

COFORD Forestry and Wood Update

July, 2002 Volume 2 Issue 7

# Contents

1. [Broadleaf fieldday for Northern Ireland Forest Service](#_1._Visitors_from)
2. [Wood for Energy Conference](#_2._Wood_For)
3. [Steering Group on Broadleaves/Hardwoods](#_4._Steering_Group)
4. [Sixth EUFORGEN Noble Hardwoods Network Meeting](#_6._Sixth_EUFORGEN)
5. [Carbon Corner](#_4._IFIC_Annual)
6. [Sustainable Energy Opportunities under FP6](#_6._Sustainable_Energy)
7. [Forest IT](#_7._Forest_IT)
8. [Forestry in Northern Ireland - Consultation Paper](#_9._Protocol_for)
9. [Conference: The Perception of the Forest](#_10._Seminar_–)
10. [Australian International Forestry Event](#_6._IFIC_Annual)
11. [Forest Engineering Conference](#_12._Forest_Engineering)
12. [Vacancy: Qualified Forester](#_12._Vacancy:_Qualified)

# 1. Visitors from Forest Service, Northern Ireland

During June COFORD co-ordinated a visit by a group of foresters from the Northern Ireland Forest Service to a number of broadleaf forests (public and private) in the Mullingar area. The group was met by Prof. Padraic Joyce, author of “Growing Broadleaves – silvicultural guidelines for ash, sycamore, wild cherry, beech and oak in Ireland.”

The morning session consisted of a field visit to two sites – one close to Rochfordbridge and a second close to Crookedwood. The leaders for the morning were Hugo McCormick (Forest Manager – Green Belt) and Eddie Healy (Forestry Inspector – Forest Service). The Rochfordbridge site is a young plantation of approximately 39 ha of which approximately 15 are pure stands of ash and sycamore planted in 1992. Both species are performing very well and are at canopy closure. Many aspects of establishment, growing and the management of ash and sycamore were discussed.

The second site visited was at Crookedwood, and was planted in 1993. It consists of over 100 ha of pure blocks of oak, ash, sycamore and some common cherry. Discussion mainly focused on how oak quality can be achieved through proper management.

The afternoon session consisted of a visit to a number of beech stands in Mullaghmeen Property of Virginia Forest (Coillte). The leaders for the afternoon were P.J.Fitzpatrick (Team Leader/Resources – Coillte) and Brian Kennedy (Team Leader/Harvesting – Coillte). The first stop was a stand of beech originally planted in 1936 in mixture with larch. This stand was originally considered to be of poor quality but is now considerably improved following a recent selective thinning. The second stop in the afternoon was at a similar stand of beech planted one year later in 1937.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 2. Wood for Energy Conference

The programme for this event has now been finalised. Registration forms will be sent to all those who received an advanced notification from COFORD. Alternatively, the form may be downloaded from:

<http://www.coford.ie/newsandevents/White_Coal.pdf>

The programme is as follows:

Wednesday July 17th

* Full day training course ‘Wood Fuels Basic Information Pack’

Thursday July 18th

* Wood energy in Ireland and Europe – Status and Development
* Wood Fuel Procurement
* Site visits to Glennon Bros Sawmills and Masonite

Friday July 19th

* Wood for CHP Generation
* Wood for Heating
* Wood Pellets
* Site visit to whole-tree chipping demonstration in Sitka spruce thinning

Queries on the conference should be addressed to renewables@reio.ie or (023) 29146.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 3. Steering Group on Broadleaves/hardwoods

As part of its ongoing commitment to the development of all aspects of the forest industry in Ireland, COFORD is currently planning a two-day event on the management of broadleaves and the development and use of hardwood timber in Ireland. The overall objectives of the proposed event are:

* To bring the grower and future potential growers of broadleaves together with the processors and end users to increase the level of understanding of each others problems, practices, procedures and enterprises;
* To demonstrate effective stand management techniques so as to ensure the production of top quality logs;
* To showcase the range of products and potential products that are produced from home-produced hardwood logs;
* To build momentum towards a wood culture, particularly a hardwood culture in Ireland.

To progress this initiative a small working group has recently been established by COFORD. To date this group has had one meeting, with a second scheduled for later this week. However, if you have any particular views or suggestions on how the group should progress its task, please contact john.fennessy@coford.ie with your views.

