



RECENT EVENTS



WWF and IUCN global forest conservation strategy

At the XI World Forestry Congress in Turkey last October the world's two largest conservation NGOs — the World Wide Fund for Nature and the ICUN, the World Conservation Union — presented their strategy for forest conservation. Their strategy recognised that

- worldwide, forests face serious problems from both deforestation and loss of forest quality;
- the forest policy must take into account the needs and desires of local people, including indigenous people;
- the principal of participation of these peoples must underpin the strategy.

There were five key objectives in the strategy:

1. Establishment of a network of ecologically-representative protected areas. This is required for conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological processes and the areas may have people living in or around them. They recommend a network covering at least 10% of the world's forest area by the year 2000.
2. Environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management outside these protected areas.
This objective aims to improve forest quality and to manage forests for a variety of values including those of people and the environment. They suggest that management should meet or exceed the criteria laid down by the Forest Stewardship Council Principles and Criteria or an equivalent form of timber certification. Where possible, management should be in secondary forests and be participatory with local peoples.
3. Development and implementation of ecologically and socially appropriate forest restoration programmes.
The objective is to increase the area of semi-natural forest. Forests should be restored under criteria of high forest quality, stressing multiple use and restoration of natural dynamics and biodiversity. Use of local and native species are encouraged and plantations should not be created through the replacement of other natural or semi-natural ecosystems.

4. Reduction of forest damage from global change, including a decrease of pollution below damage thresholds, as measured by critical loads.
5. Use of forest goods and services at levels that do not damage the environment. The levels of consumption of forest products should minimise environmental effects, taking into account the effects of over-consumption, the potential for forest products to substitute for other products and visa

versa, and the need for greater equity in availability of forest products.

The emphasis of their strategy is on conserving and managing natural or semi-natural native forests in a sustainable fashion for a variety of values. They also emphasise the need for reforestation, but only in exceptional circumstances should non-native species be used.

Don Mead

West Coast Crown forests commitments

Peter Allan*

Over the past 12 months the news media have tended to give prominence to efforts by certain conservation organisations to persuade Government to stop logging of West Coast Crown indigenous forests, particularly those in Buller.

It therefore seems timely to review the obligations entered into in 1986 between parties to the West Coast Accord.

Because litigation has dealt with certain aspects only, there is a need to focus on the full intent of the commitments entered into. The West Coast Accord was a contractual part of those overall commitments made to ensure both the setting aside of additional reserves and the facilitation of a planned transition from unsustainable harvesting of podocarp forest to sustainable harvesting of exotic, podocarp and beech forests.

Primary objectives of West Coast Accord commitments

The primary objectives that Government felt had been met by the commitments were:

- for industry and the West Coast community — allocation of sufficient area of Crown forest for production to maintain the industry in Buller, North Westland and South Westland at the (1986) level of allowable cut until

exotics become available in adequate quantity in each area;

- for conservation groups — the approval of substantial additional national park, reserve and wildlife corridor proposals.

The strategy to fulfil the objectives

The strategy to fulfil the primary objectives was:

- allocate an area of indigenous State forest for production purposes,
 - (a) with sufficient volume to maintain the sawmilling industry at its (1986) level of allowable cut in the subregions of Buller, North Westland and South Westland
 - (b) with sufficient beech and beech/podocarp forest to establish a sustained yield beech scheme (yielding initially a minimum of 150,000 m³/an. log production);
- offer the allocated indigenous State production forest and exotic State forest to the appropriate State Owned Enterprise;
- immediately call tenders to enable maintenance of the Buller and Karamea allowable cut and align existing log supply licences to those for the rest of the region;
- immediately call tenders for a sustained yield beech scheme on the basis that environmental evaluation of the allocated forests had been satisfied (in terms of commercially viable logging and management prescriptions);

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