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Forestry and Wood Update

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# Seminar on non-wood forest products

COFORD will be hosting a seminar on ***Growing markets for non-wood forest products*** on 15 April 2005, at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Co Offaly.

Recent years have seen a move towards multifunctional forest management. Operating at a regional, local or forest level, the approach is to cater not only for wood production, but also a range of non-wood products, such as foliage and fruit, and the provision of services such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration, recreation and amenity.

In many parts of the world, particularly in the Nordic countries, there is a well established tradition of berry picking and mushroom collection in and around forest areas. Foliage collection is also practised in many parts of the world, for a variety of uses, from the purely decorative, to feed for livestock.

Ireland’s forests are mainly managed for wood production, but with the approach now being focused more on multifunctional use, there is an increasing provision for services such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration and recreation. At the same time, non-wood forest products, particularly foliage, are attracting more attention and interest from the business sector. While specialised crops are filling part of this demand, many products can be sourced from commercially managed forests, a resource that is rapidly growing in extent and diversity in Ireland.

In response to these trends, COFORD’s recently published report ***Markets for Non-Wood Forest Products*** addresses market potential for a range of products, from foliage to hunting, to recreation provision. It shows there is significant potential to capture income from products, particularly foliage and hunting. Services such as recreation also have potential, though in some cases they overlap as both product and service.

The seminar will deal with both international and national aspects of non-wood forest products, with a strong focus on products that have market potential. It will be of interest to foresters and forest owners, and indeed all those with an interest in commercialising non-wood forest products and services. The programme will include the following presentations:

* *An overview of non-wood forest product development in Europe* - Sven Walter, FAO
* *Non-wood forest product development in Wales* - Jenny Wong, Wild Resources Ltd.
* *An overview of market potential for nonwood forest products in Ireland -* Pat Collier, CollierBroderick
* *Wild foliage resources in Ireland* - Jim Costello, Forest Foliage
* *The promotion of non-timber benefits by the Forest Service* - Kevin Collins, Forest Service
* *Developing recreation in Coillte’s forests -* Bill Murphy, Coillte
* *Christmas trees – development potential in Ireland -* Noel Moran, Emerald Group
* *Markets for speciality foods from Ireland’s forests -* Una Fitzgibbon, Bord Bia

Visit [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie) to download the information leaflet and booking form. For further information, please contact COFORD (tel: 01-2130725; email: info@coford.ie)

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# Wood Energy 2005

COFORD and the Renewable Energy Information Office of Sustainable Energy Ireland will once again host a Wood Energy conference this year. This will be the fourth conference in this series and will be held at Druid’s Glen, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow, on 19 and 20 May 2005.

**Wood Energy 2005** will build on the successes of previous events. Topics to be covered include:

Wood Heating – A Booming International Business

* Wood fuel markets in an international context
* An industry perspective on the use of wood heating

**Wood Energy in Ireland Takes Off**

* Renewable energy installers academy - training wood energy professionals across the island
* Experience of developing Ireland’s first integrated wood based CHP and pelleting plant

Wood heating in large buildings – Irish experiences

## Fuel Supply and Project Finance

* Fuel resource and supply chain development in Ireland
* Quality of wood fuels and wood technology
* Financing bioenergy projects
* **Wood boiler demonstration:** Presentation of wood pellet heating system at Coillte’s 25,000 sq ft HQ
* **Training workshops**: On the second day of the conference delegates will be able to choose one of the following training workshops: *Wood heating* or *Wood biomass harvesting and supply chains* (including field demonstration of chipping)

Booking forms and the final programme will be circulated shortly. For further information or to register your interest contact:

COFORD, Arena House, Arena Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18. Tel: 01-2130725. Email: [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie).

SEI REIO, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co Cork. Tel: 023-29145. Email: [renewables@reio.ie](mailto:renewables@reio.ie)

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# Diary for 2005

Other events planned by COFORD for 2005 are:

* 13 May: Workshop on yield models
* 23-24 June: Seminar on managing our broadleaf resource to produce quality hardwood timber
* 20-21 September: Conference on plant quality
* 26-27 October: BIOFOREST conference
* 25 November: Workshop on Eurocode5

Full details of each of these events will be made available on the COFORD website and in this newsletter. You may also send an expression of interest in any of these events via email to [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie), or call the COFORD office at 01-2130725.

