Future Policy Award 2011



Celebrating the world's best forest policies



Voice of Future Generations



The Future Policy Award was initiated by the World Future Council, an organisation that brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making. It consists of up to 50 eminent members from around the globe who have already successfully brought about change. The Council addresses challenges to our common future and provides decision makers with effective policy solutions. In-depth research underpins advocacy work for international agreements, regional policy frameworks and national lawmaking.

The Council identifies and works to spread tried and tested 'best policies' and supports policy-makers in their implementation. The World Future Council, an independent foundation, works closely with parliamentarians, civil society, scientific institutions and international organisations around the world.



"The Future
Policy Award
winners all
demonstrate
leadership
towards the
achievement
of the 2020

Biodiversity targets: halving deforestation, restoring forests worldwide and ensuring that all forests are managed sustainably. Through the implementation of these policies, we can achieve the 2050 vision, which is a future of life in harmony with nature."

Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Honorary World Future Councillor

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The Future Policy Award 2011

The Future Policy Award celebrates policies with particularly positive effects on the living conditions of current and future generations. The aim of the award is to raise global awareness for these exemplary policies and speed up policy action towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies. Each year the World Future Council chooses one topic on which policy progress is particularly urgent. In 2011, the award is dedicated to forest policies.



"This award celebrates policies that help us to do the right thing by creating the right rules. We need visionary policies which support a sustainable and just world and protect future generations."

Jakob von Uexkull, Chair, World Future Council Alexandra Wandel, Director, World Future Council



"This year's award is particularly timely given its links to the first ever International Year of Forests and its message "Forests for People". It is time that we focus on the tangible values forests provide outside only environmental concerns, from economic benefits, including livelihoods for 1.6 billion of the poorest of the poor, to social and cultural values"

Jan McAlpine, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat

"The Future Policy Award presents an excellent opportunity to emphasize the important role of national policies in restoring and preserving the vital functions of forests for people. FAO would like to encourage countries and organizations to take action on forests during the International Year of Forests and share knowledge and successful experience in forest governance."



Eduardo Rojas Briales, Assistant Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The Future Policy Award 2011: Celebrating visionary forest policies



Deforestation, climate change, ecosystem destruction, food and water crises and financial turmoil are problems that call for courageous regulatory intervention. The Future Policy Award is designed to alert policymakers and the public to the importance of best practice in lawmaking and highlight outstanding examples of regulatory vision. The Award draws attention to existing sustainable policies and demonstrates that when political will is asserted, positive change can happen.

Celebrating visionary policies raises public awareness, encourages rapid learning and speeds up policy action towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies. That is why each year the World Future Council calls for the nomination of policies that are inspiring, innovative and influential.

In the International Year of Forests, the Future Policy Award 2011 celebrates successful policies that protect, enhance and sustainably utilize forests for people, and thus contribute to a better world.

Twenty forest policies from 16 countries were nominated for the award: from Bhutan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Finland, Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Norway, India, Indonesia, Rwanda, Turkey, the United States of America and Vietnam.

Nominations were received from international organisations including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as well as others including the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

And the winners are...

An international jury composed of experts from academia, government, international bodies, civil society and indigenous groups from all five continents (see page 18 for further details) has assessed the nominations against the World Future Council's Seven Principles for Future Just Lawmaking (page 17). The jury is delighted to announce the following winners of the Future Policy Award 2011.

Winner Future Policy Award 2011

Rwanda's National Forest Policy, initiated in 2004

Winner Silver Award 2011

The USA's Lacey Act with its amendment of 2008

Winner Silver Award 2011

Gambia's Community Forest Policy, initiated in 1995

Honourable Mention

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, especially Article 5 (Environment) (2008) and forest-related policies

Honourable Mention

Nepal's Community Forestry Programme, initiated in 1993

Honourable Mention

Switzerland's Federal Act on Forests (1991) and Swiss National Forest Programme 2004-2015



The 2010 Future Policy
Award celebrated
successful biodiversity
policies and was
awarded to Costa
Rica's 1998 Biodiversity
Law. The 2009 award
honoured policies
ensuring better food
security and was
presented to the
Brazilian city of Belo
Horizonte.

The Cradle of Life

The benefits that forests provide to life on earth

- The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their daily livelihoods, and they are home to at least 60 million people from around the world. ¹
- Not only are forests the most biologically diverse ecosystems on land, supporting habitats for 80% of all terrestrial species², but they also provide areas of stunning natural beauty that afford spiritual comfort to many.
- Reversing deforestation and forest degradation could play a major role in combating rising levels of global greenhouse gas emissions. With more careful management, forests could absorb almost 20% of these emissions into their biomass.³



"Trees are the symbols of life on our planet; forests the symbols of community, which sustains life. Through the magic of chemistry,

forests convert sunlight into physical products and biological services that enable the rest of our living systems to exist. To save civilization, there is no greater urgency today than to regenerate and conserve our forests."

