



News from International Programs of the USDA Forest Service

No. 4, July 2004: Certification

Certification in Mexico: Community Forestry Is Key

by Catherine Karr, Rebecca Butterfield, and Margee Haines

Catherine Karr, formerly the Mexico Programs Coordinator, is a policy analyst and Margee Haines is the Mexico Programs Specialist for the USDA Forest Service, International Programs, Washington, DC; and Rebecca Butterfield is the director of Training, Research, Education, Extension, and Systems for the Rainforest Alliance's Sustainable Forestry Program, Richmond, VT.

When you get up in the morning and look out the window, you might think you're in northern Arizona. Everywhere you look, you see pines—lots of pines. Then the tantalizing smells from the kitchen remind you: You're actually in Durango, a State in north-central Mexico. You're on an *ejido* [eh-hee-doh], where the community collectively manages the surrounding land.

Mexico is rich in pines, which found shelter there during the Ice Ages. Even today, pine-oak is the most common forest type in Mexico, covering 15 percent of the country. Durango is at the heart of Mexico's wood production, with the most certified forestry operations in the Nation. The Rainforest Alliance is there to help these forest communities strengthen their adherence to

certification standards—and reap the rewards.

The Rainforest Alliance, a founder of certification for sustainable forestry practices, works through a locally based coordinator, with technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The goal is to work at the community level to strengthen all three components of sustainable forest management—ecological, social, and economic. The partners work directly with *ejidos*, regional and national authorities, and Mexican and international nongovernmental organizations to improve all aspects of forest management, from silviculture, to logging, to road design, to harvesting techniques, to processing methods, to market linkages.

The project has offered technical assistance ranging from roadbuilding to marketing. For example, the USDA Forest Service has held courses on road design and maintenance for *ejidos* and forestry technicians. The agency has also evaluated logging operations and offered training in better harvesting practices. Private compa-

nies in Mexico have helped communities improve their processing methods for higher quality products. International companies such as IKEA have agreed to purchase furniture components processed from certified forest stands.

What's next? In the project's final 2 years, the Rainforest Alliance will work with specially selected *ejidos* to improve their forest management and forestry operations along the entire production chain. The goal is to increase production efficiencies, lower costs, and develop value-added products for sale in "green" markets. The project will also continue to offer regional training to help forestry officials and other partners better understand forest management planning, markets for certified products, and opportunities to link with the private sector.

The future looks bright for Durango's forest communities. Through certification and targeted assistance, the Rainforest

continued on p.7...



THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE USDA FOREST SERVICE HELPS LOCAL EJIDOS, WHERE THE COMMUNITY COLLECTIVELY MANAGES THE SURROUNDING LAND.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

CERTIFICATION

- ◆ International Perspective:
The Power of Purchase: Doing the Right Thing . . . 2
- ◆ Applying Certification:
The Global Forest and Trade Network 3
- ◆ Forest Certification for Community Enterprises:
Challenges Ahead 4
- ◆ The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program:
Growing Tomorrow's Forests Today 5
- ◆ News Bits from Around the World 6
- ◆ Bulletin Board 8

The Power of Purchase: Doing the Right Thing

by Ron Jarvis

Ron Jarvis is the Vice President for The Home Depot, Atlanta, GA.

From its fledgling origins a decade ago, forest certification has now taken wing. At The Home Depot, we have watched it soar—and we have celebrated its success.

The Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer, with some 1,600 stores worldwide. Part of our culture is doing the right thing, and we know that the power of the purchase order can be very influential. Our purchasing decisions can have profound social, economic, and ecological consequences in far-flung corners of the world. We decided that the right thing to do was to buy from suppliers who manage their forests sustainably—for the benefit of generations to come.

In August 1999, we announced our new wood-purchasing policy. Our global product merchants now use our Forest Guide to decide whether to “buy,” “buy with parameters,” or “don’t buy.” In some cases, we use our purchasing power to reward suppliers who manage their forests sustainably or have shown improvement. In other cases, we pull away from suppliers who have failed to show improvement or who refuse to clarify their goals and direction.

