Both ENDS Information Pack Nr.12

Analog Forestry

Both ENDS offers a wide range of services to **NGOs** in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Newly Independent States who are working in the field of environment, development and social justice.

Our **standard information service** includes Information packs on a wide range of topical environment issues . These packs have been written mainly for Southern NGOs. They are to enable (beginner) environmental organizations to get familiarized with an important environmental subject in a short period of time.

Contents:

- a general overview of the theme
- details of relevant international treaties, guidelines and conventions
- some aspects of the current (international) debates on the topic
- case studies (mainly from Southern countries)
- a listing of useful contacts in North and South
- a list of publications
- a choice of websites

We are making an effort to **regularly update** the information included in these packs. But since people and developments are moving fast, we will inevitably lag behind somewhat. The information presented is meant as an introduction. If you require more specific information, please feel free **to contact us**.

You can **download** the information packs from our website or you can request an e-mail printed version. They are free of charge for NGOs in the South and the CEE countries

We welcome any suggestions or comments which help improve this information pack.

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Analog Forestry

What is the difference between Analog Forestry, Agroforestry and Permaculture?

Analog Forestry uses natural vegetation as its design paradigm. An analog system is designed to bring about more complexity and not less. Analog Forestry has conservation of biodiversity as an equally important goal as economic gain. The model for design is drawn from the original local forest ecosystem.

Agroforestry takes an agricultural system and puts a tree layer on it. The paradigm is agriculture. Such a system takes traditional models and simplifies them. In agroforestry, an increase in the production of crops and income generation is the desired goal.

Permaculture tries to create a permanent system of cultivation. It uses ecology as the basis for designing integrated systems of food production, housing appropriate technology and community development. Conservation of biodiversity is *not* a design goal. Permaculture is always *polyculture*. Polyculture creates a greater biological stability and protection against pests and diseases.

Introduction

The pressure on the environment continues to rise as human demands increase. In meeting this demand, mainstream agriculture places a huge strain on the environment.

Mainstream agriculture and plantation forestry, characterised by large monoculture plantations (single species), do not take into account their long-term impact on the environment. Intensive use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers combined with its emphasis on maximum productivity creates severe imbalances in the local ecosystem.

There is an increasingly urgent need to support ecological production systems that provide benefits directly to the producer while at the same time minimizing the impact that these systems have on the natural environment.

There are sustainable alternatives available that incorporate the long-term effects of their activities on the environment. They illustrate that economic use and sustainability can go hand in hand. Well known systems include 'bio-dynamic' or 'organic agriculture', 'ecological agriculture' and 'agro-forestry'.

Here we present a new alternative: Analog Forestry. This information packet will provide a background and overview of Analog Forestry. It gives a definition of Analog Forestry along with the history and its requirements. Case studies are brought forward to give practical examples of how Analog Forestry can work. Addresses and further reading material is suggested to provide the reader with means to further explore the subject.

Defining Analog Forestry

Analog Forestry was inspired by Sri Lanka's legendary tradition of 'home gardens', where local people select subsistence or cash crops according to specific needs and preferences.

Analog Forestry is a system of forest management that combines the values of local forest biodiversity with organic crop cultivation. It seeks to establish a forest type environment, analogous in architectural structure and ecological function to the original forest ecosystems that once existed in the area.

Making use of the design of the natural forest, land is redesigned to incorporate economically viable trees and plants in a polycultural system that aims to unite biodiversity and economic gain for the small-scale farmer.

The commercial value of Analog Forestry is being realised by the development of a system of crop certification. Producers of crops who follow the principles of Analog Forestry get their crops certified as 'Forest Garden Products', a government-approved label with independent certification which enables better marketing.

Analog Forestry holds enormous potential to rehabilitate and use deforested lands which are now lying waste, while also enabling poor colonists to settle down and develop their land.

AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS

There are two basic categories of agroforestry systems: simultaneous and sequential.
In ***sequential systems***, crops and trees take turns in occupying most of the same space. The systems generally start with crops and end with trees.
One of the sequential systems is the traditional '*slash-and-burn*' agriculture. There are various other systems. One of them is *relay intercropping* of trees and annual crops where both the crops and trees are temporary. In *multistrata systems* different tree species are forming two or more canopies with or without simultaneous cropping. This can be combined with small scale animal husbandry. Finally, *taungya systems* are systems where trees and crops are grown simultaneously until the trees are too high, then the forest service takes over again.

