



Halting Runaway Consumption

A ground-breaking meeting in November brought together a wide range of environmentalists to agree a shared vision and action plan to halt destruction of endangered forests for pulp and paper manufacture. The result is the powerful 'Common Vision for Transforming the Paper Industry', as Jim Ford of ForestEthics reports.

The year 2002 will be remembered as a watershed year for the paper industry. Not only did major paper companies make significant advances in the environmental attributes of their paper – due to hard-fought campaigns – but environmentalists across North America came together to create a Common Vision for the transformation of an industry whose impacts are felt worldwide.

The Vision states, 'the pulp and paper industry is among the world's largest generators of air and water pollutants, waste products and the gases that cause climate change. It is also one of the largest users of raw materials, including fresh water, energy and forest fibres. Forests that are essential for clean air and water, wildlife habitat, climate protection, spirituality, recreation and indigenous peoples' cultural survival, including old-growth and other ecologically important forests, are being logged for fibre. In many places they also are being cleared for replacement by plantations that have reduced ecological value and employ toxic chemical herbicides and fertilisers. The pulp and paper industry also has negative impacts on the health, well-being and stability of local communities.'

The meeting produced a strategy for implementing the Vision.

Clean Production

- Minimise the combined impacts of water, energy, wood and chemical usage, as well as air, water, solid waste and thermal pollution, across the entire paper production system.

- Eliminate harmful pulp mill discharges and the use of chlorine and chlorine compounds for bleaching.
- ### *Responsible Fibre Sourcing*

- End the use of wood fibre that threatens endangered forests.
- End the clearing of natural forest ecosystems and their conversion into plantations for paper fibre.
- Source any remaining virgin wood fibres for paper from FSC certified forest managers.
- Use alternative crops for paper if comprehensive and credible analysis indicates that they are environmentally and socially preferable to other virgin fibre sources.
- Eliminate widespread industrial use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers in plantations and fibre production.
- Stop the introduction of paper fibre from genetically modified organisms.

Maximise Recycled Content

- Eliminate paper manufactured solely of virgin fibre and fundamentally reduce reliance on virgin tree fibres.
- Maximise post-consumer recycled fibre content in *all* paper and paper products.
- Increase the use of other recovered materials (e.g. agricultural residues and pre-consumer recycled) as a fibre source in paper.

Minimise Paper Consumption

- Eliminate excessive and unnecessary paper consumption

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Editorial

This final issue of 2002 focuses on ways to achieve sustainable consumption of forest products from the boreal region. This is a huge field and in this limited space we cannot hope to do full justice to the topic. We have therefore chosen to focus attention on successful campaigns and strategies by participant organisations of Taiga Rescue Network (TRN). These show how the work of TRN participants can really make a difference in helping to halt the tide of over-consumption. Most of the campaigns have been concerned with paper consumption, so there is an inevitable bias towards paper reflected in this issue.

At the TRN conference in Winnipeg in September, participant organisations resolved to put their own houses in order regarding paper consumption, by carrying out audits of paper use, reducing paper consumption and using post-consumer paper wherever possible. In the spirit of this resolution we are proud to confirm that *Taiga News* is back to its original paper-saving 12-page format, and is still printed on 100% recycled paper from post-consumer waste.

Elisa Peter, who has been TRN international co-ordinator since we took over as editors 3 years ago, has moved on to a new career. We want to take this opportunity to say a big 'thank you!' to Elisa for her immense support to us and great good humour. Finally, welcome to Swaantje Fock, who takes over the helm in Jokkmokk. Good luck!

Mandy Haggith and Bill Ritchie

Global

FSC GA

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) holds its triennial General Assembly (GA) in Oaxaca, Mexico, on 22-26 November 2002. Policy motions to be discussed include: harmonisation of regional or national standards; scoring systems for ensuring consistency of certifiers; ensuring independence from the World Trade Organization (WTO); mutual recognition with other certification schemes; and increased transparency in FSC policy processes.

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C&I Conference

The International Conference on Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management will be held on 3-7 February 2003 in Guatemala. The conference objectives are to strengthen institutional capacity for application of C&I, promote political commitment for the use of C&I and contribute to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and other international initiatives using C&I for sustainable development.

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Indigenous Forum

The UN General Assembly has resolved to establish a secretariat and fund for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

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Deadlock in Dehli

The 8th Conference of the Parties (COP-8) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change met in Dehli in late October. The worrying result of the conference appears to be a widening of the breach between north and south. Interventions by the USA, Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich nations led to widespread distrust that rich countries want to impose unrealistic commitments on developing countries that will hamper their economic growth. All eyes are now on India to rebuild trust between the parties before the next conference.

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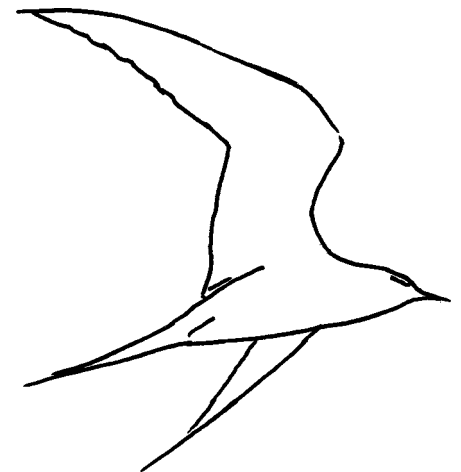
www.climatenetwork.org

Carbon Sinks Watchdog

Fern and the World Rainforest Movement (WRM) have launched SinksWatch, an initiative to track and scrutinise carbon sink projects, especially those involving tree plantations, related to the Kyoto Protocol.

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North America

Mitsubishi Goes Green

Mitsubishi Corporation has announced a new policy seeking FSC certification of all its forest operations, including those of Alberta Pacific Forest Industries (ALPAC) which manages 6 million ha of forest and a pulp mill in Alberta, Canada. ALPAC, which is 70% owned by Mitsubishi Corporation, is undergoing a scoping review for FSC certification. Environmentalists are already concerned about ALPAC's annual allowable cut (AAC) so the FSC process could be controversial.

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Who Owns Newfoundland?

Abitibi-Consolidated have 99-year leases on more than 900,000 ha of the most productive forests in Newfoundland, which begin to expire this year. These leases require no stumpage fees for pulpwood, and impose no environmental requirements. Their expiry gives Newfoundlanders a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to regain some control over their best forests.

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10 New Parks

In October, Canada's prime minister, Jean Chretien, announced that over the next 5 years 10 new national parks will be established in northern Canada.

