

# Just Forests

Response to the review of the  
White Paper on  
Irish Aid - 2012







# INTRODUCTION

## Values-driven

Just Forests works to increase the Irish public's understanding and awareness of our reliance on natural resources to live, to develop economically, socially and environmentally. We promote a 'human values' approach to poverty alleviation and natural resource management and consumption.

Our vision of a 'human values' approach to development and trade will lead to justice and peace in a world where people's dignity is ensured and rights are respected; where basic needs are met and resources are shared equitably; where people have control over their own lives and those in power act for the common good.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with Irish Aid at this important time of reflection and planning on Ireland's role within international development.

Our submission draws on our experiences over the past 23 years of development education and advocacy within Just Forests and the business experience of our founder who ran a small furniture-making business for 25 years prior to founding Just Forests.

Fairness  
Stewardship

JUSTICE

Courage to Change

Responsibility

Honesty

TRUST

Active Citizenship



# Putting the ‘review’ in context.

Every two seconds, across the world, an area of forest the size of a football field is clear-cut by illegal loggers. In some countries, up to 90 percent of all the logging taking place is illegal. Estimates suggest that this criminal activity generates approximately US\$10–15 billion annually worldwide—funds that are unregulated, untaxed, and often remain in the hands of organized criminal gangs.

Thus far, domestic and international efforts to curb forest crimes have focused on preventative actions, but they have had little or no significant impact. While prevention is an essential part of enforcement efforts to tackle illegal logging, it has not halted the rapid disappearance of the world’s old-growth trees. New ideas and strategies are needed to preserve what is left of forests.

World Bank Study - March 2012: Justice for Forests - Improving Criminal Justice Efforts to Combat Illegal Logging









# It's all about *resources*... *resources* & *resources*...

Climate change involves complex interactions between climatic, environmental, economic, political, institutional, social and technological processes.

It cannot be addressed or comprehended in isolation of broader societal goals such as equity or sustainable development, or other existing or probable future sources of stress.

Both adaptation and mitigation are fundamental in the climate change debate. (FAO Forestry Paper-2010: What woodfuels can do to mitigate climate change)

Wood is society's oldest source of energy. Its use for cooking and heating remains vital to the daily energy needs of over two billion people in developing countries. It is also a "new" energy source in the sense that modern and efficient applications for wood energy are increasingly being used, especially in member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), to produce cost-effective, high-quality energy services at various scales.

The complexity of woodfuel issues arises in part from this dual role: woodfuel is both an intimate part of basic energy needs in developing countries and integral to the ambitious plans for renewable energy in many OECD countries (and increasingly in some developing countries). (FAO Forestry Paper-2010: What woodfuels can do to mitigate climate change)



In the coming ten to 15 years, the carbon intensity of world economies must be lowered by deploying highly efficient technologies and alternatives to fossil fuels. Every effort must be made to get the most out of currently available technologies and to invest in those that promise results in the short term. Wood energy is a real and practical option for decarbonizing the global economy. Sustainably managed planted and natural forests, including ones managed for woodfuel, can help avoid or reverse deforestation and can offset carbon emissions by serving as carbon sinks.

Over the next 20 to 25 years, the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that global investments of US\$20 trillion will be made in oil and gas exploration and in the construction of power stations and other energy infrastructure, mostly in emerging economies.

Investments in renewable fuels and bioenergy will be far smaller. Given that most energy assets are built to last for between three to five decades, the choices made now will decide the future for the world's energy profile and the environment.

*...the choices made now will decide the future for the world's energy profile and the environment.*

## Progress Made

Has the Government been successful in implementing the commitments contained in the White Paper on Irish Aid?

Just Forests would like to reiterate what many other Irish NGO's have already stated in their submissions – 'Ireland should be proud of a 'cutting edge' (2009 OECD DAC Review) aid programme that is poverty-focused and rights-based, addresses climate change, promotes good governance and supports the development of a diverse and independent civil society.'

The most notable lack of progress since the publication of the 2006 White Paper is in relation to our commitment to meeting the target of 0.7% GNI on ODA. A reduction in Overseas Development Assistance by 30% since 2008 has been a major set-back.

The carbon intensity of world  
In the coming ten to 12 years'

Investments of US\$250 billion will be made in oil  
Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that global  
over the next 50 to 52 years' the international



## Changing context

*What are the implications of the changes in the global and domestic context for the Government's aid programme in the future and how will these affect current priorities?*

**W**e now have over 7 billion people on the Earth. This number is to increase to 9.3 billion within 25 years. Where will we get our wood, fresh water and other natural resources essential to life, economic development and basic needs?

The changing global climate, food matters, fresh water issues and the energy crises are increasing on a daily basis. Declining natural resources will create more conflicts, vulnerability and unpredictability. The present world population is putting huge stresses on already scarce natural resources. These are some of the underlying causes of poverty.

Addressing these underlying causes of poverty will be necessary to

reduce hunger and vulnerability in a sustainable manner.

