

**International Conference on the Forest
and Environmental History of the
British Empire and Commonwealth**

Centre for World Environmental History
University of Sussex, England
March 19th-21st 2003

Co-sponsors: The International Union
of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO):
The Museum of the
British Empire and Commonwealth, Bristol

Provisional Conference Programme

Wednesday 19th March

All breakfasts are served at IDS refectory daily

Registration and Coffee 0900-1030

Venue: **The Meeting House, University of Sussex.**

1030-1100

Jeff Burley (Oxford Forestry Institute) *Why do Commonwealth forest history?*

Richard Grove (University of Sussex CWEH) *Introducing the theme.*

Gareth Griffiths (Museum of the British Empire and Commonwealth)

Curating the imperial natural heritage and archives; some remarks

1100-1300

Panel 1: The natural world and the imperial frontiers of science

Chair: Jeff Burley (OFI)

Paper 1: David Arnold (SOAS)
'Conceptualizing the Environment: The Case of Early 19th-Century South Asia'

Paper 2: Libby Robin (Australian National University)
Putting science in its place: the arid zone and the nature of science

Paper 3: Ravi Rajan (UC Santa Cruz)
Forestry and science at the centre: the history of the Imperial Forestry Institute

Discussant: Deepak Kumar (JNU Delhi)

1300-1400 Lunch (Bramber House Refectory : The Downs Restaurant)

1400-1545

C233

Panel 2: Colonialism, forests and transatlantic environmental history (1)

Chair: Elizabeth Whitcombe (University of Sussex)

Paper 4: Logan Hennessy (University of California, Berkeley)
Silencing cultural land: Transforming Amerindian environments under Cooperative Socialism in post-colonial Guyana, 1956-1986

Paper 5: Richard Grove (University of Sussex and ANU)
Environmental regulation in seventeenth century Bermuda

Paper 6: Larry Grossman (Virginia Tech.) *The history of colonial forest policy in Jamaica from the late nineteenth century*

Discussant: Rita Pemberton (University of the West Indies)

1545-1600 Tea Arts D Foyer

1600-1830

C233

Panel 3: Colonialism, forests and transatlantic environmental history (2)

Chair: Kate Showers (Boston University)

Paper 7: David Hsiung (Juniata College, Pennsylvania)
The British Navy and North American forests: New England, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick ecosystems during the American revolution

Paper 8: Rita Pemberton (University of the West Indies, St Augustine)
Caribbean forests and British policy 1885-1945

Discussant: Paul Star (Otago)

Paper 9: John Mackenzie (University of St Andrews)

1730 hrs

Rm C133 Keynote Address: *Representing the imperial environment*

Vote of thanks: Vinita Damodaran

1400-1545

C219

Panel 4: Imperialism, development and environment in Africa

Chair: Jacob Tropp (Middlebury College)

Paper 10: Reggie Cline-Cole (Birmingham)
Forestry and development ideology in West Africa 1930-1960

Paper 11: Andrew Wardell (University of Copenhagen) *British colonial forest policy in northern Gold Coast 1920-1957*

Paper 12: Patrick Darling (University of Bournemouth) *Colonial interpretations of the geomorphology and archaeology of the forests of British and French West Africa*

Discussant A.T. Grove (University of Cambridge)

1545-1600 Tea Arts D Foyer

1600-1830

C219

Panel 5: Science, history and landscape in East Africa

Chair: Alan Lester (Sussex)

Paper 13: Lotte Hughes (University of Oxford) *'Go completely to the south, and may you die there': perceptions of disease and ecological impacts following the Maasai Moves, British East Africa*

Paper 14: Chris Conte (State University of Utah) *Science, history and the contest over East Africa's Highland landscape*

Discussant: Karen Brown (Oxford)

Wednesday Dinner:- AFRAS Common Room at 7pm (drinks) for 7.30pm.

Thursday 20th March

Room C233

0900-1045

C233

Panel 6: Animals and the African environment, past and present.

