

Forestry and Wood Update

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# Forest Energy 2006 Conference

The Forest Energy 2006 programme will conclude with a conference on 12 December 2006, at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Co Offaly. The day will focus on the core findings of the programme with an overview of Forest Energy 2006, thinning and chipping systems and their productivity and costs, chip quality, logistics and costs of transportation. Presentations will also be made on roading grants and related issues. Further information will be posted on [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie) and [www.woodenergy.ie](http://www.woodenergy.ie). If you would like to reserve a place at this event, please email info@coford.ie or phone 01-2130725.

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# COFORD launches two ground-breaking reports

COFORD has produced two new reports: ***Carbon sequestration and Irish forest ecosystems*** - Edited by Kevin G. Black and Edward P. Farrell; and ***The socio-economic contribution of forestry in Ireland*** - By Áine Ní Dhubháin, Marie-Christine Fléchard, Richard Moloney, Deirdre O’Connor and Tim Crowley

On 19 October Minister of State for Forestry Mary Wallace, TD, launched the publications which between them show forestry now contributes well over €1.6 billion annually to the Irish economy, and will make a significant contribution to Ireland’s greenhouse gas reduction targets under the Kyoto protocol.

*The socio-economic contribution of forestry in Ireland* and *Carbon sequestration and Irish forest ecosystems* are based on research funded by COFORD under the NDP, and carried out by research teams at UCC and UCD, in collaboration with Coillte. ‘These reports show that forestry has come of age as a land use and a contributor to the national economy’, said Minister Wallace at the launch. ‘Wealth and jobs are flowing directly from forestry, with benefits to rural communities and the overall economy. The research has also highlighted the significant added-value from forestry investment, with every 100 jobs in forestry providing a further 90 in other sectors of the economy.’

Referring to the new report on carbon storage in Irish forests, the Minister said ‘From the beginning of 2008, just over a year from now, the Kyoto compliance period will begin. We have a forest resource that is set to remove about two million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the air each year from 2008 onwards – almost half a tonne per person - with potential savings of €30 million a year to the exchequer. This contribution is being underpinned by the significant R&D investment – some €1.2 million to date – that COFORD is making to develop the capacity to measure and report on carbon uptake in Irish forests. COFORD is to be congratulated in successfully undertaking and completing this important work.’

Dr Eugene Hendrick, Director of COFORD, added ‘Both publications are directly based on research funded by COFORD under the current NDP. The ECONTRIB project evaluated the economic and social contribution of forestry to national and rural economies. The project captured, for the first time, the full economic contribution of the forestry sector at €1.65 billion, equivalent to around 1% of GNP, in 2003, showing that forestry is now a productive and profitable land use. The CARBiFOR project provided improved estimates of carbon uptake as between 4 to 8 tonnes per hectare per year in the main forest type – Sitka spruce, across a range of age classes. Translated into national terms this adds to about 20% of the reductions in national emissions Ireland needs to make to meet its Kyoto target.

The publications are available from COFORD, (€10.00 each, excluding post and packaging), or online at [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)

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# New COFORD Connects notes

Three COFORD Connects notes were recently produced, and are available free of charge from COFORD, or can be downloaded from [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). The titles are:

[Fertiliser application to conifer plantations on oligotrophic peat sites](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/product_info.php?cPath=1176&products_id=966577) – by Michael Carey

[The distribution of Hen Harriers in Ireland in relation to land use cover, particularly forest cover](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/product_info.php?cPath=1176&products_id=966578)  by Mark Wilson, Tom Gittings, John O'Halloran, Tom Kelly and Josephine Pithon

[National Pine Marten survey of Ireland 2005](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/product_info.php?cPath=1176&products_id=966580) by Declan O'Mahony, Catherine O'Reilly and Peter Turner

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# Carbon Corner

## *Stern words*

Last week’s launch of the *Stern Review Report on the Economics of Climate Change* by the UK Treasury has heightened awareness of an issue that is assuming increasing importance in the international policy arena. Its timing is clearly linked to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which will begin next week in Nairobi, and where the post Kyoto climate policy framework will be up for formal discussion.

Stern paints a bleak picture of the economic and human consequences of failure to act on climate change: *Using the results from formal economic models, the Review estimates that if we don’t act, the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing at least 5% of global GDP each year, now and forever*. *If a wider range of risks and impacts is taken into account, the estimates of damage could rise to 20% of GDP or more*.