 [Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 4. Report from Sixth EUFORGEN Noble Hardwoods Network Meeting

The Sixth meeting of the Network of Noble Hardwoods was recently held in Coulder de Alter, Alter do Chao, in eastern Portugal from 9th to 11th June. John Fennessy of COFORD attended the meeting. Representatives from 31 countries attended this year’s meeting and many items concerning noble hardwood gene conservation were discussed over the three days including:

* Country reports: Network members were divided into four working groups, and a representative of each of these working groups made a presentation, summarising the status and progress of gene conservation in the various countries represented.
* A proposed European master plan for forest gene conservation: the five Networks’ chairpersons originally suggested this proposal. It puts forward a new vision for future activities of EUFORGEN through the implementation of gene conservation programmes with voluntary agreements among countries.
* Technical guidelines for noble hardwoods gene conservation: After much discussion, the existing format for technical guidelines was retained. The EUFORGEN Secretariat then presented the results of an investigation on species distribution maps using different data sources.
* Research updates: Updates on research results were presented for a number of projects.
* Information management and public awareness: A number of suggestions on how to raise the public awareness of noble hardwoods were discussed. It was agreed that, where possible, EUFORGEN activities should be promoted through the press.

The meeting concluded with a field trip and visit to Natural Park of Serra da S.Memede on the Spanish border where the group made a number of stops including a Spanish chestnut (C*astanea sativa*) high forest, a number of riparian species (A*lnus glutinosa, Fraxinus angustifolia* and *Juglans regia*) and stand of Pyrennian oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*).

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 5. Carbon Corner

The sixteenth sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice and for Implementation (SBSTA and SBI respectively) under the UNFCCC process took place at Bonn during early June. As far as forestry was concerned, one of the main items on the agenda was the development of definitions and modalities for the inclusion of afforestation and reforestation under Article 12 (the Clean Development Mechanism [CDM]) of the Kyoto Protocol. Discussion focused on the report on the UNFCCC workshop on land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) in the CDM held at Orvieto in Italy in April (a note on the meeting is available on the UNFCCC web site <[www.unfccc.de](http://www.unfccc.de)>, as document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/4). Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/L.8) on the way forward for developing definitions and modalities for the inclusion of sinks in the CDM were agreed at the SBSTA 16 plenary.

The definitions and modalities for including afforestation and reforestation activities under the CDM in the first commitment period (2008-2012) will take account of:

* non-permanence (carbon sequestered in CDM projects may be lost once the project cycle comes to an end, natural events such as fire can lead to sink reversal during the project life-cycle);
* additionality (the need to show that sink projects are over and above business as usual);
* leakage (carbon may be lost outside the project boundary as a result of the project, displaced agricultural activity for example);
* uncertainties (this covers measurement uncertainty and risk);
* socio-economic and environmental impacts, including impacts on biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

The timetable for the work has been agreed with the first deadline - July 1 - being the preparation by the secretariat of an overview note cross-referencing a number of previous Conference of the Parties decisions on accounting, reporting and review aspects with items 1 (a) and 1 (c) in the annex to FCCC/SBSTA/2002/L.8. The second deadline is the submission by August 20 by Parties and other organisations of their views on issues related to modalities. The issue will be further discussed at SBSTA 17 in October of this year. A number of overview and compilation papers will be drafted by the secretariat based on the submissions and inputs at SBSTA 17. There is provision for a second submission on modalities by March 15, 2003.

A draft, consolidated text will be developed by the secretariat after the 2003 submissions. This will be elaborated as a draft negotiation text at SBSTA 18 in June 2003. A draft decision will be recommended at the 19th session of SBSTA in December 2003, for adoption by Conference of the Parties during the same period.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 6. Sustainable Energy Opportunities under FP6

Sustainable Energy Ireland (formerly Irish Energy Centre) informs us that €810 m is likely to be available for sustainable energy projects under the EU Sixth Framework Programme. The programme’s indicative research priorities in sustainable energy are:

* Clean energy – particularly renewables
* Energy savings and energy efficiency
* Alternative motor fuels, particularly in the fields of biofuels
* Cost efficient capture and sequestration of CO2 associated with cleaner energy plants

Further details are available at [www.cordis.lu/rtd2002](http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002)

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 7. Forest IT

Finpro, an association for Finnish trade promotion is organising Forest Information Technology 2002 – International Congress and Exhibition. The event will be held on September 3-4 in Helsinki. Among the wide-ranging presentations there will be some that will hold significant relevance to Irish forestry. The use of IT in Irish forestry lags behind other EU states and this exhibition will showcase best practise.

 For further information please visit [www.ForestIT.net](http://www.ForestIT.net) or email forestit@finpro.fi

 [Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 8. Forestry in Northern Ireland – Consultation Paper

Ms Bríd Rodgers, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development within the Northern Assembly, has launched *Forestry in Northern Ireland* - a consultation paper about forest policy.

