

**COFORD Forestry and Wood Update**

December 2002; Volume 2 Issue 12

**Contents**

[COFORD Calendar of Events for 2003 1](#_Toc26693351)

[BOOK LAUNCH: Sitka Spruce in Ireland 1](#_Toc26693352)

[New COFORD publications launched 2](#_Toc26693353)

[COFORD Report on Christmas Tree Research 2002 launched 2](#_Toc26693354)

[Forest Protection Guidelines 3](#_Toc26693355)

[BIHIP to meet in Ireland 3](#_Toc26693356)

[ITGA/COFORD SEMINAR Forest regulation – a threat to production forestry? 4](#_Toc26693357)

[CARBON CORNER 4](#_Toc26693358)

[New COST Action launched – Management of Recovered Wood 4](#_Toc26693359)

[Forest Research and the Sixth Framework Programme – Challenges and Opportunities 5](#_Toc26693360)

[ERA-Wood 6](#_Toc26693361)

[Short term research mission report 6](#_Toc26693362)

[Forest IT 2002, Helsinki, Finland 6](#_Toc26693363)

[Living Forest Summit 7](#_Toc26693364)

[XII World Forestry Congress in Canada 7](#_Toc26693365)

[Ph.D. Scholarships 8](#_Toc26693366)

[Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Blanket Peatland 8](#_Toc26693367)

[Carbon Accounting in Irish Forests 8](#_Toc26693368)

[Vacancy: CHIU RESEARCH OFFICER 8](#_Toc26693369)

[Vacancy: Marie Curie Post-doctoral Fellowship: wood pulp and paper products 9](#_Toc26693370)

COFORD

Agriculture Building, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Tel: (01) 7167700 Fax: (01) 7161180

Email: [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie) Web: [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)



COFORD’s Activities are funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan, 2000-2006.

# COFORD Calendar of Events for 2003

20 February: Effective use of recovered wood.

22 March: Forestry and land use planning – policy and practice.

10-11 April: Managing our broadleaf resource to produce quality hardwood timber.

25 April: Advances in wood preservation.

9-10 May: Managing our broadleaf resource to produce quality hardwood timber.

6 June: Forestry’s role in the national climate change strategy.

20 June: Thinning field day/demonstration.

10-11 July: Wood for Energy annual conference, in association with REIO.

25-26 September: Managing our broadleaf resource to produce quality hardwood timber.

7 October: Certification for the private sector.

21 October: Deer management – Developing regional control plans.

13 November: Annual ITGA/COFORD Conference.

Venues will be confirmed closer to the event. Updated information will be announced in the COFORD newsletter and on the website [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie).

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

BOOK LAUNCH: Sitka Spruce in Ireland

*Sitka Spruce in Ireland* by Padraic M Joyce and Niall OCarroll was launched on 19 November 2002 at the Mont Clare Hotel, Dublin. The official launch of the book was conducted by Mr John Brown T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.



*Photo (left to right): Eugene Hendrick (COFORD Director), Padraic Joyce, Minister John Browne T.D., and Niall OCarroll at the launch of the book “Sitka Spruce in Ireland”.*

The authors are two of the most eminent Irish foresters of recent decades and have written the book with both the forester and landowner in mind, but it will be of interest to a wider audience of policy makers, and those with an interest in the natural environment. It brings to light the pioneering research in the decades from the 1950s which underpin the use of the species in Ireland. The book is a source of valuable advice on the management of the species, and puts particular emphasis on how best to achieve quality wood production.

Commenting on the publication the Director of COFORD, Dr Eugene Hendrick stated: “This book underpins the strength that Ireland has developed in plantation establishment and management and brings to a new generation of foresters and forest owners the best available information on how to grow and manage their forests to ensure profitable returns from quality wood production”.

Copies of the book are available from COFORD at a cost of €30 plus postage.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# New COFORD publications launched

*Factors influencing farmer participation in forestry* by Pat Collier, Jim Dorgan and Paul Bell, was launched on 8 November 2002 at the Irish Farmers Association seminar in Limerick.

