

**COFORD Forestry and Wood Update**

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**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)



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# COFORD Connects Survey

Results from a survey conducted during the past month identified many different topics that COFORD Connects subscribers would like to be covered in future issues. The ten topics most frequently indicated were:

* Existing and potential markets for timber
* Mammals and their control
* Wind-throw
* Niche markets for hardwoods
* Thinning
* Timber valuation
* Planting stock
* Herbicides, their use and alternatives
* Management of hardwoods
* Carbon sequestration

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete and return the survey form, and we encourage those of you who have not yet done so to return the questionnaires to us. The comments and suggestions will assist us to decide on priority topics for future notes and enable us to constantly improve our service levels.

The next set of notes in the series, due to be circulated in November, will cover planting stock, registering seed stands, existing markets for roundwood, thinning and pruning, and carbon sequestration. All the COFORD Connects information notes are downloadable in pdf format from <http://www.coford.ie>. For more information about the COFORD Connects Series, please contact [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie).

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# Pruned Logs Prices

At a recent COFORD demonstration on whole-tree chipping, a discussion took place on the merits of pruning. The Forest Service currently offers a grant for pruning, and the question was raised as to whether or not pruned logs would achieve a premium. The sawmilling sector representatives stated that pruned logs would achieve a premium but that many other factors contribute to the determination of log prices, such as location, quantity, and market forces. There isn’t a tradition of pruning conifer stands in Ireland so it is difficult to say with certainty that crops pruned today will achieve a premium in twenty years time. We therefore need to look at evidence from abroad to find any trends in pruned and unpruned log prices. The best information is available from New Zealand, where pruned and unpruned log prices have been published for many decades. Analysis published in the New Zealand Journal of Forestry indicates that the price of pruned logs has risen at an average rate of 4% per annum over the past 8 years. Over the same period the price of unpruned logs only rose by 1% per annum. The volumes of each category sold were not indicated.

The quoted prices for logs for the second quarter of 2002 were NZ$ 158–180/m3 (€ 76-87/m3) for P1 pruned logs and NZ$ 82–101/m3 (€ 39-49/m3) for S1 unpruned logs. P1 logs are pruned with a minimum top diameter of 40 cm. S1 logs are unpruned with a minimum top diameter of 40 cm and a maximum knot size of 6 cm. L1 logs are the same size but with a maximum knot size of 14 cm. L1 logs were quoted at NZ$ 66-82/m3 (€ 32–39/m3) for the second quarter.

If such a trend were to be matched by log prices in Ireland over the coming decade the case for pruning suitable stands would be strengthened. However, future log prices cannot be predicted with a high level of accuracy. It is certain, however, that pruned logs will greatly increase the range of end-use markets that can be supplied by home-grown timber.

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# Wicklow Uplands Council launches a community-based strategy for the forest and timber industry in County Wicklow

The Wicklow Uplands Council recently launched their “Strategy for the Forest and Timber Industry in County Wicklow” at Avondale House. This community-based strategy is the first of its kind in this country. Local communities and stakeholders, timber growers and processors, recreational users and a variety of other interest groups have worked together, under the auspices of Wicklow Uplands Council, to develop this strategy. Financial support for the project was provided mainly by the Forest Service, with Coillte as a partner.

The project had the following objectives:

* to examine the possibility of developing an ongoing consultation and partnership process by local communities in forestry management issues, particularly in relation to afforestation and harvesting;
* to strike a balance between forestry, farming and other land uses and to recommend methods of integration between forestry and downstream activities;
* to outline locally applicable guidelines on sustainable forestry indicators compatible with local, sectoral and regional plans and initiatives;
* to determine forestry and timber industry training and education potential at county level, and to investigate opportunities for developing educational awareness initiatives at primary, secondary and adult education levels;
* to evaluate the current attitudes of Wicklow communities and recreational users towards forestry and its economic, commercial and tourism potential;
* to develop a strategy for the county which, by means of extensive consultation with local communities, landowners, sawmillers, recreational users and other non-statutory stakeholders, would directly reflect the perceived needs of and opportunities for these groups.

