

IMPLEMENTING THE AGENDA

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The Chiang Mai Agenda presented in these proceedings has substantial credibility, having been drafted by discussion and agreed upon by a quorum of forest restoration scientists and practitioners in the region. The agenda proposes research on a wide range of subjects that will take many years to complete. Implementation will depend on the commitment of individual scientists and organisations throughout the region and the support of funding agencies. It is hoped that funding agencies will recognise the importance of the consensus reached at the workshop and will give high priority to activities proposed in the agenda. Researchers are therefore encouraged to quote the Chiang Mai Agenda as a reference when writing grant applications.

The agenda contains suggestions for research that could be implemented as small-scale pilot projects by individual researchers or as larger international projects. For example the research proposed on bats as seed dispersers (4.2) or isolated trees as perches (4.1) would make ideal graduate student thesis projects. In contrast, establishment of series of plots to test ANR (1.1) or plantation design (1.2), identification of framework species in different bio-regions (4.2) and the investigation of motivating factors for communities to become involved in forest restoration (5.1) would require organisation of large teams of researchers in many disciplines. Such projects would have little meaning, unless they were replicated across different environments in different countries, making international collaboration essential. An important consideration is to avoid duplication of research and this can be achieved by better communication among researchers via the network proposed in the preceding paper. Collaboration among institutions allows effective transfer of skills and knowledge and builds on the relevant strengths of organisations in different subject areas.

The workshop identified the need for small round-table planning meetings to prepare project plans to implement research proposals outlined in the agenda. When projects are replicated in different countries, co-ordination would be essential to ensure standardisation of methods used and thus comparability of results. Steering groups should be formed to both apply for funding and to manage the research. Such groups would be able to effectively allocate areas of responsibility, manage the research and identify requirements for external support.

Participants willing to help co-ordinate research in particular areas included Billy Hau for ANR (1.1) and plantation design (1.2), Arthur Wright for sustainable harvest of products (5.3) and Somsak Sukwong for any projects related to the development of silvicultural methods based on local knowledge.

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The global Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) has helped to focus the attention of funding agencies on conservation issues. Forest restoration for wildlife conservation is covered under Article 8 of the convention on *in situ* conservation, in which signatories agree to “rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote recovery of threatened species”. The importance of involving local people in this process is emphasised in Article 10, which covers sustainable use of components of biodiversity. In that article, signatories agree to “support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced” (GLOWKA, 1994). Forest restoration is one of the most effective mechanisms to both conserve existing biodiversity and increase it. Therefore, funding agencies seeking to implement projects in accordance with the CBD should enthusiastically support forest restoration. The type of funding agency that should be approached to support any of the research projects proposed in the agenda depends on the scale of the project and the sum required. Funding agencies can be divided into 4 broad categories:

1. Private sector – companies usually fund projects to improve their public image. Small- to medium-scale projects are supported. Funding is often available rapidly and compared with other funding options, administration requirements are usually low.
2. Large international aid agencies - the application and reporting procedures are complicated and time consuming, but the grants are usually substantial. These grants are only suitable for very large projects or international projects with a large administrative staff.
3. Charities and Foundations - smaller grants but usually require low administration. Ideal for student thesis research. Charities and foundations often have very specific objectives and one can usually be found to fit the project being proposed.
4. Government or national agencies – several countries in Southeast Asia have a national research council or other government organisations established to implement national conservation programmes or the CBD. Administration required is usually high and international projects are usually not supported.

Contact details for some funding agencies are provided in the appendix.