In the rural areas of many developing countries, natural resources are an important source of food, both through direct consumption and through providing the basis for income generating activities (e.g. cash crops, forest products) that enable people to purchase food. Because of this, measures to improve access to resources are an important element of strategies for the progressive realization of the right to food.

As a member of IDEA, Just Forests fully supports their submission. However, Just Forests would like to emphasize in this submission that **Irish Aid must take a strong 'human rights' approach to resource-access as well as: ...cont'd**



## Key Issues...cont'd

How should the Government respond to the key issues of hunger, fragility, climate change, basic needs, governance & human rights, and gender equality? Are there other issues? Given the limited resources and the need to focus these, which issues should the Government prioritise in its future aid programming?

- The **right to property**, which is of direct relevance to efforts to secure natural resource rights, and other "substantive" human rights such as the **right to housing**, peoples' "right to a generally satisfactory environment favourable to their development",<sup>11</sup> and peoples' **right to freely dispose of their natural resources**.
- Rights of public participation, including **freedom of expression, assembly and association** and "**procedural rights**" that enable resource users to have greater say in decisions affecting their access to resources (e.g. rights of access to information and of public participation in decision-making).
- Rights aimed at ensuring legal protection of other human rights, particularly the **right to a remedy**.



Human rights and **resource-access** literatures and practitioners operated in a compartmentalized way. Human rights arguments were the reserved domain of lawyers and human rights campaigners, and prioritised civil and political rights like freedom from torture or freedom of expression.

**Resource-access** issues were traditionally tackled through diverse combinations of technical interventions and political mobilization — more rarely through human rights arguments.



Project: Global 2000: The Right to Food and Access to Natural Resources

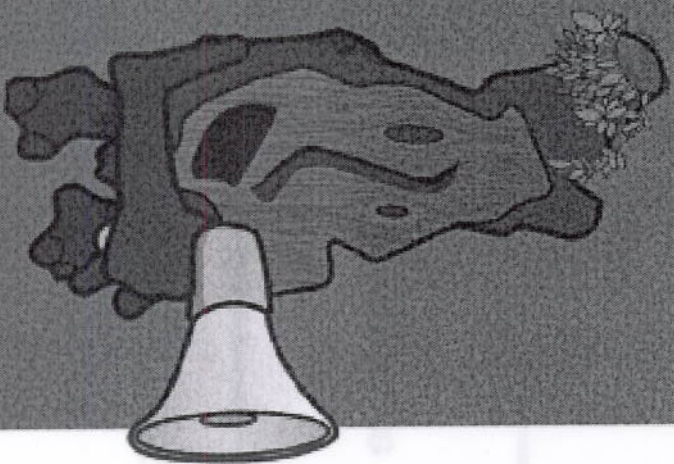
Human Rights Arguments.

# WHERE ON EARTH DO WE GET OUR TROPICAL WOOD ?

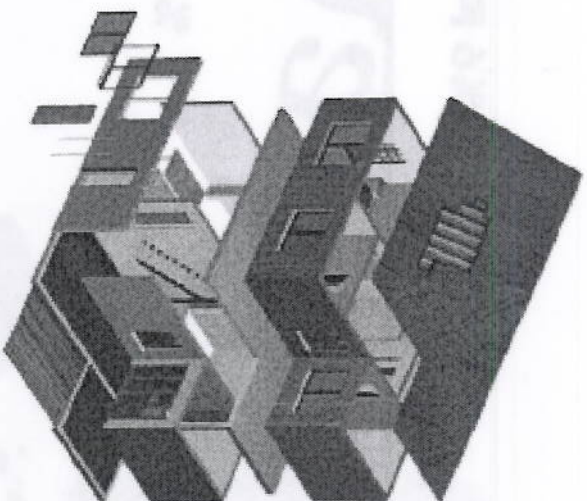




WHEN PEOPLE ADMIRE WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS, they rarely think for a moment of the country of origin of the forest from which the wood is taken. Nor indeed do they think of the conditions in which the population of that country live or the damage caused to their environment by the destruction of their forests. Nor do they realise that the accumulated destruction of forests in all countries is contributing in a massive way towards overall global warming.



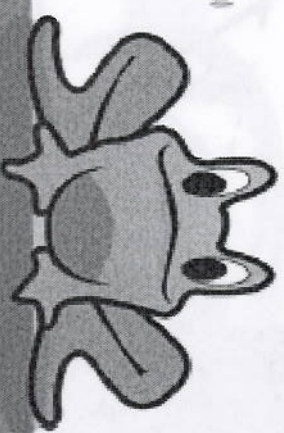
## THE FOLLOWING TROPICAL WOODS MAY BE IN USE IN YOUR HOME OR SCHOOL:



- Iroko (Africa)
- Mahogany (Africa, South America, Central America)
- San Domingan Rosewood (Africa, S.E. Asia, Central America, Australia)
- Tropical Olive (Africa)
- Zebrawood (Africa)
- Teak (Africa, Central America, S.E. Asia)
- Khaya (Africa)
- Obedie (Africa)
- Indian Laurel (S.E. Asia)
- Ebi (Africa)
- Wenge (Africa)

CAN WE CUT DOWN ON OUR USE OF TROPICAL TIMBER AND USE IRISH-GROWN WOOD INSTEAD?

