

2002 WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: 24 AUGUST- 4 SEPTEMBER**Purpose**

1. This paper provides information for the England Forestry Forum on forestry issues addressed at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.
2. The paper is in two parts:
 - Part 1 covers the main issues negotiated and Summit outcomes.
 - Part 2 deals significantly with forest related issues at the Summit.

PART 1 - REPORT ON SUMMIT OUTCOMES**Process**

3. The preparatory process for the Summit was tortuous with the result that many arriving at the start were uncertain about the agenda, the process, or the likely outcomes. Despite the large numbers attending (estimated at over 60,000, but this includes everyone attending the Summit and a number of related events, not only delegations), the organisation and logistics went well. The South Africans did a very good job in the circumstances of balancing the needs of delegates to move freely but with security.
4. As with all major international events there was constant, frenetic activity. The UK delegation numbered around 70 representing Whitehall Departments. Tim Rollinson represented the Forestry Commission. The Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Assembly were each represented separately by their First Ministers and small delegations of officials. To put this in perspective, the UK delegation was reported to be the smallest of any of the G8 countries (for example, France was reckoned to have over 200 delegates).
5. The UK Government was represented at Ministerial level by the Prime Minister (Monday 3 September), John Prescott, Margaret Beckett, Clare Short and Michael Meacher. Margaret Beckett attended for the whole Summit and led the UK negotiations.

Agenda

6. The negotiations covered a very wide range of sustainable development issues. The aim from the outset was to agree:
 - a Political Declaration on Sustainable Development ('The Johannesburg Declaration'); and
 - a Plan of Implementation.

Johannesburg Declaration

7. The Political Declaration agreed at the Summit was not as ambitious (in terms of agreed actions and targets) as many had hoped for, or expected. A copy of the Declaration is at Annex 1. It reflects the nature of the negotiations at the Summit, with a particular focus on poverty eradication, water and sanitation, energy, health care, food security, changing consumption and production patterns, protecting the natural resource base, and trade.

Plan of Implementation

8. The Plan of Implementation covers over 50 pages. A copy is available at <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org> (click on Plan of Implementation).

- Chapter I - Introduction
II - Poverty eradication
III - Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production
IV - Protecting and managing the national resource base
V - Sustainable development in a globalising world
VI - Health and sustainable development
VII - Sustainable development of small island developing States
VIII - Sustainable development for Africa
IX - Means of implementation.

Forests

9. Forests were not the subject of negotiation at Johannesburg as sustainable forestry issues had been negotiated and agreed at the second session of the UN Forum on Forests in New York in April (which Elliot Morley attended representing the UK). The text from the UNFF was submitted by Ministers as an agreed section of the Plan of Implementation (Para 43 of Chapter IV; a copy is at Annex 2). The Plan of Implementation also includes references to forests and forestry issues under other sections, for example on biodiversity, agriculture, climate change and desertification.

Outcomes

10. The key outcomes (as highlighted by the UK Government at the end of the Summit) were:
 - agreements on water and sanitation (to halve the number of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation by 2015);
 - better management of oceans, conservation of fish stocks and development of marine protected areas;
 - action to protect biodiversity and natural resources (the UK referred specifically to forestry issues in the Biodiversity negotiations);



- action plans for sustainable production and consumption;
 - action to ensure that environment concerns are properly taken into account in the review of the trade round;
 - agreement on action to improve access to sustainable energy services for the 2 billion people who lack them; agreement on the need to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix; increased technological co-operation to fund support for developing countries; and agreement to phase out energy subsidies which inhibit sustainable development.
 - a commitment to monitor, follow up and report transparently on how we meet our commitments on targets and action plans.
11. For information, a copy of a recent article in the Guardian by Margaret Beckett looking back at Johannesburg is at Annex 3. (follow link below)

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,7843,789601,00.html>

She refers to the Summit as “a long, hard slog”. This was hardly surprising given the breadth of the issues under negotiation.

