

Statistics Work Plan 2008-09 - Outturn

April 2009

This note reports on progress in 2008/09, by identifying what was achieved for each item in the work plan published in 2008 and also major additional areas of work.

1. National Statistics (NS) publications and related work

Carry out surveys and data collection to cover UK timber industries (January to April), as agreed with Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics.	Achieved. All surveys carried out to agreed timetable, with similar response rates to previous year.
Wood Production and Trade first release (May), as in 2007. Based on UK industry statistics and surveys and Overseas Trade Statistics.	Achieved. Published on due date, with same range of contents as 2007.
Timber Price Indices first release (May and November). Complete review of updating and alternative indices, publish proposed methodology and new indices.	Achieved. Review completed with advice from ONS methodologists. New index (5-year chain linked Fisher index) agreed, methodology published and adopted from November.
Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking first release (June), as in 2007.	Achieved. Published on due date, with same range of contents as 2007.
Forestry Facts & Figures (September), as in 2007.	Achieved. Published on due date, with increased range of contents.
Forestry Statistics (September). Publication advanced one more month, to align with FFF.	Achieved. Published one month earlier, as planned.
Maintain NS compliance plans and introduce new arrangements required for statistical independence (e.g. release pages accessible from publication hub).	Achieved. Updated compliance plan, release arrangements and revisions policy. Published paper on statistical disclosure control practices. All NS releases announced on hub. Prepared topic pages for hub.
For Survey Control, advise all parts of FC on possible surveys, and prepare reports to obtain ministerial approval.	Achieved. Reports in 2008 were approved by ministers and information compiled for reports in 2009.
Provide statistics for other government publications, PQs, researchers, public enquiries.	Achieved. All requests for data were met.

2. International returns

Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (provisional May, final September) for timber production and trade, as in 2007.	Achieved. Data were submitted to Eurostat on time.
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Timber Committee Questionnaire (September) for timber production and trade forecasts, as in 2007.	Achieved. Data were submitted to UNECE on time.
Joint Wood Energy Enquiry: improve coherence of data from energy and forestry statistics, for reporting September 2008.	Achieved. Improved data were compiled and submitted to UNECE in September (provisional data) and November (final data) to requested timetable.
Integrated Environmental & Economic Accounts: new combined return in 2008.	Achieved. Requirements in 2008 were limited to Economic Accounts table.
UK report for Global Forest Resources Assessment reporting – drafts to be submitted in 2008, finalised by March 2009.	Largely achieved. Drafts were submitted in August 2008 and March 2009 as agreed. Now to be finalised by May 2009.

3. Other statistics and indicators

Develop internet (particularly through web-based Forestry Statistics) and intranet (including evidence base distilling relevant statistics and economic studies).	Partly achieved. Internet pages were restructured to provide better access to statistics on each topic. Intranet pages were restructured, reducing duplication with internet. Little progress on developing evidence base.
UK Indicators of Sustainable Forestry: updates and review data availability for full range of indicators published in 2002, with the aim of final report in 2008.	Partly achieved. Regularly updated, but agreed to postpone review and final report until proposals are developed for an alternative indicator publication.
Support development of indicators for country forestry strategies (England, Scotland, Wales) including 2 new surveys for Scottish indicators.	Achieved. Advice provided to England on indicator development, and data provided as requested. Advice provided to Scotland and data checked before publication; survey of forest nurseries running annually, but new survey on timber miles had to be aborted because of poor response. No requirements identified in 2008-09 by Wales.
ADDED	Developed and ran survey of woodfuel suppliers in 2009.

4. Research

Agree scope and commission market research companies for Public Opinion of Forestry surveys to be carried out in February to March 2009.	Achieved. After budget cuts, the surveys were reinstated with reduced funding. UK survey successfully commissioned, and support provided to FC Scotland and FC Wales for their surveys.
Advise on National Inventory of Woodland, environmental monitoring and social and economic research.	Achieved. In collaboration with Forest Research statisticians and others, developed improved statistical approach to National Forest Inventory, to start in 2009.

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ADDED	Provided support to FC Scotland, to develop quality assurance systems for Native Woodland Survey of Scotland.
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5. Recreation statistics and monitoring

Support on-site monitoring (All Forests, Quality of Experience, local surveys).	Achieved. Completed supplementary analysis of All Forests Scotland data, in response to requests and for quality assurance. Provided advice and assistance to meet all other requests.
Participate in collaborative household surveys in Scotland, England and Wales.	Achieved. For Scottish Recreation Survey and Wales Outdoor Recreation Survey, obtained agreement to improved weighting scheme and advised on presentation of results. Agreed to participate in England survey Monitoring Engagement with Natural Environment starting 2009.

6. Statistical Services

Support Human Resources Division and other parts of the FC by carrying out statistical analysis (e.g. for equality / diversity) and advising on surveys.	Services provided to various parts of the FC, as requested. Includes several HR projects, customer surveys, and online survey on access to information.
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