Are we using our forest resources wisely?





Boreal 33%

Temperate 11%

Tropical 47%

Sub-tropical 9%

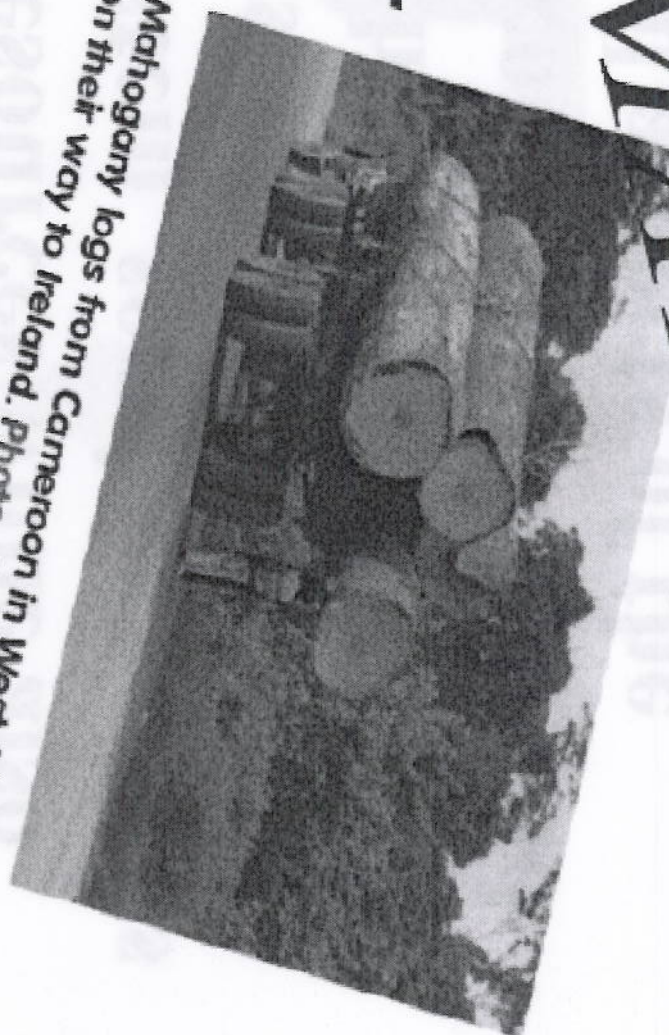
# Changes in TRADE TO

THE FOLLOWING TROPICAL AND SUB-TROPICAL AREAS MAY BE IN USE IN YOUR HOME OR SCHOOL:

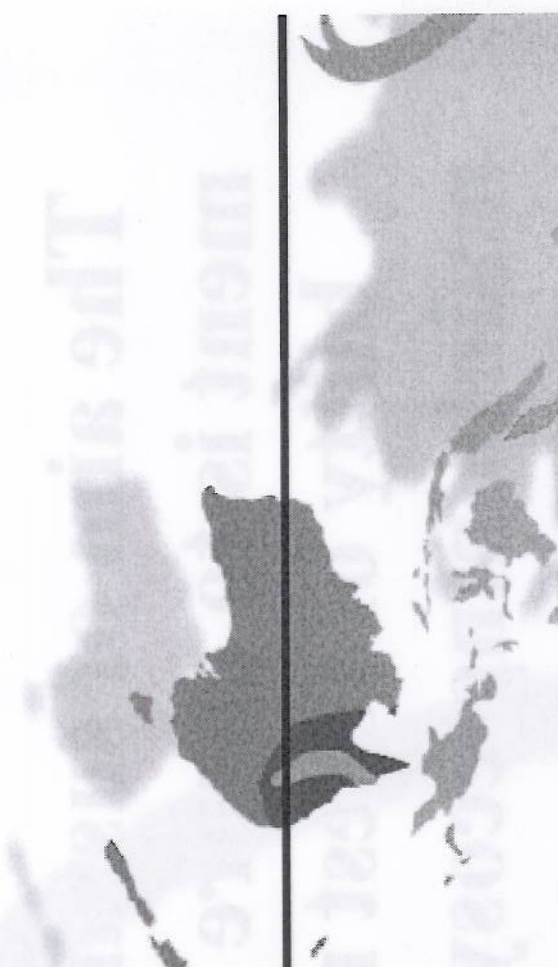


# of the **CLIMATE!**

*Mahogany logs from Cameroon in West Africa on their way to Ireland. Photo: Just Forests.*



- Original Forest Cover
- Current Forest Cover





**The aim of sustainable forest management is to ensure the long-term availability of forest resources while also maintaining ecosystem services such as soil and watershed protection; it encompasses the administrative, legal, technical, economic, social and environmental aspects of the conservation and use of forests.**



Our particular focus is on good forest management and responsible timber sourcing as a means of **supporting Irish Aid's future aid programming**. There is an ever-increasing body of support stating that:

- fairly traded timber and wood-based products can be an effective way of promoting sustainable development
- other independently monitored trading initiatives designed to raise social and environmental standards such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) have as their ambition to market, sell and promote trade in products which comply with certain social, environmental and development criteria
- other independently monitored trading initiatives designed to raise social and environmental standards are important instruments to reach the **Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)**, particularly the eradication of poverty and the global partnership for
- other independently monitored trading initiatives contributing to raising social and environmental standards pursue objectives in support of sustainable development for producers and workers in developing countries and enable private companies to become actively involved and effectively supportive of sustainable



We are calling on Irish Aid to do the right thing and put it all back...

