

Forestry and Wood Update

April 2011 - Volume 11 Number 1

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COFORD

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Agriculture House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Ireland

Tel: +353 - 1 - 6072000

Email: [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie)

Web: [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)picture for NDP logo

[](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/)

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Newsletter compiled and edited by Orla Cashen, John Fennessy and Eugene Hendrick, Forest Sector Development Division, DAFF.

Fior further information please contact orla.cashen@agriculture .gov.ie

# Information and support services

# New publications:

# All-Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011-2028, by Henry Phillips

COFORD recently published the first ever comprehensive all Ireland overview of roundwood supply. The report predicts the report shows that over the period to 2028 the production capacity of Ireland’s forests will almost double to 7 million cubic metres, from the current 3.79 million. Almost all of the increase in supply is set to come from privately-owned forests in the Republic - those areas established over the past 25 years on foot of state/EU and private sector investment. Considerable scope exists to expand wood energy production, and this is in addition to supplies for sawmilling and board manufacture.



Pictured at the launch of the All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011-2028 at John F Kennedy Park, New Ross, Co Wexford on Thursday were Mike Glennon (Glennon Brothers and COFORD roundwood supply group chair, Michael Lynn (COFORD chairman), Dr Eugene Hendrick (Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), Former Minister Sean Connick and Henry Phillips (Forestry Consultant and author of the report)

Copies of the report are available to download from the COFORD Website [click here for a link to the copies of the report](http://www.coford.ie/media/coford/content/publications/cofordarticles/Roundwood%20Forecast_web.pdf) )

Or can be made online at [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). All orders will be forwarded to Government Publications. When the order is received you will be contacted to arrange credit card payment prior to shipping.  
Orders can also be placed directly via:

* Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2
* Government Publications, Postal Trade Section, Unit 20, Lakeside Retail Park, Claremorris, Co Mayo.
* Tel: 01 647 6834; Fax: 094 937 8964; Email: <pubsales@opw.ie>All Ireland Roundwood Demand Forecast 2011-2020 authored by the COFORD Roundwood Demand GroupThis report by the COFORD Roundwood Demand Group (CDG) has been compiled by representatives of Coillte, the sawmilling sector, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF), the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and by Enterprise Ireland. The group’s work was assisted by Eoin O’Driscoll of drima marketing.

The group’s objectives were to:

• Determine the likely level of demand for roundwood, sawmill co-products and harvest residues on the island of

Ireland from 2011 to 2020 and to

• Identify policy and market issues that are likely to impact on demand and seek ways to identify synergies between

different demand streams.

Demand for roundwood is forecast to increase from 4.295 M m3 in 2011 to 6.038 M m3 by 2020

The report indicates that the expected demand for forest-based biomass on the island of Ireland is 1,589 M m3 OB/annum in 2011 rising to 3,084 M m3 OB/annum in 2020.

Copies of the report are available to download from the COFORD Website.

[click here for a link to the copies of the report](http://www.coford.ie/media/coford/content/publications/projectreports/roundwooddemand2011/COFORD_demand01Mar11.pdf)

Or

may be ordered online at [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). All orders will be forwarded to Government Publications.

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Tel: 01 647 6834; Fax: 094 937 8964; Email: <pubsales@opw.ie>

# Events

**Updated COFORD** Timber Supply FORECAST GIS Application

**W O R K S H O P S**

*Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise*

*28 and 29 April 2011*

The COFORD Timber Supply FORECAST GIS Application has been updated and expanded in scope over the past two years by the UCD FORECAST project team.

Workshops will be held by Dr. Máirtín Mac Siúrtáin, Forestry, UCD and Henry Phillips to outline the use of the application and its ability to generate local wood production forecasts. All participants are asked to bring along their own web enabled PC, running Windows, with a mimimum of 500 MB free hard disk space. High speed broad band is required to access the Timber Supply FORECAST GIS Application.