Chair: David Arnold (SOAS)

Paper 15: Sandra Swart (Stellenbosch University)
The history of the horse in the Cape Colony

Paper 16: Brian Morris (University of London)
Elephants in the history of Malawi

Paper 17: Maitseo Bolaane (University of Oxford)
Community development-driven? The creation of Moremi/Okavango park in Northern Botswana

Discussant: Shane Doyle (Cambridge)

1045-1100 Coffee Arts D Foyer

1100-1300

C233

Panel 7: Changing and narrating the Australasian environment

Chair: Ravi Rajan (UC Santa Cruz)

Paper 18: Paul Star and James Beattie (Otago University)
The interplay of influences on New Zealand forest conservation 1870-1925

Paper 19: Daniel Connell (Australian National University)
A frontier of empire: developing irrigation in colonial Victoria

Paper 20: Maria Kaustrater (LSE)
Landscape, land and nature: post-settler narratives of belonging in Aotearoa/New Zealand

Discussant: Jeya Kathirithamby-Wells (University of Cambridge)

1300-14-00 Lunch (Bramber House Refectory: The Downs Restaurant)

1400-1545

C233

Panel 8: Tensions in colonial African forest policy

Chair: Charles Adesina (Ibadan)

Paper 21: Vimbai Kwashirai (University of Oxford)
The Zambezi teak forests; African methods of exploitation and conservation

Paper 22: Karen Brown (University of Oxford)
Progressivism, silviculture and conservation in the early twentieth century Cape Colony

Paper 23: Jacob Tropp (Middlebury College)
Dilemmas of dual control: balancing forest and native affairs management in the colonial Transkei, South Africa

Discussant: Jeff Burley (University of Cambridge)

1545-1600 Tea Arts D Foyer

1600-1830

Panel 9: Debating science and colonial soil conservation policies

Chair: Vimbai Kwashirai (APU)

Paper 24: Grace Carswell (University of Sussex)
Colonial soil conservation policies: East African comparisons and resistance

Paper 25: Kate Showers (Boston University)
The establishment and dissemination of government-initiated soil conservation in British Africa: scientific, ideological and bureaucratic components

Paper 26: Bertram Mapunda (University of Dar es Salaam)
Ironworking, deforestation and soil erosion in the pre-colonial period: myths and realities

Discussant: Bob Evans (APU Cambridge)

Thursday 20th March

Room C219

0900-1045

Panel 10: Nigerian forest history

Chair: Sulemana Abudulai (Cambridge)

Paper 27: Olutayo Charles Adesina (University of Ibadan)
From 'Aginju' to forest reserves': Crisis and conflict in forestry legislations in colonial south-western Nigeria

Paper 28: Uyilawa Usuanlele (University of Ibadan)
Misconceptions, management and deforestation of Benin rainforest 1899-1945

Paper 29: Pauline Von Hellerman (University of Sussex)
Forests and forestry in Edo state, Southern Nigeria 1900-2000

Discussant: Patrick Darling (University of Bournemouth)

1045-1100 Coffee Arts D Foyer

1100-1300

Panel 11: Examining Lesotho environmental history

Chair: Brian Morris (University of London, Goldsmith's)

Paper 30: Meena Singh (University of Cambridge)
Reconstructing the environmental history of Lesotho

Paper 31: Motlatsi Thabane (National University of Malawi)
Deforestation and afforestation in Lesotho 1830-1970

Paper 32: Sandra Swart (Stellenbosch University)
The 'ox without horns' – the development of the Basoto pony and the transformation of Sotho Society.

Discussant: Kate Showers (Boston University))

1300-1400 Lunch (Bramber House Refectory: The Downs Restaurant)

1400-1545

Panel 12: Urban markets, globalisation and environmental history

Chair: James Webb (Colby College)

Paper 33: Fenda Akiwumi (Hill College, Hillsboro, Texas)
Conflict timber: the political ecology of nineteenth century resource exploitation in Sierra Leone

Paper 34: Sulemana Abudulai (University of Cambridge)
How will I feed my children? An analysis of urban land tenure dynamics and environmental history in Northern Ghana

Paper 35: Government Phiri (University of Zimbabwe)
The effects of urbanisation on the environment: the case of Umtali 1890-1923

Discussant: Chris Conte (State University of Utah)

1545-1600 Tea Arts D Foyer

1600-1830

Panel 13: Health, disease and environmental history

Chair: Deepak Kumar (JNU)

Paper 36: Maya Unnithan (University of Sussex)
Nature, culture and the body; infertility and the history of healing in Rajasthan

Paper 37: Shane Doyle (University of Cambridge)
Ecology, disease and health in Uganda

Paper 38: Elizabeth Whitcombe (University of Sussex)
The historical dynamics of malaria, cholera, famine and climate anomaly in India since 1800

Discussant: Mark Harrison (Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford)

1930: Conference Dinner at the White Hart, Lewes (*alma mater* of Thomas Paine). Bus will collect diners at 1900 hrs outside Institute of Development Studies. Please be prompt as bus will leave on time.

