



CELEBRATING FORESTS AND PEOPLE

A document created by the Australian National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) for World Forestry Day in the United Nations International Year of Forests 2011





The concept of having a World Forestry Day originated at the General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture in 1971 and was soon adopted by the United Nations. World Forestry day coincides with the autumn equinox in the Southern Hemisphere and the spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere to celebrate the many facets of forestry such as production, recreation and environmental quality.

UN International Year of Forests

The year of 2011 marks the United Nations International Year of Forests. The focus of the UN led campaign is to celebrate “forests for people”. The aim of the campaign will be to raise the awareness of the values forests bring to people economically and environmentally.

Forests not only supply our primary source of paper and building materials but they also offer alternative sources of energy and provide many resource based communities with countless employment opportunities.

Statistics from the UN indicate forests are home to 300 million people and the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people depend on forests. According to the UN, trade in forests reached an estimated 327 billion dollars in 2004. This figure represents the value forests offer in real economic terms to a number of stakeholders on a multi-national level.

Forests provide the world’s population with food, clean drinking water, shelter, medicine and provide habitat to some of earth’s most uniquely diverse ecosystems. Forests also provide us with storage of billions of tonnes of carbon in vegetation, which in turn reduces the amount of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere.

NAFI is celebrating the UN International Year of Forests on the 21st of March; which is also World Forestry Day. Each year on this day people take time to consider the benefits of forests to the domestic and international community.

To launch celebrations, NAFI hosted a Gala Dinner for The UN International Year of Forests 2011. The dinner was at Parliament House and included guests from a wide range of backgrounds including politicians, diplomatic representatives, scientists, community groups, government agencies and leading figures from the forest industry.



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**

CEO's Message

The Australian forestry industry is a vibrant and flourishing industry that proudly provides Australian and international markets with top-quality wood fibre and timber products.

We are not only proud of what we produce but we are proud to contribute to the Australian economy and communities in financial and employment terms, as well as providing essential building materials, paper and packaging.

We have a world-wide reputation of meeting strict environmental standards and we passionately support sustainable forest management certification schemes such as the internationally recognised AFS and FSC.

Like any industry we face future challenges. Consumption of our product is strong; domestic and international demand for timber products is growing. On our current course, Australia will continue to lack the locally grown wood to meet our future needs. By 2050 Australia's growing population will require 7.1 million new dwellings and at least 64 million cubic metres of construction timber. These statistics only represent one small component of a burgeoning trend that needs to be addressed.

The current national forest policy framework was developed in 1992 and we are in dire need of a new approach the forestry policy in this nation. In 2011, a Federal Parliamentary Inquiry has been announced which will look into key challenges faced by the forestry industry in Australia such as crucially reducing the trade deficit in forest and wood products which exceeds \$2 billion.

What is required is the facilitation of investment in longer-rotation tree plantations and resource security for our sustainably managed native forests. The discussion on forestry in Australia has matured to a point where we are ready for a new vision and we can rely on our home grown produce, rather than imports with often dubious environmental credentials.

In this the International Year of the Forests we have cause for celebration and it is with sustainable forestry management we will have reason and cause to celebrate forests for a very long time to come.

This document aims to communicate the various values that forests provide society – be they environmental, utilitarian or recreational. NAFI is proud to celebrate the United Nation's declaration of 2011 as International Year of Forests.



Allan Hansard

CEO

National Association of Forest
Industries (Australia)

About Australia's forests

Australia has a total forested area of around 150 million hectares - covering around 21% of the continent. This is made up of around 147.4 million hectares of native forest and around 2 million hectares of plantation forests.

