as an attempt to progress the case for forest certification on the African continent, the FSC executive director, Dr. Timothy Synnott, announced that his office was looking at the possibility of opening a regional office in Africa. Delegates warmly received this announcement.

Presentation to Minister

On Wednesday 16th December, 1998, Mary Humphreys and Tom Roche of Just Forests, presented a brief report

(Contd on pg 20.)

Parliamentary Questions on Forests

1. Written question E-3982/98 by Alan Gillis to the Commission

Subject: Forestry

Q *In view of the reported deterioration of the forests of the European Union, what action other than monitoring does the commission propose to take to address the serious decline in forest health?*

Answer by Mr Fishler on behalf of the Commission (10 February 1999)

A Forest condition is the result of the interaction of a large number of factors, some of which are anthropogenic whereas others are natural, biotic and abiotic. Some factors may be influenced by forest management practices or prevention measures, while others are subject to actions in the field of air quality. Finally natural factors such as climatic extremes like drought, unusually cold winters and hot summers are beyond human influence.

Sustainable forest management has to be implemented through national or regional programmes in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. The Commission proposal on rural development policy in the context of Agenda 2000 provides a good basis for support to the Member States in their effort to promote sustainable forest management.

Forest fires constitute a major threat to European forests. The Community is currently part-financing forest fire prevention measures within the framework of rural development policy and through specific Community action to protect against fires.

The protection of forests against atmospheric pollution can only be ensured by continuous efforts to improve air quality. Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management provides a major Community instrument in this respect. The first proposal for tougher legislation under this framework will set limit values for sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen in air

specifically to protect against direct effects on vegetation and ecosystems. The proposed directives on large combustion plants, solvents and sulphur in liquid fuel will also have a beneficial effect on air quality.

The 5th environmental action programme includes the goal that critical loads and levels for acidification would not be exceeded. Whilst this is not achievable over the whole of the Community in the near future, much progress has already been made. The Commission is now finalising a proposal to set national emission ceilings for certain pollutants with the aim of reducing remaining excess levels by 50% by 2010.

The Community scheme on the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution provides in addition to monitoring activities also for experiences in the field to improve understanding of pollution effects on forests and to devise methods for the restoration of damaged forests.

For a more extensive information the Honourable Member may refer to the Commission's communication of 18 November 1998 on a forest strategy for the European Union.



Concern Worldwide

Concern programmes in Africa and Asia support poor people in sustainable community forestry.

Concern has supported Just Forests from its inception. We wish them well with their 10th Anniversary publication.

Concern

52-55 Camden Street, Dublin 2
Phone 01-475 41 62 Fax 01-4757362
email: info@concern.ie
Web: <http://www.concern.ie>

on forest certification to Ms. Liz O'Donnell T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility for Overseas Development Assistance and Human Rights, at Iveagh House, Dublin and two of her officials.

Just Forests urges the Irish Government to assist in this development by providing financial and technical assistance to FSC to help establish an office in Africa. We also presented a very practical project proposal (a joint project between Just Forests and the World Wide Fund for Nature -WWF) for the development of the woodcarving industry in East Africa for consideration. Wood carving was traditionally practised in Tanzania and has grown dramatically throughout the region - with the growth of tourism - there are now 30,000 wood carvers in Kenya alone with a total of 250,000 people employed in the industry.

Carving provides a stable employment and is a cornerstone of many rural communities economic well-being. Unfortunately, the forest resources of the region have been eroded over the last century with encroachment of agriculture and plantations and exploitation of timber. The carving industry is dependent on certain species such as ebony and muhuhu which are increasingly rare. Carving is now the principle cause of exploitation of these species and is driving forest degradation.



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Congratulates **Just Forests**
on the launch of their new magazine

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Goodwill



FROM THE PANDA

WWF International has a global campaign to promote increased forest protection and sustainable forest management. Although WWF is the world's largest environmental organisation it cannot achieve such challenging objectives without working in partnership with organisations such as Just Forests. Just Forests has played a major role in promoting the need for responsible forest management and we are sure that it will continue to do so.

All causes need a champion and Just Forests has taken on that role and WWF look forward to working with them into the next millenium. Keep up the good work!

Dr. Stephen Howard.

Leader Global Forests for Life
WWF International

FROM THE WEST

Congratulations! Your work is terrific in informing people not only about wood and its uses but about forest culture and conservation worldwide. Keep it up! I also hope I can become invloved.

Dr Micheline Sheehy Skeffington
Botany Department,
National University of Ireland, Galway.

FROM THE EAST

Just a short note from all at the Voluntary Service International (VSI) to wish Just Forests congratulations on the first 10 years and continued success for the next 100!

Regards,
Tom Ryder

Messages

FROM BANAGHER

Crann wholeheartedly supports Just Forests in its important work in creating awareness of the plight of the world's forests and people who depend upon them.



*Denis Heenan,
Chairman.*

The Development Studies Centre, Kimmage Manor commends JUST FORESTS on its significant contribution to environmental and development education in Ireland during the last 10 years.

Tom Cambell.

"Congratulations to Just Forests for all the wonderful work that you have done over the last ten years and best wishes for the future"

Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment (VOICE)

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

On behalf of Friends of the Siberian Forests and Krasnoyarsk Ecological Movement I congratulate Just Forests with 10-th Anniversary. I wish your organization to be actively involved in sustainable forest management and in 90 years to celebrate its 100 Jubilee when forest cover in the Earth would be twice larger than now. Let your newsletter be among the most interesting bulletins and give only objective information about forests and their multiple goods and services.

Sincerely,
Andrei Laetine, Ph. D.
Friends of the Siberian Forests, Chair.
Krasnoyarsk Ecological Movement, Co-Chair.



Congratulations on the tenth anniversary and best wishes to Just Forests for many more years of mighty work.

Sincerely
Jim



**Looking for information on the environment?
ENFO may have the answer!**

There are now 7 easy ways to make contact with ENFO

1. **Write to:** ENFO, 17 St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2.
2. **Telephone:** (01) 888 2001 or 1890 200191 (for the price of a local call)
3. **Fax:** (01) 888 2946
4. **E-mail:** info@enfo.ie
5. **Website:** www.enfo.ie
6. **Visit:** The drop-in centre at 17 St. Andrews Street, Dublin 2 (off Dame Street) and see the exhibition, visit the childrens' corner, see environmental videos and access the library's databases and internet facilities.
7. **Check out:** The ENFO information stands at your Local Authority of County/City Library

On behalf of the Forest Stewardship Council, I congratulate Just Forests and the director Tom Roche for ten years of outstanding work in promoting good forestry worldwide.



With best regards,
Dr. Timothy Synnot, Executive Director

Best wishes and congratulations for keeping the faith. May the next ten years be as rewarding.

Regards
Donal Magner

Our dependance on forests cannot be overstated. Just Forests has tried to approach the issues of deforestation from a number of angles. We see that industry must change its bad habits while embracing more progressive timber purchasing policies; policies that ensure forests are logged in accordance with the highest environmental, economic and social standards available. Government too must start to implement more rigerous laws when it comes to forest legislation.

Protection for Forests?

“ We do not need to wait for future generations to see an impact of the interaction between people and forests. Negative consequences are already felt worldwide, disrupting traditional forms of life. A target of placing 10 per cent of the world's forests under some form of legal protection needs to be seen in a larger context.

And that larger context is a future for forests thriving as life-supporting ecosystems which can meet the needs of all people.”

Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations

*Below: Tommy Jim Mac Gearalt, An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Tom Roche and Brendan Mac Gearalt, ag oscailt don "Wood of Life", Musaeum Chorca Duibhne. 1996.
Photo © Musaeum Chorca Duibhne*

The Wood of Life Exhibition

Just Forests was founded in 1989. Our most important education/awareness tool has been the very popular hands-on exhibition on wood -Wood of Life.

This very colourful, travelling exhibition consists of over 200 samples of wood from Ireland and around the world. The wood samples are marked according to their country of origin, availability and environmental status i.e. whether or not they are threatened as is the case with a number of tropical wood species. There are also 10 double-sided display panels with easily assimilated information on forests and forest related issues.

The Forest Service at the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources have been the main financial supporters of the Wood of Life for many years, under the 'Downstream Measures for Agriculture, Rural Development & Forestry 1994-1999. Forest Service funding for the Wood of Life ends this year. We extend a big thank you to all at the Forest Service for their support over the years and look forward to working with them on our latest project, the Know-Wood Board. Other financial support for the exhibition comes from the National Committee for Development Education (NCDE), a division of Irish-Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs.



Since **March 1990** the Wood of Life has visited over **80** venues in Ireland.

Since the exhibition was first shown in Tullamore public library in 1990, it has visited towns all over Ireland, including two venues in Northern Ireland, Belfast and Omagh. Some of the towns visited have asked for a return visit.

Numerous well-known public figures have official opened the exhibition at many of the 80 venues the exhibition has visited over the years. This collage of pictures records just a few of the dignitaries that went to the trouble to find out what the

50th opening



Above: The Lord Mayor of Dublin opens the 50th showing of the Wood of Life Exhibition in the Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin. Also in the picture is Mr. Maurice Mullen (former Principle Officer of the Forest Service) and Fr. Sean McDonagh, Chairman of VOICE and board member of Just Forests.

Below: Well-known architect and presenter of RTE's 'Our House', Mr. Duncan Stewart opens the exhibition at 'The Building Exhibition', in the RDS in 1998.

Duncan is also a board member of Just Forests and is being watched here by Tom Roche.



Wood of Life exhibition is all about and included the following:

An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D. (whilst in opposition); Former Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Dick Spring, T.D.; The Lord Mayor of Waterford; The Lord Mayor of Dublin: Former Arts & Culture Minister Mr. Michael D. Higgins, T.D.; Former Environment Minister, Mr. Michael Smith, T.D.; Mr. Gerry Collins, MEP; Mr. Duncan Stewart, Architect & Presenter of RTE's 'Our House'; Fr Aengus Finnuane, Concern; Fr Sean McDonagh; Dr John Feehan; Deputy Tom Enright, T.D; Former Agriculture Minister, Mr. Ivan Yates, T.D. and The Lord Mayor of Cork.

The exhibition is presently on display until the end of the year in Edenderry Publin Library, Co. Offaly.

The first person to open the Wood of Life Exhibition was Mr. Fergus Mulloy, Director, COFORD, The National Council for Forest Research and Development, in Tullamore Public Library in March 1990.

-We would like to wish Fergal the very best in his retirement from COFORD



Below: Former Environment Minister, Mr. Michael Smith T.D., examines a piece of Irish oak during his official opening of the Wood of Life exhibition in ENFO - The Department of the Environment's Environmental Information Centre, St. Andrews Street, Dublin.



Right: Mr. Michael D. Higgins T.D., then Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, opening the exhibition in Galway City Library. Also in the picture is Fr. Ciaran Kitching, Tom Roche and Galway Librarian, Mr. Tom Conway. 1993.



Above, Left to Right: Ms. Hanna O'Sullivan, Cork City Librarian with the Lord Mayor of Cork and a committee member of Cork City Library discuss the Wood of Life with Tom Roche at the official opening by the Lord Mayor in Cork City Library. 1997.



Right: The Former Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dick Spring T.D., took time out from his busy schedule to view one of the many panels in the exhibition after he had officially opened the exhibition in Kerry County Library, Tralee. 1995

Below: The JFK Arboretum in New Ross was the venue for the opening of the exhibition by former Agriculture Minister, Mr. Ivan Yates T.D. Also included in the picture are from Left to Right, Mr. Tom Roche, Mr. Diarmuid McAree, Chief Forest Officer, Forest Service and Mr. Paddy Kelly, Director JFK Arboretum. 1996



Galtee Wood Products Ltd.
Main Street, Ballylanders, Co. Limerick
Tel: 062 46855.

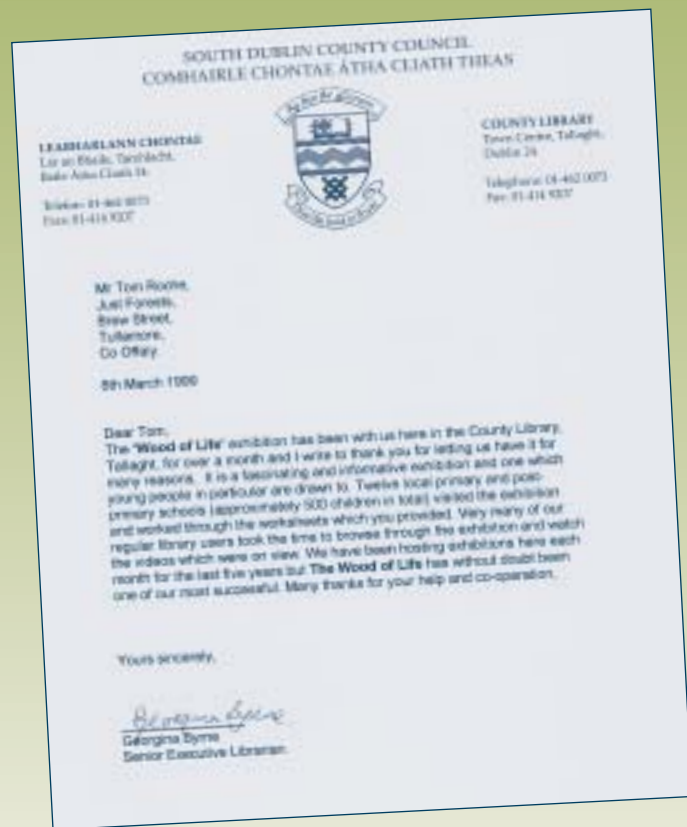
Manufacturers of quality solid wood & veneered pine bedroom doors, kitchen doors & accessories.

