

**CHARTER OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN AGROFORESTRY  
(ICRAF)**

WHEREAS "agroforestry" is a sustainable management system for land which increases overall production, combines agricultural crops, including tree crops, and forest plants and animals simultaneously or sequentially, and applies management practices which are compatible with the cultural patterns of the local population.

WHEREAS a consortium of countries, donor agencies, and others directly interested (hereinafter referred to as the Group) has organized to increase the social, economic and nutritional well-being of peoples of developing countries through the promotion of agroforestry systems to achieve better land use in developing countries without detriment to their environments, to encourage and support research and training relevant to agroforestry systems, to facilitate the collection and dissemination of information relevant to such system and to assist in the international coordination of agroforestry development.

WHEREAS the Group has proposed the establishment of the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (hereinafter referred to as the Council) to carry out these objectives,

WHEREAS the Group has designated the International Development Research Centre (hereinafter referred to as the Executing Agency) to act as agent to perform those activities that are necessary to establish the Council, including the conclusion of a necessary protocol with a host government to

provide for the establishment and operation of the Council,

AND WHEREAS the members of the Group have requested the government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the government of the Republic of Senegal the government of Canada and the Executing Agency to sign the Charter on their behalf,

NOW THEREFORE the government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the government of the Republic of Senegal, the government of Canada and the Executing Agency, on behalf of the members of the Group, are agreed that the Charter of the Council shall be as follows:

#### ARTICLE 1 - ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME

There is hereby established an international council called the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF).

#### ARTICLE II - LOCATION

1. Subject to the conclusion of a necessary protocol, the headquarters of the Council shall be in Kenya.
2. The Council may establish operational units wherever it deems necessary.



### ARTICLE III - LEGAL STATUS

1. The Council is an autonomous, non-profit, international organization consisting of a Board of Trustees appointed pursuant to Article VIII(2)
2. The Council shall possess full juridical personality.
3. The signatories to this Charter and the members of the Group shall not be responsible, individually or collectively, for any debts, liabilities or other obligations of the Council.
4. The Council, its personnel, their families and dependants shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are detailed in a protocol with the host government signed with the Executing Agency or any other agency on behalf of the Group.

### ARTICLE IV - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Council are to increase the social, economic and nutritional well-being of peoples of developing countries through the promotion of agroforestry systems to achieve better land use in developing countries without detriment to their environments, to

encourage and support research and training relevant to agroforestry systems, to facilitate the collection and dissemination of information relevant to such systems and to assist in the international coordination of agroforestry development, and, specifically:

- a. to identify aspects of agroforestry systems generally, and tree components in particular, about which there is a lack of knowledge, and to support research thereon;
- b. to support or stimulate research to identify or improve species of trees and other forest flora and fauna that are underused;
- c. to assist in the coordination of agroforestry research for various ecological regions;
- d. to facilitate the extension and implementation of the results of research in agroforestry; and
- e. to encourage and support training in appropriate disciplines with the aim of developing the research capabilities of national institutions engaged in agroforestry research.

## ARTICLE V - ACTIVITIES

The Council shall undertake all such activities as are conducive to the furtherance of its objects and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such activities may include:

- a. the collection, evaluation, cataloguing and dissemination of information relevant to agroforestry, with particular emphasis for use by field personnel;
- b. the stimulation of research relevant to agroforestry by governments, and by national and international, public and private organizations and agencies, by universities, and by individuals, and the fostering of cooperation in research relevant to agroforestry systems;
- c. the sponsoring of research relevant to agroforestry systems, on important species of trees and other crops relevant to such systems, and on the harvesting, processing and marketing of agroforestry products;
- d. the participation in the management and financing of pilot and experimental projects on agroforestry;
- e. the conducting of seminars and the convening of working groups on agroforestry;
- f. the promotion of the teaching of the principles of agroforestry in



educational systems, including the teaching of tree sciences;

- g. the promotion of the orientation of forestry and agricultural teaching towards better land use; and
- h. the demonstration, publication and dissemination of research results and other information on agroforestry.

#### ARTICLE VI - POWERS

The Council, in furtherance of its objects may exercise any or all the following powers, namely, the power:

- a. to support or assist research relevant to agroforestry by governments, by national and international, public and private organizations and agencies, by Universities, and by individuals;
- b. to establish, maintain and operate information and other data centres for activities relevant to its objects;
- c. to sponsor or support working groups, conference, seminars and other meetings;

- d. to enter into contracts or agreements with governments, with national and international, public and private organizations and agencies, with universities and with individuals;
- e. to acquire and hold real property or any interest therein and alienate the same freely;
- f. to acquire and hold any personal property including funds, rights and concessions by donation, exchange, bequest or otherwise, from any government, organization or person, and to hold, administer, own, operate, use or dispose of the same freely;
- g. to institute legal proceedings in the country or countries of its establishment and elsewhere; and
- h. to do such other things as are conducive to the carrying out of its objects.

#### ARTICLE VII - FINANCE

Without prejudice to the generality of its powers as set out in Article VI, the principal financial support for the Council shall be derived from voluntary contributions provided by various members of the Group, by governments and by national and international, public and private organizations and agencies



based on regular estimates of budgetary requirements of the Council as approved by the Board of Trustees and on regular reports of Council activities.

## ARTICLE VIII - STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. The Council shall operate under the direction of the Director-General and in accordance with policies established by the Board of Trustees.

2. Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall consist of not more than fourteen trustees appointed as follows:

- a. one trustee appointed by the government where the headquarters is situated;
  - b. the Director-General of the Council; and
  - c. upto twelve trustees appointed by the Board.
3. The trustee appointed by the Board shall have experience, qualifications are recognized competence in the disciplines related to the object of the Council, in other natural or social sciences or in administration, law or finance, and shall be selected to ensure adequate representation from the developing countries.
  4. The Director-General of the Council shall be a trustee during his term of

office as Director-General, but shall not be entitled to a vote at meetings of the Board of the Executive Committee.