In a ***simultaneous system***, trees and crops or animals grow together, at the same time on the same piece of land. These are the systems in which trees and crops compete most for light, water and nutrients. There are several types of simultaneous systems. *Boundary plantings, contour hedges, live fences, and windbreaks* are some examples. These examples often consist of trees or shrubs in rows and serve also as erosion control. In *hedgerow intercropping* leguminous trees are planted on land along with crops, to maintain soil fertility. *Parkland systems* consist of a permanent woody upper-layer (dense or open) under which trees or crops are grown (e.g. coffee, cacao). *Silvopastoral systems* incorporate a discontinuous tree storey (often fodder trees), over a continuous grass cover. This benefits animal husbandry. Finally, *agroforests* are a special category in the sequential systems. This is a managed plant community that resembles a natural forest in that it has several plant-layers and contains large mature trees and shade-tolerant under-story plants. A 'homegarden' is an example of a small agroforest near a homestead. It contains many different plant species of various sizes, types and growth cycles.

Source: ICRAF in: *Ox Power and Agroforestry*. THE ISCOWP NEWS, Volume 11, Issue 2, 2001

The History of Analog Forestry

The term 'Analog Forestry' was cornered by the Sri Lankan biologist Ranil Senanayake in 1987. His ideas of creating an agricultural system adapted to the local context has been further investigated by the Neo Synthesis Research Centre (NSRC) in Sri Lanka.

In April 1994, Analog Forestry was accepted as a methodology integrating the protection of biodiversity within the context of sound landscape management by scientific experts at the Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting of Scientific Experts on Biological Diversity (sponsored by the UN) in Mexico City.

The practical value of this system has now been demonstrated with over 19 years of research that is being translated into community projects. Today there are over 35 villages in Sri Lanka with over 250 individual farmers involved in extension projects. The approach has also been successfully adopted elsewhere in Asia and Latin America, under various ecological and climatic conditions.

The First International Workshop on Analog Forestry was April 3rd -7th , 1995 in Sri Lanka. Attended by 11 participants from seven countries, the workshop consisted of lectures, discussions and visits to field experiments.
In May 1995 the First Analog Forestry Network Newsletter was distributed.

From September 8th to 11th, 1999 an Analog Forestry Workshop was organized in Catemaco, Veracruz, México. Another one was organized in 2002 (see 'Recommended reading')

Requirements for Analog Forestry

The initiator of an Analog Forestry project can be a local NGO, a community organization or any other land user. Using the Analog Forestry Manual, available from the Analog Forestry Network, organizations can gain a practical perspective of what is required. The following is an introduction into what Analog Forestry involves:

- It starts with an analysis of the local environment. Information on the composition and structure of the local forest is collected, including composition of tree, plant and animal species endemic to the area.
- The design for the farmland is made together with the farmer. The design integrates the demands of both the farmer and the local environment.
- A plot of land is set apart as a nursery. The function of this site is both to experiment with new species and to grow the seedlings before transplanting.
- An arboretum that serves as a demonstration site for the community needs to be established. These should be easy accessible and function as a teaching site.
- Organic fertilisers and natural pesticides are used for cultivating the crops and plants. The trees and plants are not planted in blocks but follow a more spread out pattern mimicking the local forest. The crops are grown primarily for the farmers own use and surplus is sold.
- If there is a market for these organically grown crops and transport is available, they can also be sold to regional, national or international markets. Products therefore need to undergo quality control measures and be certified.

Analog Forestry projects can be undertaken in cooperation with the Analog Forest Network.

The International Analog Forestry Network (IAFN)

The network is a collection of local organizations around the world, who are adopting the principles of Analog Forestry and applying them to their local environment. The network is co-ordinated by the Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI) in Nairobi, Kenya. Currently member NGOs are located in Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Kenya, Canada and Ecuador. Information is provided through the network members to interested NGOs, CBOs, the donor community, government ministries and farmer's organizations.

Membership of the Analog Forestry Network is open to local organizations that are working with communities in agroforestry, reforestation, or biodiversity conservation and like to apply the techniques of Analog Forestry to their work.

Goals of the network are:
- Exchange information and experiences
- Initiate arboreta and tree nurseries.
- Implement a plan aiming at the certification of 'Forest Garden Products' that will be sold for export.

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Succesful Initiatives of Analog Forestry

Around the world, civil society organizations have been successful in implementing analog forestry. In the Encyclopedia of Sustainability, a project of Both ENDS that is published on the website, three such initiatives are documented. One similar initiative about polyculture Brazil is also focused on imitating the natural ecosystem.