When Ireland's tropical timber imports are aggregated over the last 50 years, they represent a sizeable area of forest destruction.

For example, to produce the country's (1996) imports on a sustainable basis would require an area of natural forest some 200 times the size of the Phoenix Park in Dublin.

In 2000, Ireland's trade in tropical hardwoods increased by 140% in value over the 1999 figure. Levels of consumption have made Ireland one of the highest per capita consumers of tropical hardwoods in the EU. (TEAK 2000)

Let's reduce the *carbon footprint* of imported timber and plant an area of forest in Ireland *200 times* the 'Size of the Phoenix Park' for our future self-sufficiency in quality timber needs...!







Climate

Resources

Poverty

The Phoenix Park X 200

Let's protect an area of rain forest 200 times the size of:



## Ways of Working

*How can the Government further strengthen its ways of working in delivering an effective aid programme, with a view to delivering real results in poverty reduction?*

Since our inception in 1989, Just Forests has witnessed significant resistance in certain government departments to matters of fair trade and development. This resistance to embracing a responsible approach to trade in imported tropical timber has caused much conflict between Just Forests and some government departments over the years.



### **Debt and Aid:**

Debt-for-nature initiatives were conceived to address the rapid loss of resources and biodiversity in developing countries that were heavily indebted to foreign creditors. Conservationists had noted that the pressure to pay off foreign debts in hard currency was leading to increased levels of natural resource exports (i.e., timber, cattle, minerals, and agricultural products) at the expense of the environment.

In many cases, indebted developing countries had difficulty meeting their hard currency debt obligations and defaulted.

- Irish Aid must ensure that 'Debt for Nature' programmes are discontinued



## EU Timber Regulation (EU TR):

In November 2010, after more than seven years of negotiation, the European Union published “Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 *“Laying Down the Obligations of Operators who Place Timber and Timber Products on the Market.”* This banned the placing of illegal timber and certain, listed wood products on the EU market and put an obligation of due diligence on the operators who import them.

The new law is due to be enforced on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013.

- **We urge Irish Aid to advocate for and promote a whole Government approach to development policy and for coherence at a policy level between all government departments on matters of international development, trade, development education (DE) and education for sustainable development (ESD).**

## Still failing the forests:

The Irish government appears to be fully supportive of the EU FLEGT Action Plan [on illegal logging] but appears to be doing very little proactively to help it succeed. Ireland is still failing the forests.



Ireland has improved its performance somewhat, compared to 2007. A degree of inter-departmental collaboration is taking place, and the government has indicated its readiness to accept FLEGT-licensed timber once it becomes available.

There's no indication of a public procurement policy for sustainable / legal timber products.

The country is not involved with Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). Work is ongoing on the implementation of the EU Timber Regulation, which will come in to force in March 2013.

<sup>(3)</sup>Eurobarometer 2012 on the EU Timber Regulation (EU TR).