Source:

CBC News

Bears Threatened in Alberta

Fewer than 1000 grizzly bears remain in Alberta. Environmental groups fear that the eastern edge of their range is being eroded by oil, gas, logging, mining and other commercial developments, whilst in British Columbia to the west they continue to be hunted.

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Europe

Estonian Timber Scandal

NEPCon, the Baltic partner of SmartWood, the FSC certification programme of the Rainforest Alliance, has issued vigorous denials of claims that illegally logged wood from an Estonian National Park has been processed by a SmartWood FSC certified sawmill which is part-owned by StoraEnso. The claims were that Imavere Sawmill, the largest sawmill in the Baltic countries with a yearly processing volume of 700,000 m³, purchased timber that had been illegally logged from Lahemaa National Park, the oldest national park in Estonia. The sawmill was indeed shown to buy and process such timber in March, April and May 2002. In June, it was issued with FSC Chain of Custody certification by NEPCon, with tight conditions to prevent use of illegal timber.

On 31 October 2002, a press release issued by six Estonian environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOs) claimed there was ongoing illegal felling again in Lahemaa National Park and that this wood may have reached Imavere Sawmill. Imavere has confirmed that such timber was delivered to the sawmill but claim it will neither buy nor process it.

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Estonian Reform Promised

The Estonian prime minister, Siim Kallas, has admitted that the government has failed to show an appropriate response to illegal logging in the Lahemaa National Park, and promised to address the issue seriously. There is strong evidence of widespread illegal logging in Estonia. Up to 40% of exported Estonian timber is illegal. There are also allegations that illegal timber is being 'laundered' through international companies, including StoraEnso, and sold in western European countries as a legitimate product. There is now a proposal on the table to form an inter-ministerial working group to propose amendments to the Forest Act and Forestry Development Plan.

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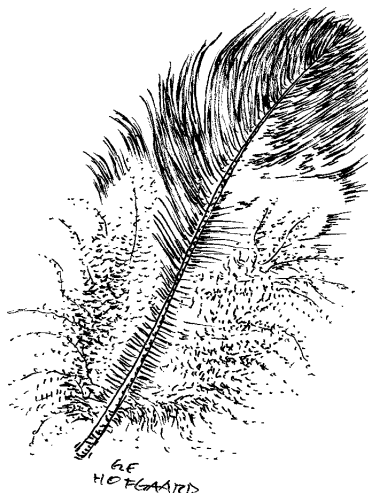
Norwegian Wolf Threat

The Norwegian Forest Owner Association, whose members own most of the forested part of Norway, has said that it supports the extermination of the wolf in Norway, and significantly reductions in the number of bears, lynx and wolverine, due to the difficulties they find in leasing hunting grounds where there are large carnivores.

Meanwhile in Scotland, where all such carnivores were hunted to extinction by 250 years ago, a leading member of the Scottish Landowners' Federation is proposing that reintroduction of wolves would make hunting more exciting and marketable.

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Russia

Top Secret

The offices of TRN participant organisation, Baikal Environmental Wave, based in Irkutsk, Siberia were raided by the Federal Security Service on 22 November 2002. The security service has since said that it will not press charges against Baikal Wave for revealing state secrets and possessing classified information on radioactive contamination around the Angarsk chemical plant. However, the security service confiscated the hard drives of all the NGO's computers as well as maps and other documents. The maps were published more than 10 months ago, but the raid happened just 2 days before the public environmental impact assessment of plans by Yukos, Russia's second-biggest oil company, to build a pipeline through Tunkinsky national park on the shores of Lake Baikal. Baikal Wave are strongly opposed to this plan.

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Udegei Sue Terneiles

In a case unprecedented in Russia's legal history, the indigenous Udegei people from Agsu, in Primorye Krai in the Russian Far East, are taking Terneiles timber company to court demanding that the forest of the Samarga valley be returned to them. The 700,000-ha forest was sold to Terneiles in February 2001, despite a 1992 decision by the local authorities to grant the Udegei legal entitlement to the land.

Source:

Agence-France

2 Million Ha Burnt

According to the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergencies, 2 million ha of forest burned down in Russia in 2002, five times more than in 2001.

Source:

Itar-Tass News Agency

Russia Mismanages Forests

The official auditor, Ivan Dakhnov, has found that the Russian government made a loss on its forest management last year. The Audit Chamber said the Natural Resources Ministry (MNR) has proved a very ineffective user of forest resources. In addition to making a loss, various qualitative parameters worsened: illegal tree felling doubled and reforestation reduced by half. The status of forestry remains unclear, with the MNR continuing to have the dual function of government control and enterprise. The Audit Chamber reports to the State Duma and Federation Council.

However, calls for an independent forest ministry have fallen on deaf ears again, with Prime Minister Kasyanov focusing instead on a programme of international investment in the forest industry. As one ironic commentator puts it, 'Russia's forests will be placed in the trustworthy hands of Finnish, Swedish and Canadian timber investors'.

Source:

Itar-Tass

Land Reform Referendum

The Communist Party is seeking a referendum on the controversial land reform laws passed by the Duma, which legitimise private ownership and sales of commercial and agricultural land. They are producing a petition and need more than 2 million signatures to force a referendum. However, the last such petition, opposing the abolition of the State Forest Service and Environmental Protection Committee, was rejected by the government on technical grounds.

Source:

Agence-France

CHUM Meeting

The 3rd meeting of indigenous peoples of the arctic (CHUM) was held in Hundested, Denmark, on 22–24 October 2002. Discussions included impacts of extractive industries on indigenous communities; legal and legislative aspects of indigenous use of natural resources; and co-operation and interaction between non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organisations.

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Save Paper, Save Money

Heather Sarantis, Natural Step, USA

The quintessential question for all forest activists is how to reduce the pressure currently being placed on international forests. The root of this pressure, of course, is that collectively we are using forest resources at ever increasing rates. As a movement we have had only limited success in consumption reduction campaigns, but there are significant opportunities to demonstrate that wasteful resource use is counterproductive environmentally as well as economically. This article describes the Business Guide to Paper Reduction, a tool kit that was recently produced as a joint project for the University of Montana and ForestEthics, that can be used in paper reduction campaigns.

High-quality vision, efficiency and creativity are key ingredients to a successful business. While much emphasis is placed on how these factors affect a business' product, companies are also seeking ways to improve their internal operations. Increasingly, they are finding that reducing paper consumption can improve efficiency and reduce costs.