5. All trustees other than the Director-General shall be appointed for three-year terms,

- X 6. After the appointment of the initial Board, any trustee appointed by the

- X 7. The Group shall delegate to the Board of Trustees its power to appoint at least trustees.

8. When the office of a trustee becomes vacant during the term of the trustee appointed thereto because of retirement, death, incapacity or any other cause or when the term expires, the party (host government, Board that had the right to appoint the trustee to that office may appoint a trustee for the remainder of the term or for a new term, as the case may be.

9. Trustees shall be eligible for a reappointment to the Board.

10. Powers of the Board of Trustees

The Board

- a). elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among its membership for such period or periods as it deems appropriate;



- b). appoint the Director-General of the Council for such period or periods as it deems appropriate;
- c). establish and adopt by-laws and rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and for the general governance of the Council;
- d). determine policies for the operation of the Council;
- e). approve the Council's program of work developed by the Director-General;
- f). consistent with generally recognized accounting principles, establish and adopt the general guidelines for the preparation of regular budgetary estimates and for the regulation of the financial affairs of the Council generally;
- g). scrutinize and approve the regular budgetary estimates of the Council;
- h). appoint independent, external auditors of recognized international competence to conduct annual audits of the Council's accounts and financial transactions; and
- i). publish, within a reasonable time after the termination of each fiscal year, a report relating to the activities of the Council for that year, including the financial statements of the Council and the auditors' report thereon.

11. Executive Committee of the Council

- a). There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Council consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Director



General and two other trustees annually elected by the Board of Trustees.

- b). The Executive Committee shall have the power to act for the Board on all matters which the Board delegates to it.
- c). The Chairman of the Board shall serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee.
- d). All actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the full Board at its next subsequent meeting.
- e). The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice annually.
- f). Three members of the Executive Committee present at a meeting of the Executive Committee constitute a quorum.

12. Other Committees

The Board shall appoint such advisory, standing and other committees as it deems necessary.

13. Meetings of the Board

- a). The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once annually.
- b). The annual meeting of the Board shall be held in the country where the headquarters of the Council is located or at such other place as the Chairman of the Board may designate.
- c). Meetings others than the annual meeting shall be held at such times and places as the Chairman of the Board deems necessary.
- d). Five trustees present at a meeting of the Board constitute a

quorum.

14. The Director-General

- a). The Director General is appointed by the Board as the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.
- b). The Director General shall be, ex officio, a trustee of the Board during his term as Director-General.
- c). The Director-General shall implement the policies established by the Board and shall be responsible to the Board for the operation and <sup>\*</sup> *answerable to* management of the Council and for ensuring that its programs and objectives are properly developed and carried out.

ARTICLE IX - RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Council shall establish a cooperative relationship with such governments, national and international, public and private organizations and agencies, and universities engaged in any activity relevant to agroforestry as the Council may deem necessary for the realization of its objects.

ARTICLE X - ACCESSION

- 1. At the invitation of the original signatories to the Charter, any country, Specialized Agency of the United Nations or any other international



organization or institution may become a party to the Charter by depositing an instrument of accession with the Director-General by March 31, 1979.

2. The Director-General shall notify all other signatories of the Charter of such accession.

#### ARTICLE XI- AMENDMENTS

1. Subject to paragraph (2) of this Article, this Charter may be amended at any meeting of the Board by three-fourths majority vote of all voting members of the Board, provided notice of such proposed amendments, together with their full texts, shall have been mailed to all members of the Board at least eight weeks in advance of such meeting, unless such notice is waived by all members of the Board.

2. Any substance amendment of Article IV (objects), Article V (Activities) <sup>substantive</sup> Article VI (Powers), Article VII (Finance) or Article XI (Amendments) shall require the prior approval of the Group.

#### ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

1. If the Board determines by a majority vote of not less than three-fourths of all voting members, and the Group concurs, that the objects of the Council have been satisfactorily realized or that the Council is no longer able to function effectively, the Council shall be dissolved.



2. Any land or interests therein held by the Council and fixed capital improvements thereon shall, upon dissolution, revert to the government of the country where the land is situate.
3. In case of dissolution, the assets of the Council, other than land or interests therein and fixed capital improvements thereon, shall be distributed to an institution or institutions having purposes similar to those of the Council and agreed to by the Council and the government of the country where such assets are situate, after consultation by the Board of Trustees with the Group.

En foi de quoi, les soussignés, par l'intermédiaire de leurs représentants dûment autorisés ont signé cette Charte.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned by their duly authorized representatives have executed this Charter.

A/at *Georgetown* en/in *Guyane* le/the *24* jour/day  
de/of *August*, 1978.

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Le Gouvernement de la République  
coopérative de Guyane

*M. Moya*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The Government of the Cooperative  
Republic of Guyana

A/at *Dakar* en/in *Senegal* le/the *24* jour/day  
de/of *Janvier*, 1979.

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Le Gouvernement de la République  
du Sénégal

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The Government of the Republic  
of Senegal

A/at *Ottawa* au/in *Canada* le/the *23* jour/day  
de/of *Septembre*, 1978.

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Le Gouvernement du Canada

*John McLaughlin*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The Government of Canada

A/at *Ottawa* au/in *Canada* le/the *22<sup>e</sup>* jour/day  
de/of *August*, 1978.

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Le Centre de recherches pour  
le développement international

*Steven L. Lead*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The International Development  
Research Centre