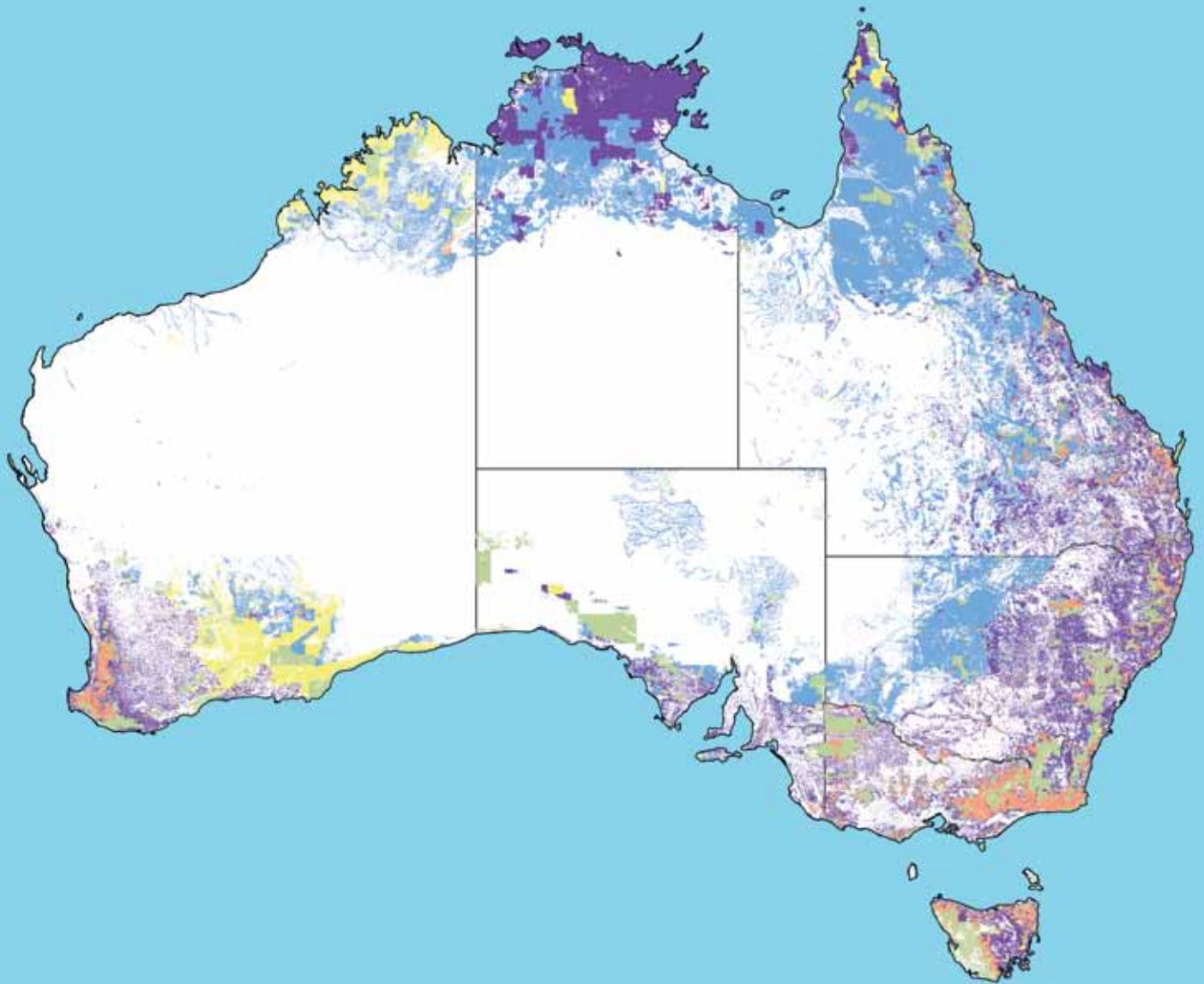
Australia's sustainable and renewable commercial forests are managed in line with the world's highest environmental standards.

Key forest values including biodiversity, cultural heritage and recreation are all included in the fundamental management objectives of Australia's sustainable forest industry.



The industry's future depends on maintaining its world class standards of sustainable forest management and stewardship.

Less than 0.1% of Australia's forests are harvested each year. All harvested areas are regenerated and regrown in line with the strict regulatory frameworks.

**Key**

- Leasehold forest
- Multiple-use forest
- Nature conservation reserve
- Unresolved tenure
- Other crown land
- Private forest (including Indigenous)

“The Australian forest industries employ 120,000 people”

Forests and people

Forests are living, breathing natural resources that have endless capabilities in providing people with not only food, shelter and employment but with recreational activities to enjoy and take part in. Forests represent life, life in work and life in enjoyment.

Tourism and Forestry

The Australian forestry industry works in partnership with tourism groups and state agencies in the promotion and development of tourist attractions.

Tourism improves business confidence in forest regions and provides a platform for these communities to build on. When industry invests in tourism, a flow-on effect takes place where by the infrastructure of the community benefits. An example of this can be seen in the forestry community of Geeveston within the Huon Valley in Tasmania.

Here the ‘Tahune Air Walk’ is a prominent feature of the area. The Tahune Air Walk is a breathtaking forest canopy walkway suspended 45 metres above the river banks of the Huon and Picton rivers.

The facility includes a visitor’s centre, forest walking tracks and signs that explain how the forest is managed to balance production and conservation pressures.