 In the foreword to report she states: “It describes the options and makes recommendations on many aspects of forest policy. The paper complements the objectives set out in the Programme for Government and addresses the forestry issues in Vision for the future of agriculture. As you read the paper I hope you will see how forestry can contribute to the Regional Development Strategy, to sustainable development, to conserving and enhancing biodiversity, and promoting social inclusion. However you may feel there is more to be done. I will be particularly interested to receive your views on how forests should be developed in terms of the emphasis given to industry, to the environment and to social needs. I am also keen to hear your views on the desirable extent of forestry over the next ten years or so, within the limits of what is affordable.”

The report may be downloaded at:

<http://www.forestserviceni.gov.uk/consultations/policy/consult.pdf>

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 9. Conference: The Perception of the Forest

A French-Swedish project entitled *Urban Woods for People* is being funded by the European Community’s LIFE-Environment programme. The project leaders have asked us to draw your attention to an international conference to be held in Paris, November 25-27. The conference will cover two primary issues:

* Forest recreation, and
* Receiving the public in the forest (understanding the aspirations of public groups for better forest management).

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 10. Australian International Forestry Event

More than 10,000 visitors from 30 countries are expected to attend AusTimber in 2004, according to managing director Ron Limb. AusTimber is Australia’s only international conference and exhibition for the forest industries, and is held every four years. It will be held in Albury, NSW, from March 29 to April 3rd, 2004.

AusTimber was last held in March 2000 with 800 companies from 13 countries represented at the exhibition, while the conference attracted 550 delegates from 27 countries. The exhibition had a wide range of harvesting machinery and sawmilling equipment on display, plus trucks, trailers and associated forestry products and services. Delegates to the conference had a choice of more than 50 presentations from local, national and international speakers.

Planning for AusTimber 2004 is now well underway and over 50 companies have already booked sites for the exhibition, which has been expanded to three days including in-forest demonstrations of machinery. The two-day conference will include four subject streams - forest operations, sawmilling, transport and farm forestry. Guest speakers from Australia and overseas will focus on the practical aspects of running a forestry business. A major international investment seminar will also run during the week of AusTimber.

Those interested in more information on AusTimber can visit the web site [www.austimber2004.com](http://www.austimber2004.com).

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

# 11. Forest Engineering Conference

Our friends at SkogForsk have asked us to bring the following conference to your attention:

Awareness of the relationship between operational efficiency and business success has grown rapidly. Cost efficient forest operations are recognized worldwide to be one of the major prerequisites for the forest industry to stay in business. At the same time, safeguarding biodiversity and regenerating new, healthy, valuable forests is a must.

We have to continuously adjust our operational methods and systems to changing forest management practises. We also need to apply the latest technology to perform and support the chain of activities from the forests to the end users of our products. Furthermore the technical and organizational development in the forestry sector must go hand-in-hand.

The growing interest in forest engineering was successfully demonstrated at the 1st FEC in Scotland in 1999. SkogForsk has proudly accepted the responsibility for the 2nd FEC to be held in Sweden in 2003.

The objective of the FEC is to present and discuss the state-of-the-art both in practice and R&D within a variety of disciplines related to forest operations. The conference aims to achieve this objective by addressing the following topics:

## Techniques and Methods

• Stand establishment • Logging • Transportation and forest roads • Man-machine interaction • Ergonomics • Automation • Environmental Impact

## Logistics

• Supply chain management • The digital information chain • Logging and transport planning • Road network planning • GIS and GPS applications • Optimisation tools

## Raw Material Utilisation

• Customer focus • Cross cutting to value • Wood and fibre properties • Tree processing techniques for quality • Forest fuels

## Organizational Development

• Quality management • Business development • Contracting • Competence supply, training and certification • Work safety

If you are interested in presenting a paper or a poster on any of the topics above, you are most welcome to submit a one-page abstract with a title before September 20th, 2002. An International Programme Committee will evaluate the abstracts. Please submit abstracts to maria.iwarsson@skogforsk.se

The event will run from May 12–15 2003 and will be held in Växjö, Sweden.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

### 12. Vacancy: Qualified Forester

Commercial Forestry Services Ltd. has an opening for a qualified forester to join their expanding forestry consultancy team. The successful candidate will have some post qualification experience in various aspects of forestry management and will be able to demonstrate a high degree of self-motivation and interpersonal skills. He/she will be responsible for the provision of a comprehensive range of forestry consultancy and advisory services, including involvement in the practice’s current activities:

* Consultancy to some of the largest private forest estates in Ireland;
* Forestry valuation and investment advisory services;
* Marketing and measurement of timber sales;
* Operation of technical directorate for the ITGA.

An attractive salary and benefits are offered with the post. Interested people should apply in writing no later than July 26th, 2002, enclosing a CV to:

Commercial Forestry Services Ltd.

17, Castle Street

Dalkey

Co Dublin

A full driving licence is essential.

[Back to List of Contents](#_Contents)

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