New collaboration between FLD and Tropenbos International

FLD and Tropenbos International have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration. Under the MoU it is the intention to elaborate various collaborative projects. The first joint research project is on the sharing of benefits from natural timber resources in Ghana to be carried out 2007-2010. This project will look into the sharing of formal and informal revenues from timber through an interview survey targeting the various beneficiaries: Farmers, Stools (Chiefs), District Assemblies (local government), Timber concession holders, Chainsaw operators and the Forestry Commission.

On the photo you see (from right to left): K.S. Nketiah, Programme Team Leader, Kyere Boateng, Research Director, Kwame Okae Kissiedu, Information Officer and Kwame Apiah Owusu, Research Assistant on the joint project, all of Tropenbos International Ghana outside the office in Kumasi.

Forest & Landscape Denmark now part of University of Copenhagen

The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL) has merged with University of Copenhagen as of 1 January 2007. The merger forms part of a larger restructuring of Danish universities and research institutions. KVL is now the Faculty of Life Sciences (LIFE) at University of Copenhagen. The new University of Copenhagen has a staff of 8,000 and 37,000 students, and is the largest in Scandinavia. You can read more about the merger, LIFE and the new University of Copenhagen on the link http://www.life.ku.dk/English/Nyheder/2007/999_merger.aspx.

Forest & Landscape (FLD) is confident that the merger will be of benefit to the centre, not least for the development and environment activities where the merger will offer new opportunities for collaboration and synergies with other research groups and disciplines.

Our new web address is www.sl.life.ku.dk and the extension of our e-mail addresses have changed from @kvl.dk to @life.ku.dk. Our “old” web address and e-mail addresses will be redirected to the new ones.

We look forward to collaborating with all of our partners in the new University of Copenhagen set-up!

Niels Elers Koch, Director-General, Forest & Landscape Denmark.
**SAFRUIT is entering its second year**

The project on Sahelian Fruit Trees, SAFRUIT, is entering into its second year. So what happened during the first year? Our socio-economists have been busy laying the foundations of their work, performing participatory rural appraisals in selected villages in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. This will be followed up by household surveys in 2007.

During the rainy season a series of trials with shade-tolerant crops were established under trees in some of the same villages. The first results showed that some crops are truly shade tolerant, whereas others – believed to be shade tolerant – had a poorer performance. However, results need verification for more growth seasons before we can say something with certainty.

The first trials with grafting of selected trees in the villages were made in Mali and will be followed up by trials in Burkina Faso during 2007. The aim is to develop techniques that can be used by villagers to propagate their preferred trees. 2006 was also used to collect seed from Baobab and Tamarind.

Especially for Baobab we have a large provenance collection, covering Eastern and Western Africa. The provenances will be used in provenance trials, for analysis of molecular markers, and for ecophysiological stress tests.

A new activity in 2007 will be a survey of farmers’ planting practices in Mali and Niger. This activity will focus on which species the farmers plant, and how they achieve their seed or plants.

For more information, please contact Anders Ræbild at are@life.ku.dk.

**New project: Improving food potential in West African Parkland Trees (NuTree)**

The aim is to increase the nutrient potential of two important agroforestry species, Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) and African Locust Bean (*Parkia biglobosa*) in Burkina Faso for future food supply. The project will produce 4 Ph.D. candidates.

The project will identify trees with high level of Vitamin A and C, proteins and various nutrients and establish facilities for propagation of superior genotypes in farmer based hedge systems.

Climate change and the associated desertification is a challenge for management of the West African parklands. To ensure sound domestication of improved varieties, the project looks into the adaptive properties of the species. The eco-physiology and gene ecology will be studied in nurseries on young plant material of both species, which has been collected from selected localities in West Africa.

Special investigations will study the relation between seed quality of *Parkia* and the fermentation process. Detailed studies on Baobab will look into the possibilities for better utilization of fruits through fermentation.

For more information, please contact Jan Svejgaard Jensen at jsj@life.ku.dk.