One way that we track our products for sustainability is through certification (see the sidebar “What Is Certification?”). We purchase from suppliers who participate in various certification programs, including the Forest Stewardship Council, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (see the article by Rick Cantrell), Canada’s Sustainable Forest Management Standard, and others. In 2003, we sold more than \$300 million worth

of wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council alone, including products ranging from carpenter pencils, to tool handles, to plywood. That is 20 times more than we sold in 1999, just 4 years earlier.

It takes many organizations working together to create the full framework for sustainable wood production that supports our purchases. In 2003, we joined a private/public partnership called the Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance (see the sidebar “Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance” on page 3). We contributed \$1 million to the Global Alliance to help promote responsible forestry and curb illegal logging worldwide. Another collaborative effort that we strongly support is the Global Forestry and Trade Network, which helps certified producers find buyers like us (see the article by Mark Hurley).

Our partners find different ways to promote sustainable forestry in different parts of the world, and we support their efforts. Community forests in particular are responsible for much of the world’s biodiversity, yet few are certified (see the article by Augusta Molnar). A promising project by the Rainforest Alliance is helping forest communities in Mexico capitalize on certification programs (see the article by Catherine Karr, Rebecca Butterfield, and Margee Haines).

We know we are doing the right thing. Together with our partners, including USDA Forest Service International Programs, we are fostering a new level of global responsibility for understanding and promoting sustainable forestry. Scores of domestic and international companies have applied our wood purchasing policy throughout the world’s forests. Our policy has become a platform for building new partnerships for sustainable forestry, often through certification.

Yes, forest certification has now taken wing. At The Home Depot, we’re proud of that.

What Is Certification?*

A generation ago it was almost unknown, but the idea behind forest certification is really quite simple: to help people choose forest products that are friendly to the environment. Certification does that by evaluating forest management practices. It sets standards of sound forest management, giving stakeholders such as forest communities a voice in setting those standards.

Demand for forest certification mushroomed in the 1990s. The first scheme came about in 1993 through the international Forest Stewardship Council. Other schemes followed, including the Sustainable Forest Management Standard in Canada, the Pan-European Forest Certification, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® in the United States. The USDA Forest Service supports all forest certification systems because it believes that they are designed to help improve forest conditions. Consequently, the agency does not endorse any particular system but instead defers to the forest landowners to choose which one to use.

Today, the forest area certified worldwide is 427 million acres (173 million hectares). However, developing countries—with some of the world’s most vulnerable forests—account for less than 3 percent of the certified area, much of it in timber plantations rather than natural forests.

For the forest products industry, benefits include company prestige, more engagement by stakeholders, better planning and management, and greater access to international markets. For forest owners, certification can bring social and economic benefits, but they are often concerned that certification will raise their operational costs. Moreover, many countries have limited technical capacity to develop standards and monitor performance. Training is therefore essential.

* Adapted from “Independent Forest Certification: Opportunities and Issues” (Forest Trends Web site <http://www.forest-trends.org/keytrends/pdf/tech_briefs/4forest_certification.pdf>).





HARNESSING MARKET FORCES THROUGH CERTIFICATION AND FOREST PRODUCT PURCHASING IS AN IMPORTANT WAY TO PROTECT THE RICH BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF THE WORLD'S RAINFORESTS.



Applying Certification: The Global Forest and Trade Network

by Mark Hurley

Mark Hurley is a senior program officer in the forest conservation program at the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, DC. He acts as communications coordinator for the World Wildlife Fund's Global Forest and Trade Network.

I imagine yourself suddenly dropped into an African rainforest. On the forest floor, you can see and hear an amazing variety of life—plants, insects, birds, even a distant troupe of gorillas. In fact, Congo Basin rainforests are some of the richest sources of life on Earth.