Member of the Irish Timber Buyers Group

We wish
Just Forests
the very best on celebrating
ten years



Mr. Kevin Maye, Project Manager, Wood Technology Centre, University of Limerick; Tom Roche, Just Forests and Prof. McQuade



Staff of Tallaght Library

Wood Technology Centre hosts Wood of Life
 Plassey Wood Technology Centre hosted the exhibition during May/June 1999. Prof. Eamon McQuade, Dean College of Engineering, officially opened the Wood of Life Exhibition in the Foundation Building of Limerick University on Friday 10th May 1999.

Edenderry Library

The exhibition is presently on display in Edenderry Public Library until Tuesday 21st December 1999. This will be the last venue for 1999.

We hope that you have enjoyed this stroll down memory lane and if you or your organisation is interested in hosting the exhibition during 2000, please contact the office at 0506-23557 or e-mail <woodlife@justforests.org>.

Earth Day 2000

Haywood Community School, Co.Laois will host the exhibition from the 6th to the 10th of March 2000.



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Wood'en it be nice to plant more trees?

The Honorary Secretary of Just Forests is putting his money (and land) where his mouth is - he just planted 50 acres of his Offaly farm in broadleaves!

In April 1999, the planting was completed near Daingean in County Offaly of 47 acres of trees on the farm of Tony Dolan, Board Member of Just Forests. Tony made the decision to plant for a number of reasons. He has always loved trees, he often thinks of the earlier generations of his family who planted trees on the farm and those who planted these in the late 18th century. Apart from the spiritual and aesthetic qualities of the trees, Tony sees his plantation as making a contribution, however small, towards the promotion of a more sustainable use of the earth's resources. Plantation forestry has an important role to play in helping to relieve pressure on natural forests and Tony's trees and their timber will in future help, he hopes in the survival of some threatened rainforest trees. Tony advocates that we need wood - indeed more wood - instead of PVC's etc. Wood is renewable and so versatile. He highlights the fact that much of the timber in his home is two hundred years old and over and remains to the good.

Irish timber if grown to the highest quality standard possible can be a true friend to our environment, to our economy. "We cannot just decry the loss of rainforest and all we lose with them - we must protect them and this includes the growing and using of wood from this part of the world", he says.

We must offer some solutions to problems, not just cause them. Thus he says, he hopes his association with Just Forests represents involvement in an organisation which he feels

offers some solutions at policy and ideological levels and his planting represents these at a practical level.

As a farmer, Tony also sees that the planting of trees offers a welcome financial supplement to farm income through the annual premium payable by the Forest Service, especially in these days of poor return from many

“Plantation forestry has an important role to play in helping to relieve pressure on natural forests..”

other agricultural activities. The plantation of about 40 acres of broadleaves, (oak and ash mainly with some sycamore, norway maple, alder, beech etc.) and 7 acres of norway spruce, will in time yield good quality timber for furniture,

“If all our forests, natural and planted are managed in a sustainable manner in the tropics and in our part of the world, we will all benefit.”

craft work, construction work, wildlife habitats and enhance the environment locally for future generations, while at the same time assisting the survival of the rain forests and their people, Tony hopes.

He believes that if all our forests, natural and planted are managed in a sustainable manner in the tropics and in our part of the world, we will all benefit. We are living in an increasingly interdependent world - thus as Tony ambles through his trees in Offaly, he feels that he is doing so in the solidarity of forest people, all over the globe.



Tony Dolan and neighbour, Mr. Owen O'Donohue admiring the new hardwood plantation on Tony's land in Mount Lucas, Co. Offaly.

First FSC Draft on the way!

After months of meetings and discussions it appears that Irish forest stakeholders are serious about independent forest certification...Report by Tom Roche.

The Steering Committee of the 'Irish Forestry Certification Initiative' (IFCI), recently appointed Mr Tony Mannion, Dip. For. Sc., Dip. EIA (mgmt) MSIF, to commence work on drawing up the First Draft FSC Standard for Irish forests. Mr Mannion who is the current president of The Society of Irish Foresters (SIF) is a well-known professional forestry consultant and is based in Rosses Point, Sligo. At the same meeting on Friday 27th August in Tullamore, Just Forests were appointed as secretariat to the Initiative.

What is FSC?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, independent, non-governmental organisation founded in 1993. The goal of the FSC is to promote environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

The FSC has ten Principles and 56 Criteria of Forest Management that cover such issues as environmental impact, land tenure and community benefits. In November of 1996, a seminar on forest/timber certification was organised by the Tullamore-based forest campaigning group Just Forests, in Dowdstown House, Navan. Over sixty people representing the commercial, social and environmental interests attended.

In December 1998, individuals in Ireland interested in FSC certification came together to start a process to further develop the FSC's Principles and Criteria for application in Ireland. On Friday 22 January 1999, a Steering Committee was elected and mandated to proceed with the development of an Irish Forestry Standard based on the FSC Principles & Criteria - a standard that could be independently certified by an accredited FSC certifier. The members of the Steering Committee represent the social, economic and environmental stakeholders in Irish forestry.

Compliance with IFCI Standard

In the absence of FSC approved standards, certification evaluations may occur under the FSC system by FSC accredited certifiers. The majority of certifications globally have taken place in just this situation. A company or landowner signs a contract with an FSC accredited certifier to do an evaluation. The certifiers are required to consider the FSC Principles and Criteria, the best available standards for the region, to consult with all stakeholders, and to take into consideration any information on the company, as well as comments on their evaluation system, to document how these are

taken into account and to rigorously assess the companies performance and forestry operations in the field. The FSC system allows this process to proceed at the same time as national/regional standards are being developed.

Any Irish forest owner that is certified prior to the completion of the 'Irish Forestry Certification Initiative's'(IFCI) standards has one year to comply with the national standards (the emerging IFCI standard) once the International FSC Board approves them.

Experience in other countries has shown that the process of developing regional/national standards is a significant undertaking. The situation in Ireland (with our plantation forestry programme) poses a number of particularly challenging issues, which the IFCI recognises and will work to address.

Interest by forest companies to pursue certification and increasing demand for certified products from value added manufacturers, retailers, and consumers in the last few months, provides an opportunity for promoting the FSC and certification in Ireland. FSC members, including environmental organisations, forest companies, individuals, and all stakeholder organisations, will work in cooperation with FSC accredited certifiers to ensure that certification assessments proceed in a constructive and as transparent a manner as possible over the coming months.

Consultation Process

The appointment of Mr Mannion is a giant step forward for the IFCI and firmly places the initiative on the right



National Steering Group and the Secretariat.

L-R: Mr. Brendan Kelly (Farmer - Social Chamber), Mr. Denis Heenan (Chairman Crann-Environmental Chamber), Mr. George McCarthy (Head of Planning at Coillte-Economic Chamber), Ms. Iva Pocock (VOICE-Voice of Irish Concern For the Environment-Environment Chamber), Mr. Donal Whelan (Technical Director, Irish Timber Growers Association-Small Forest Owners Chamber), Mr. Tony Mannion (Appointed Consultant. Tony represented the Society of Irish Foresters on the Social Chamber and has since been replaced by Mr. Sean McNamara from the Society), Standing: Mr. Donal Magner (Irish Timber Council-Economic Chamber), Mr. Tom Roche (Co-ordinator and FSC Contact Person in Ireland), Mr. Neil Foot (Logistics Manager, Louisiana Pacific Europe-Economic Chamber). Missing from the picture is Dr. Declan Little (Woodlands of Ireland-Social Chamber).

road to independent certification of Irish forests in the not too distant future. It is expected that the first draft will be circulated to all those with an interest in Irish forestry for consultation towards the end of December 1999 or early January 2000. In keeping with FSC protocol Mr Mannion resigned as chairman of the steering group to take up his commercial brief.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

The first FSC DRAFT Standard for Irish forests is now before the Steering Group. The Technical Working Group of the IFCI Working Group had a meeting in Tullamore on the 22nd November 1999 to discuss the draft. Once the draft has been approved by the Steering Committee the document will be sent to all those who attended the meeting in An Taisce (the National Working Group) and any others that wish to comment on the draft. In order to ensure your right to consultation on the draft standards please forward your contact details to the secretariat. For more information regarding the FSC, or on becoming a member, or to participate in the Irish Forestry Certification Initiative (IFCI) please contact: The Co-ordinator, Irish Forestry Certification Initiative, c/o Just Forests, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland. Ph/Fax: 0506 25297/23557 Email: woodlife@justforests.org

Grant Approved

The Heritage Council have very kindly provided £10,000 support to facilitate the public consultation process. **THANK YOU**

FSC PRINCIPLES & CRITERIA

(Short Version)

PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES

Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.

PRINCIPLE 2: TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognised and respected.

PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.

PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes,

and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLAN

A management plan — appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations — shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Monitoring shall be conducted — appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management — to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

PRINCIPLE 9: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes, which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

PRINCIPLE 10: PLANTATIONS

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.



This is the FSC registered trademark which appears on wood and wood products from forests independently certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.



January 1999

Some of the participants in action at the Founding Meeting of the 'Irish Forestry Certification Initiative' Working Group which was held in An Taisce's offices in Tailors Hall, Dublin.

Photo © Just Forests.

A look at Corporate attitudes to timber/forests

is there a change taking place or what?

Venezuelan campaigners target Irish trans-national.

The myth about tree plantations helping to protect forests

"Tree plantations help alleviate pressures on natural forests, thereby contributing to halt deforestation." The wording may slightly differ from forester to forester and from plantation company to plantation company, but the above is repeated over and over again to convince the public that tree plantations are good and should be further supported and promoted if we wish to save the world's forests.

The above may be true in some cases, particularly where local communities have planted trees to serve their own needs, but it is totally untrue when it comes to large-scale fast-growing tree monocultures. As this latter type of plantations spread at an increasing rate all over the world, deforestation continues unabated or even increases. If we look into the most "successful" plantation countries (Chile, Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa), we may find that plantations either increase deforestation directly or -in the best of cases- that they don't play any role at all regarding forest conservation.

Chipped and shipped

Chilean environmentalists have recently published "La tragedia del bosque chileno" (The Tragedy of Chilean Forests), which documents the destruction of its native forests. Chile being one of the leading countries regarding tree plantations (more than 2 million hectares of exotic tree monocultures planted), this should have -in accordance with foresters and plantation companies' assertions- prevented the destruction of its native forests.

Unfortunately, the opposite is true and it has been proven that in many cases native forests have been substituted by plantations, thus becoming a direct cause of deforestation. In other cases, extensive areas of forests have been cut, chipped and shipped to Japanese pulp mills, regardless of the abundant plantation wood available for that purpose.

The same can be said about Brazil and Indonesia, both with extensive forests and millions of hectares of tree plantations, where deforestation continues increasing. In those two countries, logging and forest fires in many

cases serve the purpose of clearing forests for the establishment of industrial tree plantations. Even in South Africa, with its more than 2 million hectares of eucalyptus and pine trees planted in non-forest areas, the few remaining native forests continue to be degraded.

Smurfit blockade

A very specific and current example is provided by Smurfit in Venezuela. This company has planted thousands of hectares of eucalyptus, pines and gmelinas to feed its pulp mill. However, the company has been an important factor of deforestation in the region. Firstly, because some of its plantations were implemented at the expense of the existing native forest. Secondly, because although many of its plantations are ready to be harvested, Smurfit has been feeding its pulp mill with cheaper raw material from native forests. Only now, the company has decided to halt its use of tropical wood, but not as a result of its commitment to environmental protection, beautifully worded in its web page (www.smurfit.ie). In fact, such decision was the result of the successful struggle of local people to defend their forests, which culminated last January with the blockade of the highway leading to the pulp mill and the detention of at least a dozen of the company's lorries loaded with tropical wood.

World Rainforest Movement (WRM) Newsletter, Summer 1999.

Canadian forester to end clear-cuts

'Society and market' forces cited by company's chief

In May of this year a second Canadian forest-products firm said it would phase out clear-cut logging in British Columbia, a tree harvesting practice that has sparked widespread environmental criticism. TimberWest Forest Corp. cited public and market concern over the industry's environmental practices for its decision to end clear-cutting in the thick coastal forests along the Pacific Ocean over the next four years. **CLEAR-CUTTING** is the indiscriminate cutting of whole tracts of forested areas. Environmentalists contend the practice does far more damage to established ecosystems than harvesting that

leaves some of the trees behind. "I believe society and the market are telling forest companies in British Columbia to find new and better ways to harvest trees," TimberWest's newly appointed chief executive, Scott Folk, said. MacMillan Bloedel shocked the industry last summer when it announced it would end clear-cut logging.

