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Forestry and Wood Update

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# New COFORD-funded projects

A number of new COFORD-funded projects in forest policy and economics and planning have been successfully negotiated involving teams and personnel from University College Dublin and Teagasc.

## CLUSTER:

A cluster based approach for identifying farm forest resources to maximise potential markets

Led by Niall Farrelly, Teagasc, the key objectives of this project are to develop methods to quantify the forest resource and produce a timber forecast at a local level; to develop cluster groups where forestry operations can be performed together to minimize cost; to develop cluster groups to market forest products from many farms combined into one sale lot rather than individual sales; and to schedule harvesting to coincide with adjacent harvesting in similar locations based on demand for certain products. This research will help address the key issues facing farm forestry in Ireland, including finding markets for produce, creating economies of scale, reducing the costs associated with harvesting, and location of forests to marketplace. A cluster based approach will be developed so that the management, thinning, harvesting and marketing requirements of farm forests can be achieved for a particular district area, and to improve the ability of farm forests owners to market and sell their produce. It should reduce harvesting costs and will provide opportunities for new and existing forestry contractors and offer larger job lots than individual jobs.

## FORECON - An economic evaluation of the market and non-market functions of forestry

Led by Dr Aine Ni Dhubhain, UCD, the objectives of this research are to:

* Provide strategic information by indicating the relative benefits of forest management practice respectively directed at the outputs of recreation, biodiversity, landscape, water quality and carbon sequestration;
* Estimate the relative public benefits of public forestry and private forestry, including farm forestry;
* Determine the direct and indirect contribution of the tradable goods and services of forestry, including timber, game hunting, a small number of marketed leisure activities, cut foliage and forest food (i.e. berries and mushrooms) to the national, regional and local economies;
* Demonstrate the net public benefit of forestry in comparison with other land uses;
* Examine those factors which determine public benefits and determine if benefit transfer estimates from abroad would be applicable to Ireland;
* Place values in a public cost-benefit framework by comparing policy cost with the social benefits and combining this information with the private costs and benefits motivating forestry uptake over time.

The two primary tasks associated with this project, one involving valuing public goods provision in forestry, and the other concerned with the economic contribution of the tradable goods and services of forestry. The research will involve a detailed estimation of the public benefit of forests in an Irish context. It will also update and expand recent research work (ECONTRIB) to quantify the economic contribution of forestry to the national, regional and local economies in terms of tradable goods and services.

## POLFOR: Forestry in a changing policy environment

Led by Dr Aine Ni Dhubhain, UCD, the objectives of this research are to compare the relative returns from forestry and a number of different agricultural systems in light of the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and analyse the impact at the level of the individual farmer and the wider economy; examine the implications of the forestry-related measures to be introduced under the Rural Development Regulation (RDR) in Ireland for both the sector (including Coillte) and the wider economy, including, *inter alia,* the impact of revised payment rates for afforestation and the introduction of more specific ‘forest-environment’ payments; explore the factors influencing a farmer’s decision to plant using a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods; determine the impact of these reforms and farmers’ attitudes on land availability for forestry; and identify strategies to encourage afforestation by farmers in the context of the changing policy environment. The research is a combination of a desk-top study and a survey. The relative returns from forestry and agriculture, accounting for changes in income arising from the introduction of the single payment scheme and the rural development strategy, will be assessed. This will be explored at individual farm level as well as at the wider economy level. It will effectively determine the *theoretical* area of land available for forestry, i.e. the area of land where forestry is financially more rewarding than agriculture. The aim is to develop a reliable model that will identify the key factors influencing the probability of a farmer opting to afforest. A number of scenarios will be developed and put to those surveyed to identify what would make more farmers plant. These will not be only restricted to financial scenarios but will also include novel means of encouraging farmers to afforest, and will take account of the changing policy environment.

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# COFORD seeks applicants for Research Programme Manager position

COFORD manages national forest research and development funding under the National Development Plan 2007-2013.We are seeking to fill our Research Programme Manager position on a temporary contract basis, for an initial period of 36 months. The contract of employment will be with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Research Programme Manager works to the COFORD Director in developing, administering and evaluating calls for forest research proposals, and is responsible for managing the COFORD-funded research project portfolio. He/she will be involved in providing input to the Forest Service, and other government departments and state agencies in the development of policies, measures and standards related to forestry and forest products.