Ashok Khosla, President, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and World Future Councillor

Costing the Earth?

The total global trade in forest products was valued at around \$379 billion in 2005. By destroying forests, not only are people's homes and way of life destroyed, but also a huge opportunity to coexist with nature and sustainably use the bountiful resources it provides is lost.





We have always needed forests: today, they need us.

Each year, an area of forest roughly the size of Costa Rica is destroyed, equating to a daily loss of more than 300 square kilometres. This alarming fact is indicative of the crisis that is facing the world's forests, and is a result of the unsustainable land-use change and the exploitation of forest resources.

The long-term effects of destroying this precious commodity are numerous and severe.

They include:

- Loss of habitat for millions of species
- Disruption of the water cycle
- Desertification and soil erosion
- Increased speed and severity of climate change
- Destruction of homes and livelihoods⁵

Without urgent action in the face of the reckless destruction of the Earth's forests, irreversible harm will be inflicted on life as we know it. We need to do more. The time to act is now.

RWANDA A small country taking big steps

Despite continuing population and land pressures, Rwanda is one of only three countries in Central and Western Africa to achieve a major reversal in the trend of declining forest cover. A National Forest Policy, with the ambition of making forestry one of the bedrocks of the economy and of the national ecological balance, was implemented in 2004 and later updated in 2010.

The government is currently implementing an Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy which considers the reversal of deforestation to be a crucial factor in alleviating poverty and has set the goal of increasing forest cover to 30% of the country by 2020.



"Rwanda has sought not only to make its forests a national priority, but has also used them as a

platform to revolutionise its stances on women's rights and creating a healthy environment"

Wangari Maathai, Founder of the Green Belt Movement, Nobel Peace Prize recipient (2004) and Honorary World Future Councillor

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE 2004 NATIONAL FOREST POLICY:

Reducing negative ecological impacts of manmade forests

Choosing suitable tree species and silviculture methods is critical to prevent the deterioration of ecological conditions. Monoculture forestry and tree species such as Eucalyptus with high water needs should be discouraged in reforestation efforts, due to their potential to exacerbate water scarcity.

Agroforestry in action: trees are grown along contours to act as windbreaks and to strengthen anti-erosion terraces



Bags of sense: a ban on harmful plastics

Rwanda has also been a pioneer in banning plastic bags. Before the prohibition, plastic bags caused many problems, not least in polluting water courses and badly affecting agriculture and livestock systems. Then, in 2008, a bill was introduced to prohibit the manufacture, import, use and sale of polythene bags in Rwanda. The obligatory monthly community service ("Umuganda") was used to collect all the waste plastic bags. Instead, people now use reusable alternatives such as baskets and paper or cloth bags. Other African countries including Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have followed suit.

Development of agroforestry

Fodder trees, species with fertilizing properties and fruit trees will be strongly promoted on farm land. The aim is to improve soil quality and hence crop and livestock productivity, creating incomegenerating activities in rural areas, improving nutrition and satisfying local timber and non-timber demands.

Fragile ecological zones nurtured

Tree species that are appropriate to drier climatic regions, resistant to termites or capable of improving local ecological conditions will be researched. Activities such as resettlements likely to cause soil disturbance will take into account the protection and preservation of steep mountain zones and other fragile areas.

All stakeholders involved in decision-making

Positive efforts will be made by the government to maximise the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including public institutions, civil society, private operators, youth associations and women in the implementation of the policy.

Endangered plant species protected

Necessary measures will be undertaken to identify, propagate and protect all endangered indigenous plants species, particularly those that constitute the raw material for the production of local traditional medicines.⁶

Sustainable Forest Management

All forest and tree resources in Rwanda shall be managed to yield sustainable streams of social, economic and ecological goods and services, ensuring that the forest needs of both current and future generations are satisfied.⁷



Forest cover in Rwanda has increased by 37% since 1990

Aiming high: key measures of the 2004 National **Forest Policy**

The increase and diversification of forestry resources

Massive national reforestation and planting activities to be initiated, promoting indigenous species on all free land that is suitable for afforestation.

Improved management of forest resources

Strategies for the rational and safe exploitation of non-timber forest products are to be set up. Natural forests are to be managed and protected, and associated income-generating activities are to be introduced.

