



Transformations

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE WORLD AGROFORESTRY CENTRE

INSIDE

- Townhall meeting: Moving forward together
- William Umbima, ICRAF's former Head Librarian passes on
- G&D Goal Monitoring update
- Manon Sanscartier joins ICRAF
- Regulars: Announcements, Dates for your Diary, Staff Member of the Week and New Library Publications

Science story of the week



Bamboo day at ICRAF? Weekly Friday Seminar Series off to a great start at HQ ■

Rebecca Selvarajah-Jaffery, with kind assistance from Prof Chin Ong
Friday Seminar, 22 September 2006

Demonstration of 'sap flow' tool to measure tree water use and screening of video 'Thirsty Trees: and the search for better alternatives'

At morning tea last Friday, ICRAF DG Dennis Garrity correctly said that the day could be called Bamboo Day at ICRAF! Not only did bamboo come out strongly as an alternative to more thirsty trees in a video that was screened during the Friday seminar, but Steve Burgess later demonstrated water use of the giant bamboo using the sapflow device, plus there was a day-long display and sale of bamboo products at - you guessed it - Bamboo House!

The weekly science seminar last Friday had two key features, the screening of a video: *Thirsty Trees: and the search for better alternatives*, by Katie Roper and a presentation entitled, *Measuring transpiration to understand plant function and its effect on water resources*, by Dr Steve Burgess, a visiting scientist from Australia. Steve later demonstrated the sap-flow device - about 50 years old, but modernised by ICRAF and the University of Western Australia - that simplifies the measurement of tree water use.

The video showed how the planting of high quantities of evergreens in water scarce regions, and in high densities along riverbeds and freshwater resources, is leading to reduced availability of water downstream. One alternative to 'thirsty' evergreen species are deciduous trees, which shed their leaves — and therefore consume less water — during the dry season. Many of these tree species are indigenous and can produce a range of valuable products like timber, fruit and fodder. These species will be increasingly important when the effects of climate change are expected to result in a decline in rainfall in many regions across Africa.

"Trees are not able to adapt quickly over such a short period," says Chin Ong. A hydrologist at ICRAF. "We must select trees and woody perennials that are more efficient in their use of water and that can cope with the changing rainfall. Without action, 70% of rivers will dry up".

Dr Steve Burgess installs the sap-flow device on a bamboo stem
Photo: Walter van Opzeeland



Where does Bamboo come in?

The strongest and fastest growing woody plant on earth, Bamboo is appropriate for areas with higher rainfall, can help prevent erosion, enriches soils and absorbs pollutants including heavy metals.

Production of bamboo could mean big business for Kenya. In 2002, the global trade in bamboo reached USD 2 billion. Bamboo is poised to make a major come back in Kenya, much to the excitement of local communities who look forward to the twin benefits of this environmentally-friendly cash crop. "You don't have to campaign for adoption once people hear about the money," says Millie Abaru, who works on Bamboo Enterprise Development with RELMA in ICRAF. "The limit will be us."

ICRAF will use the sap-flow device to monitor the use of bamboo and eucalyptus over the next three months, to compare their seasonal water use. Ultimately, ICRAF will use this device to monitor water use of bamboo and eucalyptus in the headwaters of the Mara and Kagera Rivers in order to predict their impact on river flow into Lake Victoria. Hopefully, this study will allow us to determine whether bamboo can replace eucalyptus as a timber species and as a cash crop without depleting our water resources.

For more information:

NEW World Agroforestry Centre 'water' website (www.worldagroforestry.org/water)

Sap flow device: <http://www.ictinternational.com.au/hrm30.htm>



Townhall Meeting: *Moving forward together* ■

On 15th September, at a townhall meeting at the ICRAF Nairobi campus, ICRAF director general Dennis Garrity made a presentation about organisational change at the World Agroforestry Centre. The presentation, titled ***Moving forward together*** was attended by all staff, and later broadcast to the regions.

