.

Forestry and Wood Update

August 2008 Volume 8 Number 8

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

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# COFORD Research programme

## COFORD R&D programme project update: FORECAST

*Each issue of the newsletter carries a short article on new and ongoing COFORD-funded projects. Feedback on the articles is welcome and should be addressed to the project leaders (contact details at the end of the article).*

### Geospatial FORECAST of private sector timber supply (2009-28)

A five year research project on developing a reliable national forecast for the private forest sector is being funded by COFORD. The project team consists of Forestry at UCD, Spectral Signatures, the Forest Service and private consultant, Henry Phillips. The project is being managed by Dr Máirtín Mac Siúirtáin who is currently looking for an MSc, a PhD and a post doctorate to work on the FORECAST project.

Currently, the only private sector forecast available is that produced in 2001 which estimates conifer roundwood from private forests up to 2015. This forecast is for the overall country and does not provide any breakdown of volumes by region, by county or by species.

The FORECAST project will produce an interim forecast within twelve months which will provide an estimate of timber production on a national and regional basis for the twenty year period 2009-28. FORECAST will also provide a breakdown by species group, e.g. spruces, pines and other conifers. The final version of FORECAST will be GIS-based and will be accessible through a user-friendly web interface. This would allow any potential investor to estimate the future wood supply within an economic distance from a planned processing facility.

At the moment, potential investors in wood energy, whether it be for pellet, combined heat and power (CHP) or co-firing, are unable to determine the location of future private sector wood supply. The lack of information on the spatial distribution of future supply is holding up investment. The expectation is that the FORECAST project will meet this information need, facilitating investment in facilities for the processing of early thinnings. This can only be good for private forest owners as it will provide not only additional outlets for thinnings but also additional competition in the market place resulting hopefully in better returns to private growers. The FORECAST project will not provide estimates of private sector timber supply for individual owners.

*For further information email: Dr Máirtín Mac Siúirtáin at* [*mms@ucd.ie*](mailto:mms@ucd.ie) *or Henry Phillips at* [*hprphillips@gmail.com*](mailto:hprphillips@gmail.com)

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## Postdoctoral researcher / Research assistant required

The Department of Life Sciences, University of Limerick, requires a postdoctoral researcher/research assistant for the COFORD–funded project ***Carbon Stocks and Stock Changes in Harvested Wood Products.*** The duration of the post is 20 months amd the closing date for applications is 22 August 2008.

As an experienced and well-qualified researcher the successful candidate will investigate carbon stocks and stock changes in harvested wood products (HWP) in Ireland. This will involve thecollection of data about timber production, wood processing and HWP import and export statistics. The successful candidate will develop a carbon accounting model for HWP in Ireland and use it to undertake scenario analysis of future change in the carbon stock of HWP in the residential sector in Ireland. In addition the store of carbon in HWP in the built environment in Ireland will be investigated. He or she will publish in the scientific literature and be responsible for the delivery of project reports to the funding agency. The possession of a PhD in a cognate Science or Engineering discipline would be advantageous. For further information contact Dr Ken Byrne ([ken.byrne@ul.ie](mailto:ken.byrne@ul.ie)).

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## Vacancy: Statistician

The School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin, has initiated a nationally funded forestry research programme: ***PLANSFM – The Planning and Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management***. The funding agency is COFORD. The PLANSFM Programme Coordinator is seeking to recruit a post-doctoral level statistician to provide statistical support to the activities of the research programme. Applicants should have a postgraduate qualification in statistics or a related discipline including a strong background in experimental design and analysis. Experience in statistical modelling would be a distinct advantage. Responsibilities include assisting the Programme Coordinator with the day-to-day statistical issues arising in the programme; the provision of statistical support to Project Managers and PhD students; field visits to advise on and evaluate experimental design and data; statistical support with the publication of research results and technology transfer activities and representing the programme at meetings and conferences. There will be opportunities for the statistician to develop research interests that complement the PLANSFM forestry research programme.