Mimicking the Forest- Degraded lands restored through Analog Forestry method (Sri Lanka a.o.)

Responsible organizations: Analogue Forestry Network, the Neo Synthesis Research Centre

In the early 1980's the Neo Synthesis Research Centre (NSRC) set out to develop an alternative to government reforestation and monoculture plantations. The new system had to account for the needs of the local people as well as for biodiversity conservation. A forest system has been developed that restores the ecological functions of a forest by imitating the architecture of the natural forest. The system is inspired by traditional home gardens, and is suitable for the cultivation of products for direct consumption and commercialisation. This model is promoted through extension programmes with local farmers. Recordings show that bird, mammal, insect, amphibian and reptile species have re-entered the restored areas, and that their numbers are approaching the levels they had in the natural forest area.

http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?cat=1&id=10&id_language=1
versión Castellano
Imitando el Bosque
http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?cat=1&id=10&id_language=2
Bahasa Indonesia
Meniru Pertumbuhan Hutan
http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?cat=1&id=10&id_language=3

Analog Forestry replaces cattle ranging and logging

Responsible organization: Rainforest Rescue

In order to mitigate the impact on biodiversity and to restore the original ecosystem functions, Rainforest Rescue introduced Analogue Forestry on thirty local farms in the Los Bancos Area, on the western slopes of the Andes mountains.
The original tropical wet forest systems in the Los Bancos Area have been converted into pastures for cattle ranging. The remaining forest is a thin network of patches between the pastures. Due to an unequal division of economic power in the dairy sector, cattle farming does not provide enough income for a family to subsist. This increases the pressure on the land, as rangers continue to expand ranging areas and cut remnant forest to supplement their income. Rainforest Rescue tries to reduce deforestation and to create corridors of biodiversity. The initiative has gained the interest of farmers who recognise the economic potential of Analogue Forestry as a viable alternative for cattle ranging.

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versión Castellano
Forestería Análoga remplaza la ganadería y la explotación de madera
http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?cat=1&id=14&id_language=2

Certified Green Gold

Responsible organization: Amigos del Chocó

In the Choco region large concessions for gold and platinum have been given to large industries since 1900. The NGO Amichoco founded the coalition Colombian Coalition for Green Gold, with the intention of minimizing the negative effects of industrial mining, that has caused soil erosion and heavy mercury contamination in the natural forest, and restoring the balance in the forest. Certified Green Gold is an initiative to exploit minerals from ecosystems, and, simultaneously, take responsibility for the social and ecological impacts of the process. Gold thus produced is certified

as 'green gold'. Green gold is therefore an economic tool that supports conservation and also the livelihoods of local communities. Better prices for green gold –through specialized niches in the gold market- are expected to stimulate cleaner production.
The Green Gold initiative revitalises traditional mining techniques that have a minimal environmental impact and combines this with analog forestry.

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versión Castellano
Oro Verde Certificado
http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?id=18&id_language=2&scr=tp
Bahasa Indonesia
Emas Hijau yang Disertifikasi,
Keprihatinan ekologis menghidupkan kembali teknik-teknik pertambangan tradisional di Chocó, Kolom
http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?id=18&id_language=3&scr=tp

Polyculture in Brazilian drylands-A New Version of an Old Technique

Responsible organization: Instituto de Permacultura de Bahia

In forest areas, analog forestry is a viable method to restore ecosystems. In drier areas, where agriculture is practised, polyculture can be a viable alternative, as with this technique it is also tried to imitate the natural ecosystem.

The polyculture project shows a new method of an old agricultural technique that imitates the natural ecosystem and makes farmers independent again from irrigation and chemical inputs. This improved the livelihood of the small farmers in the large semi-arid area in the north-eastern Bahia region in Brazil. This area was severely degraded due to large-scale deforestation, irrigation- and chemical-fed cultivation, ploughing and goat herding. In this light, the "Instituto de Permacultura de Bahia" developed the Polyculture approach, which imitates a natural ecosystem in harmony with climatic variations and which is adapting itself overtime, as natural ecosystems do. This model integrates low, medium and tall (legume) plants, with plants of varying life cycles, including fruit and timber trees. Since the soil is not exposed to the sun, it saves water and increases fertility. It became immediately evident that the farmers harvested much more from the same area with the polyculture project.

http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?cat=1&id=33&id_language=1
versión Castellano
http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?cat=1&id=33&id_language=2
Bahasa Indonesia
http://www.bothends.org/encycl/cases/viewcase.php?cat=1&id=33&id_language=3

Focal Points of the IAFN

The Neo Synthesis Research Centre, Sri Lanka

The NSRC in Sri Lanka was created in 1980, to promote sustainable agricultural production and the conservation of biodiversity, through research and education. Through experimentation on a plot of degraded tea land and using the local natural forest as a model, they developed a productive forest ecosystem that was almost similar to the natural forest.

