

 Forestry and Wood Update

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# Research Programme

# Project update

*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).*

## SANIFAC: Assessment and mitigation of soil and nutrient losses from acid-sensitive forest catchments

The objectives of the SANIFAC project are to assess the impact of forest harvesting on the receiving water quality and investigate the possible mitigation of nutrients losses through buffer zones, grass uptake and sizing of harvested area. Chemical, biological and soil baseline data are being collected in four 10 hectare catchments and a 0.1 hectare buffer zone in the Burrishoole Catchment, Newport, Co Mayo. Macro-invertebrates, diatoms and the primary productivity of periphyton are monitored seasonally in Glennamong and Srahrevagh rivers. Fifteen experimental plots, 7 x 20 m, have been established in the upstream catchment in Srahrevagh to study nutrient release after harvesting through the following treatments: (1) no brash and no seeded grass, (2) brash without seeded grass, (3) brash with seeded grass (4) seeded grass only and (5) brash taken away after 6 months. A field trial has been carried out to determine the most responsive grass species germinating from seed in a clearfelled forest peat area. Yorkshire Fog and Common Bent were the most successful species. The decomposition of five logging residues - fresh needles, large and small branches, roots and fallen needles - of lodgepole pine and Sitka spruce is being investigated using. more than 2000 litter bags that have been placed in the forest and harvested areas.*This article was contributed by Liwen Xiao Michael Rodgers, Mark O’Connor, Connie O’Driscoll and Zaki Asam. For further information, contact Liwen Xiao, Department of Civil Engineering, National University of Ireland, Galway, email:* *Liwen.xiao@nuigalway.ie**, tel: 091 493085.*

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Information and support services

# National forestry demonstration: tending and thinning of broadleaf woodlands

## 21 April – Summerhill, Co Meath

Teagasc, the Forest Service and COFORD are organising a national demonstration of tending and thinning of broadleaf woodlands at Summerhill, Co Meath, on Wednesday 21 April. This event is aimed at landowners who have broadleaf plantations at or near the age of first thinning. The event will also be beneficial to owners in general who want to envisage how their woodlands will develop. The following will be demonstrated and discussed:

* Growing trees for quality timber
* Timing of first thinning
* Preparation for thinning
* Getting the job done
* Wood chip heating system
* Produce end use, fuel wood, chips etc.

Meet at the Summerhill Community Centre, Summerhill, Co Meath. There will be group departures by bus to the site between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm. All are welcome. For more information, contact Kevin O’Connell, Teagasc Ballyhaise, Co Cavan, tel: 087 1216159.

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# The value of forest monitoring networks: Their role in a changing environment

## Workshop results in creation of Irish forest and woodland monitoring consortium

An open workshop was held on 4 March 2010 at the Glenview Hotel, Co Wicklow, to discuss the value of long-term forest monitoring networks in assessing the role of forestry in relation to key environmental issues. The aim of this workshop was to give an overview of Irish forest monitoring networks to date and to integrate past, current and future activities. The workshop was well received with over seventy participants from a wide range of disciplines. Topics included the National Forest Inventory (NFI), the native forest estate, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, phenology and biogeochemical cycles associated with forest ecosystems. An international perspective was given where similar topics from the United Kingdom and Denmark were covered. At a follow-up meeting, held to discuss the output from the workshop, it was agreed that an ‘Irish forest and woodland monitoring consortium’ would be created. The objectives of this consortium are to integrate past, current and future forest and woodland monitoring networks to provide a better understanding of forest ecosystem processes, forest services, biodiversity and sustainable forest use in a changing environment. The aims of the consortium are to address the issues of current and future policy needs with particular emphasis on international agreements dealing with greenhouse gases, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity in addition to other legislative issues such as the Water Framework Directive. The consortium will also provide enhanced visibility for all forest monitoring activities in Ireland improving the dissemination of information and providing a wider platform for international collaboration.

For more information, contact Matthew Saunders (email: matthew.saunders@ucd.ie)

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# National Forestry Conference 2010

## Download presentations or view webcast of event

Over 150 delegates attended the NFC held on 26 March at the Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny. Presentations can be downloaded or you can watch the conference via webcast - click on to www.coford.ie. The webcast is recommended to anyone who was unable to attend the National Conference on 26 March as it allows you to view the presentations in real time as well as look at the presentation slides.

