

Ledare

One of the great strengths of Future Forest is its young researchers.

They were recruited last year and by now have had plenty of time to find their feet. Their whole-hearted commitment enhances the programme and generates fresh energy from within. Now that they are getting to know each other, new interactions are developing between the different scientific disciplines that Future Forests has brought together. These young researchers are also responsible for major research initiatives within the various component projects. There is a great deal happening between and within the various disciplines and this is becoming increasingly apparent.

The fact that activity within Future Forests has reached such a creative stage bodes well for the second half of this year, when the programme will come under both national and international scrutiny. On 23 August the International Union for Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) will hold its 23rd world congress in Seoul. Future Forests will be hosting one of the side events. We will be giving a two-hour presentation on the work of Future Forests to the congress delegates. The theme of this year's congress is very appropriate: "Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment". Soon after this conference, our own Future Forests Week is due to take place, on 13–17 September in Asa, in Småland. This year the focus will be on conflicting demands between alternative ways of using the forest landscape in southern Sweden. We hope that everyone involved in the programme will be able to attend. I look forward to seeing you all in autumn!

Annika Nordin, Program Director

Conservation management under the microscope

Can active forest management increase the ecological value of the forest? This is a question that is being explored by researchers working on Future Forests' Biodiversity component project.

The Swedish system for protecting forestland rests on three pillars: formal protection, voluntary setting aside and general conservation measures in forest management. Voluntary set-aside is expected to play an important role in meeting the Swedish government's long-term goals for protecting forest land and hence preserving biodiversity. "The problem is that voluntary set-aside areas have fairly low natural value. This makes it important to identify cost-effective methods to improve them," says Joakim Hjältén, professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Umeå and the Centre for Biodiversity, as well as manager of the restoration project.

The aim of the restoration project, which was set up in 2010, is to enable Future Forests to evaluate different restoration strategies. For example, assessing whether fire favours certain species or groups of species, while restoration that mimics natural stand dynamics (selective felling) favours other species or groups of species.

"We will also be evaluating different methods for creating dead wood. To get an overall picture of the effects of these measures we will be studying groups of organisms and species, and assessing just how cost-effective different measures are," says Joakim Hjältén.

Unique large-scale experiment

During the project the researchers will be using a unique, large-scale restoration experiment that has been planned and initiated in collaboration with Holmen Skog. The experiment is taking place at ten sites in Västerbotten and Västernorrland, with three different types of stand management employed at each site: prescribed burning; deadwood creation and selective felling; and natural development (in other words unmanaged control stands). This means that a total of 30 stands with an area of between 5 and 15 hectares will be monitored during the project.

"We've been testing these methods for 5–10 years now and know that they give results. Now we want to test them scientifically as well. In the long run we naturally also hope that this will lead to new ideas that make us even better at conservation management," says Olov Norgren, conservation manager with Holmen Skog and a member of FF practitioners' panel.

Conservation management. *Trees have been broken and felled to increase the ecological value of the forest.*



Evaluator on visit to Sweden

Professor Richard Bradshaw from Liverpool University is an appointed evaluator of Future Forests. On 26–28 April he visited Sweden to take his first look at the programme. He met a number of people, including the programme managers, several researchers (Hallmark Laudon, Carina Keskitalo, Richard Lucas, Martyn Futter, Anna Lindkvist, Sofia Wennberg DiGasper and Annika Nordlund) and some members of our practitioners' panel (Olov Norgren, Johan Wester and Eva Fridman).

Richard was appointed by Mistra. His main task is to provide support for Future Forests' activities, to give an outsider's view of the programme's development and evaluate the programme's organization and activities. Richard will be visiting Sweden and Future Forests again during FF Week in September.

Newly recruited introduce themselves

Around 40 people came to listen on 17 March when Future Forests held a seminar at SLU in Uppsala entitled Research in the context of Future Forests. The seminar was opened by Lisa Sennerby Forsse, vice-chancellor of SLU, and Annika Nordin talked about the programme in general and the ideas behind it.

Afterwards, five of Future Forests' newly recruited postdoctoral researchers gave presentations on their research: Martyn Futter, Karin Beland Lindahl, Maartje Klapwijk, Örjan Kardell and Ragnar Jonsson. During the coffee break six posters were put on display illustrating current research by FF.

First annual report

Future Forests' first annual report was presented at the end of March. Among other things it describes what the various FF groups have done over the year, what we have achieved together and the partnerships established with outside stakeholders. The report also includes a number of personal reflections, including an article by Maria Norrfalk, chairman of the board.