The Problem

The number of pages of paper consumed in USA offices is growing by about 20% each year. Currently, the average USA office worker is estimated to use a sheet of paper every 12 minutes (a ream per person every two and a half working weeks) and to dispose of 100-200 pounds (45-90 kg) of paper every year. For many people, this is just an assumed part of conducting business that is seldom questioned.

Yet paper use can be a large economic drain on business. There are many costs beyond the simple purchasing of paper that could be avoided. Storage, lost documents, postage, waste and labour inefficiency all have associated expenses. For example, to store 2 million paper documents an organisation can expect to spend between \$40,000 and \$60,000 on filing cabinets alone. Those same files could fit on fewer than ten CD-ROMs and require considerably less rented floor space. Forms are also a considerable cost to many companies. USA businesses spend \$1 billion a year designing and printing forms, yet approximately one-third of the printed forms become outdated before they are used.

Additionally, the environmental impacts of paper use are extensive. The extraction, production and disposal processes all create unnecessary burdens. With 70% of the USA's paper originating in the south of the country, the region is losing 1.2 million acres (540,000 ha) of forest every year to industry. Considering the chemicals, energy, wood, water and other resources required, producing 1 tonne of paper uses 98 tonnes of various resources. And, despite long-term educational efforts, more paper is still going into landfills than is being collected for recycling.

Staples Victory

A 2-year campaign to improve the environmental performance of North American office supplies superstore, Staples, has ended with victory. Staples has announced that it will: achieve an average of 30% post-consumer recycled content across all the paper products it sells; phase out purchases of paper products from endangered forests, including endangered areas of the Canadian boreal forests; and create an environmental affairs division and report annually on its environmental results. The campaign was run by The Paper Campaign, a coalition of environmental NGOs including ForestEthics, Dogwood Alliance, National Forest Protection Alliance and dozens of others.

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The Solution

Many companies have documented savings of thousands or even millions of dollars through their paper-reduction efforts. The Business Guide to Paper Reduction contains case studies of Bank of America, Nike, AT&T, Alameda County and the Moore Foundation, all of which are involved at different stages in paper-reduction efforts. Each organisation approaches paper reduction in a way that fits its culture and organisational structure. Through a variety of approaches, they are able to reduce costs or avoid additional costs.

Bank of America, for example, makes it optional to receive an ATM receipt. For customers who choose to get one, it is printed on 25% lighter weight paper. The reduction in paper weight alone saves Bank of America \$500,000 every year. AT&T is giving its individual and business customers the option to be billed electronically instead of by monthly paper statements, dropping the cost of rendering bills to three cents per bill, down from \$6.75 for individual bills and \$17.00 for business bills.

Other smaller scale efforts can also be important parts of paper reduction. Education campaigns often inspire individuals to develop their own creative paper-reduction efforts. In Alameda County, for example, one woman in the tax department reformatted the secured property tax form to use less paper, which saved the county \$27,000 and 5500 pounds (2500 kg) of paper. Overall, the organisations found that as soon as they started investigating paper use, they found immediate ways to reduce waste and save money.

The Process

Based on the case studies listed above, an expanded step-by-step guide to reducing paper use was developed. This guide includes ideas for developing paper and wood products policies, organising a paper-reduction campaign, auditing paper use, identifying and prioritising paper-reduction efforts and establishing feedback loops. There is little limit to the ways organisations can reduce paper consumption. Eliminating unneeded printed reports, cleaning mailing lists, providing forms online, distributing reports through the internet, and many other options are available to anyone willing to ask the questions.

Conclusion

As The Business Guide to Paper Reduction demonstrates, with dedication and planning there is significant potential to reduce paper consumption. According to Brad Allenby, the Environment, Health and Safety Director for AT&T, these environmental initiatives are really about efficiency. Based on potential cost-savings alone, the economic justification for such efforts is substantial. And the environmental benefits of paper reduction confirm that what is good for business can be good for the environment.

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Perfect Procurement

Sue Windebank, WWF-UK

The recent high-profile embarrassments faced by the UK government after illegal timber turned up in a number of its buildings are testament to the fact that a robust procurement policy is vital to protect an organisation's reputation – as well as the environment.

This is doubly true for an organisation that makes protection of the environment its business. And for WWF, the global environment network, buying office furniture, paper and other wood products from responsible sources is not only about making sure that its own purchasing practices do not wreck the environment, but also about demonstrating that environmentally sound purchasing is viable for any business.

Diana Brown, WWF-UK Environmental Management Officer, explains. 'All new office furniture we buy, where possible, is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). At the moment this means buying either from Blueline, one of the few FSC certified office furniture suppliers in the UK, or from a high street retailer such as B&Q.'

At this point in time, she says, FSC certification is currently the only assurance that timber comes from a legal and well-managed source.

'Unfortunately WWF research has shown that other certificates claiming that timber is "from sustainable sources" or that "for every tree cut down, three more are replanted" can be misleading. Indeed, they are often issued by companies who cannot substantiate their claims.'

Walk around WWF-UK's headquarters and you can see the results of these procurement practices. Many of the receptionist smiles at visitors from a desk with FSC emblazoned across the front, two of the meeting rooms are home to boardroom tables from Blueline, one with the organisation's panda motif, and flat-pack FSC shelves from B&Q stand around the building.

All paper used by WWF-UK is either FSC certified or recycled with a minimum of 75% post-consumer waste, but Brown says the organisation aims for 100% at all times. Any virgin fibre used in paper is always FSC certified.

'In devising our procurement policies we are always thinking about an item's lifecycle – where the raw materials came from, the manufacturing process, logistics of transporting the item and waste disposal. In terms of our paper procurement policy we are particularly looking at tackling the landfill issue – and this means using

recycled paper where ever possible. However, we do have to vary the percentage of recycled paper versus FSC certified paper when we need a particular quality of paper depending on the actual use of the paper.

'For example we will always aim for 100% post-consumer waste paper for short life-cycle products such as direct mail, but if the product has a longer life-cycle, such as a calendar or a book, then we will use FSC paper or a mix of FSC and recycled.'

So how does a company go about putting together a procurement policy?

Brown says that an organisation should start first with a wider environmental policy. 'This should describe what areas of its business most seriously impact upon the environment and commit to minimising them.

'An environmental management system (EMS) must be put into place to implement the policy and designate individual staff responsibilities to each of the key impacts – of which procurement is usually key. The company should also consider certifying the EMS to a standard, such as the internationally recognised ISO14001 environmental management standard.