Specific projects in the PLANSFM programme are:

* The establishment of a national resource of field trials and a data base for forest research and demonstration.
* Development of dynamic yield models for conifers, broadleaves and mixtures.
* Development of single-tree volume models and stem profile models.
* Terrestrial laser scanning technology for multi-resource forest inventories.
* A GIS-based multi-objective decision support system for the optimal management of forests on sensitive sites.
* Identifying, assessing and recording multi-resource forest inventory data at the stand and forest-level scales - implementation, coimmunication and optimisation previous work.
* Carbon sequestration by irish forest ecosystems: biomass stock measurements; thinning experiment; above- and belowground coarse wood decomposition study; long-term decomposition experiment set up; input to Carbon Sequestration software development.

Contact Professor Maarten Nieuwenhuis at +353 (0)1 716 7004 or email: [maarten.nieuwenhuis@ucd.ie](mailto:maarten.nieuwenhuis@ucd.ie). The deadline for the receipt of applications is 15 August 2008.

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## Hen Harrier tag scheme

The PLANFORBIO research programme supports targeted forest biodiversity research in forests of major significance in the contemporary Irish landscape. In keeping with government strategy to increase planting of forests that support a wealth of biodiversity throughout Ireland this years FORESTBIO fieldwork is concerned largely with mixed species plantations, while continuing to survey our native woodlands. The HEN HARRIER research project has moved on to an exciting new phase exploiting technologies such as GPS tracking and nest camera deployment in addition to extensive manual data collection by the fieldwork team to provide information on the requirements of this bird. The PLANFORBIO programme hen harrier tagging poster is on the noticenature website in the species of the month section – see <http://www.noticenature.ie/Nature_Surveys.html> or <http://www.noticenature.ie/species_of_the_month.htm>.

For more information about the PLANFORBIO programme see www.ucc.ie/en/planforbio.

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# Support and services

## CARBON CORNER

### Keep the home fires burning

One of the main contributions that forestry makes to reducing the level of harmful greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is as a source of green, renewable wood fuel. Wood is, of course, a carbon neutral fuel, as long as it is sourced from sustainably managed forests. What goes out when wood is burned comes back in as carbon dioxide as forests grow. A further benefit of forest biomass, when compared with most other biofuels currently on the market, is that it has a very favourable energy ratio, well over 90% in most cases. What this means is that the energy required to establish, grow, harvest and process forest fuel is less than 10% of the energy that comes out of it when it is combusted. For many biofuels, such as maize-derived ethanol, the ratio is reversed – more than 90% of the energy output from the fuel is taken up in establishing, growing, harvesting and processing the fuel. Some scientists have even argued recently that there is more energy used in producing some biofuels than comes out of them.

Woody biomass has always been, in one form or another, one of the main fuels used on the planet; in developed countries as a means of reducing use of fossil fuels and emissions, and for many in developing countries as a scarce resource used for cooking and heat. As we all know, oil price hikes and climate change policies have combined to drive huge increase in the use of wood for fuel in the developed countries. For the developed world the wheel has now come full circle – wood is once again becoming the fuel of choice, after decades of coal oil and gas use, for home heating right out to power generation.

Wood fuel has also undergone huge changes in response to market demand - particularly for ease of transport and handling, and convenience in combustion. Wood pellets, briquettes and chips are being manufactured to exacting standards, at a rapidly expanding rate, both in Ireland and abroad. Allied to these developments are improvements in stove and boiler design which are providing energy efficiencies (energy out/energy in) of 80% and more. Gone are the days when most of the heat from wood burning went up the chimney. Wood is now too valuable to waste.

Not that the open fire should be altogether a thing of the past. Those with access to their own firewood can still afford the luxury of the open hearth. For many, however, the open fire takes too much time to light and clean – which brings us back to convenience: pellets and other refined wood fuels are designed for ease of use, especially for a generation that is used to switching on the heat without worrying where it comes from.