Find out more at
www.futureforests.se



Different views of the forest

There are clear differences in the way the forest is viewed between private forest owners and the public. This is one of the preliminary results from FF's questionnaire, which was sent out to 4,000 people in November last year.

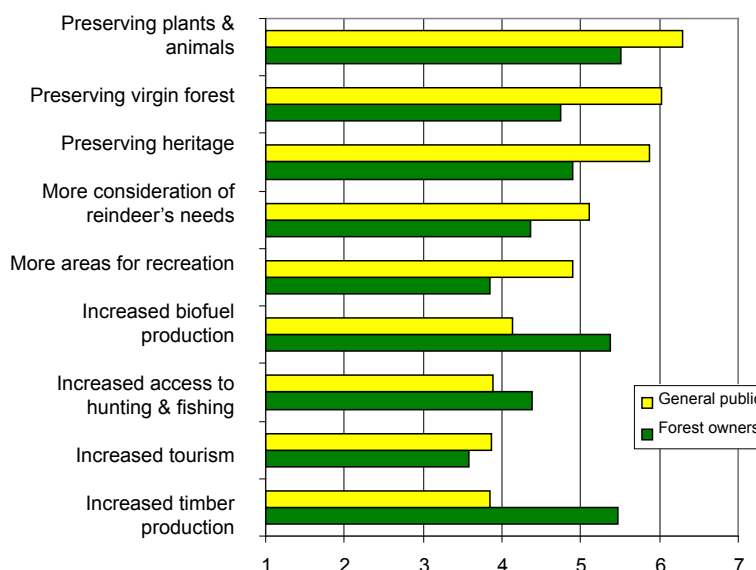
Production value in terms of biofuel and timber yield is much more important to forest owners than the general public, while factors such as the preservation of virgin/natural forest, plant & animal life and heritage top the list for the general public. But there are some areas where forest owners and the public see eye to eye.

“One aspect that is perhaps a little

surprising is that interest in increased access for fishing and tourism is relatively low in both groups,” says Kerstin Westin, professor at Umeå University and research supervisor on FF's Values and Attitudes component project.

The results of the survey also show that forest land has a different value to owners. A growing proportion of forest owners do not live on their land or even in the municipality where the land is situated. The views of these absentee owners concerning forest land appear to differ in several respects from those who live on their land.

A report for scientific publication will be completed in autumn and spring of 2011.



What should the forest be used for? The question was: “How important are the following?” Answers were given on a scale of 1 to 7, where 1 = Not important at all and 7 = Very important.

Thematic working groups analyzing complex questions

Thematic working groups form a cornerstone of the research model used by ForSA and Future Forests. Their work has got off to a good start. Right now three groups are working hard and several more will soon join them.

The three thematic working groups that have already made a start are Biodiversity and the Multiple Ecosystem Services of the Forest, the Role of Forests in Climate Change Mitigation, and Global Overview of Models for Integration of

Biodiversity Conservation into Production Forests. The first two of these will submit final reports this year. A number of other proposals for thematic working groups are currently being prepared and will shortly be presented to the board of Future Forests for a decision on financing.

The purpose of the thematic groups is to analyze and synthesise complex research questions. The working groups have a limited lifespan and bring together FF researchers with other invited global experts and practitioners from different sectors of society.

Knowing the enemy

The worst enemy of spruce is now known right down to its genetic make-up. This may enable researchers to develop the weapon needed to eventually turn the tables on the annosum root rot. Until now the forest industry has been losing the battle. Despite active countermeasures, root rot costs the industry up to one hundred million euro each year. The genetic code of the annosum root rot was unravelled by Jan Stenlid, professor at SLU and research supervisor on the Pests and Diseases component project for Future Forests. He recently presented the new research findings to around 40 researchers and representatives of the forest industry at a seminar (FF Presents) at SLU in Uppsala.

People in focus

New addition to program

On 1 May LOUISE ERIKSSON joined FF's Values and Attitudes component project as a postdoctoral researcher. Louise gained her doctorate from the Department of Psychology at Umeå University in 2008. Since then she has worked as a researcher with the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI). In her postdoctoral role, Louise will focus on values and attitudes to the forest and in particular examine potential conflicts within individuals and between different groups in society. One example of such a conflict is between the forest as an economic resource and as a place for recreation.

ERLAND MÅRALD, assistant professor in History of Science and Ideas, Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies at Umeå University, will be standing in for CHRISTER NORDLUND at FF for the 2010/2011 academic year. Christer Nordlund will be a visiting researcher over this period at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.

