



"One billion hungry project" aims to blow whistle on hunger

A global campaign on behalf of the world's one billion people living in chronic hunger was launched in a ceremony at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy on Tuesday 11 May, with parallel events taking place in cities across the world. From Paris to New York to Yokohama, hundreds of thousands are signing FAO's online petition calling on people to "get mad" at the fact that still today, some one billion people suffer from hunger.

The online petition calls on national and international leaders to move the eradication of hunger to the top of the political agenda.

Of the estimated one billion hungry people, 642 million live in Asia and the Pacific, 265 million in sub-Saharan Africa, 53 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, 42 in the Near East and North Africa and 15 million in developed countries.

A yellow whistle – a symbol of the petition – is emblematic of FAO's whistle-blowing campaign. [Source: www.fao.org/news/newsroom-home/en/]



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Sign the petition at: www.1billionhungry.org
(Please see page 75 for more information.)

New theme for World Food Day: United against Hunger

Each year on 16 October – the day on which FAO was founded – the Organization celebrates World Food Day to promote public awareness on the problems of world hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The year 2010 will mark FAO's 65th anniversary and the 30th observance of World Food Day. Cumulatively over the years, more than 150 countries have been involved in

observing the event. This year, the theme chosen for World Food Day is "United Against Hunger". The events set to take place include a ceremony at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy on Friday, 15 October and one at the United Nations in New York on Thursday, 28 October.

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FAO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples

Consistent with its mandate to pursue a world free from hunger and malnutrition, and grounded in the utmost respect for universal human rights, FAO has developed a policy to ensure the Organization will make all due efforts to respect, include and promote indigenous issues in its overall work. It is motivated by the fundamental fact that indigenous communities make up a substantial portion of the world's food insecure, that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development, and by recognition of the benefits that arise from closer collaboration. At the same time, it responds to the explicit request made by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), by fellow UN agencies and by indigenous peoples themselves to develop a framework for ensuring that the needs and concerns of indigenous peoples are effectively considered.

The purpose of this policy is to provide FAO with a framework to guide its work on indigenous issues. As current activities follow no systematic course of action, they will benefit greatly from the delineation of a common direction and approach. At the same time, it is also of relevance to indigenous peoples themselves, in order to communicate and clarify what can reasonably be expected from the Organization.

The document highlights some of the key areas covered by FAO's mandate, and addresses the motivations as well as the advantages of such a partnership. It is the result of a series of consultations with leaders of indigenous peoples, UNPFII, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous

Issues (IASG), as well as members of FAO's professional body. As such, it addresses a diverse set of outlooks and feasible opportunities for future work. [Source: FAO Working Group on Indigenous Peoples.]

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FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

FAO publishes key findings of global forest resources assessment

Globally, around 13 million ha of forests were converted to other uses or lost through natural causes each year between 2000 and 2010 as compared with around 16 million ha per year during the 1990s, according to the key findings of FAO's most comprehensive forest review to date, *The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010*. The study covers 233 countries and areas.

FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessments are published every five years. More than 900 specialists from 178 countries were involved in *The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010*. The full report of this assessment will be released in October 2010.

Key findings. Brazil and Indonesia, which had the highest loss of forests in the 1990s, have significantly reduced their deforestation rates. In addition, ambitious tree planting programmes in countries such as China, India, the United States of America and Viet Nam – combined with natural expansion of forests in some regions – have added more than seven million ha of new forests annually. As a result, the net loss of forest area was reduced to 5.2 million ha per year between 2000 and 2010, down from 8.3 million ha annually in the 1990s.

The world's total forest area is just over four billion ha or 31 percent of the total land

area. The net annual loss of forests (when the sum of all gains in forest area is smaller than all losses) in 2000–2010 is equivalent to an area about the size of Costa Rica.

South America and Africa had the highest net annual loss of forests in 2000–2010, with four and 3.4 million ha, respectively. Oceania also registered a net loss, partly as a result of severe drought in Australia since 2000.

Asia, on the other hand, registered a net gain of some 2.2 million ha annually in the last decade, mainly because of large-scale afforestation programmes in China, India and Viet Nam, which have expanded their forest area by a total of close to four million ha annually in the last five years. However, conversion of forested lands to other uses continued at high rates in many countries.