The report is developed in three sections. The first section, entitled “Wicklow Forestry in Context”, presents comprehensive information on the present forest estate in Wicklow. Particular attention is paid to the species composition and age structure of the forests, both public and private, as well as the number of private estates in the county where there is a tradition of forestry. Community views indicate an overall satisfaction with forestry in the county. There is an awareness that forest cover in the county exceeds the national target of 17% but that this represents a potential opportunity for the development of a wood culture.

The second section of the report, “Community Involvement in Forestry”, presents the results of the consultation process. For the purpose of the project, stakeholders were categorised as landowners or timber growers, timber industry representatives or general community interests. A detailed questionnaire, tailored to each category, was distributed and the responses were analysed.

The final section, “Community Based Strategies, Recommendations and Funding”, forms the main part of the strategy. It contains the main recommendations listed under the headings of new planting, species selection, forest management, farm forestry, conservation, amenity and recreation, education, and wood and non-wood goods and services. Finally, it highlights key proposals, namely:

* the establishment of a forestry centre of excellence at Avondale;
* development of a demonstration forest, or a series of such forests, in the county;
* provision of forest and mountain shelters for walkers/mountain users and visitors;
* examination of possible development of forest foods and the non-traditional food sector;
* the formation of a permanent Wicklow Community Forestry Panel, under the administration of Wicklow Uplands Council, to maximise continued community participation in forestry in the county.

More information about the Wicklow Upands Council can be found at <http://www.wicklowuplands.ie>

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# CARBON CORNER

Last year the Royal Society in the United Kingdom published a policy document on “The role of land carbon sinks in mitigating global climate change” (<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/policy/index.html>). It was complied by a group of the leading scientific experts in climate change and forest sinks in the UK. It examined the scientific issues surrounding land carbon sinks, particularly in relation to the Kyoto protocol. The report illustrates the effects of sinks on a global scale and the dynamics of carbon exchange between sinks and the atmosphere.

Overall they estimate that the global carbon sink in vegetation is about 550,000 mega[[1]](#footnote-1) tonnes of carbon. To put this in perspective, the amount of carbon stored in vegetation on the island of Ireland is about[[2]](#footnote-2) 23 mega tonnes. However, as is pointed out in the report, soils are the largest terrestrial carbon store – the global estimate is 760,000 mega tonnes of carbon. Irish data on carbon stores in soils are not yet available, but an EPA-funded study on carbon stores in vegetation and soils in the Republic should have estimates available by 2003.

On a global scale, soils and vegetation contain about three times as much carbon as there is in the atmosphere. As a result they are a vitally important part of the global carbon cycle. This cycle has a turnaround time of about ten years. It is driven by carbon uptake during photosynthesis (about 120,000 mega tonnes of carbon per year) and release through plant respiration, the breakdown of organic matter in the soil, combustion, and through the decay of wood and wood-based products such as paper and sawn timber. (Carbon exchange between the oceans and the atmosphere is an equally important driver of the carbon cycle.)

Globally the *net* uptake of carbon in soils and vegetation is estimated to be about 1,500 mega tonnes of carbon per year. This represents about 23% of emissions from fossil fuels (6,400 mega tonnes of carbon per year) and highlights the importance of land-based carbon sinks in the global greenhouse gas balance.

Uptake and emissions of carbon are not in balance in land-based sinks. A number of factors contribute to this disequilibrium, such as direct human influences (deforestation and reforestation rates), indirect human influences such as CO2 and nitrogen fertilisation, and natural factors such as year-on-year climate variability. As far as direct human influences go, tropical deforestation is by far the most important cause of CO2 release. The FAO’s Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/y0900e/y0900e05.htm#P166_14883>) indicates that about 15.2 million ha of forest was lost annually in the tropics in the 1990s. This is equivalent to about 25 times the total forest cover of the Republic of Ireland being deforested each year. While the trend of the 1990s is slightly lower than in the 1980s, the difference is not significant in terms of the release of greenhouse gases. On the other hand, indirect human influences such as CO2 and nitrogen fertilisation tend to have a positive effect on forest growth and hence carbon storage. It is widely accepted that forests in northern Europe are now growing at a faster rate than they were in historic periods, more than likely because of increases in CO2 levels and nitrogen deposition. The evidence comes from experimental studies on young trees grown at different levels of CO2, as well as from forest inventory studies such as the RECOGNITION project funded by the European Commission (<http://www.efi.fi/projects/recognition>).

