.

Forestry and Wood Update

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# Forest Energy 2006 Conference

The Forest Energy 2006 programme will conclude with a conference on 12 December 2006, at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Co Offaly. Registration takes place from 9 am, and the programme includes the following presentations:

* The issue of Peak Oil - Siobhan Higgs (Peak Oil)
* Core findings of Forest Energy 2006
  + Overview of FE 2006 objectives and events - Pieter D. Kofman (Danish Forestry Extension)
  + Site descriptions - Tom Kent (WIT)
  + Thinning systems - machine productivity, costs - Pieter D. Kofman (Danish Forestry Extension)
  + Chipping quality, particle size, moisture content - Tom Kent and Sean Kelly (WIT)
* Chemical analysis of Irish sitka spruce for use as a solid fuel – Sarah Cooley (WIT)
* On the right road - the Forest Road Grant Scheme - Ciaran Nugent (Forest Service)
* Logisitics and transport issues - Brendan Connelly (Bord na Móna)
* Wood materials, energy production, licencing and permitting - Ann Marie Donlon (EPA)
* Developing a wood chip supply chain ... - Mary Ryan (Teagasc)
* Where to from here? – Dr Eugene Hendrick (COFORD)

Due to the great interest in this event booking is essential. If you would like to reserve a place at this event, please email [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie) or phone 01-2130725. Booking forms can also be downloaded from www.coford.ie

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# More new publications from COFORD

On 24 November, COFORD launched four new publications:

* Plant quality – a key to success in forest establishment – Edited by Lauren MacLennan and John Fennessy
* Handbook on structural timber design to Eurocode 5 (IS EN 1995-1-1) rules – James Harrington, Malcolm Jacob and Colin Short
* A review of forest recreation research needs in Ireland – Michael Cregan and William Murphy
* COFORD Annual Report 2005

The publications are available from COFORD, (€10.00 each, excluding post and packaging), or online at [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)

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# David Nevins steps down as COFORD Chairman after seven highly successful years

David Nevins has stepped down as COFORD chairman after seven highly successful years service. He announced his decision at the COFORD Council meeting on 24 November 2006, expressing his satisfaction that the organisation was in strong position to meet the challenges ahead. Members of the council and the industry have expressed their appreciation of David’s strong role in the industry and wider forestry sector. During his chairmanship COFORD’s budget has more than doubled, and its role become more and more central to forest policy and practice. We wish David continued success in his many business interests in Ireland and abroad.

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# COFORD council approves new research programmes

At its meeting on 24 November, the COFORD Council approved a number of new programmes in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, forest planning and management, harvesting and transport, and forest economics. The programmes were developed in response to the May 2006 call for proposals; each comprises a number of research projects using national and international research competence across a variety of institutions - including Coillte, University College Dublin, University College Cork, Waterford Institute of Technology, Trinity College Dublin, Teagasc, University of Limerick and other industry and funding partners such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The programmes will continue to the end of 2012, at a cost of approximately €9.5 m, excluding other programmes. All of the approved proposals will be posted on the COFORD web site.

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# More forest biodiversity outputs from BIOFOREST

We are pleased to report three additional peer-papers have been published arising from the recently completed EPA/COFORD BIOFOREST project. They appear in the current edition of one of the main forestry journals, *Forest Ecology and* Management:

* Gittings, T., O’Halloran, J., Kelly, T. and Giller, P.S. (2006) The contribution of open spaces to the maintenance of hoverfly (Diptera, Syrphidae) biodiversity in Irish plantation forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 237: 290–300.
* Oxbrough, A.G., Gittings, T., O’Halloran, J., Giller, P.S. and Kelly, T.C. (2006) The influence of open space on ground-dwelling spider assemblages within plantation forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* 237: 404–417.
* Oxbrough, A.G., Gittings, T., O’Halloran, J., Giller, P.S. and Kelly, T.C. (2006) The initial effects of afforestation on the ground-dwelling spider fauna of Irish peatlands and grasslands. *Forest Ecology and Management* 237: 478–491.

In addition, the paper Enhancing vegetation diversity in glades, rides and roads in plantation forests (Smith et al.) has been accepted for publication by *Biology and Conservation*.

This information is useful not only to scientists but is also of great value to forest managers in deciding on how best to incorporate biodiversity concerns in the design and management of plantation forests.

