

J.W. Glynn and Associates Eco-Industrial R & D Consultants

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Mr Andrew St Ledger,
P.R.O. The Woodland League,
c/o East Clare Co-Op, Main St., Scariff, County Clare

May 7th, 2009

Dear Andrew,

I have just read the Pilot Project Proposal for Integrated Sustainable Forest Management prepared recently by The Woodland League and I must commend you and your colleagues for your genuine commitment and adherence to the principles of Agenda 21 and of sustainable development. I hope that the Green Party, the ENGOS and our friends and partners in Europe weigh in behind your efforts for broadleaf tree planting and sustainable forestry management in Ireland

The proposed pilot project for Integrated Sustainable Forest Management in East Clare is, I believe, deserving of the fullest support for several reasons;

The proposed information campaign and wood promotion program should indeed be a national priority for Government. Dated policies fail to distinguish between renewable and non-renewable resources. Imports of hardwood, mainly of tropical origin, exceeded €100 million p.a. in recent years. Forestry policy focused solely on short term returns is wholly inappropriate and fails to address the needs of industry, construction firms or consumers, let alone our environment!

Capacity building for sustainable forestry management in Ireland is urgently needed. I note that your plans give due weight to this priority. Ireland's R&D policy was devised by Arthur D Little, a New York consultancy and the NDP funds are earmarked for ICT and biotech. The third level colleges compete for funding and thus sustainable development ranks low among their priorities. If The Woodland League cannot find suitable partners here I would recommend you strengthen links and alliances overseas. Incorporation as a trust may facilitate private sponsors.

The proposals for a Centre For Excellence, training programs, resource/inventory studies, monitoring, non-timber products, branding and marketing, coppicing, biomass /CHP/R.E. and biomaterials R&D all make eminent sense. As Ireland has no Department of Forestry to advance these, the challenges and the opportunities fall to your organisation.

The Woodland League clearly has vision and the energy and skills to move forward. My own background is in industrial marketing research and I have prepared many feasibility studies and business plans. I attach some addenda and would happily lend some assistance in due course. With very best wishes,

Joseph Glynn Msc (Sust. Dev.)