'A programme of work should then be put together addressing the issue. This might include a procurement policy, as well as tackling other things an organisation

has to do to minimise the underlying environmental impact – such as reducing the amount of paper it uses.

'It's vital that the policy must include timed targets which allow for incremental and continual improvements and incorporate regular periodic reviews.'

Brown stresses that all this must be agreed at director level and that it is important to have buy-in from across the organisation. Also individuals must be assigned with responsibility and the authority to implement the policy.

While this sounds daunting for any organisation starting out, there are places to go for help. In the UK, for example, the Environment and Energy helpline is a confidential one-stop shop for business on all environmental issues. It is government funded and gives advice on how to address environmental impacts, especially to small companies that are often under-resourced in these areas.

Finally, Brown suggests that any organisation attempting to tackle its procurement policy makes sure that it has a robust internal system and clear audit trail. 'An effective procurement policy is not only about saying the right things but about doing the right things *and* being able to prove it.'

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School Children Wi

Andrea Soth, urg

As part of a successful campaign for the sustainability of paper, school children in Germany challenged to think about the forest origins of every

When Lydia Bartz, who works for the German NGO *urgewald*, visits a class in an elementary school, she begins by putting a big, old suitcase on top of the front desk. Then she starts speaking. 'You'll never guess what's in your exercise book...' One by one an old school exercise book, a globe, a role of toilet paper and a piece of wood appear. By telling the story of the exercise book, Lydia takes the school children on an exciting trip. Almost 2000 German pupils have been on this virtual journey with Lydia so far.

The Virtual Journey

The virtual journey takes them across the Atlantic Ocean. Most of the children have never been so far away from home. Lydia starts a slide show with a picture of the

coast of British Columbia, Canada. Here they begin to explore the Great Bear Rainforest: the 100-metre high, 1000-year old trees, the wolves and bears. Lydia tells them why the salmon and the banana slug are so essential for the forest. They are fascinated by the story of the Nuxalk Nation and their traditional way of life.

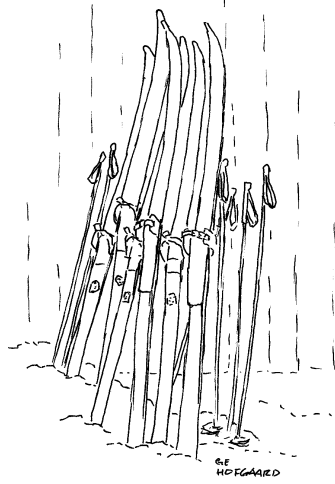
Lydia explains that the forest, the animals and the Nuxalk culture are threatened by clearcut logging. Most of the children are shocked to see the pictures of logged valleys and huge clearcuts. They learn that most of their exercise books are made from virgin wood fibre and that about 20% of this fibre for the German paper market comes from Canada.

But Lydia would not visit all these classes if she did not have a brilliant idea to present: 'There is something everyone

of us can do! We can reduce our consumption and we can use post-consumer paper'. To emphasise this simple message, she points out the quality of post-consumer paper (recycled from post-consumer waste) and the tremendous quantity of paper used in Germany. In order to recognise 100% post-consumer paper and its label, the children get a 'guide through the label-jungle'.

The Multiplier Effect

Lydia's work is only one part of a consumer campaign network in the federal state of Northrhine Westfalia in Germany called 'INITIATIVE 2000 plus'. Ten organisations have been working on the paper issue for almost 2 years. One main action is



Between th

Nicole Rycroft, Marke

Who's good between the covers in Canadian literature? The an

Books are made from paper and paper comes from trees. Today, almost half of Canada's ancient rainforests and 65% of Canada's boreal forests are logged to produce paper. With 80% of the world's large tracts of forests already logged and global paper production projected to increase by 77% between 1997 and 2020, action by large paper consumers is vital for the survival of both ancient forests and the species that call them home.

Markets Initiative, a joint project of Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Greenpeace Canada and Sierra Club of BC, has been working with Canadian book publishers for the past 2 years to help the industry eliminate papers that originate from the world's ancient or endangered forests. Progress to date has been remarkable. 25 of Canada's leading publishers have formalised commitments to safeguard the world's ancient forests and biodiversity by printing their books on 'ancient forest friendly' papers. To date, more than 1.5 million books have been printed on ancient forest friendly paper.

Canadian publishers' commitments generally cover three main layers.

1. Fibre content of paper products. Office and uncoated book grade papers will not originate from any of the world's remaining old growth or ancient forests.
2. Toxins. Preference for totally chlorine-free or processed

Nothing I have ever written is worth the paper. Poetry is alive only if it respects what is left. Writers or publishers contribute to the death of this wounded planet. (Lorna Crozier)

3. Overall consumption. Reducing office paper consumption by 10-30%.

Publishers are trying to implement their commitments within a 3-year period.

Milestones achieved in the first year of Markets Initiative's work with Canadian publishers include the following.

- 25 book publishers have formalised commitments to eliminate their use of ancient forest fibre.
- 150 Canadian titles have been printed on ancient forest friendly paper since 2001.

Nepenthes Gagged

Danish NGO Nepenthes has been suppressed by the Danish Data Protection Agency, which ruled in October that Nepenthes is not allowed to advise Danish consumers against purchasing from shops where they risk buying garden furniture the production of which has contributed to the destruction of forests. Nepenthes has been ordered to remove its 'blacklist' of retailers from the home page www.tropetrae.dk. The order came after a complaint by the Danish Timber Trade Federation on behalf of furniture company, Kircodan Furniture, one of the companies on the blacklist. The tropetrae system divides furniture retailers into a whitelist (those selling over half FSC certified furniture), a greylist (those selling 5-49% FSC certified goods) and the blacklist, which is those stores selling little or no certified goods and therefore cannot provide guarantees to consumers that they are not buying the products of illegal logging and destructive forest practices.

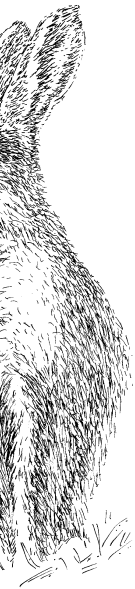
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U Save The Forests

urgewald, Germany

Due to the consumption of paper, German school children are recycling paper objects, beginning with their school books.



the school project 'Schools pro post-consumer paper', where children commit themselves to buying exercise books made out of 100% post-consumer paper in future.