In North and Central America, the forest area remained fairly stable, while in Europe it continued to expand, although at a slower rate than previously.

"For the first time, we are able to show that the rate of deforestation has decreased globally as a result of concerted efforts taken both at local and international level," said Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director-General of FAO's Forestry Department.

"Not only have countries improved their forest policies and legislation, they have also allocated forests for use by local communities and indigenous peoples and for the conservation of biological diversity and other environmental functions. This is a very welcoming message in 2010 – the International Year of Biodiversity."

"However, the rate of deforestation is still very high in many countries and the area of primary forest – forests undisturbed by human activity – continues to decrease, so countries must further strengthen their efforts to better conserve and manage them," he added. (Source: FAO Media Centre, 25 March 2010.)



FAO IN THE FIELD

Nouvelles du projet PFNL et sécurité alimentaire en Afrique centrale

Après la mise en place institutionnelle de sa coordination régionale au Cameroun et de ses équipes au Gabon, en République centrafricaine (RCA) et en République du Congo, le projet GCP/RAF/441/GER «Renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique centrale à travers la gestion durable des produits forestiers non ligneux (PFNL)», financé par le gouvernement allemand pour une période de trois ans, a tenu son atelier de lancement en février 2010 à Brazzaville, Congo. Cet atelier a permis d'informer les parties prenantes sur le projet et d'identifier, présenter et affiner les activités à mettre en œuvre en 2010. En outre, le Représentant de la FAO au Congo, M. Dieudonné Koguyagda, a profité de cette occasion pour remettre officiellement à M. Lambert Imbalo, Directeur de cabinet du Ministère du développement durable, de l'économie forestière et de l'environnement du Congo, le document «Stratégie nationale et plan d'action pour le développement du secteur PFNL au Congo», élaboré avec l'appui de la FAO – à travers le projet GCP/RAF/398/GER «Renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique centrale à travers l'utilisation et la gestion durable des produits forestiers non ligneux».

Les activités prioritaires du projet GCP/RAF/441/GER pour l'année 2010 sont les suivantes: élaborer des stratégies nationales pour le secteur PFNL au Gabon et en RCA; internaliser les directives sous-régionales relatives à la gestion durable des PFNL d'origine végétale de la Commission en charge des forêts d'Afrique centrale (COMIFAC) dans les législations nationales du Gabon, du Congo et de la RCA; élaborer une boîte à outils sur les PFNL, la sécurité alimentaire et le droit à l'alimentation en Afrique centrale; créer un sous-groupe de travail PFNL (SGT-PFNL) au sein de la COMIFAC; enfin, lancer des études de base sur les six sites pilotes retenus par le projet, afin de définir les priorités en matière de renforcement des capacités des communautés locales.

L'équipe du projet a profité de son séjour à Brazzaville pour animer un événement parallèle lors de la 17^e Session de la Commission des forêts et de la faune sauvage pour l'Afrique (CFFSA), tenue du 22 au 26 février 2010. Le thème traité portait sur l'importance des PFNL pour la sécurité alimentaire et la réduction de la pauvreté

dans les communautés forestières d'Afrique centrale. Modérée par M. Honoré Tabuna, Chef de la Division de la biodiversité à la Communauté économique des Etats d'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC), la session parallèle a vu la participation de plus d'une soixantaine de personnes. Quatre programmes ou instances ont été présentés: le projet PFNL de la FAO; le Réseau sur la gomme arabique et les résines (NGARA); le projet d'appui à la valorisation des PFNL au Congo et le Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD).

Il est possible de consulter le site Internet du projet, lancé récemment: www.fao.org/forestry/nwfp/55079/en/. Inscrivez-vous sur le site et recevez automatiquement par courriel des mises à jour sur le projet, les activités actuelles ou les publications.

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Démarche pour la relecture de la politique forestière et des textes d'application sur les aspects relatifs aux PFNL au Cameroun

Le Ministère des forêts et de la faune (MINFOF) du Cameroun a lancé un processus de relecture de la politique forestière, de la loi n° 94/01 du 20 janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche, et de ses décrets d'application. Dans ce cadre, la FAO a engagé une démarche visant à proposer des améliorations de la loi et de ses décrets d'application en matière de PFNL, à travers le projet GCP/RAF/408/EC «Mobilisation et renforcement des capacités des petites et moyennes entreprises impliquées dans les filières PFNL en Afrique centrale», financé par l'Union européenne.