Two lowland projects have been undertaken by the research centre: a coastal ecosystem conservation project and the Panadura mangroves and wetlands conservation project. Furthermore, 25 villages were involved in a collaborative Analog Forestry project, in which 500 farmers planted over 50,000 trees.

Educational programs and demonstrations of composting and organic farming are held for farmers, schools and institutes. A nursery produces native and endangered plants that can be used. The information on native vegetation patterns and the flora and fauna composition of different regions is collected in the Tropical Forest Registry. In a new Analog Forestry extension project youth from different villages is trained in the application of Analog Forestry. Afterwards, the trained ones organize extension activities in their

own village and bring about linkages between villages.

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http://www.ntfp.org/voices/voices2/article2_7.html

The Falls Brook Centre (FBC), Canada

The centre was founded in 1990 in New Brunswick, Canada. The organization is a community demonstration and training centre. Through education and outreach programs, the FBC develops environmental awareness and the capacity of the community to undertake action. It is also trying to improve current relationships between Canadian and international NGOs. It is co-ordinating the Village Action Network, and it is also a co-ordinator for the United Nations Eco Volunteer Program.

A series of international practical workshops have taken place at the FBC including: 'Traditional Forest Uses', 'Sustainable Agriculture and Forest Management', 'Alternative Economics' and 'Sustainable Communities'.

It has regenerated a 200 acre site of degraded bog-land, by creating an extensive herbarium with local spices and herbs and three ponds. Apart from a small arboretum and tree nurseries, the demonstration site of Analog Forestry at the Falls Brook Centre includes a boardwalk that allows visitors to identify the species by moving through the pond area.

Three local schools are involved with the project 'Biodiversity Learning Centres' in which the Centre provides extension work and involves the students in transforming barren playgrounds.

The FBC also assisted the Mexican organization UZACHI in the state of Oaxaca with integrating analog forestry techniques into the agroforestry activities of the communities.

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Arbofilia, Costa Rica

Over the past 15 years, Arbofilia, the association for tree protection, has been working in different zones of the coastal Pacific slopes of Costa Rica. The primary objective of Arbofilia has been to combine environmental restoration with economic alternatives for poor rural families.
They have worked with 460 families in a number of projects including the establishment of fruit tree polyculture plots, restoration of native forest, reproduction and planting of endangered rain forest tree species and the creation of native vegetation corridors between patches of threatened ecosystems.
These restoration activities aim at combating erosion in the region and permitting the reestablishment of the original native forests.

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Fundación Rescate del Bosque Tropical (FURARE), Ecuador

Fundación Rescate del Bosque Tropical or 'Rainforest Rescue' is a non-profit environmental organization whose main goal is the conservation and rehabilitation of forests. It seeks to empower local communities to manage their natural resources, and, at the same time generate an income from it. Rainforest Rescue has adopted the technique of Analogue Forestry as it's main tool to arrest deforestation and develop short and medium term economic alternatives for local communities. FRR is the focal point for Latin-America of the Analogue Forestry International Network. They

develop several projects that combine rehabilitation techniques and fair trade.

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Lorena Gamboa is the coordinator of the Analog Forestry Network of the Americas (RFAA), and also editor and publisher of the Biannual Newsletter on Analog Forestry (for the newsletter see: http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/webmain/programs/Forest/Analog.html).

Coordinadora Agroforestal Indigena y Campesina del Peru (COICAP)

COICAP is an organization that practices agroforestry and analog forestry for the benefit of the social and cultural development of indigenous and peasant communities in Peru. COICAP's agenda includes the preservation of biological and cultural diversity, the conservation of flora and fauna, environmental protection, and the appropriate use of natural resources.

Guided by a vision of human sustainable development, COICAP seeks to contribute to the social, cultural, ecological, and economic well-being of community forestry and agroforestry organizations and their members. They aim to strengthen the capacity of grassroots organizations to write proposals, to negotiate, and to manage natural resources with an ecological approach.