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# CARBON CORNER

## Deforestation and climate change – time for action

Previous issues of Carbon Corner have referred to the global climate impacts of deforestation. These are apart from the disastrous impact that deforestation can have on communities that rely for their livelihood on forests, and, of course, on biodiversity and water. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN, in its last Forest Resources Assessment, estimated that the annual rate of global deforestation was 16 million ha per year. Put in perspective, this is about 1,000 times the average annual rate of afforestation in Ireland over the past decade. All told, greenhouse gases released from deforestation contribute to one quarter of the annual burden of emissions. Despite these alarming statistics and impacts, deforestation shows little sign of decreasing. It will eventually fall off, as the most easily accessible areas become exhausted, but by then it will have caused untold damage to livelihoods and biodiversity, and to the earth’s climate.

Deforestation, however, must be addressed in a wider socio-economic and policy context. FAO has pointed out that deforestation cannot be prevented or controlled without taking poverty and rural development issues into consideration: many forests are felled simply to make more living space for rural poor, or become degraded by unsustainable collection of fuelwood. Action is therefore needed across a range of policy measures. Another important issue is the need for economic incentives and instruments to support such policies.

One important recent development in relation to deforestation is the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) process, underway at EU level. This aims to develop and implement measures to address illegal logging and related trade by putting in place voluntary partnership agreements between the EU and wood exporting countries. It is nearing implementation through an EC Regulation.

More recently, in mid-March, the Environment and Development Ministers of the G8, meeting with the European Commissioners responsible for the environment and development, the EU Presidency and senior officials from the United Nations, World Bank and IUCN to discuss illegal logging, issued a statement that included: *We will act in our own countries. We will take steps to halt the import and marketing of illegally logged timber, for example by giving appropriate powers to our border control authorities through voluntary bilateral trade agreements or other arrangements, consistent with WTO rules*.

While the timeframe for implementation of the G8 proposals was not mentioned, they and the EU FLEGT processes are hopeful signs that economic instruments are, at last, being considered to address deforestation. But the international climate change process is already replete with economic instruments such as emissions trading, purchasing and the clean development mechanism. It seems a logical step to extend such instruments to compensate Parties who, instead of otherwise engaging in deforestation, actively conserve and manage their forest carbon stocks. After all, a similar instrument already exists for Parties in developed countries. It is Article 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol, which allows for credits to be generated from forest management activities since 1990. This could be extended to developing countries as an incentive to manage their forest carbon stocks. In the case of deforestation it would probably have to be applied at the country level, or at least to large regions, in order to avoid deforestation moving elsewhere once conservation measures are implemented in a particular region. Baselines are also an important issue. Credits for avoided deforestation would have to be awarded based on historic rates of deforestation, and probably taking into account remaining levels of forest cover. At its simplest it could work as follows. From 1990 to 2010 a country has lost 30 million tonnes of carbon annually from deforestation. It commits to reducing losses to 20 million tonnes per annum over the period 2012-2016.

Following monitoring and verification it is shown that the target has been achieved. The country can now sell the credits to other countries to help them meet their emission reduction requirements. If the carbon stocks are subsequently lost they must be replaced by the purchaser (who can insure against such an occurrence). Another approach is the use of temporary crediting, similar to what is already in place for forestry projects under the clean development mechanism. At the end of a five year period the units are no longer valid and must be replaced, either by themselves if the carbon still exists, or by new units.

However, the emphasis should not simply be on avoided deforestation, as afforestation and reforestation are also valid activities in enhancing carbon stocks. A basket approach, using a range of activities is likely to work best.

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# Hardwood Matters

Earlier this year COFORD published the first issue of *Hardwood Matters*, in which it invited growers of broadleaves to provide a list of hardwood timber which they wished to sell. Timber merchants were also invited to submit lists of material they wished to purchase. The first issue was distributed widely and was well received. A second issue will be published later this year. All those wishing to publicise hardwoods for sale or purchase should send details to COFORD by 1 June 2005. Those wishing to avail of the service need to complete a standard form which can be downloaded at [www.coford.ie/hardwoodmatters](http://www.coford.ie/hardwoodmatters). The service is free-of–charge.

