

Forest Policy and Environment Group Overseas Development Institute

Project Title: *A Programme of EU Tropical Forestry Information Consolidation, Networking and Dissemination*

Year: 1996-2000
Country: EU Member States
No. of staff: 6 permanent and 25 associates
Client: Forestry Adviser
DG Dev B/4
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32-2-299 111
Email: uwe.werblow@cec.eu.int

Objectives:

A major four-year programme with the European Commission to improve the quality of communication between the Member States of the Union and their developing country partners. The project had two main aims: firstly, to support the drive to greater transparency in the European Union, with a view to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of its contribution to the conservation of tropical forests; and secondly, to improve the quality of communication between the Member States of the Union and their developing country partners, through the generation and dissemination of independent and authoritative information on actions in support of tropical forests.

Results:

- 1. EU Tropical Forestry Sourcebook:** a large programme of collaborative research with partners around Europe produced this authoritative survey of the European Union experience in donor support to tropical forests (including a chapter on Finland).
- 2. EU Tropical Forestry Papers:** a series of papers was produced, dealing with issues of forest policy and coordination of donor development cooperation including: innovative financing mechanisms; forest co-management in West-Central Africa; forestry issues in the Guiana Shield region; getting aid delivery right; and the use of economics to assess stakeholder incentives in PFM.
- 3. Rural Development Forestry Network (RDFN) Activities:** the trilingual RDFN provided a forum for exchange between nearly 3000 practitioners, policy-makers and researchers worldwide. Mailings (including 47 articles and 6 Newsletters) covered the following topics: Forestry Issues in the South Pacific; South-North Links in Rural Development Forestry; Revisiting Shifting Cultivation; Local Economic Incentives for Sustainable Forestry; C & I for Sustainable Forest Management; Institutional change in the forest sector.
- 4. EU Workshops:** a series of workshops brought together international donors and country partners to discuss issues of global and regional forestry aid coordination.
- 5. EU Database Development:** the project designed and implemented the tropical forestry information system 'TROPICS, which provides a wealth of information on a total of over 1,600 activities and projects (670 of the European Commission, and 930 of EU Member States [Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom]).

Policy Relevance:

Improved international policy depends on better communication and dissemination. The combination of project activities gave a high profile to the issue of the development of donor tropical forestry cooperation policies, how these are coordinated at international and national levels, and how they are implemented in the field.