
Government assistance for sustainable land management will mean more afforestation

David Allen

Much of New Zealand is at risk from natural disasters and adverse climatic events including drought, flood and landslide. Land use in rural New Zealand often does not reflect the risks that are associated with it. With each adverse climatic event the physical properties of such land will continue to deteriorate. The current use of this land is not sustainable.

Long-term adjustment of land use is necessary to prevent continuing ecological, social and economic costs being born by individuals, regions and the nation after storms and drought. The issue is how to adjust to sustainable land use patterns.

The Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in conjunction with other Government departments and local authorities have prepared proposals for a FARM (Facilitation for Action on Risk Management) Partnership; a Programme for Sustainable Land Management. A public discussion paper was released on October 12, 1990. This programme is the result of an investigation into the role that Government could take to facilitate and encourage a change towards a more economic and sustainable land use in the primary production sector. The paper proposes a partnership between land-owners, regional government and central government to achieve a more sustainable land use.

Recent experience has shown that in areas at risk the ability of individuals to manage within their own resources is limited, and a partnership approach from all beneficiaries is required to address the problem. On October 17, 1990 the Minister of Agriculture released a further paper which drafts details of a pilot scheme to test and develop the FARM Partnership proposals.

The pilot scheme is directed at the East Coast of the North Island from the Esk Valley to East Cape. This region has been identified as having the most to benefit from a faster rate of land-use change compared to other regions. The partners will identify areas where land use must change, prescribe the mechanism to facilitate change and decide how it would best be funded.

The Government will grant approximately 72% of the total programme costs, with the balance being provided by the other partners. The proposed pilot scheme is scheduled to run over the period March 1, 1991 to June 30, 1993. The total cost over this period is \$27.815 million inclusive of GST.

Of particular interest to both farmers and foresters is the suggested change from predominantly pastoral land use to forestry use on highly erosion-prone land. Exotic production forests are not the only option; native trees and non-commercial exotic trees and shrubs are others. Activities will include targeted grants, to assist in the adjustment of farm boundaries and ownership agreements, to encourage afforestation where

it would be unattractive in purely commercial terms, fund non-commercial aspects of commercial forestry establishment where slope stability and erosion control is a priority and to encourage the further expansion of commercial forestry on Maori land. Grants will also be targeted towards retiring and revegetating land that has no potential for production forestry or continued pastoral use.

A regionally based establishment group working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in consultation with other affected Government departments, industry organisations and community groups, will prepare operating details and criteria for the pilot programme to become operational from March 1, 1991.

West Coast forests to be formed into a company

The Government announced on October 19, 1990 that a new company to take over the management of the Crown's forestry assets on the West Coast would be formed.

Mr Prebble said that the decision was in line with the proposal made to the Government by Sir Kerry Burke in September.

The Board members of the new company, to be known as Timberlands (West Coast) Ltd, are: Mr Rex Loach (Chairman) of Nelson, Mr David Haslam and Mr Peter Cox of Christchurch, Mr Graeme Williams of Greymouth and Mr Gordon Bloomfield of Hokitika.

Although the company will be a subsidiary of the New Zealand Forestry Corporation it will be a fully stand alone and independent company run on successful SOE lines.

"The Government has not so far received any bids which it believes reflect the true value of the forestry resource on the West Coast," said Mr Prebble.

"This announcement will allow a business to be formed which can develop a credible track record building on the already successful operation based at Greymouth."

Timberlands (West Coast) Ltd will continue under the existing Accord, covenants and will manage exotic pine plantations under a Crown forest licence in the same way as other State forest sales.

This proposal will achieve the objective set out in Sir Kerry's proposal:

- * to ensure that the commercial forests on the West Coast continue to be operated in a business-like way;
- * that maximum advantage is taken of the rapid increase in wood supplies that will occur through to the year 2000 by way of processing on the Coast;
- * to avoid a return to old bureaucratic methods of managing the forest resource;
- * to minimise the uncertainty being felt by the staff of Timberlands, the New Zealand Forestry Corporation's subsidiary which has been managing the forest resource.