Visitors to the walkway are encouraged to consider how humans relate to forests. Tourists see the forests’ contribution to the ever-changing needs of society and the demand for renewable crops of timber, as well as the adjacent rainforest of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area – which meets the need to preserve places of beauty and natural value.

Since the development of the site the economy of the Huon Valley, in particular the town of Geeveston, has largely benefited. New café’s, craft shops and accommodation facilities have been established to supply the new tourist market.



Recreation

Australia’s forests offer people a diverse range of recreational activities.

Mountain Biking

Australian forests offer established mountain biking tracks and an extensive network of roads through state forests that provide mountain biking enthusiasts with an outstanding natural back drop to their chosen recreational activity.

The Bondi State Forest is fast becoming a nationally recognised location for keen mountain bikers.

Located high in the eastern slopes of the Snowy Mountains, near the NSW – Victorian border, the tracks are popular due to their varying degrees of difficulty. Tracks range from beginners courses through to the more difficult courses for the advanced rider.

State Forests, in a joint venture with Bombala Shire Council, have developed mountain bike trails which can be utilized year-round. These tracks take advantage of pine plantations and native forests in a sustainably responsible manner and give users the chance to enjoy Australian forests in a recreational manner.



Aerial view of the Tahune Airwalk, Tasmania. Courtesy of Forestry Tasmania



Mountain biking, supplied by ForestsNSW

In NSW, mountain bike trails are also available in Tumut State Forest (Hume Region), in Wingello State Forest in the Southern Highlands (Monaro Region) and in the Olney State Forest. Many other fantastic mountain biking tracks exist across Australia's forests stretching from Tasmania into the mainland.

Forests provide a great back drop for people to mountain bike. Enthusiasts enjoy the chance to visit them whenever they get the opportunity, whether it is once a fortnight or once a year. What's significant is that forests provide people with an outlet to enjoy all that life has to offer.

Bushwalking

Australia's forests are world renowned for their first-class bushwalking tracks and courses. Without exaggeration, these breathtaking locations are truly inspiring for any interested bushwalker regardless of experience or preference.

We are spoilt for choice when it comes to walking; Australians are privileged in having the opportunity to walk in ancient rainforests, mountainous forests and coastal forests.

In Tasmania, the Overland Track is widely recognised as one of Australia's greatest tracks. The six day walk covers over 65Kms of Tasmania's wilderness. Visitors of the track will view firsthand lakes, forests and gorges, mountains and moors, spectacular waterfalls and steep, stony peaks. Highlights include the beautiful Cradle Mountain and the tranquil surroundings of Australia's deepest lake, Lake St Clair.

An attraction for the future – National Arboretum in Canberra

In 2004, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government held a nation-wide competition for the design of an arboretum and gardens, as part of the bushfire recovery program following bushfires which devastated the western side of Canberra in 2003.

The overall goal for the development of the National Arboretum Canberra is to create a place of breathtaking beauty, of international renown and enduring public interest that welcomes locals and visitors alike.

The National Arboretum is being developed on a 250-hectare site in the Greenhills Forest areas west of the Tuggeranong Parkway and Lake Burley Griffin. The site is six kilometres from the centre of Canberra and boasts spectacular views across Lake Burley Griffin. It incorporated the existing stand of 5000 Himalayan Cedars and the 80 year old Cork Oak plantation.

Plantings include Ginko trees in the shape of the Forbidden City. There are examples in China of Ginko trees aged over 1,100 years old – so with the right management the trees at the arboretum will be enjoyed for generations to come.



NAFI Chief Executive Allan Hansard and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Arboretum and Gardens Canberra, John Mackay, inspect the arboretum site

Sustainable Forest Management vs Deforestation – What’s the Difference?

There is sometimes a misconception that ‘deforestation’ is an activity undertaken by Australia’s forest industry. However, deforestation describes the process where trees are removed and not regenerated. This process has been occurring on a large scale internationally and includes illegal logging. Also known as land clearing, deforestation is a result of agricultural expansion or infrastructure development, and bears no relationship to sustainable forestry. It is important to note that the Australian forest industry only practices sustainable forest management (i.e. all harvested areas are regenerated and regrown), which is regulated under State and Commonwealth laws, and certified by accredited independent bodies to voluntary, internationally recognised environmental management standards.

Curbing Illegal logging

It is estimated that around 10 per cent or \$400 million worth of illegally sourced forest products are imported to Australia each year. Illegal logging can increase unsustainable forest activities and deforestation.