In addition, three COFORD publications were launched at the ITGA/COFORD seminar held in Dublin on 14 November 2002. The titles of the new reports are:

* *Report on Christmas tree research 2002,* edited by Eugene Hendrick;
* *Managing the impacts of forest clearfelling on stream environments* by Paul Giller, Meike Johnson, and John O’Halloran; and
* *Forest mammals- management and control* by Seán Rooney and Thomas J. Hayden.

All of these documents can be ordered online from the bookshop link on the COFORD website [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie), or downloaded from the same link in pdf format.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# COFORD Report on Christmas Tree Research 2002 launched

The recently launched COFORD report on Christmas tree research presents the most up to-date information on a number of projects currently funded by COFORD in co-operation with the Irish Christmas Tree Growers’ Association.

The Irish Christmas tree sector has grown from rather modest beginnings in the 1960s, when the markets were satisfied from by-products of the wood sector – mainly thinnings, to the sophisticated sector with specialised skills based on a Christmas tree and foliage farm system which exists today. This growth in specialised skills has been matched by a more discerning domestic market and the realisation that for many species, and for noble fir in particular, the export market is the key to the future success and prosperity of the sector. Exporting Christmas trees to European markets is a highly competitive and very demanding operation where quality of product as well as competitive price and reliability of supply are some of the key factors in the success or failure of the venture. COFORD’s main emphasis on Christmas tree research to date has focused on tree and foliage quality. This Report can be divided into a number of distinct studies.

* Seed source study of noble fir for Christmas tree production. The objectives of this project are to compare a range of home collected and imported seed sources of noble fir for Christmas tree production under Irish conditions. A critical aspect of the work has been the focus on provenance and breeding and the establishment of a comprehensive range of field trials to compare and observe the performance of over fifty seed lots in noble fir. Preliminary results for height growth and number of branches in the top whorl are presented, however the experiment will need to be much older before the best and most suitable sources of noble fir for Christmas tree production can be identified.
* Study of the association between the occurrence of current season needle necrosis in noble fir and foliar concentrations of selected elements. The association between current season needle necrosis and the foliar concentration of eleven elements was examined in noble fir Christmas tree crops over a two-year period at six sites in the east and south east of Ireland. The most consistent and strongest effects were found in the case of potassium and sodium. Potassium levels were consistently lower in foliage affected by current season needle necrosis, while sodium levels were consistently higher. It is suggested that these effects may be secondary and not the main cause of current season needle necrosis.
* Field trial of methods to reduce the severity of current season needle necrosis in Christmas trees in Ireland. The effectiveness of foliar application of two concentrations of calcium chloride solution and two plant growth regulators, applied with a wetting agent, in reducing the severity of current season needle necrosis was examined in a replicated field trial at two Christmas tree sites in 2000. Due to very wet weather conditions, the treatments could not be applied as early as planned which may have reduced their effectiveness. It was recommended that this trial should be repeated in modified form, though the unsettled weather during the early summer period may militate against the use of foliar applications of calcium chloride and plant growth regulators generally.
* The effects of thinning, cutting methods/intensity and fertilisation on the quality and quantity of foliage production in noble fir stands. Foliage from noble fir has been used for floral decoration for many years in Europe. There are currently over 3,000 ha of noble fir in Ireland and many of these stands have supplied foliage to the European market over the last fifteen to twenty years. However, the production of foliage in this country in the past has been based on crop exploitation rather than on managed stands. Yields are, however, much lower than from stands specifically developed and managed for foliage production. The objectives of this experiment are to assess the effects of respacing combined with fertiliser treatments as well as the effects of cutting methods and cutting intensity on the quality and quantity of cut foliage of noble fir. The effects of foliage removal on the nutrient content of noble fir stands was assessed and an attempt was made to establish optimum inputs required for maximum foliage production.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# Forest Protection Guidelines

The Forest Service has just released the Forest Protection Guidelines. The main sections included in the document are:

* Protecting against future threats – pests and diseases;
* Forest protection;
* Twelve significant threats to Irish forests;
* Guidelines for the use of pesticides in Irish forests.

