

# **Forests, Carbon and Climate Change Conference**

## **19 September 2007**

Climate change is now widely acknowledged as the most important environmental issue facing mankind. According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, impacts on human settlement and ecosystems, particularly at the higher latitudes and in the tropics, are already being felt. Renewed and intensified action to address these impacts is being signalled, particularly for the period post 2012, the end of the first Kyoto commitment period. The most substantial undertaking to date has been the recent announcement by the EU that it will cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 20% by 2020. Achieving reductions of this level will mean fundamental changes in energy, land use and other policy support areas. For civil society it will mean fundamental shifts in transport and other behaviour; everybody will be affected in one way or another.

Forests too will play a key role in attaining compliance with emission reduction targets - directly through carbon sequestration and the avoidance of deforestation - and indirectly through providing renewable wood fuels and materials. Nationally, forests are already playing an important part in the Kyoto compliance regime, particularly new forest planted since 1990; while a broader role for forests and forest products may emerge post 2012. In order to better understand the current role of forests in climate change policy, and how this might develop in the future, COFORD is holding a one-day conference on 19 September 2007 on the theme **Forests, Carbon and Climate Change - Local and International Perspectives** at the **Glenview Hotel, Co Wicklow**. The conference will be addressed by leading policy makers and analysts, as well as a number of eminent scientists who are dealing with forest and climate change issues.

Bringing together science and policy, the conference will outline current national initiatives, how these have come about, what they plan to achieve, their economic effectiveness and what the future might hold. In addition, the thinking used to estimate how much greenhouse gases forests actually remove from the atmosphere will be outlined. The afternoon session will feature presentations from eminent national and international experts on the latest thinking on forests and climate change, and on the balance between uptake and losses in the forest carbon cycle. Ongoing work in the COFORD-funded CLIMIT programme will be outlined, including the important area of how current and future forests will be affected by climate change, and how best to plan and manage forests into the future.

All those interested in climate change and the role of forests in mitigating rising levels of greenhouse gases, and how forests themselves may be impacted by future climate regimes, are sure to find attendance at the conference worthwhile. The programme includes the following presentations:

**Climate change and energy policy; an economic perspective**

John Fitzgerald, Economic and Social Research Institute

**Irelands national climate change strategy**

Owen Ryan, Department of the Environment

**Forests and the UNFCCC process; an overview**

Eugene Hendrick, COFORD

**New Zealand: Forest carbon reporting and the role of forests in climate change policy**

Peter Stephens, New Zealand Ministry for the Environment

**Global forests and international climate change research**

Ricardo Valentini, University of Tuscia

**Irelands forest carbon reporting system**

Kevin Black, FERS Ltd

**Forest soils; a vital carbon reservoir**

Ken Byrne, University College Cork

**The impact of climate change on forests**

Duncan Ray, Forest Research, UK

Booking information and the registration form are available on

**[www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)**

*The cost to attend is €60.00 per delegate.*

**If you wish to register, please email [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie)**

**or**

**phone 01-2130735.**