 Details

Two half-day Workshops will be held on Thursday 28 April 2011

Workshop 1 10:00 - 12:30

Workshop 2 14:00 - 16:30

A third half-day Workshop will be held on Friday 29 April 2011

Workshop 3 10:00 - 12:30

If the numbers booking exceed our expectations an additional fourth Workshop will be held on Friday 29 April 2011

Workshop 4 14:00 - 16:30

Venue: Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise

Registration fee is €50.00 per person payable in advance. This includes a copy of the All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011-2028 by Henry Phillips, a CD containing the FORECAST application, and documentation. Tea/coffee will be provided. Lunch is not included. Each Workshop is limited to 20 participants.

Please complete the attached registration form and email to [orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie)

Payment details will be forwarded upon receipt of registration form. When making a transfer or lodgement please include your name as a reference for identification.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT Please note that there is a deadline of 20 April 2011 for registration and payment to ensure a place at any of the workshops. For all Registration queries please contact Orla Cashen 01 6072487, or email [orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie)

# Tending and Thinning of Broadleaf Woodland Event

# Teagasc/Forest Service/COFORD

*Wednesday 20 April 2011*



This event is aimed at landowners who have broadleaf woodlands at or near the age of first thinning. Topics include:

* Growing broadleaf trees for quality timber
* Timing of first thinning
* Preparation for thinning
* Getting the job done
* Safe chainsaw use
* Product end use, fuel wood, chips, etc.
* Meet at Community Centre, Milltown Village, Co. Cavan

Arrive any time between 10.30am and 11.30am. Regular group departures to demonstration site. The demonstration will take approximately 2.5 hours. This is an outdoor event so please bring appropriate footwear and raingear.

All welcome

For more information contact Kevin O'Connell, Forestry Development Officer Teagasc 087-1216159 NDP logo

[www.teagasc.ie/forestry](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry) and [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)

# IFA Farm Forestry Conference 2011

*Working Together to Mobilise the Private Timber Resource*

Thursday, 28th April

The Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Minister of State, Shane McEntee will deliver the opening address and launch the IFA Farm Forestry publication - A Practical Guide to Establishing a Forest Owner Organisation.

Conference Programme and Registration Form attached.

For further information, please contact:-

Geraldine O'Sullivan   
Forestry & Bioenergy Executive Secretary

Irish Farmers Association, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12   
Tel.   (01) 4500266    
Mobile. (087) 9385283

Web. www.ifa.ie

**National bio energy conference ‘Bioenergy 2011’**

*Date for your diary*

The national bio energy conference ‘Bioenergy 2011’ is scheduled to take place at the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) offices in Johnstown Castle Estate in Wexford on Thursday 16th June and is jointly organized by Teagasc, SEAI and DAFF/COFORD.

Further information will be provided in future issues.

# Research Programme

# WoodWisdom/Bioenergy ERA-NET call for proposals - update

## Selection of pre-proposals for next stage of full proposals

A Representative Committee involving the WoodWisdom and Bioenergy ERA-Nets took place in Berlin in January to select pre-proposals for the next stage of full proposal submission. Of 81 pre-proposals submitted, 46 succeeded in moving to the next stage.

There was good Irish participation in the call, with seven pre-proposals submitted. Apart from one proposal, which was deemed ineligible, all of the remainder will be invited to submit full proposals (Table 1).

**Table 1**: Eligible Irish pre-proposals submitted to the WoodWisdom/Bioenergy ERA-Nets call.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Project nr* | *Acronym* | *Coordinator* | *Potential national funding programme* |
| *WW-2010-6* | SECA Woodweld | Ireland | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-35* | MULTIUSE | Finland | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-36* | FORESTREFINERY | Spain | SEAI |
| *WW-2010-38* | WoodApps | Germany | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-46* | ModernTIF | Sweden | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-67* | CHAPY-MOBILE | Italy | COFORD |

Subsequent to the meeting, at the end of January, invitations were issued to successful pre-proposals to submit full proposals by 31 March 2011 (Table 2).

**Table 2**: WoodWisdom-Net/ERA-Net call timetable.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Phase* |  |
| Closing date for pre-proposals | 1 December 2010 |
| Eligibility check for national funding by national funding organisations | 3-10 December 2010 |
| Evaluation and selection of pre-proposals for full submission (Representative Committee) | 25-26 January 2011 |
| Call window for full proposals | 1 February-31March 2011 |
| Joint evaluation of full proposals by International Expert Panel | 16-17 May 2011 |
| Recommendation for final funding, Representative Committee | 30-31 May 2011 |
| Funding recommendation, Call Committee | 14 June 2011 |
| National funding decisions | July- October 2011 |
| Projects start | 1 October 2011 or  1 January 2012 |

The next meeting of the Representative committee is scheduled to take place in Riga in late May when the recommendations from the International Expert Panel will be reviewed and proposals chosen for funding.