Forests contain about 45% of the global land-based carbon stock. The sustainable use and management of forests and forest products are therefore critical to climate change. We in Ireland can play our part through continued forest expansion, sustainable use of the existing forest resource, advocacy of sustainable forest management in the international arena and the focusing of bilateral aid to the prevention of tropical deforestation.

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# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT COFORD

## Research Programme Manager - Environment

This position was advertised in *The Irish Times* appointments supplement on 30 August. The appointment will be on a temporary basis to the end of 2006.

The post arises from the need of the forestry sector in Ireland to be provided with up-to-date, scientifically based information on the interaction of forests and forest operations with the environment. Environmental Research and Development is one of the primary areas identified in COFORD’s 2000-2006 R&D programme. Major projects on carbon sequestration, biodiversity and water quality are already underway. These projects are managed by COFORD to ensure that project objectives are achieved and that relevant findings are transferred into practice. Further environmental research projects may be initiated during the lifetime of the programme. Areas to be addressed will be identified through close collaboration with industry, state departments and agencies, and NGOs. In addition to managing nationally funded R&D, the position requires that the latest international findings be collated and made available for policy makers and practitioners.

The principal tasks of the successful applicant will include:

* Management of COFORD-funded environment related R&D projects to ensure delivery of agreed objectives.
* Liaison with other government departments and agencies on forestry/environmental interactions.
* Identification of information gaps and areas in need of further R&D and the preparation of position papers setting these out.
* Editing of project final reports and the compilation of information notes and other material based on COFORD-funded projects.
* Other related tasks as directed by the Director/Operations Manager.

The Research Programme Manager will report directly to the Operations Manager.

Essential requirements are a degree in forestry, environmental science or a related discipline; five years post-graduate work experience in project management in the forestry or a related environmental area; high-level written and oral communication skills (applicants may append a list of published and/or unpublished reports, including examples); full familiarity with the MS Office suite (Access, Excel, PowerPoint and Word); and a full clean driving licence. An application form and job specification information can be downloaded from <http://www.coford.ie/vacancies/vacancies.html>. Applications must be sent to:

Personnel Officer

Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Leeson Lane

Dublin 2

The closing date for receipt of applications is 5:00 p.m. Friday 20 September 2002.

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# PROGRESS ON COFORD PROJECTS

## BIOFOREST

This project examines how forestry changes and enhances biodiversity, and has now been running for two years. It is co-funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. The project members are from the University College Cork, Trinity College Dublin and Coillte. The website <http://www.coford.ie/projects/bioforest.html> contains the project objectives and a link to the BIOFOREST website.

Progress to date includes 32 sites studied in 2001, and an additional 44 sites under assessment in 2002. The sites consist of pure Sitka spruce, pure ash and ash/Sitka mixtures. Four stages of rotation are being assessed: young (5 year old), thicket, mid-rotation and mature. Preliminary findings are:

