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Home and Foreign News

World Wood-Based Panel Production Capacity Rises Sharply-New Delhi, February 7
World capacity to produce wood-based panels reached 106 million cubic metres (m^3) in 1973 and showed an expansion of about one third on capacity in 1970, according to the latest *FAO World Survey of Production Capacity for Plywood, Particle Board and Fibreboard* released today by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Actual production in 1973 was 96 million m^3 . A further major expansion in capacity was expected during 1974/75 to nearly 123 million m^3 .

The survey, presented today at the World Consultation on Wood-Based Panels being held here February 6 to 16 and sponsored by FAO and the Government of India, states that the newest and most rapidly growing sector of this industrial group, the particle board industry, is expected to nearly double its production capacity over the years 1970 to 1975 and show an annual rate of growth exceeding 14 percent. Particle board, nearly unknown 20 years ago, has revolutionized the furniture and building industries, permitting greater use of smaller trees, poorly formed trees and wood residues. Production capacity is expected to exceed 45 million m^3 by the end of 1975. Actual 1973 production was 31.5 million m^3 .

Plywood, according to the survey, still maintains the greatest share of production capacity, though its share, 48 percent in 1971, may fall back to between 44 and 45 percent by the end of 1975. Plywood capacity, growing at about 7 percent per annum, is expected to approach 55 million cubic meters by the end of 1975. Actual 1973 production was 42.5 million m^3 . Capacity for producing fibreboard (hardboard and insulating board) is increasing at a lower rate—between 6.5 and 7 percent per annum—than plywood. The most notable increases in this sector over the years 1973/75 are listed for the centrally planned countries of Europe and the U.S.S.R.

The United States is the major producer of plywood, fibreboard and particle board, dominating world output of all three products. After the United States, the world's leading producers are Japan, the U.S.S.R., the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada and France. Among other countries, Sweden and Poland are outstanding producers of fibreboard; the Republic of Korea of plywood; Italy and Belgium of particle board. FO/1

According to the survey, about 5 percent of world capacity for the manufacture of particle board in 1973 was based on none-wood fibrous raw materials.

The Consultation recognized that the planned development in wood-based panels as reported in the Survey was coming paradoxically at a time when market demand almost everywhere in the world had fallen back.

The World Consultation is considering prospective consumption and production of wood-based panels to 1990. Preliminary estimates were submitted today in another FAO document, *Production, Consumption and Trade in Wood-Based Panels—Present Consumption and Alternative Outlook for the Future*. This paper will set the stage for more detailed discussions taking into account the pattern of demand, uses of the various panel products, substitution amongst them as well as for sawnwood, the available wood base, the problem of supplies of adhesives, technological developments, and the problems of funding.

Other documents prepared for the Consultation take up questions of raw materials, markets and marketing, technological developments and trends and the economics of investment and manufacturing. After discussion the Consultation will appraise the future out-look for the industry.

The Consultation will be followed by a meeting on Monday, February 17 of the Fourth Session of the FAO Committee on Wood-Based Panels. The Consultation's final report will be a principal document of this meeting.

World Wildlife Fund Pakistan March 1975.—WWFP has selected two Pakistani graduates for training in pheasant rearing at Pheasant Trust, Norfolk, England. There travel expenses will be met by WWFP and the living expenses during the training period will be covered by the Pheasant Trust. After the training, which will be of six months duration, these graduates will be deputed on projects of captive breeding of pheasants of Pakistan. Pheasants in Pakistan are becoming rare. The whole project is aimed at their conservation and their reintroduction in the areas where they have become extinct in the recent past.

Sind wildlife management board has created Indus Dolphin Reserve extending from Guddu Barrage to Sukkur Barrage.

On the request from Punjab Wildlife Department WWFP is giving technical guidance in a five year research project on Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Chinkara *Gazella gazella* and Urial *Ovis orientalis*. The project is financed under PL 480 grant.

Government of Pakistan has signed an agreement with WWF and IUCN to issue gold and silver coins featuring endangered animals of Pakistan. IUCN/WWF will pay royalty to the government for each coin sold as follows:

1. Gold US \$ 100 for proof coins
 US \$ 10 for nonproof coins

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| 2. | 42 mm Silver | US \$ 5 for proof coins |
| | | US \$ 2.50 for nonproof coins |
| 3. | 38.61 mm Silver | US \$ 2 for proof coins |
| | | US \$ 1 for nonproof coins |

The conservation coin collection was announced by H.R.H. the Prince of Netherlands, President of WWF, with the object to use all proceeds of the sales to collectors for conservation work.

The Commissioner Northern Areas has been directed by Prime Minister of Pakistan to take immediate action to set up Khunjerab National Park to preserve Marco Polo sheep. Dr. G.B. Schaller Honorary Consultant WWF on wildlife of South East Asia had submitted a report to the Prime Minister on the status of Marco Polo Sheep in Khunjerab and Kilik areas of Hunza. The report also gives measures which may be taken to save this species from extinction in Pakistan.