

# Environmental Working Group update

- Tim Thorpe represented the NZIF at the official signing of the *Principles for Commercial Plantation Forest Management* in Wellington on December 6. The NZIF is not a signatory to the Principles at this stage, subject to a vote amongst members (see separate article on the *Principles*). Those signing were NZ Forest Owners' Association, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Federated Mountain Clubs, Maruia Society, NZ Farm Forestry Association and the World Wide Fund for Nature.
- Database of activities of groups

involved in the environmental arena. Dougal Morrison took this matter to the Ministry for the Environment Professional Bodies Meeting who have indicated that they will be pursuing the idea.

- NZIF position statement on bio-diversity. The EWG has not been able to draft a statement in time for this issue of the journal but will be pursuing the matter.
- A *Greening the New Zealand Forest Industry* seminar in Auckland was held on February 21 with a range of speakers from government, industry and

environmental non-government organisations. A full report on the seminar will appear in the next issue of the journal.

- The EWG and the wood processing sector. John Gifford and Tim Thorpe will be approaching a range of wood-processing-industry groups and environmental groups to ascertain their concerns about wood processing and environmental issues and where the NZIF might be able to assist.

**Tim Thorpe**  
Convenor



## NEW INFORMATION



# Principles for Commercial Plantation Forest Management in New Zealand

### Preamble

*On December 6, 1995 the following agreed Principles were signed by the NZ Forest Owners' Association, the NZ Farm Forestry Association, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, the World Wide Fund for Nature New Zealand, the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand and the Maruia Society.*

*The parties to these Principles agreed to meet from time to time to monitor their implementation and address issues that may arise.*

*Additional interested parties are welcome to become signatories to these Principles with the full support of the signatory parties.*

*The NZ Institute of Forestry has called for members' views on whether or not the Institute ought to become a signatory. A decision will be made at the AGM, to be held in Invercargill on April 29, 1996. Members are encouraged to consider the Principles printed here in full, and attend the conference and AGM to express their views and vote.*

### Objectives

To promote understanding between the signatory parties with a view to New Zealand achieving environmental excellence in plantation forest management and

participating as an effective advocate internationally for the sustainable management of plantation forests and the protection, preservation, and sustainable management of natural forests. These principles are complementary to the New Zealand Forest Accord (August 1991).

### Scope

These principles have been written to apply to New Zealand's plantation forest management and do not cover environmental and social issues associated with processing, products and use beyond the forest gate. It is recognised that criteria and standards for plantation forest management are being developed through various processes.

### Definitions

**Natural Forest** – Areas of land which are predominantly covered in indigenous tree species that are naturally established, including managed indigenous forest areas where regeneration is supplemented by planting of indigenous species.

**Plantation Forest** – Areas of land predominantly covered in trees grown for cropping and managed primarily for commercial purposes and excluding natural forests as defined here.

**Natural Areas** – Areas of land with a predominant cover of indigenous vegetation, including natural forests as defined above, and also naturally occurring water bodies.

**Sustainable Management** – In the context of New Zealand's Resource Management Act (1991) sustainable management includes:

Managing the use, development, and production of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while –

- a. Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- b. Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
- c. Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.

### New Zealand Forest Accord

The objectives of the New Zealand Forest Accord form the basis for these Principles. These objectives are:

- to define those areas where it is inappropriate to establish plantation forestry;
- to recognise the important heritage values of New Zealand's remaining natural indigenous forests and the need for their protection and conservation;
- to acknowledge that the existing area of natural indigenous forest in New