The COFORD Research Programme Manager will have a comprehensive understanding of national forest policy and industry goals, and how research and development can aid in their achievement; in-depth experience of successfully administering diverse research project portfolios; a third level qualification in forestry, science or engineering, or a related field; and a proven ability to write technical and other documents to a high standard.

Further details relating to the post and application forms are available at www.coford.ie or directly from: Ms Moira Rycraft, Office Administrator, COFORD, Arena House, Arena Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18. Phone01 2130725; Email: moira.rycraft@coford.ie. The salary scale is €69,856-81,241 p.a. (full PRSI). The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 31 August 2007.

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# COFORD publication launched

Ms Mary Wallace T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with responsibility for Forestry, officially launched the latest COFORD publication entitled “*The Environmental Impact of Planting Broadleaved Trees on Acid-Sensitive Soils*” by Marcus Collier and Prof. Edward Farrell in the Hilton Hotel, Charlemont Place, Dublin on 12 July 2007.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of State Wallace advised that “Afforestation is a carefully regulated activity in Ireland. The Forest Service guidelines, which are administered on the ground by the Forest Service Inspectorate of my Department, cover biodiversity, water quality and many other facets and activities that are part of afforestation project design and implementation. Allied to the guidelines is the need for measures to protect water quality in areas designated acid-sensitive by the Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. At present all afforestation proposals in these areas are subject to a test which determines whether or not the site will be planted”. Referring to the publication, the Minister of State commented that “Essentially the report asks the question: is there a case for revisiting the planting of broadleaved species, particularly native and naturalised trees, in areas designated as acid-sensitive.” She outlined the approach taken by the authors and their findings and congratulated them for the thoroughness of their work and for providing food for thought. The Minister of State also thanked COFORD for providing the report and other well-presented, high quality information that enables forest policy and measures to be continually examined and kept up to date. Minister of State Wallace concluded by announcing that over €2 million has been allocated for research on forests and water under the National Development Programme. She went on to say that calls for proposals in this important area, and in support of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, have just been issued under the Research Stimulus Fund of her Department and under the COFORD/EPA call.

The publication can be ordered on-line at www.coford.ie.

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# Bioenergy 2007 launched

COFORD, Teagasc and Sustainable Energy Ireland’s Renewable Energy Information Office are presenting Bioenergy 2007 on Thursday 30 August 2007 at Oak Park, Carlow. Bioenergy 2007 was officially launched on 6 July 2007 by Minister Mary Wallace T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with responsibility for Forestry. Highlighting the contribution and versatility of wood biomass, Minister of State Wallace commented “wood biomass will play a major role in Ireland's climate change strategy and contribute to the creation of sustainable employment in rural areas”. The Minister of State said that bioenergy offers a real, feasible and cost effective alternative to imported fossil fuels and added “This event provides us with an opportunity to understand and appreciate the alternatives which are available. With the development of a real market for wood energy, a new and significant alternative source of income is also now emerging for farmers and other landowners.” The Minister added that there are also new market opportunities for farmers in the area of purpose-grown energy crops for use as a renewable source of energy in the heat, electricity and liquid biofuels markets. “€14 million will be made available over the next three years to encourage farmers to grow energy crops. The funding includes €8 million for a new Bioenergy Scheme to encourage farmers to grow miscanthus and willow to produce heat and electricity. An additional €6 million is being provided for a new national payment of €80 per hectare, which will be paid as a top-up to the €45 EU premium available under the EU Energy Crops Scheme. I am confident that these measures will encourage farmers to consider energy crops as an alternative land use option”. She concluded by saying “I commend COFORD, Teagasc and Sustainable Energy Ireland for their collaboration in organising such a comprehensive event including an exhibition, conference, seminar and workshop sessions. This exhibition is timely and I hope it will add to people's understanding of the use and benefits of biomass”.

This major national one day get together on bioenergy is based on the *Taking you from Know-How to Show-How* concept, combining a comprehensive technology and product exhibition with conference, seminar and workshop sessions, field excursions, site visits and practical demonstrations, all rolled into one comprehensive event. The purpose is to promote the use of solid biomass and raise awareness across all sectors from landowner to end user on the many uses and advantages in growing, harvesting and using wood fuels and energy crops for energy generation.

