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# THE PINCHOT LETTER

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*News from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation*

Vol. 9, No. 2 Fall 2004

## Public Review Sought on U.S. National Reports on Sustainable Forestry

The Pinchot Institute, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, U.S. Department of State, and the Meridian Institute, is seeking feedback on the U.S. National Report to the United Nations Forum on Forests, via an innovative on-line tool designed to make the report accessible to a wide diversity of readers. For the past three years, the Pinchot Institute played a key role in the development of the U.S. national reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), describing U.S. policies, programs and activities that respond to more than 270 Proposals for Action intended to improve forest management in countries around the

world. The Proposals for Action were developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (the precursors to the UNFF) to address a range of forest management issues at the national level in a manner that is consistent with national, political, social, and economic limits. In the coming months, the Pinchot Institute will work closely with the participants of the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (RSF) to gather broad stakeholder feedback on the its findings.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (RSF) an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder process dedicated

to shared leadership and responsibility toward the goal of sustainable forest management (SFM) on public and private forestlands in the U.S. Since its inception in 1999, the Roundtable's primary focus has been identifying and evaluating data that could be used to assess the state of the nation's forests, as well as providing input to the federal government on the production of the *National Report on Sustainable Forests – 2003*, which was published by the USDA Forest Service in February 2004. The Pinchot Institute has been an active participant in the RSF, serving on both its Core Group and its Communications and Outreach Work Group.

The publication of the *National*

*(continued on page 2)*



### INSIDE

- ✿ Forest Plantations  
(Part II) .....page 4
- ✿ Nepal's Community  
Forestry Program .....page 8
- ✿ Forest Sustainability and  
the Pathway Hypothesis  
.....page 11
- ✿ Restoration Surgery..page 20

*Leadership in Forest Conservation Thought, Policy and Action*



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*Report* is the first step in the U.S. implementation of the Montreal Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation of Temperate and Boreal Forests (Montreal C&I). As such, the report creates an important opportunity for U.S. forest stakeholders to provide targeted feedback to U.S. government participants and engage in international dialogue on refinements to the Montreal C&I. The RSF has also supported the analysis and evaluation of the *National Report* and will contribute to the Montreal C&I revision process as part of the Pinchot Institute's effort to coll broader stake-

holder input on the U.S. response to the Proposals for Action.

The Pinchot Institute is teaming up with the Meridian Institute, the RSF's facilitator, to develop a website and outreach plan that will encourage stakeholders to respond to and add to the Pinchot Institute's current body of work on the Proposals for Action. The website will provide an easy means for stakeholders to comment on the adequacy of the U.S. response and to share their views regarding priorities for future efforts to meet the directives of the Proposals for Action.

The Proposals for Action will be grouped under the seven Montreal criteria so that stakeholders can quickly navigate to the topics of greatest interest to them.

The feedback website will launch some time prior to the RSF's November 17, 2004 meeting and will be accessible for approximately 2 months. Pinchot will analyze the feedback received and its implications for the domestic response to the Proposals for Action, the Montreal C&I revision process, and the *National Report*. The Pinchot Institute will

## ABOUT THE PINCHOT INSTITUTE

Recognized as a leader in forest conservation thought, policy and action, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation was dedicated in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark (Milford, PA)—home of conservation leader Gifford Pinchot. The Institute is an independent nonprofit organization that works collaboratively with all Americans nationwide—from federal and state policymakers to citizens in rural communities—to strengthen forest conservation by advancing sustainable forest management, developing conservation leaders, and providing science-based solutions to emerging natural resource issues. Further information about the Pinchot Institute's programs and activities can be found at [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org).

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present its analysis at an RSF's meeting scheduled for late April 2005.

Another important project that contributes to the Montreal C&I revisions process is the Multiple Perspectives Project. The Project's primary purpose is to invite members of the forest stakeholder community to share their ideas about the key findings of the *National Report*. In doing so, the project aims to explore key refinements to the Montreal C&I, data gaps that impede understanding, and the theories, concepts, and experiences that stakeholders from different perspectives use as the basis for their analysis.

On August 31, 2004, the Multiple Perspectives Review Committee, a group of RSF participants charged with managing the project, released a call for manuscript proposals and instructions to authors who wish to share what they discern to be the key findings that flow from the *National Report on Sustainable Forests*. By mid-November, the Committee will select approximately 10 proposals for development into full papers, which will be published in a special on-line publication of the Society of American Foresters. The papers will also be the subjects of an on-line dialogue process and real time discussion at a workshop planned for late fall 2005. The deadline for manuscript proposals is November 1.

For further information on the UN Forum on Forests or the U.S. response to the Proposals for Action, contact Al Sample ([alsample@pinchot.org](mailto:alsample@pinchot.org)) or Stephanie Kavanaugh ([skavanaugh@pinchot.org](mailto:skavanaugh@pinchot.org)) at the Pinchot Institute. To get a copy of the Multiple Perspectives call for proposals, contact Jay West at Meridian Institute ([jwest@merid.org](mailto:jwest@merid.org)) or visit the What's New section of the RSF's website, [www.sustainableforests.net](http://www.sustainableforests.net).

## BECOME AN INNOVATOR FOR FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Concerned about the changing global climate? Not sure if the natural resources we enjoy today will be here tomorrow for future generations? Dissatisfied with the quality of your water?

Not sure if you can make a difference? Well, you can. Make today your first day as an innovator for forest stewardship by becoming a **Pinchot Associate**.

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- ✿ Send you invitations to special events we host in your community, Washington, DC, and at Grey Towers so you can see for yourself how you are helping to advance forest conservation.

Your gift can be made to the Pinchot Institute through the Combined Federal Campaign or by returning the enclosed envelope. For information on additional tax-advantaged ways to become an innovative conservationist and follow in Gifford Pinchot's footsteps, please call (202) 797-6580 or [donations@pinchot.org](mailto:donations@pinchot.org).



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