

## State of the world's forests

**Over the next 20 years, Asia and the Pacific will be faced with the largest regional increase in paper consumption and production. This area will also become the leader in the development of planted forests. This is one message in the report “State of the world’s forests 2009” from the FAO.**

The Asian and Pacific region will, however, still be dependent on imports from other parts of the globe.

In Western Europe, on the other hand, forest industry competitiveness will decline, whilst forest resources will continue to expand. By 2030, a primary function of the Western European forests will be to provide environmental services, and forest management will be adapted to deliver a wide range of functions. The increased demand for fuel-wood may however improve the economic viability of forest ownership.

The prospects for the forests during the coming decades are summarized in the comprehensive “State of the world’s forests 2009” from the FAO. The current biennial edition is the eighth, and aims to reveal the future of forests and forestry at both regional and global levels.

The report is based on the forest sector outlook studies undertaken by the FAO, and examines the impacts of factors such as demography, economy, and institutional and technological changes.

*Bioenergy from the forests will increase, especially in Europe.” Photo Mats Hamnerz*



### Global trends

Globally, production and consumption of wood products and wood energy will continue to increase up until 2030, following historical trends.

The most important change will be the increase in wood as a source of energy, especially in Europe. The highest growth rate will be found in Asia, which will be the major producer and consumer of wood-based panels, paper and paperboard.

The role of forests will change dramatically if cellulosic biofuel becomes commercially available.

Another important trend is that more industrial roundwood will come from planted forests instead of natural ones.

*Download the full report from [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*

→  
*Next page: a condensed summary of the regional prospects*



**NORTH AMERICA** Canada and the USA will maintain a stable forest area, but the economic viability of the forest industry may decline. However, the provision of environmental services will increase in importance, driven by public interest. The outlook depends very much on how the forest sector addresses the challenges of climate change, including fire intensity and damage by pest species. Planted forests may expand if there is sufficient demand for wood as an energy source.



**AFRICA** The growing population and rising cost of food and energy will worsen the already tough situation in Africa. Forest loss will continue at current rates, and implementation of sustainable forest management will be slow. Political and institutional development will determine the prospects for the forests. Stronger local institutions and a focus on products and services required locally and globally may be ways to stop depletion of the forest resource.



**EUROPE** Forest resources will continue to grow, but the forest's function as a provider of environmental services will increase in importance, especially in Western Europe. The forest industry will lose competitiveness in many labour-intensive sectors, but it will still maintain its leading role in more technologically advanced production. The economic viability of forest ownership will decrease, but an increased demand for bioenergy may boost the economic prospects. An expansion of forests and the forest industry will occur in Eastern Europe, which will catch up economically with Western Europe.

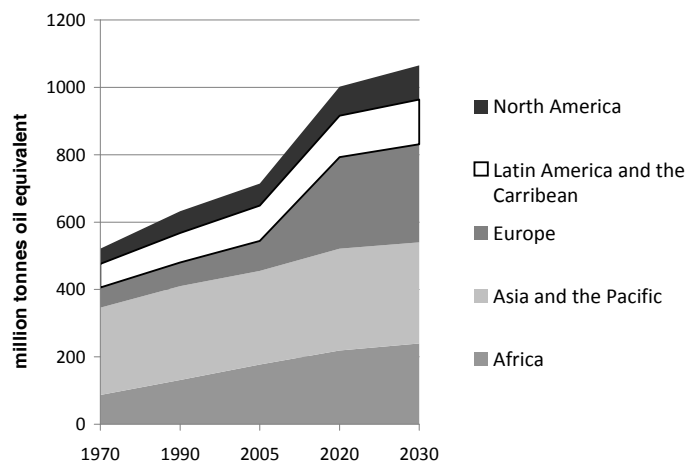


**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN** The forests of South America will continue to decline at the current pace, despite low population density. Forests will be cleared to make room for agricultural crops, feed and biofuel. Planted forests will however increase, but not at a rate sufficient to balance the continuing deforestation. In Central America and the Caribbean, forest clearance will however decline.

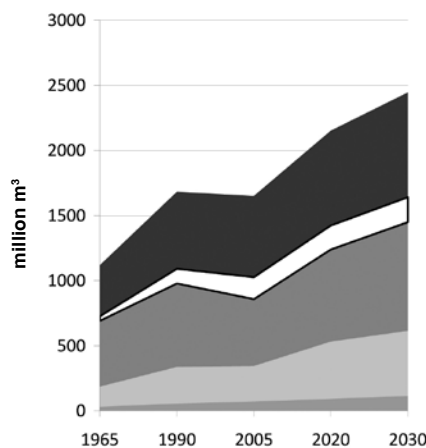


**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC** The most developed countries and some of the emerging economies can expect an increase in their forest area, while the low- and middle-income forest-rich countries face a progressive decline in the area covered by forests, as a result of expanding agriculture. The demand for wood and wood products will continue to increase along with the population. The region will be the leader in planted forest development, but it will still be dependent on wood from other parts of the world. The demand for forest environmental services will increase as incomes rise.