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# Recreation provision - a key issue in future forest policy

Acknowledging the important role of forest recreation, COFORD recently launched the publication A Review of Forest Recreation Research Needs in Ireland. This is the product of a Working Group established by COFORD in December 2005 to address issues relating to forest recreation and to set future research priorities.

Present day forest recreation users are arguably more active and environmentally aware than those of a generation ago. Consequently, there are new and increasing demands being made on the forest for recreation. Forest managers need to address a wide range of issues when dealing with the provision of recreation. These can range from the impact that recreation usage can have on forest activities, biodiversity or indeed other users, to a need to create

The publication will form the basis of COFORD’s research programme in the forest recreation area, and will guide our upcoming call for research proposals in this area. The report can be ordered from COFORD, or online at www.coford.ie

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# Carbon Corner

## *Of Kuznets curves and carbon stocks*

Recent media reports have referred to work published by a Finnish/US team of researchers (http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/0608343103v) who, using FAO data, have found that decline in a country’s forest growing stock, and by implication forest carbon stocks, is a function of per capita gross domestic product – “no nation where annual per capita gross domestic product exceeded $4,600 had a negative rate of [forest] growing stock change”.

The hypothesis is related to an environmental application of Kuznets’s curve (which is referenced in the text). Broadly speaking, this relationship says that many environmental indicators, such as water pollution and air emissions, follow an inverted U-shape over time. At the beginning of economic development pollution increases along with industrialisation. After a period, as wealth grows, physical needs are met, and interest in the environment increases, which reverses the trend. (Stern – see previous Carbon Corner - also calls up a Kuznets curve - US per capita carbon dioxide emissions over income per head. However, income at the turning point is way beyond what development can be expected to achieve.)

Ireland’s growth in forest cover, which is not referenced in the text, is a good example of a Kuznets-type series. The course of events is well summarised by Niall OCarroll on page 13 of his *Forestry in Ireland – a Concise History* (published by COFORD), with the forest loss curve finally bottoming out in the early decades of the 20th century. Since that time successive afforestation programmes have successfully reversed the trend, and in the process many million tonnes of greenhouse gases have been removed from the atmosphere.

All very well, but the media have put a different slant on the work of Kauppi and his US colleagues. To paraphrase: - what is all the fuss about disappearing forests for? – aren’t forest cover and carbon stocks increasing in most countries around the world? The primary law of journalism has been stated as: first simply, then exaggerate; and this interpretation accords well with that proposition. The simple fact that has been overlooked, however, is that despite increases in forest cover and carbon stocks in developed countries (including Ireland), between 6 and 8 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide are lost to the atmosphere each year, *on a net basis*, from land use change, mainly in the form of deforestation. These emissions account for close on 18% of all carbon dioxide released to the atmosphere. Further emphasising, if needed, the need to reverse deforestation trends in developing countries, while at the same time increase carbon stocks by afforestation programmes and related measures.

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# Buying or selling hardwood?

COFORD publishes– the catalogue for advertising hardwood timber twice yearly. It is published in hard copy and our web site – and attracts a wide and growing audience in the forestry and timber processing sectors. If you are in the business of selling or buying hardwoods you can avail of the service free of charge by putting an entry in the next issue, which comes out next January 2007. The catalogue features “for sale” and “wanted” sections. Please contact John Fennessy (email [john.fennessy@coford.ie](mailto:john.fennessy@coford.ie)) if you would like your timber to be advertised in the January 2007 issue. ***Hardwood Matters*** will also now be carried on TIMBERWeb, the global timber eMarket, [www.timberweb.com](http://www.timberweb.com).

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# All your wood energy questions answered – for free!

The free advisory service on [www.woodenergy.ie](http://www.woodenergy.ie) continues to be available, where queries about harvesting and supply chain issues in wood energy can be submitted on line. Pieter D. Kofman, the well known and respected expert on wood fuel, will give you the benefit of his many years of experience in answering your questions. Normally queries are responded to by email, within a working day. Pieter can also be contacted between 9 and 12 am via Skype – the free software can be downloaded from [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com), which allows telephone calls to be conducted via your computer, free of charge. He can also be contacted by phone during the designated hours on +45 75 88 1519 or mobile +45 28 55 77 58. Please note that queries about boilers, stoves or approved installers should be directed to Sustainable Energy Ireland, Renewable Energy Information Office, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co Cork. Tel: 023-42193, Fax: 023-29154, email: [renewables@reio.ie](mailto:renewables@reio.ie).