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# Ireland faces critical shortage in wood supply

## Potential to produce more timber from Irish forests

Wood supply from Ireland’s forests is forecast to increase from 3.8 million cubic metres (m3) at present to 6.5 million m3 by 2028. However, despite this increase in output from our forests the current shortage in wood supply is set to grow to more than 1.8 million m3 per annum by 2018 according to forecasts presented at the National Forestry Conference. The forest processing industry is already experiencing difficulties in sourcing sufficient wood supply from Irish forests, reflected in the fact that over the past decade significant quantities of wood have been imported from Scottish forests. COFORD will soon be launching wood supply and demand forecasts for Ireland which will detail the increased wood supply and corresponding increasing demand leading to the potential wood shortage. The shortfall will have significant implications for the timber industry and the emerging wood energy market. The Government’s targets for renewable energy through biomass will be difficult to achieve from the wood energy sector despite Ireland’s ability to grow forests faster than most of the developed world. The Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) is encouraging forest owners to thin their forests as thinning falls due and called on the Government to open the support scheme for forestry in order to meet the current and future market demand in the sector.

The Society of Irish Foresters (SIF), the professional body of foresters in Ireland, points out that with only 10% of our land area under forest, Ireland has huge scope to plant more trees. In addition to providing climate change benefits by locking up carbon, forests also provide rural employment and many other significant economic and environmental benefits.

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# National and international news

# Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher opportunity for your company

## Support for small businesses available

If you own or manage a small limited company with a company registration number and you have a business opportunity or problem that you want to explore, why not apply for an Innovation Voucher worth €5,000? The objective of the Innovation Voucher initiative is to build links between Ireland's public knowledge providers and small businesses and create a cultural shift in the small business community's approach to innovation.Enterprise Ireland has announced that the Innovation Voucher Initiative is now running in Northern Ireland also. By linking up with Invest Northern Ireland, Enterprise Ireland can now offer voucher holders access to an additional 10 knowledge providers in Northern Ireland.For more information, visit www.innovationvouchers.ie.

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# Pro Silva Ireland public lecture and field day

## 23 and 24 April 2010 - Wicklow

'Foresters who introduced principles of close-to-nature management centuries ago, when nature was not considered endangered, were indeed farsighted and brave in their pioneering efforts.' So says Dr Jurij Diaci, Director of the Slovenian Forest Service, in his introduction in the excellent booklet "Forest Management by Mimicking Nature - How to conserve forests by using them" published by the Slovenian Forest Service. He goes on to say 'Well preserved and biologically diverse Slovenian forests are the pride of Slovenian forestry as well as a challenge to foresters to continue a good work of their predecessors.' And what predecessors the Slovenian foresters have, including Prof. Dr Dusan Mlinsek who was a founding member and in many ways the inspiration for Pro Silva Europe, which was founded twenty years ago in Slovenia. Dr Diaci is current Chairman of Pro Silva Slovenia and is Head of Chair for Silviculture for the Slovenian Department for Forestry. He was an adviser for sustainable, close-to-nature forestry for the Ministry for Environment during the Slovenian presidency of the EU and he has recently edited the publication, 'Nature based Forestry in Central Europe - Alternatives to Industrial Forestry and Strict Preservation'.

Dr Diaci will be giving a public lecture at the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow, on Friday 23 April, 7.30 - 8.30 pm. While giving a broad outline of the reasons that Close-to-Nature Silviculture is practiced in all Slovenian forests, Dr Diaci will concentrate on the Economics of Close-to-Nature forestry. For those interested in learning more about how to sustainably manage forests for profit, this is an essential event.

A field day will be held at Cloragh Farm, Nun’s Cross, Ashford, Co Wicklow, on Saturday 24 April, 11 am - 4 pm, with Dr Jurij Diaci, Director of the Slovenian Forest Service and Prof. Dr Jurgen Hüss Professor of Silviculture at University of Freiburg. Prof. Dr. Jurgen Hüss is well known to Irish forestry as an external examiner in UCD and through regular silvicultural assignments in Ireland. He is also co-author of the COFORD publication “Growing Broadleaves: Silvicultural Guidelines for Ash, Sycamore, Wild Cherry, Beech and Oak in Ireland”. In Germany, amongst many silvicultural appointments, he was Professor of Silviculture at the University of Freiburg.

Cloragh farm has just under 200 hectares of forestry. There is a large range of forest types, including native woodland in the Devil's Glen National Heritage Area and commercially operated mixed woodlands of Douglas fir, spruce, other broadleaves and conifers. There are also a number of new grant aided plantations. There is a long history of active forest management on the property and the woods are currently being transformed to continuous cover using close to nature management systems. There has been an annual programme of progressive transformative thinnings across the farm for approximately the last 10 years. This transformation is now at a critical stage as natural regeneration starts to occur and must find its way through competing vegetation and past herds of sika and fallow deer. In the meantime, the stability and profitability of all stands must be maintained.

