

Forestry and Wood Update

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# Annual Conference:Wood Energy 2003

Following on from the success of last year’s ***Wood Energy*** Conference in Carrick-on-Shannon, COFORD and Sustainable Energy Ireland have combined forces again to host ***Wood Energy 2003***. The event will be held at the offices of the EPA at Johnstown Castle Estate in Wexford on 10 and 11 July 2003.

Seminar sessions on Wood Energy in Ireland and Europe; Wood-fuelled CHP; Wood Pellets; and Wood Heating, will include presentations on:

* *Wood energy in Europe –* William Gillett*,* European Commission
* *Energy situation in Ireland - the potential, drivers and targets of wood energy -* Aine Carr, Sustainable Energy Ireland, Renewable Energy Information Office
* *Wood energy in Ireland - current and potential resource and its optimisation -* Joe O’Carroll, COFORD
* *Modern wood fuel procurement - the Finnish experience and European quality standards for wood fuels -* Eija Alakangas, Secretary CEN TC/335 Working Group 2, VTT
* *Wood waste potential – the French experience -* Julie Brassoud, ITEBE (European Institute for Wood Energy)
* *Practical experiences in the use of forest fuels for large-scale CHP -* Koos Lichtendork, Siemens
* Boiler technology for biomass CHP - Raimo Hopia, Kvaerner Power Oy
* *Explosion of a wood pellets market in Europe -* Christian Rakos, EVA
* *Technology for wood pellet production* - Lars Bloch, Sprout Matador
* *Austrian pellet stove and boiler technology -* Karl Heinz Lesch, CONNESS
* *Pellet distribution to heating plants and domestic consumers* - Ake Andersson, SABI Pellets AB
* *Small and medium-scale wood heating applications: experiences and practices in Western Sweden* - Bengt Lofgren, AFAB
* *Large-scale heat production from woodchips and willow in Sweden* - Sven Goren Green, Lantmannen Energy
* *Combustion technology for wet biomass for large scale heating applications* - Tauno Kuitunen, Wärtsilä

Three parallel sessions of interactive workshops will be included to discuss key issues in greater detail, i.e. *Wood fuel supply chain*; *The case for CHP – best practice experience of cost-effective energy solutions*; and *Wood-fuelled heating – the development of wood chip and wood pellet markets*.

A range of technologies for converting wood to energy will be demonstrated. Details and registration forms can be found on the COFORD website – visit [www.coford.ie/woodenergy2003.htm](http://www.coford.ie/woodenergy2003.htm). To register on-line, visit <http://www.sei.ie/reio/reioconfshop.html>

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# COFORD Workshop:Preparation and sale of hardwoods

At the recent COFORD seminars on growing and managing broadleaves, a major shortcoming was identified in the area of quantification of supply of hardwood material between grower and user of hardwood logs. To address this, COFORD undertook to help develop a system where growers with hardwoods for sale would list available material in a periodically published sales catalogue, soon to commence on a trial basis.

COFORD has organised a hands-on workshop on the quantification and categorisation of standing hardwoods and the felling and sawing of felled material in preparation for such a sale. The one day workshop will take place in the Dundrum area on Tuesday, 16 September 2003.

The programme will include a short indoor session with the following presentations:

* *The processing and presentation of Irish hardwoods,* by Seamus Heaney, Coillte;
* *Hardwood timber sales,* by Gavin Munro (T&G Norman), dealing with preparation and presentation of woodlots and valuing and grading of hardwoods.

After lunch, there will be an outdoor session during which Gavin Munro will discuss and demonstrate *Measuring, grading and valuing hardwood timber* at the roadside and *Grading and valuing standing trees.*

Full details will be presented in the next newsletter, and advertised on the COFORD website ([www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)).