* **Plants**: A total of 224 vascular plant species and 96 bryophyte species have been recorded. Results suggest that while ash forests have greater overall floristic richness than pure Sitka spruce forests, the bryophyte (moss) assemblage under Sitka is more diverse than in ash plantations. The project team has also recorded the moss *Hypnum imponens* in a mature Sitka spruce site in Co Laois. This moss is previously unrecorded in Ireland.
* **Birds**: Fifty-three bird species have been recorded to date. Preliminary analyses indicate clear differences between the bird communities of young plantations (in which willow warblers and redpolls are abundant) and older forests (in which goldcrests and coal tits are more numerous). The two bird species recorded most frequently were wrens and chaffinches. Wrens were recorded twice as frequently as chaffinches in all ages and types of forest except in mature Sitka, where approximately twice as many chaffinches as wrens were recorded.
* **Invertebrates**: A total of 80 spider species have been identified, with a further five awaiting expert verification. Several species have previously only been recorded as rare in Ireland or were found in counties where they were not previously recorded. For example, *Asthenargus paganus* is a rare spider which has only been recorded from a few localities in Great Britain and had been consider as restricted in Ireland to Co Carlow. During BIOFOREST monitoring it has been recorded regularly in Clare, Cork, Kerry, Laois and Tipperary.
* **Insects:** A total of 43 insect species have been identified so far. Of particular note is the widespread occurrence of *Sphegina clunipes* in conifer plantations, which is the most abundant species recorded to date. This species has not been previously recorded from conifer plantations. Its larval microhabitats (under waterlogged bark) were thought to preclude its occurrence in conifer plantations.

## ECONTRIB

This project began in January 2002. Details of the objectives and methodology are available at <http://www.coford.ie/projects/econtrib.html>. This project will quantify the economic contribution of the forestry sector to local and the national economies. It will also develop indicators of sustainable forest management and evaluate the social contribution of forestry to the rural economy and sustainable development in Ireland.

Ms Marie-Christine Flechard has been recruited by UCD to work on this project. Progress to date has been in two main areas. First, the linkages between forestry and other sectors are being determined. Second, surveys are being undertaken of all forestry sector players to determine employment and expenditure patterns. The data generated will be used in conjunction with the information on sector linkages to determine the economic contribution of forestry to the Irish economy. Initially the 1993 published Input/Output table for the Agricultural/Forestry/Fishery sectors is being disaggregated into three separate sectors. This will allow the calculation of the following economic impacts:

* Direct Contribution – representing the impact of the spending by the forestry sector on goods and services;
* Indirect Contribution – contributions that occur when local suppliers to businesses in receipt of expenditure from the forestry sector in turn purchase goods and services;
* Induced contribution – the additional consumer expenditure that takes place when income generated from the direct and indirect contributions is in turn spent.

The sum of these three contributions represents the overall contribution of forestry to the national economy.

Work has commenced in a case study area around Newmarket in Co Cork. All forest industries located within a 20-mile radius of Newmarket have been identified. Questionnaires are being used to determine all inputs and outputs to and from the area. This work will be repeated for two additional case study areas. Collectively, these case study areas will give a greater understanding of the contribution of forestry to the rural economy. A review of methodologies on how best to determine social indicators will also be completed shortly.

## WoodWaste

This desk study has been underway since the beginning of the year. Further details are available at <http://www.coford.ie/projects/woodwaste.html>. The aim is to quantify the amount of wood waste generated by the construction and demolition sectors in Ireland. The project will recommend strategies to encourage recycling and reuse of this material to redirect it from landfill. Possible markets include energy production, chipboard production, biofilter media, animal bedding, wood-fibre plastic composites and horticultural mulch products.

Preliminary results indicate that between 95,000 and 118,000 tonnes of wood waste is generated every year, of which 48% arises in the greater Dublin area. A workshop is being organised by COFORD for the construction industry, waste management companies and potential customers for recovered wood. The output from the workshop will be a strategy for the segregation, collection and utilisation of treated and untreated wood waste.

The competitiveness of timber will be enhanced by the creation of a market for recovered wood, while waste management and disposal for other competing materials could become much more complicated and expensive in the future. This could encourage specifiers to choose environmental-friendly timber as their building material of choice.

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# COFORD EVENTS COMING UP

## Managing our broadleaf resource to produce quality hardwood timber

COFORD presents the first in a series of two-day events on growing and managing broadleaved trees and utilising hardwood timber in Ireland. This conference will take place on 10 and 11 October 2002, at the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon. Similar events will take place in the Kilkenny region on 10 and 11 April 2003, and in the Meath region on 8 and 9 May 2003.