Global production of bioenergy in tonnes oil equivalent. One tonne corresponds to approximately 4 m<sup>3</sup> wood.



Global trends in the production of industrial roundwood, million m<sup>3</sup>.



## Applications for 2010 grants

The closing date for applications for SNS funds for 2010 will be 1 September 2009. Applications should have a connection to one of five themes in the SNS strategy 2007–2009, of which the first two will be given the highest priority in the current call:

1. Sustainable utilisation of wood resources for generating energy and as an alternative to fossil fuels
2. The impacts of climate change and weather on forests and forestry
3. Wood material science and increased utilisation of wood products
4. The economic and social value of forests in the society of tomorrow
5. Biodiversity and the conservation value of forests

Support will be given to research involving collaboration between at least three Nordic countries. Countries in the so-called Adjacent Areas (mainly Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and northwestern Russia) may also be included.

Grants will be allocated in order to create “Nordic synergy”. To gain support from SNS, the research

collaboration should add value to any project compared to what could be achieved by unilateral research. (For example: comparative studies examining differing growth conditions, shared use of field experiments, field stations or specially equipped laboratories.)

Equality between men and women should be emphasized in the applications. The research projects and network activities need to be co-financed with national or other funds.

The contribution from SNS is usually about €30 000–50 000 per year for research projects and €10 000–25 000 for network activities. EU-activities can also be supported.

*More information can be found at: [www.nordicforestresearch.org](http://www.nordicforestresearch.org)*



*Don't forget the application deadline, says Sune Haga, secretary of SNS*

## Still no conventions on sustainable forestry

The EU is often considered to be a driving force and sometimes even a leader in international cooperation relating to important environmental issues. However, the EU has had limited success in UN negotiations on sustainable forestry. Although talks have been going on for more than a decade, there is still no binding convention relating to forestry, unlike many other important international environmental questions.

In a doctoral thesis undertaken at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Gunilla Reischl examined the factors influencing EU success in

various aspects of forestry. She found that the EU has difficulty in achieving its objectives in negotiations concerning the internationally binding forest convention. The negotiations have, over the years, revealed deep rifts between countries, in particular between the North and the South. The EU's activities in these negotiations have been variable and often difficult to understand, and its behaviour has not always resulted in constructive co-operation in the forest policy sector.

*Read more: [www.nordicforestry.org](http://www.nordicforestry.org)*

## Shortcuts



*It's genes are a common resource.*

### Norway: Law stops genetic patents

A new law in Norway will regulate the use of forest genetic resources. The law establishes the fact that the genetic resources of the natural forest are a common resource which belongs to the whole of society and shall be managed by the state. It will not be possible for a commercial actor to protect naturally occurring genes through patents.

*Read more: [www.skogoglandskap.no](http://www.skogoglandskap.no)*

### Sweden: Nine Swedes out of ten love forests

Swedes love to spend time outdoors in the forest. A poll conducted by the Federation of Swedish Farmers – LRF – indicates that as many as 94 % of all Swedes find it important to spend time in the country's forest. Six people out of ten also know that forests provide renewable energy and are beneficial for the climate.

*Source: [www.nordicforestry.org](http://www.nordicforestry.org)*



Photo: Yara

## Maximum growth in Swedish park

Sweden has opened its second “growth park”, where researchers and foresters together will try to increase forest growth to its maximum.



*One aim is to study the environmental effects of high growth, says Tomas Lundmark.*

The first growth park was opened in Västerbotten in northern Sweden, and the new park, covering 1 700 hectares, is located in Småland in southern Sweden.

The park is the result of cooperation between the state-owned Swedish forest company Sveaskog and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

– We want to know if it is possible

to develop sustainable and profitable forestry which produces much more wood than today, says Ann-Britt Edfast, research director of Sveaskog.

The target is to increase growth by 50%. To achieve this goal, three main measures will be employed: using better forest regeneration material, fertilization and the use of “new” species, such as hybrid larch or poplar.

– The environmental impacts will be carefully examined, says Professor Tomas Lundmark at SLU. The large area set aside will allow impacts on soil, water and the environment to be examined on the landscape level.

*Read more: [www.slu.se](http://www.slu.se)*

## Shortcuts

### Denmark: Forest & Landscape expands with new building

In March, Forest & Landscape started building its new home on the Fredriksberg campus. A new building will be connected to the old one, which dates from 1859, and there will be room for 120 researchers as well as facilities such as laboratories and a lecture hall. It is planned that the researchers will move into the new building in the summer of 2010.

*Read more: [www.sl.life.ku.dk](http://www.sl.life.ku.dk)*



*Professor Niels Elers Koch made the first sod cut to the new building.*

*Photo: Inger Grønkjær Ulrich*

### Finland: Forests and human health

IUFRO has launched a new task force examining forests and human health. One of the products will be a set of guidelines for health impact assessment, which could be used in forest development planning. The task force is coordinated by Professor Hannu Raitio at Metla.

*Read more: [www.forhealth.fi](http://www.forhealth.fi)*

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