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# E-PUBLICATION: *Forest Regulation – a threat to production forestry?*

COFORD’s second e-publication has been launched on the website [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). *Forest regulation – a threat to production forestry?* is the proceedings of the ITGA/COFORD seminar held on 14 November 2002 at the Industry Centre, UCD. The proceedings have been edited by Dr Eugene Hendrick, Director of COFORD, and can be downloaded, free, from [www.coford.ie/publications/ForestRegulation.pdf](http://www.coford.ie/publications/ForestRegulation.pdf)

The contents are:

* *Foreword* by David Nevins, Chairman COFORD
* *Welcoming address* by Sir Charles Colthurst, Chairman ITGA
* *The impact of new and planned environmental procedures and regulations on afforestation and forest management in Ireland* by Kevin Hutchinson
* *Forest regulations in other European countries - possible lessons for Ireland by Henry Phillips*
* *Regulating our forest resource - current and developing processes* by Gerry Cody
* *The impact of forest regulation and policy on the economic viability of forestry – an international perspective* by Michael Mosman
* *Forest issues and the environment at the EC* by Joost van de Velde

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# Recent Developments in the Wood Industry

Gordon Knaggs reports on his visit to
 Ligna and Interzum in Germany

***Ligna***, the world’s biggest trade fair for the woodworking industry, is held during May every second year in Hanover, Germany. Many thousands of visitors from all over the world go there to view the stands of 1700 exhibitors from over 50 countries. ***Interzum***, the fair for timber, wood-based materials and fittings, is held in Cologne during the previous week. Together, these fairs provide an excellent overview of developments in the wood industries. Some developing areas that are of interest to the wood industry in Ireland are summarised below.

* **Certification.** Many companies and countries were promoting timber and products certified under one of the schemes such as FSC, PEFC or SFI. These were mainly of temperate softwoods and hardwoods but also with an increasing number from tropical hardwoods.
* **Wood pellets**. The use of wood pellets for central heating (with automatic feeding) is becoming increasingly common in Germany, Sweden and Austria, with a special exhibition area at ***Ligna*** devoted to this. In Sweden, the production and sale of these pellets is tax-free. As a result, mills and forest owners are now getting a better price from pellet manufacturers than from board or paper mills.
* **“Red-heart” beech.** There are considerable volumes of beech in Germany with irregular red heartwood which has been difficult to market, although the technical properties are broadly similar to the pale beech normally used for furniture and joinery. A number of producers and organisations showed ranges of very attractive furniture and other items made from this wood, which is similar to much of the beech found in Ireland.
* **Heat-treated or modified wood.** By subjecting wood to high (150-250oC) temperatures, the properties can be altered significantly, with increases in durability and stability, albeit accompanied by a reduction in strength. This process has now been commercialised with significant production in Finland, France, Holland and Sweden. Potentially, this could allow Irish spruce and pine into new end-uses. [COFORD are currently funding work at the University of Limerick to look at the applicability of this technique to Sitka spruce.]
* **Lesser-known species.** Unlike Irish forests, tropical rain forests typically have a wide range of species, but concentration on the few commercially known species has led to inefficient use of this resource. Many producing countries were marketing these lesser-known species which may well find their way on to the Irish market in the future.
* **Computer control of machines.** Continuing the trend of recent years, most machinery manufacturers were offering computer-based packages such as optimising programs or CNC control on routers, panel saws, and moulders. Specialist design packages were also on offer for areas such as timber-frame construction, windows and stairs, although most on show were aimed at the German industry.
* **Flooring.** Natural wood flooring continues to increase its share of the flooring market. Cross-bonded or “engineered” products where the pre-finished surface decorative layer is backed with utility species are also gaining in popularity. Temperate hardwoods predominated, although species such as bamboo and coconut (which are not true woods) also featured strongly.
* **Board materials.** The diversification in board materials continues. Within the broad categories of fibreboard, particle board and plywood many variants were exhibited, including low-density MDF (now being produced by Medite in Clonmel); OSB with precisely shaped surface strips giving increased strength; and combinations of different products such as OSB faced with MDF.
* **Web sites.** A number of exhibitors were promoting subscription-based web sites for marketing and purchase of timber and timber products and machinery.
* **Adhesives.** The main area of development with wood adhesives is in the field of polyurethanes, which are being promoted as “formaldehyde free” and rapid curing. They can also be used with wood at higher moisture contents, and appear set to take a larger share of the market.

PS. Believe it or not! 95% of the propellers for aerobatic aircraft are still made of wood.

For more information, please contact Gordon Knaggs (email: gordonknaggs@eircom.net).

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# Carbon Corner

## Progress in Kyoto sinks issues

Readers will recall previous Carbon Corners where progress in international negotiations on sinks was outlined. Most of the outstanding issues regarding the use of sinks for the first commitment period (2008-2012) have been resolved. The one major issue that remains is the use of sinks under the clean development mechanism (CDM) of the protocol.

