

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS, INC.  
1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Apt. 841  
Washington, D. C. 20005

NEWS NOTES NO. 30

January 1971

Casting Accounts: There is nothing mysterious about the forces that threaten the world's tropical forests. We know their causes, we know their nature, and we know that some grow more menacing with the passing years.

Overshadowing all others is the steady shrinkage of our tropical forest areas - the elimination of millions of hectares to make room for other uses. Faced with soaring populations, besieged by insistent demands for food, few governments withstand the pressure for "new land".

But population pressure is not alone among the forces that cloud the future of tropical forestry. Shifting cultivation has been with us since history's dawn and still leads in the slaughter of forests and forest land. Meanwhile, too many weak, irresponsible governments embark on orgies of timber cutting as a ready means to bolster their fragile economies.

All in all, not a reassuring picture. It tempts one to reflect that after more than a century of tropical forestry practice we are still losing both forests and forest land and that throughout much of the tropical world, forestry faces a bleak future.

Yet to say this would be to ignore the steady marshaling of forces of research and education, whose effect cannot indefinitely be delayed. It is to ignore the profound and ever-expanding influence of FAO, the effective work of the Germans in Africa, the impact of the Institute of Tropical Forestry on Latin America. It is to ignore the impressive contributions of Jurion of France and Donis of Belgium on converting shifting cultivation to intensive, permanent agriculture. Or A. Y. Goor's demonstrations of the enormous forestry potential in arid zones of the world. It is to ignore the incredible growth possibilities of tree plantations and the spectacular strides of technology in widening the spectrum of wood use. Finally, it is to ignore the world's growing awareness to the indispensable role of forests in defending man's environment.

This is a time for neither complacency nor despair. But the decades just ahead may be decisive and the unanswered question is, "How soon?". How many battles must be lost before the war on waste and destruction is won? How many more sun-baked and eroded hectares must the forester of tomorrow face before he can begin the inevitable task of restoring them to human use?

--- T. G.

The VII World Forestry Congress will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 2-16 October 1972. This will be the first meeting of a world forestry congress in Latin America and plans are being made by Latin American foresters to take advantage of this opportunity to secure greater rapport, to coordinate action in solving common problems, and to define desirable forest policies. An Organizing Committee has been formed, with the following officials: President, Ing. E. Takacs; Vice President, Ing. Domingo Cozzo; Secretary General, Senor L. R. Langone. An Executive Committee consists of President, Ing. Domingo Cozzo, Vice President, Ing. J. A. Castiglioni, Secretary General, Ing. R. F. J. Leonardin, and Prosecretary, Ing. J. C. Tinto. It's address is: Servicio Nacional Forestal, avenida Pueyrredon 2446, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

MEXICO Y SUS BOSQUES points out in a recent editorial that the Congress also affords an opportunity to create a Latin American Association of Professional Foresters, with the object of establishing a basis for continual interchange of experiences, leading to a wider development of the forests of Latin America, which comprise one-quarter of the world's forests. The editorial also suggests the Congress might take as its theme "the social function of the forest resource".

During the early days of October, Ing. Domingo Cozzo, President of the Argentine Executive Committee, visited Mexico and various other Latin American countries as a representative of the Organizing Committee with the purpose of consulting with foresters and obtaining their point of view concerning the subjects to be included in the agenda of the Congress and to initiate a campaign to secure as full attendance as possible.

--oOo--

The Forestry Association of Nigeria held its inaugural meeting at Ibadan, 6-9 October 1970. Launched with 160 founder members, the Association has been formed to bring together all who are interested in Nigerian forestry and wood-using industries, as a means of providing cooperation and mutual understanding. Membership is open to all who are concerned with forestry in Nigeria and is divided into Honorary Members, Ordinary Members and Corporate Members. Over 200 people attended the formal opening at the University of Ibadan.

--oOo--

Two and one-half million acres of tropical rain forest in West Malaysia is to be inventoried as part of a project to further the development of the southeastern part of the State of Pahang. It is expected that the inventory will be completed early in 1972.

--oOo--

The Latin American Forestry Commission held its eleventh meeting in Quito, Ecuador, from 11-21 November 1970. Two preparatory meetings included the Third Conference of the Committee on National Parks and Wildlife and the Second Conference of the Latin American Committee on Forest Research.