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# State-of-the-art quality control in timber production

An international workshop on the state-of-the-art in quality control in timber production was held at Sopron, Hungary, from 8 to 10 November 2006, under the aegis of COST Action 53. Gordon Knaggs, who represents Ireland on the Management Committee of the Action, attended the event, and reports that the papers presented covered various aspects of quality control in the timber industries and are of direct relevance to Irish companies. Topics covered included moisture content, grading and scanning, distortion, CE marking and customer requirements. Information on the proceedings is available on the E53 website [www.COSTE53.net](http://www.COSTE53.net). General information on the structure of COST and on other Actions, a number of which relate to forestry and timber, is available at [www.COST.esf.org](http://www.COST.esf.org).

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# In search of sustainable innovations

The Schweighofer Prize is an award for sustainable innovations in forestry, wood technology and wood products. This year Schweighofer will also bestow a lifetime achievement award, so the organisers would welcome nominations of potential candidates. In June 2007 the Schweighofer Prize, the European Innovation Award for Forestry, Wood Technology and Wood Products will be presented for the third time.

From November 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007 innovative persons and institutions are invited to submit proposals and nominations. “Our aim is to encourage innovative people and institutions to contribute to the sustainable development and competitiveness of the European Forest Based Sector”, says the founder of the prize, the Austrian Schweighofer Family. The total prize amount of € 300.000 is divided into four different innovation prizes and one main prize.

The applications and nominations can be submitted in four different topics, which relate to the challenges of the European Forest Based Sector. The topics “Forestry”, “Wood Technology”, “Wood Products” and “Cooperation and Education” cover the whole forest wood chain, from customer oriented wood supply, and advanced manufacturing technologies, innovative wood products to trend setting co-operations and service facilities for wood and wood products. Pulp and paper topics are not eligible for the Schweighofer Prize as this area is already covered by other prominent awards. The award ceremony takes place in the Vienna Town Hall in June 18, 2007. Further information can be found [www.schweighofer-prize.org](http://www.schweighofer-prize.org)

Readers may recall that the Irish forestry company TreeMetrics, headed by Enda Keane and Gareth Mullooly, are previous winners of the this prestigious award.

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# Seventh Framework Programme gets closer

As the first call for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) approaches, InnovaWood takes a closer look at how the European Technology Platforms (ETP) interact with FP7. There are about 30 ETPs and a number of them are relevant to the forestry-wood sector. National support for these ETPs is very important. An Irish support group for the Forest-based sector Technology Platform is currently being set-up. To open the Innovawood article click [here](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/newsletter/Volume6/European%20Technology%20Platforms.doc); for more information about FP7 go to <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7>

Three of the themes in the Cooperation categories are the focus of information days in the New Year:

* Environment (Theme 6) and Energy (Theme 5), January 18, 2007, Dublin. Contact Brian Donlon (b.donlon@epa.ie)
* Information, science and technology (IST) (Theme 3), Dublin January 12, 2007. Contact Stephen O'Reilly (Stephen.oreilly@enterprise-ireland.com)

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# European collaboration for R&D and Innovation in the forest-based and wood industries

This InnovaWood-Woodism Partnering Event takes place on 30 January 2007 in Zurich. Information is available [here](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/newsletter/Volume6/Draft_Programme_WoodismPartnering-Meeting_31012006.pdf) and from http://www.tts.fi/woodism/events/zurich.htm or contact charles.harper@innovawood.com

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# Irish firms secure Kosovo contract

Irish companies Green Belt Ltd and PM Group, as the Lead Consortium Partner, have secured a €1.2m Sustainable Forest Management project from the European Agency for Reconstruction. The two companies formed a partnership to pursue the tender and overcame stiff competition from over twelve other international consortiums to secure the contract.

Kosovo is situated in the Balkan Peninsula and is surrounded by Albania, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. It is currently governed by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the local Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, with security provided by the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR). Ireland is among the non-NATO countries that are contributing personnel to KFOR.

The European Agency for Reconstruction (ERA) is funding a number of key projects to assist the redevelopment of Kosovo. One of these projects aims to optimise the development of the forest estate as a key resource for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the people of Kosovo.