Positive step

"Clearly this is a positive step, but I think we have to consider this only the first step on a very long road to sustainable (logging practices)," Greenpeace forest activist Tamara Stark said. Stark said TimberWest must also address its continued cutting of old growth trees, its overall high harvest volume and the impact on local sawmill communities of its exports of whole unprocessed logs. The industry has long dismissed claims that clear-cuts cause excessive environmental damage and defended the practice as the only economic and safe way to harvest trees from forests in the rugged coastal mountains. Industry officials who gave MacBlo's move a cold reception praised TimberWest. "This is indicative of a broad cultural shift with the industry to continual reassessment of every aspect of forest management," said Patrick Moore, director of the business-sponsored Forest Alliance. TimberWest said it has been working on Alternative harvesting methods for several years, but Folk, who was appointed chief executive in February, said he ordered officials to "fast track the work."

By Allan Dowd REUTERS VANCOUVER

Groups target DIY Stores selling old growth wood

Now that The Home Depot has decided to "stop selling" old growth wood,



environmental groups are urging other home improvement companies to follow suit. On October 26 1999, groups across the US held events in a Day of Action focused on changing policy of other major DIY stores known to be selling wood from old growth forests. The DIY Stores include; 84 Lumber, Home Base, Menard's, Payless Cashways, and Wickes. The Day of Action was part of Rainforest Action Network's (RAN) continuing campaign to "stigmatise" old growth wood products, and stop the logging of the plant's last remaining old growth forests.

In what is seen as a goodwill gesture, RAN recently ran a full-page ad in the New York Times commending Home Depot for deciding to phase out old growth wood by the year 2002, and urging other home improvement stores to do the same. In

conjunction with the ad, RAN added a feature to its homepage (www.ran.org) allowing visitors to vote for which home improvement store RAN should target next. Irish visitors to their homepage can also send a message to the companies urging them to stop selling old growth wood. (Email from RAN <ran-updates@igc.topica.com>)

B+Q on track in forest conservation

The giant UK-based DIY chain B&Q Plc recently announced that they are "on track" to achieving their target to only buy timber products and wallpaper which have come from well managed forests and have been certified under the Forest Stewardship Council scheme. According to the report, B& Q will have 80% of their products certified under the FSC scheme by their target date of December 31st 1999.

From a total of 14,700 products, 1,398 (9.5%) are currently FSC certified. A further 8,195 (56%) products are "on track" to be certified under the FSC scheme by December 31st 1999. They are also confident that they can obtain 2,011 (14%) other products from certified sources within the deadline but admit, "more activity is required to make sure this is achieved." Their remaining 2,876 (19.5%) products come from Finland. They will replace or discontinue 220 (1%) products that they believe will be difficult to get certified.

On the PEFC

"Since the Pan-European scheme appears to be an accreditation scheme for only European national initiatives we do not see how this scheme adds any value to either the national schemes or our strategy when it cannot accredit schemes outside Europe where we have both stores and forest sources. We do not see how the Pan European scheme will ever be a viable alternative to the potential value FSC can add, and has been adding, to our products. We hope that FSC will continue to explore ways of recognising national schemes and we see this as the way forward."

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Alan Knight, Environmental Controller of B&Q Plc, stated, "Over the past nine years we have completely restructured our supply base. From not knowing which countries our timber came from, we are now in position to state the forest region, give reassurances that the source is well managed and have the confidence that those reassurances have the support from the environmental community.

"Certification has often been described as a bridge between the forest and the customer. It is important that the politics of this debate does not distract us from who the bridge intends to serve. If there is a gap in the bridge, it is not a bridge."

Extract from a report by B&Q Plc June 1999

Global Forests for Life Campaign

(Extract from WWF's Forests for Life Report 1998)

The world's forests are in crisis - approximately half of the world's original forest cover has been lost forever and, of what remains, only a small fraction is adequately protected.

Almost 14 million hectares of the world's tropical forests, (an area roughly the size of Greece or Nepal), are destroyed each year. At the same time, there has been a marked loss of forest quality across the temperate and boreal forests of Canada, Europe, Russia and the USA as many natural forests are being replaced by plantations.

Worldwide it is now estimated that 26 hectares of forests, (the equivalent of 37 football pitches), are being lost every minute.

Individual countries such as El Salvador, Ghana, Madagascar and Pakistan have already lost more than 90 per cent of their original forest cover and, within the next 25 years, only 10 per cent of Asia Pacific's original forests will remain.

Although the world's governments promised to address this urgent issue of forest loss when they met at the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, very little positive action was taken and deforestation continues to increase: in 1996 the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE) announced a 34 per cent increase in deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon alone since 1992 and Brazil still loses more tropical forest each year than any other country in the world.

Supporting WWF's Forests for Life Campaign

In response to this world crisis, Just Forests supports WWF's Forests for Life Campaign which promotes:

- the establishment and practical realisation of an ecologically representative network of protected areas covering at least 10 per cent of each of the world's forest types by the end of the year 2000: only six per cent of the world's forests are currently legally designated as strictly protected areas but 22 countries to date have now pledged to meet the WWF target;
- the independent certification of at least 25 million hectares of well-managed forests by June 2001 focusing on key timber producing countries: over 15 million hectares of forests have now been certified, meeting WWF's original certification target six months ahead of time. The Forests for Life Campaign is working in tandem with WWF's International Forest Programme to achieve WWF's global goal for forests:
- protected areas cover at least 10 per cent of each biome by the year 2000. This has since been supported by a wide range of stakeholders, including the United Nations.
- to halt and reverse the loss and degradation of forests and all kinds of woodlands by the year 2000.

Be a F.R.I.E.N.D. of Just Forests and help us in our work
(See page 44)

300 Delegates Attend Historic Ceremony

Representatives from UK timber, paper and retail industry, the UK Forestry Commission, government and environmental groups attended the signing ceremony of the UK Woodlands Assurance Scheme (UKWAS), and the WWF 1995Plus Group Annual Conference, in London on June 3rd 1999. The FSC compatible UKWAS was signed by more 30 organisations, including forest owners associations, forest industry, 95+ Group companies and environmental organisations. 'The UKWAS represents, for the first time in international history, a consensus on a forestry performance standard at a national level.'

Presentations

During the ceremony presentations were made by Mr David Bills, Director General of the Forestry Commission, Mr Peter Wilson, Director of the Forest Industry Council, representing the forest industry and owners, Dr Alan Knight, Environmental Controller B+Q, representing the WWF 95+Group. Dr Steve Howard, Head of WWF's Global Forest and Trade initiative, represented the UK environmental community.

Illegal Logging

Other groups making presentations included Mr Simon Taylor, Global Witness. Global Witness have been working in Cambodia since 1995. Simon reported on the link between garden furniture coming to the UK from Vietnam and the illegal timber trade in Cambodia with massive military involvement. Log exports from Cambodia have been banned since the end of 1996, but large volumes of logs still move from there to Vietnam where a lot of garden furniture is made.

Finnish Forests

Mr Hannu Valtanen, Finnish Forest Industries Federation informed the delegates that Finland now have a National Forest Certification Council and the national certification scheme is now ready for implementation (FFCS). If successful, half of the Finnish forests will be certified by the end of the year and all forests will be certified by next year. They have decided to work with the pan European Forest Certification Initiative (PEFC).

Extract from summary report prepared by Catherine Graham and Steve Howard.

L-R: Mr. Con little, Forest Manager, Willamette Europe Clonmel; Dr. Alan Knight, Environmental Controller, B+Q PLC; Mr. Tom Roche, Just Forests at the UKWAS Ceremony. Photo Just Forests.



Common Destinies

by Roberto Mina

Much of Ireland was covered in trees 300 years ago. But between 1600-1800, Irish forests were cut down to provide timber not only to build English naval ships but also to make charcoal for new industries such as iron-smelting and glass-making. By 1920, forest cover was only 1%. At present, 8% of Ireland's land area is now covered with forests due to successful reforestation programmes.

The Philippines is fast approaching Ireland's forest cover of the 1920s. Eighty years ago, the Philippines had an estimated forest cover of 70%. Today, that figure is down to 15%. The destruction of Philippines forests has not ceased and has meant a lot of tragic consequences, including loss of biodiversity, loss of habitat for animals, loss of jobs for those in the timber industry and loss of land, even culture, for a number of indigenous communities.

There are a number of voluntary organisations that are committed to promote and protect the natural environment in the Philippines. They are involved in local community organising and advocacy that allow for reforestation and the protection of the last remaining forests. Irish Columban sisters in Mindanao in the south, for example, are working hand in hand with the Subaanen tribe in guarding their ancestral forests from a British mining company. They need the support of the international community in order to be successful. It is my hope that the Irish people will support these efforts.



Roberto Mina pictured here with one of his children is a Columban lay missionary from the Philippines. He has just finished a three years term in Tullamore together with his wife Chris and two children. Roberto and his family have taken part in a number of tree planting activities in Ireland and were active members of Tullamore One World Group. Just Forests wish the Minas every good wish for the future.

Photo © Just Forests

If you would like to help please contact Just Forests

New Timber Buyers Group Formed

The international network of Buyers' Groups is increasing with the establishment of a new timber buyers group here in Ireland. The Irish group brings to 11 the number of Buyers' Groups in Europe. More than 400 companies make up the international network of Buyers' Groups-companies that, in committing to the concept of sustainable forest management, have demonstrated their responsibility to the future of the world's forests.

The founding members (Domhnall Mac Domhnaill, Philip Roche, Duncan Stewart, Tom Roche, John Lavelle, Jacque Brennan and Sean Ryan) of the new group met in the IBEC offices on Monday 11th October 1999, to sign the necessary documents to legally establish the group under Irish law. A date in January 2000 has been set for the official launch of the new group. Best wishes to all involved from Just Forests. If you or your company trades in wood and would like further information or would like to join the group please contact the office at 0506 23557.



Sean Ryan, Managing Director, Galtee Wood Products Ltd, Limerick; Domhnall Mac Domhnaill, Managing Director, True Temper Ltd, Cork; Philip Roche, Managing Director, Abbey Woods Ltd, Dublin; John Lavelle, Sales Manager, Richard Burbridge (Ireland) Ltd, Dublin. Photo © Just Forests

What have they signed up to?

Objectives:

- 1.** The Members of the Group are committed to the principle that all timber and wood products sourced by them will be established as coming from well managed and sustainable sources as soon as is practicable.
- 2.** Promotion of the purchase of timber from well managed and sustainable Irish sources.
- 3.** The Members of the group are committed to the principle and aspire to the objective that as much as possible of all the timber and wood products sourced by them will, as soon as is practicable, be independently certified, preferably by a certifier accredited by The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), as coming from well managed and sustainable sources.
- 4.** To gain acceptance of the principle of independent certification by the Forest Authorities in Ireland so that the purchase of timber in Ireland is compatible with the groups' objectives.
- 5.** To promote public understanding of the need for consumers to support well managed and sustainable forestry in their lifestyles and buying practices.

The Holistic Approach Through To The End Product.

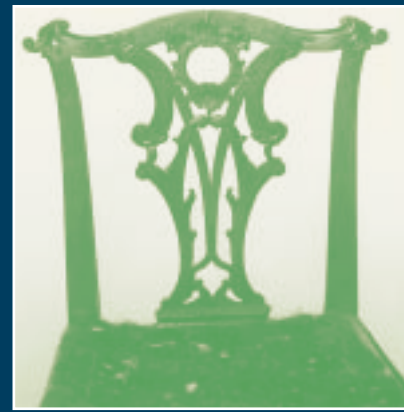
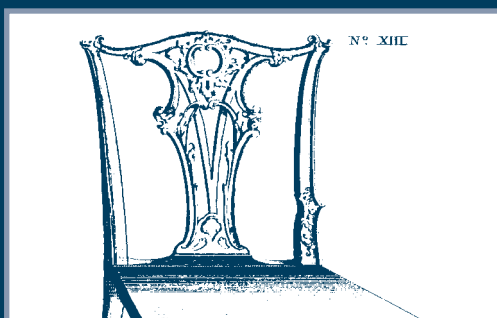
By: David Marshall.

As a conservator of the finest early Irish furniture for many years, I notice that the quality of Irish hardwoods is supreme. The chair pictured opposite is entirely made of Irish walnut- the design below is from Chippendale's 'Gentleman and Cabinet Maker's Director', and dates from 1753. The chair itself dates from c. 1755, and quite possibly was a sample made by a top Dublin cabinet maker of what designs in the director actually looked like, as it has no number and was thus likely not to have been part of a set. The timber is extremely fine grained, rich and durable; the splat is 3/8" thick and the carving precise and flowing. The whole is as good an example of a Director back chair as I have ever seen, corresponding more closely to the feeling in the design than a similar chair in the Victoria and Albert Museum, though the detail at the base of the splat differs slightly from the original.

Irish Oak of the period was used for backs and linings for drawers, and occasionally for whole pieces. This too is thoroughly achievable 250 years on; it is always carefully radially sawn for maximum stability and figure when used as a face material, and neatly jointed together for maximum strength. My feeling working with these pieces, and using only original or identical native timber for their conservation is that there is something very special about the relationship between the maker and the end product which is generated by the quality of the material itself.