But the unspoiled forest is rapidly shrinking. Although critical for conservation, protected areas will not be enough to conserve the rainforest's biological richness. If forests continue to deteriorate, the biodiversity of Congo Basin rainforests could be irreparably harmed—at an untold cost to the world.

Much of the threat comes from illegal or poorly planned logging encouraged by weak legal frameworks, poor law enforcement, and lucrative markets. Companies in West and Central Africa produce almost a

third of the world's export logs, and many of them are becoming concerned about the impacts of unsustainable forestry on their own future prospects.

That's why the World Wildlife Fund founded the Global Forest and Trade Network, with funding from the Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance. The network helps transform markets to sustain both forests, as well as the businesses and people that depend on them.

The Global Forest and Trade Network works with companies from across the supply chain to improve forest management and eliminate illegally logged and traded forest products. One tool is certification. Through credible certification programs, the Global Forest and Trade Network aims to improve both forest management and forest product purchasing.

Partnerships are key. The Global Forest and Trade Network creates mutually beneficial partnerships between businesses, nongovernmental organizations, trade

regulators, funders, and others. The partners mobilize the technical, financial, and human resources necessary to improve forest management, focusing on forests that are both globally valuable and threatened. The USDA Forest Service can offer information, training, and technical assistance in such areas as forest monitoring and reduced-impact logging. The goal is to help producers minimize the environmental impact of their field operations and improve their economic efficiency.

The Global Forest and Trade Network encompasses individual forest and trade networks worldwide. Each network consists primarily of companies committed to practicing or supporting responsible forestry and achieving certification. About 20 individual networks operate in nearly 30 nations throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Though united by shared goals, the individual forest and trade networks differ in

continued on p.7...



CURTIS DAY, USDA FOREST SERVICE

THE GLOBAL FOREST AND TRADE NETWORK TRANSFORMS MARKETS TO SUSTAIN BOTH FORESTS WHOSE FUTURE HANGS IN THE BALANCE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance

The Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance is a private/public partnership to promote sustainable forest management worldwide, reduce illegal logging, and improve the well-being of local communities. Partners include the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Wildlife Fund, Metafore (a nonprofit organization that promotes business practices contributing to forest conservation), and Forest Trends (a nonprofit organization that advances sustainable forestry and poverty alleviation worldwide). The USDA Forest Service provides on-the-ground technical assistance to these and other partners.

The U.S. Agency for International Development initiated the Global Alliance in May 2003 with an investment of \$3.5 million. The partnership leveraged

the initial funding for a one-to-one match. So far, the partners have contributed \$8 million to achieve their mutual goals, including \$1 million from The Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer.

But it takes more than just money. The Global Alliance capitalizes on a unique combination of market intelligence, technical expertise, and specific country knowledge to train forest managers in innovative logging approaches while increasing their access to international markets. The Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Andrew S. Natsios, summed it up: "This partnership has enormous potential to curb the environmental destruction associated with illegal logging in producer countries while contributing to the economies of both producer and consumer countries."



WHILE CERTIFICATION HAS HELPED SOME COMMUNITY-BASED OPERATIONS, IT IS NOT VIABLE FOR OTHERS DUE TO MANY FACTORS, SUCH AS HIGH START-UP COSTS AND INCREASED COMPETITION FROM TREE FARMS.



MICHELLE ZWEDE, USDA FOREST SERVICE

Forest Certification for Community Enterprises: Challenges Ahead

by Augusta Molnar

Augusta Molnar is the director of the Communities and Markets Program for Forest Trends, Washington, DC.

The Chiquitanos have their lands back. For centuries, this Bolivian indigenous group had struggled for government recognition of lands that had been Chiquitano since time immemorial. In 1986, with help from local nongovernmental organizations and international donors, 25 Chiquitano communities formed a block for managing 131,000 acres (53,000 hectares) of forest land. In 1995, the Chiquitanos won certification from the Forest Stewardship Council. Two years later, impressed by Chiquitano achievements in forest stewardship, the Bolivian government formally recognized the tribe's territorial claim.