The Bioenergy 2007 exhibition will give visitors access to the latest product innovation from suppliers within the national bioenergy sector, displaying many pieces of machinery and equipment such as domestic pellet stoves and boilers, commercial wood pellet/chip boilers, chippers, residue bundlers to name but a few. Exhibitors will have the opportunity to showcase and demonstrate their full range of products and services. The exhibition will be held in a tented village, centrally located and beside the field demonstrations. There will also be ample space to demonstrate various kinds of activities and machines such as chippers, slash bundlers and other equipment not suited to indoor operation.

If you are interested in participating as an exhibitor at this event, please contact Paul Dykes at SEI REIO, email pauld@reio.ie or phone 023 29185/ 087 9978723

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# Forest Energy 2007 chipping demonstrations

The second phase of the COFORD/Teagasc Forest Energy 2007 programme, will demonstrate chipping of forest energy wood at the following locations and dates:

* Tuesday 4 September - Kilconnell, Co Galway. Meet at the Kilconnell Community Centre, Co Galway (on the R348 - Ballinasloe-Athenry road).
* Tuesday 11 September - Bweeng, Co Cork. Meet at the Bweeng Community Centre, Co Galway.
* Friday 14 September - Stranorlar, Co Donegal. Meet at the Finn Valley Centre, Stranorlar, Co Donegal.

Each event will commence at 11a.m. Buses will take groups of participants from the meeting point to the site between 11am and 12.30 pm. Further information on the programme can be found at www.woodenergy.ie

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# COFORD Conference on Forestry, carbon and climate change – local and international perspectives

Climate change is now widely acknowledged as the most important environmental issue facing mankind. According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, impacts on human settlement and ecosystems, particularly at the higher latitudes and in the tropics, are already being felt. Renewed and intensified action to address these impacts is being signalled, particularly for the period post 2012, the end of the first Kyoto commitment period. The most substantial undertaking to date has been the recent announcement by the EU that it will cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 20% by 2020. Achieving reductions of this level will mean fundamental changes in energy, land use and other policy support areas. For civil society it will mean fundamental shifts in transport and other behaviour – everybody will be affected in one way or another.

Forests too will play a key role in attaining compliance with emission reduction targets - directly through carbon sequestration and the avoidance of deforestation - and indirectly through providing renewable wood fuels and materials. Nationally, forests are already playing an important part in the Kyoto compliance regime, particularly new forest planted since 1990; while a broader role for forests and forest products may emerge post 2012. In order to better understand the current role of forests in climate change policy, and how this might develop in the future, COFORD is holding a one-day conference on 19 September 2007 on the theme ***Forests, Carbon and Climate Change - Local and International Perspectives*** at the Glenview hotel, Co Wicklow. The conference will be addressed by leading policy makers and analysts, as well as a number of eminent scientists who are dealing with forest and climate change issues.

Bringing together science and policy, the conference will outline current national initiatives, how these have come about, what they plan to achieve, their economic effectiveness and what the future might hold. In addition, the thinking used to estimate how much greenhouse gases forests actually remove from the atmosphere will be outlined. The afternoon session will feature presentations from eminent national and international experts on the latest thinking on forests and climate change, and on the balance between uptake and losses in the forest carbon cycle. Ongoing work in the COFORD-funded CLIMIT programme will be outlined, including the important area of how current and future forests will be affected by climate change, and how best to plan and manage forests into the future.

All those interested in climate change and the role of forests in mitigating rising levels of greenhouse gases, and how forests themselves may be impacted by future climate regimes, are sure to find attendance at the conference worthwhile. The programme includes the following presentations:

* *Climate change and energy policy – an economic perspective* - John Fitzgerald, Economic and Social Research Institute
* *Ireland’s national climate change strategy* - Owen Ryan, Department of the Environment
* *Forests and the UNFCCC process – an overview* – presenter to be confirmed
* *New Zealand: Forest carbon reporting and the role of forests in climate change policy* - Peter Stevens, New Zealand Ministry for the Environment
* *Global forests and international climate change research* - Ricardo Valentini, University of Tuscia
* *Ireland’s forest carbon reporting system* - Kevin Black, FERS Ltd
* *Forest soils – a vital carbon reservoir* - Ken Byrne, University College Cork
* *The impact of climate change on forests* - Duncan Ray, Forest Research, UK

Booking information and the registration form are available on [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/defaultarticle.php?cArticlePath=129_389_401). The cost to attend is €60.00 per delegate. If you wish to register, please email info@coford.ie or phone 01-2130735.