In the recent past a large forest area has been lost, and silvicultural management has been poor as a result of limited resources or low capacity in all related sectors. Illegal cutting of forests for firewood is a major problem. This project aims to bring about a number of immediate improvements to forest sector in Kosovo, including the organisation of private forest owners, the implementation of a controlled harvesting programme, preparation for Natura 2000, biodiversity protection and the sustainable utilisation of forest management in the State sector. All of this is to be achieved while safe guarding the environmental contribution that the forest estate makes to the region.

Welcoming the awarding of the contract, Green Belt Ltd CEO, Mr John O’Reilly stated: “given the strong role that Green Belt Ltd has played in the development of the forestry sector in Ireland we feel that we have a wealth of knowledge and experience that the Kosovo authorities and forest owners can benefit from.” The partnership with PM Group provides both the technical and administrative skills to manage this complex project. Speaking on behalf of PM Group, Mr. Tim Hickey stated: “The project consolidates PM’s position in the Balkan and South Eastern European Region as the largest forestry and biodiversity protection technical assistance and consulting provider. We look forward to working with Green Belt and see this project as another strategic stepping stone for promoting the Irish Forestry experience worldwide”.

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# IUFRO Student Programmes Announced

IUFRO has adopted its Strategy 2006-2010 "Global Science Cooperation for the Benefit of Forests and People" and has started implementing its proposed actions. Goal 3.1 of this IUFRO Strategy is "to enhance communication within the scientific community and increase interest and involvment of students in forest science". There are various means to implement this goal especially with regard to students. Two Erasmus Mundus MSc programmes for students have been announced. Both programmes are two-year integrated Masters Courses in Forestry but with a different profile:

SUFONAMA (Sustainable Forest and Nature Management): The overall objective is to qualify graduates to deal with the challenges of modern natural resources management in Europe and other temperate regions, that is, sustainable management of forests and nature areas in an integrated landscape context.

SUTROFOR (Sustainable Tropical Forestry): The overall objective is to qualify graduates to deal with the challenges in contemporary tropical forestry, that is, sustainable tropical forestry management is becoming increasingly complex due to improved knowledge and a growing demand for products and services.

Full descriptions of the two Erasmus Mundus MSc programmes, including application procedure and forms, are found on: www.sufonama.net and www.sutrofor.net

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# Improving Triple Bottom Line Returns from Small-scale Forestry

The IUFRO 3.08 conference on *Improving Triple Bottom Line Returns from Small-scale Forestry* will take place in Leyte, Philippines (http://www.uq.edu.au/forestry/). Please note that the date for the conference has changed – and will now be held from 17 to 21 June, 2007.

As a new initiative, two pre-conference training workshops will be run. These will be on GIS Applications for Natural Resource Management and Qualitative Research Methods and Systems. Details can be found at http://www.uq.edu.au/forestry/pre-conferenceworkshops.html

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# IPGRI becomes Bioversity International

The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) has changed name to Bioversity International - Bioversity for short - with effect from 1 December 2006. The name better reflects the organisation’s new strategy, which focuses on improving people’s lives through biodiversity research.

Over the past ten years, IPGRI’s focus as an international research organisation has moved from *ex situ* conservation of crop germplasm to a much wider agenda, to include the use of genetic resources in particular. At the end of 2004, the organisation developed the new strategy entitled *Diversity for Well-being: Making the Most of Agricultural Biodiversity*. Impact on people’s well-being is now at the centre of the new agenda with a particular focus on biological diversity that benefits people. Bioversity will continue to have its core strengths in plants but will also apply its skills and knowledge to other living organisms that are relevant for improving people’s well-being.

The organisation will carry a new logo; those who already know IPGRI will immediately recognize it. A new website will be launched in December at www.bioversityinternational.org.

Bioversity International will continue its work on forest genetic resources in different regions of the world. The Regional Office for Europe will continue coordinating the EUFORGEN activities and hosting the EUFORGEN Secretariat (www.euforgen.org).