PART 2 - REPORT ON FOREST RELATED EVENTS

Introduction

12. As noted in Part 1, forests and forestry related issues were not negotiated at Johannesburg, having been agreed at the second (Ministerial) session of the UN Forum on Forests in April. Nevertheless, there were many forestry related events including one organised by the Forestry Commission. The most relevant are described below - for simplicity in chronological order.

Monday 26 August - WSSD Biodiversity Plenary

13. Michael Meacher made the first Ministerial speech in the Summit Plenary on Biodiversity. He called for targeted action on biodiversity, and referred specifically to the UK Forest Partnership (multi-stakeholder effort to promote sustainable development in the forestry sector); enhancing biodiversity through the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; creation of over 100,000 hectares of new native woodland over the last 10 years; award to UK Government of Gift to the Earth by WWF for having all state owned forests certified to strict sustainable forest management criteria; and Government focus on developing practical measures to control illegal logging, including groundbreaking bilateral agreement with Government of Indonesia. The statement was well received, especially by environmental groups.



Wednesday 28 August - Forest Restoration

14. IUCN held a meeting to launch a WWF/IUCN/DFID supported publication on Forest Landscape Restoration giving information about forest restoration projects in East Africa. The UK Government (through the Forestry Commission) has been supporting development of a WWF/IUCN global initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration. (The Forestry Commission subsequently hosted an international workshop with interested parties from international organisations and a number of countries in Edinburgh on 20 September to explore this further).

Thursday 29 August - UK Forest Partnership for Action

15. Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, chaired a meeting to share UK experience of working in partnership between government, business and environmental groups to promote sustainable development in the forestry sector, both in the UK and overseas. 40 delegates attended, with a roughly equal balance between developing and developed countries. Speakers were Tim Rollinson (Forestry Commission, speaking about the role of Government), Peter Wilson (UK Forest Industries Development Council, representing a business perspective), and Stuart Housden (RSPB, giving an environmental group view. Michael Meacher spoke enthusiastically about what had been achieved in the UK. A copy of his introductory remarks is at Annex 4.

Saturday 31 August - Policy Dialogue on Combating Illegal Logging

16. The European Commission held a side event on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade. The event was chaired by David Kaimovitz (Director General, CIFOR), and hosted by Commissioner Nielson (Development). Speakers included Michael Meacher (UK), Pekka Patossari (UNFF), Boen Purnama (Indonesia), Jan McAlpine (US), Takehiko Endo (Japan), Kevin Gray (RIIA), Agus Purnamo (WWF Indonesia), Henson Moore (American Forests and Paper Association).
17. Michael Meacher outlined the problem and scale of the problem, noting that between \$10-15 billion of forest revenues are lost every year (more than the additional finance pledged to development aid at the recent Monterrey summit) and that the G8 accounts for almost 90% of the world's trade in forest products. He noted that the UK is a major player in the world forest products market and, recognising this, had led on illegal logging within the G8. He referred to the recent Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Indonesia and UK support for the Congo Basin initiative and the Asian Forest Partnership. He also spoke about the UK experience of government working in partnership with industry and NGOs in the UK Forest Partnership for Action.



Monday 2 September - Launch of UK and South African Water and Forestry Support Programme

18. Clare Short (Secretary of State for International Development) and Ronnie Kasrils (Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa) jointly announced a £20 million water and forestry support programme over the next 5 years. This is part of a multi-donor effort to support a strategic plan to ensure South Africa's water and forestry resources are managed better and reflect the interests of poor people.

Wednesday 4 September - Launch of Congo Basin Forest Partnership

19. US Secretary of State Colin Powell launched the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. The aim is to protect and restore forests in the Congo Basin and to work together to combat illegal logging. The UK is a partner in the initiative. Speakers included Ronnie Kasrils, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry for South Africa, Denis Sasson-Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, and representatives of the EU and NGO partners.

