

## RECENT EVENTS



### 20TH SESSION OF ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

NADI, FIJI  
19-23 APRIL 2004

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) meets in general session every two years, providing member countries and other interested organizations an opportunity to assess the successes and challenges in forestry in Asia and the Pacific, and to develop programmes for regional cooperation.

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### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTEGRATION OF FOREST-BASED DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN AMAZON

RIO BRANCO, ACRE, BRAZIL  
26-29 APRIL 2004

This conference was the final activity of ITTO Project PD 94/90 Rev. 3 (I) – The integration of forest-based development in the western Amazon – Phase II – technology for sustainable utilization of raw forest materials.

Major project outputs included: an integrated management plan for the Antimari Forest Reserve; a system for the participation of and benefit-sharing within local communities; the construction of an

access road to the reserve; marketing strategies for timber and non-timber products; the establishment of cooperatives for the production and marketing of forest and non-forest products; integrated logging and primary and secondary timber-processing operations; establishment of local processing units for latex and Brazil nuts; a series of permanent plots to monitor the effects of forest utilization; and improvements in the social services for the local populations.

The objective of this workshop was to share project results and to discuss how these might be translated into policy strategies for the development of forest-based sustainable forest industry in the Amazon region.

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**Project Manager, Avenida das Acácias**  
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### WILDLIFE AS A NATURAL RESOURCE – 6TH INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE RANCHING SYMPOSIUM

PARIS, FRANCE  
6-9 JULY 2004

The International Wildlife Ranching Symposium (IWRS) has striven for 15 years to bring together the people who care about upgrading the value of wildlife and its products throughout the world. The symposium provided a forum to interact and exchange information and ideas on all aspects of wildlife conservation as a tool for sustainable development, including: wildlife as food including the bushmeat issues; wildlife products including marketing, processing and controlling; and wildlife/human conflicts including disease transmission, crop damage and predation on livestock.

**For more information, please contact:**  
**Philippe Chardonnet, Director,**

**Fondation Internationale pour la**  
**Sauvegarde de la Faune, International**  
**Foundation for the Conservation**  
**of Wildlife, 15 rue de Téhéran,**  
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**www.wildlife-conservation.org**

### WORKSHOP ON NON- TIMBER FOREST PRODUCT (NTFP) NETWORKING IN LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
9 JULY 2004

NTFPs play an important role in poverty alleviation, sustainable management of natural resources and private sector development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, where more than 50 organizations are working in the NTFP sector.

The objective of the workshop was to identify opportunities for information exchange and cooperation through networking among organizations working in the country's NTFP subsector.

**For more information, please contact:**  
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**or**  
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**Adviser.**  
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**SECOND WORLDWIDE SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER AND FORESTRY**

ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
1-10 AUGUST 2004

This event focused on women and forestry, gender, poverty and sustainable development, forest resource use and income-generating activities for local people, ideology, religion and environmental responsibility.

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**www.cifor.cgiar.org/docs/\_ref/publications/newsonline/35/event.htm**

**FOURTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILD PLANTS**

VALENCIA, SPAIN  
17-20 AUGUST 2004

Organized by Planta Europa, the network of organizations for the preservation and sustainable use of wild flora in Europe, this conference aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in Europe.

**For more information, please contact:**  
**Planta Europa, c/o Poeta Monmeneu, 16 1 E-46009, Valencia, Spain.**  
**E-mail: floraval@gva.es;**  
**www.nerium.net/plantaeuropa/index.htm**



**1ST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FOREST AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

ZARAGOZA, SPAIN  
30 AUGUST-3 SEPTEMBER 2004

This workshop focused on modern technology for the design and construction of Information and Decision Support Systems for Forestry and the Environmental Sciences.

Among the most important requirements of forestry and environmental management, are: i) the need for monitoring information on damage and disturbances, including fire; ii) reliable information on diversity to aid in efforts to conserve biological, landscape and social diversity which is associated with forests and the environment; and iii) accurate forest inventory data, often remotely sensed, which may be used to guide sustainable management of natural resources for the effective production of timber and NTFPs.