Clearly the UK wants to address the issue mainly from the economic perspective, so that it ranks with health, education and other major policy considerations. In line with the economic approach it identifies the market (with schemes such as emissions trading) and taxation as key means of reducing emissions, at a cost of about 1% of global GDP per year from here on. This clearly outweighs the economic consequences of doing nothing, and as the report concludes: *There* *is still time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, if we take strong action now*.

In the forestry realm what concerns Stern most are the greenhouse gas emissions arising from tropical deforestation. Over 18% of current emissions arise from this source, and it is an area that needs to be tackled at the international level. Indeed deforestation is an agenda item for the SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice) of the UNFCCC when it meets in Nairobi next week. Whatever the outcome of that process, Stern has little to say about afforestation and land use in developed countries. By taking a global perspective the report does not address these issues in any depth. His arguments about the potential reduction in water yields from biomass crops, while of concern, should not be used to constrain a sector at the very outset, and the ways in which different renewables can act in concert do not receive sufficient attention. He does refer, however (on page 227), to the fact that: *Renewables such as solar power and wind power only generate electricity when the natural resource is available*. *This leads to unpredictable and intermittent supply, creating a need for back-up generation*. This is message that we in Ireland need to take into account.

The full report and executive summaries are at <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm>

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# IFA National Farm Forestry Conference

The Irish Farmers’ Association Farm Forestry Section will host the National Farm Forestry Conference 2006, in association with Pro Silva Ireland, at the Longford Arms Hotel, Longford on Friday 10 November 2006.

The conference programme includes:

* *Opening address*: Padraig Walshe, IFA President
* *Key note address*: Mary Wallace T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and Food
* *Close to Nature Forest Management in Ireland*: Jan Alexander, Pro Silva Ireland
* *Why is Close to Nature Forest Management an Attractive Management Choice for Farmers?* Phil Morgan, SelectFor Forestry Consultants
* *A Case Study of a Profitable Close to Nature Forest Management Practice*: Per Hilbert, Danish Forest Owners Association
* *The Importance of Critical Mass*: Dr Cormac O’Carroll, Pöyry Forest Industry Consulting Ltd
* *Growing for the Future – 10 years on*: Dr Eugene Hendrick, COFORD

For further information, contact Barbara Maguire (email: barbaramaguire@ifa.ie)

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# Workforce Development: the key to productivity

The first Workforce Development conference of the Scottish Forest Industries Cluster, ‘Workforce Development: the key to productivity’ will be held on Wednesday 29 November 2006 at the Business Learning and Conference Centre, Halbeath, Dunfermline, Fife.

The aim of this conference is to demonstrate the link between productivity and the development of skills and learning among the workforce and to show what can be achieved, particularly in terms of bottom line results and staff recruitment, motivation and retention, through a proactive approach to workforce development.

The conference is organised into three sessions:

* *The Importance of Workforce Development* - speakers will describe what needs to be done to overcome some of the barriers faced by businesses in raising productivity and skills demand and highlight the role of key support agencies.
* *Best Practice in Workforce Development* - actual examples of the work being done to increase productivity and staff motivation and retention by companies in the forest industries and other sectors.
* *Motivating the Workforce* - what motivates the workforce and current work that aims to make the forest industries more attractive and competitive in the job market. This session will also show how the timber frame industry has been able to increase the demand for workforce skills by engaging with employers and employees through a self-help training initiative.

Please register your place with Liz Hughson (Email: liz.hughson@confor.org.uk, Tel: 0131 524 8091).

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# Call for papers: Forest Research Management in an Era of Globalisation

The first call for papers has been announced for the IUFRO unit 6/06 “Managing Forest research” conference on “Forest Research Management in an Era of Globalisation”. This conference will take place in Washington DC, USA, from 18 to 20 April 2007.

In an era of globalisation of forest industry, challenges to sustaining the world's forests, and the necessary role of science in making sound policy choices, the management of forest research is of increasing importance. The organisers aim to gather scientists and persons in charge of managing forest research to exchange views, share experiences and thus contribute to further improvement of forest research management.

After a plenary session on the first day with keynotes, the presentation of the results of a survey and thematic case studies, the participants are asked to present their ideas, experiences and results in three different parallel sessions. Topics of the parallel sessions are:

1. “Setting the agenda”. In this session the participants should present papers and posters on how to develop forest research strategies and how to prioritise research objectives in the field of applied and basic forest science. Scientists and research managers can show how to integrate the most important research topics of forestry in different parts of the world into research agendas.