Native self seeded forest timber is far superior to any planted timber, so inevitably having harvested the former, the second best is to tune in to nature's process in an holistic approach to reforestation. I feel that this functions on an intuitive level to select which seedlings to grow where, and how to nurture them to maturity. This involves an overall holistic approach which comes from the heart as much as the head, and results in beautiful tufty healthy countryside, a healthy relationship with it, and an end product which is capable of inspiring people who work with it to create pieces of exceptional intrinsic value.

David Marshall is conservator of the National Collection of Period Furniture at the National Museum of Ireland, Collin's Barracks, Dublin.



Standing Noble

This is a very short extract from 'The Victorian Cabinet Maker's Assistant', printed in 1853. This piece concerns the importation of mahogany from the island of Jamaica to England. The writer says, 'We learn from missionary intelligence and books of travel, that many noble trees are yet standing in different parts of the island, which the difficulty of removal alone has preserved. It is surprising that no attempt has been made to continue the supply of accessible wood, by planting the waste lands, of which every proprietor has some within his range, and which, although unfit for almost any other purpose, would be quite suitable for nurseries or plantations of mahogany.'

Val Hughes, cabinet maker and board member of Just Forests.

The Tree Council of Ireland and its 36 members send best wishes for the 10th anniversary of Just Forests and for its continued success.



The Tree Council of Ireland is a voluntary organisation which aims to promote the planting, care and conservation of trees in town and countryside.

For further information please contact The Tree Council at:
Cabinteely House, The Park,
Cabinteely
Dublin 18
Tel: (01) 2849211 or (01) 679 9314
Fax: (01) 2849197
E-mail: trees@treecouncil.ie

10th Anniversary interactive

Birthday Present "King Oak"

"Estimates of its age begin at 400 years; it might be double that. With a girth of 26 feet below its lowest branches, it is one of the oldest, longest and best-preserved oaks in the country."

Thomas Pakenham from his book 'Meetings with remarkable Trees.'

Well known Tullamore professional photographer, Mr. Joe O'Sullivan has very generously given Just Forests a copy of the "King Oak" tree in Charleville Estate, Tullamore. We are offering a 10" x 8" framed copy of this outstanding photograph to you for just £35.00. (Includes postage)

The proceeds from the sale of this picture will help Just Forests to continue working for the just development of the world's forests. We will also give a percentage of the proceeds to the project on page 35.

Please make cheques payable to: Just Forests -King Oak, and post to Just Forests, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Allow 30 days for delivery.



"The ignorant man marvels at the exceptional; the wise man marvels at the common; the greatest wonder of all is the regularity of nature."

G D. Boardman.

The Joiner

One evening, weary of trying without success to fit a tenon into a slot, Chick-Pea nevertheless made up his mind to persevere with it and remained at work when the others went home. With small, precise cuts he busied himself with finishing the adjustment, and as the workshop was empty, he sang in rhythm with his movements...

From 'A Way of Working.' The Spiritual Dimension of Craft.

Have a Go!

Discover the Slieve Blooms

Test your knowledge on wood and win a copy of Tom Joyce's 'Bladhma -WALKS OF DISCOVERY IN SLIEVE BLOOM'.

This pocket-size book in hardcover is beautifully illustrated and signed by Tom Joyce the well known artist and naturalist. If you are thinking of exploring the Slieve Blooms then this gem of a book is for you. Just Forests have two copies of Tom's 'Bladhma' to give away to the first two names drawn out of the hat.

All you have to do is answer the following;

1. Name three tropical hardwoods;
2. Name three Irish-grown softwoods;
3. Name three Irish-grown hardwoods;
4. Name three composite wood-based panelboards that are manufactured in Ireland from the produce of Irish forests.

Winners will be notified.

Send your entries before Feb 1st 2000 to:

Have A Go!, Just Forests, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

TREE REGISTER OF IRELAND (TROI)

The Tree Council of Ireland and the Irish Tree Society have appointed a Project Manager to oversee the Tree Register of Ireland (TROI) project.



This project will develop a computerised database/register of remarkable trees in Ireland, North and South. Project results will be made available for public and private use and for scientific research.

This is a vital project intended to augment the Forest Service's Forest Inventory Planning System (FIPS) which will provide a research and information tool relating to trees and forest within the context of their physical conditions and locations; and through this increase the awareness of outstanding trees and forests.

The project also endeavours to find the champion trees in each county. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the project, or have any information on outstanding trees in your area, please contact

Mark Twomey, Project Director, TROI, C/O the Tree Council of Ireland, Cabinteely House, The Park, Cabinteely, Dublin 18. Phone: (01) 2849211 or (01) 6799314 Fax: (01) 2849197 E-mail: trees@treecouncil.ie

The TROI project is funded by the Forest Service of the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources and the EU

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKERS IN THE AMAZON FOREST

During my trip to the Amazon I met Tasso Rezende de Azevedo, the very popular and energetic project director of IMOFLORA, the progressive Brazilian NGO. Tasso wrote the following article especially for our 10th Anniversary.

In the middle of the greatest Tropical Forest in the world, the Amazon Forest, Manaus is famous for its impressive Opera House built in the end of 19th century during the glorious years of the Rubber Extraction in the region and by the Cultural Festival of Boi Bumba, the second largest popular festival in the world - after Carnival. Now a new project promise to link the woodwork, education, music and forest conservation.

The Amazon Luthier Shop School, administered by IMAFLORA, offers an opportunity for disadvantaged youths between the ages of 12 and 18 to learn the art and science of handcrafting fine musical instruments. Acoustic Guitars and Bass, Banjo and Quattro are in the list of instruments students learn to make over a 20 month period while acquiring musical knowledge, ecological awareness, the ability to identify Amazon wood species, and an appreciation for the arts and environmental education. Upon the completion of the course, the students are equipped with the skills necessary to become professional craftspeople or to work in the refurbishing of musical instruments.

The school exclusively uses either wood that has been certified according to the principles and criteria of the FSC or scrap wood from old furniture or construction or wood that has been left abandoned for over 10 years in fields and pastures. Well known but threatened species such as mahogany, ebony, pau-ferreiro and jacarandá are not used by the school.

Situated in the outskirts of Manaus in the state of Amazonas, the shop-school is directed by craftsman Rubens Gomes. Born in the state of Para, Mr. Gomes has been crafting quality musical instruments and researching Amazon wood species for over 15 years. He says "We want to give to this children an opportunity of life which bring together in harmony forest conservation and the art-craft of high quality hand made music instrument".

The shop-school introduces a new element to Luthier in Latin America by incorporating environmental concerns with the day to day development of Luthier activity. Luthier is one of the oldest professions that uses wood to create its end product. It is also one of the professions that gives most value to the natural resources used to make these products. The development of fine Luthier is still totally dependent upon the forest to satisfy its needs for wood, glue, and resin.

There are many cases in which rare and even endangered species such as Jacaranda, Mahogany, Ebony, and Pau Brasil are used to make instruments without any regard for environmental consequences. The luthier school continues its work by identifying alternative species that can be used in order to decrease the volume of endangered species that are extracted from the forest. By using only FSC certified wood, scrap wood, and/or wood that has been abandoned in a field for more than 10 years, the luthier school is contributing to the transformation of Luthier into an environmentally responsible activity that promotes the conservation of natural forests. The environmental work of the Amazon Luthier Shop-

School was recently recognized by the Luthier Association of Brazil as a model to be applied to the Luthier environmental education campaign in Brazil and Latin America.

Although Brazil has a strong musical tradition due to its diverse rhythms and rich musical history, the crafting of high quality instruments is limited in Brazil by three factors: First, the lack of skilled labour sacrifices instrument quality which consequently reduces competitiveness in the international market. Second, availability of certain raw materials is low due to the high cost of traditional woods that are now endangered due to a lack of good forest management. The lack of research for alternative species prevents the use of substitute species from being heavily incorporated into the production process. Finally, the general lack of University level education separates the co-dependent aspects of art and science from one another in Luthier since industrial manufacturing practically excludes the artistic elements of crafting an instrument.

The Luthier Shop-School stands up to face this reality by helping adolescents earn a profession through the transfer of skills needed to become responsible citizens who can actively participate in society. The school uses wood from the Amazon region to craft musical instruments that can compete with similar products at the domestic and international level. Furthermore, the shop is committed to the use of either wood that has been certified according to strict socio/environmental criteria from forests that are environmentally appropriate, socially responsible, and economically viable or from wood that has been recycled by sawmills for example.

The School is established in this poorest region of Manaus in order to reach disadvantaged youths from the area and to create a reference point for a region that lacks a cultural point of reference.

HOW TO HELP THE LUTHIER SCHOOL:

The school's main financial challenge stems partly from the inability of the students to pay for their studies due to the fact that they have to help supplement family income. Another financial limitation arises from the costs of material used to craft the instruments.

The school is seeking the following sources of funding:

- Individual contributions - by donating time to teach music, arts and woodwork technicians as well as in kind donations.
- The Luthier learning scholarship adoption program - one can adopt a student by paying US\$ 100 per month during 18 months. At the end of the period the donator will receive an instrument of his/her choice from the student that has been adopted.
- Revenue generated from sales of the instruments produced by both students and professors; you can buy instruments made by the school.
- Specific project support funds: Funds from foundations and other supporters to increase technology capabilities and structure of the school to attend students.

If you want to help or need more information please contact Just Forests

New National Forestry Standards Group almost completed

A new National Forestry Standards Working Group was established at a meeting held on the 16th of February 1999, in the School of Architecture, University College Dublin. Mr. Michael Daly, Principal Officer of The Forest Service at the Department of the Marine & Natural Resources, chaired the meeting. Mr. Daly outlined the general objective of the group, which is to develop a position paper on the Forestry Standard by the end of 1999.

Background to sustainable forest management in Ireland

A paper outlining current measures and approaches to sustainable forest management within the Forest Service was presented by Mr. Diarmuid McAree, Chief Forestry Inspector with the Forest Service.

Mr. McAree proposed that four working groups should be set up from the members present to identify suitable indicators to cover the six criteria agreed at the Lisbon meeting in 1998.

Dr. Gerhardt Gallagher, Consultant Forester with the Forest Service, aided by overhead transparencies described the background to sustainable forest management dating from the work of the Bruntland Commission and the Earth Summit conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Dr. Gallagher outlined the position of the standard viz a viz Forest Service Guidelines, the Code of Best Forest Practice and legislation.

Professor Jack Gardiner, Head of Forestry at UCD, presented an overview of sustainable forest management. Prof. Gardiner also outlined the proposed structure of the standard, based on the six Lisbon criteria. He said the standard should be regarded as a first approximation as it will evolve and change over time. The chairman, Mr. Michael Daly stated that there would be substantial work involved in the task of covering the Lisbon criteria by the various groups but he hoped to minimise the degree of bureaucracy involved.

A group discussion afterwards provided some clarification on a number of points. Not least was the concern expressed by Mr. Tom Roche (Just Forests) representing The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), that this new standards working group might be a duplication of the already established Forest Stewardship Council Working Group. Mr. Roche expressed his concern that the Forest Service was commencing a parallel process that might usurp the limited energy of present members in another complicated and laborious process of forest standard development. Mr. Peter Wilson of the Irish Timber Council supported Mr. Roche's concerns. In order to avoid any possible duplication of work, Mr. Donal Whelan, Technical Adviser with the Irish Timber Growers Association suggested that a "Liaison Working Group" should be set up. The chairman Mr. Michael Daly, agreed

that such a group could interface with the FSC process as suggested by Mr. Whelan. Mr. George McCarty (Coillte) and Mr. Tom Roche were selected as the liaison members between the Forest Service National Forestry Standard Working Group and the Forest Stewardship Council National Working Group.

Mr. Paraic Divilly, Chairman IFA Farm Forestry Committee, raised concerns with regard to individuals having plantations certified by a third party and that this would impose a further layer of bureaucracy. The chairman assured Mr. Divilly that the Forest Service will not propose additional burdens and any IFA concerns will be fully addressed in this regard.

Mr. Diarmuid McAree, proposed that the four sub-groups to be set up to develop indicators to deal with the Lisbon criteria should cover the social, legal, environmental and economic aspects of forestry. It was also agreed to establish a steering group which would involve liaising with the chairs of each sub-group, supervision and review of progress.

The composition of each the groups and the particular Lisbon criteria that they would address was agreed as follows:

STEERING GROUP

*Mr. Michael Daly, Forest Service (Chair)
Mr. Eugene Hendrick, COFORD
Dr. Miriam Ryan, COFORD
Dr. Gerhardt Gallagher, Forest Service*

SOCIOLOGICAL GROUP

*(To deal with Lisbon criteria 6)
Professor Michael O'CinnÉide, NUI Galway (Chair)
Mr. Padraic Divilly, IFA
Mr. Tom Roche, Forest Stewardship Council/Just Forests
Mr. John Fennessy, Society of Irish Foresters
Mr. Diarmuid McAree, Forest Service*

LEGAL GROUP

*(To ascertain which existing and proposed regulations, guidelines, standards and legislation support the standard)
Mr. John O'Dea, Enterprise Ireland (Chair)
Ms Yvonne Wylde, NSAI
Professor Jack Gardiner, UCD
Mr. George McCarthy, Coillte
Ms Iva Pocock, Voice/Crann*

ENVIRONMENT GROUP

*(To deal with Lisbon criteria 2, 4 and 5 and the CO2 aspects of criterion 1)
Professor E. P. Farrell, UCD (Chair)
Dr. John O'Halloran, NUI Cork
Mr. Michael Starrett, Heritage Council
Mr. Philip Geoghan, An Taisce
Dr. Aileen O'Sullivan, Ducas*



Neil Foot, Louisiana- Pacific, Kevin Collins, TCI, Anna Jenkins FSC U.K. and Tom McDonald at the Society of Irish Forester's 1999 Seminar in Newbridge.