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The Environmental Liaison Centre (ELCI)

The ELCI is a global network of non-governmental organizations and community based groups working on environmental and development issues. It exists to 'facilitate the voice of the grassroots' which involves:

i. fostering communication and the sharing of information and skills between groups working at grass roots level
ii. developing mechanisms whereby there is a greater and more effective communication between the NGO/ grassroots sector and the governmental/ inter-governmental sector.

ELCI has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and has a membership of 850 organizations in 107 countries. It also maintains a database with over 8,000 organizations.

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Other Alternative Agricultural Systems

As previously mentioned several 'alternative' systems of agriculture exist. They have been developed by a large number of different institutions. Efforts are now made for a more co-ordinated approach (by uniting the information on these alternatives and using the networks available) to develop sustainable agriculture.

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

The World Agroforestry Centre is an international research organization supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). They are engaged in strategic and applied research and development activities, leading to more sustainable and productive land use. They do this in close partnership with national agricultural research systems, universities, NGOs and private organizations in both the South and the North. Their four primary themes are: Land and People, Trees and Markets, Environmental Services and Strengthening Institutions

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Regional offices in Peru, India, Indonesia, Mali, Zimbabwe, Kenya.

The Alliance for Sustainability (IASA)

IASA was founded in 1983 by organizations representing farmers, researchers and consumers. Its mission is the realisation of sustainable agriculture systems world wide, which are ecologically sound, economically viable and socially just.

Its activities include:
1) Encourage networking and collaboration among groups. They have their own Newsletter, 'Manna', they participate in the Pesticide Action Network (PAN) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
2) Public education and writing publications.
3) Encourage the governmental and other institutions to incorporate sustainable agriculture in their policies.
4) Create a healthy and sustainable alliance

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Recommended Reading

Analog Forestry as a conservation tool. FAO, Bangkok, 1987.

Analog Forestry: 'A strategy to reverse some trends in forest loss'. *Tirra Lira*. Melbourne, 1991.

Becker, A.M. & E.S. Goldman, *The challenge of Risk Management within Analog Forestry*. Counterpart International, Washington, DC, USA
http://www.sustdev.org/explore/forestry/ed3_pdfs/SDI3-19.pdf

Falls Brook Centre. Analog Forestry Workshop Summary: Veracruz, Mexico, 1999
http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/webmain/programs/Forest/analogforestryworkshop.htm

Falls Brook Centre. Memoria del Taller de Capacitacion en Foresteria Analoga, Mexico 2002
http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/webmain/programs/Forest/AFNA/AFNA%20resources/MemoriaFA-final.pdf

Mallet, P. An introduction to Analog Forestry
http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/webmain/programs/Forest/Intro.html

Mallet, P. & Senanayake, F.R. *The Analog Forestry Manual*. Falls Brook Centre, Canada, 1997.

Manual Practico de Foresteria Analoga, FURARE - Fundación Rescate del Bosque Tropical, 2ª edicion, 2001

Senanayake, F.R. and J. Jack. *Analog Forestry: An Introduction*. Monash University, Clayton, Australia, 1998

Senanayake, F.R. & B.M. Beehler. Forest Gardens – 'Sustaining Rural Communities Around the World Through Holistic Agro-forestry.'
Sustainable Development International, CG Publishing, (pp. 95-98) London, 2000
http://www.sustdev.org/agriculture/articles/edition2/sdi2_2_6.pdf

Essential Browsing

The Forest Garden Initiative
http://www.forestgarden.org

Counterpart International-Forest Gardens
http://www.counterpart.org/programs/environment/forest.gardens.asp

Climate Change: Different Realities North and South
http://www.elements.nb.ca/theme/climate/jean/jean.htm

Analog Forestry as a Tool in Joint Implementation- Ranil Senanayake - Sri Lanka
August 1998
http://www.elements.nb.ca/theme/climate/jean/ran_ana.htm

Guayapi Fair Trade products
http://www.guayapi.com/

Cerro Nara Association
www.cerronara.com/analog.html

CIDA Forestry Profiles
http://www.rcfa-cfan.org/english/profile.12.html

World Agroforestry Centre: 80 web sites that cover all aspects of the science and tpractice of agroforestry.
http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/subcontent.asp?ID=24&Category=What%20is%20agroforestry?&SubCategory=Agroforestry%20on%20the%20Web