To educate more people, courses are offered for 'multipliers' like teachers and environmental advisers. The work also includes exhibitions with side events, and publication of information and material about post-consumer paper and about the campaign. Discussions are held with politicians, paper producers and local shops about the need for post-consumer paper. Another important part of the campaign is to draw the connections from German paper to the situation of indigenous and forest dependent people worldwide

who are being affected by pollution from pulp mills.

The preliminary results of the campaign are as follows.

- Post-consumer paper has become an issue again at a community as well as at the federal state level.
- More than 500 school classes have committed themselves to use exclusively post-consumer paper.
- More than 600 multipliers are involved in the campaign.
- The campaign has been assigned the status of a federal state project in Northrhein Westfalia in connection with Agenda 21.
- The campaign is reaching out to other parts of Germany.

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TRN participant organisations will soon be following Lydia's example as they unanimously adopted the following resolution at the biennial conference in Pinawa. We look forward to publishing more school stories in *Taiga News*.

Children are the Future

- As children are the future;
- and as school classes present a valuable place to connect with children and pass on the importance of boreal ecosystems and impacts of paper consumption;
- it is hereby resolved that the participants of the 6th biennial TRN Conference challenge all TRN and Boreal Forest Network participants, regardless of their program focus, to make at least one classroom visit to a local school to discuss paper consumption and its impacts on the boreal forests with children.

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Save The Covers

Save the Forests Initiative, Canada

Answer is in the sheets – sheets of paper that is.

- 1.5 million ancient forest friendly books have been printed since 2001.
- Five ancient forest friendly papers have been developed in response to Canadian publishers' requests and five

forest friendly paper is one step towards ending global deforestation and climate change.

Canadian book publishers with ancient forest friendly paper commitments include Anchor Canada, Arsenal Pulp Press, Doubleday Canada, Douglas & McIntyre, Greystone Books, Groundwood Books, Key Porter Books, Knopf Canada, McClelland & Stewart, Macfarlane, Walter & Ross, McGill-Queen's Press, New Society Publishers, Penguin Canada, Polestar Books, Raincoast Books, Random House Canada, Tundra Books, Vintage Canada and Whitecap Books.

What you can do

- Support Canadian publishers taking action to conserve ancient forests. Look for the ancient forest friendly logo when purchasing your next book.
- Ask publishers in your country why they are not printing their books on ancient forest friendly papers.

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smallest branch of an old-growth tree. living. Its soul dies when the actions of destruction of any species - plant or animal- (2001)

Canadian printers now stock such papers.

- 45 of Canada's leading writers have pledged their support for publishers involved in this initiative to safeguard ancient forests.

Canadian book publishers are leading the international publishing industry in the use of ancient forest friendly papers and safeguarding biodiversity. We look forward to other North American and European publishers following Canadian publishers' actions and making similar commitments for the world's endangered forests.

Each book published on ancient

Growing Awareness of FSC

Sandra Mulder, FSC Netherlands

The number of consumers in the Netherlands who look for the FSC trademark when shopping for wood products has risen from 2% to 13% in 1 year.

This growth in consumer awareness was revealed through a survey conducted by WWF, which tracked the impact of a consumer campaign *Save the Forest, Buy FSC Wood* and found that 44% of Dutch consumers are now familiar with the FSC 'checkmark-and-tree' logo. The aim of the campaign was that at least 10% of consumers should spontaneously be able to mention the FSC trademark when asked which trademarks for wood they knew of. That goal has been amply achieved.

'The results of this survey strengthen WWF's confidence that the Dutch market is now unimaginable without the FSC trademark. Consumers who want to make a responsible choice when buying wood or wooden products will more often look for and ask for wood with the FSC trademark', said Arnold van Kreveld, Forest Manager for WWF Netherlands.

We can now clearly see that the number of companies selling FSC wood is growing. The campaign brought together 30 companies and organisations representing 1500 shops throughout the Netherlands and serving approximately 20 million customers a year. Do-it-yourself chains and garden centres in the Netherlands and other well-known Dutch retailers such as Intratuin, Karwei, Europatuin, Gamma, Leen Bakker, Kwantum, Praxis, Hema and Blokker participated in the campaign. Another campaign will run in spring 2003.

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Recycling our Forests?

Anatoly Lebedev, Bureau for Regional Outreach Campaigns, Vladivostok, Russia

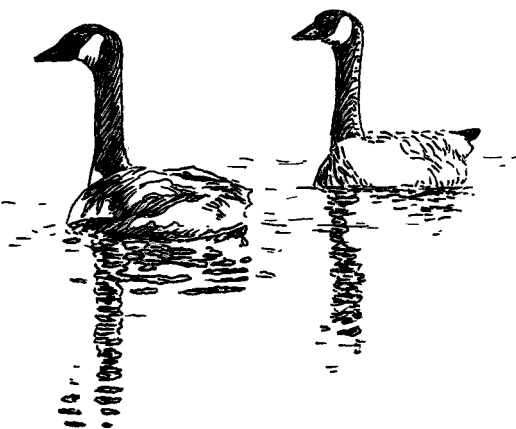
As fast as timber flows out of the Russian Far East, consumer goods are pouring in from Japan, China and Korea, wrapped in packaging produced from Russian pulp. What can be done to challenge this crazy cycle of consumption?

Despite being the key incentive for increased logging over the world, consumption of timber products is one of the least attractive issues for the environmental movement in highly developed countries. Since the global environmental revolution of the 1960s when the core forest conservation NGOs were established, few of their communities have adopted low consumption levels nor have they succeeded in changing the consumption ideology of the capitalist world in general. Moreover, with the failure of the socialist system, which at least tried to keep consumption to a moderate level, the race for increasing quality of life through increasing consumption has become completely global and serious. This is generating a series of threats to the environment. First is the timber itself, and the pulp used as the source of the megatonnes of paper in offices, shops, homes and factories. Another is carbon emission, from fossil-fueled waste incineration. Next is the energy required for recycling, and finally the land area wasted for dumps in countries with no or inadequate recycling industry.

Japan, being one of the biggest resource consumers in the world, and with a highly developed recycling industry, remains at the same time one of the most culturally stubborn in terms of packaging and use of non-recyclable paper. There is also a legal, cultural and economic system of destroying and rebuilding private houses every 25 years. This creates a huge threat to the forests supplying high quality timber to Japan from all over the world, a significant part of which consists of timber coming from Russian Far East and Siberia.

In such a strictly regulated, culturally closed and numerous society as Japan, wasteful habits of consumption become business as usual, and any public discussion on such issues seems abstract, if possible at all.