The guidelines are based on the principles of sustainable forest management, and will remain under review to facilitate amendment in light of new research findings. They describe a range of measures intended to cover the most significant issues relating to forest protection. It is the responsibility of forest owners to identify and apply those measures that are appropriate to their particular forests.

The guidelines apply to all grant aided projects and to all activities associated with a felling licence. Any breach may result in the forfeit of grant aid and premium payment or the withdrawal of a felling licence.

Copies of the document are available from the Forest Service offices at Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford, telephone 053 60200.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# BIHIP to meet in Ireland

The British and Irish Hardwood Breeding Programme (BIHIP) Management Committee is to hold its biannual meeting in Ireland for the first time, in January 2003. Since its establishment in 1991, BIHIP has developed active tree improvement programmes for several broadleaf species. Programmes have been established in oak, ash, cherry, birch, walnut and most recently, sycamore, of which Dr Michael Carey (former General Manager, Coillte Forests) is chairman. The most advanced programme is in ash, where the ash group has already developed a number of seedling seed orchards. The oak group will be establishing a number of oak seedling seed orchards early next year, including one in Ireland.

The management committee is the overall co-ordinating body of BIHIP, with stakeholder representation from species sub-groups and funding agencies. Its current chairman, Prof. Jeff Burley is Director of the Oxford Forestry Institute and Past President of the International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO). The secretary is Dr Gabriel Hemery, Forestry Research Manager for the Northmoor Trust, and he is also secretary of the walnut group. The Irish representative is John Fennessy, Research Programme Manager at COFORD.

At the conclusion of the meeting in Ireland next year, Coillte are hosting a field day which will take the visitors to Coillte Nursery Headquarters in Ballintemple and end with a visit to the native oak provenance trial in Camolin.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# ITGA/COFORD SEMINAR Forest regulation – a threat to production forestry?

COFORD and the Irish Timber Growers’ Association (ITGA) were the co-hosts of the very successful seminar on *Forest Regulation - a threat to production forestry?* held on 14 November 2002, at the UCD Industry Centre, Belfield, Dublin.

Mr John Brown T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, opened the event, and this was followed by an excellent programme of presentations which stimulated lively discussions. COFORD intends publishing the proceedings of this seminar early in the new year.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# CARBON CORNER

A national forest inventory is being planned at present, and is likely to involve the establishment of a series of permanent sample plots across the country. These will have the primary aim of determining wood volumes and increment, as well as trends in biodiversity and forest health. A further important objective will be to determine carbon stocks and their increment. In the Irish context the most important forest areas are those covered by Article 3.3, that is new forests plated since 1990. These are the areas that will make the biggest contribution to the achievement of the carbon sequestration goals set out in the National Climate Change Strategy. This is to be around 1 million tonnes of CO2 per annum from 2008 to 2012. In order for these areas to qualify for the issuance of removal units (RMUs) there will have be a verifiable and transparent system in place for the calculation of carbon stocks.

COFORD is working closely with the Forest Service to ensure that the most cost-effective and up-to-date methods are used to estimate carbon stocks and sequestration rates. This work coincides with the issuance for comment of the draft revised IPCC guidelines for the assessment of carbon stocks in land-use, land-use change and forestry. When published, the guidelines will form an important part of the procedures that will be used nationally for the assessment of carbon stock changes. They cover approaches to the assessment of the main carbon pools in forest ecosystems, including soil carbon. Changes in soils carbon pools are difficult and expensive to measure. However, under the rules set out in the Marrakesh Accords last November, they must be measured, or shown that they are not a source of greenhouse gas emissions. This will entail having emission data to show whether or not forest soils are net emitters of greenhouse gases, such as CO2 and methane. Work is progressing on these issues in the COFORD-funded [CarbiFor project](http://www.coford.ie/projects/carbifor.html).