Photo © Just Forests

ECONOMIC GROUP

(To deal with Lisbon criteria 1 and 3, apart from carbon sequestration)

Mr Donal Whelan, ITGA

Mr Con Little, Willamette Limited (Chair)

Mr Peter Wilson, Irish Timber Council

Mr Michael Ryan, Irish Forestry Contractors Association

Working Group Meetings

Mr Hendrick stated that the objective of each group is to produce a draft standard and indicators by the end of the year. This would be presented to the Working Group in plenary, for discussion and comment. It was also agreed that a discussion document would be essential and the group would have to prepare this at the commencement of their task for submission to the Steering Group.

The chairman agreed that the groups would have powers to co-opt other parties, if required, and that the Forest Service would provide support in terms of supplying material on request.

The Lisbon Criteria:

At the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe held in Lisbon in 1998, a set of six criteria and accompanying indicators for the Sustainable Management of Forests were adopted. The adoption of these criteria formally recognised the need to enhance the ecological, productive and social functions of forests and to rectify trends away from the maximisation of these values.

CRITERION 1.

Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles.

CRITERION 2

Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality.

CRITERION 3.

Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood).

CRITERION 4.

Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems.

CRITERION 5.

Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of productive functions in forest management (notably soil and water).

CRITERION 6.

Maintenance of other socio-economic and cultural functions and conditions.

TIME Magazine Article on NGO's and the Internet. Or Just Forests on the Web!

By Philip Elmer-Dewitt

'As a group, environmentalists did not fall in love with computers the way scientists...did...The so-called paperless office that was supposed to save trees by replacing printed documents with electronic data ended up producing more paper, not less. What was to love...?

'Then came the World Wide Web... the Internet was ideal for thinking locally and acting globally to save the earth. Every outfit [NGO's] with an office and an acronym seems

to have its own home page, from major organisations like the Nature Conservancy and Natural Resources Defence Council to the militantly small-bore New Jersey Heat Pump Council, Irish Woodworkers for Africa and Adopt-a-Cow.

'...if plugging the planet directly into the Net makes its inhabitants more environmentally conscious, even the most technophobic back-to-nature types would have to applaud.'

© TIME, November 1997



Business as usual

Dave Cotter and John Seymour, two well-known environmental campaigners, express their view outside the Bank of Ireland, Dame Street, Dublin, during a recent campaign on the debt crisis which is affecting two-thirds of the world's population.

Another Certification Scheme

A new certification scheme set up mainly by forest owners, and intended as an alternative to the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) is receiving negative responses from many quarters. Environmental NGO's, sectors of the forest industry and a number of unions have according to *FERN, the Brussels based forest monitoring NGO, expressed strong reservations about the scheme.

No Support

'European NGO's could not support this scheme as it still lacked the basic elements a certification scheme should comply with' said Saskia Ozinga, of FERN. The Pan European Forest Certification Scheme (PEFC) which is to be formally launched on June 30th 1999, was strongly denounced by German NGO's at a seminar in Warzburg on April 20th 1999.

Room for improvement

Acknowledging the need for improvements to the FSC system, Ms. Ozinga urged forest owners to join the FSC process to ensure it meets their needs. She stated that the FSC was an 'open' organisation, guided by its members, 'which could still be improved'

Adapted from EU Forest Watch, April 99 Issue

** Just Forests is a member of FERN*

Do you like the traditional hands-on tactile approach to learning about wood?

Just Forests offers you the best of both worlds in wood education.

As part of our organisation's philosophy, Just Forests promotes the creation of a "wood culture" here in Ireland.

The KNOW-WOOD™ board is an extension of our main education/awareness project which is funded by the Forest Service called the Wood of Life Exhibition.

Because of the impact the Wood of Life has had on the teaching community there have been numerous requests from teachers for a "mini" version of the exhibition for the classroom.

- make the connection between our dependency on trees and our need for wood.

The KNOW-WOOD™ Board is a very handsome, wall mounted, wood education board consisting of 3 tropical woods (from FSC certified forests), 6 Irish-grown softwoods, 6 Irish-grown hardwoods and 3 composite board materials plus two manuals and Woods of the World CD-Rom.

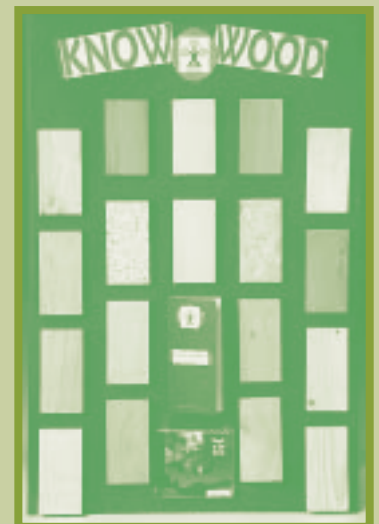


Putting the final touches to the KNOW-WOOD Board at Dundrum Sawmill. L-R: Seamus Tynan, Coillte; Tom Roche, Just Forests and Seamus Heaney, Manager, Coillte's Dundrum Sawmill.

The KNOW-WOOD™ board is a very practical response to this request and aims to:

- create a "wood culture" in Ireland;
- foster a greater appreciation of wood in the lives of all Irish school-goers;
- enable teachers of woodwork & construction studies to promote a better knowledge of wood amongst their pupils;
- empower woodwork students to make informed choices regarding different wood species and their applications;

*Creating
a
'wood
culture'
in
Ireland*



**To mark our 10th anniversary
We are offering you this Millennium Special. The Knowwood Board and Woods of the World CD for just £166.00 (includes p&p)**

Do you prefer the power and sophistication of multimedia technology on CD-Rom?

The planet's only affordably priced multimedia database for woodworkers, wood researchers, woodusers and forest campaigners



WOODS OF THE WORLD (version 2.5 'Pro Internet')

Some major features of Woods of the World and Woods of the World Pro:

- Detailed information on up to 910 wood species and products, covering 95% of all the wood in trade. Examine the common names, common uses, distribution, environmental profile, physical and woodworking properties, and mechanical values of all these woods. Imagine a wood book with 3,000 pages of text! That's what's in Woods of the World Pro.
- Incredibly powerful searching capability. Or search the database by scientific name, common name (up to 10,000 common names), or geographic origin
- Instantly compare five of the most important mechanical properties of any one species, against the same properties of any ten other species you select
- Simultaneously view the appearance of any ten woods you choose
- Immediate access to our comprehensive glossary of wood-related terms, and our bibliography and suggested reading list containing more than 100 books and periodicals
- View the most updated list of forest products firms, wood retailers, and furniture companies purporting to sell "certified" wood products.

The Directory covers many categories, including:

- pulp and paper;
- primary and secondary forest products companies;
- forestry resources;
- academic and research institutes;

- non-profit organizations and environmental groups;
- building and construction;
- wood retail sector;
- software related to the forest products industry;
- forestry-related and technical articles;
- wood-related books, magazines, journals, newsletters, newsgroups, and mail lists.

If you want to:

- keep up with developments in the forest products industry;
- know more about what your competition is doing;
- talk with other woodusers and woodworkers around the world;
- have immediate access to volumes of free, vital, wood-related information (other than the cost of your Internet access);
- or just surf the Internet to learn more about your industry...

Woods of the World Pro Internet is an indispensable tool. (c) 1997 Tree Talk, Inc.

"Imagine a wood book with 3,000 pages of text! That's what's in Woods of the World Pro."

SUPPORTING FOREST PROJECTS GLOBALLY

When you purchase a KNOW-WOOD™ board you contribute to responsible forest development worldwide.

Just Forests will contribute £5 from each board sold to progressive forest projects in developing Countries

Please send cheque/Postal Order to:
Millennium Offer, Just Forests, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Allow 6 weeks for delivery

**For further information please contact: Just Forests
Phone: 0506 23557
E-mail: knowwood@justforests.org**

WTO TRADES AWAY WORLD'S FORESTS

As you read this 10th Anniversary Publication the world's most powerful trade body is negotiating the planet's most destructive forest trade plan. The World Trade Organization (WTO) has had private talks with industry groups to create a global agreement for free trade in forest products. This agreement will outlaw environmental safeguards and trade controls simply because timber/ forestry companies view them as barriers to trade. The WTO is a global trade body, which makes legally binding agreements and mediates disputes over trade barriers. This November, the leaders of the WTO's 134 member countries will meet to finalize the forest products agreement in Seattle. This undemocratic and "ecologically ignorant" trade body will bow to the whims of the major forest owners of the US, Canada, New Zealand and to some extent Japan.

Forest legislation in many countries including Ireland will be watered down and greatly weakened if WTO have their way. This news comes at a time when great energy is being expended in Ireland, as numerous groups have come together for the first time to develop good forest management standards for Irish forests.

Example of regulations that could be invalidated by WTO policies include:

- Tariffs; (A tariff is like a tax that a country imposes on a certain import, often to discourage its consumption over what is made at home).
- Import restrictions on forest products that carry invasive pests; (Ireland is relatively free of such pests. We could be forced to import (infected) timber which could potentially wipe out our own forests- look at what happened to our ELMS.)
- Certification or eco labelling schemes; (this is a tool for aiding better forest management. The Irish Forestry Industry is now actively pursuing Independent Certification of their operations to fulfill the wishes of an increasingly discerning European timber consumer. The elimination of certification will cause them serious headaches or worse still, a severe drop in market share for their timber.)
- "Unreasonably" high standards for forest management and production.

The above undemocratic and irresponsible trade policies of the WTO's forest trade agreement will undoubtedly increase logging and consumption of forest products around the world as WTO ignores the environmental consequences of its decisions.

What You Can Do

Get in touch with Dr Michael Woods, T.D., Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources now to demand that Irish trade policymakers halt the forest trade plan. The environmental community should call for the WTO to postpone negotiations for all new agreements until they have assessed the impacts of the agreements that have already been created. Put pressure on the government to engage NGOs in trade negotiations on equal standing with industry groups and to conduct formal

environmental impact assessment before discussing liberalization. Worldwide coalitions of environmental groups are mounting a major campaign to oppose the WTO's forest trade agreement before the November 1999 Ministerial in Seattle. Just Forests wrote to numerous government departments and the Forestry Industry in Ireland in early October regarding the possible negative effects the new round will have on Irish forests. Mounting global opposition to the WTO round of talks in Seattle has forced President Clinton to meet and "talk" with demonstrators. Yesterday, 1st December 1999, 400 opponents to the Seattle talks were arrested. The WTO conference affects everyone, "profit for the few causes environmental and humanitarian degradation for the masses and is fundamentally unethical and undemocratic."

National Approach!

"In Seattle, at the end of November, a new comprehensive global trade round will be launched. These negotiations will have immense implications for developing countries. We must ensure that the interests of poor countries are factored into our national approach and we intend to work with all Government Departments involved in Irish trade policy to achieve this."

Extract from the Opening address by Minister Liz O' Donnell, T.D., at the 1999 National Forum on Development Aid: Ireland Aid - The next 25 years. Held on 28th October 1999 at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin

Woodlands of Ireland - A Millennium Initiative

Focusing on our Native Woodlands

c/o The Tree Council of Ireland
Cabinteely House, The Park,
Cabinteely,
Dublin 18

Telephone: 01-672 7321 Fax: 01-6799457
E-mail: declan.little@treecouncil.ie

As part of the ongoing consultation process in developing strategies to rejuvenate and expand the native woodland resource, the 'Woodlands of Ireland' project is creating a registry of native woodlands and formulating research and development proposals to develop this resource in a coherent and planned manner. Interested semi-natural woodland owners (including low forest/scrub areas) who wish to register their woodlands with 'Woodlands of Ireland' and/or suggest specific collaborative project proposals should contact Dr. Declan Little, Project Co-ordinator, at the above location. Further information on the objectives of this project will also be provided if requested.

STOP STEALING OUR CHILDREN'S HERITAGE

...or eleven great reasons why we should support responsible forestry development worldwide



Some of the Children of Tullamore...

Starting at the top, L-R:
Anne & Emmanuel O'Connell:
Mairead Kinahan-Sayeh: Sean Hughes:
Patrick McNerney: Aoifa O'Sullivan:
Vanessa Craven: Desi Mina: Wason
Fennelly: Kem Akamnonu and
Sushmitha Shyam.

The plight of our last remaining ancient woods continues. Housing developments and road 'improvement' works have been challenged by concerned individuals and community groups around Ireland over the past couple of years. Protests have been frequent and as in the case of the 'eco-warriors' in Glen of the Down - well organised. The dedication and commitment shown by protesters must already send a strong message to all developers that people are not going to stand idly by and watch areas of special interest get destroyed without a fight.