In recent years there has been an increasing trend towards planting of broadleaved species. It is estimated that 20,000 ha of broadleaves have been planted in Ireland in the last 12 years, with the majority being planted by farmers. This area is likely to increase substantially in the future as the Forest Service target for broadleaves, which was originally set at 20%, has recently been increased to 30% of the total annual afforestation programme.

Broadleaves generally require a higher level of management than conifers to achieve quality timber. While there is much information and expertise available in Ireland on the establishment and management of conifers, there is little practical experience of the early management of broadleaves. COFORD has been supporting research on early management, including formative shaping, tending and thinning of a range of species. Teagasc, supported by the EU Framework Programme and COFORD, has been working on the shaping of broadleaves since 1992 and has produced shaping protocols for ash and sycamore. More recently, a new COFORD programme, BroadForm, has been established with the objectives to determine the optimum regime to produce the best quality timber; to examine three separate interventions (shaping, tending and thinning) and the impact they have on crop quality; and to develop guidelines for the production of quality stems in every broadleaved plantation.

Limited volumes of hardwoods are presently available from Irish forests. Traditionally, Irish-grown hardwoods have found their way into lower value end uses but have the potential for more lucrative markets. In recent years new pioneering developments are emerging in this sector. These developments will ultimately result in higher returns for the grower. This conference brings together a group of specialists, all experts in their fields, who will present their views on current and future developments in this sector.

The seminar will be opened by Mr John Browne, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. Presentations will include:

* Broadleaves - what’s out there? *Seamus Dunne, Forest Inspector, Forest Service.*
* Growing broadleaves - important issues for growers. *Joe Barry, Grower/Journalist.*
* Producing quality broadleaves - the UK experience. *Dr Peter Savill, Oxford Forestry Institute.*
* Management of broadleaves - shaping, tending and thinning. *Mike Bulfin, Teagasc.*
* An overview of hardwood utilisation in Ireland. *Gordon Knaggs, Gordon Knaggs & Associates.*
* Experiences in the processing of our hardwood resource. *Seamus Heaney, Coillte.*
* The joinery sector – its material requirements. *John Kenny, Breffni (Irl.) Ltd.*
* An overview of the COFORD database on native hardwoods. *Stella Xenopoulou, Timber Consultant.*

On 10 October, the field visit will be to Shanballybawn property to view mixed hardwoods, followed by a detailed discussion of future oak management, as well as to Glooria property to view the effects of shelter on sycamore, followed by a second oak stop, and then a demonstration of ash performance on a Drumlin site. The field visit on 11 October will be to a young stand of quality oak in Rooskey area, followed by a visit to the workshop of Breffni (Irl) Ltd. at Carrigallen, Co Leitrim.

Attendance at the conference (including site visits, refreshments and lunches, but excluding accommodation) is subject to a registration fee of €35 per person. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis, so book early to avoid disappointment. A pdf version of the brochure with the booking form can be downloaded directly from the COFORD website at <http://www.coford.ie/newsandevents/seminars.html>. For more information, contact Lauren MacLennan ([lauren.maclennan@coford.ie](mailto:lauren.maclennan@coford.ie)) or John Fennessy ([john.fennessy@coford.ie](mailto:john.fennessy@coford.ie)).

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## Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in plantation forests

BIOFOREST is a five-year project on forestry and biodiversity that has already been running for almost two years. It is being co-funded by COFORD and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The project is directed by Prof. Paul Giller and Dr John O'Halloran of UCC, in collaboration with Dr Daniel Kelly and Dr Frazer Mitchell (TCD) and Dr Aileen O'Sullivan and Pat Neville (Coillte). The three key components of the project are the impact of afforestation on biodiversity; the changes to biodiversity throughout the forest rotation; and the enhancement of biodiversity in plantation forestry.

COFORD, as joint funder of this project, will host a seminar on “*Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in plantation forests*” on 24 October 2002 in Cork City. Further details will appear in the next newsletter.

