

**COFORD Forestry and Wood Update**

August 2002; Volume 2 Issue 8

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# COFORD Connects series

The latest batch of six COFORD Connects is due to be distributed. These notes, and the updated contents page, should be added to your purpose-made folder for easy reference. If you do not already subscribe to the COFORD Connects series, and would like to do so, please send an email to admin@coford.ie, or submit the application form on the COFORD website, under the Bookshop option (<http://www.coford.ie>). Titles of the latest notes are:

*Silviculture and forest management:*

* The green spruce aphid – a pest of spruce in Ireland.
* Silviculture of broadleaves.
* Establishing broadleaves.

*Socio-economic aspects of forestry:*

* Wood as a renewable source of energy.

*Wood processing and product development:*

* The general principles of timber usage.
* Energy efficiency of timber frame housing.

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# How many trees does it take to use up car emissions?

*This is a question often asked by environmentalists and foresters alike, to which there have been many contradictory answers. In an attempt to correctly address this question, COFORD offers the following calculation:*

Based on figures published by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the emissions from an average family car are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Greenhouse Gas** | **Emission rate****(kg/mile)** |
| Carbon Monoxide (CO) | 0.0209 |
| Oxides of Nitrogen | 0.0014 |
| Carbon Dioxide (CO2) | 0.4160 |

The concept of Global Warming Potential (GWP) has been developed to compare the ability of each greenhouse gas to trap heat in the atmosphere relative to carbon dioxide (consistent with International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines). Global Warming Potentials are not provided for CO because there is no agreed method to estimate the contribution of this gas. CO does not have a direct global warming effect, but indirectly affects terrestrial radiation absorption by influencing the formation and destruction of tropospheric and stratospheric ozone.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Greenhouse Gas**  | **GWP** |
| Carbon Monoxide | - |
| Oxides of Nitrogen | 310 |
| Carbon Dioxide | 1 |

Combining the impact of average car emissions we can calculate a total carbon dioxide equivalent of all emissions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Greenhouse Gas**  | **Emission rate****(kg/mile)** | **GWP** | **CO2 Equivalent** |
| Carbon monoxide | 0.0209 | - | - |
| Oxides of nitrogen | 0.0014 | 310 | 0.434 |
| Carbon dioxide | 0.4160 | 1 | 0.416 |

The total CO2 equivalent of all gases emitted is, therefore, 0.85 kg per mile. Knowing that 1 tonne of CO2 contains 0.272 tonnes of carbon, we can calculate that carbon emitted is 0.23 kg/mile. Given that, on average, a car travels 12,500 miles per year, the total carbon released is 2,895 kg (2.895 tonnes).

One hectare of yield class (YC) 24 Sitka spruce stores, on average, 4.4 t C/ha/year. Therefore it takes 0.65 ha of forest to compensate for the global warming potential of the emissions from one car per year.

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# Report of Third EUFORGEN Steering Committee Meeting

The third Steering Committee meeting of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) was recently held in Jonkoping, Sweden. COFORD’s John Fennessy was one of the national representatives from 34 countries who attended, along with a number of international observers and representatives of the EUFORGEN Secretariat.

Several important issues in relation to the progress of forest genetic resources conservation in European countries were highlighted and discussed. This was mainly in the context of progress made during Phase II of EUFORGEN, of which this meeting was the mid-term review. Among the important issues discussed were:

* Mid-phase technical and financial progress report. The secretariat presented a comprehensive progress report covering the first part of Phase II. Currently, 32 countries are full technical members of EUFORGEN. Representatives of all countries present participated in a lively discussion of the report, after which it was adopted by the meeting.
* International policy frameworks. Presentations were made by a number of invited speakers on recent international developments impacting on forest genetic resources. Pierre Sigaud (FAO) presented a report on the status and role of forest genetic resources internationally. Csaba Matyas (Hungary) presented a report on the outcome of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Lennart Ackzell (Sweden) made a presentation on the new EU Directive on Forest Reproductive Material and its implications for genetic conservation.
* Evaluation of progress made by different Networks. There was a review of progress made by all five Networks. In general, it was agreed that the activities developed within all Networks reflected common needs. The Networks were encouraged to develop co-operation with non-governmental organisations.
* Collaboration with non-participating countries. Participation from non-member countries in Network activities was encouraged, based on a task-oriented invitation, provided that specific funds are available to cover associated costs.
* Survey of national programmes on forest genetic resources. Results of the international survey, held recently among EUFORGEN members, were discussed. Progress was highlighted in several areas when compared with a similar baseline survey undertaken in 1998.
* The wider influence of EUFORGEN. It was acknowledged that the wider influence of EUFORGEN Networks was substantial, especially in the areas of new research projects, capacity building and other networking
* The future-EUFORGEN beyond phase II. Here the discussion was based on a proposal prepared by Network Chairs for the Steering Committee meeting. Steering Committee members expressed their support, in principle, for the proposal and suggestions were made for improvement in a few areas where weaknesses were identified. The Steering Committee decided to create a task force to examine the proposal and this task force will, after consultation with members, produce a short reviewed version of the strategy by 30 September 2002.