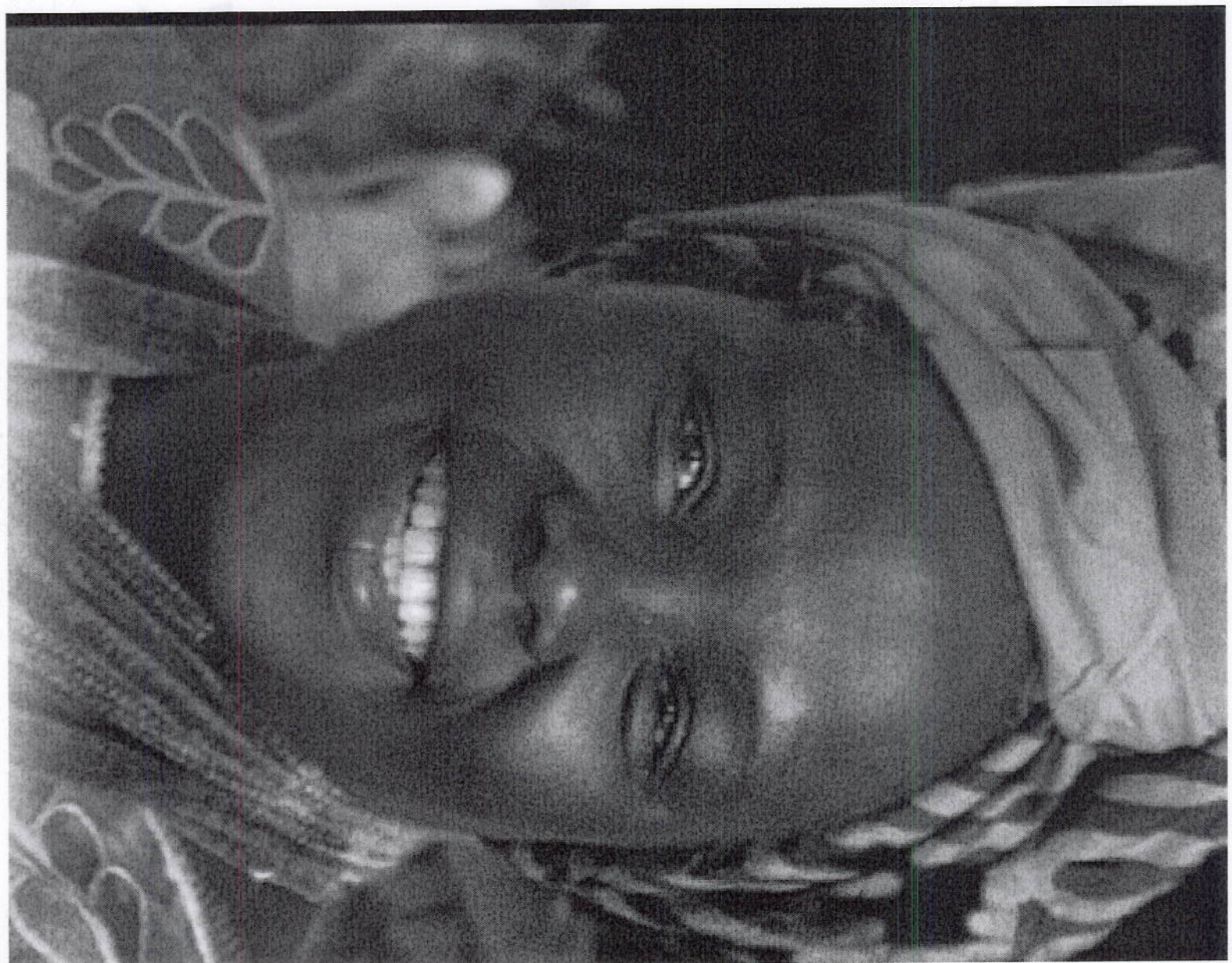


## *the priorities of the poor*

Wangari Muta Maathai (1 April 1940 – 25

September 2011) was a Kenyan environmental and political activist. She was educated in the United States at Mount St. Scholastica and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as the University of Nairobi in Kenya. In the 1970s, Maathai founded the Green Belt

Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. In 1986, she was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, and in 2004, she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace." Maathai was an elected member of Parliament and served as assistant minister for Environment and Natural Resources in the government of President Mwai Kibaki between January 2003 and November 2005. Furthermore she was an Honorary Councillor of the World Future Council. In 2011, Maathai died of complications from ovarian cancer.





# Further

**Finding Frames: New ways to engage the UK public in global poverty**

Andrew Darnton  
with Martin Kirk

**bond**

**Policy advice as 'Wood Agreement'**

to  
all Forest  
in response to  
public consultation  
148 pp + 1  
Discounted paper-  
back or hardcover  
Action Plan on Green  
Public Procurement  
May 2010

Free copies available  
after August 2010

**FFPR**

23 hours of education for schools and universities (2010)