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# Ireland’s National Forest Inventory Conference

Opening proceedings at the launch of the conference in the Heritage Hotel in Portlaoise, the Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ms Mary Wallace T.D., highlighted the importance of having accurate information on the composition of our forests in relation to species, timber volumes, forest biodiversity and other national forest statistics.

The goal of the National Forest Inventory (NFI) of Ireland is to assess the current composition of Ireland’s forest resource in a representative and quantifiable manner. This inventory is the first statistical approach to forest inventory undertaken in Ireland and provides an assessment of growing stock volume in both the public and private forestry sectors. It also provides information for international reporting on forest carbon stocks and allows the monitoring of information on the sustainable development of the national forest estate.

This inventory required a detailed field survey of the nation’s forests and this commenced in November 2004 and was completed in November 2006. In total 1,742 permanent forest plots were established throughout the country based on a randomised systematic grid at 2 x 2 km apart.

At the conference background information on the NFI was presented by Christy O’Donovan of the Forest Service and Mark Twomey, Forest Service, described the methology used in the inventory. Dr Martin Cerny, Institute of Forest Ecosystem Research of the Czech Republic, described the data analysis process of the NFI. John Redmond, Forest Service, presented preliminary results of the inventory. Dr Kevin Black, Programme Leader of the COFORD climate change programme – CLI-Mit, presenting a paper on the use of the inventory for carbon reporting. The conference was chaired by Diarmuid McAree, Forest Service.

The report on the NFI is expected to be published later this year. For further information on the Forest Service NFI see: http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/index.jsp?file=aboutus/aboutus.xml

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# InnovaWood Newsletter Supplement

InnovaWood summarises funding opportunities in European projects relevant to the forestry sector; news from Cordis and events. These include:

* FP7 first-call topics with opportunities for the forest-based industries are still open in the "People" sub-programme of FP7.
* News from Cordis. Including updates on projects in Europe, FP7 responses, and views from the European Commission.
* Announcement of the first EFORWOOD conference to be held in Brussels in October. The aim of this conference is to transmit the global project message to those who should be the users of the project results and to position the EFORWOOD project as possible instrument for increasing sustainability and competitiveness of the forest based sector.

More information on each of these topics is available in a single file - click here to [download the pdf](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/newsletter/Volume7/COFORD-supplement-July07.pdf).

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# Teagasc Foresight Project

The Teagasc 2030 Foresight Project, launched in December 2006, aims to use “Foresight” methods and processes to develop a long-term vision for Teagasc and an RTDI strategy that will enable the organisation meet the science and technology needs of the agri-food industrial sector and the rural economy in the short, medium and long term. The project, to be completed in May 2008, aims to analyse the main national and international drivers of change that will impact on the agri-food sector and rural economy in the decades ahead; identify a vision for and devise possible future scenarios for the sector to 2030; secure agreement on a long-term vision for Teagasc; determine strategic technologies and priority areas of R&D for Teagasc and develop a new research, development and innovation strategy; strengthen strategic capability in all areas of Teagasc; secure the involvement and support of a wide range of stakeholders in the process; present the outcomes at an international foresight conference in Dublin in May 2008.

In 2030, Teagasc will have been in existence for more than 70 years. This project considers what kind of rural Ireland and agri-food industry could exist by then, and what kind of organisation might emerge, with a view to identifying choices that lie ahead and preparing for the challenges to be faced. Drawing on likely developments in the agri-food sector and rural economy and global developments over the next 20 years or so, Teagasc 2030 will develop alternative scenarios, outlining different possible ‘futures’, and how these could impact on the organisation. These are designed to stimulate thinking on the ability of the organisation to prepare for different eventualities or ‘futures’ as they emerge. These scenarios will form the basis for the development of a long-term Teagasc strategy for research and knowledge management. For further information on the Teagasc Foresight process visit the dedicated website at: www.tnet.teagasc.ie/foresight\_public/index.asp

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# UCD advertising for PhD students to work on COFORD-funded projects