But firewood combustion technology is also rapidly expanding, and the open fire is indeed a thing of the past as far as efficiency is concerned, especially as firewood gasification technology develops. This highly efficient and convenient technology has rapidly developed over the past decade (for a more in-depth exposition of the technical features of the technology see the COFORD Connects Note Gasifier-type firewood fuelled boilers at [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)). Firewood used in gasification boilers needs to be well seasoned, otherwise efficiencies and boiler will fall. A number of forestry companies have seen a market potential in firewood and aim to supply a quality firewood product. Unfortunately, this comes at a time when the government has decided to postpone the introduction of support for thinning of young broadleaves, a very expensive operation that will be difficult to repay on fuel prices alone.

On the plus side the government, through SEI, has made a number of changes to the Greener Homes scheme that provides a grant for the purchase and installation of gasifier boilers (see <http://www.sei.ie/index.asp?locID=1305&docID=-1>). This is very welcome development, and addresses efficient use of locally sourced firewood, supplied as well seasoned, well delivered product.

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# Irish forest products sector experiences significant growth

Figures released by COFORD, the National Council for Forest Research & Development (www.coford.ie) show that the Irish forest products sector experienced significant growth in 2007.

A record three million cubic metres of roundwood was harvested from Irish forests in 2007, supplying the sawmilling, wood based panel sector and energy sectors. Coillte supplied 87% of the harvest, with the balance coming from an expanding private forest estate. Harvest levels in private sector forests are increasing significantly, and have the potential to grow ten fold over the coming decade.

Mr Michael Lynn, Chairman of COFORD said: Irish forest product exports for 2007 were worth over €333 million to the economy, an increase of 14% on 2006. This strong export performance was in the face of strong competition in the UK and other markets. Continued investment in innovation and marketing along the entire product chain, allied to realistic raw material prices, will be needed to maintain and grow these markets.

Dr Eugene Hendrick, COFORD Director added: The forest industry is rapidly developing a range of quality wood fuels, which includes high quality firewood, as well as refined products such as wood chip and pellets. R&D investment by both state and business are, in our view, vital to the early stage development of the supply chains for these products. COFORD’s investment in research, development and demonstration, allied to our woodenergy.ie advisory service, is targeted at producing quality wood fuels at competitive, affordable prices. Over the coming year wood energy output from state and private forests is set to grow significantly, at a time when other sectors of the economy are experiencing a slowdown, and jobs are once more in short supply.

COFORD’s analysis also shows that sawn timber imports declined significantly in 2007, reflecting the downturn in house construction compared with 2006.

COFORD’s data are based on work carried out on its behalf by Drima Market Research/ Gordon Knaggs & Associates, in association with the CSO and industry bodies.

*Irish Forest Sector Output for 2007*

| **Category** | **Value** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Irish timber harvest for 2007** | 3 million cubic metres |  |
| Coillte harvest | 2.6 million cubic metres |  |
| Private harvest | 0.4 million cubic metres |  |
| **Irish forest product exports** | **€333 million** | **14% increase on 2006** |
| Wood based panel exports | €262 million |  |
| Sawn timber exports | €71 million |  |

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# Information & technology transfer

## COFORD/Teagasc/Forest Service field day

This field day is scheduled to take place close to Cappamore in Co Limerick on Wednesday 17 September 2008 and is part of the continuing programme of Growing Quality Broadleaves. The theme of this meeting is ***Critical time for thinning, tending and respacing of young ash plantation’.*** If you wish to attend this field day, be at the Community Centre, Cappamore, Co Limerick between 11:00 am and 12:30 pm(there will be a number of group departures from the Community Centre to the site between 11:00 and 12:30). The programme will open with a discussion on when is the correct time for the first thinning of ash and the important issues to be considered at first thinning. This will be followed with a practical hands-on demonstration on the first thinning. A number of plots have been laid down on this ash site which was planted in 1995. Participants will initially be shown the process of marking of ash for first thinning with identification of potential crop trees and subsequent marking of competitors to be removed. The session will conclude with a visit to a plot which has just been thinned. Continuous professional development points will be awarded. For further details contact Liam Kelly (tel: 044 9340721; email: [liam.kelly@teagasc.ie](mailto:liam.kelly@teagasc.ie)) Michael Somers (tel: 067 31821; email: [michael.somers@teagasc.ie](mailto:michael.somers@teagasc.ie)

