

Evening News Mon 4 Sep 2006

City botanists on Congo conservation mission

A PAIR of Edinburgh botanists are at the forefront of a major new conservation project to protect animals and plants in the Congo.

Dr David Harris, herbarium curator at the Royal Botanic Garden and Dr Alexandra Wortley, a post doctoral researcher, are working on a £184,500 initiative to manage a large area of ancient forest.

The project aims to increase forest inventory work, provide botanical data to local users and promote forest management.

Dr Harris said it was important the work was undertaken now to assist with future forest management. He said: "The Republic of Congo is rich in biodiversity. Sixty per cent is covered by lowland tropical forests including some undisturbed wilderness.

"It is important that the areas are properly managed to ensure they are conserved for future generations."