Since 1993, about 50 community enterprises have been certified worldwide, mostly in Latin America. From its inception, forest certification has had social as well as environmental goals. As the Chiquitanos can attest, there have been some notable social successes.

In many places, however, certification has yet to win the support of forest communities. In fact, a study in 2003 revealed some daunting challenges ahead.* A quarter of the forests

* See *Forest Certification and Communities: Looking Forward to the Next Decade* (<http://www.forest-trends.org/resources/pdf/forest_communities.pdf>), sponsored by Forest Trends, a nonprofit organization that advances sustainable forestry and poverty alleviation worldwide.

in the developing world are community owned or managed, a figure that is likely to double in the next 15 years. Yet certification has reached less than 1 percent of these forests.

Why aren't more community-based forest enterprises getting certified? The Forest Trends study indicates some of the challenges:

- It is difficult to tailor certification standards to local values and scales while still keeping them globally credible.
- Community-managed natural forests face growing competition from tree farms. Certified markets do not yet differentiate natural from plantation products.
- Indigenous peoples worry that accepting outside standards and expertise will keep them from building on their own traditional knowledge and nurturing their own forestry professionals.
- Certification costs are especially high for community-based enterprises, which tend to be small, informal, and inexperienced.
- Many certification costs for communities are borne by donors or through grants, but the limited availability of such funding restricts the number of community-based enterprises that can become certified.

Another difficulty is that other community enterprises, such as ecotourism or agroforestry, might have their own certification

schemes. Communities might find it too cumbersome to engage in several unrelated certification processes.

There are ways of bringing more forests under certification. In several countries, for example, the Pan-European Forest Certification system has established special criteria for cooperatives formed from groups of smallholders. It also has special criteria for community-based forest enterprises in France.

Community enterprises also need more support from governments, donors, and nongovernmental organizations in laying the foundations for their participation in certification programs. In particular, they need more organizational and technical capacity, more business skills, and more market information.

But the bottom line is this: Communities need to see more payoffs from sound forest management. Markets for environmental services, such as biodiversity or carbon sequestration, might offer some of the needed incentives. More work is needed to give communities and smallholders access to such markets.

The fate of forests in developing countries depends on the fate of forest communities. Certification can have social as well as ecological payoffs, as the Chiquitanos discovered when they won tenure of their lands. But certification also faces enormous challenges. New communities find it challenging to enter the process, and certified communities are unsure that markets will support their interest in recertifying. Their future—and the future of forest communities worldwide—will depend on better strategies for bringing the benefits of good forest management to community-based forest enterprises.



THE CHIQUITANOS WON CERTIFICATION FROM THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL, LEADING TO THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF THEIR LONG-STANDING TERRITORIAL CLAIM.

MICHELLE ZWEDE, USDA FOREST SERVICE



USDA FOREST SERVICE



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program: Growing Tomorrow's Forests Today

by Rick Cantrell

Rick Cantrell is the senior director for sustainable forestry and forest policy, American Forest & Paper Association, Washington, DC.

"Sustainable development is ... development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of further generations to meet their own needs." So declared the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, inspiring a new vision of forest management worldwide. We now know that responsible environmental behavior and sound forest management can go together, for the mutual benefit of landowners, shareholders, customers, the environment, and future generations.

In 1994, in the same spirit, the American Forest & Paper Association launched the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program in the United States. The program is designed to help forest managers continue growing and harvesting trees while still protecting wildlife, plants, soil, water, and air.

At the core of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program is a formal standard. The standard is based on principles that translate into the following objectives:

- broadening the practice of sustainable forestry,
- ensuring long-term forest productivity,
- protecting water quality,
- enhancing wildlife habitat and contributing to biodiversity,
- protecting special sites,
- continuously improving wood utilization,
- continuously improving sustainable forestry practices,
- fostering the practice of sustainable forestry on all forest lands, and
- reporting publicly on program progress.