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## Wood energy conference and demonstration

COFORD, the SEI and Teagasc will be organising an event highlighting developments and opportunities in the wood energy sector on 10 September 2008. The day will comprise a series of short presentations in the morning at the Westport Woods Hotel, in Westport, Co Mayo. Delegates will have an opportunity to view the biomass boilers installed at the venue. In the afternoon delegates will be taken to the site near Aughagower, where the forest energy demonstration took place in 2007, to see chipping activities in action, as well as firewood production and packaging. Further details will be made available on www.woodenergy.ie, www.coford.ie, [www.sei.ie](http://www.sei.ie) and [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie) websites. Registration is €60 to attend the full day, or €40 to attend either the morning or afternoon activities only. To reserve a place, please contact SEI REIO, email: [pauld@reio.ie](mailto:pauld@reio.ie) or tel: 023 63393.

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## Workshop: The wood fuel supply chain

The ***Forest to Gate*** workshop has been developed for COFORD by Pieter D. Kofman, Danish Forestry Extension, and Tom Kent, Waterford Institute of Technology. It has been presented on numerous occasions in Ireland and Scotland during the past years. ***Gate to Grate*** has been developed for COFORD by Pieter D. Kofman, Danish Forestry Extension, and Tom Bruton, BioXL. The workshops have been substantially updated. One can attend either Forest to Gate or Gate to Grate without attending the other workshop as there is very little overlap between the two options.

Continuous professional development points will be awarded. A certificate of attendance will be issued by Waterford Institute of Technology. The workshops are presented by Pieter D. Kofman, wood energy advisor to COFORD. Pieter has over 25 years of experience in all aspects of wood for energy supply and quality, from research to commercial applications.

***Forest to Gate*** will take place on 25 August 2008 at Roganstown Golf and Country Club, Swords, Co Dublin and on 15 September at a venue to be confirmed in Killarney. ***Gate to Grate*** will take place on 26 August 2008 at Roganstown Golf and Country Club, Swords, Co Dublin and on 16 September at a venue to be confirmed in Killarney. Attendance at the workshops (including refreshments and lunches) is subject to a registration fee of €150.

Outline of ***From forest to gate:***

• Wood Energy Basics: comparing wood to other fuels

• Classification using the latest European standards

• Supply and demand scales

• Fuel quality issues with quality classes using the latest European standards

• Harvesting methods for thinnings, logging residues, possibility of stump harvesting, and clean recycled wood

• Tranportation, delivery and storage

• Wood energy quantification with unit conversions (GJ, MWh, tonne, m3 solid, m3 loose volume, dependency on moisture content)

• Wood energy case studies, domestic, district heating, CHP

• Wood fuel contracts

• Exercise and evaluation

Outline of ***From gate to grate:***

• Production of wood pellets

• Wood pellet quality with quality classes using the latest European standards

• Delivery of wood pellets

• Wood fuel specifications and energy value

• Boiler types, burning process

• Boiler sizing and efficiency

• Biomass project costs

• Layout and planning of installations

• Summary and evaluation

For more information or to reserve a place at the workshop: [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie) or www.woodenergy.ie

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## GROWFOR workshop

***The next GROWFOR workshop will take place on 26 September 2008 at Racket Hall, Roscrea, Co Tipperary.***

This is a full day workshop on using GROWFOR, the dynamic yield model computer interface. GROWFOR facilitates timber volume assessment and production forecasting using user specific forest management plans. GROWFOR facilitates flexibility with regard to the timing and intensity of harvest operations across a range of conifer species and uses the users own forest inventory data as input. It produces product assortments at every stage of stand development and users can avail of a range of price/size data to value timber harvests. GROWFOR also facilitates the calculation of Net present Value of crops.