The meeting concluded with an expression of thanks to the host country, Sweden, for their hospitality. Special thanks were extended to the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication, the National Board of Forestry and the local organisers. The meeting concluded by setting a provisional date for the next Steering Committee meeting to be held in May/June 2004. The Czech Republic extended an invitation for this meeting to take place there.

For further information on this meeting, or about EUFORGEN, please contact john.fennessy@coford.ie

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# GriffnerHomes enters a joint venturewith Coillte Teoranta

GriffnerHaus, a business active in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Italy, now has a presence on the Irish market, producing and selling prefabricated houses under the product name “GriffnerHomes”. GriffnerHaus and Coillte Teoranta Enterprises in Dublin have entered into a 50:50 joint venture, known as Griffner Coillte, and based at Mullingar. GriffnerHaus will contribute its technical know-how to the manufacture of the Irish “GriffnerHomes” and adapt its design and architecture to Irish needs, and Coillte will handle the commercial management and sales. It is planned to produce 200 high-quality prefabricated homes per year in the medium term, with delivery of the first house planned for the second quarter of 2003. For further information, contact wthelian@griffnerhaus.com

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# Carbon Corner

In the international process, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a number of steps are taken by Parties to the Kyoto Protocol before they make their final commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Ratification is the final, legally binding, stage whereby those Parties with reduction commitments agree to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to the level that is set out in the protocol. Ireland’s target is to have its annual emissions of greenhouse gases over the period 2008-2012 at 60.74 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent (13% above the 1990 level).

The European Union had decided to ratify the Kyoto protocol before the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the end of August this year). National processes were put in place in all EU Member States following the agreement of the Marrakesh Accords last November. At the end of May this process was complete, allowing all Member States to lodge their ratification with the UNFCCC on 31 May.

For the Kyoto Protocol to enter into force and become legally binding it must be ratified by at least 55 Parties to the Convention, including industrialized countries representing at least 55% of the total 1990 carbon dioxide emissions. Following EU ratification, Iceland ratified on 23 May, Norway on 30 May and, very significantly, Japan on the 4 June. As of 24 July, 76 Parties had ratified the protocol, including 22 industrialised countries, accounting for 36% of the required CO2 emissions.

The target 55% of base year emissions will be reached if the Russian Federation and Poland ratify. Carbon Corner’s view is that both Parties will ratify within the next two years. The protocol will then enter into force ninety days after the target level of 55% of base year emissions has been reached. This event will probably herald increased activity in carbon trading, and in the use of the mechanisms established under the protocol, such as emissions trading and joint implementation (see earlier issues of Carbon Corner available on the COFORD web site).

An updated list of Parties which have ratified the protocol is available on the UNFCCC website <http://unfccc.int/resource/kpstats.pdf>

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# CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

## Wood for Energy Seminar

This event was held on 17, 18 and 19 July at Carrick-on-Shannon, and was facilitated by Sustainable Energy Ireland’s Renewable Energy Information Office in conjunction with COFORD. A full day training course “Wood Fuels Basic Information Pack” was held on 17 July. On 18 July the seminar addressed *Wood energy in Ireland and Europe – status and development*; and *Wood fuel procurement*, with site visits to Glennon Bros Sawmills and Masonite in the afternoon. On 19 July Dr Eugene Hendrick, the Director of COFORD, outlined issues in relation to wood supply and the potential for wood energy. He chaired the session during which topics included *Wood for combined heat and power (CHP) generation; Wood for heating;* and *Wood pellets*. During the session, Paul Kellett, from the Renewable Energy Information Office, launched a €16.25 million programme of support for research, development and demonstration on renewable sources of energy and related topics (see next article).