**Forest & Landscape Denmark (FLD) continues to collaborate with Forest Administration (FA) in Cambodia.**

Cambodia Tree Seed Project (CTSP), supported by Danida, terminated ultimo 2006. The project worked with community based conservation of forest gene conservation. Substantial work has been done and the work continues after the termination of CTSP, ref. homepage: www.treeseedfa.org.

FLD has continued the collaboration with FA after CTSP terminated. This collaboration is based on a request from and a partnership agreement with FA. The collaboration includes the following professional fields:
1. Forest Management: The FLD assists FA in developing their National Forest Programme. Priorities are given to the development of a coherent forest sector framework, which is directly linked up to the national strategies for development, good forest governance, donor alignment and harmonisation aiming at the sector taking a significant step towards sustainable forest management.

2. Capacity building for improved livelihood and watershed protection: Local forestry units and villagers are assisted by the FLD in developing a joint forest management model based on state owned Acacia monoculture plantations. This provides in turn opportunities for immediate benefit and forest protection of interest to local communities. In addition environmental goals will be reached through thinning, tending and under-planting with indigenous tree species which gradually convert the monocultures into different forest structures forming a permanent forest cover needed for watershed protection. Thus the model also aims to replace clear cutting in areas for environmental protection and introduce joint forest operations by villagers and foresters.

3. Community Based Forest Gene Conservation: FA has advanced into the field of forest gene conservation through ex-situ and in-situ conservation, capacity building and national gene conservation strategy development. These exemplary initiatives will be supported through participatory training techniques and promotion of gene conservation stands by and for the communities.

Based on a request from FA and as part of the partnership agreement and the community based forest gene conservation activities at FA, FLD arranged and implemented a 3-days training course for 10 senior forest officers from FA in February 2007. The training course was arranged by Søren Moestrup from FLD and the major subjects were: i) Tree Seed Procurement; ii) Tree Improvement and iii) Forest Gene Resource Conservation.

Most of the training material used during the course is available for downloading from FLDs homepage: www.SL.life.ku.dk. DVDs and VCDs prepared by Cambodia Tree Seed Project, Lao Tree Seed Project and Indonesia Forest Seed Project were also used as teaching material.

Further information Søren Moestrup smoe@life.ku.dk and Arvid Sloth arsl@life.ku.dk

Proceedings from the two courses and workshops held in Thailand and Indonesia respectively are now available from the project homepage, where you will also find updated current events and announcements.

A major activity in 2007 is expected to be support to field work in Thailand and Indonesia for postgraduate students from the European partner universities, and three months’ attachment to European partner universities from students from the Asian partner Institutions. Next funds announcement is expected in April.

A second GIS course will be held in Finland in May and a third in Indonesia from 20th – 26th July. www.mmm.helsinki.fi/mmeko/vitri/FORRSA.
Third annual seminar on Forest Trees in Poverty alleviation and sustainable development

The seminar is organised by the Forest & Landscape Denmark, University of Copenhagen to address the role of forests and trees in poverty reduction and sustainable development. The seminar is the third in a series started in 2005.

The key focal area of this seminar is Africa, and speakers will be from FLD as well as invited speakers from key institutions. The seminar contains following lectures:

- Welcome and opening remarks, by Niels Elers Koch, Director-General, Forest & Landscape Denmark
- Forests and Poverty: What do we know? What should we do? Frances Seymour, Director General, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Where is the evidence for the economic benefits of trees in development, or are economists lying? Jan Laarman, Deputy Director-General, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- Development of tree seed distribution systems in Africa. Søren Moestrup and Jens-Peter B. Lillesen, Senior consultants, Forest & Landscape Denmark
- Experiences with certification of timber products from natural forests in Congo Brazzaville: What prospects for improved rural livelihoods, sustainable forest management and private business development? Erik Albrechtsen, Environmental Manager, DLH Group
- Participatory forest management in Tanzania: Real decentralisation hanging by a thread? Jens Friis Lund, Researcher, Forest & Landscape Denmark
- Benefit sharing of revenues from timber harvesting in Ghana: What's in it for the farmer? Christian Pilegaard Hansen, PhD fellow and Thorsten Treue, Assistant Professor, Forest & Landscape Denmark

Following each presentation, there will be time for questions/comments to the speakers.