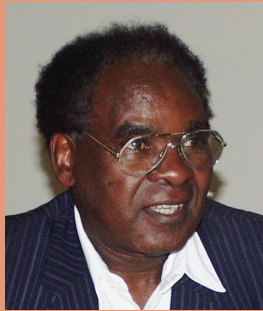
To watch the videos of Dennis' presentation, click on the links below:

http://www.worldagroforestry.org/framework/video_vault.asp?v=town_meeting_2006_2
http://www.worldagroforestry.org/framework/video_vault.asp?v=town_meeting_2006_3
http://www.worldagroforestry.org/framework/video_vault.asp?v=town_meeting_2006_4
http://www.worldagroforestry.org/framework/video_vault.asp?v=town_meeting_2006_5

William Umbima, ICRAF's former Head Librarian, passes on ■

Jacinta Kimwaki

It is with great shock and sorrow that we learnt about the sudden death of our former colleague and immediate former Head Librarian at ICRAF, William Umbima, who passed away on Saturday, 23rd September 2006 at Aga Khan hospital in Nairobi.



William retired from ICRAF in August 2004 after eleven years of dedicated service. Those of us who knew him will remember his gentle, gracious and cheerful personality. We are greatly saddened by his sudden departure and convey our profound sympathy and condolences to his family. May God give them the strength to bear this untimely loss.

William's body will be laid to rest on 7th October 2006 at his residence in Vihiga, Western Kenya.

May his gentle soul rest in eternal peace.

Transformations

G&D Goal Monitoring Update ■

Hulda Mogaka

The ICRAF G&D Committee and Associates have been working in the past years on goal setting for G&D activities. This is a Centre wide activity that is monitored on an annual basis by the G&D programme.

The goal setting process started in April 2004 in Aleppo, with a meeting of Director Generals of various CGIAR Centres and was followed by a G&D workshop for the Centres' HR Managers who made the first draft for their respective centres.

The HR unit has prepared a progress report that they would like to share with all staff.

To read the report, click on the link below and then on the link at the bottom of the article.

<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/news/default.asp?NewsID={545E2F79-51B3-4F52-9B12-CEAB89F39D78}>

Announcements

Call for papers, Kenyatta University

Jomo Kenyatta University has issued a call for papers on "The Implications of Globalisation for the Viability of Sub-Saharan Africa's Development and Renaissance." The conference is scheduled for 7-8 December. Abstracts of 400 words should be sent by 30 September to the coordinators.

To email your abstracts or to find out more, contact Paul Njoroge or Hellen Mberia, director@ihrd.jkuat.ac.ke

Calls for proposals: Seeds & Research Grants; Systemwide Livestock Programme (SLP) 2006

The 2006 calls for proposals (Seed and Research Grants) have been posted in the SLP web site.

Concept Notes can be submitted by CGIAR Centers members of the SLP, on behalf of the partners involved, through their Deputy Directors General-Research, Research Directors or their representatives to the Livestock Programme Group (LPG). Steve Franzel is the ICRAF representative to the LPG.

To find out more, email Steve Franzel, s.franzel@cgiar.org or visit the SLP website, http://www.vslp.org/front_content.php

Dates for your diary

- How to reach the 2010 - and beyond - target: research influencing policy (Electronic conference on biodiversity)
<http://www.nbu.ac.uk/biota/e-conference.htm>
25th September to 13th October 2006
- International Conference on Humid Tropical Ecosystems
<http://www.scidev.net/events/index.cfm?fuseaction=readevents&itemid=1007&language=1>
Kandy, Sri Lanka, 4 - 9 December 2006
- Sustainable development conference
<http://www.scidev.net/events/index.cfm?fuseaction=readevents&itemid=1008&language=1>
Islamabad, Pakistan, 13 - 15 December 2006



Manon Sanscartier joins ICRAF

Dr. Manon Sanscartier, from Canada, joins ICRAF's Training Unit for 9 - 12 months, as an Associate Researcher. She is attached to ICRAF by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Youth Attachment program.



Manon holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Saskatchewan, in Artificial Intelligence (AI), specializing in Human Cognition, more precisely on the importance and value of contextual information in making decisions.

Manon's partner, Kevin Sookocheff, holds an M.Sc. in Computer Science - Image Processing, specialized in Texture Synthesis. Kevin is very interested in sustainable development, and hopes to find employment in a related field while he is in Kenya.

Please welcome Manon and Kevin to ICRAF, and Kenya!