## CLIMADAPT – Productivity and adaptation of forests species to climate change

The COFORD funded CLIMADAPT project was initiated to investigate how current forest tree species may respond to climate change this century. A crucial component of this work is the characterisation of forest productivity in response to moisture deficits. The study would examine a number of tree species planted on similar soil types across a climatic gradient, varying in moisture deficits, using dendroclimatology, isotope analysis, forest mensuration and multivariate statistics. Experience in dendrology and GIS would be an advantage. The successful candidate will be based in UCD, but some work will be carried out at Forest Research’s Northern Research Station near Edinburgh. The PhD scholarship does not include PhD tuition fees and the successful candidate will need to have financial support to pay these fees. The enthusiastic research team is led by Prof. Maarten Nieuwenhuis and Duncan Ray – Forest Research. More information about the position and the scholarship can be obtained from Prof. Maarten Nieuwenhuis or Duncan Ray. Applicants should submit a letter outlining their suitability for the position, a full curriculum vitae (including the names and (email) addresses of two referees with two corresponding letters of reference) to Prof.Maarten Nieuwenhuis, Maarten.Nieuwenhuis@ucd.ie and Duncan Ray, duncan.ray@forestry.gsi.gov.uk Closing date for applications is 1 September 2007.

## WESTFOREST –

## GIS-based multi-objective decision support system for the optimal management of forests on sensitive sites

University College Dublin, together with Coillte., have initiated a COFORD-funded research project *WESTFOREST - a GIS-based multi-objective decision support system for the optimal management of forests on sensitive sites.* The objective of the study is to develop a decision-support system to strategically manage and redesign Western Peatland Forests (WPFs) in a manner that optimises their environmental, social and economic contributions in the wider context of an integrated, shared land-use policy that is in the national interest. The system will be based on existing knowledge of the interactions between the environment and social and economic activities, and will be applicable for use in any situation where complex conflicts exist between the environmental, social and economic objectives and constraints associated with strategic forest management decisions. Applications are invited for a PhD Student for this project. The research will consist of the following tasks:

* to develop a GIS system that contains the spatial, contextual and qualitative information on environmental, cultural, social and operational restrictions and limitations that are applicable to the Western Peatland Forests (WPFs).
* to develop a matrix in which the known impacts of each of the restrictions and limitations on the full range of potential forest management practices are identified.
* to develop a Decision Support System (DSS) for the strategic management and redesign of WPFs in a manner that is economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.
* the development of an optimisation module for the DSS, to facilitate the production of alternative plans and the scientific comparisons between these plans.
* the utilisation of the DSS prescriptions, to determine the appropriate redesign plan and management prescription for WPFs.

Requirements for this position are an Honours Degree in Forestry or other relevant discipline, or an equivalent qualification; an appreciation for the complexity of forest management on sensitive sites; an understanding of and interest in ITC applications in forestry; an interest in the development of computer-based decision-support tools for sustainable forest management; good writing skills; and a full, clean driver’s licence.

The project runs from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2011. The starting date of the PhD research position is no later than 1 October 2007. The PhD scholarship that will be available has a value of circa €22,000 per year, out of which tuition fees have to be paid, leaving a tax-free scholarship value of circa €17,000 per year. If you are interested in this PhD position, you can apply by sending a CV (including the names and addresses of two people willing to provide references) and a letter explaining why you feel qualified for the PhD position and scholarship, to the Project Co-ordinator, Prof. Maarten Nieuwenhuis, Agriculture and Food Science Centre, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. For inquiries contact Prof. Nieuwenhuis at 01 716 7004 or maarten.nieuwenhuis@ucd.ie. The closing date for applications is 1 September 2007.

## PRACTISFM II - Implementation, Communication and Optimisation.

University College Dublin, together with Forest Enterprises Limited, Green Belt Ltd and PTR Ltd., have initiated a COFORD-funded research project *PractiSFM II – Implementation, Communication and Optimisation.* This project involves the implementation of the existing PractiSFM system (i.e. the multi-resource inventory and decision support components) in the three participating forest management companies, the evaluation of this system, the further development based on the evaluation process, the enhancement of the management option generator and optimisation tool, and the development of a communication system between the management companies and the Forest Service. The project will be directed by the Project Co-ordinator and managed by the Project Management Group consisting of the Project Co-ordinator and representatives of the participating companies. The Project Co-ordinator is looking for a PhD Student for this project. The research objectives are:

* field testing and validation of the system (the multi-resource inventory procedure and the decision-support component) with the help of management companies.
* The further development of the existing system in cooperation with management companies, including the reporting requirements for certification.
* the development of a communication system, enabling the uploading of PractiSFM management plan information into a central data base, allowing for the development of multi-resource production forecasts for the private forest estate and for facilitating the day-to-day business contacts of the management companies with the Forest Service.
* the introduction of a wider range of management options that move away from the standard, static yield table based thinning and clearfell systems, towards flexible, user-defined management strategies.
* the development of an optimisation component to the PractiSFM system, including a objective procedure to compare, weight and integrate the owner’s objectives and requirements into the mathematical modelling process.
* The implementation of the completed system in the private forest management sector by providing a training and support service.