Time: Thursday 24th May 2007, 13:00-17:00.

Venue: University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences, Aud. 1.01. Thorvaldsensvej 40, Frederiksberg. A map showing the location of the auditorium can be downloaded from www.life.ku.dk/om_kvl/omraadet.aspx

Registration: Participation is free of charge, but for practical purposes, please confirm your participation to Isabelle Skarvig Kafé at isk@life.ku.dk or by phone +45 3528 1617 not later than Wednesday 16 May. Possible changes in the programme will be announced on our homepage www.SL.life.ku.dk

The seminar is open to all with an interest in forests and trees and their role in poverty alleviation and sustainable development, i.e. researchers, representatives from government agencies, NGOs, consulting companies, private companies as well as students. Join the seminar, meet colleagues, extend your network and get new inspiration!

We look forward to seeing you!

Announcement


The PhD dissertation investigates forest resource conservation, livelihood effects and good governance issues in relation to the implementation of decentralised forest management in Tanzania. To get a copy of the dissertation contact Jens Friis Lund, jens@life.ku.dk Details concerning defence. Date and place: LIFE Frederiksberg Campus, Aud. 1-01, Friday May 18, 2007 1 - 4 PM.
**New Publications**


This book is a review of literature on the importance of forests to rural livelihoods in Mozambique, based on an annotated bibliography of more than 250 papers covering two decades and embracing peer-reviewed articles, books, conference proceedings, grey literature and legislation.

The book is a unique source of information for anyone interested in the relations between forests and people in a development context, particularly in Mozambique and Southern Africa. The literature review outlines the present situation and identifies issues where research is needed, and the annotated bibliography provides in itself an opportunity for the reader to get more information - and it includes abstracts of sources that are not easily found.

The book is an output from the research project FORLIFE co-ordinated by the Faculty of Agronomy and Forest Engineering at the Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, and the Centre for Forest, Landscape and Management Planning at The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen. The overall objective was to contribute to poverty alleviation and improvement of rural livelihoods in Mozambique through the use and conservation of forest and tree resources.


The article provides an overview of the current efforts to decentralize management rights and responsibilities to forest resources in Tanzania under the heading Participatory Forest Management. By reviewing current status and challenges in relation to legal provisions, distribution of costs and benefits, resource sustainability and biodiversity conservation, and implementation the article identifies a number of cross-cutting issues of importance to the process. Based on these, the potentials and limits of Participatory Forest Management to enhance forest conservation and poverty alleviation are discussed, and the need to integrate the process in the overall democratic and financial decentralization in the country is emphasized.


This study estimates the national-level annual volume and value of commercial medicinal plant harvest in Nepal. Data were collected using open-ended questionnaires administered to local medicinal plant traders (n = 149) in 15 districts in Nepal and regional wholesalers (n = 53) in India. The annual trade volume is estimated to range from 7000 to 27 000 tons, with 14 500 tons harvested in the case year 1997-1998. The corresponding annual export value, calculated using regional wholesaler purchasing prices in the main markets in India, is estimated at US$7-30 million, with a value of US$16 million in 1997-1998. Around 10% of rural households are involved in commercial harvesting. Lower ecological zones dominate supplies in both volume and value terms; herbs constitute the most important life form in value terms. Around 36% of volume and 51% of value derive from destructive harvesting. It is argued that annual volume and value figures are likely to be conservative estimates. The implications of findings for Himalayan medicinal plant conservation and trade are briefly discussed.