The Australian Government has announced plans to introduce legislation that will restrict illegally logged timber imports and require timber suppliers to undertake a process of due diligence by verifying the legal origins of timber products and disclosing species, country of harvest and any certification at the first point of entry of timber products onto the Australian market. Measures include:

- Introducing legislation to make it an offence to import any timber product that has not been verified as legally harvested;
- Implementing a code of conduct to ensure suppliers that place timber on the market have carried out the proper tests to ensure wood coming into the country is legal; and
- Developing a trade description and circumstances under which it can be used, to give consumers confidence of purchasing legally sourced wood.

This multi-faceted approach will ensure the removal of unfair competition on the Australian industry from illegally logged timber imports and will enhance the momentum for combating illegal logging initiated by the United States of America (US) and European Union (EU).

This legislation will be supported by continued bilateral cooperation with Asia–Pacific countries and multilateral engagement on forestry through existing forums.

Certified Sustainable

Independent certification of sustainable forest management has developed around the world in recent decades in response to markets demanding that imports of timber products are certified under an internationally accredited standard of certification.

Certified forestry operations must meet strict requirements which demonstrate that the practices are sustainable and legal. Certification will become an increasingly important tool for timber exporting countries as more and more countries develop a preference for internationally-certified timber products.

Green purchasing or procurement laws are being implemented in a number of industrialised nations as a means of preventing the importation of wood products harvested from illegally-logged forests. These certification standards can be used as a reassurance that products purchased are from sustainably managed sources.

There are two internationally accredited certification standards available to Australian forestry companies. They are the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard. Each of the two standards is part of an international network. The AFS is recognised alongside 30 national standards through the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).



Forests and Climate Change

As major carbon stores, forests, trees and wood products have a major role in addressing the impacts of climate change.

There are three key ways in which sustainable forest management can help remove excess carbon from the atmosphere:

- Carbon is absorbed by actively growing native forests and tree plantations;
- Carbon is stored in wood products sourced from sustainably managed forests which can substitute for high-emissions materials such as steel and concrete; and,
- Carbon emissions from traditional forms of electricity generation can be offset by using wood waste for renewable bioenergy.

Preventing catastrophic wildfires is also important in reducing the emissions from our forests.

The Fourth Assessment report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) acknowledged the key role that managing the world's forests in a sustainable manner can have in mitigating climate change:

“A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit.”

Forests, international climate talks & REDD+

The treatment of forestry has been a key aspect of current negotiations underpinning a future long term international climate change agreements, in addition to broader issues of country commitments to emissions reductions and financing arrangements for developing countries.

NAFI participated as an industry leader at the 16th meeting of the United Nations convention on climate change, held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010.

Importantly, forestry activities have featured heavily, through negotiations on the proposed REDD+ mechanism (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, including the role of sustainable forest management as the ‘+’ component) that would largely apply to developing countries.



The forest industry has been working toward sensible and robust accounting frameworks for forestry measures, including the role of afforestation and sustainably managed native forests through the enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and harvested wood products.

An outcome on REDD+ will assist developing countries reduce emissions from deforestation and poor forest management, which collectively accounts for up to 20 per cent of their emissions.

Sustainable forest management must be regarded as an important component of REDD+ activities, since it can provide carbon enhancement in addition to a broad range of other economic, social and environmental benefits.



NAFI Deputy CEO, Mick Stephens, addressed the Cancun meeting in 2010



Managing for Biodiversity Case Study

Current forest management practices in Australia provide a balance between timber production requirements and the protection of biodiversity, which has become a fundamental objective of forest management.

A good example of this is HVP Plantations' koala management strategy. HVP Plantations have management policies in place to minimise the operational impacts of plantations on koalas and to provide a level of protection and enhancement of the koala habitat. Key initiatives include improving habitat and food resources in riparian areas and corridors and modifying harvesting schedules to minimise disruptions.

Around 70 per cent of HVP's total landholdings are sustainably-managed plantations, much of which is grown on land that was previously cleared for farming. The company maintains the remaining 30 per cent of its holdings for plantation protection, conservation and other community values.

The proactive approach that HVP Plantations has taken is to be applauded. It will improve the welfare and long term habitat for koalas through landscape level planning with neighbouring vegetation and training for operators in the field should they encounter a koala.



Trees marked 'H' for Habitat tree and 'R' for recruit habitat tree



Such voluntary measures for koala protection in commercial plantations are not usually compensated in the market and hence provide a public benefit at no cost to the community or taxpayer. The industry undertakes these stewardship goals as a community service and welcomes support by the community and government.

