

# Greetings from Forest Trends

## 1. New Initiatives

**China and the Pacific Rim** – Forest Trends and CIFOR have launched a new initiative to examine strategic market issues in China and the Pacific Rim. Working with collaborators including the Chinese Center for Agricultural Policy (CCAP), the State Forest Administration (SFA), the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) and the University of British Columbia (UBC), this initiative will map the structure of industry exporting to China, conduct new, critical analyses of supply and demand within China, and identify policy and market barriers to increased benefits to low-income forest producers. For the details of the project, please visit the website:

[http://www.foresttrends.org/keytrends/pdf/China\\_and\\_the\\_Rim\\_Market\\_Intelligence.pdf](http://www.foresttrends.org/keytrends/pdf/China_and_the_Rim_Market_Intelligence.pdf)

**New CDM Initiative** – Forest Trends and members of The Katoomba Group have recently begun working together to raise awareness about the potential benefits for poverty reduction, rural livelihoods and biodiversity of forestry projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocols, thanks to grant support from the Mitsubishi Foundation. Forest Trends and partners will provide accessible information for delegates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the Conference of the Parties in December 2003, to promote adoption of rules and principles for CDM that will encourage investment in livelihood- and biodiversity-enhancing projects. (For details on the potential benefits and requirements of such projects, see CIFOR/Forest Trends publication *Forest Carbon and Local Livelihoods: Assessment of Opportunities and Policy Recommendations* by Joyotee Smith and Sara J. Scherr, which can be found on the CIFOR website:

[http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf\\_files/occpapers/op-037.pdf](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/occpapers/op-037.pdf)

Forest Trends is collaborating with local partners to conduct **market studies** on community forest products in **Mexico** and **Brazil**. The objective is to identify opportunities in key market segments where communities can better benefit, any significant policy and market barriers, as well as opportunities to create better linkages to buyers and the market. The Mexico study has begun and it will focus on the states of Michoacán, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, and Campeche. We are currently identifying partners in Brazil to collaborate on this country study. For questions please contact Alejandra Martin [amartin@forest-trends.org](mailto:amartin@forest-trends.org)

## 2. Convenings

**Katoomba VI** - On October 29-30, 2003, The Katoomba Group and Swiss Re, at its Rüslikon Centre for Global Dialogue in Zürich Switzerland, will co-host a conference on "Markets for Carbon & Ecosystem Services: the Business Case.". The conference will bring together experts from around the world, both the private and public sector as well as the NGO and scientific community, to discuss ecosystem services and markets. The conference will focus on market frameworks, enabling institutions, and market drivers. Following the conference will be a private workshop of The Katoomba Group on Markets for Environmental Services. Please visit the website: <http://www.katoombagroup.org/>

**Central America and Mexico**- Central American and Mexican forest communities will meet for 7 days in Petén, **Guatemala** starting July 25<sup>th</sup> to exchange experiences and train each other on enterprise development, business proposal writing, product marketing and fair trade among other topics. A similar workshop is scheduled for late 2003 for Amazon and Andean communities. The first workshop is coorganized by [RUTA](#) (Regional Unit for Technical Cooperation), [ACICAFOC](#) (Asociación

Coordinadora Indígena y Campesina de Agroforestería Comunitaria Centroamericana, and [Forest Trends](#). For questions please contact Alejandra Martin [amartin@forest-trends.org](mailto:amartin@forest-trends.org)

**Save the Date: November 5-6, 2003, 5th Anniversary TBLI Conference** – Brooklyn Bridge is celebrating its 5th anniversary of the TBLI Conference! The event will take place in Amsterdam, at the Beurs van Berlage, on the 6th and 7th of November 2003. What started in 1999 as a small event has grown into the world's largest conference on SRI (Socially Responsible Investing) and sustainable investment. To see the program or register, click [http://www.tbli.org/index.php?referer\\_code=foresttrends](http://www.tbli.org/index.php?referer_code=foresttrends) For more information or to order the brochure, e-mail [gabrielle@tbli.org](mailto:gabrielle@tbli.org) or call 31 (0)20 4286752.

**Forest Finance in China – April 2004.** Forest Trends, CIFOR, CCAP and others will host a major conference on forest finance in Beijing in late April 2004 (dates to be confirmed later). This conference will present international experience in forest finance, describe the role of Chinese public financial institutions and identify issues and opportunities to improve outcomes.

### 3. New Publications

Forest Trends has just launched a **SPANISH VERSION OF ITS WEBSITE!**

Please visit <http://www.foresttrends.org/staging/Spanish%20Site/IndexSpanish.htm>

Forest Trends and CIFOR will be publishing next month a book-length study: **A New Agenda for Forest Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: Making Markets Work for Low-Income Producers**, by Sara J. Scherr, Andy White and David Kaimowitz. This book identifies opportunities and barriers to forestry making much greater contributions to poverty alleviation and recommends actions for governments, NGOs and the private sector. The book will be available in August on both the Forest Trends and CIFOR websites: <http://www.foresttrends.org/>, <http://www.cifor.org/>.

Forest Trends recently completed a new analysis of certification and indigenous peoples entitled '**Forest Certification and Communities: Looking Forward to the Next Decade**'. The first in a series of analyses of critical issues for the next decade of forest certification, this paper was led by Augusta Molnar with contributions from around the world. Detailed case studies included the experience in Guatemala, Mexico, and Brazil. Additional reports will focus on the experience of smallholder certification, forest certification of non-timber forest products, the relationship between forest certification initiatives and government policies, and forest certification in complex political and social settings. The report and annexes can be found on the website: [http://www.foresttrends.org/resources/pdf/forest\\_communities.pdf](http://www.foresttrends.org/resources/pdf/forest_communities.pdf)

Is the ITTO Coming of Age?- The renegotiation of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) will begin in May and with it an opportunity to give the ITTO a stronger role in conserving tropical forests. Important changes would be to strengthen its commitments to encouraging payments and markets for ecosystem services and for increasing tropical forestry's contribution to poverty alleviation. See <http://www.foresttrends.org/keytrends/pdf/fteditorial.pdf> for an invited editorial by Andy White published in Asian Timber on a new agenda for the ITTA.

**Plantations: Good for What and for Whom?** - The role of plantations in the forest estate has become an increasing hot topic. See [http://www.foresttrends.org/keytrends/pdf/editorial\\_plantation\\_june.pdf](http://www.foresttrends.org/keytrends/pdf/editorial_plantation_june.pdf) for an invited editorial by Andy White on plantations published in the June edition of Asian Timber, and [http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf\\_files/Books/ForestPerspective.pdf](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/ForestPerspective.pdf) for a major new analysis on the role of plantations entitled 'Fast Wood Forestry: Myth and Reality' led by CIFOR and co-sponsored by Forest Trends, IUCN, and WWF.

**Forests in the Millennium Development Goals** - Sara J. Scherr of Forest Trends is a member of the Hunger Task Force of the Millennium Project, which is charged with identifying viable strategies for achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goal on Hunger--to reduce the incidence of hunger by half in all countries by the year 2015. Sara was the lead author for the background paper of the Hunger Task Force, "Halving Global Hunger," which can be downloaded from [http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/millennium\\_project.html](http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/millennium_project.html) (link to the Hunger Task Force, and then click on "documents"). Forest-related strategies for reducing hunger are included, but further ideas and feedback are requested.

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