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# COFORD Working Group on Forest Reproductive Material

This working group was established as a result of work ongoing on the mid-term review of the COFORD programme. The group recently produced the first draft of a national programme on forest reproductive material (FRM) in Ireland. It covers and the management and utilisation of the most appropriate forest reproductive material for Ireland, which requires:

* the use of the most suitable home collected and imported seed and plants,
* a programme for the genetic conservation of native and imported tree species,
* a tree improvement programme
* and research to underpin all these programmes.

The initiative is being co-ordinated by COFORD, in co-operation with the Forest Service, Coillte and other interested parties.

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# Fifth EUFORGEN Conifers Network

The Second Phase of EUFORGEN was concluded in December 2004, with a major review of activities and progress made. . As a result, several changes were introduced, including the merging of some networks. While the Conifer Network will continue, there will be increased emphasis on exotic species. The Fifth Network Meeting will be held in Larnica, Cyprus from 7 to 9 April 2005. Participants from 30 Europeean countries will be present. John Fennessy, COFORD, will represent Ireland. The main items to be discussed are:

* Progress made in Conifer Network activities since the last meeting in Scotland and development of a new working plan for Phase III (2005 – 2009).
* Update on country and regional activities.
* Discussion on new technical guidelines.
* Development of a common action plan for the genetic conservation of Norway spruce.

COFORD is working closely with the Forest Service in the current EUFORGEN mandate. For further information on the objectives and management of EUFORGEN visit [www.euforgen.org](http://www.euforgen.org).

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# BIHIP Management Committee

The first meeting of the Management Committee of the British and Irish Hardwood Improvement Programme (BIHIP) in 2005 is scheduled to take place in Hereford on 12 April. It is expected that there will be representation from each of the seven species groups which comprise BIHIP: ash, oak, birch, wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), walnut (*Juglans regia*), sweet chestnut (*Castanea* *sativa*) and sycamore. Dr Peter Savill of Oxford Forestry Institute (well-known in Irish forestry circles) is Chairman of the Management Committee while the Secretary is Dr Jason Hubert of Forest Research, Scotland. John Davis, former Chairman, is the current Treasurer of the group. Ireland is represented on a number of the species groups. Dr Michael Carey, chairs the Sycamore Group, John Fennessy, COFORD is incoming Chairman of the Oak Group, while Pat Doody, Coillte is incoming Vice-chairman of the Ash Group. The purpose of this meeting is to review progress made in 2004 and to plan work new programmes for 2005 and beyond.

As well as the BIHIP Management Committee meeting, a number of the species groups are availing of the opportunity to hold their planning meetings at the same time. The meetings will be followed by a field day on the Duchy of Cornwall’s estates and Garnons estate in Herefordshire.

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# Irish Red Squirrel Conservation Symposium

This symposium will take place on 22 April 2005 at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

The red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) is a native of Ireland, and is suffering from a steady decline in numbers and distribution, largely due to the introduced grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). The grey squirrel also causes considerable damage in Irish woodlands through its habit of bark-stripping. The aim of the symposium is to learn about squirrel research currently taking place in Ireland, bring together squirrel researchers and foresters in Ireland and to work towards a joint strategy to tackle the squirrel problem. Guest speakers from Britain and Italy will also be contributing to the symposium.

If you interested in attending, please contact Dr Colin Lawton, Zoology Dept, NUI Galway. Tel. 091 492335; email: colin.lawton@nuigalway.ie.

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# Seminar on regular recycling of wood ash to prevent waste production

The first announcement and call for papers has been made for the international seminar on *Regular recycling of wood ash to prevent waste production* to be held in November 2005 in Prague.

The extraction of harvest residues has gained more and more interest in recent years. As an effect of the intensified harvest, the export of nutrients and acid buffering substances from the growth site is increased. Wood ash could be used to compensate forest soils for such losses.  Most wood fuel ash is today deposited in landfills. If the wood ash is recycled, wood energy is produced without any significant waste production. Ash recycling would therefore contribute to decreasing the production of waste, and to maintaining the chemical quality of forest waters and biological productivity of forest soils in the long term. For more information, visit [www.recash.info](http://www.recash.info).