**European Tropical Forest Research Network**

**ETFRN**

**NEWS**

Millennium Forests and the Development Goals

TABLE OF CONTENTS

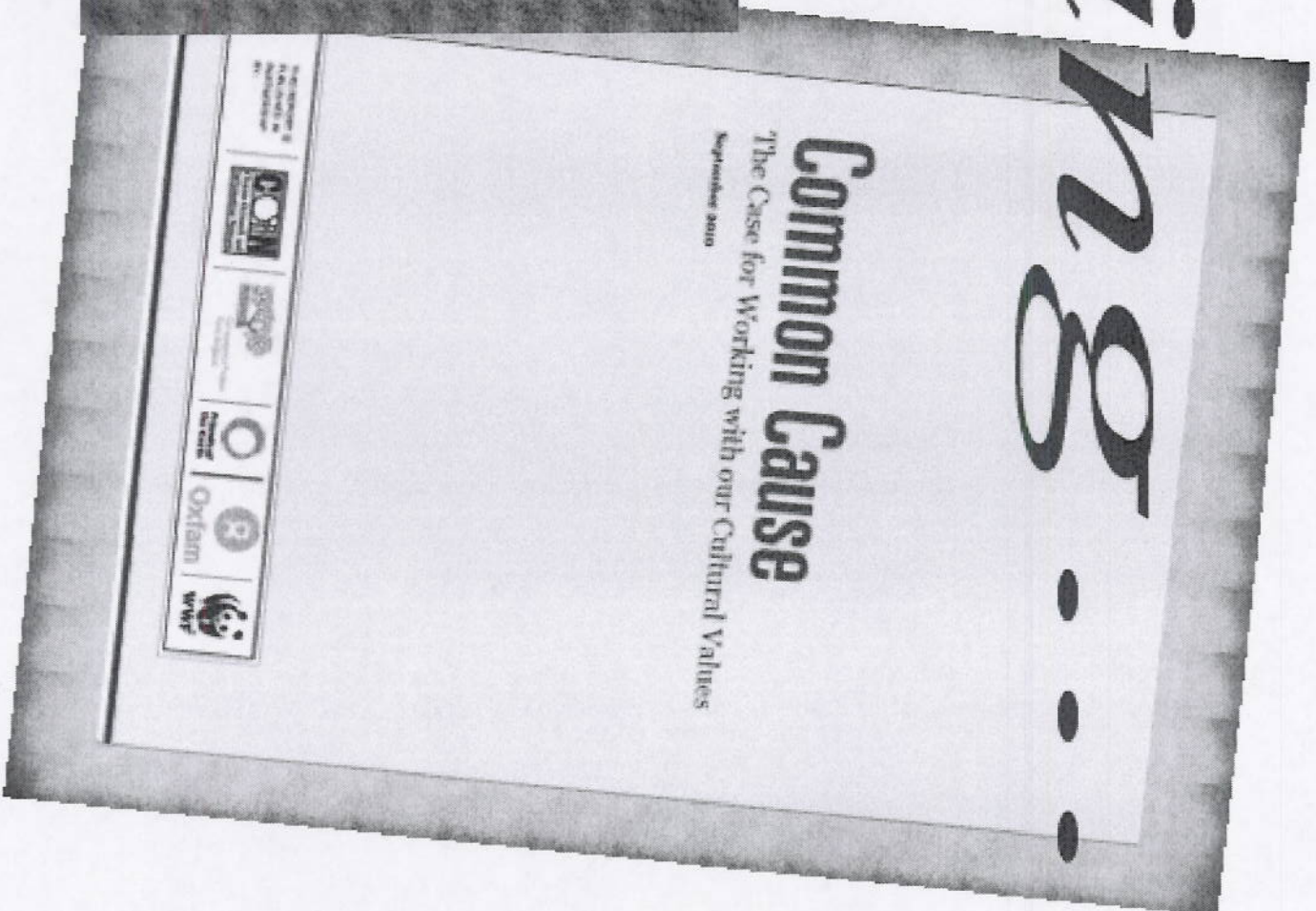
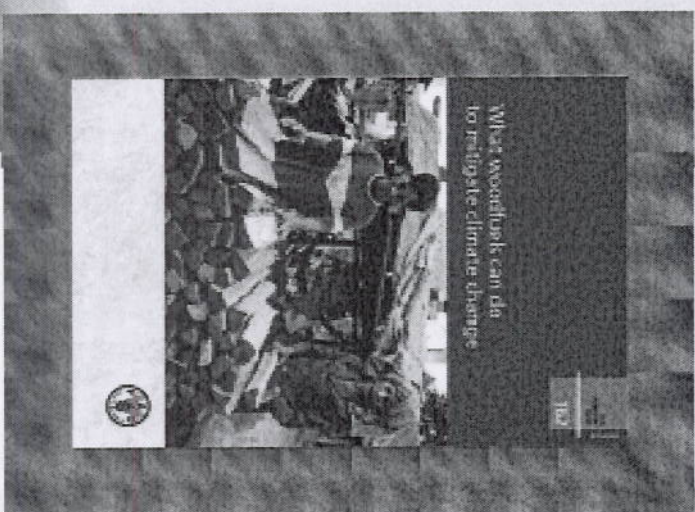
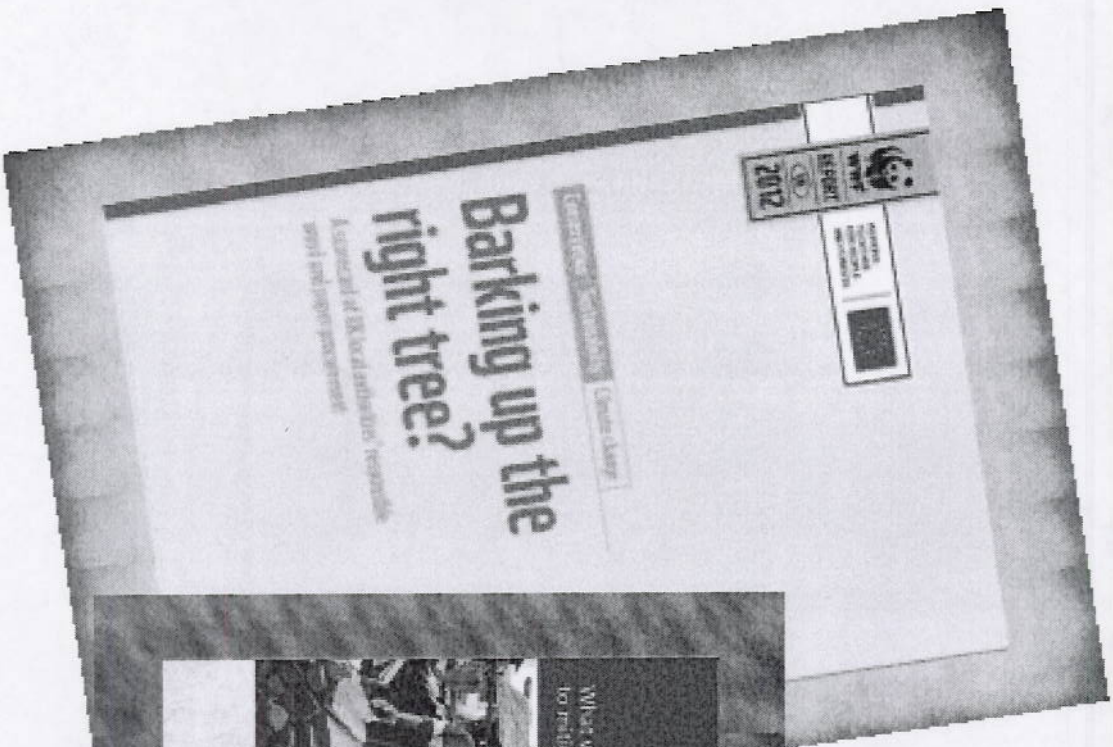
ETFRN & EC News	1
The Millennium Development Goals	4
List of Authors	5
Acronyms	7
Research Cooperation Bought	24
Internet Features	27
Opportunities	30
Other News	142
Publications	139
Partners of ETFRN News	149
International Chamber of Commerce Executive	