At present carbon stocks and increment are estimated by using growth and yield models and the Forest Service’s area-based forest categories. This system is now fully documented and will be published in 2003. It is supported by a software system called CARBWARE (see Carbon Corners in previous issues of this newsletter). This allows for scenario modelling, e.g. what happens if the planting programme is reduced below trend.

Further information on CARBWARE can be obtained from [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie).

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# New COST Action launched – Management of Recovered Wood

The latest Action of the COST Forest and Forestry Products domain was launched on 21 November. E31 – Management of Recovered Wood will aim to create linkages and synergies between research activities throughout European states.

The EU has set a target to double the share of renewable energy in the European primary energy supply from 6% to 12% by 2010. Biomass will contribute significantly to this aim. One of the most important sources of biomass – in addition to forestry and energy crops – is recovered wood (i.e. wood and wood products at the end of their life, e.g. wood from demolition and construction sites, discarded packaging and pallets). Currently, much of this material is landfilled across Europe. It is estimated that about 100 million tonnes of recovered wood is generated annually in the EU. COST Action E9 presented a number of management options for recovered wood:

* Secondary resource management
* Wood for energy use
  + Using wood as a secondary raw material (e.g. for chipboard)
* Disposal
  + Combustion without energy use
  + Landfill
  + Natural decomposition

The 100 million tonnes of recovered wood produced each year could lead to a reduction of 135 million tonnes of CO2 emissions per annum if they were used to substitute coal as a fuel for energy generation.

At the first management committee meeting, Dr Gerfried Jungmeier of Joanneum Research Institute in Austria was elected as chairperson of the Action. To date 16 countries have either signed, or expressed an interest in signing, the memorandum of understanding.

This COST Action will create a multi-disciplinary forum for the exchange of ideas and contribute to the harmonisation of methodologies for the treatment of recovered wood and the comparability of the collected data. This forum will consist of a management committee and two workgroups drawn from the wood industry, waste management, building, trade and energy sectors. Two workgroup areas have been identified:

WG1 – European management of recovered wood

The main task of WG1 is to analyse the current systems of wood recovery in Europe, i.e. technical and legal aspects as well as environmental impacts of the management schemes for recovered wood used in the different European countries, recovered wood potential, and criteria for the choice of recovered wood treatment method.

WG2 – Treatment options for recovered wood

The main task of WG2 is to conduct an analysis of different current and planned treatment options for recovered wood based on technical, economic and environmental criteria, including energy generation and recycling.

Ireland can nominate a total of four people to the workgroups (two on each workgroup). People interested in joining either of the workgroups should contact Joe O’Carroll by email ([joe.ocarroll@coford.ie](mailto:JOE.OCARROLL@COFORD.IE)) before the end of February 2003. For information on COST, visit [www.cordis.lu/cost](http://www.cordis.lu/cost).

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# Forest Research and the Sixth Framework Programme – Challenges and Opportunities

An open seminar with the above title was held in Paris on 25 November. Organised by EFI under the IMACFORD project, the event was attended by about 160 researchers from across Europe. The aims of the seminar were described as:

* Encourage dialogue between the EU and forest research community on the role of forest research in the 6th Framework Programme and ERA, and to offer a platform for discussion and exchange of information;
* Chart forest related research needs in the light of the 6th Framework Programme and ERA;
* Chart existing research capacities and networks in Europe in the field of forest and forest related research, to meet the needs of the 6th Framework programme and ERA;
* Explore links to other relevant disciplines.

Following opening comments from Fergal Mulloy, chairman, EFI, and Yves Birot, chairman, COST, Pierre Valette gave an overview of the 6th Framework programme and the instruments through which funding would be made available. In brief, the instruments to be used in FP6 are:

* Integrated projects;
* Networks of excellence;
* Specific targeted research projects (STREPS);
* Co-ordination actions;
* Special support actions.

These are described in greater detail in the document [General introduction covering all the instruments for implementing the Sixth Framework Programme's priority themes](http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=&DOC=1&TBL=EN_DOCS&RCN=EN_RCN:1844005&CALLER=FP6_LIB). Other supporting documents are also available at [www.cordis.lu/fp6](http://www.cordis.lu/fp6).