Program participants who want to label their products as certified must follow an independent third-party certification procedure to show conformance to the program standard and to gauge progress in meeting its objectives. The process for conducting the audit is rigorous, and all auditors must meet precise educational and professional criteria.

The Sustainable Forestry Board manages the standard and the certification procedures. To ensure the board's impartiality, two-thirds of its members are drawn from outside the American Forest & Paper Association. They come from environmental and conservation groups, public agencies, and professional and academic

groups. Some are independent logging professionals and family forest landowners.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program is growing. Today, more than 135 million acres (54 million hectares) of forest land are enrolled, and more than 100 million acres (40 million hectares) have been independently third-party certified to meet the program standard. More than 650 million new trees are planted each year in the United States by program participants—more than 1.7 million each day.

That's good for everyone. Through sustainable forestry and certification programs such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®, people worldwide are growing tomorrow's forests today in a way that will protect the environment for generations to come.

USDA Forest Service Helps Shape Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program

As part of the USDA Forest Service commitment to improve forest management domestically and internationally on all ownerships, the agency has served on the External Review Panel for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program for several years. Representatives from the USDA Forest Service have provided advice on ways to improve and shape the program and its goals. Past members from the USDA Forest Service have included *Jack Ward Thomas* (former Chief), *Phil Janik* (former Chief Operating Officer), and *Barbara Weber* (Deputy Chief for Research and Development). The current representatives on the panel are *Elizabeth Estill* (Deputy Chief for Programs, Legislation, and Communication) and *Wini Kessler* (Alaska Regional Director for Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology and Watershed).



USDA FOREST SERVICE

CERTIFICATION SCHEMES, INCLUDING THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE®, ARE DESIGNED TO HELP FOREST MANAGERS CONTINUE GROWING AND HARVESTING TREES WHILE STILL PROTECTING WILDLIFE, PLANTS, SOIL, WATER, AND AIR.

Chief of USDA Forest Service Celebrates a Lasting Partnership with Israel

In February 2004, USDA Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth visited Israel to celebrate the agency's 15 years of partnership with the Jewish National Fund and the Government of Israel. Initially focused on wildland fire management, the partnership now addresses forest, range, and watershed management challenges. Over the years, many scientists, natural resource managers, and government representatives from both countries have participated in various activities, including technical assistance and training for Israeli foresters. The USDA Forest Service's Inventory and Monitoring Institute, with support from the International Programs Staff, administers and funds the program.

Chief Bosworth's visit coincided with Tu Bishvat, a festival similar to Arbor Day in the United States. Tu Bishvat celebrates the spring renewal of trees and symbolizes the strong Israeli connection to the land. To mark the occasion, Chief Bosworth joined Israeli President Moshe Katzav and Jewish National Fund World Chairman Yehiel Leket in planting an olive tree in Jerusalem.

Chief Bosworth also visited the sites of various collaborative projects, involving oak management, reforestation, afforestation, and gully control. The tour concluded with a visit to American Independence Park in Israel, where the Chief viewed a memorial dedicated to the 14 American firefighters who gave their lives on Storm King Mountain in 1994.

Earthquake at Daybreak: U.S. Response to Humanitarian Crisis in Iran

At daybreak on December 26, 2003, powerful tremors destroyed more than 85 percent of the buildings in Bam, a city in southeastern Iran. More than 30,000 people reportedly died, and 30,000 more were severely injured. Nearly 45,000 people were left homeless, a number swelled by 80 major aftershocks.

Soon after the earthquake, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance sent an 81-person Disaster Assistance Response Team to Iran. According to the team, water and sanitation were among the most critical needs. The team helped Iran coordinate distribution of medical equipment and supplies such as blankets and winterized tents.