Cette démarche doit s'appuyer sur divers documents: a) les «Directives sous-régionales relatives à la gestion durable des PFNL d'origine végétale en Afrique Centrale», adoptées par la COMIFAC lors d'une session extraordinaire du Conseil des Ministres tenue du 26 au 27 octobre 2008 à Brazzaville, République du Congo; b) «le document de vulgarisation du cadre légal régissant l'exploitation et la

commercialisation des PFNL au Cameroun» et c) un répertoire des articles à amender élaboré dans le cadre du projet susmentionné. L'approche sera consolidée par l'organisation de réunions de concertation, la première s'étant tenue à Bamenda du 3 au 6 mai 2010.

Cette réunion a rassemblé 80 participants représentant tous les acteurs des secteurs concernés, et les autorités administratives des régions du Nord-Ouest et du Sud-Ouest du Cameroun. Des présentations des activités du projet et des principaux résultats escomptés, ainsi que du contexte menant à l'organisation de ces réunions, ont donné aux participants un éclairage leur permettant de mieux canaliser leurs contributions au processus de mise à jour. Informés sur les objectifs et réalisations du projet de la FAO relatifs aux PFNL au Cameroun, les participants ont été sensibilisés aux différentes initiatives et au processus de révision de la loi forestière en cours. Répartis dans cinq groupes de travail, ils ont pleinement apporté leur contribution, suggérant d'améliorer la loi concernée en préconisant de:

- établir une meilleure définition et une catégorisation cohérentes et consistantes des PFNL;
- assurer un accès aux PFNL et un droit d'usage commercial aux populations qui vivent dans les zones forestières;
- améliorer les procédures administratives de façon à faciliter la commercialisation des PFNL sur les marchés locaux, régionaux et internationaux;
- améliorer les conditions de culture, de transformation, de transport, de stockage et de commercialisation des PFNL;
- soutenir la gestion durable des PFNL au Cameroun.

Grâce aux résultats du projet GCP/RAF/408/EC et aux contributions reçues lors des réunions de concertation, la FAO pourra proposer des textes législatifs qui permettront d'améliorer la composante PFNL de la nouvelle loi forestière. La prochaine réunion se tiendra à Ebolowa, dans la région du Sud, en présence des représentants de six autres régions du Cameroun.

(**Contribution de:** Équipe de coordination du projet GCP/RAF/408/EC, FAO, Yaounde, Cameroun.)

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What is CITES?

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from overexploitation. CITES was conceived in the spirit of such cooperation. Today, it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30 000 species of animals and plants. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.



CITES APPENDICES

APPENDIX I includes species threatened with extinction which are or may be threatened by trade. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. An export permit from the country of origin (or a re-export certificate from other exporting countries) and an import permit from the country of importation are required.

APPENDIX II includes species not necessarily yet threatened, but which could become so if trade is not strictly controlled. Species are also included in Appendix II if they are difficult to distinguish from other species in Appendix II, in order to make it more difficult for illegal trade to take place through misidentification or mislabelling.

CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature). The text of the Convention finally entered into force on 1 July 1975. At the time when the ideas for CITES were first formed, international discussion of the regulation of wildlife trade for conservation purposes was something relatively new.

Today, CITES is among the conservation agreements with the largest membership, counting 175 Parties.

The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need (see Box).

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Two South American trees to obtain CITES listing

The Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) Meeting of the Convention in International Trade in Doha, Qatar decided in March this year (2010) that two South American trees, overexploited by essential oil traders for the perfumery and cosmetics market, will be listed under Appendix II of the CITES species listing.

Trade controls (international commercial trading strictly by CITES export

An export permit from the country of origin (or a re-export certificate from other exporting countries) is required, but not an import permit.

APPENDIX III includes species that any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation and as needing the cooperation of other Parties in the control of trade. Imports require a certificate of origin and, if the importation is from the state that has included the species in Appendix III, an export permit is required.

