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Timber Committee
European Forestry Commission

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

**SEMINAR on AFFORESTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF
SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT@**

**An International Seminar, organized by the Irish Forest Service,
Department of the Marine and Natural Resources
Ennis (Ireland), 15-19 September 2002**

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

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The attached contains **information** on the seminar and a **call for contributions**. Also attached is a preliminary registration form which participants are requested to return before **1 March 2002**. A more detailed Note of Information with a provisional agenda, practical arrangements and a registration form will be sent to participants later on.

Kindly forward this information to those specialists who may be interested in the seminar topic.

Background

Sustainable forest management (SFM) means the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and in a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at a local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

SFM is an international initiative and is adapted to different areas of the globe according to the regional context. Despite this diversity in implementation, core criteria remain common throughout, and these relate to the forest resource, forest health and vitality, productive capacity, biodiversity, soil and water, and socio-economic issues. Although applicable to all stages of the forest cycle, these criteria are perhaps of greatest importance at the afforestation stage involving the development of new forests on open land. Proper practices at this stage lay a solid foundation for the full implementation of SFM throughout the forest's lifetime and beyond.

Afforestation in the context of SFM

Afforestation within the context of SFM extends beyond the simple planting of trees to encapsulate the planting of the right trees in the right places. Given the nature of afforestation as a major change in land use, the activity impacts greatly on the site and its surroundings. It also has wider implications in relation to, for example, the protection of river catchments, landscape management and the provision of an adequate regional infrastructure.

In order to ensure that afforestation takes place within the context of SFM, best practice must permeate all aspects involved in the development of new forests, including:

- ! planning at all levels, national, regional and local (e.g. national forest policies, indicative forest strategies, catchment plans), all undertaken within the framework of consultation with relevant stakeholders;
- ! ? the assessment of land availability and competing land uses, and the provision of suitable support measures **B** financial, professional and training **B** for landowners;
- ! ? the assessment of individual sites in relation to their suitability for afforestation, environmental considerations such as soil and water protection, landscape, biodiversity and archaeology, and site planning issues such as provisions for harvesting and other future operations, forest restructuring and landscape modelling;
- ! operations directly associated with afforestation, such as the selection of suitable species and provenances, site preparation, planting, nutrient regimes, vegetation control, integrated pest management, filling-in and formative shaping;
- ! ? the establishment of forests aimed specifically at non-wood benefits, including biodiversity, recreation, catchment protection and carbon sequestration.

Ireland B an international case study

Ireland has embarked on an ambitious strategy to increase its forest cover from 9% to 17% by the year 2030. Ireland's Forest Service is working in partnership with the public, private and environmental sectors and with other State agencies to ensure that this increase takes place in accordance with SFM, as set out in the IRISH NATIONAL FOREST STANDARD, CODE OF BEST FOREST PRACTICE B IRELAND and a suite of environmental guidelines. Irish foresters have faced numerous challenges, opportunities and constraints throughout the rebuilding of the nation's forest estate from 1% of the land area 100 years ago. The commitment of Ireland to SFM under the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe is seen by Irish foresters as an opportunity to further encourage best practice at the afforestation stage, thereby providing a solid basis for ensuring that all timber produced in Ireland is derived from sustainably managed forests. Ireland's incorporation of SFM into its national afforestation strategy provides a useful, perhaps unique, case study for other countries involved in expanding their national forest estate.

Objectives and topics

The objective of the international seminar on 'Afforestation in the Context of SFM' is to discuss best practice which ensures that afforestation proceeds in accordance with SFM. Topics will cover all aspects of afforestation outlined above, from initial planning through to canopy closure.

Participants

The seminar is aimed at all those with an interest in the successful establishment of forests within the context of SFM. These will include professionals from the forestry and environmental sectors, landuse specialists, national, regional and local government officials, policy-makers and legislators, scientists and researchers, environmental non-government organisations and the wider stakeholder community.

Preliminary programme

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|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Sunday, 15 Sept.</i> | Field excursion to afforestation sites within western Ireland, studying afforestation in the context of SFM |
| <i>Monday, 16 Sept.</i> | General introduction Plenary session B papers |
| <i>Tuesday, 17 Sept.</i> | Plenary session B papers |
| <i>Wednesday, 18 Sept.</i> | Working groups assessing current practices and exploring new approaches to afforestation in the context of SFM |
| <i>Thursday, 19 Sept.</i> | Plenary session presenting the findings of the working groups Conclusions and recommendations Close |

The international seminar on >Afforestation in the Context of SFM= will be held in conjunction with the twenty-fourth session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (12-14 September), the agenda, TIM/EFC/WP.1/2002/1, will be issued shortly.

Preliminary registration and call for contributions

If you wish to attend the >Afforestation in the Context of SFM=International Seminar, please complete the attached preliminary form and send one copy to each of the following addresses before 1 March 2002.

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Contributions are welcome from anyone wishing to deal with a topic related to the seminar theme. Those interested are invited to include a summary of their presentation with their preliminary registration form. This summary should indicate the proposed topic and outline the contents in a maximum of 300 words. It should also indicate the name and address of the author and specify the type of presentation intended (oral presentation, poster, paper, media exhibit).

Preliminary registration form

Joint FAO / ECE / ILO Committee on
Forest Technology, Management and Training

Afforestation in the Context of SFM

An International Seminar, ENNIS (Ireland), 15B19 September 2002

If you wish to attend the above seminar, please complete this form and send one copy to both K. Collins and J. Najera (see attached contact details) before **1 March 2002**.

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|
| I wish to present (please ?) | an oral presentation */ | [] |
| | a poster | [] |
| | a paper */ | [] |
| | a media exhibit (please specify) | [] |

Preliminary title _____

*/ Attach a summary (max. 300 words) on a separate sheet.