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# Old forests, new management

“Old Forests, New Management” Conservation and use of old-growth forests in the 21st century. This is the theme of an international scientific conference to be held in Hobart from the 17th to the 21st of February 2008, hosted by the CRC for Forestry, Forestry Tasmania and IUFRO. Old-growth forests in temperate and boreal regions are places of great beauty and importance to people. These forests are often managed for conservation and biodiversity value and as an important resource for timber production, so their management has inevitably become subject to a range of societal pressures. Current management practices for old-growth forests are increasingly informed by an understanding of the disturbance events that trigger forest regeneration. Research from several long-term experimental sites now allows a fresh look at ecologically based silviculture in forests managed for wood production. This conference will bring together researchers from a range of disciplines focussed upon achieving ecologically sustainable management and use of old-growth forests. It will include coverage of modern approaches being developed in the Pacific Northwest, Australia, South America, Scandinavia and Central Europe. The conference will include a visit to the Warra Long-Term Ecological Research site in southern Tasmania, which is partly in a World Heritage Area and also contains a silvicultural systems trial that has explored alternatives to clearfelling of old-growth forests. The visit will provide an excellent opportunity to view tall old-growth eucalypt forests and discuss alternative silvicultural systems for wood production and biodiversity management.

Session themes are:

* Social and historical importance of old-growth forests
* The science of old-growth forests including structure, biodiversity, genetic diversity and ecological dynamics
* Long-term, multidisciplinary experiments
* Conservation and reserve management
* Towards ecological silviculture including alternative harvesting methods, safety, economics, and management of coarse woody debris
* Shaping old-growth forest management regimes

For further information, contact: mark.neyland@forestrytas.com.au

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# Renewable energy trade fair

The trade fair „erneuerbare energien“ (renewable energy) takes place in Böblingen on 2-4 March 2007. The organiser, REECO GmbH, will present latest trends and developments in the renewable energy sector as well as alternative construction concepts. Please refer to the website for details: www.erneuerbareenergien.com

The latest trends and innovations will be presented at the joint trade fair “erneuerbare energien 2007” and “Passiv-Haus 2007”, held in the Sporthalle and Kongresshalle in Boeblingen (near Stuttgart). More than 200 exhibitors will provide a comprehensive overview of new technologies and products. The conference “The Application of Heat Pumps” will cover topics such as heating and cooling as well as quality control of geothermal energy systems, and provides a general overview of the sector. Other topics at the trade fair and congress will be wood energy, biogas and biofuels, solarthermics, photovoltaics, hydro power and wind energy. The workshops “Renewable Energies in France” and “Photovoltaics in Italy” will deal with the issue “Export”. “Passiv-Haus 2007” will provide a comprehensive lecture programme for experts and end consumers with detailed information and insight into the field of energy efficient construction and renovation over the course of three days.

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# Mobilising wood resources

Mobilising Wood Resources - Can Europe's forests satisfy the increasing demand for raw material and energy under sustainable forest management? This topic will be addressed at a conference to be held at Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 11-12 January 2007. Information can be found at the website http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/workshops/2007/wmw/mobilisingwood.htm

This workshop aims to deliver:

- Strategies for mobilising wood given a constantly increasing demand;

- Better understanding of impacts and effects of increased wood mobilisation on different sectors;

- Recommendations to policy-makers and stakeholders on these issues;

- Input to the Warsaw Ministerial Conference in November 2007.

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# Vacancy for qualified engineer in Irish renewable energy sector

Imperative Energy Ltd wishes to recruit a graduate engineer to assist its business expansion plan. Under InterTradeIreland’s FUSION programme, Imperative Energy has partnered with the University of Ulster to design a planned programme of work for an ambitious, self-motivated engineer who wishes to be a leading light in the commercialisation of renewable energy technologies (biomass and solar) in Ireland and to further their profession qualifications. An initial 24 month contract incorporates full training, including a programme delivered by Smurfit Graduate School of Business in UCD. Its aims are to enhance the graduates’ personal, professional and managerial capabilities so that they can complete their FUSION Projects successfully and to equip them for leadership roles in business. In addition, on successful completion of their training, each Graduate will obtain a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice accredited by UCD. An attractive remuneration package commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate will be offered. There is a strong potential for full-time employment with Imperative Energy following the successful completion of the programme.

To apply and for further information, please contact Louise Kearney, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Belfast (028) 9041 5375 or Sally Bowles, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Dublin 2, +353 (1) 7048 52. Alternatively you can e-mail pwcni.recruitment@uk.pwc.com or you can download the same information and an application form from www.nijobs.com or www.irishjobs.ie.

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