Development of agroforestry

Appropriate tree species for agroforestry according to Rwanda's different ecological zones are to be identified and disseminated. The Rwanda Agroforestry Network will ensure wide participation in the implementation and monitoring of agroforestry activities.

Community tree nurseries assist in the massive national reforestation efforts





Tree planting: educating the leaders of tomorrow

Education on forestry issues

Courses related to forest management are to be integrated into school curricula and outreach campaigns are to be organized around the year.

Saving wood

Alternative sources of energy and wood saving techniques are to be disseminated.8

Land tenure reform

Key reforms have also been made to tackle land fragmentation and gender inequality. The 2004 **National Land Policy includes** the key principles that land is a common heritage of past, present and future generations and that equity should guide the rights to acquire land and property, ensuring women share equal rights and privileges in inheriting land. In addition, the policy demands that the minimum area of a homestead property does not fall below what can be economically profitable.

Rwanda: Healthy Forests, benefits for people and biodiversity

RESULTS

- Rwanda is on course to reach its goal of increasing forest cover to 30% of total land area by 2020 despite continuing population and land pressures. Forest cover has already increased by 37% since 1990.9
- The Rwandese people benefit from the restored forests through improved food security and poverty alleviation. This is due to the role that forests play in the prevention of land degradation and protection of watersheds — important preconditions for improving agricultural productivity and sustainability.
- The forest fund budget increased by approximately US \$1million between

Every extra hectare of habitat benefits the

endangered chimpanzee population

- 2004 and 2010, largely spent on afforestation and reforestation programmes. Positive impacts include the greening of the previously degraded Bugesera Region and the afforestation of Umutara in Eastern province.
- The Gishwati Area Conservation Programme, initiated in 2007, has increased its forest reserve by 67%, benefiting the chimpanzee population that is on the brink of extinction. 10 About 10% of Rwanda's territory is protected area.11
- The conservation of national parks has direct economic benefits. as tourism makes the largest contribution to GDP of all sectors in the economy.12

The Future: Border to Border Restoration

Building on the solid foundations of the 2004 National Forest Policy, the government announced the Rwanda Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative at the launch of the International Year of Forests in New York. This ambitious 25 year initiative commits Rwanda to "achieve country-wide reversal of degradation to its soils, water, forests and biodiversity" and to do so in a manner that provides new opportunities for rural livelihoods, secures adequate water and energy supplies and supports the countries' progress towards low carbon economic development.

The root of the problem: US Lacey Act tackles drivers of deforestation

The problem

Illegal logging and the international trade in illegal timber has been recognised as a major global problem causing environmental devastation, costing producer countries billions of dollars in lost revenue, promoting corruption, undermining the rule of law and good governance and funding armed conflict.¹³ Consumer countries contribute to these problems by importing timber and wood products without ensuring that they are legally sourced.

An enforceable solution

The United States has become the first country in the world to place an outright, criminally enforceable ban on the import of illegally harvested timber, addressing this issue both nationally and internationally from the demand side. The Lacey Act amendments of 2008 prohibits all trade in wood and plant products which are knowingly illegally sourced from any U.S. state or any foreign country.

Banned goods include processed products such as lumber, furniture or paper and even products containing only a small wood component (such as musical instruments). Importers are legally obliged to declare the country of harvest, the scientific names of plants and trees contained in their products as well as the quantity and value of the import.¹⁴



"The Lacey Act enforces the environmental law of even the weakest of countries

in the most powerful. If all countries followed its example, environmental law would be globally enforced and our biosphere would be protected."

Tewolde Berhan Egziabher, Director General, Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia and World Future Councillor



The Lacey Act; the first criminally enforceable ban on the import of illegally harvested timber

New supply chain responsibilities

A violation of the Lacey Act takes place if:

- Any US or foreign law that protects plants or regulates their management is violated
- 2. The 'tainted' illegal plant product is then traded in the U.S.¹⁵

Not only the person in possession of the illegal product is held to be liable, but also anyone involved in the supply chain. Importers and handlers are therefore expected to exercise due care and examine the origins of their plant-based goods. Penalties for violations can be severe and range from the confiscation of the illegal product to fines of up to US \$500,000 or prison sentences of up to 5 years. ¹⁶



The Lacey helps to remove the huge profits received by those involved in criminal logging activities like this illegal sawmill

Impac

As importers are forced to take responsibility for their wood products, due diligence assessments and the demand for certified wood products have increased dramatically in the US.¹⁷ Reports suggest that the Lacey Act, along with other measures by consumer countries, have played an important role in influencing the substantial declines in illegal logging seen in recent years.¹⁸

Now that the first enforcement actions have taken place, the Lacey Act has the potential to further address the scale of illegal deforestation by withdrawing the huge rewards received by illegal loggers from the international market.