The workshop involves a field session in a nearby forest in which participants gain a clear understanding of the necessary field data requirements of GROWFOR and a brief session on how these data are collected. Then participants are demonstrated the use of GROWFOR and complete a series of exercises using the package. Participants are asked, where possible, to bring their own laptop computers in order that the package can be installed correctly and in order that they can familiarise themselves with it on their own machines. However, this is not essential and all participants will be facilitated.

There are limited spaces available at these events. If you wish to attend, please email growfor@coford.ie or phone 01-2130735 as soon as possible.

The cost of the workshop is €100 and includes a GROWFOR licence, access to ongoing back-up support via email and any GROWFOR updates as they are developed. The workshop is led by Paddy Purser and Jacques Hamel of Purser Tarleton Russell Ltd.

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# News from COFORD

## EUFORGEN Scattered Broadleaves Network meets in Norway

Representatives from 27 countries, including Ireland, met in Drobak in Norway from 20 to 22 May 2008 to discuss progress made by the Scattered Broadleaves Network during phase III of EUFORGEN, to plan future developments and the finalisation of its activities during this phase which comes to an end in 2009. Norway, which is now hosting the Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), was the ideal location to discuss the relevance of genetic variation in marginal populations of scattered broadleaves and the role these populations might play in the development of gene conservation strategies for these species at European level.

Working groups prepared common action plans for scattered broadleaves in Europe and presented updates and reviewed proposed conservation units across 18 European countries –the plan is to link the most valuable and important *in situ* gene conservation units within the natural distribution range of specific tree species in Europe through the selection of a small number of units in each country. As a first step the Network is selecting gene conservation units for common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), black poplar (*Populus nigra*), white elm (*Ulmus laevis*), wild pear (*Pyrus pyraster*) and wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*). It is anticipated that this work will be concluded in late 2008 and a publication, targeted at policy-makers and managers will then be issued on these matters.

Participants were also updated on the progress made by the EUFGIS Expert Group in the development of pan-European minimum requirements and data standards for gene conservation units of forest trees.

EUFORGEN is funded by the Forest Service and serviced by COFORD. A summary report of the meeting is available at the EUFORGEN website at [www.euforgen.org](http://www.euforgen.org)

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## 7th Framework Programme update

The regular supplement supplied by InnovaWood ([click here to download](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/iwscoford_newsletter_august08.pdf)) contains information about:

Events, conferences and courses:

* Events in brief
* InnovaWood FP7 workshops

Two examples of successful Irish involvement in EU-funded projects:

* InnovaWood-EDU – Expanding good practice in vocational education and training in the forestry-wood chain sector through the InnovaWood network
* The InnovaWood SSA - An innovation strategy to integrate industry needs and research capability in the European forestry-wood chain

European research opportunities:

* Calls for proposals
* Additional funding for research into likely alternative energy sources
* Erasmus for entrepreneurs
* Doing business in India and China

InnovaWood information service:

* InnovaWood projects
* Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform: the first years
* Management of recovered wood: proceedings of the 3rd European COST E31 conference

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## I.S. 440 — Timber frame dwellings - issued for comment

The long-awaited national timber frame standard I.S. 440 — Timber frame dwellings has been issued for comment by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). A comprehensive document, running to over 80 pages, it will be a very welcome addition to the suite of timber standards which have been developed by the Timber Standards Consultative Committee, under the chairmanship of Jim Harrington. He has been aided in this work by COFORD author Bill Robinson (Engineered Wood Products in Ireland), a leading member of the drafting team behind the new standard.