The threat to special areas of natural interest is increasing in Ireland. From Wicklow's Glen of the Downs to Donegal's Ballymacool Demense outside Letterkenny, habitats for wildlife are fast disappearing. Mr. Sean O'Gaoithin, of An Taisce stated recently that, "An Taisce is very concerned at the level of exploitation of small woodlands at the moment. As it is we only have postage-stamp size areas of native woodlands left. This is Ireland's biodiversity and we have a responsibility to protect these kinds of habitats for future generations". The scene is now particularly acute because the once revered government designation of National Heritage Area (NHA) is no longer a guarantee of protection for these areas any more and this must change as it sets in place a precedent for stealing our children's heritage.

Thank God for Diversity

Tullamore is a progressive Midland's town. It is booming. The population has increased in recent times to

almost 10,000 as it becomes a "dormitory" town of Dublin. It is also home to many people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

People from all over the world work in Tullamore as doctors, cooks, restaurant owners, shop owners, social workers and factory workers. This diversity of cultures and skills gives Tullamore a uniqueness that enriches our lives. Our children get a first-hand introduction to the richness of other cultures by interacting with such people. Our visitors have settled in and are accepted now as an integral part of Tullamore society.

Natural forests are also very diverse. It is that diversity that had led to fascinating discoveries. Plants from the world's forests are the basis of many of our life-saving medicines today. Help us to ensure that diversity is free from destruction and remains intact for the next generation.

Be a FRIEND of Just Forests

See page 44 on how you can help us ensure the world's forests, like its people, continue to survive.

Six Billion People

In 1974, the world's population was four billion. In October 1999, the global community greeted the sixth billion citizen.

It is estimated that over the next twenty-five years, the population will increase by another two billion

Commercial exploitation of tropical rainforests - is it sustainable?

A TRIP TO AMAZONIA

Last year ICCO, a Dutch Development Agency based in Zeist invited Just Forests to take part in the 'Gurupa Consultation' on the banks of the Amazon. Local people boused the one hundred and sixty people who had converged on this remote Amazon village from around the world to discuss their vision of sustainable tropical forest development. The unforgettable 640-kilometer boat trip up the awesome Amazon River took us 26 hours. From our hammocks, that were suspended from anchors attached to the ceilings on each deck, we passed through some of the Earth's most fascinating and species-rich ecosystems. I have never been in the company of so many people and experienced such silence. As we headed south from the beautiful city of Belem situated in the Amazon Delta, at times our unrestricted views of the vastness of the forests on either side of the river, and our thinking of how we northerners think the forest ought to be developed, were shattered and challenged by passing ocean-going ships laden with mahogany bound for the northern timber markets of Europe-including Ireland.

ICCO is a Dutch co-financing organisation working on behalf of a large number of Protestant Churches in The Netherlands. Money from the Dutch Ministry of Development and the European Union is used to support projects and programs aimed at relieving poverty and reversing environmental degradation in the South.

Annually ICCO finances sustainable development projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe amounting to roughly US\$93 million. Project areas include sustainable agriculture, forestry, rural development, health, education, organisational support and human rights. ICCO believes that support for people of the 'South' should be matched by changes in the attitude and habits of people in the 'North'. This thinking is backed up by ICCO's commitment to education, lobbying and the provision of information on sustainable development activities in which they are engaged.

The way to Gurupa

The second in a series of three consultations on the 'Commercialisation of Sustainably Produced Forest Products' took place in the village of Gurupa, 640 kilometres south of the city of Belem in northern Brazil, in May 1998. The aim of the consultation was to bring together different forest product stakeholders. The 160 participants represented timber producers/traders, fruit producers/traders, processing industries, financial institutions, government agencies and environment/social organisations. Brazil's largest workers union CUT with a paid up membership of over 9 million members and FASE one of Brazil's most active environmental/development organisations along with the local community council of Gurupa took care of the local logistics.

Local Input

Gurupa is a small village of approximately 5,000 inhabitants situated right on the banks of the Amazon River in the state of

Para. I stayed with the local school teacher and her family of six. Her husband is employed in the forest. We all slept in hammocks (no beds as we know them) in a spotlessly clean wooden house standing three feet

above the mosquito and snake infested waters of the Amazon on twelve inch square wooden pilings. The climate is tropical and extremely humid. Locals depend on the river and the forests for their livelihoods. The 160 participants taking part in the consultation travelled on one of the many large riverboats (the MV Rodriguez Alves) daily plying the Amazon River. However, some of the participants who could not bear the thoughts of spending 26 hours on a steel boat with nothing other than a hammock to sleep in, were ferried by light aircraft. The villagers input into the consultation process was of the utmost importance as they are the ones who will, for better or worse, have the most to gain or lose.

ICCO is happy with the results of the Gurupa Consultation. It has delivered what they hoped it would:

- The enhancement of a learning process for all participants;
- The involvement of a substantial number of Dutch enterprises;
- The involvement of a large Dutch Commercial Bank; better insight of the potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs);
- Clear challenges for the future.

It was a wonderful experience and here at Just Forests we will do all we can to advance the objectives of the Gurupa Consultation by promoting certified tropical timber and certified NTFPs.

A letter handed in to the consultation organisers by participating Latin-American NGOs is published on page 43.



Participants at the Gurupa Consultation. Photo © Just Forests

Opposite page: Local produce.



Forest children of Gurupa.

Photo © Just Forests

Letter of producer organizations and support entities of Latin America to the Consultation of Gurupã - May of 1998.

The organizations which represent producers, Indians and communities of the forest and support entities of Latin America present to the Consultation on Marketing of Sustainable Forest Products - promoted by ICCO, TME, CUT and Fase, in Gurup(Para, Brazil) from May 10-15, 1998 -, wish to voice, especially to its peers and partners to crystalize in this document the expression of the main consensus about the following issues:

1. Tropical Forests constitute a legacy of mankind that must be maintained; therefore its destruction will cause irreparable damages impossible to be quantified in the whole planet.
2. The maintenance of these Forests is intrinsically related to the quality of life of the people who inhabit them.
3. The debate of forest products marketing must be subordinated to the one around the sustainability of development as a whole.
4. Economic externalities as: community organisations, forest environmental services and social structure aspects that guarantee full citizenship (health, education, energy...), must be internalized in the products spreadsheets costs in community projects.
5. This internalization challenges us to look for mechanisms that besides price constitute a remuneration system that involves subsidies, special financing and specific rules for the local reality.
6. The challenge of the execution of commercial contracts from the point of view of regularity of supply and volume, demands a systematic approach that involves several products, favouring the diversification of production and the formation of a central office of business, closely linked to the producers.
7. Besides multiple use forest management, it is imperious that value added strategies be built through several mechanisms of processing, so that more balanced relationships in the chain of custody can be reached.
8. Applying Agenda 21 nationally, regionally and locally must be driven in a way to build the new vision of Sustainable Development; For such, we propose:
 1. The establishment of a forum or international business networking among producers and businessmen where a common strategy be built from production to product end-use marketing;
 2. To establish commitments to move forward in the construction of a continental network between small-scale family producers and peoples and communities of the forest to exchange information and influence the international politics;
 3. Producers will set up micro and macro-regional central business offices to allow them to participate in better conditions in the chain of custody, mainly in a direct relationship with consumers;

4. A formative process be constructed in the field of international cooperation that considers the limitations of producers as much as managers' and donors', improving knowledge about each other, facilitating a better dialogue in the marketing process;
5. In the debate process on financing of projects or in the eventual International Fund for Sustainable forest Management there must be an effective participation, in its constitution and administration, of producers, and peoples and communities of the forest organizations.

To think about Tropical Forests Sustainability means to think about the Life of the Planet.



A Little Bit of Faith?

Or if you prefer, Balancing Our Spiritual Needs With Our Economic Ones.

The spiritual significance of trees is well known. To over 100 million forest dwelling people, forests are their cathedral—their place of prayer where they worship their god(s). During biblical times Jesus Christ used the life cycle of a tree as a model of what the Christian's life should resemble.

For example, the Cedar of Lebanon, was used by Our Lord on numerous occasions to describe the parallel functions between the workings of this noble tree and what a fruitful Christian life should be: the cedar of Lebanon stands tall (stands out amongst surrounding trees (people)); it is straight grained (true); pleasant to be with (fabulous aroma); strong and resistant to attack (from negative forces) and so on. This biblical stuff may seem so far removed from our lives today that it has no significance. I came across the following article recently in 'Touchstones'. I think you will agree that the biblical scholars knew exactly what they were talking about.

The Fir Tree - By Harriet Arrow

'The fir tree has no choice about starting its life in the crack of a rock...What (nourishment) it finds is often meagre, and above the ground appears a twisted trunk, grown in irregular spurts, marred by dead and broken branches, and bent far to one side by the battering winds.

Yet at the top...some twigs hold their green needles year after year, giving proof that - misshapen, imperfect, scarred—the tree lives on.'

'We often wish we had been born into better circumstances or blame our parents for our problems. Like the fir tree we could say, "If only I had taken sprout in a fertile meadow, life would be easier." "If only I had a better life as a youngster...." "If only I didn't have my particular hardships..."

By accepting the facts of our own lives, we mature into feelings of joy and pleasure alongside our griefs. Every person has to struggle (like a tree) with their own unique set of circumstances, even if they are not fair. Fairness is not the issue. Reality is what we have to deal with.'

Taken from 'Touchstones' - A book of Daily Meditations for Men.

We all need a FRIEND ?

JUST FORESTS is a voluntary non-profit forest campaigning organisation with charitable status under Irish tax law.

We are part of very highly organised global network of governmental and non-governmental organisations working on forestry related issues for you and your children. We are looking for your help. Why not join us as a **FRIEND**. Help us to continue to make a real change in global forestry policy for the good of all.

In return for your support;

- You will be kept informed of what's happening in the forest;
- You will be empowered to help conserve the world's most fragile forests with regular updates;
- You will be part of the formation of sustainable forest policy;
- You will be involved with the most focused and progressive forest campaigning organisation in Ireland;
- You will receive updates of timber traders who supply certified timber;
- You will be part of our award-winning projects;
- Schools will receive information for projects

Above all....when you become a **FRIEND** of **JUST FORESTS** you will be ensuring that your children and grand-children will enjoy the same benefits from the forests that we do today. Remember that forests are the "lungs of the earth" and home to the world's greatest concentration of life.

We need your help to maintain the life-enhancing functions of the world's forests by promoting responsible forest development.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. BE A FRIEND OF JUST FORESTS.

Twigs of news from around the globe



The Last Frontier Forests

Except for the Congo Basin, Africa's frontier forests have largely been destroyed, primarily by loggers and by farmers clearing land for agriculture. In West Africa, nearly 90 percent of the original moist forest is gone, and what remains is heavily fragmented and degraded. Today, West African frontiers are restricted to one patch in Cote d'Ivoire and another along the border between Nigeria and Cameroon.

To the east, very little remains of Madagascar's once magnificent tropical forests. Long isolated from mainland ecosystems, these forests are home to an exceptional number of plants and animals found nowhere else. Unfortunately, none of Madagascar's forest fragments is large or natural enough to qualify as a frontier today. Large blocks of intact natural forest do remain in Central Africa, particularly in Zaire, Gabon, and the Congo. In Zaire which contains more than half this region's forest cover many forests remain intact, in part because the nation's poor transportation system can't easily handle timber and mineral exploitation.

World Resources Institute (WRI) Washington D.C.

First FSC house

The first prefabricated house built entirely with wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has been launched in Brazil, produced with Amazonian hardwood including newly commercial species. Production is based in the city of Itacoatiara, in the Amazon region, and the project will be training local staff in a carpentry school.

Contact: Walter Suiter (FSC): Tel61-248-2899, Email walter+AEA-wwf.org.br

Small Book Creates Big Headache for Australian Forest Industry

Attempts by the Australian National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) to use legal threats to stop the sale of a book advising consumers on alternative timbers to those from logging native forests, have backfired. Instead of the book being withdrawn by the publishers, Australia's corporate watchdog, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), is investigating the timber industry body for possible breach of the anti-competitive behaviour regulations.

In late March the book, "Forest Friendly Building Timbers" was launched at the hardware chain, BBC Hardware, by Catholic priest, Father Paul Collins and co-author, Alan Gray.

Collins said, "If this book has one simple message, it's that native forest logging and wood chipping should be seen in the same light as whaling." To Collins, logging old growth forests and wilderness areas when alternatives exist "is a sin." "Forest Friendly Building Timbers," subtitled "don't wreck wildlife homes to build yours," provides consumers with information on sources of timbers either grown in plantations or from recycled sources.

By Bob Burton © Environment News Service (ENS) 1999. All rights reserved.

Liberian Forests Destroyed

President Charles Taylor says government will review all forestry regulations in the country. The President said this was to ensure the regulations conform with the international law on the forest. President Taylor said the Liberian forests were being destroyed under the present regulations. He made the observation during his monthly tête-à-tête with journalists yesterday. President Taylor said no new forestry agreements would be allowed until after the new regulation are enacted. He said the forest is for the government, and no person or section can claim personal ownership.

Star Radio, Liberia via Teresa Kinahan-Sayeh, Tullamore.

Irish Embassies support FSC

Following on from a presentation made to the Oireachtas Sub-committee on Overseas Development Aid, by members of Just Forests last December, a number of meetings took place between officials at Irish Aid and Mary Humphreys and Tom Roche of Just Forests. The aim of the meetings was to determine how Irish Aid could support the concept of independent forest certification in developing countries where Irish Aid had a forestry project.

