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

AFFORESTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

an International Seminar

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

Second announcement

Programme of the Seminar and Registration

**FOREST SERVICE,
DEPARTMENT OF THE MARINE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, IRELAND**

PARTICIPATION

Seminar participants are invited to fill in the forms set out in annexes I and II. The deadline for hotel reservations is **21 June 2002.**

DOCUMENTS

Seminar documents will be distributed by mail and will also be posted at the Committee's website:

<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee>

Words of Welcome

As Minister with responsibility for forestry, I wholeheartedly welcome the upcoming 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management' International Seminar in Ennis, 15-19 September 2002. Ireland has embarked on an exciting afforestation programme aimed at increasing forest cover from 9% to 17% by the year 2030. This level of afforestation will represent a major change in land use and will lay the foundation for a dramatic expansion of downstream industries and associated employment. However, of primary consideration in Ireland is the necessity to ensure that this level of afforestation takes place within the context of Sustainable Forest Management, to ensure that the full range of benefits and functions from the nation's forests - economic, social and environmental - can be realised now and into the future. Ireland is proud to be a signatory to the 1998 Lisbon Resolution, which commits signatory countries to the principles and criteria of SFM. The implementation of SFM is enshrined in the Irish National Forest Standard, the Code of Best Forest Practice – Ireland and a suite of environmental guidelines covering water quality, landscape, archaeology, biodiversity and other aspects.

Achieving afforestation in the context of SFM requires new skills and knowledge, all of which are best learnt through dialogue and information exchange. We in Ireland are very pleased to be involved in the hosting of this seminar in association with the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, as it brings to our shores a wealth of experience in the form of expert practitioners and researchers, thereby creating a unique opportunity to learn from other countries' experiences in this area. We also hope to be able to present the Irish experience, thereby contributing in some way to the development of international best forest practice.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Ennis in September 2002.

Hugh Byrne TD

Minister of State at the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources

Introduction

Sustainable forest management (SFM) entails the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at 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 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.

Ireland - an international case study

In its ambitious strategy to increase Ireland's forest cover, the Irish 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 NATIONAL FOREST STANDARD, CODE OF BEST FOREST PRACTICE - 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 to SFM 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

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 landuse, 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. The objective of the International Seminar 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management' is to discuss best practice which ensures that afforestation proceeds in accordance with SFM.

Participants

The seminar is aimed at all those in the international field 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.

Seminar structure

The overall seminar theme 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management' is divided into three themes, each incorporating both practice and research. The three themes, and an overview of each, are as follows:

Theme 1: National and regional strategic planning

Structures and practices implemented on a national and regional scale to provide an overall framework to promote afforestation in accordance with the principles of SFM. Related topics include:

- ?? forest and land use legislation;
- ?? national forest and environmental policy;
- ?? national forest standards, codes of best practice and environmental guidelines;
- ?? the provision of suitable support measures (grants, incentives, professional advice, training and education);
- ?? spatial strategies, land availability and competing landuses;
- ?? consultative frameworks involving national and regional stakeholder groups;
- ?? the treatment of sensitive water catchments and sensitive landscapes;
- ?? promoting multi-objective afforestation – recreation, amenity, urban forestry, native woodlands, protection forests, etc.;
- ?? national forest health and vitality;

- ?? indicative forest strategies and other tools used to identify opportunities and constraints for afforestation;
- ?? planning for downstream requirements, e.g. infrastructure, roading, processing.

Theme 2: Local and site planning

An assessment of individual sites at a local and site level in relation to their suitability for afforestation within the context of SFM. Related topics include:

- ?? environmental considerations (soil and water protection, landscape, biodiversity, archaeology, etc.);
- ?? environmental impact assessment;
- ?? land acquisition, co-operatives and farm partnerships;
- ?? consultation with local stakeholders;
- ?? site assessment for afforestation;
- ?? site planning issues (landscape modelling, provisions for harvesting and other future operations);
- ?? incorporating other uses – recreation, amenity, urban forestry, native woodlands, protection forests, etc.;
- ?? wind throw hazard classification;
- ?? species and provenance selection;
- ?? productivity assessment;
- ?? identifying nutritional and other requirements;
- ?? planning buffer zones, exclusion zones;
- ?? contingency planning.