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# GMIT at Letterfrack

The Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology’s courses in Letterfrack are run in partnership with Connemara West (a community and rural development organisation based in northwest Connemara). The aim of GMIT at Letterfrack is to enable its graduates to contribute to, and influence, the fields of design processes and manufacture of furniture in ways that are innovative, creative and responsive to the needs and development of a quality Irish furniture industry.

Currently there are three programmes on offer at the College:

* Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Design and Manufacture
* Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Production
* Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Furniture Technology

The Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Design and Manufacture has been running for over seventeen years, and has developed a reputation for quality and high standards in the education of people for the furniture industry through the successful merging of design education and technological skills.

Higher Certificate in Engineering in Furniture Production was developed in response to demand from companies in the industry for graduates educated in the area of furniture production including the ability to operate equipment and develop a manufacturer’s production capability.

An expanded two-year add-on B.Sc. Hons. Degree in Furniture Technology is now offering applicants the opportunity to specialise in either Product Design or Manufacturing Technology. The programme aims to equip students with the theoretical and applied knowledge which is needed to operate at managerial or functional specialist level within the furniture industry. There is a high demand by employers for graduates from all programmes at the College. The College has established linkages with industry and colleges abroad over the past number of years. Through those linkages the college places a number of students on work experience each year under the EU LEONARDO programme.

For further information contact: Michael Hannon, Head of Centre, tel: 095 – 41660; email: Michael.Hannon@gmit.ie or [Letterfrack@gmit.ie](mailto:Letterfrack@gmit.ie)

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# Vacancies at EFI

## Post-Doc and Junior Researcher positions in Forest Ecology and Management Programme

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international research organisation, which promotes and co-operates in research of forests, forestry and forest products at the pan-European level. EFI is offering a Post-Doctoral position and a Junior Researcher position in its Programme Area Forest Ecology and Management. The positions are offered initially for 6 months; extensions may be possible depending on the availability of funding from pending project applications. The work will focus on forest carbon budget assessments and the task description includes:

* Forest inventory based carbon budget assessments with a top-down integration approach in the CarboInvent project (<http://www.joanneum.ac.at/carboinvent>).
* Analysis of LIDET litter decomposition data for a soil carbon study funded by the Academy of Finland.
* Comparison of soil carbon models for assessing soil carbon stocks and stock changes.
* Monitoring changes in the carbon stocks of forest soils.

Applicants should have a PhD, a master's degree, or a comparable qualification in an appropriate field. We appreciate eagerness to learn, ability to solve problems both alone and with a research team, and written as well as presentation skills. The successful candidates will be expected to take up the posts between April and June 2005. The posts will be based at the EFI headquarters in Joensuu, Finland.

Written applications should be sent before 15 April 2005 to: Dr Marcus Lindner,   
European Forest Institute, Torikatu 34, 80100 Joensuu, Finland. Email [Marcus.Lindner@efi.fi](mailto:Marcus.Lindner@efi.fi)

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# 2005 Call for Proposals for ESF Exploratory Workshops

The 2005 Call for Proposals for ESF Exploratory Workshops is now open. Full details are available on the ESF website at <http://www.esf.org/workshops>

Each year the European Science Foundation (ESF) supports approximately 50 Exploratory Workshops across all scientific domains. The focus of the scheme is on workshops aiming to explore an emerging and/or innovative field of research or research infrastructure. Successful proposals will be expected to demonstrate the potential to open up new directions in research or new domains. They should also show potential for initiating follow-up research activities and/or developing future collaborative actions. Interdisciplinary topics are encouraged.

ESF Exploratory Workshops awards are intended for small, interactive and output-oriented gatherings of maximum 30 participants and up to a maximum value of 15000 EUR. Awards are for workshops to be held in the calendar year 2006 (1 January - 31 December).

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 1 May 2005.

For further information, contact Valerie Allspach-Kiechel, Administrator, ESF Exploratory Workshops   
European Science Foundation, 1, quai Lezay-Marnésia, BP 90015, 67080 Strasbourg Cedex, France. Email: [vallspach@esf.org](mailto:vallspach@esf.org) or visit <http://www.esf.org/workshops>

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