**For more information, please visit:**  
**http://cms1.gre.ac.uk/conferences/iufro/DEXA04\_FEIDSS/**

**NON-WOOD PRODUCT MANAGEMENT AND USE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

SOLSONA (LLEIDA), SPAIN  
20 SEPTEMBER-1 OCTOBER 2004

The main objectives of the seminar were to discuss the different production and management strategies for non-wood forest products that exist in the Mediterranean region, as well as identifying opportunities for joint collaboration.

**For more information, please contact:**  
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**CONFERENCE ON BUSHMEAT AND LIVELIHOODS**

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM  
23-24 SEPTEMBER 2004

This conference was organized by the Overseas Development Institute and the Zoological Society of London. It considered the state of existing knowledge on wild meat from a livelihoods perspective, in order to recommend ways forward for both policy-makers and practitioners concerned with its sustainable management.

**For more information, please contact:**  
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**www.odi-bushmeat.org/conference\_overview.html**

**THE SECOND ALASKA NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS CONFERENCE – HIDDEN FOREST VALUES II**

SITKA, ALASKA, USA  
1-2 OCTOBER 2004

The purpose of this conference was to exchange information, cooperate and raise awareness of issues on sustainable and equitable, environmentally and economically viable opportunities for non-timber forest products in Alaska. The conference addressed traditional values, income opportunities and sustainability issues related to NTFPs in Alaska.

**For more information, please contact:**  
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**SECOND GLOBAL SUMMIT ON MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS – PROSPECTS AND CONSTRAINTS IN CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF MEDICINAL PLANTS**

NEW DELHI, INDIA  
25–29 OCTOBER 2004

Plants have been a major source of medicine for humans. According to available information, a total of at least 35 000 plant species are widely used for medicinal purposes. The demand for traditional herbal medicine is increasing very rapidly, mainly because of the harmful effects of synthetic chemical drugs. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 80 percent of the population of developing countries depend on traditional systems of medicine, mostly plant-based products, for their primary health care. The global clamour for more herbal ingredients creates possibilities for the local cultivation of medicinal and aromatic crops as well as for the regulated and sustainable harvest of wild plants. Such endeavours could help raise more rural employment in the developing countries, boost commerce around the world and perhaps contribute to the health of millions.

The current global market for herbal products, including medicines, beauty and toiletry products is estimated at around US\$62 billion. The global market for herbal medicine alone is estimated to be around US\$5 billion, growing at a rate of 30 to 40 percent annually, and is expected to reach US\$16 billion by 2005. There is a need for validation and standardization of phytomedicines and traditional medical practices so that this sector can be accorded its rightful place in the health care system.

The summit objectives, therefore, were to: a) provide a global forum for growers, traders, manufacturers of herbal

medicine and professionals in the field of traditional and other alternative therapies to share knowledge, experiences and ideas; and b) plan future strategies in medicinal and aromatic plant research, education and training, and development.

For more information, please contact:  
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Second Global Summit on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, c/o Century Foundation, No. 35, 3rd Cross Road, Vignannagar, Malleshpalya, Bangalore 560075, India.**  
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**1ST INTERNATIONAL FAIR AND FORUM: NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS – CULTURE OF USE**

MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
30 OCTOBER–3 NOVEMBER 2004

The IUCN Office for Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, in collaboration with an array of local and international partners, organized the first ever fair of non-timber forest products.

NTFPs – such as berries, mushrooms and herbal medicines – are among the most important forest resources for local communities around the world, even though the actual “products” may vary from place to place. Interest in these products has grown enormously in recent years, and NTFPs are increasingly viewed as a key part of local sustainable livelihood strategies. However, better information on marketing opportunities, equipment and technologies and sustainable harvesting practices is needed to ensure the sector’s sustainability.

IUCN has been working with local communities in far-eastern Russia on developing sustainable NTFP-related businesses since 1998, and the NTFP fair boosted similar initiatives across the country and beyond.

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**5TH INTERNATIONAL WALNUT SYMPOSIUM**

SORRENTO, ITALY  
9–13 NOVEMBER 2004

Scientific and technical contributions on walnut for fruit, wood and other products were presented and discussed.