The event included a demonstration of whole-tree chipping in a private forest of 13-year-old Sitka spruce. The discussion, led by Joe O’Carroll (COFORD), focussed on the merits of carrying out early thinnings from a wood quality perspective. Jim Quinlivan of the Forest Service spoke about the pruning grant that is currently available for private growers. Further demonstrations of other possible chipping/early thinning systems will be conducted over the next 12 months. This supply-side activity must be matched by the development of markets for woodchips from early thinnings. To this end, Marie-France Clave, of Biomasse Normandie, gave a very interesting presentation on the use of wood chips in southern Normandie, an area with forest cover similar to Ireland. In that region there are many heating plants fuelled solely by wood chips, and typically the heating plants were in the range of 1 to 2 MW and heated hospitals or other large buildings. A 1.2 MW plant would need about 2,000 tonnes of fresh woodchip per annum. Assuming that whole-tree chipping of early thinnings yielded about 40 tonnes per hectare, it would only require 5 private plantations of 10 hectares each to be thinned each year to supply all the heating requirements for a large hospital, for example. This is certainly a system that has potential to be developed in Ireland.

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## Renewable Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Strategy and Call for Proposals

Sustainable Energy Ireland promotes and assists environmentally and economically sustainable production, supply and use of energy in Ireland. The National Development Plan has made funding provision of €222-million to support implementation of the government's sustainable energy policy through Sustainable Energy Ireland. Under this policy, a €16.25-million programme of support for research, development and demonstration on renewable sources of energy and related topics has been launched. A strategy setting the objectives, content, and priorities for the programme is now available at [www.irish-energy.ie](http://www.irish-energy.ie) together with a Call for Proposals Information Pack. Proposals for assistance with funding of research, development and demonstration projects are invited. Conditions of eligibility and funding assistance available are laid out in the Strategy and Information Pack. Applications should be made on the form enclosed in the Information Pack, in electronic format, to:

Fund's Programme Administrator
Renewable Energy RD&D Programme
Sustainable Energy Ireland
Glasnevin, Dublin 9
E-mail: rerdd@irish-energy.ie

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## Forest Service offer Feasibility Study Funding for Wood Biomass Energy Projects

Following the success of the event at Carrick-on-Shannon, and further to advice from COFORD, the Forest Service is about to launch a feasibility study funding programme for projects with the potential to utilise large volumes of wood biomass.

The Forest Service of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources is responsible for administering grants under the Forestry Measure of the Regional Operational Programmes 2000-2006 and the National Development Plan. The National Development Plan has provision for €32.5-million under the Forestry Development sub-measures to “provide the back-up supports required for the full realisation of the objectives of the overall measures”. The sub-measures are also designed to “contribute to the development of the forestry sector”. The objectives of the sub-measures include support for:

* Pilot projects, studies and initiatives concerned with forestry development;
* Projects aimed at developing innovative use of forestry products and by-products, and alternative timber use.

In line with these objectives, applications are hereby invited from individuals and/or organisations for support for feasibility studies for energy projects utilising wood biomass derived within the Republic of Ireland. To obtain a Scoping Document and Guidelines for Applications, please contact:

Philip Carr or Gerry Smullen
Forest Service
Dept Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford
Tel +353-53-60180; LoCall 1890-20 02 23
Email: philip.carr@dcmnr.gov.ie; or gerard.smullen@dcmnr.gov.ie
The closing date for receipt of applications is 30 August 2002.

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# COFORD EVENTS COMING UP

## Managing broadleaves and the utilisation of home-grown hardwoods

As part of its commitment to develop all aspects of the forest industry in Ireland, COFORD will hold a two-day event on managing recently established broadleaved woodland for production of quality wood and its fullest utilisation. The overall objectives of the event are:

* to bring growers and processors of hardwoods together so that each has a better understanding of the other’s problems,
* to demonstrate effective management techniques for the production of quality hardwood logs,
* to develop a wood culture in Ireland and in particular a hardwood culture.