Some progressive Japanese companies have for many years paid attention to environmental conservation both overseas and in Japan. There are well known cases of improving air quality in Japanese cities by strict requirements on the quality of gasoline, as well as clean-ups of coastal marine ecosystems and rivers.



Now car companies like Toyota invest remarkable funds into promoting solar cars and the solar energy industry to reduce fossil fuel use. Finally, companies involved in Japanese forestry are now actively looking to get environmental certification of their products by either ISO 14001 or FSC standards, which means that they are seriously interested in avoiding consumption of timber produced by environmentally destructive methods.

All these initiatives, undoubtedly positive and respectable though they are, do not mean that Japanese society is ready to reduce per capita consumption of timber and pulp products. Even though increasing production by a certified company may not contradict existing criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry, it certainly contradicts the idea of a sustainable world. According to the World Resources Institute, we are currently losing about 12 million ha of natural forests annually by all methods, including forestry certified as sustainable.

The only realistic way to save natural forest ecosystems, with all their values like endangered wild species and endangered indigenous cultures, is to reduce the culture of consumption in key developed countries like Japan. These countries already have experience of selective waste management and recycling. The consumption issue is becoming one of the hottest global problems, particularly as hundreds of millions of people in rapidly growing Asian countries aspire to achieve the same high levels of consumption as in developed countries.

Japan as an island-based, highly populated country, operates like a global pump of natural resources. By using rubbish to fill in seashore bays, it uses other countries' resources to reclaim land. This may not seem to be a bad solution for Japan, enabling it to generate even more rubbish, create more jobs to deal with it and thereby have more land to live on. But in the global context this wasteful society needs to be deeply re-educated to a more modest culture, sensitive to the resources which are wasted for one-time use as packaging for each tiny consumer product.

The culture of the former Soviet society was to re-use cans, bottles, jars and bags for all consumer goods. Only now, flooded with globalised goods in non-biodegradable packaging, littering our cities and towns, are we becoming aware of the destructive nature of this shady garbage. What is ironic is that much of that flood comes from the neighbouring countries of Japan, China and Korea, using timber officially and illegally logged in the Russian Far East for producing the packaging.

It is doubtful whether the newly capitalised Russian society will ever be able to accept this tragic feedback for what it really is: not as a sign of prosperity, but as a challenge to invest the profits from this wasteful trade into the recycling industry. The investment needed is huge, and that means local entrepreneurs will need to cut more and more forests in order to get enough profit to pay for processing all the rubbish that we'll be getting back ...

Traceability Award to ASV

German publishing giant Axel Springer Verlag (ASV) and its partners won an award at the World Summit in Johannesburg for their programme to create transparency in the paper chain from forest to publication. The partners include mail order group Otto Versand, the forest pulp and paper companies UPM-Kymmene and Norske Skog as well as 8900 Norwegian forest owners, with co-operation from WWF and Greenpeace Russia. The programme includes the initiative called 'Newspapers that know their trees', which uses the internet to allow newspaper readers to pinpoint the region and the forest from which their newspaper originates.

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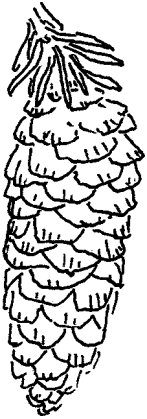
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Boreal Time Has Come

Tzeporah Berman, ForestEthics

In the past 10 years successful market campaigns have resulted in more than 600 companies in North America, Europe and Japan committing themselves to give purchasing preference to certified products and eliminate endangered, old growth or ancient forest products around the world. Now market campaigners are turning their attention to the Canadian boreal forests.



Environmentalists are whipping our ass in the battle for the forest. You should respect them for that. (David Emerson, President of Canfor, 2001)

We've agreed to this deal because it will mean an end to the highly damaging environmental campaign that targeted our international customers. (Bill Dumont, Chief Forester, Western Forest Products, 2001)

We support this decision because it will send a powerful message to the international marketplace. We now understand the need to apply conservation biology and ecosystem management on the central and north coast. (Linda Coady, Weyerhaeuser, 2001)

Where We Have Been

On 4 April 2001, British Columbia moved from global pariah to environmental hero with the announcement of the historic Great Bear Rainforest agreement, protecting 1.5 million acres (600,000 ha) of rainforest and placing 2 million acres (almost 1 million ha) in deferral. The agreement also established a protocol with First Nations from the region and established a framework for scientific and economic study of the region to inform future land-use decisions. In return, environmental groups agreed to suspend their international market campaigns targeting coastal logging companies.

While much work still needs to be done, the agreement is a significant victory for the environmental movement placing it on a new powerful footing with the logging industry worldwide. We have proven that we have the power to cost them tens of millions of dollars in lost sales and to leverage billions of dollars of concern.

The Changing Marketplace

In the past 10 years more than 600 companies in North America, Europe and Japan have made pledges committing themselves to give purchasing preference to certified products and eliminate endangered, old growth or ancient forest products. This green shift has resulted in pressure on loggers in particular regions - Clayoquot Sound, the Great Bear Rainforest and now Chile, Indonesia, and the Tongass - as well as a dramatic increase in awareness in the pulp and timber sectors of forest practices and key endangered regions. Some of the largest timber and paper consumers in the world, including Home Depot, Ikea and Staples, have all agreed to eliminate products from endangered forests.

Home Depot embraces its responsibility as a global leader to help protect endangered forests. By the end of 2002, we will eliminate from our stores wood from endangered areas - including certain lauan, redwood and cedar products - and give preference to 'certified' wood. (Arthur Blank, CEO, Home Depot, August 1999)

We want to do our part towards stopping the destruction of old-growth forests. (McClelland & Stewart Ltd, 2001)

Investors such as Ethical Funds, ABN-AMRO & Friends Ivory Simes are also increasingly turning their attention to the practices of companies in which they invest:

'we view with concern companies which appear to overlook the risks that poor forestry practices, or poor wood procurement policies, can pose to their own long-term profitability.' Karina Litvack, Director of Research, Friends Ivory Simes, 2001

These trends are being driven by two primary environmental concerns - *where to log* and *how to log*. A coalition of forest advocates and scientists has taken the first step by identifying endangered forests - 'no go' or 'no buy' areas. It is essential that any forest region that would like to use pressure from the marketplace to protect their forests consults the definitions and makes the case as to why their forests are 'endangered'. Once endangered forests have been identified, FSC certification is the only good assurance the marketplace currently has on whether a product is logged responsibly.