Thailand’s Biodiversity Research and Training Programme (BRT) provides an example of how a semi-autonomous national agency can work effectively to support biodiversity conservation, including forest restoration. Established to prepare Thailand for ratification of the CBD, the BRT programme supports small- to medium-scale projects in universities and other research establishments all over the country. Between 1996-99 BRT supported 427 projects with a total budget of 218.7 million baht. A particular feature of the programme has been strong support for student projects. The programme has prepared a new generation of young scientists to advance this crucial field of research. The most important achievement of the BRT programme has been to establish research on biodiversity in Thailand as a legitimate and respectable area of scientific investigation. The BRT programme has encouraged more scientists to become involved in biodiversity research than ever before. The institution- and capacity-building aspects of the programme will have

long-lasting benefits for Thailand's biodiversity, well beyond the program's closing date. The BRT programme has specifically supported research on forest restoration for biodiversity conservation, by funding field trials to test various new techniques of forest restoration carried out by the Forest Restoration Research Unit at Chiang Mai University. Although the programme is coming to the end of its 5-year life span, it is hoped that other similar initiatives will emerge to take its place.

Forest restoration for wildlife conservation requires long-term research funding. The success of forest restoration experiments will not be known for many years after establishing experimental plots. Funding agencies rarely commit themselves to supporting projects for longer than 3 years. Therefore, researchers who are interested in implementing proposals outlined in the Chiang Mai Agenda are encouraged to establish a portfolio of sponsors from the private sector, government sector and international agencies. Governments come and go; companies boom and bust, so gaining support from all types of sponsoring agencies is an insurance against interruption of sponsorship causing project failure.

REFERENCE

GLOWKA, L., 1994. A Guide to the Convention on Biodiversity. IUCN Gland and Cambridge, xxi+161 pp.

Appendix - some suggested funding agencies

A good source of names and addresses is the "Guide to Grants, Fellowships and Scholarships in International Forestry and Natural Resources" by Damon A. Job. Write to USDA Forest Service, P. O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090, USA fax-(202) 273-4749, or, to obtain a copy by anonymous File Transfer Protocol, access the following home page: USDA Forest Service World Wide Web Home Page: URL=<http://www.fs.fed.us/>

Asia Development Bank, Education Division, PO Box 789, 1099 Manila, Philippines

The Asia Foundation, 550 Kearny St., San Fransisco, California 94108, USA

The Biodiversity Research and Training Programme, 15th Floor Gypsum Metropolian Tower, 539/2 Sri Ayuthaya Rd., Rajdhavee, Bangkok 10400 (only for research in Thailand)

The British Ecological Society, 26 Blades Court, Putney, London, SW15 2NU, U.K.; e-mail general@ecology.demon.co.uk; <http://www.demon.co.uk/bes> (small projects only)

The Centre for Field Research, 680 Mnt. Auburn St. PO Box 403, Watertown, MA 02172 USA (for research involving foreign volunteers)

CIFOR PO Box 6596 JKPWB, Jakarta 10065, Indonesia (cifor@cgiar.org)

The Charles A. Lindbergh Fund, Inc., 708 South 3rd St, Suite 110, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Fauna and Flora International, Great Eastern House, Tenison Rd., Cambridge CB1 2DT, U.K.; e-mail info@fauna-flora.org; <http://www.ffi.org.uk> (small projects only)

Ford Foundation, 320 East 43 Street, New York N.Y. 10017, USA

International Tropical Timber Organisation, 5th Floor, Pacifico-Yokohama, 1-1-1, Minamoto-mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220, Japan

IUCN, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland Switzerland

IUFRO c/o Federal Forest Research Centre, Seckendorff-Gudent-Weg 8, A-1131, Vienna, Austria (iufro@forvie.ac.at)

SEAMEO Scholarships, SEAMEO, Darakarn Bld. 920 Sukhumvit Rd, Bangkok 10110

Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund, Dr. Anne Savage. Director of Research, Roger Williams Park, Zoo, Elmwood Ave., Providence, RI 02905 (small projects only)

The Thailand Research Fund 19th Floor, Gypsum Metropolitan Tower, 539/2 Sri Ayuthaya Rd, Rajdhevee, Bangkok 10400 (research in Thailand only)

Thai-German Foundation, c/o PDA, Sukhumvit Rd. Soi 16, Bangkok 10110
Fellowships Division, UNESCO, 7 Place de Foutenoy, 75700 Paris, France

World Bank, International Economic Relations Division, External Affairs Department, 1818 H Street, N.W.; Washington DC 20433, USA (and the Global Environment Facility administered also by the World Bank)