The recently concluded eighteenth session of SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice) discussed the sinks in CDM issue in some depth. The basis for the discussion was item 4d on the agenda *Definitions and modalities for including afforestation and reforestation activities under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol*. Article 12 outlines the CDM as a mechanism that allows developed countries to assist developing countries in sustainable development activities while at the same time benefiting the environment. While the rules for the CDM are laid down in the Marrakesh Accords these do not cover sink activities.

The reason why sinks merit special treatment centres on a number of issues such as definitions, non-permanence, baselines and additionality, and socio-economic and environmental impacts.

 The EU has proposed that definitions for afforestation and reforestation that were hammered out at Marrakesh should be used also for sink projects in the CDM. The main issue here is that a number of parties want to change the base year (when the land in question did not contain forest) for reforestation from 1990, as it stands at present, to 2000. The existing definition precludes any area that was forest over the period 1990 to 2000 being used to generate CDM credits. Opening up these areas to reforestation projects will reward those Parties that had deforestation activities during the 1990s. Clearly this is undesirable and should not be allowed to happen.

The non-permanence issue relates to all sinks, but in the case of host parties in the CDM they have no greenhouse reduction targets and hence have no accounting mechanism to cover instances where the sink reverses (though fire, insect attack or other factors). The EU has developed a temporary credit concept to cover this possibility. The credits have a validity period of just five years, after which they may be renewed at the project level if the carbon remains sequestered. They must, in any event, be replaced at the end of each five year period. The proposal has full environmental integrity; where reversal occurs the credits must be replaced by other units.

Baselines and additionality relate to fact that areas of land included in CDM projects may already be carbon sinks or sources of emissions. The baseline seeks to establish what the net sink is before the project commences and to credit only additional carbon sequestration that is over and above the baseline.

Socio-economic and environmental impacts are clearly an issue in any form of land-use. The EU proposes to deal with these issues, *inter alia*, by including a checklist of issues that host countries and project developers may wish to consult in setting up projects. Where national guidelines already exist, the checklist would be unnecessary.

The latest version of the negotiation text on sinks in the CDM is available at FCCC/SBSTA/2003/l13 on the UNFCCC website (www.unfccc.int).

It is intended that this issue will be resolved at COP 9 to be held in Milan in early December. If agreement is reached it will allow project developers to submit existing projects to the approval process run by the CDM Executive Board. It should also result in an increase in project activities in developing countries.

More detailed information on the process is available by contacting COFORD (info@coford.ie).

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# Fifth Meeting of EUFORGEN Temperate Oaks and Beech Network in Slovakia

The fifth meeting of the EUFORGEN Network of Temperate Oaks and Beech was held in Zemplinska Sirava, in eastern Slovakia from 21 to 23 June 2003. John Fennessy (COFORD) was one of the national representatives from 21 countries in Eastern and Western Europe who attended the meeting. A comprehensive programme covering the many facets of gene conservation in temperate oaks and beech were discussed over the three-day period including:

* Country reports update: Network members from each of the countries presented a summary of the progress and status of gene conservation for the species in their country.
* Research updates: Updated research results were presented on a number of projects including DYNABEECH,a project assessing the effects of forest management on the genetic diversity of beech in a number of European countries. The French representative presented an update on OAKFLOW, an EU-funded project studying gene flow in oak populations in Europe. A report was presented on a new proposal to the EC 6th Framework Programme, co-ordinated by A. Kramer at INRA, France, entitled EVOLTREE. This project proposal aims to create a Network of Excellence, involving participants in 14 countries, to apply genomics to understanding the past, present and future genetic diversity of trees.
* Technical Bulletins and Technical Guidelines: EUFORGEN Co-ordinator, J. Koskela, introduced these publications, which are being prepared by several EUFORGEN networks.
* Information management: An image database developed by the Belgian representative on behalf of EUFORGEN was presented and a number of copies on CD were distributed to participants.
* Seminar: The host country, Slovakia, organised a seminar on the *Distribution of temperate oaks and beech in the Carpathians*. Originally only four oak species were recorded in the country but after further, more detailed botanical studies, nine oak species are now recognised. The Carpathians are divided into a number of vegetation zones in which oaks are distributed in the lowest three. Pedunculate oak is distributed in the western and eastern Slovakian lowlands, while sessile oakis usually mixed with beech in the higher altitude up to 800 m. Turkey oak is common in southern parts of the country. Beech distribution extends over five vegetation zones from 400 m to 1200 m in altitude.