Protecting the Boreal Forest

Increasingly international attention is turning to the Canadian boreal as new maps show that it is one of the largest intact forests left on earth. The Canadian boreal forest is being destroyed at a rate of 1 acre every 15 seconds (almost 2 ha per minute), primarily for pulp and paper such as newsprint, magazines, catalogues, market pulp, printing and writing paper, packaging, paperboard and tissue products. One quarter of the boreal forest is logged for wood products, such as planking, plywood and pressed board. Around 65% of what is logged in the boreal heads to the USA marketplace. In fact, 46% of the newsprint used in the USA is printed on Canadian boreal fibre. Canadians consume about 25% of what is logged in the boreal and 10% is consumed in Europe.

In the coming years, Canadian boreal products and the Canadian logging industry will either become a model and inspiration to other regions of the world of how to rise to the challenge of growing environmental awareness and scientific knowledge, or a symbol of the destruction of some of the world's last great forests.

The identification and protection of endangered forests now is in all of our best interests. Without it the marketplace will simply have no certainty that its products do not come from the destruction of these forests.

We are committed to working with local native and non-native communities, local, national and international conservation organisations and with willing partners in labour, industry and government to make this happen.

The Canadian boreal forest is 5 million km², close to half of it roadless. It is truly one of the last natural global treasures. So often the environmental movement is fighting destruction, piecing together bits of forest to protect in a desperate attempt to save what is left. The boreal campaign is a tremendous opportunity to get out in front. The campaign for the boreal forests is, simply put, a campaign about hope whose time has come.

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Forests of the Northern Lights

Conference Report

Swaantje Fock, TRN International Co-ordinator

In late September 2002, people from around the boreal met in Winnipeg (Manitoba, Canada) to discuss the status of boreal forests and ongoing steps for their protection. The Forest of the Northern Lights Conference was a great opportunity for networking between forest campaigners, indigenous peoples, academics, industry representatives and other people who care about boreal forests. After the conference in Winnipeg, TRN participants went into retreat in Pinawa (Manitoba), for our biennial meeting and strategy sessions.

On behalf of TRN, I want to give many thanks to the organisers of the conference, the Boreal Forest Network (BFN), for their great work that enabled us to have such a productive and successful week!

Thanks also go to the Ojibway Elders for hosting us on their traditional territory and for inviting us to join their spirits during and after the conference. It was wonderful to be taken back to the forest's roots between meetings by their stories, drumming and

prayers. Scientists and campaigners can easily forget about the reason why their work is so important: the forest, its life and spirits, when talking about policies, strategies and data. Without the Elders, the conference would not have been as inspiring and empowering as it was. Let us internalise the message of the Elders' Declaration (see text below) which was adopted by TRN at the conference.

The mood of the conference was tremendous. Many new friendships were made and old acquaintances renewed. There was a strong sense that strategic alliances across the boreal region can make a real difference in forest campaigning and also a strong commitment by the entire network to working with integrity and respect for local communities and indigenous peoples for whom the taiga is home.

Detailed proceedings of the conference will be available at www.taigaescue.org from January 2003.

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Elders' Declaration

From 7 to 9 September 2001, some 70 Elders and Traditional People gathered at Raven's Creek in Hollow Water, Manitoba, at the invitation of the Anishinaabe Turtle Island Protectors, to discuss various resource development activities planned for the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The participants at this gathering reached consensus on the following Declaration.

Preamble

We, Elders and Traditional People, from Turtle Island, are truly concerned for the health of Mother Earth.

We must realise that this Mother Earth does not belong to us, but that we have to care for and maintain the delicate balance of Nature for the sake of the well-being of our children and of all future generations. It is our duty as Humans to preserve Mother Earth and to honour the intentions of our Creator.

We see many signs of damage within the forests, lakes, rivers and sky. Our way of life is threatened, as are the winged ones, the four legged, the crawlers and those that swim.

Therefore, we declare:

That the gifts and Natural Laws of our Creator are our greatest concern. However, all First Nations' Constitutional, Treaty and Inherent Rights must be fulfilled in any decisions regarding our Traditional Lands.

That grassroots community (voters and young people) consultation and consent precede government-to-government consultations, which themselves pass the test of meaningfulness, in any development decisions, regulations, legislation and agreements regarding our Traditional Lands and Natural Resources.

This declaration applies, but is not limited to, any of the following development or re-

source planning activities that affect our Traditional Lands and Resources:

- land-use planning
- mining and exploration
- highways and roads
- hydro, energy and oil and gas development activities
- large-scale forestry development
- tourism and
- sharing of knowledge.

We are committed to follow through on this Declaration and we invite you to work with us.

In conclusion, the Old Ones say we are to respect these gifts given to us by the Creator and that if we respect these gifts they will last forever. And if we disrespect these gifts and if we destroy them they will end and we will end.

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Jessica Dempsey is in the hot seat

Community Caucus

There was a lot of hype leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2002, but one positive development was the formation of a Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) Caucus. Jessica Dempsey participated in the caucus at the World Summit. At the time of the summit she was working for the International Network of Forest Communities. She is now studying for a postgraduate degree in geography at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

What is the Community Based Forest Management caucus? Does it involve anyone from the boreal region?

It is a loose caucus of around 80 organisations working in and on community forests. It was formed during the World Summit preparatory meeting in Bali earlier this year, and it is still in an early stage. It is composed of many Latin Americans and Asians, but there is also participation from northern countries like Russia, the USA, and Canada. The caucus has remained quite amorphous and casual, but there is continuing dialogue over how to maximise our collective power without over-institutionalisation.

Was the WSSD a success for forest communities?

Well, I think that depends. The Ford Foundation did a really good job by funding a strong group of 'real live community people' to attend the summit. I certainly gained by talking with people working for community forests from all over the world. A lot of relationship building went on at the summit, although we were all quite distracted by the summit itself! The summit itself was really messy, and I'm sure many people have heard that. While it was useful to get everyone together, the summit seemed to get in the way.

What contribution do forest community groups bring to international policy processes?

A reality check. A lot of international meetings are full of homogeneous people, the eco-elites and policy hoppers who live on aeroplanes. Some community forest people make great lobbyists too, although I know I'm not one of them! But sometimes I think that bringing more people to the table further legitimises a process that simply has not proved itself. I guess I am pessimistic in general about international environmental policy and law, although I know that forest community groups have so much to offer. I just think sometimes that international policy work takes up too much energy for marginal returns.

Climate change was a big issue at the WSSD. Is the interest in forests as carbon sinks a threat or an opportunity for forest communities?

I think it is a danger and there needs to be much more dialogue on the issue, particularly from the perspective of communities.