Earlier this year, a steering committee was established, under the chairmanship of COFORD, to examine ways to achieve these objectives. A number of meetings have already taken place and suitable sites are being sought at present. While arrangements are not yet finalised, this event is likely to take place in the Lough Key area on 10 and 11 October 2002. Further details will follow closer to the event. Comments or suggestions should be directed to john.fennessy@coford.ie

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## ITGA/COFORD Joint Annual Seminar

Following the success of last year’s event, COFORD will once again co-host the ITGA Annual Seminar on 14 November 2002. The title of this year’s seminar is “*Forest Regulation - a threat to production forestry?”*

The draft programme is as follows:

* The impact of new and planned environmental procedures and regulations on afforestation and forest management in Ireland. *Kevin Hutchinson, Manager Sales and Marketing, Coillte Forestry Services.*
* Forest Regulation in other European countries -possible lessons for Ireland. *Henry Philips, Consultant, Irish Forest Industry Chain.*
* The impact of forest regulation and policy on the economics of forestry from an international investor’s perspective. *Mike Mosman, Vice President of Resources at Port Blakely, USA, and New Zealand.*
* Regulating our forest resource - where to from here? *Forest Service speaker (to be confirmed), Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.*
* The importance of timber production within EU forest policy. *Joost Van de Velde, DG Environment, Nature and Biodiversity Section.*

Registration forms will be sent out soon.

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## Biodiversity Conference

BIOFOREST is a five-year project on forestry and biodiversity that has already been running for almost two years. It is being co-funded by COFORD and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The project is directed by Prof. Paul Giller and Dr John O'Halloran of UCC, in collaboration with Dr Daniel Kelly and Dr Frazer Mitchell (TCD) and Dr Aileen O'Sullivan and Pat Neville (Coillte). The three key components of the project are:

1. the impact of afforestation on biodiversity;
2. the changes to biodiversity throughout the forest rotation;
3. the enhancement of biodiversity in plantation forestry.

COFORD, as joint funder of this project, will host a seminar on “*Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in plantation forests*” on 24 October 2002 in Cork City. Further details will shortly.

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## Insects affecting reforestation

COFORD is co-funding the IUFRO Working Party S7.03.03 conference on “Recent advances in research on *Hylobius abietis*, the large pine weevil” will be held from 14 to 18 August 2002 at the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) in Galway.

The programme includes the following presentations, as well as a field visit demonstrating the *Hylobius* problem in Ireland (hosted by Coillte):

* *The Swedish Pine Weevil Research Program*. Göran Nordlander, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala.
* *Silviculture and pine weevil damage*. Göran Örlander, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Asa Forest Research Station, Lammhult.
* *Host-plant acceptance on mineral soil and humus by the pine weevil*. Niklas Björklund, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala.
* *Differences in pine weevil population and pine weevil attack on burnt and conventional clearfellings in Sweden*. Henrik von Hofsten, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden, Uppsala.
* *Hylobius abietis feeding: recovering ability of Norway spruce seedlings*. Heli Viiri, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Suonenjoki Research Station.
* *Hylobius abietis: factors influencing populations and movement*. Roger Moore, Forestry Commission, UK.
* *Interactions between biological control agents of pine weevil*. I. Armendariz, C.J. Henry, M.J. Downes and C.T. Griffin, NUI Maynooth.
* *Use of entomopathogenic nematodes against pine weevil in Ireland*. A. Dillon, M.J. Downes and C.T. Griffin, NUI Maynooth.
* *Patterns of parasitism by Perilitus areolaris, a parasitoid of adult pine weevils*. Helena Bylund, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala.
* *Feeding barriers for protection of seedlings against pine weevil damage*. Magnus Petersson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Asa Forest Research Station, Lammhult.
* *The effect of resin on adult weevil feeding behaviour.* Jack Johnston, Dave Wainhouse and Keith Day, University of Ulster and Forestry Commission, UK.
* *Electrophysiological recordings of chemoreceptors of the pine weevil*. Atle Wibe, Norwegian University for Science and Technology, Trondheim.
* *Population genetic structure and adaptation to host plants*. Guy Lempérière, Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France.
* *Recognition and avoidance of pesticide treated food sources by Hylobius abietis*. Daniel Rose and Simon Leather, Imperial College, London, UK.
* *Control of* Hylobius abietis *with insecticides - review of new results from Denmark and Sweden.* Paul Christiansen, PC-Consult, Borup, Denmark.
* *Chemical and microbial control of Hylastes ater in New Zealand*. Steve Reay.
* *Discussion on research collaboration. Integration of research activities on Hylobius within the EU Sixth Framework Programme.* Keith Day, University of Ulster, N Ireland.