The meeting concluded with a field visit to some natural beech forests in the Forest District Banske in the Eastern Carpathians close to the Polish border. Participants were shown the management practices – mainly various shelterwood systems with natural regeneration – managed on a rotation length of 110/120 years.

Participation in EUFORGEN is funded by the Forest Service, and their support is gratefully acknowledged. For further information, contact John Fennessy (email: john.fennessy@coford.ie) or visit the EUFORGEN website which can be found at [www.ipgri.cgiar.org/networks/euforgen/](http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/networks/euforgen/)

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# The Irish Joinery Awards 2003

COFORD is one of the sponsors of the Irish Joinery Awards 2003, and entries are now being collected. The Irish Timber Trade Association’s (ITTA) annual award scheme was devised to promote and foster the skills used in the joinery industry. Known as the Irish Joinery Awards, the scheme has the full support of the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) and the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI).

For the purpose of this award scheme, joinery is defined as a solid timber element or an element with genuine veneer that is fixed as part of the building it occupies. Commissioned furniture for a project in the Republic of Ireland is also eligible.

The aims and objectives of the award are:

* to publicly recognise architects and designers who specify quality joinery;
* to promote and foster the skills used in joinery production;
* to encourage architects and designers to specify quality joinery.

The award scheme is open to architects, joinery manufacturers and designers. All projects must be located in the Republic of Ireland. Projects must be completed in the period 1 May 2001 to 30 April 2003. The panel of assessors will select the awards and commendations, which they feel fulfil the aims of the Irish Joinery Awards.

Awards will be made in the following categories:

* A Public Building (accessible to the public)
* A Commercial Project
* A Private/Residential Project
* Conservation/Restoration Project
* Furniture –– Commissioned for a project in the Republic of Ireland
* **Innovative Use of Irish Wood in Joinery Applications**
* A Very Large Project of Special Interest

The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday, 29 August 2003. Entry forms can be downloaded from [www.coford.ie/joineryawards2003.pdf](http://www.coford.ie/joineryawards2003.pdf). For further information, contact The Irish Timber Trade Association, Elmville, Upper Kilmacud Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14. Tel: 01 - 298 0162. E-mail: itta@indigo.ie

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# Workshop on forest operations improvements in farm forests

This workshop will take place from 9 to 14 September 2003 at Logarska dolina, Slovenia. It will offer the opportunity to exchange experiences and information on the state of the art of knowledge for the improvements of forest operations in farm forests, in particular cost efficiency of operations, environmental impacts, the social dimension in terms of employment and income as well as contribution to rural development.

There will be discussion about the role and importance of farm forests in overall forestry, rural and regional development, and challenges such as market competitiveness of products in a growing global economy and continuing process of urbanisation be recognised.

It will, furthermore, discuss issues of sustainable forest operations and improved utilisation using existing low-cost farm equipment as well as new approaches in the field of farmers' co-operation with industrial forestry, wood processing industry, wood-based energy sector as well as with contractors. Attention will be paid to the reduction of the environmental impacts and wastes, assessment of the importance of forest operations in supporting agriculture-based farming activities, the farmers partnership in the field of forest operations, the role of wood processing and its marketing, interference between farm-forest operations and the urban society, the role of self-employment, and the evaluation of decision support systems for alternative machine combinations, aiming to increase the economics of operations and reducing the overall costs with the special emphasis on conditions in countries in transition to market economy and their future role.

For further information, click on <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee>

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# Seminar on close to nature forestry

In co-operation with EFI and IUFRO, UNECE will be holding a seminar on close to nature forestry from 14 to 19 October 2003, at Zvolen, Slovakia. Topics to be considered include ecological, silvicultural, operational and socio-economic aspects as well as the implications on forest policy development.

The objectives of the seminar are to review basic issues aimed at the achievement of close to nature forestry, particularly the following:

* Genetics and silvicultural tools applied in close to nature forestry;
* Establishment of ecologically stable forest stands; Natural regeneration of forests;
* Tending aimed at improving the structure, stability of forests, quality of production and maintenance of tree species composition;
* Site and ecological preconditions of close to nature forestry; Assessment of the present structure of forest stands from the potential one, taking into account diversity and ecological stability as a basis for forest management planning;
* Environmentally sound forest operations; Ecologically acceptable technologies for forest roads construction;
* Policy and economic aspects of close to nature forestry (notably the increasingly global nature of wood markets); Characteristics and assessment of present methods of sustainable forest management.