**PROFOR**

**THE NIZKAM FOREST PROGRAMME FACILITY**



# readding...





For more information on the work of Just Forests please visit our website(s):

[www.justforests.org](http://www.justforests.org)

[www.justmusic.ie](http://www.justmusic.ie)

If this booklet is ever printed in hard copy, it will be printed on FSC-certified paper, from well-managed forests.

**Address:** Just Forests, Rathcobican, Rhode, Co Offaly, Ireland.

**Photos:**

- Cover photo. Pupils from St Bridget's N.S., Rhode, Co Offaly view one of the panels in the Wood of Life exhibition.
- Page 2. First sample of Cuban "Spanish" Mahogany imported into Ireland. Dated November 11th, 1855.
- Page 4. Former Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, is challenged by a Just Forests activists about the use of illegal timber in public buildings.
- Page 5. Bale of Chinese plywood used in the construction of Mullingar Public Library





**Chief Executives Board  
for Coordination  
Spring 2012 Regular Session**

**17 April 2012**

**CEB Joint Statement to Rio +20**

1. We, members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board, are strongly committed to the success of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). We recognize that sustainable development has been an overarching goal of the international community since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. We urge world leaders who will gather at Rio+20 to renew the political commitment towards this goal so as to reset the world on a sustainable development path.
2. We reaffirm the continuing validity of the UNCED outcomes. Sustainable development, with its interlinked economic, social and environmental pillars, remains a top priority for our organizations.

***Progress towards sustainable development***

3. In the two decades since the UNCED, the world has undergone tremendous change. We have added nearly one and a half billion people to the planet – around a billion in our cities – and brought hundreds of millions of people out of the worst kind of poverty. Yet more needs to be done. Actions taken today and during the next decades will define our population future.
4. Many people now live longer and healthier lives, child mortality rates have declined substantially. Maternal mortality has fallen, more women have access to reproductive health services, more children and young people – boys and girls alike – are attending and completing school. There has been considerable progress in empowering women and disadvantaged groups. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are broadening people's horizons, improving their education and expanding their choices.
5. We acknowledge the broad progress that has been made in many regions, including in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, despite the gains, we observe massive disparities between and within regions and countries.

***New global landscape***

6. We have witnessed a redesign of the global political and economic landscape with a new set of pace-setters and change-makers, including dynamic developing countries, and within countries, women and youth in particular.
7. However, the benefits of globalization have not been shared equally. Economic growth has not generated sufficient jobs in the quantity and quality needed. High youth unemployment and gender inequality



persist, dimming the aspirations of a generation. The voices of women and youth are still too often not sufficiently taken into account in decision-making.

8. Nearly one billion people go hungry. Some 200 million children suffer stunting. We urge world leaders to redouble efforts to eradicate hunger and realize food and nutrition security for all. We call for scaled-up investments in social protection, safety nets and food assistance programs as well as in sustainable agricultural production, to ensure that nutritious food is available and accessible for all, particularly the most vulnerable people.

#### ***International cooperation and action***

9. We need to reinvigorate Agenda 21's global partnership for sustainable development and significantly scale up our achievements to date. We have no time to waste.
10. We recognize that addressing long-term threats to human and ecological well-being through international cooperation and action has been difficult. Governments are often pressed to cope with immediate domestic socioeconomic difficulties and the aftermaths of disasters. However, it is equally important to be mindful of inter-generational equity and protecting our planetary home.
11. Countries have reduced fatalities from disasters thanks to growing prosperity and progress in science and technology. Yet many environmental challenges require urgent international cooperation and action to avoid catastrophic damage to the planet we leave to our descendants. A binding agreement to limit greenhouse gases emissions must quickly be reached to prevent mass migration and displacement from climate change impacts.