Importers must now exercise due care to ensure their wood products are of legal origin





"It is essential for communities to be engaged in the design and implementation of rules governing their own resources and the ecosystems upon which they depend for survival. By placing the rural population at the centre of sustainably developing and caring for the forest, The

Gambia's innovative laws and policies address poverty and forest renewal in an integrated way."

Marie Claire Cordonier Segger, Director, Center for International Sustainable Development Law and World Future Councillor

People-centred approach transforms the forest sector in The Gambia

The wrong track

Prior to the forest policy reform of 1995, Gambian law emphasized government ownership and management of the nation's forests. Local communities had limited rights to access and utilize forest resources resulting in disengagement from forest protection, widespread forest fires, illegal logging and forest clearances for agriculture and settlement.

Devolving power

Realizing that this approach would defeat efforts to achieve wider forest protection, the Forest Department became one of the first administrations in Africa to introduce a community forest management (CFM) approach.

The new 1995 policy aimed to achieve forest management that is both sustainable and socially equitable by recognising the rights of local communities to access forest lands and benefit from managing their own resources. In this way, the rural population played a key role in local development and poverty reduction while decreasing forest degradation through

public involvement in fire prevention and forest protection.¹⁹

Further specific policy goals include maintaining forest land resources covering at least 30% of total land area and ensuring that 75% of this forest is managed and protected by communities.²⁰



If communities manage and protect local forest effectively, permanent ownership is transferred to them

Far-reaching tenure transition

The policy uses a phased introduction, allowing forest users and the government time to adapt, and build a sense of ownership of forest resources amongst local communities.

If communities can demonstrate their ability to effectively manage the forest and protect it from fires and illegal exploitation for a period up to 3 years, final and permanent ownership is legally transferred to them. Villagers may then begin sustainable activities to generate income from their forest according to the provisions of their forest management plan.²¹

Impacts:

Over 350 villages country-wide now participate in community forestry, owning over 29,000 hectares of land²² and managing 12% of the country's forests.²³

The 2006 revision of the Forest Policy to include the Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach, helped locals to form seller associations, realize the value of their resources and better market products such as honey, handicrafts and fuel wood

Despite being one of the world's poorest countries with a rapidly growing population, the Gambian government has managed to achieve a net forest cover increase of 8.5% over the last two decades (increasing from 442,449 hectares in1990 to 480,042 ha in 2010).²⁴

Both illegal logging and forest fires have been reduced in community managed areas, contributing to the development of a market for dead branch wood.

The law also promotes:

- popular urban energy alternatives to bridge the gap between demand and sustainable forest supply
- multiple use of forest lands such as controlled grazing, eco-tourism and wildlife conservation
- nationwide tree planting; encouraging tree farming on grazing lands and along roadsides to improve productivity and contribute to soil and water conservation
- urban forestry, green belts and woodlots

Greening the constitution: Bhutan looks to safeguard the future

The Bhutanese people have lived in harmony with nature for centuries and wish to pass on their rich forest heritage to future generations. Bhutan's development is guided by the philosophy that 'Gross National Happiness' (GNH) is more important than GDP (Gross Domestic Product).²⁵ This is also reflected in the constitution, adopted in 2008, whose fifth Article is dedicated to the environment.

KEY FEATURES OF ARTICLE 5:

Every Bhutanese citizen is a trustee of the natural resources and environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT SHALL:

- Protect, conserve and improve the pristine environment and safeguard the biodiversity of the country;
- Prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
- Secure ecologically balanced and sustainable development while promoting justifiable economic and social development; and,
- Maintain a minimum of sixty percent of Bhutan's total land under forest cover for all time.²⁶



Bhutan has the highest proportion of forest cover and protected areas of any Asian country. It is estimated that over 70% of the land is covered by forests, the majority consisting of natural forests retained under protected areas and biological corridors (soon to be 51.44 %)²⁷ This enables the successful conservation of threatened megafaunal species like tigers and snow leopards.

The protected areas are home to indigenous peoples and many socially-oriented forest schemes have been launched.²⁸ Due to its vast forest areas, Bhutan absorbs more emissions than it emits and declared voluntarily at the COP 15 conference in Copenhagen its intention of remaining forever carbon neutral, serving as a net carbon sink.²⁹

Bhutan's forests also provide a reliable supply of quality water, used amongst other things for the generation of hydropower, which is the single biggest contributor to the economy (24 % of the country's GDP).³⁰

Community engagement reaps rewards in Nepal

Launched to curb a crisis of Himalayan forest degradation in the 1970s, Nepal's Community Forestry Programme has moved beyond an initial conservation-focused agenda. Today, it is seen as a broad-based programme for sustainable forest use that empowers rural communities to take control of forest management at the local level, enhancing access to forest products, improving livelihood opportunities and strengthening local governance.