Friday 21st March

Room C233

0900-1045

Panel 14: Water, history and empire

Chair: Vinita Damodaran (University of Sussex)

Paper 39: David Mosse (SOAS)
Wells, water and history in South India

Paper 40: Lyla Mehta (IDS Sussex)
Water and history in Kutch, India

Paper 41: Rohan D'Souza (University of Sussex)
Capitalist property and the making of the calamity of season in colonial Orissa

Discussant : Elizabeth Whitcombe (University of Sussex))

1045-1100 Coffee Arts D Foyer

1100-1300

Panel 15: Problems in South Asian forest history (1)

Chair: Jan van Oosthoek (Gottingen)

Paper 42: Jayeeta Sharma (University of Cambridge)
Towards an environmental, agrarian and forest history of Assam

Paper 43: Gunnel Cederlof (Uppsala University)
Establishing legal rights in forest tracts: the Nilgiri hills in the early nineteenth century

Paper 44: Bengt Karlsson (Uppsala University)
Deforestation and conflicts over forests in Meghalaya

Discussant: David Arnold (SOAS)

1300-1400 Lunch (Bramber House Refectory: The Downs Restaurant)

1400-1545

Panel 16: Problems in South Asian forest history (2)

Chair: Maya Unnithan (Sussex)

Paper 45: James Webb (Colby College)
Forest history of highland Sri Lanka

Paper 46: Dhirendra Dangwal (University of Shimla, UP)
Colonialism, forestry and environmental change in the 19th century Uttarchanchal

Paper 47: Daniel Rycroft (University of Sussex)
Railways, deforestation and representation in Northeast India in the 1850s

Discussant: Rohan d'Souza (University of Sussex)

1545-1600 Tea Arts D Foyer

Friday 21st March

Room C219

0900-1045

Panel 17: Problems in East African forest history

Chair: John Mackenzie (University of St Andrews)

Paper 48: Thaddeus Sunseri (State University of Colorado)
Controlling people and forests in the Ruzizi basin, Tanganyika 1921-1961

Paper 49: Andrew Hurst (Oxford University)
Scandinavian influence on forest management in socialist Tanzania 1967-1984

Paper 50: Michael Tuck (Northeast Illinois University)
"Omugezibezji akuguzza ekibira": a clever man sells you a forest – an examination of forest demarcation and usage in early colonial Uganda

Discussant: Pauline von Hellerman

1045-1100 Coffee Arts D Foyer

1100-1300

Panel 18 Environmental history at the margins of empire

Chair: Libby Robin (ANU)

Paper 51: Jessica Schafer (Sussex University)
Who's to blame? A foray into the history and development of conservation policy in former Portuguese colonies.

Paper 52: Deanna Donovan (East-West Center, Hawaii)
The timber trade and its social context on the Nepal/India border: a history

Paper 53: Gaston Gordillo (University of British Columbia BC)
Inscribing history in the forests that were once grasslands; The making of nature in the Argentinean Chaco.

Paper 54: Emma Reisz (University of Cambridge)
'Darrang' between the lines: the forest frontiers of north-east India in the nineteenth century

Discussant: John Mackenzie (St Andrews)

1300-1400 Lunch (Bramber House Refectory: The Downs Restaurant)

1400-1545

Panel 19: Environmental history and environmentalism at the imperial centre

Chair: Mark Harrison (Oxford)

Paper 55: Jan van Oosthoek (University of Gottingen)
The colonial origins of scientific forestry in Britain

Paper 56: Robert Evans (Anglia Polytechnic University)
Past and present soil erosion in Britain and its impact and costs

Paper 57: Susan Dobrovolny (Queen Mary College, University of London)
The environment of the Imperial centre: water supply and Thames pollution during the nineteenth century

Discussant: Brian Short (Sussex)

1545-1600 Tea Arts D Foyer

1600-1700 in Room C233

Summing up: Deepak Kumar (JNU Delhi)

The British Empire, science and environmental history

Roundtable Discussion

Future plans for the CWEH project and publications on the environmental history of the British empire and Commonwealth.

Closing Remarks

1830-1930 Dinner at (Bramber House Refectory: The Laines Restaurant)

Trip to Brighton Pier (Optional)