The Commission was attended by delegates from 18 countries and representatives of the United Nations, together with observers from Canada, B.I.D., the Latin American Committee on National Parks, the Institute of Latin American Forestry and the O.E.A.

Subjects which received the most emphasis and interest during the discussions were those having to do with the modernization of Forest Services, considered as a basic factor in attaining significant forestry development in Latin America; education and research in forestry; foreign aid to the forestry sector; the development of forest industries; the conservation of natural resources and the protection of wildlife.

During the meetings, a visit was made to the Centro-decenocoto, which coincided with the graduation of the Escuela de Peritos Forestales, and another to the Forestry Station of Cotopaxi.

Following the meetings, study and working trips were arranged under the auspices of the Ecuador Government to Tena, in eastern Ecuador; to Santo Domingo de los Colorados; and the Galapagos Islands.

--oOo--

The Organization for Tropical Studies offers in 1971 a total of eight courses in the tropical science of Central America, commencing 1 February 1971. This organization consists of a consortium of 27 Latin and U. S. universities, formed to promote an understanding of tropical environment and its intelligent use.

Courses will be given in ecology, forestry, geography, earth sciences and atmospheric sciences. Most of the courses will be offered in Costa Rica or Guatemala. A catalog and applications for enrollment may be obtained from: The Organization for Tropical Studies, No. American Office, 5900 S.W. 73rd St., South Miami, Florida 33143.

--oOo--

A Regional Consultation on the Development of the Forest and Pulp and Paper Industries in Latin America was held in Mexico City 19-26 May 1970. Twenty countries were represented by official delegations and 13 additional countries by observers. International organizations including World Health, U.N. Development Program, OAS, Inter-American Development Bank, and the Central American Research Institute for Industry were also represented. The purpose of this Consultation was to examine problems and opportunities for developing the pulp and paper industries and other wood-based industries in Latin America.

--oOo--

Publications

RESEARCH ON TROPICAL HARDWOODS is a supplement to "Timber Bulletin for Europe", published in 1967. It covers the results of an inquiry on research work and available information relating to tropical hardwoods and their utilization, which the Timber Committee of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe agreed to undertake. The purpose of the inquiry is to obtain information on the activities of research institutes studying the properties and uses of tropical hardwoods, with the chief purpose of determining which of the lesser-known species could be more widely used. Price - \$.50, obtainable from the Sales Section, U.N. Office, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Copies of the "Timber Bulletin for Europe" may be obtained at the price of \$1.50.

PROPERTIES OF IMPORTED TROPICAL WOODS, by B. Francis Kukachka, contains descriptions of more than 100 tropical genera and generic groups of woods with emphasis on properties that affect their utilization. Botanic names, common names and principal growth areas are included. Tables present the British and suggested United States kiln drying schedules. The bulletin of 69 pages includes numerous references and an index of common names of species with their botanical equivalents. It may be obtained from the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL HARDWOODS, held in Syracuse, New York, have been published and a limited number of copies of the 562-page book are available. Price - \$10.00, and they may be ordered from the Office of Public Service, College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York 13210. The Proceedings include conclusions and recommendations concerning tropical hardwood supplies and imports.

TROPISCHES UND SUBTROPISCHES ASIEN comprises Vol. II of "Der kombinierte land- und forstwirtschaftliche Anbau", by H. Hesmer, published by Ernst Klett Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany. To be published as a series of three volumes on the results of a survey of combined agricultural and silvicultural production in tropical regions. A forthcoming volume dealing with Latin America will be published in English.

WIZARD OF THE UPPER AMAZON, translated by F. Bruce Lamb, is an absorbing and apparently true story of the Amazon jungle and a Peruvian cauchero held prisoner for seven years by Indians. Lamb, an ISTF member and one of the foremost authorities on tropical forestry, was told this story by Manuel Cordova-Rios who, since his captivity, has become famous for his knowledge of the curative properties of plants of the Amazon forests learned from the Indians with whom he lived. Price - \$6.95; published by Atheneum, 122 East 42nd Street, New York City 10017.