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# OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

## Restoring planted ancient woodland sites

The Woodland Trust and British Ecological Society are jointly hosting a conference on 18 and 19 September 2002 at Warwick University on "Restoring planted ancient woodland sites". Last century more than a quarter of our ancient woods were planted with conifers, with dramatic effects on their ecology. Now restoration is becoming an issue of interest to foresters and conservationists alike. Timber certification schemes and our biodiversity commitments both require some restoration of planted ancient woodland sites. The Woodland Trust recently released a report "Reclaiming our forgotten inheritance: the race to save Britain's hidden woodland treasures" which highlights the fact that most conifer plantations on ancient woodland sites will be ready for felling within the next ten years. This presents an opportunity to restore these sites, but there are many questions to be answered. Speakers from the Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise, Oxford Forestry Institute, and others will address these questions at the conference. A conference flyer and booking form can be downloaded from the Trust's website [www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk)

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## Wood based materials

On 19 and 20 September 2002, WOOD *Kplus*, together with COST Action E13, is hosting the international symposium "Wood based Materials - Wood Composites and Chemistry", in Vienna, Austria. The symposium is established as a forum where international experts can meet with academic and industrial experts from Wood *Kplus* and COST Action E13. Within the large field of wood based materials, the symposium will cover:

• Solid wood modification and processing;

• Adhesives and gluing;

• Compound materials;

• Wood chemistry;

• Biotechnology.

More information can be found at: <http://www.wood-kplus.at>

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## Annual Convention of the Institute of Wood Science (IWSC)

With technological advancement rapidly improving the scope and application of timber and wood products, this year's IWSC Convention will have a wide-ranging appeal to manufacturers, engineers, architects, designers and those in the supply chain, e.g. timber importers, agents and merchants. Eminent speakers from the world of architecture, design and industry will discuss this year's convention theme “*How Does Wood Help Sustain the Built Environment?”* Session themes are: “Wood and the environment”, “Wood treatments/coating systems - their environmental impact” and “Wood in the built environment - case studies by leading architects/ engineers”. This convention is open to non-members and will be held from 10 to 11 October 2002 at the Hilton Hotel, Cardiff. Further information is available at http://[www.iwsc.org.uk](http://www.iwsc.org.uk)

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## BioMarket: Market expansion strategiesfor solid and liquid biofuels in Europe

This conference will be held from 5 to 7 November 2002 at Skellefteå, Sweden. The conference provides an opportunity for experts from the EU to share their knowledge of the biofuel market and to plan an effective future. Technical sessions will cover “Large-scale use of solid biofuels”, “Use of liquid biofuels” and “Small- and medium-scale use of solid biofuels”. More information, as well as a registration form, is available at <http://www.skekraft.se>

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## ENVIRON 2003

The 13th Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium will be held from 8 to 10 January 2003, at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The colloquium is an annual event run under the auspices of the Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland (ESAI). The first call for abstracts has been made, and papers will be considered on any environmental topic under the following general headings: Water; Air; Waste and waste management; Agriculture and forestry; Marine and coastal research; Environmental monitoring analysis; Ecosystem management; Society and economy. The abstracts should be submitted to Environ2003@nuigalway.ie. For more information, visit [www.nuigalway.ie/eci/environm2003.htm](http://www.nuigalway.ie/eci/environm2003.htm).

COFORD is pleased to be associated with this important event and will continue with its annual award for the best poster dealing with forestry and the environment.

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## Decision support for multiple purpose forestry

This trans-disciplinary conference on the development and application of decision support tools for forest management will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 23 to 25 April 2003. The conference will be jointly organised by the Institute of Silviculture at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Vienna, the US Forest Service and IUFRO working groups 4.11.03 and 1.05.06. The goal of the conference is to demonstrate how scientific knowledge is applied to improve decision-making processes about multiple-purpose forest management, to assess applications of decision support systems (DSS) in multiple-purpose forestry, and to encourage the exchange of new ideas about decision support processes and their application tools in sustainable forest management.

