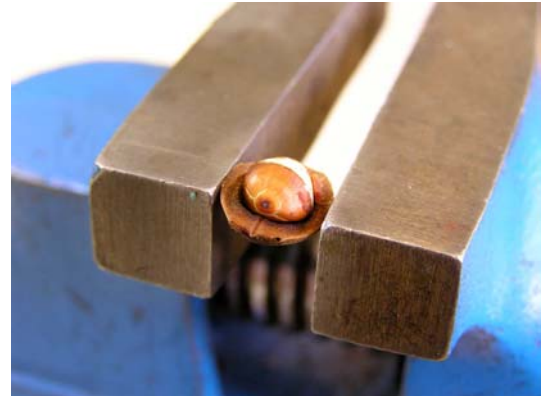


# Science and Business News May 2005

## Germination of an endangered Chilean conifer

Forest Research's seed researchers (in alphabetical order, Victoria Cunningham, Peter Gosling, Lorelie Ives, Richard Jinks and Matt Parratt) regularly collaborate with the 'Conifer Conservation Programme' of the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (RBGE). A year ago we received (via RBGE) a total of 1270 fruits from several populations of an endangered Chilean podocarp, *Prumnopitys andina*. The germination of this species is renowned for being very poor (<10%) and taking at least 4 years! Using our specialist skills we have already obtained 89 seedlings from 262 seeds. Martin Gardner (Head of the Conifer Conservation Programme) is delighted about this number of seedlings, which almost doubles some of the wild populations. The seedlings, currently being tended at Alice Holt, will be moved to Bedgebury Arboretum when they are a little bigger. In the meantime, the methodology will be published in the RBGE journal 'Sibbaldia' and the technique transferred to Chile where it will not only contribute towards local conservation efforts, but also play a small part in poverty alleviation by providing small-scale nursery employment.



The hard seed-coat of *Prumnopitys andina* is cracked in a vice to release the embryo - one of the important stages in stimulating germination

## SENSOR project underway

Forest Research is a partner in the new, EU-funded Integrated Project, SENSOR. Over the next four years the project will bring together 33 research institutions from across Europe to develop ex-ante Sustainability Impact Assessment Tools (SIAT) to support decision-making on European policies related to multifunctional land use. FR is responsible for stakeholder participation and other institutional aspects of the project. David Edwards and Paul Tabbush, from FR's Environmental and Human Sciences Division, attended the start-up meeting in Florence in December 2004, and the first project cluster meeting in Warsaw in April 2005, which included a study tour to the post-industrial region of Silesia in southern Poland. Silesia is one of six sensitive area case studies that will be used by FR and other partners to develop and test the tool in conjunction with local and regional stakeholders. The other sites will be in Austria, Estonia, Germany, Malta and Slovakia.



SENSOR partners inspect former mine site in Silesia

## Climate change in the Scottish uplands

Perth was the venue for a recent seminar in the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Transdisciplinary Seminar Series "Sustaining Mountain Landscapes: Conflict and Compromise in British Uplands". FR's [Chris Quine](#) (Head of Ecology Division) gave a presentation entitled "*Forests in a stormy climate - management to minimise damage and/or achieve multiple benefits?*" The seminar, organised by the Centre for Mountain Studies, was for an invited audience of both policy formers and scientists who are concerned with the long-term future of the British Uplands.



### VISULANDS project progresses

Work on the EU Framework 5 project, VISULANDS, is progressing well. In the UK, work is focused on three study areas: the Isle of Wight, Clocaenog and Clashindarroch. As part of the project, Brice Huet has been working with Forest Research, on a training secondment from ENGREF, Nancy, France. Brice has been developing excellent visualisations, using a North American software package, to review alternative scenarios for Clashindarroch. These will be used at a public participation event, to be run by Max Hislop (EHSD) and project collaborators the Macaulay Institute, in Huntly (Aberdeenshire), in June 2005.

### FC Scotland's Native Woodlands Survey

To assist understanding of Scotland's woodland resource and provide a baseline against which to measure progress, FC Scotland has commissioned a survey of its Native Woodlands. Zoë Laird, the project manager, who works partly from FR's offices at NRS, is engaged in discussions with a number of FR staff to refine the survey protocols. Tom Connolly is acting as FR's chief contact point, with staff from a number of the science Divisions and Technical Support Unit contributing to the survey. Pilot trials are scheduled to begin in July.

### International CleanUp Exhibition 2005

FR's Urban Greening team enjoyed a second, successful year as exhibitors at the NEC's International CleanUp Exhibition last week. "The three day exhibition is a great opportunity to showcase the benefits of using trees and woodland in land remediation," noted Danielle Sinnett, who co-ordinated FR's exhibition stand, "but with over 170 organisations exhibiting, it's also a good way of keeping up to date with new land and water remediation technologies offered by collaborators and competitors." FR's Caroline Kilbride, Tony Hutchings, Danni Sinnett are pictured right. Chris Robinson (Head of FC's Land Regeneration Unit), Jim Lynch, Andy Moffat and Alison Melvin also visited this year's show.



## Forthcoming Events

Full details of FR's events are available on FR's internet site:

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk/events](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/events)

### 8 June, Pests and Diseases of Amenity Trees, Milton Keynes

A workshop to raise awareness of pests and diseases which can affect amenity trees.

<http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6AQKQX>

### 14–15 June, Trees in a Changing Climate, Surrey

A conference to bring home the implications of climate change to all those who plant trees.

<http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-64GGZJ>

### 22 June, International Pavillion, Royal Welsh Show Ground, Builth Wells, Powys

Sicrhau Coed o Well Ansawdd 'I gefnogi'r Strategaeth Coetiroedd i Gymru' ~ Delivering Improved Timber Quality 'In support of the Wales Woodland Strategy Objectives'. Joint event run by Forestry Commission Wales and Forest Research. <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6C2D6X>

### 23-24 June, Woodfuel in the Midlands, Derbyshire

One-day workshop and demonstration (repeated over two days) covering woodfuel production issues in the Midlands. <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6CFGPM>

**13 September, Timber research update, Roslin**

Updating the forest and timber processing industry on the latest research findings.  
<http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6C3H86>

**14-16 September, Atlantic Oakwoods Symposium, Oban**

Collating current knowledge with a view to identifying the need for further research and the role of these woods in conservation planning. <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6A5HK4>

## New Publications

FCIN067 *Needle diseases of pine*. May 2005. Anna Brown, Sarah Green and Steven Hendry.

FCIN068 *Shoot diseases of pine*. May 2005. Anna Brown and Grace MacAskill.

## Newsletter Team

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