**Forestry Commission
October 2002**

4 September 2002

THE JOHANNESBURG DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

From our Origins to the Future

1. We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa from 2-4 September 2002, reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development.
2. We commit ourselves to build a humane, equitable and caring global society cognizant of the need for human dignity for all.
3. At the beginning of this Summit, the children of the world spoke to us in a simple yet clear voice that the future belongs to them, and accordingly challenged all of us to ensure that through our actions they will inherit a world free of the indignity and indecency occasioned by poverty, environmental degradation and patterns of unsustainable development.
4. As part of our response to these children, who represent our collective future, all of us, coming from every corner of the world, informed by different life experiences, are united and moved by a deeply-felt sense that we urgently need to create a new and brighter world of hope.
5. Accordingly, we assume a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection – at local, national, regional and global levels.
6. From this Continent, the Cradle of Humanity we declare, through the Plan of Implementation and this Declaration, our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to our children.
7. Recognizing that humankind is at a crossroad, we have united in a common resolve to make a determined effort to respond positively to the need to produce a practical and visible plan that should bring about poverty eradication and human development.

From Stockholm to Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg

8. Thirty years ago, in Stockholm, we agreed on the urgent need to respond to the problem of environmental deterioration. Ten years ago, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, we agreed that the protection of the environment, and social and economic development are fundamental to sustainable development, based on the Rio Principles. To achieve such development, we adopted the global programme, Agenda 21, and the Rio Declaration, to which we reaffirm our

commitment. The Rio Summit was a significant milestone that set a new agenda for sustainable development.

9. Between Rio and Johannesburg the world's nations met in several major conferences under the guidance of the United Nations, including the Monterrey Conference on Finance for Development, as well as the Doha Ministerial Conference. These conferences defined for the world a comprehensive vision for the future of humanity.

10. At the Johannesburg Summit we achieved much in bringing together a rich tapestry of peoples and views in a constructive search for a common path, towards a world that respects and implements the vision of sustainable development. Johannesburg also confirmed that significant progress has been made towards achieving a global consensus and partnership amongst all the people of our planet.

The Challenges we Face

11. We recognize that poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns, and protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for sustainable development.

12. The deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability.

13. The global environment continues to suffer. Loss of biodiversity continues, fish stocks continue to be depleted, desertification claims more and more fertile land, the adverse effects of climate change are already evident, natural disasters are more frequent and more devastating and developing countries more vulnerable, and air, water and marine pollution continue to rob millions of a decent life.

14. Globalization has added a new dimension to these challenges. The rapid integration of markets, mobility of capital and significant increases in investment flows around the world have opened new challenges and opportunities for the pursuit of sustainable development. But the benefits and costs of globalization are unevenly distributed, with developing countries facing special difficulties in meeting this challenge.

15. We risk the entrenchment of these global disparities and unless we act in a manner that fundamentally changes their lives, the poor of the world may lose confidence in their representatives and the democratic systems to which we remain committed, seeing their representatives as nothing more than sounding brass or tinkling cymbals.

Our Commitment to Sustainable Development

16. We are determined to ensure that our rich diversity, which is our collective strength, will be used for constructive partnership for change and for the achievement of the common goal of sustainable development.

17. Recognizing the importance of building human solidarity, we urge the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among the world's civilizations and peoples, irrespective of race, disabilities, religion, language, culture and tradition.

18. We welcome the Johannesburg Summit focus on the indivisibility of human dignity and are resolved through decisions on targets, timetables and partnerships to speedily increase access to basic requirements such as clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of bio-diversity. At the same time, we will work together to assist one another to have access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, ensure capacity building, use modern technology to bring about development, and make sure that there is technology transfer, human resource development, education and training to banish forever underdevelopment.

19. We reaffirm our pledge to place particular focus on, and give priority attention to, the fight against the worldwide conditions that pose severe threats to the sustainable development of our people. Among these conditions are: chronic hunger; malnutrition; foreign occupation; armed conflicts; illicit drug problems; organized crime; corruption; natural disasters; illicit arms trafficking; trafficking in persons; terrorism; intolerance and incitement to racial, ethnic, religious and other hatreds; xenophobia; and endemic, communicable and chronic diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

20. We are committed to ensure that women's empowerment and emancipation, and gender equality are integrated in all activities encompassed within Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

21. We recognize the reality that global society has the means and is endowed with the resources to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development confronting all humanity. Together we will take extra steps to ensure that these available resources are used to the benefit of humanity.