I.S. 440 deals with both domestic housing, and medium rise apartment and non domestic buildings. Medium rise timber frame - structures up to four storeys high - is an area where timber in construction should have a significantly stronger role to play in the future. At present, Ireland's office and apartment architecture seems to be dominated by glass and steel fronted buildings, hardly the most sustainable approach, given the amount of energy it takes to manufacture the component materials. A move to attractive, imaginative and more sustainable medium rise building, using a timber frame approach, should be greatly facilitated by the standard.   
While the building industry is experiencing a slowdown at present, it will bounce back, given the underlying level of demand from a young population. This new phase of construction will afford an opportunity for more imaginative building schemes, moving away from current construction methods to medium rise house/apartment structures, well designed and highly energy efficient. Wood in construction and heating has a vital role to play in these developments. Comments on the draft standard can be made through NSAI at <http://nsai.ie/index.cfm/area/news/action/article/information/hayesptimber>

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# National & international forestry news

## Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference Foundation

### 2008 Conference at University College Cork

The Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC) Foundation was established in 1998 to secure the continued success of the conference series which is a not-for-profit corporation based in Canada. The foundation's goal is to ensure ongoing opportunities for continuous learning and networking within the agricultural biotechnology community through the ABIC conferences which started in 1996 in Saskatchewan, Canada. Since then the conference has been held in Ontario, Saskatoon, Cologne and last year's conference was in Calgary.   
The Cork conference will have an exciting programme that extends over four days commencing on 24 August. The agenda is composed of both plenary and parallel sessions, a trade exhibition and a poster session. Some of COFORD’s ongoing research programmes will be presented. The conference will be officially opened by Billy Kelleher TD, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

For further information on the conference programme: <http://www.abic.ca/abic2008/html/program.html>

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## One day course on identification of woodland fungi

Woodlands of Ireland in conjunction with University of Limerick will host a training course on ‘*Identification of edible woodland fungi and the development of a network of fungal monitoring plots’* at Charleville Castle, Tullamore on 18 August 2008 starting at 11:30 am. This course, supported by the COFORD-funded forest fungi programme, will help to develop one of the non-timber attributes of woodlands and is open to all with an interest in the topic. If you know of others who may be interested please let them know. For further information contact Declan Little at Woodlands of Ireland to attend. Spaces are limited and participants are on a first come basis. The course fee is €20 to cover costs, including a light lunch which will be provided on the day. For further details contact Declan Little (tel: 087-6685823) or see [www.woodlandsofireland.com](http://www.woodlandsofireland.com)

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## Fourth annual Environment Ireland conference

This conference will take place on 9-10 September 2008 at the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin. Environment Ireland, now in its fourth year, is Ireland’s largest conference on environmental policy and management. The conference is organised in association with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The conference is attended each year by delegates representing all the major sectors with an interest in Ireland’s environment, including many from Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Environment Ireland 2008 will feature an opening address from the Environment Minister, John Gormley, as well as an update from EPA Director-General Dr Mary Kelly on how her organization continues to work for the protection and improvement of Ireland’s environment. With over 35 expert speakers, from both Ireland and further afield, addressing the conference over two days, Environment Ireland has become firmly established as the largest and most-important conference for all those with an interest in Ireland’s environment. For more information: [www.environmentireland.ie](http://www.environmentireland.ie)

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## Svalbard Global Seed Vault officially opened

By establishing the Svalbard Global Seed Vault at a cost of approximately NOK 50 million, Norway has contributed to establishing the ultimate safety net for the world’s plant genetic resources. The [seed-bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seedbank) is constructed 120 m inside a [sandstone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandstone) mountain on Spitsbergen Island not far outside Longyearbyen on the arctic archipelago of Svalbard. Spitsbergen was considered ideal due to its lack of [tectonic activity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plate_tectonics) and its [permafrost](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permafrost), which will aid preservation. The location 130 m above sea level will also ensure that the site remains dry even if the icecaps melt. Here three caverns have been converted into ideal seed storage chambers. They can hold almost 5 million seed packages. The natural temperature of minus 3-4 degrees centigrade the year round will be reduced to minus 18 and retained at this level which is considered the ideal temperature for long term storage. The bank employs a number of robust security systems. Seeds are packaged in special four-ply packets and heat sealed to exclude moisture. The facility is managed by the Nordic Genetic Resource Center although there are no permanent staff on-site. The Norwegian Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg, officially opened the facility earlier this year when he placed the first seeds in the vault on the 26 February. The purpose of the Seed Vault is to be the ultimate security net for the world’s plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