#### ***Revisiting the current economic model***

12. The multiple global crises have brought into question our current volatile economic model which has neglected natural resources impacts and social justice. Food and fuel crises have particularly highlighted the risks arising from resource constraints such as energy. A new development model is now needed centered on the planet, its people, and on fairness, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
13. We recognize that broad-based economic growth has been and continues to be the most effective contributor to poverty eradication. But meeting the needs of a growing world population requires a more balanced distribution of resources.
14. Growth in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century must use far less energy and resources, pollute less, generate sufficient decent work, and include all sectors of the population, including women and youth. We see an inclusive green economy, enabled by sufficient institutional and policy space, as a tool that provides such growth.
15. We recognize sustainable consumption and production patterns and trade as enablers of such growth. Policies must avoid trade protectionism and negative impacts especially on the poor and vulnerable groups and on the livelihood potential of future generations.
16. Nations will need to overcome a number of hurdles – financial, technological and institutional - to make the most of the opportunities that a green economy might offer so as to benefit all sectors of society, including the poor and most vulnerable. Capacity building in the areas of science, technology and



innovation in developing countries--enabled through increased support from the international community, and facilitated by ICTs--is needed to smooth the transition to sustainable development.

### ***Goals, accountability, and measuring progress***

17. We are heartened that momentum is building for agreeing at Rio+20 to define sustainable development goals (SDGs). These will need to complement and reinforce the MDGs, which have been instrumental in advancing poverty eradication and social development. The SDGs should form part of an integrated, coherent agenda for addressing the critical changes of the post-2015 period.
18. We stress that a key feature of SDGs should be that, while respecting national sovereignty and policy space as well as common but differentiated responsibilities and other UN principles, they would apply to all countries and unite them in common efforts to tackle sustainable development challenges. We strongly emphasize that many developing countries will continue to need financial and technological support in their efforts to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development.
19. Our hope is that Rio+20 will deliver a firm commitment in this regard and identify the critical areas for the further careful elaboration of goals by an agreed deadline.
20. A number of priority issues have emerged which might serve as the basis for identifying sustainable development goals at Rio+20. Among these are: equity, poverty, decent jobs, sustainable agriculture and food security, energy, water, sanitation, climate change, oceans, sustainable cities, sustainable transport, tourism, disaster risk reduction, health including reproductive health, population, education, including for sustainable development, science, culture, youth, access to information, gender equality and women's empowerment and better indicators, accounting frameworks, and analytical tools for progress, based on more and better data, taking into account the needs of people today and in coming generations.

### ***Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development***

21. Rio+20 provides an opportunity to strengthen the institutional framework for effective coordination and support to Member States in achieving sustainable development.
22. We urge world leaders to commit and follow through in integrating the three pillars of sustainable development, accelerating implementation and improving coherence of actions among all actors, including different parts of the UN system and the international financial institutions. We urge that the integration of the pillars be reflected in improved and integrated decision-making at all levels, reflecting the voices and fostering the participation of all major groups of society, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, workers and trade unions, business and industry, farmers, local authorities and the scientific and technological communities.
23. We call for putting in place a strengthened institutional framework to advance integration, implementation and coherence and for concrete proposals to make that happen. A number of governments and civil society organizations are calling for a Sustainable Development Council. Others propose a high-profile body for sustainable development. Many advocate strengthening the General Assembly and ECOSOC to guide and promote sustainable development. Many also propose the strengthening of UNEP.

### ***UN system coherence***



24. We must better organize expertise within the UN system and the international community to deliver coordinated and coherent policy advice, capacity-building, and finance to governments to assist them with the design and implementation of public policies and strategies for sustainable development.
25. These issues require a coordinated approach by the UN system, stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector, to find joint innovative and lasting solutions to the challenges of sustainable development.
26. Rio+20 should identify a framework of action and seek a substantial increase and allocation of new, additional, predictable, and adequate financial resources, official development assistance (ODA), grants and credits and investment – particularly for social sectors, including women and youth, and for the development of infrastructure and productive capacities--in order to support the implementation of national policies and development strategies in developing countries.

***Reviving the spirit of Rio***

27. We also reaffirm the importance of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, as well as gender equality and of a commitment to just, equitable and democratic societies for sustainable development. We urge world leaders to achieve ratification of and universal participation in all the treaties and conventions promoting the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, including those relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as workers and migrants rights, rights of refugees, stateless and internally displaced persons, and rights of women, children and youth, as well as to natural resources, international transport, oceans and seas and land use.
28. Rio+20 must provide the roadmap to the future we want – a future with peace, dynamic economic and social development, universal social well-being, and a healthy and equitable environment for present and future generations where women and men, boys and girls equally contribute to and benefit from development.
29. Rio+20 must revive the “spirit of Rio” and be a development implementation conference. It must result in a compelling political document that must be accompanied by actions.
30. Let all states and stakeholders also come to Rio+20 ready to announce and launch new voluntary initiatives for sustainable development that will make a measurable difference to peoples’ lives and the welfare of ecosystems.
31. As Chief Executives of the UN System, it is our sincere hope that the outcomes of Rio+20 will rise to these challenges.