22. In this regard, to contribute to the achievement of our development goals and targets, we urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the internationally agreed levels of Official Development Assistance.

23. We welcome and support the emergence of stronger regional groupings and alliances, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to promote regional cooperation, improved international co-operation and promote sustainable development.

24. We shall continue to pay special attention to the developmental needs of Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries.

25. We reaffirm the vital role of the indigenous peoples in sustainable development.

26. We recognize sustainable development requires a long-term perspective and broad-based participation in policy formulation, decision-making and implementation at all levels. As social partners we will continue to work for stable partnerships with all major groups respecting the independent, important roles of each of these.

27. We agree that in pursuit of their legitimate activities the private sector, both large and small companies, have a duty to contribute to the evolution of equitable and sustainable communities and societies.

28. We also agree to provide assistance to increase income generating employment opportunities, taking into account the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

29. We agree that there is a need for private sector corporations to enforce corporate accountability. This should take place within a transparent and stable regulatory environment.

30. We undertake to strengthen and improve governance at all levels, for the effective implementation of Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Multilateralism is the Future

31. To achieve our goals of sustainable development, we need more effective, democratic and accountable international and multilateral institutions.

32. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and international law as well as the strengthening of multi-lateralism. We support the leadership role of the United Nations as the most universal and representative organization in the world, which is best placed to promote sustainable development.

33. We further commit ourselves to monitor progress at regular intervals towards the achievement of our sustainable development goals and objectives.

Making it Happen!

34. We are in agreement that this must be an inclusive process, involving all the major groups and governments that participated in the historic Johannesburg Summit.

35. We commit ourselves to act together, united by a common determination to save our planet, promote human development and achieve universal prosperity and peace.

36. We commit ourselves to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to expedite the achievement of the time-bound, socio-economic and environmental targets contained therein.

37. From the African continent, the Cradle of Humankind, we solemnly pledge to the peoples of the world, and the generations that will surely inherit this earth, that we are determined to ensure that our collective hope for sustainable development is realized.

We express our deepest gratitude to the people and the Government of South Africa for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

**WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION**

FORESTS

43. Forests and trees cover nearly one third of the Earth's surface. Sustainable forest management of both natural and planted forests and for timber and non-timber products is essential to achieving sustainable development and is a critical means to eradicate poverty, significantly reduce deforestation and halt the loss of forest biodiversity and land and resource degradation, and improve food security and access to safe drinking water and affordable energy; highlights the multiple benefits of both natural and planted forests and trees; and contributes to the well-being of the planet and humanity. Achievement of sustainable forest management, nationally and globally, including through partnerships among interested Governments and stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations, is an essential goal of sustainable development. This would include actions at all levels to:

(a) Enhance political commitment to achieve sustainable forest management by endorsing it as a priority on the international political agenda, taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors through integrated approaches;

(b) Support the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the assistance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as key intergovernmental mechanisms to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels, thus contributing, inter alia, to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity;

(c) Take immediate action on domestic forest law enforcement and illegal international trade in forest products, including in forest biological resources, with the support of the international community, and provide human and institutional capacity-building related to the enforcement of national legislation in those areas;

(d) Take immediate action at the national and international levels to promote and facilitate the means to achieve sustainable timber harvesting, and to facilitate the provision of financial resources and the transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies, and thereby address unsustainable timber-harvesting practices;

(e) Develop and implement initiatives to address the needs of those parts of the world that currently suffer from poverty and the highest rates of deforestation and where international cooperation would be welcomed by affected Governments;

(f) Create and strengthen partnerships and international cooperation to facilitate the provision of increased financial resources, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, trade, capacity-building, forest law enforcement and governance at all levels, and integrated land and resource management to implement sustainable forest management, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action;