Theme 3: Operational aspects

The practice of afforestation, covering all operations from greenfield to canopy closure. Related topics, all undertaken in accordance with SFM practice, include the following:

- ?? tree breeding and seed supply;
- ?? nursery practice;
- ?? seedling development;
- ?? the potential for natural regeneration;
- ?? site preparation, cultivation and drainage;
- ?? planting technology (manual, mechanical);
- ?? nutrient management;
- ?? vegetation management;
- ?? forest protection (pests, diseases, fire);
- ?? early tending (e.g. respacing, formative shaping);
- ?? environmental auditing.

Papers and posters submitted for presentation at the seminar should, as far as possible, focus on one of the above three themes. Theme 1 will be addressed on Monday, Theme 2 on Tuesday and Theme 3 on Wednesday, with each day finishing with an open discussion assessing current practices and exploring new approaches in relation to that theme. The final day, Thursday, will focus on agreeing overall conclusions and recommendations to be brought to the Joint Committee, governments and research institutions.

Programme overview

<i>Sunday, 15 Sept.</i>		Field excursion to afforestation sites within West Ireland, studying afforestation in the context of SFM
<i>Monday, 16 Sept.</i>	Item 1 Item 2 Item 3	Opening Adoption of the agenda General introduction 'Afforestation in the Context of SFM' Theme 1: National and regional strategic planning
<i>Tuesday, 17 Sept.</i>	Item 4	Theme 2: Local and site planning
<i>Wednesday, 18 Sept.</i>	Item 5	Theme 3: Operational aspects
<i>Thursday, 19 Sept.</i>	Item 6	Conclusions and recommendations Close

Field excursion

Participants are invited to participate in the seminar field excursion to take place on Sunday, 15 September, focusing on the overall seminar theme 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management'. The excursion will visit a variety of afforestation sites in Co. Clare and Co. Limerick, West Ireland, studying national, regional and site planning for afforestation, and operational aspects of afforestation, all undertaken within the context of SFM.

The excursion will depart by coach from the meeting venue, the West County Hotel, early on Sunday morning, returning to the hotel at approximately 7.00 pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided during the day, and the agenda will include a cultural stop. Participants are strongly advised to bring walking boots and rain-gear, given the unpredictability of the Irish weather.

When filling in the Seminar Registration Form (annex I), please indicate whether or not you will take part in the excursion.

Registration and call for contributions

The deadline for registrations has been extended to **15 June 2002**. If you wish to attend the 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management' International Seminar, please complete the attached Seminar Registration Form (annex I) and send one copy to each of the following before **15 June 2002**:

Mr. Kevin D. Collins
Forestry Inspector
Forest Service
Dept. of the Marine & Natural Resources
Leeson Lane
DUBLIN 2
Ireland

Tel. +353-1-6199383
Fax +353-1-6623180
E-mail: kevin.collins@marine.irlgov.ie

Mr. Jorge Najera
Economic Affairs Officer
Timber Section
UNECE Trade Division
Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 GENEVA 10
Switzerland

Tel. +41-22-917-3240
Fax +41-22-917-0041
E-mail: jorge.najera@unece.org

The organisers are still accepting contributions from anyone wishing to deal with a topic related to one or more of the seminar themes. Those interested are invited to include a summary of their presentation with their Seminar Registration Form (annex I). 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).