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## ITGA/COFORD Joint Annual Seminar

COFORD will once again co-host the Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) Annual Seminar on 14 November 2002, at the UCD Industry Centre, Belfield, Dublin. The title of this year’s seminar is “*Forest Regulation - a threat to production forestry?”* Registration forms will be sent out shortly.

The official opening of seminar will be by Mr John Browne, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, followed by a welcoming address from Mr Charles Colthurst, ITGA Chairman. The presentations will include:

* *The impact of new and planned environmental procedures and regulations on afforestation and forest management in Ireland*. Kevin Hutchinson, Manager Sales and Marketing, Coillte Forestry Services.
* *Forest Regulation in other European countries – lessons for Ireland.* Henry Philips, Consultant, Irish Forest Industry Chain.
* *The impact of forest regulation and policy on the economic viability of forestry – an international perspective.* Mike Mosman, Vice President of Resources at Port Blakely, USA and New Zealand.
* *Regulating our Forest Resource - where to from here?* Gerry Cody, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.
* *Multifunctionality as the basis for the EU forest strategy and the 6th Environmental Action Plan*. Joost van de Velde, DG Environment, Nature and Biodiversity Section.

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# CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

The conference on “Recent advances in research on *Hylobius abietis*, the large pine weevil” took place from 14 to 18 August 2002, at the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Galway. The event was sponsored by COFORD, and organised by the IUFRO Working Party7.03.03 Insects Affecting Reforestation.

The pine weevil is one of the most serious pests of reforestation in Europe but there is a need to find effective strategies for control, avoiding the use of pesticides. Several national initiatives have been making progress in this area. The objectives of the meeting were to:

* share landmark results in research;
* probe the most important areas for research development;
* direct attention to areas where synergism can be achieved by multinational research teams;
* focus on international support for further collaboration.

The meeting, jointly organised by Dr Paddy Walsh (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology) and Dr Keith Day (University of Ulster) brought together 40 of Europe’s forest scientists, as well as forest practitioners from the North and South of Ireland. Also attending the meeting were representatives from four plant protection companies who are interested in the most recent research results.

As a result of the meeting, it was clear that a range of alternative management solutions have been investigated, and show promise, but not all will work in the same way in all countries and regions.

Papers were given on silviculture and damage amelioration (Göran Nordlander, Göran Örlander, Niklas Björklund, Henrik von Hofsten), seedling tolerance and recovery (Heli Viiri), weevil populations and their movement (Stuart Heritage, Roger Moore), biological control agents (Christine Griffin, Aoife Dillon, Helena Bylund), seedling protection: barriers (Magnus Petersson, Hans Peter Ravn), anti-feedants (Jack Johnston, Fredrik Schlyter), Chemoreception (Atle Wibe), population genetics of weevils (Cyrille Conord), insecticides and behavioural responses (Daniel Rose, Paul Christensen).

The meeting highlighted the progress made in understanding a complex pest problem and the need to tailor solutions to specific regional conditions within Europe. The tightening of restrictions on the use of pesticides in European forest environments means that these solutions are needed with some urgency. Resolutions were made to continue and expand the scientific network, to integrate and harmonise key areas of research, for example multinational and geographically-dispersed forest experimental work, and to hold a similar meeting in Sweden in three years time.

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## Modern Markets for UK Softwood

The Institution of Agricultural Engineers Symposium will be held at Newton Rigg College, Cumbria, on 5 September 2002. The programme will include presentations on:

* Engineering sawn timber for structures.
* Stress laminated timber structures.
* Timber composite beams in the UK.
* Bioenergy from timber.
* Potential for UK forest industries.
* Supplier perspective.
* The Finnish experience.
* Forestry transport issues.
* Roads – red diesel – specialist vehicles.

For more information, telephone 01721-720448.