(g) Accelerate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action by countries and by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and intensify efforts on reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests to contribute to an assessment of progress in 2005;

(h) Recognize and support indigenous and community-based forest management systems to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable forest management;

(i) Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity's expanded action-oriented work programme on all types of forest biological diversity, in close cooperation with the Forum, Partnership members and other forest-related processes and conventions, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

Annex 3

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,7843,789601,00.html>

**WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
UK FOREST PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
(THURSDAY 29 AUGUST)**

SPEAKING NOTE FOR MICHAEL MEACHER

The Earth Summit in Rio drew global attention to the state of the world's forests. Rio was a milestone and important progress has been made since then in international forestry policy. We now have a much clearer global consensus and shared understanding of sustainable forest management.

But important though this has been, practical action has not been as effective as we would have liked. We need dialogue between Governments through the United Nations and other international processes -but implementation is a bigger challenge. For sustainable development to become a reality we need to demonstrate our commitment through action.

We need intergovernmental agreement on key objectives and targets - which is what we are pushing for here in Johannesburg. But we also recognise that national governments alone cannot deliver sustainable development - or sustainable forest management. To make progress and deliver practical actions we -the governments of the world -have to forge new partnerships with business and with civil society. We need concrete actions to deliver agreed targets on the ground.

Last year, our Prime Minister, Tony Blair, invited leaders of industry and NGOs to work with government to develop sustainability strategies in five key sectors - finance, tourism, water, energy and forestry.

In preparation for the World Summit, the UK government, the devolved administrations, forestry business leaders and environmental organisations have been working in partnership to develop actions to promote sustainable development in the forestry sector, both at home and overseas.

The partners have agreed four priority areas. These are:

- Illegal Logging;
- Forest Certification;
- Timber Procurement; and
- Forest Restoration and Protection.

As part of the initiative, the UK forestry business sector, through the Forest Industries Development Council, has been preparing a sustainability strategy which will set out the commitment of the forestry and forest products sector to sustainable development.

The priority areas that the Partnership has identified make the important connections between our international policies and the actions we are taking at home. For example, we are committed to helping developing countries tackle illegal logging and, working with others, to deny access of illegally harvested wood products to the UK and EU markets. And, as a major consumer, we are committed to purchasing timber products from legal and sustainably managed forests - and to encourage others in the public and private sectors to do likewise. We are learning lessons from our practical experience in implementing this commitment.

The work of the Partnership will contribute directly to implementing the work programmes of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Convention on Biological Diversity. For example, as part of the Restoration and Protection programme, WWF and IUCN -with support from the UK Government -are developing a global initiative to restore forests in some of the world's most deforested and degraded forest regions. We are able to build on our own experience of nearly 100 years of restoring forests in the UK, where we have doubled the forest area following removal of our natural forest cover over many thousands of years. The partners aim to take this initiative forward in collaboration with other governments, the private sector, and international and - non-governmental organisations.

It is not often that governments receive awards from environmental groups. But last year our work on forests was recognised by the presentation by WWF of a 'Gift to the Earth' award for having all our state owned forests certified to strict sustainable forest management criteria - and for having developed a UK Woodland Assurance Standard for independent forest certification.

The Standard was prepared in partnership with industry, government and NGOs across the UK. We are one of the very few countries in the world where the entire state forest has been certified to these standards. In total there are now just over one million hectares of certified forest in the UK's total forest estate of 2.5 million hectares. These certified forests are responsible for producing around 60% of total UK timber production.

The UK Forest Partnership for Action has prepared a short publication setting out their work so far and which I am pleased to make available today. With me are representatives of the Partnership from government, industry, and NGOs. Tim Rollinson, from the Forestry Commission, will say more about the work of the Partnership. Peter Wilson, Executive Director of the Forest Industries Development Council, will describe progress in developing a sustainability strategy for the business sector. And Stuart Housden, Director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the largest environmental NGO in the UK, will describe their efforts to restore forests and their work with partners overseas.