

RCEN Annual Report Forest Caucus Activities from April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

by Sarah Heiberg

Seventh Meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Cliff Wallis (Friends of the Oldman River) was selected as the ENGO delegate on the official Canadian delegation to UNFF7. He submitted daily reports from the meeting, which took place from 16-27 April 2007. Following the meeting, Cliff submitted his delegate report along with a letter from the Chair of the UNFF Secretariat thanking him for his participation in UNFF7 and particularly in the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, during which Cliff delivered a statement.

Forest Sector Sustainability Table Working Groups

Two working groups were established within Environment Canada's Forest Sector Sustainability Table (FSST): a Working Group on Climate Change and Adaptation (as it relates to the forestry sector) and a Working Group on Water (as it relates to endocrine disruptors produced by pulp and paper effluent).

Aran O'Carroll (CPAWS) was the RCEN-selected ENGO delegate on the Climate Change and Adaptation Working Group. The purpose of this working group was to make recommendations to the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) Deputies meeting on impacts and adaptation policy by mid-June 2007 and therefore influence the CCFM position on the issue and to develop a recommendation for a further agenda on climate change for the FSST. The first meeting was held on 31 May 2007. Highlights included the proposal of common principles for a potential joint statement on adaptation needs; the "Canadian forest climate change assessment" led by NRCan's Canadian Forest Service (CFS); and NCASI completed research for FPAC on a "carbon neutral forest industry" and FPAC has approached WWF and Pembina to discuss support for such an objective.

The RCEN-selected delegate on the Water Working Group was Dolores Broten (Reach for Unbleach). The Water Working Group (WWG) was convened primarily to work on the issue of endocrine disruption in fish from the effluent of about 20 mills across Canada which must do an Investigation of Cause (IOC) and Investigation of Solution (IOS) under the Environmental Effects Monitoring Program. The first WWG meeting was held on 7 September 2007 and a second meeting was held from 14-15 January 2008. The fact that the endocrine disruption potential of effluent is now recognized by industry, government and the universities is a step forward.

International Community Forestry Workshop

The Forest Caucus organized an International Community Forestry (ICF) Workshop on 30 September 2007 at the Munk Centre for International Studies in Toronto. The goal of the Workshop was to produce a common statement—a *Call to Action*—to move the issue of community forestry forward. The Workshop's aim was both to raise awareness about new research developments in community forestry and to agree on a strategy to move this approach forward at the global level. The Workshop also offered excellent opportunities for networking with more than 60 participants, including 20 international delegates from Africa, Latin America, South and East Asia and Russia. We received over 40 abstracts from around the world to present at the ICF Workshop. The total amount raised for this project was approximately \$70,000 (cash contributions from unfunded participants excluded) from sources including CIDA (\$24,000), the Ford Foundation (\$20,000), the University of Toronto (\$12,000), NRCan (\$10,000) and IDRC

(\$8,000). The Call to Action now counts 28 organisations/institutions and 24 individual sign-on's from 14 countries (including First Nations and Quebec sign-on's). It was distributed at the UN Climate Change Conference that took place in Bali from 3-14 December 2007 including to the 700 participants of the CIFOR Forest Day side event held 8 December 2007.