The koala is an iconic species which is under threat from a number of factors such as feral animals, road accidents, habitat clearing for urban development and disease. The forest industry takes its responsibilities seriously with respect to koala populations and manages healthy habitats for koalas in native forests and plantations where feral animals and other threats such as wildfires are controlled.

Managing for fire

Environmentally sustainable forestry practices can be beneficial in the prevention and management of bush fires. The presence of forestry operations within Australian states and territories signify a real commitment in preventing large-scale, high intensity bushfires.

Areas of Australia are quite susceptible to wild and ferocious bushfires. These natural disasters wreak havoc across affected areas. The combination of extreme heat and weather conditions coupled with overabundance of dry fuel put whole communities at risk of loss of property, loss of income and more seriously loss of life.

The forestry industry acknowledges a corporate responsibility to its stakeholders and the general Australian public in devising and implementing sound bushfire prevention methods and management plans.

Maintenance of established access trails and fire breaks beneficially contribute in reducing the likelihood and severity of natural bushfires. In addition to this forestry companies actively prescribe controlled burning of fire fuel. These controlled burnings are used as a management tool in preventing the impact of possible fires. This in turn makes fire-fighting easier.



Australian Solar Timbers, Kempsey NSW



Wood waste is vacuumed from sawmill operations and used to create bioenergy

Industry Innovation

Solar Kilns

Australian developed solar kilns are an amazingly impressive example of wood based innovation and technology. The wood-drying technique was spearheaded by Greg Weir a former saw miller and timber processor. The development of the solar driven process was extensively researched, tested and trailed by a combined team of eminent scientists and one of Australia's leading universities. The ground-breaking work led to break-through solar energy hybrid drying technologies and advanced timber drying prescriptions.

To the uninitiated, timber drying is the process which prepares wood for use as a finished product. The timber you see around you on a day to day basis has

been through a process of 'drying', before the wood reaches your office or home. The quality, look and strength of the finished product lays claim to the drying process it has experienced.

Previously timber drying operations have relied upon carbon hogging technologies such as oil, steam and gas fired boiler driven heat plants.

Solar Kilns are a low carbon alternative that uses the natural resource of the sun to power operations. Not only does this process lower manufactured costs but it provides energy savings, is more productive and is just as time efficient as previous technologies.

As a timber industry it is important to stay ahead of the game and provide customers with the best product possible. In today's modern society people wish to purchase products that are not only high in quality but they want to purchase products that come from environmentally sound and responsible sources. This is why Solar Kilns will no doubt lead the world in solar drying technology.

Bioenergy opportunities

Australian forestry companies are on the brink of introducing new and exciting techniques in producing renewable sources of energy by utilising the production and distribution of timber products.

Bioenergy is a renewable, greenhouse neutral energy derived from a diverse range of non-fossil organic resources, including forest residues and thinnings, sawmill residues, demolition and recycling wastes.

Wood waste is a prime example of a 'biofuel' which is a renewable resource that can be used to generate electrical power, steam, or liquid biofuels such as ethanol.

The term wood waste refers to low-grade timber material with no other identifiable market or environmental value. This includes material that is left in the forest after the higher-value timber resources have been harvested. It also includes the sawdust, shavings, off-cuts and other wastes associated with timber processing. Wood waste also comes from a wide variety of other sources, including those trees

which die and are replaced in our urban landscape as well as manufacturing, construction and demolition debris.

Forestry companies are working together with government agencies to promote and implement world class ways of producing energy in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.

South East Fibre Exports (SEFE) is proposing a bio-energy based power plant which will use biomass combustion technology to create environmentally sustainable base-load power. This power will impressively be fuelled by waste products from wood processing. High volumes of processing waste currently goes to waste by being burned off or sold cheaply, in turn not representing the products true environmental value.

The prospective bio energy station is set for development at Jews Head, Twofold Bay in Eden, NSW.



Wood waste is vacuumed from sawmill operations and used to create bioenergy

- SEFE Green Power Plant will generate over 31,000 megawatt hours of electricity per annum;
- By 2010 SEFE will be consuming approx 6,500 megawatt hours pa to run their mill; and
- 25,000 mwh pa can be fed into power grid (enough for 2,500 houses)'





About NAFI

The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) represents the Australian forest industries' view to the Australian community, governments and public authorities on matters relating to the national development and use of forest and forest products, including plantations.

The Association also promotes community awareness of the forest industry by providing information and educational material.

In all its activities, NAFI expresses a view based on a critical review of available research and other reliable scientific information.

NAFI's professional team works to communicate an effective message to the Australian community and politicians, and implement a long-term strategy for an environmentally and economically sustainable forest industry

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