For further information, click on <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee>

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# An evening with wind, wood, biogas and geo-solar

The Renewable Energy Information Office (REIO) is hosting an information evening on Wednesday 9 July 2003 at the Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford starting at 6.30 pm.

Renewable energy has many applications and attendees will be able to find out more about the potential and drivers for the development of renewable energy resources in Ireland, the beauty of geo-thermal heating and ground source heat pumps, woody biomass, developing a biogas plant and wind farming.

The event will be chaired by Sustainable Energy Ireland's Morgan Bazilian (Head of Sustainable Energy Services) and the programme will include:

* *Renewable energy - the jewel in Ireland's energy crown* - Paul Kellett (REIO)
* *Wind powering Ireland - clean energy for the 21st century* - Eddie O'Connor (Airtricity)
* *Geo-solar heat pumps - perfect for the Irish climate* - Paul O'Donnell (Unipipe)
* *The explosion of wood pellets across Europe* - Christian Rakos (Austria EVA)
* *The best practice in developing a biogas plant* - Vicky Heslop (Irish Bio-energy Association)

The evening is open to all interested parties, and will be of particular interest to individuals and businesses wanting to find out more about how they can become more efficient in the use of energy and at the same time save money; landowners looking for new business development opportunities in developing wind farms or growing energy groups; decision makers at a local and national level; financial institutions and entrepreneurs looking for investment opportunities.

For further information, contact REIO (tel: 023- 29146 or email: renewables@reio.ie). Delegates may register on-line at [www.sei.ie/reio/reioconfshop.html](http://www.sei.ie/reio/reioconfshop.html). The fee for the Information Evening is €39 and includes a full delegate pack including copies of all presentations and refreshments.

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# FP6: Call for proposals on sustainable energy systems

The EU Sixth Framework Policy has issued a call for proposals for indirect RTC actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: *Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area.*

Thematic priority areas are *Aeronautics and space*, *Sustainable energy systems* and *Sustainable surface transport*. The call identifier is FP6-2003-TREN-2. The closing date for proposals is 17 December 2003.

€107 million has been allocated to the Sustainable Energy Systems call, for which the following areas have been identified:

* Large scale integration of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency: Managing energy demand and renewable energy supply in high performance communities
* Eco-buildings: Managing energy demand and renewable energy supply in high performance communities
* Polygeneration: Managing energy demand and renewable energy supply in high performance communities
* Alternative motor fuels: Testing implementation and transition strategies for clean urban transport: new technologies and concepts for all surface transport modes (road, rail and waterborne) - testing implementation and transition strategies for clean urban transport; re-balancing and integrating different transport modes - implementation of change in the European railway system; increasing road, rail and waterborne safety and avoiding traffic congestion - European service for electronic fee collection on roads.

Information relating to this call, can be obtained from:

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk (A1/CCR)
Directorate General TREN
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail address: TREN-FP6@cec.eu.int
Internet address: [www.cordis.lu/fp6/aerospace.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/aerospace.htm)
[www.cordis.lu/sustdev](http://www.cordis.lu/sustdev)

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# Postgraduate student required for research project

## Improving the uniformity and quality of broadleaf planting stock

COFORD and Coillte (Irish Forestry Board) are funding a major nursery research project on the seed biology and early seedling growth of alder, birch, ash and pedunculate oak. The main objective of the project is to develop new seed pretreatments and storage methods to enhance seed germination and early seedling growth.

A postgraduate student is required to carry out seed research in this project, primarily focussing on ash and oak. The position will be based in UCD Belfield. It is envisaged that the successful candidate will commence work in July or August. Candidates should have an honours university degree in Forestry, Horticulture, Botany or related discipline.

The duration of study will be two (Masters) or three (PhD) years from July or August 2003. The stipend will be €15,237 (Masters) or €19,046 (PhD) per year, tax free, including fees. The closing date for receipt of applications is 1 August 2003 or as soon as suitable candidate is found.

Applicants are invited to submit their CVs to:

Dr Conor O’Reilly
Dept. of Crop Science, Horticulture and Forestry
Faculty of Agriculture
University College Dublin
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
Phone: (01) 716 7191
Fax: (01) 716 1104
Email: Conor.oreilly@ucd.ie

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