**Mustalahti, I. 2006.** How to handle the stick: Positive processes and crucial barriers of Participatory Forest Management. Forests, Trees and Livelihoods 16: 151-165. [www.forests-treesandlivelihoods.co.uk](http://www.forests-treesandlivelihoods.co.uk)

Although participatory forest management (PFM) has attracted increasingly positive attention and its importance is clearly accepted among practitioners, pilot projects are experiencing difficulties expanding from externally funded donor schemes. Case studies in Tanzania and Mozambique show that the forest is important for local people and they understand their new role as forest managers. However critical factors are the low capacity of local institutions and a lack of extension staff to train the communities the forest management skills needed and to ensure the accountability of community leaders. Only a strong commitment from the Government will ensure the long-term financial sustainability of these participatory initiatives. This paper also examines the relationship between the local communities, national and local governments and external funding agencies, and concludes that conflicting interests at both the local level and at the central, political level are barriers to successful PFM. Research to analyse critically the reality and impact of participatory forestry is required to determine whether the PFM systems supported by donors can be sustained.


Based on FAO statistics, rates of change of production, apparent consumption and net exports were analysed for 40 selected countries from all parts of the world. Assuming that both pro-duction and trade figures are characterised by large errors of measurement, we refrained from analysing nominal values or annual rates of change directly. Instead rates-of-change trends were modelled using second-order polynomials. Due to very large year-to-year variation, trends are in most cases weak, particularly for net exports. The resulting parameter estimates were used in a cluster analysis to group countries into categories with similar rates-of-change patterns. Our small analysis seems to warrant some (moral) considerations with regard to countries’ self-sufficiency in roundwood. We suggest that the principle of modelling change rates be tried-out in more detailed analyses, also including processed wood products.

Finland has placed a high, though decreasing priority on the forestry sector within its international development program. But what has been learned through the interventions? And have any innovative and appropriate techniques and practices been developed within the projects? This study specifically focuses on the themes of participatory forestry, forest conservation and fire management in projects within four countries. These selected themes are so called key areas, which Finland has supported in several countries in the last decade, and which Finnish development cooperation and its implementers and researchers have a lot of experiences and “lessons learnt”. The study summarises key strengths and weaknesses based on information from four of Finland’s long term partner countries. And it concludes that the combination of local level development initiatives and sectoral work, with policy-practice linkages clearly established, are probably the most useful tools for rural poverty reduction. The local level forestry interventions deliver a direct, although limited impact on poverty reduction, and also generate lessons learned and real-life experiences and information for policy development.


In recent years, KVL has been involved in developing and implementing distance learning in its tropical forestry teaching programme. This paper reports on experiences with using Gilly Salmon’s five-stage model with the particular aim of increasing student participation in computer mediated conferencing in order to promote joint knowledge construction and increase learning. The model is briefly introduced as are the two courses used as a case. Emphasis is on describing considerations behind the move from theory to practice, the experiences gained at each stage of the model, student behaviour, and the changed role of the teacher.

Olsen, C.S. and Helles, F. 2006. Preliminary analysis of South Asian medicinal plant markets: can you talk to actors and use their own-reported data to estimate net marketing margins? Scandinavian Forest Economics 41: 305-312.

Medicinal plants are collected from the wild by local rural households throughout the Himalaya and sold in order to increase household incomes. Recent studies indicate that this annual trade amounts to thousands of tonnes of roots, rhizomes, tubers, leaves, etc., worth millions of US dollars. Here we present a detailed analysis of the market structure in the South Asian medicinal plant trading system. We focused on the trade from harvest in Nepal to the wholesaler markets in India. Nepal was chosen as it was known to have high and regular levels of medicinal plant extraction; while India is known to be a major medicinal plant consumption country. To most effectively explore the market structure, we adopted a marketing chain approach. The emphasis was on estimating marketing costs and margins, for each main actor group involved in the trade, in order to assess marketing efficiency. Data was collected through standardised open-ended interviews with harvesters (n=639), local traders (n=149), central wholesalers (n=90), and regional wholesalers (n=53).


The authors discuss the important role that commune councils can play to support the livelihoods of forest-dependent rural poor people, while at the same time sustaining valuable forest resources.

Ordering publications

Only publications published by Forest & Landscape Denmark can be requested through SL-international@SL.ku.dk.