Requirements for this position are an Honours Degree in Forestry or other relevant discipline, or an equivalent qualification; an affinity with the management requirements of Irish private forest owners and management companies; a good working knowledge of forest management decision-support software; an interest in the development of computer software; good writing skills; and a full, clean driver’s licence. The project runs from 1 July 2007 to 31 December 2012. The first four years will be taken up by the PhD research, the remainder of the project will consist of a technology transfer phase where the developed systems are introduced to Irish forest management companies and private owners. The starting date of the PhD research position is no later than 1 October 2007. The PhD scholarship that will be available has a value of circa €22,000, out of which tuition fees have to be paid, leaving a tax-free scholarship value of circa €17,000 per year.

If you are interested in this PhD position, you can apply by sending a CV (including the names and addresses of two people willing to provide references) and a letter explaining why you feel qualified for the PhD position and scholarship to the Project Coordinator, Professor Maarten Nieuwenhuis, Agriculture and Food Science Centre, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. For inquiries contact Professor Nieuwenhuis at 01 716 7004 or maarten.nieuwenhuis@ucd.ie. The closing date for applications is 1 September 2007.

## FORESTSCAN - Terrestrial laser scanning technology for multi-resource forest inventories

University College Dublin, together with Treemetrics Ltd and PTR Ltd., have initiated a COFORD-funded research project *FORESTSCAN - Terrestrial laser scanning technology for multi-resource forest inventories.* The research objectives are:

* An investigation of the basic principles of terrestrial laser scanning technology and its applicability to (multi-resource) forest inventories.
* An evaluation of existing data analysis software for forestry applications. Development of new software for a range of applications, both in relation to timber measurements but also for non-timber sustainable forest management purposes will be investigated.
* A cost-benefit analysis for the introduction and use of this technology over a range of potential inventory applications.

The project will be directed by the Project Co-ordinator and managed by the Project Management Group consisting of the Project Co-ordinator and representatives of the participating companies. The Project Co-ordinator is looking for a PhD Student for this project. The research will consist of the following tasks:

* an investigation of the basic principles behind the scanning systems.
* a familiarisation with the existing (international) research on these scanning systems.
* an evaluation of the existing data processing and analysis software for Irish forest applications. The AutoStem software developed by Treemetrics will be the main focus of this evaluation.
* an assessment of the scanning systems, both hardware and software, based on a range of scans produced in a variety of stands, from simple even-aged single species conifer stands to complex multi-storey, mixed species stands (including broadleaves).
* a basic cost/benefit analysis of the scanning system.
* the assessment of new developments in scanning technology and data processing systems.
* the development of specific operational procedures and data processing and analysis applications for Irish forestry.
* the testing of these procedures and applications.
* the documentation of the developed procedures.
* individual cost/benefit analyses for each application and comparisons with traditional methods and technologies.

Requirements for this position are an Honours Degree in Forestry or other relevant discipline, or an equivalent qualification; an understanding of and interest in ITC applications in forestry; capable of combining field work with office based activities; an interest in the development of applications and computer software for multi-resource forest inventory; good writing skills; and a full, clean driver’s licence.

The project runs from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2011. The starting date of the PhD research position is no later than October 1, 2007. The PhD scholarship that will be available has a value of circa €22,000, out of which tuition fees have to be paid, leaving a tax-free scholarship value of circa €17,000 per year. If you are interested in this PhD position, you can apply by sending a CV (including the names and addresses of two people willing to provide references) and a letter explaining why you feel qualified for the PhD position and scholarship to the Project Coordinator, Professor Maarten Nieuwenhuis, Agriculture and Food Science Centre, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. For inquiries contact Professor Nieuwenhuis at 01 716 7004 or maarten.nieuwenhuis@ucd.ie. The closing date for applications is 1 September 2007.