Hotel reservation and other information

Participants to the 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management' International Seminar are requested to arrange their own accommodation directly with the venue hotel, the West County Hotel, using the Hotel Reservation Form (annex II). Note that completed Hotel Reservation Forms (annex II) must reach the hotel before **21 June 2002**, and that accommodation cannot be guaranteed after this date. See www.lynchotels.com for full information of the hotel, with links to local visitor and tourist information websites. Also try the following website for further visitor information: <http://www.shannon-dev.ie/tourism/holidays/index.asp> and www.shannonheritage.com. Shannon International Airport is the nearest international airport to the hotel, located approximately 22 km south of Ennis Town.

A conference dinner will be held in the historic Knappogue Castle, Co. Clare on the evening of Wednesday, 18 September. Please indicate on the attached Seminar Registration Form (annex I) if you wish to attend this event.

A full programme is being arranged for accompanying persons (spouses, partners, etc.) travelling with seminar participants, incorporating visits to the Burren National Park and Galway City. Please list on the attached Seminar Registration Form (annex I) the names of accompanying persons, if any. Be sure to make the necessary arrangements with the hotel regarding accommodation for accompanying persons, using the Hotel Reservation Form (annex II).

There is no fee for participation in the 'Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management' International Seminar and associated field excursion, conference dinner and accompanying persons programme. However, participants are required to cover the cost of their own travel, accommodation and subsistence.

A final programme will be mailed to all registered participants along with seminar documentation, visitor information, accompanying persons programme, transfer details between Shannon Airport and the hotel, etc.

ANNEX I

SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

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

Afforestation in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management

an International Seminar, Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 15-19 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 contact details on page 5) before **15 June 2002**. (Please fill in using CAPITAL LETTERS)

First name _____
Surname _____
Organisation _____
Address _____

Telephone _____
Fax _____
E-mail _____

Do you wish to participate in the seminar field excursion on Sunday, 15 Sept.? Yes []
(Please tick) No []

Do you wish to attend the conference dinner, Wednesday evening, 18 Sept.? Yes []
(Please tick) No []

Do you wish to make a presentation at the seminar? (Please tick) Yes [] No []
If yes, please specify the type of presentation (please tick)

- an oral presentation []
- a poster []
- a paper []
- a media exhibit (please specify) []

Preliminary title _____
(Attach a summary (max. 300 words) on a separate sheet.)

Please provide below the names of any persons (partners, spouses, etc.) accompanying you to Ennis.

ANNEX II

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland

Participants in the 'Afforestation in the Context of SFM' International Seminar are requested to arrange their accommodation directly with the venue hotel, the West County Hotel, using this Hotel Reservation Form.

(Please fill in using CAPITAL LETTERS)

Name _____
Organisation _____
Address _____

Country _____
Telephone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

I wish to reserve a **single / double room** (*please underline the type of room required*)
at the West County Hotel for _____ **night(s)**, **arriving on _____ of September** (*indicate date*) **and**
departing on _____ of September 2002.

Price (including full Irish breakfast and tax): €61 per person sharing per night; €86 per single room per night. Accommodation is to be paid on departure. To secure your reservation, please provide a non-refundable deposit of €60 or credit card details. Bookings cancelled prior to arrival incur a cancellation fee equal to the cost of the intended first night stay, or loss of the booking deposit. Early departures will also incur a cancellation fee equal to the cost of the first night missed.

To secure my reservation, I include (*tick appropriate box*):

a booking deposit of €60 []

my credit card details (below) []

Credit Card Type _____

Card Number _____ Expiry Date ____ / ____

Cardholder Name _____

Please send your completed hotel reservation form **before 21 June 2002** directly to the Central Reservations Office, West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland (tel. +353-65-6823000, fax. +353-65-6823759, e-mail cro@lynchotels.com), quoting 'International Afforestation Seminar' with all correspondence. Accommodation cannot be guaranteed after the above deadline. The West County Hotel will confirm all reservations in writing.

For your information, the West County Hotel has a fully equipped leisure centre and swimming pool. See **www.lynchotels.com** for full information on the hotel, with links to local visitor and tourist information websites. Shannon International Airport, located approximately 22 km south of Ennis Town, is the nearest international airport to the hotel. Details of transfer service to and from the hotel to follow.