Short presentations were made by a range of stakeholder representative organisations on research needs from the perspective of the end-user. The main points raised by the various groups included:

CEPI – Confederation of European Paper Industries

* Identification of the bottlenecks in wood mobilisation;
* Development of silvicultural systems that consider the various roles of forests (including certification);
* Better assessment and inventory of forest resources;
* Innovation/optimisation of the wood supply chain;
* Analysis of policy impacts on forestry and forest products;
* Better understanding of forest socio-economics and the markets for forest products;
* Tree improvement and genetics.

CEI-Bois – European Confederation of Woodworking Industries

* Improved logistics and traceability;
* Efficient use of large diameter roundwood;
* Improving the properties and quality of wood;
* Prediction of the behaviour of wood (e.g. drying);
* New treatment and machining techniques;
* More sophisticated and efficient use of fuel wood;
* Improved understanding of the carbon cycle;
* Better understanding of microstructure-microchemistry-property relationships;
* Biological properties of virgin wood surfaces and surface modification techniques;
* Environmentally-friendly coatings and preservation techniques;
* Development of new engineered wood products and wood-based composite materials;
* Further development of ‘smart’ construction elements.

CEPF – Confederation of European Forest Owners

* Decision support tools for multifunctional forest management;
* Carbon sinks;
* Risk management – physical and biological stability of forests;
* Valuation methods.

MCPFE – Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

* Forest biological diversity in Europe;
* An economically viable SFM in Europe;
* Climate change and SFM in Europe;
* Socio-cultural dimensions of SFM in Europe;
* Strengthening synergies for SFM in Europe through National Forest Programmes.

WWF – World Wildlife Fund

* Forest crime;
* The economics of forestry;
* Community forestry;
* Protected areas;
* Forest landscape restoration;
* Natural disasters.

ENFE – European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (Contractors)

* Developing and securing employment in forestry and rural areas;
* Establishing and ensuring decent working conditions, both for entrepreneurs and their workforce;
* Good forest management and land-use;
* Future forest products.

JRC – Joint Research Centre

* Monitoring of forests;
* Reliable data on which to build models;
* Promotion of forests as carbon sinks;
* Protection of the natural environment.

The degree to which FP6 and its instruments will enable the needs of the above stakeholders to be addressed remains to be seen. The first calls under the new Framework programme will be advertised in December with closing dates in March 2003.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# ERA-Wood

The European research area Wood initiative (ERA-Wood) is holding a second workshop in Vienna to focus on the preparation of an integrated project under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6).

The project will look at the forest-wood-product chain (FWPC), and potential participants in FP6 are asked to send documentation regarding such a project to organisers. Documents will be treated confidentially.

The event hopes to attract all key players and decision makers of the European forest and wood industries as well as forest and wood research. Key elements of the programme include:

* a presentation by Jeremy Wall of the European Commission on research priorities for enhancing the use of wood in Europe;
* introduction to the FWPC integrated project;
* work group on supply-chain management and sustainability;
* work group on construction; product systems and concepts;
* work group on innovative products and new materials;
* work group on education and training;
* open discussion and final conclusions.

ERA-Wood is an initiative supported by the Commission, and its goal is to combine the research and development needs of wood working industries with the capabilities of European research institutes and organisations. For further information, consult the web site <http://www.era-wood.info/index.html>

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# Short term research mission report

## Forest IT 2002, Helsinki, Finland

*This report was compiled by Mark Tarleton of Purser Tarleton Russell Ltd. (PTR) and is available on the* [*COFORD website*](http://www.coford.ie/funding/ForestIT2002.doc)*.*

The second Forest IT congress held in Helsinki on 3 and 4 September 2002 brought together experts to discuss and demonstrate state-of-the-art Information Technology (IT) systems applicable to forest industry operations internationally. It encompassed new systems currently at R&D stage along with proven systems now operating in the more progressive forest industries. FINRPO, a technology export and marketing promotion company, was the main seminar organising body. The event was supported by the University of Helsinki, the Finnish Forest Industries Federation, the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Finnish Forest and Park Service in addition to several major forest industry companies including StoraEnso, UPM-Kymmene and Metsäliitto.

