

**Best Practice in CR in the Environment
Managing Biodiversity**

coillte

Coillte Teoranta

Restoring the Peatlands of the West

Coillte Teoranta

Coillte Teoranta (The Irish Forestry Board) is the leading Irish forestry company and the largest land owner in Ireland with 440,000 ha of land in its possession located throughout Ireland and employs 1,000 staff. While the Company's principal business is timber production, a range of other businesses are operated including Forestry Services, Forest Nurseries, Wood Products Manufacturing and Business and Land Development. The company also has some Subsidiary and Associated companies. In 2003, its Turnover was €172.12 m.

Corporate Responsibility in Coillte Teoranta

Coillte began its corporate responsibility initiative in 2001 when it became one of twenty-four founding members of Business In the Community Ireland, an organisation which was set up to assist business to increase the quality and extent of its contribution to social and economic regeneration. At that time, Coillte was developing its Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) programme, and the concept of CR coincided with its own social objectives. Within SFM, structures were put in place to allow Coillte sign up to an international labelling scheme for forest products, which provides a credible guarantee that the product comes from well-managed forests in terms of economic, social and environmental responsibilities.

We, in Coillte, have always considered ourselves to be socially responsible but, in the past, didn't measure our social contribution or put any value in it. Coillte is already recognised as a good employer and we have always enjoyed good relationships with the communities in which we operate and, throughout the country, operate up to 100 partnership programmes with various organisations. The evolution of Corporate Responsibility (CR) has presented us with an opportunity to further build on the work we are doing in relation to our social commitments. The mixture of economic, environmental and social measures provides Coillte management with a balanced means of assessing performance.

Coillte produces an annual Social and Environmental Report separate from its Annual Report and has done so since 2001. This report summarises the main social and environmental performance indicators and consultation processes. Please see the latest edition from 2003 which received a commendation at the ACCA Ireland Environmental Reporting Awards 2004. This can be viewed at www.coillte.ie/about_coillte/social_report2003.htm

In line with Coillte's commitment to its stakeholders, a formal Consultation Policy was developed during 2000. In addition, a Stakeholder Relations Manager was appointed to oversee consultation within the company. Coillte consults at national, regional and local level to establish dialogue with relevant statutory and non-governmental organisations, special interest groups and general public in formulating its forest management policies and objectives.