For more information, please contact:  
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**THE FOURTH NATIONAL BAMBOO CONGRESS**

VIGAN CITY, ILOCOS SUR, PHILIPPINES  
10–12 NOVEMBER 2004

For more information, please contact:  
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www.unp.edu.ph/bamboo/index.htm

RECENT EVENTS



**3RD IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS**

BANGKOK, THAILAND  
17-25 NOVEMBER 2004

The theme of this congress was "People and Nature – only one world". Various topics related to the problems and the safeguarding of ecosystems were assessed and debated from the perspective of governments, NGOs, civil society and the private sector. The event was the largest environmental gathering ever held in Asia.

For more information, please contact:  
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[www.iucn.org/congress/about/welcome.htm](http://www.iucn.org/congress/about/welcome.htm)

**BEYOND WOOD: THE VALUE OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS**

CORNWALL, UNITED KINGDOM  
2-5 DECEMBER 2004

This workshop was designed to increase awareness among young foresters (both students and young professionals) of the importance of NTFPs and the complex nature of their conservation, development and utilization. It was envisaged that lessons learned will enable these forest managers of the future to give a high priority to responsible and sustainable forest management, to give due concern to the people who depend on the forest for their livelihood and to open up new resources to communities and First Nations.

Thirty participants and trainers from eight countries (United Kingdom, Malawi, Uganda, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, France and Australia) gathered at the Eden Project in Cornwall to listen to

presentations, exchange information and debate key issues related to NTFP conservation, research, development and utilization. Speakers from both developed and developing countries were able to provide a global perspective on the challenges and opportunities surrounding NTFPs. All presentations are available online ([www.cfa-international.org](http://www.cfa-international.org)).

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**WORLD HERBO-BAMBOO EXPO – 2005**

BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA  
12-15 JANUARY 2005

Topics discussed included: tribal development through commercialization of medicinal plant biodiversity; innovative bamboo products, bioenergy, biofoods, biomedicines, prospective for the people and the environment; and the role of Ayurveda in AIDS.

For more information, please contact:  
**Secretary General, World Herbo Expo 2004, Jeev-Jantu Kalyan Sangathan (PFA), "Vasundara Bhawan", E-4, Patel Nagar, Raisen Road, Bhopal 462012, M.P., India.**  
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**GLOBAL FORUM ON THE REVIEW OF WOMEN'S PROGRESS ON FORESTRY MANAGEMENT SINCE BEIJING 1995: TOWARDS A COMMON AGENDA**

KAMPALA, UGANDA  
25-29 JANUARY 2005



The main objective of this review exercise was to examine objectively the gains made and challenges met by women in implementing sustainable forest management actions to which governments committed themselves during the Beijing Platform of Action.

The forum focused on the involvement of women in:

- forestry in improving family livelihoods including contributions of timber and non-timber forest products and in agroforestry;
- energy conservation with specific reference to biomass energy; and
- biodiversity protection and environmental sustainability.

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**INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF MEDICINAL  
PLANTS/HERBS  
IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA  
5-8 FEBRUARY 2005

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**WORKING FORESTS IN  
THE TROPICS: POLICY  
AND MARKET IMPACTS  
ON CONSERVATION  
AND MANAGEMENT**

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, USA  
14-15 FEBRUARY 2005

This conference was developed as a forum to examine impacts of public policies and markets on tropical forests and the people who live in them, and to identify policy initiatives and market-based incentives that may be useful for promoting forest conservation and management.

For more information, please contact:  
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www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/topics

**INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
ECOTOURISM PLANNING  
AND MANAGEMENT IN  
PROTECTED AREAS**

SRINAGAR GARHWAL, INDIA  
28 FEBRUARY-3 MARCH 2005

Topics included the planning, development, management and monitoring of ecotourism as well as issues of marketing, impacts and advancement. Community ecotourism development was a particular priority.

For more information, please contact:  
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**17TH COMMONWEALTH  
FORESTRY CONFERENCE**

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA  
28 FEBRUARY-5 MARCH 2005

The theme of the conference was "Forestry's contribution to poverty reduction". The conference was structured around the following subthemes:

- Ensuring the supply security of forest goods and services
- Building good governance in the forestry sector
- The role of forestry in improving people's lives
- Ensuring stakeholder participation at all levels

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htm ●