While the government still owns the land, decisions about forest management, income-generating activities, wildlife protection and forest harvesting are made by village residents through autonomous, self-governing local institutions called Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). These groups and their networks provide a model of democratic governance, community development and social inclusion.

To date about 1.6 million households or 35% of the country's population participate in the Community Forestry Programme, directly managing more than 1.2 million hectares (25% of the country's forest area), improving forest coverage and conditions in these areas.³¹

Access to forests is vital as 69% of households use firewood as their primary cooking fuel and a wide range of nontimber forest products are harvested both for subsistence (as food, medicines, and utensils) and for sale.³²

The law's influence on livelihood security has also been a key success because more than 70% of Nepal's population depend on livelihoods involving farming, forestry, and livestock.³³ Communities retain 100% of revenues generated from their forests (estimated at over US \$10 million a year³⁴), and must designate a quarter of this income for development activities such as improving irrigation, the building of schools and health facilities and microfinance initiatives.³⁵

Some of the best biodiversity protection results are being seen in community forests where clear management responsibility and local benefits from ecotourism have led to successful protection of the endangered rhinoceros and tigers in Chitwan National Park.³⁶



Switzerland's Forest Policy: benefiting people and planet into the future

The Swiss Act on Forests 1991³⁷ aims to promote the multi-functionality of all types of forests, secure sustainable forest management and ensure the provision of benefits and services to society well into the future by conserving forests as close to natural ecosystems as possible.

The law integrates a wide-ranging set of political instruments and prohibitions, including:

- Prohibitions on deforestation and clear-cutting, environmentally hazardous products and the genetic modification of trees:
- Supportive financial instruments (to enhance protective forests, defences against natural hazards and forest biodiversity)
- Support for research and access to forest information and the obligation of appropriate education on forests

The National Forest Programme provides an action plan with a long term vision, objectives, strategy and around 100 operational measures.³⁸



Switzerland's forests are federally regulated which distributes the competencies between the confederation and the cantons. Civil society is closely involved in forest planning and conflict resolution at different levels, guided by an effective decentralised forest service.

Clear results

Since the late 19th century the forest area has grown by about 45% and continues to expand (by 5% from 1985 to 2006) with total forest cover at 30% (56% of which is certified)³⁹. There have also been beneficial impacts on green jobs, with 4.3% of those employed by the primary sector working in forestry. The public enjoy free access to all public and private forests.

Core elements of Swiss forest policy have been integrated into international forest agreements and in other national forest legislation, including in Nepal and Bhutan. Switzerland's decentralized forestry approach has been a core feature of a series of international workshops in support of the UNFF, co-organized with Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico⁴⁰.

Seven Principles for Future Just Lawmaking underpin the Future Policy Award

'Policies to change the world' are those that meet the Future Just Lawmaking Principles and significantly support fair conditions for future generations. The International Law Association adopted Seven Principles for sustainable development law to guide such an integrated approach.

The principles were the result of ten years academic work and are regarded as the "first blueprint for the emerging field of sustainable development law and policy" for professionals dealing with policy making and evaluation that built on several global and local policy making frameworks for sustainable development.





"The international law of the future will need instead to focus on preserving the collective rights and duties of the community

of states as co-inheritors and costewards of our planet."

Judge C. G. Weeramantry, Former Vice-President, International Court of Justice and World Future Councillor

The Seven Principles were adopted by the 192 States participating in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. They reflect the interconnected nature of the challenges facing the world and help to avoid unintended inconsistencies in the way policymakers react. The World Future Council sought to put the Seven Principles into practice and has developed a precise methodology to do just this.

The Seven Principles methodology is strictly applied in the evaluation of all policies that are nominated for the Future Policy Award. For more information see the **APPLICATION TOOL KIT** at www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future_justice_principles.html



Meet the Jury

The jury who decided on the winning policies was composed of experts on sustainability and forests from all five continents including Jan McAlpine, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests, Simone Lovera, Executive Director, Global Forest Coalition, Professor Marie Claire Cordonier Segger, Director, Center for International Sustainable Development Law, Tewolde Berhan Egziabher, Director General, Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia, Jakob von Uexkull, Founder, World Future Council, Prof. Dr. Vandana Shiva, Founder, Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology and Pauline Tangiora, Maori elder from the Rongomaiwahine tribe.

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