ANDERS ESSELIN is working 50% part-time in his role as communications officer with FF (not on full leave as reported in last issue of Update). A stand-in communications officer will be appointed shortly.

How does it feel...

In the "How does it feel" section FF publishes interviews with individuals who are committed to FF and are currently in the spotlight in one way or another. Two interviews have been published so far, with ANNIKA NORDIN on 2 March, and JAN STENLID on 14 April. These interviews can be downloaded in PDF form from our web site under the "Publications" heading.

Prizes and awards

MARIA NORRFALK, county governor of Dalarna and chairman of the board of FF, has been personally presented with the "Gold Sprig" award by Prince Carl Philip in Stockholm. Since the middle of last century the Forest Association has been giving out the award for special contributions in the care of Swedish forests.

ÖRJAN KARDELL, postdoctoral researcher on the FF component project Forest Use over Time: Ideas, Values and Interests, has been awarded the Swedish Society of Forest History's Örtug prize for 2009.

TOMAS LUNDMARK, former programme manager for FF and now head of the Faculty of Forest Sciences at SLU, has been presented with the 2009 Forest Oscar by the Mera Skog forest association in Västerbotten.

In the headlines

Future Forests committed to growth parks. An in-depth article about FF appeared in Mistra's newsletter on 8 February.

Mercury, the Transformer among metals. Research by KEVIN BISHOP and his colleagues into mercury attracted coverage in several news items, including a 17-minute report on the Swedish Radio science programme Vetenskapsradion on 26 February.

Mitigating damage by elk. SOFIA WENNERBERG DIGASPER'S research into elk management was described in an article in the Forest Agency magazine Skogsseko on 3 March.

New manager for Future Forests. ANNIKA NORDIN's appointment as new programme manager for FF was mentioned in a number of news reports, including an item in "i Land" on 3 March.

Economics explains variations in forest fertilization. A new FF report by ANNA LINDKVIST and ÖRJAN KARDELL was mentioned in several news reports, including the e-skogen web site on 4 March.

Woman, hunter and professor – an unusual combination. An article about ANNIKA NORDIN appeared in the forest journal Skogsaktuellt on 6 May.

19 May
Future Forests boardmeeting

27 May
Seminar: Internationella skogstrender och den svenska skogens framtid. Kulturhuset, Stockholm

23–28 August
IUFRO world congress. Seoul, Sydkorea

1–2 September
Föreningen Skogens höstexkursion. Inlandsbanan mellan Östersund och Vilhelmina

7 September
Next issue of Update

13–17 September
Future Forests Week. Asa

14 September
Future Forests boardmeeting. Asa

1–2 November
SLU:s skogskonferens, Uppsala

Find out more at

www.futureforests.se



Forest discussions. Last year's Future Forests week in Vindeln generated a lot of discussions about forests – some of them in the forest. This year we will be in Asa in southern Sweden.

This year's FF Week takes shape

The second Future Forests Week will take place on 13–17 September. The main focus during the week will be on conflicting demands between alternative ways of using the forest.

Each year FF organizes a full week of internal meetings, excursions and other activities. Last year the event was held in

Umeå/Vindeln, and this year it will be in Asa, in Småland.

“It's both enjoyable and important to bring together everyone who is involved in FF once a year to discuss the practical issues and science,” says Annika Nordin, programme director for FF.

Find programme at www.futureforests.se



Lively discussions. During the third meeting of FF's practitioners' panel the group made an excursion to Ytringe forest on Lidingö on the theme of forest management without felling and in close vicinity to urban areas.

Third meeting of practitioners' panel

At the start of February the FF practitioners' panel met for the third time. A total of 18 members of the panel and 14 researchers attended the meeting.

As in previous meetings, the practitioners' panel looked at a variety of future scenarios for the forest. The points presented and discussed included: pests in our heritage landscape, forest use and vegetation changes, forest management without felling and in close vicinity to urban areas, and adaptive elk management.

The purpose of Updates is to report on progress under the Future Forests' research programme. It is published four times a year in Swedish and English.

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Future Forests analyzes conflicting demands on forest systems to enable sustainable strategies under uncertainty and risk. *Future Forests* is a Mistra programme. The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) is the host university. The research program is a joint initiative between SLU, Umeå University and the Forestry Research Institute of Sweden. It is financed by Mistra (the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research), the Swedish forestry industry and the universities involved.

