

RESEARCH

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## PROJECT 5.3

### Social and economic aspects of reforestation

*Project Leader: Dr John Herbohn (UQ)*

Great potential exists for the development of a vibrant forestry industry in north Queensland, based particularly on small-scale producers in the Wet Tropics, and designed to generate social, environmental and economic benefits. For instance, in Europe, the small-scale foresters cooperative has an annual turnover of about \$A4 billion. Recent meetings of the International Union of Forest Research Organisation (IUFRO) Small-scale Forestry Group have revealed the critical role played by private forest growers in the economies of the Joensuu district in western Finland and the Black Forest Region of Germany, and suggest similar opportunities exist in north Queensland.

A reinvigorated timber industry in north Queensland would generate employment, have major flow-on economic benefits, and would help address current trends of rural decline in many of the Wet Tropics shires. In addition, an industry based around plantations and other on-farm plantings of predominantly native species would have major biodiversity benefits and would facilitate large-scale revegetation of degraded farmland that would not otherwise be economically feasible.

Despite much potential and many passionate advocates for a small-scale forestry industry, planting levels have been low and the industry has failed to take off. What appears to be needed is a strategic vision for the industry and the tools and information to involve local landholders and State and Federal and Governments and private investors in forest industries in north Queensland. The aim of the proposed program is to develop a strategic vision for the expansion of forestry in north Queensland. An integral part of this is the development of a business plan.

This project will develop a strategic vision for the expansion of forestry in north Queensland, undertaking high quality basic and strategic research into key socio-economic issues associated with trees in tropical landscapes in the Queensland Wet Tropics region

## POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Averil COOK (UQ) PhD

*Economics of developing long distance walking tracks in north Queensland*  
Michael COX (UQ) PhD

*Queensland forest product export potential*  
Nicholas EMTAGE (UQ) PhD

*Social and economic factors affecting small-scale forestry*  
David JEFFREYS (UQ) PhD

*Application of a multi-objective decision support system (MODSS) for the evaluation of farm forestry*  
Rasheda KEANE (UQ) PhD

*Analysis of long term supply of timber on the Atherton Tablelands*  
Daryl KILLIN (UQ) PhD (Suspended)

*Private forestry industry development strategies for far north Queensland using high-value tropical species*  
Keith LAMB (UQ) PhD (Suspended)

*Carbon-based business and regional development options for plantation forestry in subtropical, eastern Australia*  
Robert LWANGA (UQ) Masters

*Tourists' attitudes to plantation establishment on the Atherton Tableland*  
Brian SHARP (UQ) Hons

*Venture capital raising for small-scale forestry in north Queensland: a strategic alliance view*  
Tyron VENN (UQ) PhD

*The potential for development of the Aurukun Community, Cape York, with socio-economically efficient native forest management*



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