The two day seminar incorporated a total of 26 papers presented by an international group of speakers (Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Japan and the UK) with industrial and academic backgrounds. The conference was attended by over 100 delegates, including Irish representation from Coillte, the Forest Service, the Irish Forestry Contractors Association and PTR. In addition to the main conference, there was a small selection of trade exhibitors present at the venue, including Finnish GIS and communications technology providers.

Mark Tarleton of PTR is currently involved in research and development work relating to the advancement of new systems to overcome current inefficiencies within the timber supply and procurement chain in Ireland (e.g. COFORD’s OptiLog project). There is now wide spread consensus that there is a requirement for greater use of Information Technology based systems if significant efficiencies are to be achieved in our timber supply and procurement chain operations. Efficiency based change in the forestry sector incorporating IT developments can and will utilise generic technology relevant to other industries. However, IT solutions specific to the forest industry will also be required (e.g. harvester head measurement systems and optimal bucking systems).

One of the challenges facing the Irish forest industry in this area is the lack of direct contact with up-to-date IT expertise specific to the forest industry. Reference is often made to progressive IT based timber supply chain management systems in other countries, notably Finland and Sweden. However, it is often difficult to gain a complete understanding of such systems from afar. This research mission provided a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of IT solutions available to meet the current and future needs of the Irish timber industry, particularly in the area of efficient IT based timber supply chain management. The seminar incorporated several papers of specific relevance to current and future IT developments relating to timber supply chain management systems including optimal timber harvesting and haulage operational planning and management and stand value optimisation

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# Living Forest Summit

The Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, is to be held from 28 to 30 April 2003 in Vienna, Austria. This "Living Forest Summit" is an opportunity to decide on the future of the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe. It should be another milestone in the commitment and dedication of European countries to their forests. In a globalised world the "Living Forest Summit" should also give a signal to other regions in the world and contribute to the sustainability of our common heritage.

Details about the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe - the "Living Forest Summit" can be found at the web site <http://www.mcpfe.org/livingforestsummit>.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# XII World Forestry Congress in Canada

The World Forestry Congress will be held in Québec, Canada, from 21 to 28 September 2003. This represents a unique opportunity for professional foresters from all over the world to exchange their knowledge, experience and views with attendees from some 160 countries. In addition to the main programme, the Congress will offer a variety of outings, visits and study tours through Canada and the United States. Also featured will be an exhibition where nearly 100 organisations and companies will showcase their products, services and achievements.

Centred on the theme *Forests – source of life*, the XII World Forestry Congress showcases forest-related initiatives, innovations and technologies. The World Forestry Congress takes place every six years, and is an important meeting for the forestry sector. The XII World Forestry Congress is jointly organized by the Department of Natural Resources Canada and the Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec in collaboration with the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization).

Further information as well as registration forms can be found on the web site <http://www.wfc2003.org>.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# Ph.D. Scholarships

## Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Blanket Peatland

The Forest Ecosystem Research Group, based in the Department of Environmental Resource Management at University College Dublin (UCD), is a partner in a major research project funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency which aims to study greenhouse gas fluxes in grasslands and blanket peatland. The Forest Ecosystem Research Group is currently seeking a Ph.D. student to study greenhouse gas fluxes in blanket peatland.

The study site is located in an intact blanket peatland at Glencar, Co. Kerry in the south west of Ireland. The successful candidate will study fluxes of CO2 and CH4 using chamber techniques. Specific objectives will include quantification of the spatial and temporal variation in fluxes of CO2 and CH4. The relationship of these fluxes to environmental and climatic variables including soil temperature, water table depth, photosynthetically active radiation and vegetation type will also be investigated. The study will also involve comparison of chamber based methods for measuring greenhouse gas fluxes with flux tower methods.

