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JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

Seminar on
AFFORESTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

in conjunction with the 24th session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on
Forest Technology, Management and Training

Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 15-19 September 2002

Indicative Forest Strategies: The Irish Experience

Basic paper by Damian Allen and Mr. Séamus Dunne

Summary

In October 2001, the Forest Service (Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources) started a project to develop indicative forest strategies (IFSs) in Ireland. IFSs are well suited to Ireland as it has one of the highest afforestation rates in the world. While the area of land under forest amounts to approximately 9%, the planting targets aim to increase this figure to 17% by the year 2030.

While the time was ripe to introduce such a tool, the Forest Service had been actively encouraging SFM practices in the industry through its enforcement of a suite of SFM documents including a code of best forest practice and a national forest standard published in 2000. New environmental and public consultation procedures in relation to individual forestry applications also coincided with the initiation of the IFS development process.

The primary objective of the project is to produce IFSs, based largely on the Scottish model, for each administrative county. These strategies, *inter alia*, would highlight the preferred areas of the county for new planting. The key element of the project is the process of consultation and negotiation with all stakeholders within each county. The County Councils were identified as key partners in this process and the Forest Service has initiated the process with over half of the Councils.