2. “Funding and financing”: This session aims at depicting various funding schemes for forest research institutions (research stations as well as universities). Participants should present strategies to acquire research funding for forest research topics and how to deal with the decline of forest research budgets all over the world.

3. “Ensuring quality and efficiency”: This session deals with ensuring quality and efficiency of forest research. Papers and posters should address the question of performance and quality measurement of forest research institutions beyond peer reviewed papers and impact factors in order to evaluate the fulfilment of the multiple tasks of forest research institutions.

Potential participants should submit a one page abstract assigned to one of the three topics by 1 December 2006 to Pia.Mattmueller@forst.bwl.de and indicate whether they wish to present a paper or a poster. Abstracts will be reviewed by a scientific board. Notification of acceptance or rejection of abstracts will be sent out by 15 January 2007.

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# Buying or selling hardwood?

COFORD publishes ***Hardwood Matters*** – the catalogue for advertising hardwood timber twice yearly. It is published in hard copy and our web site – and attracts a wide and growing audience in the forestry and timber processing sectors. If you are in the business of selling or buying hardwoods you can avail of the service free of charge by putting an entry in the next issue, which comes out next January 2007. The catalogue features “for sale” and “wanted” sections. Please contact John Fennessy (email john.fennessy@coford.ie) if you would like to contribute to the January 2007 issue.

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# Producing wood chip fuel – new machinery database available courtesy of woodenergy.ie

The homepage of the German website for KWF now includes a completely revised list of most of the roundwood chippers that are available on the European market. The list is accessed by clicking on “biomass harvesting equipment” on [www.woodenergy.ie](http://www.woodenergy.ie) and then on “wood chipper also in English” link [http://www.kwf-online.de/deutsch/information/markt/markt\_startseite\_englisch.htm]

Three types of machine are outlined::

* Self-propelled and mounted (16 makes);
* machines for mounting on a three-point linkage (77 makes);
* towed machines (96 makes).

Technical data for all machines are given in detail, as well as a German price. Most machines are illustrated using one or more pictures. In the explanation to the tables, attention is drawn to the fact that one should specify to the importer that the machine will be used to produce fuel chips, because that puts larger demands on the machine than just reducing the volume of the brash.

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# Free Wood Energy Query Service

The free advisory service on [www.woodenergy.ie](http://www.woodenergy.ie) continues to be available, where queries about harvesting and supply chain issues in wood energy can be submitted on line. Pieter D. Kofman, the well known expert on wood fuel will give you the benefit of his many years of experience in answering your questions. Normally queries are responded to by email, within a working day. If you have access to the world wide web Pieter can also be contacted between 9 and 12 am via Skype – the free software can be downloaded from [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com), which allows telephone calls to be conducted via your computer, free of charge. He can also be contacted by phone during the designated hours on +45 75 88 1519 or mobile +45 28 55 77 58.

Please note that queries about boilers, stoves or approved installers should be directed to Sustainable Energy Ireland, Renewable Energy Information Office, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co Cork. Tel: 023-42193, Fax: 023-29154, Email: renewables@reio.ie.

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# Mountain pine beetle threaten a forest catastrophe in British Columbia

A plague of mountain pine beetle *Dendroctonus ponderosa* in British Columbia’s lodgepole pine forests has so far destroyed 7 million ha. The beetle is the most destructive biotic agent of mature pine forests in western North America and the present outbreak is expected to peak in 2008. Logging companies are attempting to cut trees on the front line of the infestation; many believe, however, that they are fighting a losing battle. Faced with the largest insect epidemic in BC history, the provincial government has raised the annual allowable cut by a massive 27%. In normal conditions, up to 80% of the beetles are killed by winter cold, but due to increasing temperatures in recent years its mortality rate has plummeted, leading to an explosion of the beetle population in recent years. This, combined with the fact that they are no longer regenerated by periodic burning by Native Americans, allows increasing numbers of trees to grow on to maturity, at which stage they become the beetle’s favourite breeding ground, and the ageing and stressed forest is its ideal habitat.

 Normally, mountain pine beetle populations are innocuous, infesting only a few damaged, decadent or suppressed trees scattered throughout a forest. However, populations periodically erupt into large-scale outbreaks capable of causing the mortality of mature trees over many thousands of hectares (Figure 1). In Canada, the most extensive outbreaks have been situated within the southern interior regions of British Columbia, while in the United States the largest epidemics have occurred in the Rocky Mountain States.