For further information: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/lmd/campain/svalbard-global-seed-vault.html?id=462220>

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## European Forest Week

The European Forest Week (20-24 October 2008) will be marked by events in Brussels, Rome and throughout Europe. The week highlights the contribution of European forests in mitigating the effects of climate change, providing wood and renewable energy, promoting fresh water supply and protecting the environment.   
The European Forest Week, declared by ministers responsible for forests in 46 European countries, is jointly organized by the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, in close collaboration with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the time of the event, France.  
Rome events (21-24 October) will feature discussions on forests and climate change, energy, water and "working together for forests."

Brussels events include a high-profile EU Presidency event (20 October), programmes by other European stakeholders and the European Economic and Social Committee (23 October).

In-country activities held simultaneously in participating countries throughout the region will highlight means of fully utilizing the potential of European forests. If you wish to organize an activity during the European Forest Week under its logo, register online: <http://www.europeanforestweek.org>. Detailed information about events taking place in Rome, Brussels and elsewhere will be updated regularly on the European Forest Week’s website: <http://www.europeanforestweek.org>. For more information, email efw@unece.org

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## From forest management to wood products and paper: The unique link against climate change

CEPI, CEIBois and CEPF have announced the first joint event organised by the entire forest chain designed to enhance co-operation and strengthen the sector’s messages on climate change ahead of the UN Forum of the Climate Change Convention COP-14 meeting in Poznan on 1-12 December 2008. The event on the theme *From forest management to wood products and paper: The unique link against climate change* will take place on 25 November 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel, Brussels, from 14.00-18.00

The programme will bring together speakers from the European Council, Parliament and Commission as well as industry experts. A full programme is currently being finalized.

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## International conference on bio-responses to address new climate and energy challenges

This conference will take place at Nancy, France, from 6 to 8 November 2008. The International Scientific Conference will have as its theme "The European Forest-based Sector: Bio-Responses to Adress New Climate and Energy Challenges". All information can be found on <http://www.gip-ecofor.org/nancy2008>. It is organised by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the frame of the French Presidency of the European Union.

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## DEMO international 2008

This is one of Canada's largest outdoor equipment shows featuring over 100 exhibitors on a 3 km loop in the forest for a three-day live exhibition of forestry-related equipment. Occurring only every four years, the 2008 will demonstrate live demonstrations of forestry equipment from September 18-20 at Ledwidge Lumber, a softwood sawmill operations, near the Halifax international airport. It is sponsored by the Canadian Woodlands Forum. Attracting any and all individuals interested in forestry from around the world, past DEMO shows have had 12,000-16,000 attendees. In addition, there is a two-day conference entitled *BIOENERGY: Developing Trends and New Opportunities for a Changing Forest Industry* on 16 and 17 September. For more information: <http://www.demointernational.com>

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## 2016 - Countdown to zero: Wood futures conference

The UK government says that from 2016 all new homes must be ‘zero carbon’ – and all commercial building three years later. But what does this mean for the construction industry and its suppliers? And is the goal achieveable? Following on from last year's successful event, the Wood Futures 2008 conference examines this vital topic from the timber trade perspective.

Speakers will tackle the following questions and more:

· What is zero carbon building ?

· What products will it demand from the timber and wood products sector?

· How will the zero carbon culture impact on existing buildings and the repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI) market?

· What demands will be placed on suppliers’ own environmental performance?

· What does zero carbon construction mean for the supply chain’s carbon footprint?

To book your place at the one-day conference at the Royal Festival Hall, London, please contact: John Andrews (tel: + 44 (0) 208 269 7769). For further information: <http://www.ttjonline.com/countdowntozero>

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