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# UCC offers PhD studentship in forest biodiversity (Lepidoptera)

COFORD recently approved the programme and has awarded over €3 million to this exciting new programme of research. The programme will address significant gaps in knowledge of the fauna and flora of plantation forests in Ireland, and generate recommendations aimed at improving the management of plantation forests for biodiversity. A PhD studentship is available at University College Cork on the PLANFORBIO research programme (www.ucc.ie/en/planforbio). The successful PhD candidate will join an established research team, including post-doctoral researchers working in the same area, and will be required to conduct biodiversity assessments of Lepidoptera in a range forested habitats (both plantation and natural) across Ireland. Applicants should have a 2:1 honours primary degree (or higher) in a relevant discipline. Experience of Lepidoptera taxonomy and survey techniques is also desirable. The post commences on 1 October 2007, and will be supervised by Prof. John O’Halloran and Dr Tom Kelly. The remuneration is €16002 per annum (tax free). Enquiries and details are welcome and may be addressed to Dr Tom Kelly (t.kelly@ucc.ie) and Prof. John O’Halloran (j.ohalloran@ucc.ie). Apply by submitting a CV and short cover letter, before Friday 31 August to: Dr Sandra Irwin, PLANFORBIO Programme Manager, Dept. of Zoology, Ecology & Plant Science, University College Cork, Distillery Fields, North Mall, Cork. Email: s.irwin@ucc.ie

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# Research Assistant: Carbon Stocks and Stock Changes in Harvested Wood Products

The Centre for Hydrology, Micrometeorology and Climate Change, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University College Cork seeks applications for the position of Research Assistant for the project on carbon stocks and stock changes in harvested wood products. The duration of the post is 20 months, and the closing date for applications is 24 August 2007.

The successful applicant will investigate carbon stocks and stock changes in harvested wood products (HWP) in Ireland. This will involve the collection of data about timber production, wood processing and HWP import and export statistics. A national carbon accounting model for HWP will be developed. In addition the store of carbon in HWP in the built environment in Ireland will be investigated. Scenario analysis will be used to investigate future change in the carbon stock of HWP in the residential sector in Ireland. The results of the study will be published in the scientific literature and a final report will be prepared for the funding agency. In addition, the successful candidate will possess an undergraduate (first or upper second class) or Masters degree in a cognate Science or Engineering discipline; have numerical analysis skills and experience of statistical software; and have experience of scientific writing.

Further information on the research activities of the Centre is available at http://www.hydromet.org/. For informal discussion contact: Dr Ken Byrne (k.byrne@ucc.ie) or Prof. Ger Kiely (g.kiely@ucc.ie). Candidates should submit a letter outlining their suitability for the position and a full curriculum vitae, to include the names, addresses and emails of three referees, to Dr Ken Byrne, Centre for Hydrology, Micrometeorology and Climate Change, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University College Cork, Ireland. Email: k.byrne@ucc.ie. This position is funded by COFORD.

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# Vacancy: Wood fuel division manager for Clearpower

Clearpower (www.clearpower.ie ) is Ireland’s leading agent and installer of commercial and industrial wood boilers between the sizes of 85KW and 9MW. Clearpower is also the leading manufacturer and supplier of wood chip to commercial and industrial installations. Wood energy heating systems are one of the fastest growing areas in renewable energy and Clearpower offers an exciting career path for ambitious and energetic sales people. They are exclusive agents for three of the largest wood fuelled boiler manufacturers. Given the rapid rate of growth, they are looking to expand their wood fuel business to hire a Divisional Manager for the business. The position will be based from the Clearpower office in Blessington, Co Wicklow, but will involve significant national travel. The successful candidate will be responsible for all commercial and operational aspects of the wood fuels division. Specifically:

* Manage the commercial activities of the division (build the revenue of the business unit by securing fuel supply deals with large scale users of wood chip and wood pellets; secure supplies of wood chip, pellets or raw material for the manufacture of wood chip from nationally based suppliers);
* Manage the operational activities of the division (manage Clearpower woodchip production depots so that woodchip is produced in a timely and cost effective manner as demanded by the customer base; investigate new and innovative production methods and sources of supply).

Clearpower is looking for someone with sstrong commercial experience and an ability to sell and do deals; dynamic and flexible, can do attitude; ambitious, self starter, comfortable with meeting tight deadlines; capable of building a business; detailed knowledge of the wood industry in Ireland, from the perspective either of growers, sawmills or boardmills would be an advantage but is not essential; a mechanical or relevant engineering degree/diploma from a leading college or university, or a qualification in forestry would be an advantage but is not essential; numerative; own car, able to travel 2-3 days per week. An attractive salary + profit based bonus is offered, commensurate with experience is offered, laptop, mobile, mileage allowance, training and 4 weeks annual leave.