The outcome of the meetings was that all Irish Embassies in Africa would stock an information pack on The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The packs which were provided by Just Forests would be made available to any African groups wanting to initiate better forest management initiatives within their own area by applying to the Irish Embassy nearest them.

We do know to date that at least one African group has applied for help. As you will see from the following email.

-----Original Message-----

From: remputete@twiga.com <remputete@twiga.com>

To: woodlife@iol.ie <woodlife@iol.ie>

Date: Friday, September 03, 1999 8:05 AM



Subject: Forest Stewardship information

>Dear Tom,
 >Thanks a million for the big envelope of information on FSC. The principles
 >and criteria paper with the glossary of terms will be useful in training.
 >We have a resource library here and the information will be available to
 >the foresters and others in this district.
 >Yes I did get your email and have sent a message looking for the FSC stuff
 >from the Irish Embassy. I'll feedback to you on the response.
 >
 >All the best.
 >Rose Hogan
 >Rufiji Environment Management Project
 >P. O. Box 13513 Dar es Salaam
 >Tel: 255 (0)51 73731
 > 255 (0)51 900 Ext 44 Utete

The board of Just Forests would like to say thanks to the officials at Irish Aid for suggesting this positive service.

Chopstick Controversy

China eats its forests away

Each day in Chengdu, China - capital of the world-renowned Sichuan cuisine - hundreds of thousands of people crowd into the city's 60,000 restaurants to eat barrowloads of meat, rice, eggs, vegetables and chillies. To do this they use disposable chopsticks, which require 4,000 cubic metres of timber. 'For that amount you need to fell 100 trees with an average height of ten metres,' said Cai Shiyan, a deputy of the National People's Congress.

Throwaway chopsticks are now used in all but the poorest and the most expensive restaurants throughout China. The poor ones reuse bamboo chopsticks after cursory washing. The expensive ones prefer sanitized, lacquered-wood chopsticks. All the rest use disposable wooden chopsticks.

China is the biggest consumer, producer and exporter of chopsticks. It fells 25 million trees a year to make 45 billion pairs. Two-thirds are used in China and few are recycled.

But concern is growing over the environmental consequences. The Government is convinced that the devastating floods last summer, which killed more than 3,000 people, were caused by soil erosion due to the excessive logging in the river basins. Within weeks, the State Council banned logging and lumberjacks became planters in the Sichuan Province.

Cai, who is campaigning for a ban on disposable chopsticks, says: 'it takes 30 to 40 years for a birch tree to mature, yet

thousands are eaten away in the time it takes to finish a meal.'

China is severely short of trees - only 13.9 per cent of its 9.6 million square kilometres is covered by forest. Its amount of forest land per capita is ranked 121st in the world. Now 12 of the 40 state-owned logging companies have nothing left to fell. 'The remaining 80 million hectares of natural forests will disappear in a decade if this felling continues,' says Professor Shen Guofang, of Beijing Forestry University.

Cai suggests Chinese restaurants should go back to the old days and reuse chopsticks - but always sterilize them. 'Individuals could solve the problem themselves by carrying their chopsticks in their pockets,' says Cai.

At Beijing Forestry University, disposable chopsticks have been banned. Workers at the National Environmental Protection Agency now use their own and six well-known restaurants in Chengdu have stopped using the disposable kind.

'We need rigorous control over the felling of trees for disposable chopsticks,' insists Liu Yun, director of the China Chopsticks Museum. 'Export should be reduced, and production restricted.'

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International Federation of Building and Woodworkers

Established in 1934, the IFBWW seeks to unite and represent all free and democratic trade unions in the building, wood, forestry and allied industries.

IFBWW promotes the principles of International Solidarity and is an active defender of human and trade union rights.

IFBWW conducts activities in the field of workers education and trade union development, coordinates international solidarity actions, carries out research on a wide range of industrial issues, represent's its affiliates' interest at world meetings and conferences, has women's and youth programmes and works to combat child labour.

IFBWW's Global Forestry Programme works to increase trade union involvement in sustainable forestry initiatives around the world. IFBWW currently has over 11 million members in 281 trade unions in 121 countries. Membership in the IFBWW is open to all free and democratic trade unions in all sectors willing to abide by the IFBWW statutes.

For further information contact

Jill Bowling

Coordinator, Global Forestry Programme

International Federation of Building and Wood Workers

P.O. Box 1412 - CH-1227 Carouge/GENEVA

Direct phone: +4122 827 37 76 - Fax: +4122 827 37 40

E-mail: info@ifbwww.org

Visit <http://www.ifbwww.org>



Swedish editors push for FSC certified paper

ENDS Daily - Date: Wednesday, August 25, 1999 12:09 PM

Thirty-five editors of Swedish consumer magazines have called on the country's pulp and paper industry to ensure that printing papers they supply come from woodlands certified as sustainably managed by the international Forest Stewardship Council. In an open letter to the industry, the editors write "Please give us printing paper that is not only chlorine free, but also FSC-certified!". "Our readers are getting increasingly environmentally conscious and therefore demand that the papers they read are produced with the highest environmental standards available," they continue. "We have now used totally chlorine free paper for some years, but we don't know where this paper is coming from." Published in the latest issue of NGO group the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation's newsletter, the letter urges any producer who could offer FSC-certified and chlorine free printing paper to come forward. "Give us a call when you can deliver this kind of paper," it reads. "We don't want to use paper that may originate from the remaining old growth forests, populated by species and animals threatened by extinction."

Contacts: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (<http://www.snf.se>), tel: +46 8 702 6500.

TEAK 2000

- Sustainable Development of Tropical Hardwoods

TEAK 2000 is a new (Irish) initiative in forestry which was launched in October, 1996, in the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam. It aims to:

- augment forestry resources, particularly high-grade hardwoods, in the tropics;
- relieve pressure on natural forests as suppliers of quality hardwoods;
- contribute to the sequestration of carbon;
- entice capital flows towards sustainable forestry;
- provide substantial benefits to rural communities in which the development activities will take place under the scheme.

The initiative aims to establish a sufficiently large area of quality tropical hardwood plantations in a socially acceptable, environmentally friendly and economically viable manner, under a new regime, to produce a significant output of high grade timber, on a sustained basis, to satisfy future domestic and international markets.

The basic model for TEAK 2000 is the Consortium Support Model (CSM). As the name suggests, it is a system under which support (financial and technical) is

given to groups (consortia) of growers to enable them to produce more and better quality timber.

It has been demonstrated that there is widespread interest in TEAK 2000 and the CSM. This is based on reaction to the concept and related proposals since the early 1990s.

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in the UK stated: "... it is a bold proposal which deserves attention." More information may be obtained in the IIED publication:

R. M. Keogh., TEAK 2000 a consortium support model for greatly increasing the contribution of quality hardwood plantations to sustainable development. IIED Forestry and Land Use Series No. 9.

IIED is located at 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK. Tel (+ 44-171-388-2117), Fax (+ 44-171-388-2826) e-mail: iiedforestry@gn.apc.org

NGOs Reject PEFC

As Martin Kaiser of Greenpeace, speaking for the Forest Movement Europe (FME), explained at the WWF press conference. "The PEFC will not have a positive impact on forest management in ecological and social terms..... the PEFC plan does not guarantee equal participation of all interest groups - decisions are made by the forest owners' associations themselves, for example. The PEFC is restricted to Europe and ignores forestry problems in the rest of the world. Last but not least, this label does not consider the consumer's right to a credible eco-label since it does not include a 'chain-of-custody' control - a clear monitoring of the wood from the forest to the end product."

At the end of the three-day symposium, WWF Germany concluded that the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the only wood certificate for the future. "We call on the forest owners' association to cancel their plans for a purely European label," said Heiko Liedeker, WWF Germany's forestry expert. "Their label will not improve forest management ecologically."

Arbor Vitae, June 1999.

Kenya: violence against forest activists opposed to privatisation of forests.

Privatisation provokes forest campaigners

Last January Prof. Wangari Maathai, one of the most inspiring ecofeminists and pro-democracy advocates in all of Africa, and other Kenyan activists were attacked by thugs while they were peacefully demonstrating outside Nairobi against the privatization of the Karura Forest.



On February 2nd Hon. James Orengo, Hon. David Mwenje and Dr. John Makanga were arrested by the police. The day before, President Moi had spoken in favour of the privatisation of the forest. The three men were arraigned in Court by the end of the day and charged with incitement and released on personal bonds of Ksh. 100,000 each. They were ordered to appear again before the same Magistrate on February 16th.

This is not the first time that Kenyan ecologists are victims of such kind of abuses. In 1993 armed policemen had broken into Ms. Maathai's home to arrest her.

Kenya has suffered the destruction of its forests in the name of "development". Karura Forest has been a traditional site of the Mabari ya Kihara indigenous people and the whole area is considered sacred. Nowadays it is menaced by the uncontrolled expansion of Nairobi, capital of the country, since the forest land is to be privatized. Kenya maintains one of the highest population growth rates with a high level of rural-urban migration. By means of a fax addressed to civil organizations worldwide, on February 2nd. Ms. Maathai, President of the Green Belt Movement denounces that "the government has become the greatest enemy of the environment" and claims that "the battle for Karura has nothing to do with hatred and ethnicity. On the contrary it has everything to do with love, compassion, concern and responsibility for life on this planet."

Sticker Shock

Westerners' calls for labelling of forest-friendly wood imports are putting pressure on Asian timber producers

Park benches aren't normally the stuff of diplomacy. But when Los Angeles and New York started talking about banning the use of uncertified tropical timber

for benches, boardwalks and other city projects, Malaysia's diplomats took notice. With good reason: If these cities adhere to a new certification programme, it could be the thin end of a wedge that transforms the world timber trade.

Under proposed new purchasing laws in both cities, preference would be given to wood certified by an international environmental organisation called the Forest

Stewardship Council. "If these laws are passed, it could become a trend across the United States," says Susan Holmes of the New York office of the Sierra Club, an environmental group that's supporting the proposed law. "Companies that need to compete for these markets would have to meet FSC standards, and governments would have to follow suit."

In the U.S., 115 timber-buying companies have so far agreed to purchase only FSC-certified products, but that still represents just 1% of the total market, according to Jamison Ervin, the FSC's U.S. representative. Pressure is also being applied, however, to major buyers through public campaigns.

The San Francisco-based Rainforest Action Network, for example, is campaigning against Home Depot, a 700-store home-products giant with sales of \$24 billion a year. The Network accuses it of selling unsustainably logged primary tropical timber such as teak, mahogany, rosewood and lauan.

In Europe, FSC standards have taken greater hold. Britain's 1995 Plus Group, for example, is committed to purchasing only FSC-certified products by the end of 1999. The group represents an estimated one-quarter of the country's tropical timber market. Nordic countries are also organising FSC-oriented buyer groups. The looming question, however, is whether demand from countries with weaker "green" credentials, such as Japan, South Korea and, increasingly, China, will pick up fast enough to dilute the FSC's influence. In July, China banned logging in large swathes of its territory, leading to a surge in Chinese demand for Southeast Asian timber. No doubt with that in mind, the Malaysian Timber Council announced recently that it will open its first overseas office early this year in Shanghai.

Source: Far Eastern Economic Review, 14 January 1999. By Bruce Gilley in San Francisco.. Taken from: SEA-SPAN

Poverty and the Planet

The Development Studies Centre Kimmage Manor, will host an ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT EVENING COURSE commencing 10th January to 13th March 2000. The primary focus of the course is on environmental issues as they effect the developing countries of the South / the Majority World; however, due consideration will be given to environmental concerns in Ireland

The Development Studies Centre provides education and training for development professionals and interested individuals working in a range of occupations from all over the world. The courses offered provide practical project training alongside relevant theories of development

If you would like further details of the forthcoming environment and development evening course run by the centre contact:

The Co-ordinator, Poverty and the Planet,
Development Studies Centre, Holy Ghost College,
Kimmage Manor, Dublin 12
Tel: (01) 4064386/4064380 Fax: (01) 456 0089
E-mail: apply@dskim.iol.ie

Misleading Claims on Furniture

Global Witness a UK-based group has been campaigning against deforestation and conflict in Cambodia since early 1995. They are asking the European garden furniture trade not purchase Vietnamese sourced garden furniture, unless it is



certified by the FSC. Currently they say, it is not possible to obtain FSC certification in Vietnam. They are also asking the garden furniture trade not to purchase garden furniture manufactured from illegally sourced timber and to stop misleading the public through the widespread use of false labels claiming sustainability. The group says "those companies which have used and persist in using such practices should face prosecution by trading standards authorities."

EC project rejected

In what may be a landmark decision, the European Development Fund Committee has rejected a proposed 52 million Euro grant for road 'maintenance' in Cameroon, over doubts about possible environmental and social impacts of the project. At the Committee meeting on July 7th, representatives from several governments, including the UK, Germany, Denmark and France raised serious concerns about the lack of environmental information in the 'PERFED II' project's Financing Proposal, and demanded further details about project implementation and financing. It is understood that the PERDFED II project will be considered again at the EDF committee meeting in October.