In the United States, a 15-person Response Management Team worked to deliver supplies requested by the team in Iran. Drawing on their experience with wildland fire emergency response, the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management joined the humanitarian effort. With funding from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, they provided trained personnel to support the teams in the United States and Iran.

The Lucky Thirteen: Managing Gabon's New National Parks

After the Amazon rainforest, the Congo Basin rainforest is the largest contiguous tract of moist tropical forest in the world. Stretching across central Africa, it is home to the world's largest populations of lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, and forest elephants. Eighty percent of the plants in the Congo Basin live nowhere else. More than 60 million people live in the Congo Basin, many of them forest dependent.

In August 2002, to help protect its rich biodiversity from commercial logging and hunting, Gabon established 13 national parks covering 11 percent of its forested land area. The USDA Forest Service is working with Gabon to build capacity for managing the new parks. In June 2003, with funding from the Central African Regional Program for the Environment, technical experts from the USDA Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visited Gabon's Loango National Park to help develop a model park management plan. The team also identified needs for building park staff capacity.

In March 2004, a second USDA Forest Service team traveled to Gabon to continue developing the park management plan. In addition, the USDA Forest Service and its partners will conduct a workshop on landscape planning in 2004. Trainees will include staff from the Gabonese National Park Service and Gabon's Ministry of Water and Forests.



PLANTING A TREE IN JERUSALEM: USDA FOREST SERVICE CHIEF DALE BOSWORTH CELEBRATES NOT ONLY TU BISHVAT—A FESTIVAL SIMILAR TO ARBOR DAY IN THE UNITED STATES—BUT ALSO THE AGENCY'S LASTING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND.



Visit these Web sites for more information related to articles in this issue:

- <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/aboutus/policy/tt/certify.htm> - USDA Forest Service International Programs' information on certification
- <http://www.fscus.org/> - Forest Stewardship Council
- <http://www.treefarmssystem.org> - Tree Farm System
- <http://www.woodlandowners.org> - Green Tag Forestry
- <http://www.aboutsfi.org/> - Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program
- <http://www.afandpa.org> - American Forest & Paper Association
- <http://www.pefc.org> - Pan-European Forest Certification
- <http://www.sfms.com/> - Forest Management Certification Standards in Canada
- http://www.fs.fed.us/global/globe/l_amer/mexico.htm - Mexico Program of the USDA Forest Service International Programs
- <http://www.smartwood.org/> - SmartWood, a program of the Rainforest Alliance
- <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/> - Rainforest Alliance
- <http://www.homedepot.com> - The Home Depot
- <http://www.globalforestalliance.org/> - Sustainable Forest Products Global Alliance
- http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/forestry/ - U.S. Agency for International Development's forestry programs
- <http://www.wwf.org/> - World Wildlife Fund for Nature
- <http://www.metafore.org/> - METAFORE
- <http://www.forest-trends.org/> - Forest Trends
- http://www.forest-trends.org/resources/pdf/forest_communities.pdf - Forest Certification and Communities: Looking Forward to the Next Decade, sponsored by Forest Trends
- http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/ - U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
- <http://carpe.umd.edu/index.asp> - Central African Regional Program for the Environment

...continued from p.1

Alliance partnership is building capacity on the ground, where it counts. Communities manage almost 80 percent of Mexico's forests, so the community approach to sustainable forest management makes good sense.

The same approach holds promise for other communities. Growth in community capacity can translate into benefits for local people, environments, and economies throughout Mexico, from the pine-oak forests of Durango to the palm-studded rainforests of Chiapas. Rainforest Alliance partnerships will soon be helping communities reap the benefits of sustainable forest management in many parts of Mexico—and beyond.

...continued from p.3

orientation. Some, called buyer groups, are demand oriented. They consist mainly of retailers, distributors, and specifiers of forest products. Others, called producer groups, are production oriented. Members include forest owners and managers, processors, and manufacturers. Each member has achieved credible certification or is committed to making its forest management or purchasing policies increasingly responsible.