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# Ireland’s national GPS seminars 2007 for academic and technical professionals

Dates: 22nd-24th October 2007. Venue: NMCI (faculty of Cork Institute of Technology), Ringaskiddy, Cork.

Now in its second year, this is an opportunity to attend a series of Seminars specifically designed for Electronics and Software Engineers. This course is essential for lecturers, students and technical professionals in these disciplines as well as those looking for a deeper knowledge of GPS, Galileo and GNSS in general. Seminar facilitators, from the USA, Canada and Ireland, bring a depth of experience which includes direct involvement in the design of GPS and Galileo and associated applications. The booking line is now open. Places are limited so please book early to ensure your seat on 'one' or 'all' of the seminars. For further information, contact mairead@gpsireland.ie or visit www.gpsireland.ie

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# EFORWOOD

InnovaWood are partners in an FP6 IP called EFORWOOD, the aim of which is to develop tools for sustainability impact assessment for the forest-based sector. As part of the knowledge transfer effort, a conference will be held in Brussels on 1 and 2 October 2007 and and it is hoped that this will attract strong representation from policy makers, industry and the research community. Further information is available at [www.eforwood.com](http://www.eforwood.com).

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# Interactive Conference: Progress project – Enjoy and protect our forests

With INTERREG funding the Forestry Commission in co-operation with a number of organisations in Northern Europe, have formed the Progress (Promotion and Guidance for Recreation on Ecologically Sensitive Sites) project which has been exploring new ways to monitor recreational use in the New Forest in the UK and Fontainebleau Forest in France. Over the last four years the Forestry Commission and the Office National des Forets, along with three other partners across Europe – Alterra (Netherlands), the Comite Departmental du Tourisme (France) and Natural England - have come together to address a number of questions: What is the best way to reconcile conservation with recreation? Is it possible for forest managers to work with forest users to protect an environmentally sensitive area? How do you know if actions to ease pressure will succeed before implementing them on the ground? These and other related questions will be answered at this conference which is scheduled to take place in the Theatre Municipal in Fontainebleau in France on 17th and 18th October 2007. For further information contact Grace Ford on 00 23 8028 6840 or email grace.ford@forestry.gsi.gov.uk. For further information about PROGRESS visit www.progress-eu.info or www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest

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# Hardwood processing conference

The latest version of the event program and details for the scientific visits for the International Scientific Conference on Hardwood Processing that will be held in Québec City on September 24-25-26, 2007 is available at www.ischp.ca.

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# Small-scale forestry conference

Professor Gerard Buttoud has agreed to organise the next IUFRO 3.08 Small-scale Forestry conference. This meeting will be held in Gérardmer, France from 23-27 June 2008 and will be organised in conjunction with the European Forest Institute. The conference will deal with the topic of “Small-scale Rural Forest Use and Management: Global Policies versus Local Knowledge”.

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# Forest and Landscape Denmark becomes part of the University of Copenhagen

Since the first of January of this year the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL) has merged with the University of Copenhagen. The merger forms part of a larger restructuring of Danish universities and research institutions. KVL is now the faculty of Life Sciences (LIFE) at the University of Copenhagen with a staff of 8,000 and 37,000 students and is the largest in Scandinavia. For further information on KVL and the merger you can read more on http://www.life.ku.dk/English/Nyheder/2007/999\_merger.aspx

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# Opportunities and Impacts of bioenergy policies and targets on the forest and other sectors

The UNECE/FAO Timber Section in conjunction with the FAO European Forestry Commission is organizing this year's Policy Forum on "Opportunities and Impacts of bioenergy policies and targets on the forest and other sectors". The event will be held on 10 October 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland. The detailed programme and the registration form, are available at http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-65/policyforum/programme.htm

The objectives are to inform policy and decision makers on wood energy policies and their impacts; and discuss the increasing demands of both the bioenergy sector and the wood-processing industry, and the mobilization of wood to satisfy both. Topics include recent developments in wood energy policies in the North America, Europe and Russia; quantitative analysis of wood availability and demand; mobilization of wood resources; cross-sectoral links, and contributions to other sectors, such as environment, agriculture and energy; impacts of bioenergy policies and increased wood demand in the UNECE region on other regions in the world. For further information, please visit the website: http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-65/policyforum/welcome.htm

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