For further details please contact John Fennessy. [john fennessy email account](mailto:john.fennessy@agriculture.gov.ie)

# National and international news

**The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources**

*Ireland’s Report on the* State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources

Genetic resources, including forest genetic resources, are among the most valuable assets that a country possesses and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has for many decades acknowledged the importance of forest genetic resources. In 1967, the FAO Conference recognized that forest genetic diversity was increasingly being lost and requested the establishment of the Panel of Experts on Forest Genetic Resources (Forest Gene Panel), to help plan and coordinate FAO's efforts to manage genetic resources of forest trees. Recognizing the importance of forest genetic resources and the necessity for their good management, the Committee on Forestry (COFO), at its Nineteenth Session, in March 2009, supported the recommendation of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Genetic Resources that FAO prepare a report on *The State of World Forest Genetic Resources*, for 2013, which would serve as a reference for action at he national, regional and global levels.

In Ireland COFORD/DAFM is coordinating the preparation of the report and the original committee which drafted the outline strategy for the preparation and publication of ‘Sustaining and Developing Ireland’s Forest Genetic Resources’ has been re-activated to undertake this task. The group held its first meeting in Agriculture House in late March and a follow up meeting will take place in mid April. The time scale for preparation of the country report is relatively short and it has to be finalized and formally submitted to FAO by 1st July 2011.

The recommended structure of the main body of the country report is as follows:

Chapter 1: The current state of the forest genetic resources

Chapter 2: The State of *in situ* genetic conservation

Chapter 3: The state of *ex situ* genetic conservation

Chapter 4: The state of use and sustainable management of forest genetic resources.

Chapter 5: The state of national programmes, research, education, training and legislation

Chapter 6: The state of regional and international collaboration

Chapter 7: Access to forest genetic resources and sharing of benefits arising from their use

Chapter 8: The contribution of forest genetic resources to food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development

*For further information contact John Fennessy at the following email address:* [*john.fennessy@agriculture.gov.ie*](mailto:john.fennessy@agriculture.gov.ie) *or phone 01-6072944*

# Pine marten – the answer to the grey squirrel problem?

*Anecdotal evidence suggests that grey squirrel numbers are falling in areas where the pine marten is present - work at NUIG is examining the evidence*

The results from the CRISIS project on squirrel management are given on the Forest Service website ([click here to be directed to the results from the crisis project](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/publications/projectsreports)).

Arising from the project, and the pilot trap loan scheme implemented in 2009, there are indications that woodland owners are far more aware of the dangers associated with the increasing spread of grey squirrels and of the actions needed to protect their woods and enhance the conservation of the red squirrel.

A new study conducted by the National University of Ireland, Galway is investigating the effect of the pine marten on the grey squirrel in Ireland. The Irish Squirrel Survey of 2007 found that in some midland regions of the country the grey squirrel spread had faltered, and in certain counties such as Laois and Offaly had all but disappeared, with reds making an encouraging comeback. Anecdotally the demise of the greys was being credited to the resurgence of the pine marten, which theoretically could predate quite easily on the heavier and more ground-based of the two squirrel species.

Early results in the Galway study, conducted by PhD student Emma Sheehy, confirmed the retraction of the grey squirrel in the study region, and as the project progresses, work is shifting towards identifying the cause of the local loss of grey squirrels.

Meanwhile the first confirmed case of the squirrel pox-virus in Ireland that is carried by grey squirrels but kills reds has been found in the carcases of two red squirrels at Tollymore Forest Park in Co Down. This is bad news for red squirrels.

*Compiled by Dr Michael Carey*

# Carbon Corner

*Onwards from Cancún*

The previous issue of Carbon Corner outlined the range of forestry issues on the negotiating table in the run up to the UNFCCC conference at Cancún. In the intervening period the conference has come and gone and further intercessional meeting has taken place in the past fortnight - time to take stock.