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## Green Living Fair

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Green Living Fair will be held on 7 and 8 September 2002, at Castle Espie, Co Down. The theme of this year's event is “The future is one we are creating”, with an emphasis on an artistic and positive celebration of bottom-up sustainability. There will be demonstrations and talks on beekeeping, community art, permaculture, organic production, environmental politics, rural crafts, renewable energy, green buildings and how to encourage wildlife. Green Living Fair is a not-for-profit event organised with the support of many people and organisations who believe in a fairer and better world. Timed to coincide with the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, this year’s Green Living Fair aims to demonstrate how to act locally. Phone 02891 874146 or email [alison.mccready@wwt.org.uk](mailto:alison.mccready@wwt.org.uk) for an events programme, or visit the website <http://www.wwt.org.uk> for more information on workshops and activities.

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## International Seminar on Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management

This seminar will be held from 15 to 19 September 2002 at Ennis. Registration forms and information are available at <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee/meet.htm>. Kevin Collins, Forest Service, can be contacted for more information, via email ([Kevin.Collins@dcmnr.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@dcmnr.gov.ie)) or fax 01-6623180.

Afforestation within the context of sustainable forest management (SFM) extends beyond the simple planting of trees to encapsulate the planting of the right trees in the right places. Given the nature of afforestation as a major change in land-use, the activity impacts greatly on the site and its surroundings. It also has wider implications in relation to, for example, the protection of river catchments, landscape management and the provision of an adequate regional infrastructure. The objective of the International Seminar 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management' is to discuss best practice which ensures that afforestation proceeds in accordance with SFM.

The seminar is aimed at all those in the international field with an interest in the successful establishment of forests within the context of SFM. These will include professionals from the forestry and environmental sectors, land-use specialists, national, regional and local government officials, policy-makers and legislators, scientists and researchers, environmental non-government organisations and the wider stakeholder community.

The overall seminar theme 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management' is divided into the following three themes, each incorporating both practice and research:

* Theme 1: National and regional strategic planning

Structures and practices implemented on a national and regional scale to provide an overall framework to promote afforestation in accordance with the principles of SFM.

* Theme 2: Local and site planning

An assessment of individual sites at a local and site level in relation to their suitability for afforestation within the context of SFM.

* Theme 3: Operational aspects

The practice of afforestation, covering all operations from greenfield to canopy closure.

Theme 1 will be addressed on Monday, Theme 2 on Tuesday and Theme 3 on Wednesday, each day finishing with an open discussion assessing current practices and exploring new approaches in relation to that theme. The final day, Thursday, will focus on agreeing overall conclusions and recommendations to be brought to the Joint Committee, governments and research institutions.

Participants are invited to participate in the seminar field excursion to take place on Sunday, 15 September, focusing on the overall seminar theme 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management'. The excursion will visit a variety of afforestation sites in Co Clare and Co Limerick, studying national, regional and site planning for afforestation, and operational aspects of afforestation, all undertaken within the context of SFM.

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## Handling of impregnated waste wood

This seminar is to be held on 25 September 2002, at Skovriddergård, Silkeborg, Denmark. It has been arranged by the Technical University of Denmark as part of the project “Electrochemical removal of CCA from wood”, which is financially supported by the Nordic Industrial Fund. Presentations include:

* New regulations in the use of CCA in Europe and USA.
* Regulations applicable to the disposal of CCA-treated wood and management options to improve handling of CCA-treated wood waste.
* Waste wood situation in Germany – regulations, utilization, detection of contaminated parts.
* Incineration of CCA-impregnated wood.
* Disposal of CCA-treated wood waste: study of low-temperature pyrolysis.
* Gasification of CCA-impregnated wood waste.
* Electrochemical treatment of ash residues from combustion of CCA-impregnated wood.
* Electrodialytic removal of CCA from wood.
* Bio-recycling of preservative-treated wood waste through bioremediation and biodeterioration.

Contact [lo@byg.dtu.dk](mailto:lo@byg.dtu.dk) for registration information.

