This programme will be delivered jointly by the Centre for International Development and Training, University of Wolverhampton, and the National School of Forestry, University of Cumbria. Participants will be based at these institutes for a 4-week period, including a study tour exploring forest governance and management issues. The course will include input by cutting edge practitioners from key think-tanks, international NGOs, Consultancy Organisations and Government.

The programme will be applied and based on real world situations. The style of learning will be active and experiential, based on case studies and structured facilitated group exercises, designed to be of direct relevance to participants working lives.

The programme is targeted at participants from or working with Low or Middle Income Countries from:

- Civil society;
- Private sector;
- Natural resource ministries;
- Programmes and Projects;
- Development Agencies;
- Trade and Finance ministries.

Potential candidates should be actively engaged in the forest sector and issues at a managerial or decision-making level, have at least a first degree, and competency in the English language. Internet access would be useful for pre and post-course communication.

The tuition fee is UK £3,900 – including all materials, study tour costs and administration. Discounts are available for multiple bookings and IUFRO members. Accommodation, subsistence and international travel are not included in the course fee (approximately £1,500 for accommodation and subsistence).

Further information and application forms can be obtained from: cidt@wlv.ac.uk, quoting ‘Improving Forest Governance Course’
For most people working in the fields of natural resource management and associated private enterprises, the rapidly moving forestry and natural resource management situation is somewhat confusing.

Improved forest governance, possibly via FLEGT VPA processes or certification, is a pre-requisite for initiatives such as REDD funding and CDM. How do these approaches fit together (and what do they mean!). This course unpacks these issues and examines their impact on different parts of the forest sector.

The course will analyse reasons for poor forest governance and look at the use of Multi-Stakeholder Processes and Enterprise Development as tools to reverse the situation. It will aim to give you a set of skills to analyse and improve forest governance processes so you are better equipped to design and implement improved forest management delivery mechanisms, including REDD.

Context:
The policy aims and objectives, processes and practicalities of forestry have changed greatly over the last ten years. There is a need to understand the changing agenda of international forest and natural resource management, in terms of climate change, wood-energy production and sustainable economic production. There are also technical skills and knowledge challenges associated with evidence bases: demonstrating legal and sustainable management, securing and certifying supply chains, and measuring carbon sequestration.

Improving forest governance, by involving a range of stakeholders to hold authorities to account and to report corruption, intimidation and criminality in the forest industry, lies at the heart of these developments.

The programme will specifically address:

- Illegal logging, corruption and criminality in the forest sector
  - What are the drivers?
  - What actions are being taken to confront illegal logging and trade in illegal forest products?
  - What roles can stakeholders play: Multi Stakeholder Processes
  - The role of the media and communications
  - The role of civil society voice
  - The rule of law
  - Rights based approaches
  - Lessons from FLEGT to inform REDD
  - Legality of formal and informal forest trade
  - Results from international policy processes

- Technical Skills and Knowledge: Challenges for sustainability
  - Independent verification and certification
  - Chain of Custody documentation and control
  - Understanding and responding to climate change
  - Carbon financing and REDD
  - Environmental valuation
  - Community Based Concession Management

- Technical Skills and Knowledge: Enterprise Development
  - Forestry and GDP
  - Corporate Social Responsibility
  - Modern approaches to forest economics
  - Non Timber Forest Products – production, management, processing, marketing
  - Building Public Private Partnerships
  - Adding Value to NTFPs, e.g. fairtrade, organic
  - Value chain system