All imports into the European Union of CITES Appendix II-listed species require both an export permit/re-export certificate and an import permit.

or re-export permit only) were stated to apply within 90 days for *Aniba rosaedora* (Brazilian rosewood) proposed for listing by Brazil, which would apply to logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood and the essential oil, but excluding finished products packaged and ready for retail trade, and for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* (hollywood) from the Gran Chaco region of Central America (proposed for listing by Argentina). *Bulnesia sarmientoi* is the species from which guaiacwood oil, acetylated guaiacwood oil and guaiyl acetate are produced, and the Appendix II listing would apply to logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood, powder and "extracts", but excluding finished products packaged and ready for the retail trade.

The CITES Web site posting now sets out the revised Appendix I, II and III species listings post the COP 15 Meeting, and indicates that trade controls for these ingredients will enter into force on 23 June 2010. In the EU, the annexes to Council Regulation EC 338/97 re the Protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein, are expected to be modified accordingly, as well as in the United States of America.

But will these listings make any real difference? A CITES Appendix I listing would have been far more effective, especially in the case of the rosewood tree, whose survival has been much more in the hands of lawless loggers than anything else. Rosewood oil from unlicensed stills deep in the forest continues to find its way into the essential oils market, although some imported batches show unusual compositions, suggesting adulteration, and prompting queries about its source species, or whether it is 100 percent derived from the named botanical species as stated.

As for guaiacwood, there is some confusion over the legal definition of the term "extracts". Will guaiacwood oil from Paraguay continue to be legally available with the correct documentation and permits, or is it just Argentine origins that will become unavailable? Time will tell, but these CITES listings are, at least, a step in the right direction. [Source: *Cropwatch Newsletter*, June 2010.]

Seizures and prosecutions from around the world

The cases reported below represent a selection of recent seizures and prosecutions that have taken place around



the world. The CITES Appendix listing for each species is placed in parentheses, where appropriate.

Cameroon

- On 1 February 2010, police seized more than 1 000 grey parrots *Psittacus erithacus* (CITES II) at Douala Airport as they were about to be smuggled out of the country to Kuwait and Bahrain. No CITES documentation accompanied the shipment. Many of the parrots were dead; the surviving specimens were delivered to the Limbe Wildlife Centre. This is the third major seizure of grey parrots in Cameroon in the past two years.

China

- On 19 October 2009, after five months of careful investigation, Hengyang forest police, Hunan province, seized 24 live pangolins *Manis* (CITES II), and arrested three suspects. The animals had been transported from southwest China and were thought to be bound for Guangdong province. The animals were sent to the local wildlife rescue centre and the suspects were detained.
- On 13 January 2010, the Tengchong branch of Kunming Customs seized 946 g of rhinoceros horn from a vehicle. Two suspects claimed that they had purchased the horn in Myanmar and had smuggled it through the border. The case is under investigation.

Thailand

- On 20 January 2010, following a 17-month investigation involving the first collaboration between United States of America and Thai law enforcement authorities, a Thai national was charged with trafficking ivory. Earlier in the week, Thailand's nature crime police also raided ivory shops, seized tusks and arrested two other dealers.

United Arab Emirates

- The Dubai municipality has seized animal skins during an inspection of various veterinary establishments and antique shops, including those of four pythons *Pythonidae* (CITES I/II) and two Nile crocodiles *Crocodylus niloticus* (I/II). The skins were up to 9 m in length. The Veterinary Services Section plays an important role in implementing the terms of CITES. The Section takes extra efforts to educate the public and those who work in pet shops and shops that sell souvenirs on the provisions of CITES, endangered animals, the purpose of protecting these animals and organizing their trade through the provision of CITES certificates.

United Kingdom

- On 20 August 2009, the Metropolitan Police's Wildlife Crime Unit raided a shop in London's Chinatown and seized over 200 medicinal products claiming to contain the following ingredients: leopards *Panthera pardus* and tigers *P. tigris* (both CITES I), musk deer *Moschus* (I/II) and costus root *Saussurea costus* (I).
- Between September and November 2009 at the port of Felixstowe, United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) officers seized 13 large drums of oil of guaiacwood or *palo santo* *Bulnesia sarmientoi* (CITES III) in three separate seizures (2 375 kg). The oil was being imported from Paraguay without the requisite CITES documentation and certificate of origin. Paraguay had a moratorium on exports at the time of export.

[Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 22: 3, 2010].

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The United Nations is our one great hope for a peaceful and free world.

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