One of the most successful outcomes from Cancún was an agreement on tackling emissions associated with deforestation in developing countries – the REDD+ process (see FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1. available at [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int). Deforestation emissions account for 15-18% of the annual release of greenhouse gases to atmosphere – so tackling them is a key priority for the climate change process. The Cancún decision call for developing countries to elaborate (in the context of ‘the provision of adequate and predictable support’) ‘a national strategy or action plan [dealing with REDD+], a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level …, a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting [on REDD+ activities], and a system for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to’ [includes forest governance, biodiversity, involvement of stakeholders and the rights of indigenous peoples]. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) has been tasked with development of guidance on the development of reference levels and monitoring. This work will begin in Bonn in June, and is scheduled to be reported at the next Conference of the Parties at Durban at year end. Funding for the different phases of implementation and actions included under the REDD+ banner will be made available from a range multi- and bi-lateral sources.

Another important outcome from Cancún was agreement that developed country Parties would submit reference levels for Forest Management (pre 1990 forests), for international review. The reference level is an estimate of annual or periodic net uptake/release of greenhouse gases, either historically or for the period 2013-2020, in opre-1990 forests. While many EU Member States (including Ireland) had previously submitted reference level estimates, the latest submission provided an opportunity to include estimates for the contribution of harvested wood products and to revise previous data. A team comprising Dr Kevin Black (UCD), Dr Jennifer Donlon (UL), Pat Farrington and Dr Eugene Hendrick (DAFF), Eoin O’Driscoll (drima marketing) and Henry Phillips (Forestry Consultant) compiled the submission during January/February. One of the key aspects was the inclusion of harvested wood products using country-specific data and assumptions. A copy of the submission is available at [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int).

Establishing forest management reference levels is one of the key remaining issues to be resolved in elaborating a new set of rules for land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) for the period post 2012. Others include treatment of large natural events such as fire and insect attack, harvested wood products, caps and mandatory accounting of activities. Further work on these and other issues is scheduled for the upcoming Bonn session.

# Wood Fuel Quality Assurance Scheme

Wood Fuel Quality Assurance Scheme to inspire consumer confidence

Development of the Wood Fuel Quality Assurance Scheme has continued over the past 12 months, with expanded membership and the setting-up of the Irish Wood Pellet Association, which is part of the scheme. The overall objective is provide confidence in the market-place that consumers are purchasing clean, good quality, renewable wood fuels from well-managed forests. Further information on the scheme is available at [click here to be directed to Wood Fuel Quality Assurance Scheme](http://www.wfqa.org/).

# Roundwood Market Update

Roundwood market remains buoyant

Current market demand for roundwood and the good prices achieved in early 2011 are encouraging signs for timber growers - just as plantations planted in the 1980s and 1990s come on stream for thinning. Last year saw a spectacular lift in roundwood prices, particularly for larger sized material, with prices achieved for roundwood surpassing (by some margin) those paid at the height of the recent building boom.

This demand and the corresponding prices paid were driven mainly by export demand for timber products and, at the time, a lack of supply of roundwood in Ireland to meet this demand. The timber trade over the summer months had stated that these high roundwood prices were not sustainable and were a response to short term market demand and supply conditions. This proved to be the case with prices coming back from the 2010 highs, but current prices remain very good when one compares them with historical price levels. A recent analysis undertaken by the Irish Timber Growers Association shows that current prices paid for roundwood to growers compare very favourably with 10-year CPI adjusted average roundwood prices.

In response to these price trends there continues to be an increase in the number of General Felling Licence (GFL) applications to Forest Service from timber growers. In the first two months of 2011 General Felling Licences were applied for over 2,360 ha of private woodland compared to 1573 ha for the first two months of 2010. This represents an increase of over 50% for this 2-month period. This increase is on the back of the significant increase in GFL applications in the 12-month period to the end of December last representing a private forest area under application of 14,886 ha for that period.

The general range of current roadside prices being paid to timber growers for product categories are as follows:

Pulpwood €22-26/m3

Stakewood €40-45/m3

Boxwood  €48-52/m3

Sawlog €61-66/m3

*Contributed by Donal Whelan, Technical Director, Irish Timber Growers Association*