The principal hosts of the mountain pine beetle are lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and western white pine. However, all pines are within the beetle’s range, including eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) L. and jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) and some exotic species (e.g. Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*) can be infested and killed.



*Figure 1. Present range of the mountain pine beetle in North America (*Source: Safranyik, L. and Wilson, B. 2006. The mountain pine beetle: a synthesis of biology, management, and impacts on lodgepole pine. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, British Columbia <<http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/bstore/catalog_e.pl?catalog=26116>>).

For further information on the present outbreak log on to http://mpb.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca.

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# Future Forum on Forests of Finland

The Future Forum on Forests of Finland is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary study designed to provide information on the issues affecting the forest-based livelihoods in the future. The multidisciplinary approach is a feature that is emphasized in the second phase of the Forum which started in April 2005, and is fundamental for finding innovative ideas for the evolving forest-based livelihoods.

The purpose of the Forum is to identify and analyze expected changes in the forest sector environment in the next 10-20 years. By exploring the developments affecting livelihoods in the forest sector, the Forum aims to:

* support the development of the national forest policy and other policies relevant to the future of the forest sector;
* offer new stimuli, material and tools for the strategy work in different forest sector organizations.

The Forum focuses on forest sector and forest-based livelihoods. The “forest sector” in this context can be defined broadly as including forestry, the forest industry as well as other existing or future livelihoods that are based on the use of forest resources.

The basic principle of the Forum is the foresight network formed of Finnish experts from different disciplines who are connected to the international development of science and technology. The foresight network will focus on the factors affecting the future of the forest sector and its livelihood by carrying out futures analyses on approximately five different thematic areas. The areas of analyses were decided by the forum steering group. The second principle is the group of detached studies that the Forum made in different organizations on relevant issues of policies or strategic decision making. The third principle is a series of seminars focusing on central issues affecting the forest sector in the future. These “future seminars” are the principal meeting point for those interested in trends and views on the development of the forest sector in the future. In the second phase of the forum, specific thematic seminars will be organized in addition to the large “future seminars”. The fourth principle is the Internet service - or the so-called home base for future information in the forest sector - that has been opened at: www.metsafoorumi.fi. In addition to the activities and results of the Forum, the pages will also offer information on other future studies and events. The Forum Newsletter is published four times a year in Finnish and in English.

The Future Forum on Forests is implemented by the University of Joensuu. The Forum is led by the University Rector Perttu Vartiainen (chairman of the implementation team), and Prof. Paavo Pelkonen (vice-chairman). The other members of the implementation team are Jakob Donner-Amnell (University of Joensuu), Senior Consultant Heikki Hassi (SciTech Service Oy Ltd), Research Director Mikael Hildén (Finnish Environment Centre), Senior Researcher Seppo Kangaspunta (Ministry of Trade and Industry), Research Director Leena Paavilainen (Finnish Forest Research Institute), Professor Heli Peltola (University of Joensuu) and Anssi Niskanen (Director of the Forum).

The expertise of the implementation team is supplemented by the group of invited experts representing different stakeholder groups. The task of the supplementary expert group is to comment and build the content of the futures studies and futures seminars, as well as to suggest new ideas for the detached studies. The Forum is guided by the steering group of nine members appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland.

The Forum work started in April 2003 and it is expected to conclude in March 2008. For further information <http://www.joensuu.fi/englishindex.html>

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# EFI seeks Programme Manager

EFI is now seeking a Programme Manager for Forest Products Markets and Socio-economics Research Programme

The post will involve managing and co-ordinating the Forest Products, Markets and Socio-economics Research Programme at EFI, in accordance with the Institute’s strategy; initiating new projects and conducting research in the programme; and deepening the networking within EFI and between its member organisations and forest sector decision makers. Applicants should have at least five years of research experience in project/programme co-ordination tasks, a PhD or equivalent in forest, environmental or general economics, and a particular knowledge on one of the following research fields: forest products trade, forest sector modelling, forest legislation enforcement governance and trade or forestry socio-economics.

The post will be based at the EFI headquarters in Joensuu, Finland. Further information can be obtained from Dr Risto Päivinen, Director, Tel. +358 10 773 4300, Email: risto.paivinen@efi.int

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