Strategic growth is planned. In 2004, the

Global Forest and Trade Network intends to establish forest and trade networks in South America, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia. By the end of 2005, the network will consist of almost 30 individual forest and trade networks with more than 500 members.

The future of the world's forests hangs in the balance. The Global Forest and Trade Network helps the companies that dominate the global forest products industry fulfill their commitments to responsible forest management and purchasing. By

transforming markets while promoting business, the Global Forest and Trade Network is leading the way in protecting the life of forests for generations to come.

21st International Seminar on Forest and Natural Resources Administration and Management

Dates: September 2005

Arizona, Colorado, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia, USA

Jointly offered by Colorado State University and USDA Forest Service International Programs, this seminar is designed for senior natural resource management professionals. The 19-day program focuses on strategies and methods to develop, manage, and conserve natural resources for the sustained delivery of goods and services to meet the full range of human needs. For application details, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/isfam/welcome.htm> or write to Ann Keith, College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1401, USA, or e-mail at ifs@cnr.colostate.edu.

2005 International Seminar on Protected Area Management

Dates: August 2005

Missoula, Montana, USA

This seminar—jointly offered by the University of Montana, University of Idaho, Colorado State University, and USDA Forest Service International Programs—is geared for senior-level managers and policymakers working in protected areas. The program examines and stimulates debate on management strategies, policies, and innovative institutional arrangements to address the conservation and use of the world's most special places. For application details, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/ispam/welcome.htm> or write to Wayne Freimund, School of Forestry, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, USA, or e-mail at wayne@forestry.umt.edu.

2005 International Seminar on Watershed Management

Dates: Summer 2005

Stevens Point, Wisconsin, USA

Jointly offered by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the USDA Forest Service International Programs, this seminar is geared towards senior-level natural resource professionals. The course examines the needs and challenges facing watershed managers and focuses on strategies and methods to manage and conserve watershed resources sustainably. For application details, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/watershed/welcome.htm> or write to Dr. Wes Halverson, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources, Stevens Point, WI 54481-389, USA, or e-mail at Wes.Halverson@uwsp.edu.

2005 International Field Course on Wildlands and Protected Area Management

Dates: Summer 2005

Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

Co-hosted by the Center for Protected Area Management and Training at Colorado State University and USDA Forest Service International Programs, this course, held in Spanish, presents key concepts and methods of protected area management while emphasizing field-based practical exercises. For application details, visit http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/field_course/welcome.htm or write to Ryan Finchum, Colorado State University, Center for Protected Area Management and Training, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1480, USA, or e-mail at finchum@cnr.colostate.edu.

The **Global Leaflet** presents highlights of policy, research, technical cooperation, development, and conservation activities in which the USDA Forest Service is involved worldwide. Its purpose is to demonstrate the breadth and importance of international collaboration on natural resource management issues and to share information within the USDA Forest Service and with our partners in the United States and around the world.

International Programs is dedicated to applying the wealth of skills within the USDA Forest Service to foster sustainable forest management globally. We encourage linking the agency's researchers, foresters, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, policymakers, and disaster specialists with partners overseas to work on assignments in the areas of technical cooperation, policy assistance, and disaster coordination. Our focus is on key natural resource problems and issues in countries with significant forest resources and important forest-related trade with the United States. International cooperation results in improved sustainable natural resource practices in partner countries, develops the skills of USDA Forest Service personnel, and brings back knowledge and innovative technologies to the United States.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Secretary of Agriculture **Ann M. Veneman**
Chief of the USDA Forest Service **Dale N. Bosworth**

International Programs
USDA Forest Service
1099 14th St. NW, Suite 5500W
Washington, DC 20005-3402

Web site <http://www.fs.fed.us/global>

Director **Val Mezainis**
Phone **(202) 205-1650**

Art Director **Woody Machalek**
Editor **Hutch Brown**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



FOREST SERVICE



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