As is usual at Pro Silva Ireland field days, a voluntary collection of €20 will be sought from attendees to help cover the cost of our guests from Slovenia and Germany.

For more information, email: prosilvaireland@gmail.com or visit [www.prosilvaireland.org](http://www.prosilvaireland.org)

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# 18th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition

## 3-7 May 2010 – Lyon, France

The conference programme for the 18th European Biomass Conference (3-7 May 2010) and Exhibition (3-6 May 2010) is available at www.conference-biomass.com. A total of 872 abstracts have been received for the 18th EU BC&E. Following the conclusions of the abstract review process, the international Conference Scientific Committee put together a challenging programme of over 800 plenary, oral and visual presentations. Each of the five conference days offers a wide-ranging variety of presentations on all areas of biomass. The conference programme covers:

* Biomass resources
* Biomass conversion to heat, electricity, and bio-products
* Fuels from biomass
* Industrial demonstration and market implementation
* Policies and ensuring sustainability

The 4th Biomass Industry Forum, taking place on Wednesday, 5 May, in conjunction with the 18th EU BC&E, is organised by the European Biomass Industry Association (EUBIA). This forum will highlight the perspectives for large scale utilization of biomass in sectoral markets. Industrial energy organizations (utilities, technology suppliers, biomass supplier, etc.) will be focal presenters of the forum.

For more information, contact: biomass.conference@etaflorence.it or visit www.conference-biomass.com.

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# Global embassy representatives gather in London for launch of independent journal World Agriculture

## New journal to explore scientific, economic and social evidence concerning agriculture and its interaction with forestry, climate change, population growth, migration, disease and ecology

Global embassy representatives are to gather in London on 1 April 2010 for the launch of World Agriculture www.world-agriculture.net, a peer-reviewed, completely independent, non-profit, journal, which will explore scientific, economic and social evidence concerning agriculture and its interaction with forestry, climate change, population growth, migration, disease and ecology. Embassies and High Commissions from South Africa, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Denmark, Canada, the US, Argentina and Ecuador among others, are already pledging their support for and interest in the Journal. The World Bank has also offered distribution support from its 15 centres located around the world.

Chairman of the Editorial Board, Professor Sir Colin Spedding, explains: "World Agriculture is not another specialist journal. It will provide policy makers and advisors, particularly in developing countries, with unbiased assessments of the impact of new technology, population and climate change on the development of world agriculture." Deputy Chairman and Editor of the Journal, Dr David Frape, explains: “There are a multitude of world problems which require independent thought. The consequences of inaction, or wrong decisions concerning these problems, could have very long term adverse consequences.”

Members of the Editorial Board also give their opinions on the launch:

Professor Paul Jarvis, FRS, from the University of Edinburgh’s School of GeoSciences, comments: “The two big issues facing mankind on planet earth today are Food Security and Climate Change. Both issues result from the large, on-going increase in the global population, itself a major issue, and are consequently highly likely to be with us for the foreseeable future. There are significant links, or common ground, between these two issues, and also some elements of competition. To increase food production to feed the increase in population, more land is required for agriculture. A major source of more agricultural land is conversion of forested land, particularly tropical forests in South America and the Far East. At present such land use change is responsible for one quarter (25%) of the emissions of carbon dioxide - the major GHG - to the atmosphere. This desperately needs to decrease.”

Professor Sir John Marsh comments: “It is the lesson of recent experience that the major issues confronting humanity need an approach which is both world wide and multidisciplinary. For too long we enjoyed the comfort of our own silos paying insufficient attention to policy issues affecting other communities and scientific progress in fields beyond our own. By providing a peer-reviewed forum in which these issues are brought together, World Agriculture will help to ensure a more balanced and realistic approach to the pressing issues of food supply, environmental impacts and climate change. World Agriculture will fill a unique role amongst independent, peer-review journals, namely the analysis and assessment of scientific and economic information for decision-makers – for example farmers, advisors, industrial leaders and policy makers - particularly those in developing countries.”

Editorial board member Dr Christie Peacock, a Tropical Agriculturalist and Chief Executive of FARM-Africa – http://www.farmafrica.org.uk - comments: “I welcome the launch of World Agriculture, it is a timely publication and I have every confidence that this independent journal will be a source of scientifically sound information, sensitive to current evidence on important agricultural issues. World Agriculture will be able to play a role in guiding the actions of policy-makers and practitioners alike.”