The involvement of the European Community in Cameroon's road network has been highly controversial, because of the apparent relationship between the construction and maintenance of roads and the expansion of destructive logging activities and poaching in areas of rainforest. The European Commission has previously supported several major such projects, totalling more than 200 million Euros, some of which appear to have promoted a growth in the logging industry.

Presentations to Groups

Over the past 12 months, staff and board members of Just Forests made presentations to a number of groups in Ireland on our work. Requests for information on the activities of The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) were particularly high. Regrettably, because of time constraints and our shoestring budget, many requests had to be refused. However, we did get around to the following;

- Oireachtas Sub-committee on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), Kildare Street, Dublin;
- The National Library (talk by Mr John McCabe, former chairman of Just Forests);
- The Development Studies Centre, Kimmage Manor, Dublin;
- Development Cooperation officials of Ireland Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs;

- Kildare Leader(KELT);
- The Heritage Council (Wildlife Committee);
- Longford Community Resource Centre Ltd;
- Duhallow Institute, Co Cork;
- AIB/Merrill Lynch plc (re: Coillte's possible privatisation and the role of independent forest certification)
- Ecology Department, University College Cork;
- Briefing to Comhlámh (Returned Development Workers) Roundtable, Trinity College, (re: the threats the *World Trade Organisation's (WTO) elimination of non-tariff measures pose to global forests).

Hello from The Gambia

Original Message-----

From: Dept.Of.Parks & Wildlife Magt.
<wildlife@gamtel.gm>
To: woodlife@justforests.org <woodlife@justforests.org>
Date: Saturday, July 31, 1999 9:54 AM
Subject: hello from The Gambia

>Tom,
>Just surfing the net and up came Wood of Life - so hello from The Gambia.
>Life here is very different but the luck of the Irish stays with me, and all goes well so far. I'm working for the Department of Parks & Wildlife
>Management and so far it's not like work at all - I get to visit all these wonderful parks, meet amazing people and learn a new language (Mandinka) -
>it's great fun. Best move I ever made - I get all these letters from home saying "oh, life in Africa must be really hard, so uncivilized etc etc".

>Well, to be honest most days life is very easy and "civilization" as I remember it seems very uncivilized. Live and learn.
>The Gambia is so small
>it's easy to get to know. Since I've been here, its really hit home to me how important wood is to these people - you would not believe the amount of fuelwood the average family uses in a day!
>At first I was totally stunned.
>Anyway, hope the work goes well and all's well in Tullamore.
>Best wishes,
>Jackie Gorman.



Local Agenda 21 Project Abandoned

A joint initiative by Just Forests, WWF and the Soil Association to host a seminar in Tullamore around November/December 1999 to inform Local Authorities about environmentally responsible timber purchasing policies and independent certification has had to be abandoned.

In July advance notice of the proposed seminar was sent to all Local Authorities on the island of Ireland. However only two local Authorities in the republic (Cork and Kildare) showed any interest while four local Authorities in the North responded favourably.

The half day event, would have been free, and would have included speakers from WWF and the Soil Association. It was aimed at LA21/Environmental Officers, Policy makers/Officers, Specifiers, Architects and anyone else interested in timber purchasing within the Council.

If you would be interested in attending such a Seminar during 2000, please call Just Forests at 0506 23557 or e-mail at: woodlife@justforests.org

JUST FORESTS WELCOMES NEW POLICY COMMITMENT FROM IKEA

29 November 1999

TULLAMORE -- In a joint press conference with Greenpeace last week, the international home furnishings retailer IKEA made a major public commitment in favour of the environment by announcing that IKEA is phasing out all purchases of products made from unknown sources of wood to ensure that no wood originates from ancient forests.

"Our long-term goal is to ensure that all wooden products comes from well-managed forests. The first step is to see that no solid wood is coming from ancient forests," said Susanne Pulverer Bergstrand, Environmental Manager of the IKEA Group.

IKEA announced that they are working with their suppliers to ensure that, by September 2000, the solid wood used to make products for IKEA does not come from ancient forests. The only exception will be for wood

from ancient forests coming from FSC certified forestry operations.

"The timber used must not be taken from ancient forests or other high conservation values forests, unless the forest area is certified according to the Forest Stewardship Council's principles and criteria or equivalent system."

Greenpeace forest campaigner, Christoph Thies welcomed IKEA's announcement saying "IKEA is sending a crucial signal to all competitors in the furniture retail business, but also to other wood-based businesses. Now it's time for governments around the world to wake up and protect the last remaining ancient forests. Wood consumers have a right and a responsibility to know where their wood products are coming from, and to end their role in ancient forest destruction. IKEA is joining the movement of responsible corporate consumers concerned about ancient forests."

"Just one-fifth of the world's original forest cover remains in large tracts of ancient forests. Almost half of these forest areas are currently under threat. Since logging activity to satisfy global demand for paper and timber is currently the biggest single threat to these forests, commitments from corporate consumers such as IKEA to stop contributing to ancient forest destruction represent a significant step towards ending the rapid loss of these vulnerable, yet invaluable habitats," added Thies



Commissions and sculptures available from our Retail Gallery @ The Old School House, Ballinahown, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Tel: 0902 30404 Fax: 0902 30405
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A piece of history....

The boglands of Ireland are a vast living treasure trove for a precious and unique material. Bog wood, more ancient than the pyramids of Egypt and the prehistoric monuments of Newgrange, has been naturally preserved, and has lain hidden for over 5,000 years.

The Celtic Roots Studio near Athlone in Co Westmeath creates the most exquisite bogwood sculptures. Each piece is uniquely designed and sculpted by hand from age old bog oak, yew and pine that have lain hidden beneath the bogs and have come to the surface as a result of turf cutting.



Five African Nations Combine to Protect threatened Forests

Yaounde declaration is signed...

Earlier this year, five African Heads of State signed the "Yaounde Declaration" on African forests. This groundbreaking five-nation declaration containing plans to protect vast tracts of forest in the Congo Basin & Central Africa - the second largest tropical forest in the world is a timely birthday present as Just Forests marks its 10th anniversary this year. As Ireland imports the equivalent of 30 acres of African forests daily, this move will help the Irish timber industry to source their tropical wood needs from managed forests.

The Forest Summit hosted by President Paul Biya of Cameroon and chaired by HRH Prince Philip, President Emeritus of WWF, brought together heads of State and representatives from the governments of Gabon, Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville and Equatorial Guinea. They came together to jointly announce plans to create new cross-border forest protected areas. Some of the new initiatives signed and celebrated by the Heads of State on Tuesday 16th March include:

- Establishing a new trans-border conservation initiative between Gabon, Cameroon and Congo-Brazzaville - protecting more than 3.5 million hectares of forest.
- Endorsing the existing tri-national network of protected areas between Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Congo-Brazzaville - covering more than one million hectares of forests.

Creating two new forest reserves as Gifts to the Earth (GTTE) in Cameroon and celebrating three other GTTE's given by the Cameroon and Gabon governments in 1998: protection for 220,000 hectares of the Lobeke Forest in Cameroon, protection for 600,000 hectares of pristine rainforest in the Minkebe Forest Reserve in Gabon and protection of 332,000 hectares of rainforest in Monts Doudou in Gabon. Within Africa, the forests of the Congo Basin form one quarter of the world's rainforests and are home to more than half of Africa's wild plants and animals, including forest elephant, western lowland gorilla and forest buffalo. The Congo Basin is a challenging environment for forest conservation because of difficult economic circumstances and civil disturbances in some countries and criticisms about corruption and weak governance. However, one of the most encouraging signs for forest protection in the region is the growing support amongst the governments and communities of some Central African countries for forest conservation - and with large intact areas of forests remaining, regional deforestation rates being half the global average and population pressures relatively low there is a huge opportunity for forest protection. "WWF is calling on these Central African governments to collaborate across national boundaries and to work in partnership with international aid agencies, such as the World Bank and the European Commission, so that forest protection is put into practice on the ground" said Dr Claude Martin, Director General of WWF. "WWF will encourage these governments to adopt an integrated approach to conservation which gives forests greater protection whilst providing a livelihood for indigenous people and local communities who have traditionally lived in and around the

forests" he said. To ensure that these new commitments to conserve Africa's forests are put into practice, the Government of Cameroon announced the launch of a new Trust Fund in Cameroon to help finance the effective management of forest protected areas. With an initial donation of \$500,000 from WWF, it is hoped that governments and aid agencies will allocate funds to ensure these crucial commitments are implemented.

This photo of a logging truck in West Africa was taken by Tom Roche during a visit to the Korup Rain Forest in Cameroon. The trip was sponsored by Irish Aid. Photo © Just Forests



Is it privatisation for Coillte?

As you will see from the article elsewhere in this publication regarding the privatisation of Kenya's forests, privatisation of public forests has become an emotive issue worldwide and Ireland is no exception. There is some speculation that Coillte may be privatised.

The proposed privatisation of Coillte has evoked concern amongst environmental and social groups here. Many see this as selling off of our national resources possibly to some multinational giant. The way it is now, Coillte have to abide by directives laid down by our forest authority namely The Forest Service.

I believe the public are rightly concerned that a privatised enterprise will be less likely to be responsive to their wishes than an enterprise which responds directly to an elected government. No amount of paper restriction in the privatisation agreement can overcome that concern. God knows we have any amount of nicely worded paper laws governing how forests should be managed worldwide but as you will see when reading through this publication the world's forests are under serious threat from "trade agreements." The public will be interested in greater assurance that the enterprise will remain responsive and responsible.

In our presentation recently to AIB/Merrill Lynch plc on the possible privatisation of Coillte Just Forests emphasised that forest certification is one way to achieve this assurance, since the national standards will reflect the views of all stakeholder interests, and the certification itself is independent.

So, for those of you who are concerned, you might like to suggest that AIB/Merrill Lynch plc recommends that Coillte formalise its voluntary commitment to certification.

Increasing divisions on a Forest Convention

The European regional meeting of the Costa Rica-Canada Initiative (CRCI) in support of the International Forum on Forests' Category III on international arrangements and mechanisms took place in Madrid, 21-23 September. The initiative was aimed at finding a consensus on a legally binding global instrument for forests, i.e. a forest convention. Although there still seems to be enthusiasm from some European governments namely Finland, Germany, and the conference host Spain, many have increasing doubts as to the relevance of such a convention.

Many environmental NGOs are, for a number of reasons, firmly against a new legally binding instrument. They note in particular that to date there has been a distinct lack of political will to implement existing agreements affecting forests.

Governments and NGOs also expressed uncertainties about the usefulness of a forest convention in regional meetings, which have already taken place in Asia and Africa, but the official EU position remains pro-convention.

The continued lack of consensus on a forest convention has shifted the forest debate towards a discussion on the follow-up of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). The IFF will hold its final session in January 2000 and will report to the 8th session of the Commission for Sustainable Development next April.

NGOs have lost faith in the willingness of governments to address the forest crisis through this process. They argue that existing commitments made within the IPF process as well as

within other international agreements need to be implemented first.

The last stage of the CRCI will be held in Ottawa 6-10 December. Its conclusions will be presented to the fourth session of the IFF, 31 January - 11 February 2000.



Some of the participants at the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) held in Baden-Baden, Germany-1998. L-R: Dr. Hans-Peter Schipulle, Department of Development Cooperation (GTZ), Germany; Tom Roche, Just Forests; Mr Gerhard Dietrle, Tropical Forestry Advisor to the European Commission; Mr Untung Iskandar and Mr Bambang Murdiono, Bureau of International Cooperation and Investment, Indonesia; Ms Aisyah Sileuw, LATIN, Bogor, Indonesia. Just Forests participation was funded by (GTZ) Photo © Just Forests



WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH

Everyone knows that actions speak louder than words. And conserving the world's forests requires action. Yours. Mine. Everyone's. Now there's something new that we can do. We can look for the Forest Stewardship Council label when we buy furniture, flooring, lumber and other household goods made out of wood.

The FSC label guarantees that the forest a product came from is managed to protect clean water, wildlife habitat and recreation. That's why World Wildlife Fund, The Wilderness Society, Rainforest Alliance and Natural Resources Defence Council are all proud and active supporters of the nonprofit Forest Stewardship Council.

You don't have to be a movie star to be an action hero. Help conserve the world's forests. Look for and purchase products carrying the FSC label. For more information visit www.fscus.org/trees or call toll-free 1-877-FSC-LOGO



Thanks James..Bond that is!

Just Forests can't claim any credit for the above public service announcement which is currently running in the following magazines (circulation included): Playboy (3.5 million), People (3.3 million), TIME (1.4 million), In Style (967,000), Allure (800,000), Premiere (616,000) and Men's Journal (554,000). Total circulation: 11.2 million.

However we do claim a little credit for hosting the first Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) information day in Pierce Brosnan's home town of Navan, where he was made a 'freeman' of the town in October 1999. Knowing how proud Irish people are of their sons, especially their internationally acclaimed sons like 007, we thought you might like to know what he has to say about forests. Like Navan's James Bond, Just Forests are also active supporters of the FSC -and have been for the past six years. For further information on The Forest Stewardship Council in Ireland please contact:

Tom Roche, Just Forests, Tel: (0506) 23557/23597 or E-mail: fsc-info-irl@justforests.org