If you want to provide Kevin with leads for potential employment, email him on: kevin.sookocheff@gmail.com

New Library Publications By Caroline Mbogo & Humphrey Keah

ICRAF Staff in bold

Bekele-Tesemma, A., Kimaru, G. 2006. **The role of livestock in integrated land management: RELMA's experience in eastern and southern Africa.** ICRAF Working paper no. 25. Nairobi: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), 15p.

Full Text: <http://intranet/downloads/publications/PDFs/wp06173.pdf>

Degrande, A., Facheux, C., Mfoumou, C., Mbile, P., Tchoundjeu, Z., Asaah, E. 2006. **Feasibility of farmer-managed vegetative propagation nurseries in Cameroon.** *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods* (2006):181-190.

Jindal, R., Swallow, B., Kerr, J. 2006. **Status of carbon sequestration projects in Africa: potential benefits and challenges to scaling up.** ICRAF Working Paper no. 26. Nairobi: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) 37p.

Full Text: <http://intranet/downloads/publications/PDFs/WP14441.PDF>

Mbile, P., Ndzomo-Abanda, G., Degrande, A., Mpeck, M-L., Tchoundjeu, Z., Ngo-Momha, C., Andre, P.P. 2006. **Home-grown plus: local knowledge, livelihoods, policies and science.** In: *Proceedings of the seminar on the opportunities and constraints to successful agroforestry science and practice in the Dja landscape, Cameroon. Lomie 21-22 June, 2006.* Yaounde: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). West and Central Africa Humid Tropics, 71p.

Mbile, P. 2006. **Taking stock in the Dja landscape: ICRAF's experiences.** In: *Proceedings of the seminar on the opportunities and constraints to successful agroforestry science and practice in the Dja landscape, Cameroon. Lomie 21-22 June, 2006.* Yaounde: ICRAF. p. 11-21.

Mpeck, M-L. 2006. **Population structure and natural regeneration of *Baillonella toxisperma* in a community forest, adjacent to the Dja biosphere reserve.** In: *Proceedings of the seminar on the opportunities and constraints to*

successful agroforestry science and practice in the Dja landscape, Cameroon. Lomie 21-22 June, 2006. Yaounde: ICRAF. p. 22-24.

Mbile, P., Ndzomo-Abanda, G. 2006. **The law, the weight on our heads: local perceptions and social hiccoughs in the exploitation of timber resources in Cobabo, East Cameroon.** In: *Proceedings of the seminar on the opportunities and constraints to successful agroforestry science and practice in the Dja landscape, Cameroon. Lomie 21-22 June, 2006.* Yaounde: ICRAF. p. 25-28.

Degrande, A. 2006. **Concepts and tools for sustainable management of "landscapes": approaches to accompany the management of natural resources in the Dja landscape.** In: *Proceedings of the seminar on the opportunities and constraints to successful agroforestry science and practice in the Dja landscape, Cameroon. Lomie 21-22 June, 2006.* Yaounde: ICRAF. p. 31-36.

[ICRAF] World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). 2006. **Improved Land Management in the Lake Victoria basin: final Report on the TransVic project.** ICRAF Occasional Paper no. 7. Nairobi: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), 98p.

Full text: <http://intranet/downloads/Publications/PDFs/OP14439.PDF>

For a full list of library publications, click on :-
<http://intranet/News/default.asp?NewsID={2026352B-0FE8-4EF2-9F0C-32CAC515DB18}>

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For more information, visit our library site:
<http://worldagroforestry.catalog.cgjar.org/library/>

Staff Member of the Week

Name: Patrick Nabiswa

Title: IT Assistant

Unit: ITU

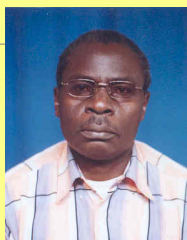
Station: Nairobi

Years at ICRAF: 12 years

Favourite Book/Magazine: I'm a fervent reader of the online Science development magazine

Favourite Music: ZILIZOPENDWA (assortment of old hits) - especially works of the legendary George Mukabi

I have always wanted to: be a fantastic gardener of assorted vegetables.



Patrick was nominated by Walter van Opzeeland in recognition of the great (and not always recognised) job that switchboard staff do to get calls through. To nominate next week's staff member, Email suggestions to: Transformations@cgjar.org



World Agroforestry Centre
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES

Transformations is the weekly newsletter of the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi
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