The journal will be published by Wharncliffe Publishing and its function will be to analyse and objectively assess peer-reviewed papers in several disciplines so that the relevant and related conclusions in the papers can be collated and combined. Some of the many issues to be addressed include:

* What should the EU and the USA do about agricultural subsidies that could harm agricultural production in developing countries?
* How should agricultural productivity of developing countries best be helped when many are likely to be affected by climate change to a much greater extent than is the productivity of temperate regions?
* Do biofuels have a role in improving the world’s carbon balance?
* World agricultural output has increased by approximately 30% during the past 60 years with a massive increase in the use of fossil fuels. With an expected increase in world population to 9.1 billion over the next few decades, how can the necessary increase in agricultural production be achieved without increasing fossil fuel use, whilst maintaining forests and an adequate natural ecological balance?
* What are appropriate ways for agro-forestry to improve the world’s carbon balance without affecting adequate food production to meet this increasing population?
* Are there valid reasons for the EU’s reluctance to permit GM products?
* What are the advantages of GM foods and those of ‘organic ‘foods?’

For further information, www.world-agriculture.net or email editor@world-agriculture.net

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# EFI positions in Finland and Brussels

## Experts required for EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Facility

The European Forest Institute is seeking three experts to reinforce its EU FLEGT Facility: A Deputy Manager, a Governance Expert and a Policy Analyst.

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation with 21 European member countries, and 126 associate member institutions. EFI headquarters are located in Joensuu, Finland and it has several regional offices across Europe including a FLEGT office (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and is establishing an office in Brussels. EFI is hosting and managing the EU FLEGT Facility, which has the role of supporting the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. The Facility is funded by the European Commission with co-funding from the Governments of the UK, Finland and Germany.

The Facility aims at having reforms adopted that improve governance and the functioning of markets, ensuring that illegal logging and associated trade which adversely affect the poor are adequately tackled. The Facility’s key work areas are (i) supporting the negotiation and implementation of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), bilateral trade agreements between the EU and timber product exporting countries, including analytical studies guiding the VPA processes and a communication portfolio, and (ii) implementing the regional FLEGT Asia support programme. To reinforce the Facility’s team, EFI intends to engage a Deputy Manager and a Policy analyst, both reporting to the Facility Manager, and a Governance expert, reporting to the Facility’s Senior Governance Expert.

The Deputy Manager will be part of the FLEGT Facility management team consisting of the Facility Manager, the Deputy Manager and the Administrative Manager. The Governance Expert will provide guidance to the VPA processes on legality assurance system design and implementation, including governance related and institutional issues, such as participatory policy development. The Policy Analyst will be responsible for the Facility’s analytical studies concerning the EU market and wider FLEGT questions (beyond VPA).

The Deputy Manager will be based at EFI HQ in Joensuu, Finland, and the other two experts will be based either at EFI HQ or at the EFI office in Brussels, with frequent travel within Europe and to FLEGT partner countries, mainly in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Interested candidates are requested to send an application letter and CV by 19 April 2010 to Niina Verkerk, Administrative Manager, EU FLEGT Facility, phone: +358-10-773.43.49, email: niina.verkerk@efi.int. For more information about the positions please contact Ralph M. Ridder, Manager, EU FLEGT Facility, phone +358-10-773.43.19, email: ralph.ridder@efi.int.

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# Taking forestry ‘uptown’

## Urban forests make important contribution to environmental concerns

Forestry is moving out of the country and into the cities. "More than half the world's population now lives in cities and towns and more forests are coming under urban influence. As foresters we'd better make sure we're prepared to work in urban settings," says Professor Cecil Konijnendijk of the University of Copenhagen.

Urban forests, in addition to making cities more attractive, promote human health and well-being, sequester carbon, filter pollutants from the air, provide shade, reduce wind and flooding, improve urban microclimates and protect urban drinking water resources. "Urban forests and trees are part of the solution to some of the big issues of the day," he says. "Think climate change, where urban vegetation can help cities adapt to higher temperatures, freak weather occurrences and the like; or trees producing food to help ease shortages in some developing countries.

"But," says Professor Konijnendijk, who will coordinate a session on promoting urban forest partnerships between scientists and communities at the 2010 IUFRO World Forestry Congress in Seoul, "we still lack knowledge about how trees grow in urban settings and what their optimum contributions are or can be in terms of the goods and services they provide. We need to find how to protect, design and develop them in a better way. We, as scientists, have to collaborate closely with those who plan and manage our urban forests".

See: <http://www.iufro.org/media/iwc2010-news-stories/mar10-forestry-uptown/>.

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