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## European Symposium on Wood Fibre Polymer Composites Applications and trends

This symposium will be held on 27 and 28 March 2003, at Cité Mondiale, Bordeaux, France. It is organized by the Centre Technique du Bois et de l’Ameublement (CTBA). This European symposium on wood-fibre polymer composite materials will cover a broad range of innovative applications (e.g. building, furniture, shop fitting, other basic consumables). The objective of this conference is to present the potential markets and to describe the general trends in Europe, as well as to elaborate and qualify these wood fibre polymer composite (WFPC) materials. This will enable collaboration between different sectors (wood, resins, additives, producers, suppliers, researchers, architects). Specific discussions will provide more information on scientific aspects (raw wood materials, polymers and additives), economic aspects, and perspectives on standardisation and regulatory issues. Exhibition space will be available to present products, technologies and services.

Papers and oral presentations are welcome in the following topics:

* Marketing, economic aspects and state of the art
* Raw material and additives
* Interface between wood fibre and polymer
* Process manufacturing and new technologies
* Products: properties, testing, evaluations and applications
* Applications: in building construction, furniture and basic consumables
* Standardisation and regulatory issues.

For more information please contact:

Secretariat CTBA, Véronique Chauvel,

Allée de Boutaut - BP 227

F - 33028 Bordeaux Cedex

Tel: +33 556 43 63 95

Fax: +33 556 43 63 02

Email: [woodpolymer@ctba.fr](mailto:woodpolymer@ctba.fr)

Website: <http://www.ctba.fr>

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## Forest Engineering Conference

The growing interest in forest engineering was successfully demonstrated at the 1st Forest Engineering Conference (FEC) in Scotland in 1999. SkogForsk, the Forestry Research Institute of Sweden, has accepted the responsibility for the 2nd FEC to be held in Växjö Sweden, from 12 to 15 May 2003.

The objective of the FEC is to present and discuss the state-of-the-art both in practice and R&D within a variety of disciplines related to forest operations. The 2nd FEC also offers a great opportunity for you to meet colleagues and to help create a global network for forest engineering. The conference addresses researchers as well as developers in forestry and equipment manufacturing, and staff personnel in forestry companies and contractors.

During the conference excursion the delegates will have the opportunity to see various forest operations in real life. We will also demonstrate new technology in the field, including thinning and final felling, harwarder, root rot and its control, impact on the soil, optimising wood value, the digital chain of information, transports, logistics, forest roads and contractors.

More information on the conference, regularly updated, can be found on the conference homepage: [www.skogforsk.se/fec](http://www.skogforsk.se/fec). For more details, contact:

Maria Iwarsson

Manager Training SkogForsk

Uppsala Science Park

SE-751 83 UPPSALA

Tel: +46 18 188500

Fax: +46 18 188600

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## Forests, source of life

From 21 to 28 September 2003, the international forestry community will meet in Quebec City, Canada, for the XII World Forestry Congress. This will be an open forum where discussion will focus on individuals, communities and forests under the theme “Forests, source of life”.

Individuals are invited to submit voluntary papers and posters as a means to express new ideas and provide information on practical experiences, conceptual models and interesting initiatives. All papers will be reviewed and considered for publication in the Congress Proceedings and posting on the Congress website. Abstracts, papers and posters should be submitted to the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) by 30 September 2002. Detailed guidelines for authors are available on the website <http://www.wfc2003.org>

The programme includes three areas, *viz*. Forests for people, Forests for the planet, and People and forests in harmony. Within these areas will be fifteen topics, outlined in detail on the website. Technical sessions will also address forest management applications and the future role of forests on an eco-regional basis.

For more information contact:

XII World Forestry Congress

FAO, Forestry Department

Via delle Terme di Caracalla

00100 Rome, Italy

Tel: 39-06-57055879

Fax: 39-06-57052151

Email: [WFC-XII@fao.org](mailto:WFC-XII@fao.org)

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Compiled and edited by Lauren MacLennan,

Technology Transfer Co-ordinator

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

1. One mega tonne is one million tonnes [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Cruickshank *et al.* (2000). Application of CORINE land-cover mapping to estimate carbon stored in the vegetation of Ireland. *Journal of Environmental Management* 58: 269-287. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)