This conference will cover the issue of decision support for multiple-purpose forest management by:

* Reviewing the "state of the art" in the field of decision support in forest management;
* Discussing strategic and operational planning approaches;
* Assessing the impacts of silvicultural and forest management alternatives: the application, evaluation, and validation of simulation models at stand and landscape level;
* Comparing decision alternatives including multiple-criteria techniques (MCA);
* Presenting knowledge management approaches;
* Investigating decision models and DSS-generators;
* Enhancing and encouraging international collaboration.

Further information about this conference can be found at [http://waldbau.boku.ac.at.iufro](http://waldbau.boku.ac.at.iufro/).

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## Forest action at AusTimber 2004

From 29 March to 3 April 2004, more than 40 forest machines will be in action at in-forest demonstrations at AusTimber 2004. The demonstrations will be held at Koetong in the Hancock Victorian Plantations, Shelley forest region. The site is about a one hour drive from Albury, and has been made available by Hancock Victorian Plantations.

The demonstrations will be held in a predominantly final fell plantation, with the opportunity to also demonstrate machines in first and second thinnings. An area has also been set aside for chippers, mulchers and site preparation equipment. Enquiries from those interested in demonstrating forest equipment should be directed to Ron Limb (email: info@austimber2004.com). For more information about AusTimber 2004, visit [www.austimber2004.com](http://www.austimber2004.com).

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# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

## IUFRO Executive Secretary

IUFRO is seeking to appoint an Executive Secretary to serve as its chief executive officer based at the headquarters in Vienna, Austria, located at the Austrian Federal Office and Research Centre for Forests (BFW), A-1140 Mariabrunn. The Executive Secretary works closely with the IUFRO President and Board to oversee the work of the union, develop and promote policies and position statements related to forest science, co-ordinate the union’s international networking and co-operation activities, and manage the Secretariat and headquarters operations in co-operation with the host institution (BFW). The Executive Secretary reports to the President and the IUFRO Board.

Candidates should be familiar with forest science and the international forums in which forest policies are debated. The new Executive Secretary will formally take up the office on 1 November 2003, upon the retirement of Dipl. Ing. Heinrich Schmutzenhofer, the present Executive Secretary.

Applications and queries related to the position should be addressed to:

Prof. Dr. Risto Seppälä
IUFRO President
Metla
Unioninkatu 40 A
FIN-00170 Helsinki
Finland
Tel: +358-9-85705330; Fax: +358-9-85705717;
Email: risto.seppala@metla.fi

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## Project officer: Timber Transport Forum

The UK Forest Industries Development Council is currently seeking a Project Officer to run the Timber Transport Forum, to manage and progress timber transport logistics initiatives throughout Great Britain.
This would make an ideal secondment opportunity for one to two years. The post is based in Edinburgh, Scotland. The main objective of the Forum is to share information on topics of common concern and agree collaborative action. This is achieved through:

* facilitating communications between the Regional Timber Transport Groups;
* disseminating information about the work of the Regional Transport Groups and other timber transport initiatives;
* identifying international best practice and promoting innovative thinking;
* establishing working groups to address specific issues;
* holding an annual meeting to review progress and plan future actions.

Visit <http://www.fidc.org.uk/timber_transport> for more information or contact Dr Tore Högnäs
Tel: +44 –131-220 9294; Fax: +44-131-220 9291;
Email: tore.hognas@fidc.org.uk

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## Assistant Professor:Wood mechanics / Timber engineering

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is seeking applications for the position of Assistant Professor in Wood Mechanics/Timber Engineering, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products.

The successful candidate is expected to develop a nationally recognised research programme in the areas of wood mechanics and structural timber engineering focused on the efficient and effective use of wood and wood-based composites in buildings. Teaching responsibilities include graduate and undergraduate classes on the mechanical properties of wood and timber engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to publish in refereed journals, pursue extramural funding, participate in local, regional and national meetings of professional societies, serve as major professor for graduate students, and serve on graduate committees. Candidates should have a PhD in wood science, forest products, timber engineering, civil engineering, structural engineering or closely allied fields, with demonstrated experience in wood mechanics/timber engineering.

For further information, contact Dr Joseph R. Loferski,
Professor and Chair, Search Committee
Department of Wood Science and Forest Products
College of Natural Resources, Virginia Tech
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