

EDITORIAL

GUTS and Management of the 'High Greens'

Theoretical physicists are attempting to bring into existence a mathematical equation that will describe most forces of nature as the manifestation of one general force. This activity is referred to as the 'Grand Unified Theories' — or GUTS.

Another force exists that lies dormant. Across this planet there exists a web of trained foresters of many cultures, of many languages, who collectively hold in trust the forests of the world for the people of the world.

Not all areas of wild forest can or should be preserved under National Park/Reserve legislation. Those that are not, however, do clearly need responsible forest management if they are to continue without impairment as productive forests.

Within countries, within regions, there are, to varying degrees, links of forestry associations — FAO; IUFRO; AFA; ISTF etc. However, there is a need of one voice that can speak on issues of importance to world forestry. Broad-issue matters, trans-regional matters that can affect large areas of forest cover is the concern here.

Perhaps now is the time to create such a voice. A voice that can speak out on matters that threaten our world forests. Extensive atmospheric poisoning and nuclear radiation are grounds of concern. So too is a more subtle danger — that of political or economic pressure that threaten the basis of 'sustained yield forestry'.

A world forestry agency could prove an effective voice against large scale unsustainable logging. It could publicly argue against agricultural practices that put in jeopardy the continuation of forest growth. It could voice its concern against industrial practices that threaten the health of forests.

Where persuasion fails such a body would need sanctioning instruments of trade or aid restrictions. These restrictions could be enforced until the threat to forests and to their wise management were alleviated.

A world voice on forestry matters could do these things. We owe it to the profession of forestry to consider this, the 'High Greens' now need a voice that will speak for their continuance.