An honours degree in soil science, environmental science, ecology or a related discipline is a prerequisite. The closing date for receipt of applications is 6 December 2002. Further information can be obtained from Dr Kenneth A. Byrne, Forest Ecosystem Research Group, Department of Environmental Resource Management, University College Dublin, Dublin 4.

Email: [kenneth.byrne@ucd.ie](mailto:kenneth.byrne@ucd.ie) or phone (01) 7167725.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

## Carbon Accounting in Irish Forests

The Forest Ecosystem Research Group, based in the Department of Environmental Resource Management at University College Dublin (UCD), is a partner in the project “Multi-source inventory methods for quantifying carbon stocks and stock changes in European forests” (CARBOINVENT) which is funded by the European Union Fifth Framework Programme. As part of its involvement in this project the Forest Ecosystem Research Group is currently seeking a Ph.D. student to study carbon accounting in Irish forests.

The overall objective of CARBOINVENT is to provide methodologies for combining different data sources towards an improved estimate of forest carbon stocks and stock changes at the national and European level, for the purposes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the proper implementation of the Kyoto Protocol Articles on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. Pursuant to this the Forest Ecosystem Research Group will establish a test site in Ireland to study methods for determining carbon stock changes due to afforestation, reforestation and deforestation since 1990. This work will be used to develop exemplary carbon budgets under Kyoto Protocol Article 3.3.

The successful candidate should have an honours degree in soil science, forestry, environmental science or a related discipline. An understanding of carbon cycling in forest ecosystems, GIS applications in forestry and climate policy would be beneficial.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 6 December 2002. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Kenneth A. Byrne at the Forest Ecosystem Research Group, Department of Environmental Resource Management, University College Dublin, Dublin 4. Email: [kenneth.byrne@ucd.ie](mailto:kenneth.byrne@ucd.ie) or phone (01) 716 7725.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# Vacancy: CHIU RESEARCH OFFICER

The Conference of Heads of Irish Universities [CHIU] is a corporate body representing the Heads of the seven Irish Universities. It aims to promote the development of education and research in the universities by the formulation of collective policies, strategies and programmes. CHIU has recently established a Central Universities’ Research Office to provide centrally the expertise and support necessary for the formulation of sectoral policies, strategies and initiatives to promote the development of university research.

CHIU has decided to appoint a **Research Officer** who will provide support for the Assistant Director Research Policy responsible for carrying out the functions of the Research Office. The duties of the post would be extended to projects related to the wider CHIU remit of analysis and formulation of university sector policies covering the teaching as well as the research functions of the universities.

More information can be obtained from the CHIU at 10 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 676-4948; Fax: (01) 662-2815; Email: [mlardner@chiu.ie](mailto:mlardner@chiu.ie)

For informal discussions please contact Conor O’Carroll (6764948).

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# Vacancy: Marie Curie Post-doctoral Fellowship: wood pulp and paper products

AIDIMA, in Valencia, Spain, is seeking a post-doctoral fellow with experience in wood pulp, paper and paper products. The project title is “Characterisation of packaging from paper and paper products through the study of fibre composition”.

The job description includes analysis of the influence of fibre composition on the characteristics of paper and paper products. Due to the lack of raw materials and the new environmental tendencies, paper composition is changing day by day. This could have an important effect on the final properties of packages manufactured with paper and paper products (carton board and corrugated board). The European legislation related to

packaging and packaging waste - Directive 94/62 – and the new Directives that are being developed nowadays must be taken into account. The hosted fellow should study the composition influence factors that affect the chemical and mechanical paper properties in the search of relationships between them in order to establish a criterion to fulfil the operative and legislative requirements according to the quality and final use of the package.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, reply to info@coford.ie with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject field.

Compiled and edited by Lauren MacLennan, Technology Transfer Co-ordinator

Email: [lauren.maclennan@coford.ie](mailto:lauren.maclennan@coford.ie)

The deadline date for applications is 15 December 2002. For more information, contact Prof. Dr. Jose Vicente Oliver (Email: [joliver@aidima.es](mailto:joliver@aidima.es)), or visit the website [www.aidima.es](http://www.aidima.es).

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)