Biodiversity is another big issue. Is the UN process on biodiversity supportive of forest communities?

I think a lot of community forest language is there (e.g. in the Forest Work Programme recently adopted at the 6th Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity), but no-one really knows what it will mean on the ground. But I would add that there are still very strong views against community control over forests (in a meaningful sense). The issue of conservation and community forests continues to linger. We have formed a subgroup of the caucus to advance dialogue on the issue of protected areas and community forests and we are working towards doing something at the World Forestry Congress next year on this issue.

What are the challenges for (big international) environmental NGOs and (small local) community groups working together?

The caucus is definitely a mix of big and small, global and local. There are many challenges working across these lines. People have totally different perspectives about the world, and vastly different experiences and understandings. A huge challenge is communication. This was so important at the WSSD. There are members from all over the world, many who don't speak English as a first language, or at all.



It is so important to respect each person's perspective and languages. I also want to touch on the difficulty of keeping the lines of communication and energy moving. Everyone has their own work to do and the caucus is, of course, another network to participate in. But a very important one at that!

What can TRN participant organisations do to support the CBFM caucus?

Join. The idea is to build a stronger community forestry movement.

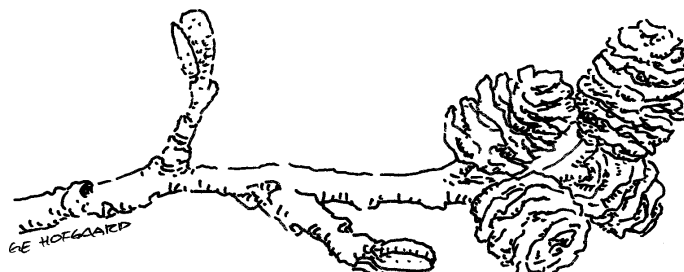
Are there ways consumers of forest products can make decisions to buy forest products that benefit forest communities? Do we need ways of labelling 'Fair Trade' in forest products?

We have the FSC but I would argue that it is not strong enough on the social side. It is very difficult to gain certification for small producers, plus it would be good if their criteria were stricter on ownership and control of forests. Fair trade in forest products, now that could be interesting. What criteria would we use? I am also interested in addressing the massive growth in consumption of forest products. That's a whole other ball game, but one which addresses an economy bent on growth.

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To join the caucus email list send an email to globalcbfm-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Call For Papers

Academic Conference on the Boreal Forests

The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, 19-21 April 2003

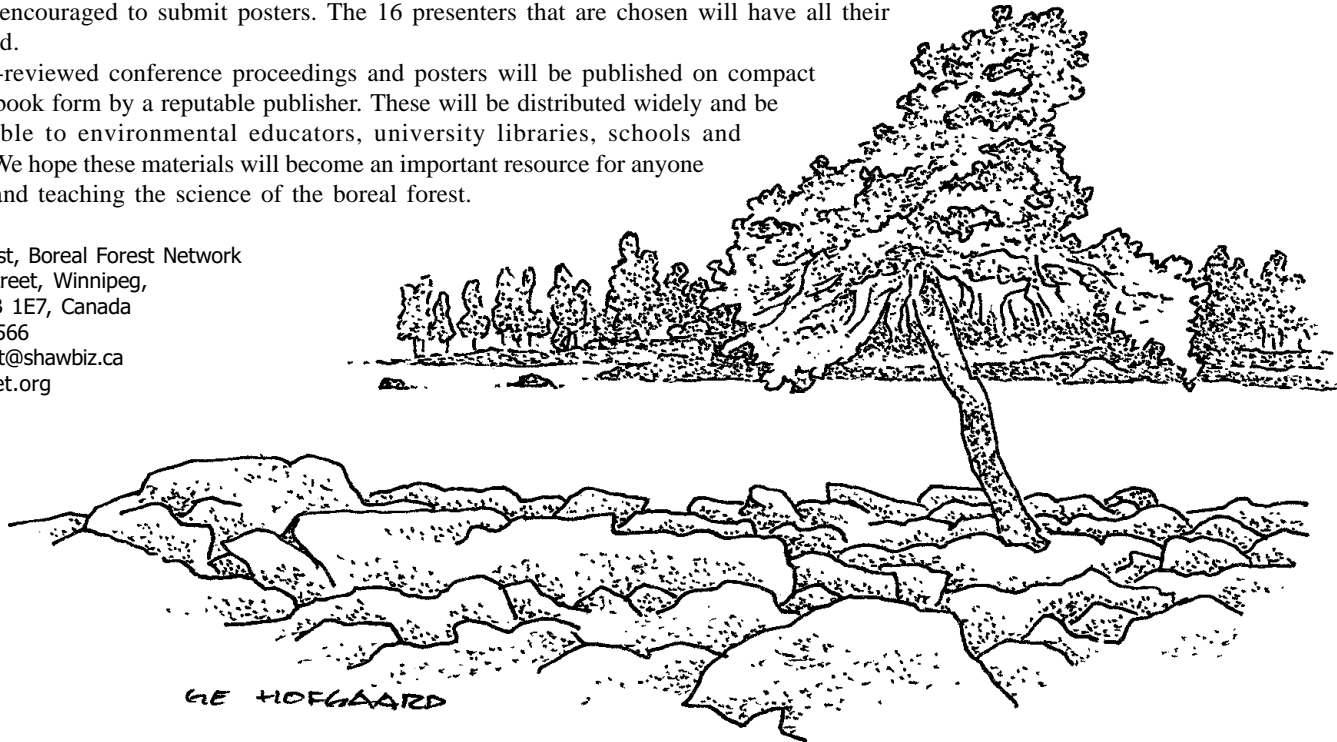
The conference will focus on four central themes: Identifying and Protecting, Climate Change, Traditional Knowledge and Competing to Coexisting.

A keynote speaker will introduce each theme. Individuals are invited to submit, by 10 January 2003, abstracts of no more than 300 words describing research objectives, methods and results and how the new knowledge (information or tools) is used or could be used in policy, planning and/or management. Graduate students are encouraged to submit posters. The 16 presenters that are chosen will have all their costs covered.

The peer-reviewed conference proceedings and posters will be published on compact discs and in book form by a reputable publisher. These will be distributed widely and be made available to environmental educators, university libraries, schools and researchers. We hope these materials will become an important resource for anyone researching and teaching the science of the boreal forest.

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Next issue The next issue of *Taiga News* will take earth, fire, air and water for its theme. Deadline for contributions is 10 January 2003.