Mr Prebble noted that the decision to form Timberlands (West Coast) Ltd together with the decision announced earlier in the week would effectively

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International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO) XIXth World Congress

Colin O'Loughlin

More than 2300 delegates from about 80 countries attended the XIXth IUFRO World Congress. The Congress venue, the Palais des Congrès provided excellent facilities and ample space for the delegates who attended more than 70 keynote addresses and business and technical sessions during the five days of the Congress.

As the New Zealand representative on the International Council of IUFRO, I attended the International Council meetings. Each IUFRO member country was represented by one official representative. The major outcomes of the International Council meetings were:

- Recognition that Spanish would be added to the official languages recognised by IUFRO (German, French and English are the other official IUFRO languages);
- Election of Dr Salleh Mohd. Nor from Malaysia as the new President of IUFRO. Dr Salleh replaced Dr Robert Buckman, USA;
- Election of two new Vice Presidents of IUFRO – Dr Jeffrey Burley, United Kingdom and Dr James Cayford, Canada;
- Appointment of 24 new Divisional Co-ordinators and Deputy Co-ordinators for the six divisions of IUFRO;
- Appointment of nine new regional representatives for the IUFRO Executive Board. Marcia Lambert, Australia, will represent the Western Pacific region which includes New Zealand.

West Coast company (Continued)

form the New Zealand Forestry Corporation into a shell company from December 1.

All the Corporation's remaining activities would be conducted through its two subsidiary companies.

Mr Prebble said the decision would have only a minor effect on the Government's target for revenue from asset sales.

The Government and the company would continue to explore options for the orderly disposal of the Crown's forest interests in the West Coast.

- The XIXth World IUFRO Congress Declaration which included the following recommendations:

Recommendations

Governments, international development agencies and forestry research organisations are encouraged to **foster international co-operation and co-ordination of research programme needs identified in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan**. Accordingly, IUFRO should strengthen linkages for the Special Programme for Developing Countries (SPDC) with other international organisations, especially the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). Though programmes of SPDC should take closely into account the work of these and other organisations, the SPDC's method of operation should be proactive and emphasise its comparative advantages.

IUFRO, recognising the implications of air pollution and of global climate change, should **encourage initiation, expansion and redirection of basic and applied research concerning the role of forests**. Forestry research organisations in both temperate and tropical countries, as well as in the Mediterranean region, should strengthen or initiate programmes studying the effects of air pollution on forest ecosystems and expand research on the relationships of global climate change to trees and forests. IUFRO's special task force on air pollution should expand its scope accordingly. It recommends a vigorous programme of monitoring forest ecosystems for the long term, using standardised proven methods. As a worldwide, non-governmental organisation, IUFRO must play a leading role in helping to implement an international, integrated approach. In addition, studies of socio-economic implications and policy options need to be considered.

IUFRO urges that the **building, strengthening and maintaining of institutions** for forestry research, education of new scientists and the continuing education of present scientists receive urgent

attention. Development of future forest scientists and an increased capacity to conduct research, especially in developing countries, is crucial. IUFRO's special role in nurturing and extending the efforts of forest scientists through activities of its divisions and the SPDC will be encouraged and expanded.

The international forest science community is obligated to **inform others of scientific findings and their implications** for forest practice as well as to inform public opinion in the debate on forestry issues, globally and locally. Existing and new scientific findings must be made available in more effective ways, especially within the developing countries and between scientists of developing countries. IUFRO's divisions, programmes and task forces have a particular role in addressing the need. IUFRO encourages forestry scientists to participate in and support the decision process in forestry issues.

To achieve these essential objectives, **funding for forestry research must be expanded substantially**. Governments, international agencies, donors and others supporting research programmes are encouraged to take a long-term view of the growing global concerns about the sustainability of forests in meeting the environmental, economic and social needs of people. To do so will result in a strengthened commitment and support for forest sciences. Although the need exists at all levels, particularly crucial are forestry research programmes for developing countries.

Pharmaceutical giant enters New Zealand forestry market

The research facilities of British pharmaceutical giant Wellcome have been applied through Wellcome New Zealand to the development of timber preservatives. After four years the first of a series of timber treatment products has been produced – Lignen AS, an antisapstain treatment.

The antisapstain process prevents fungal growth which leads very quickly