

# **The Context of Forestry in Scotland**

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# 1. Global

Covering just under one third of the world's land area, forests and woodlands have been a priority on international policy and political agendas for the past 15 years. This led to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), more commonly known as the **Rio Earth Summit** <http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html>, in Rio de Janeiro. Here the blunt message for economic development was that nothing less than a transformation of attitudes and behaviour, at a global level, was required to halt the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet. World leaders at the Summit agreed:

- the only way to have long term economic progress was to link it with environmental protection (Rio Declaration on Environment & Development);
- sustainable development was the way to reverse both poverty and environmental destruction ("Agenda 21");

**Sustainable development** is: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"  
(Our Common Future, 1987; report of the World Commission on Environment and Development {the 'Brundtland Commission'})

- countries should protect the world's climate system for the benefit of present and future generations (Convention on Climate Change);
- the world needed to conserve biological diversity and make sustainable use of its components in a fair and equitable way (Convention on Biological Diversity); and
- forests, with their complex ecological processes, were essential to economic development

and the maintenance of all forms of life (**Statement of Forest Principles** <http://www.iisd.org/rio+5/agenda/principles.htm>).

The "Statement of Forest Principles" fell short of a legally binding Convention but recognised the multiple roles and values of forests and has been the foundation of international efforts to develop the concept of **sustainable forest management** (hereafter referred to as SFM).

The first international review of forests after Rio took place in 1995 and led to the establishment of the **UN Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)** [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/ipf\\_iff.html](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/ipf_iff.html), followed by the **UN Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF)** [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/ipf\\_iff.html](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/ipf_iff.html) in 1997. These resulted in over 270 "Proposals for Action" along with those set out in the Rio Forest Principles.

To strengthen the global, political commitment to SFM and to encourage the implementation of actions arising from Rio and the IPF/IFF, a new body, the **UN Forum on Forests (UNFF)** <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>, was established in 2000.

"...the economic, social and environmental well-being of the planet and humanity is closely linked with sustainable forest management." UNFF (2002)

## **Rio statement**

*"Forests, with their complex ecological processes, are essential to economic development and the maintenance of all forms of life. They are the source of wood, food and medicine, and are rich storehouses of many biological products yet to be discovered. They act as reservoirs for water and for carbon, that would otherwise get into the atmosphere and act as a greenhouse gas. Forests are home to many species of wildlife and, with their peaceful greenery and sense of history, fulfil human cultural and spiritual needs."*

One of the priorities of the UNFF is to ensure that world forestry commitments are implemented rather than just discussed. That theme of “action not words” was taken up at the **World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002** [http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic\\_info/basicinfo.html](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic_info/basicinfo.html) with a renewed international push for truly sustainable development. In addition the principles of SFM were reaffirmed as part of the goal of sustainable development.

## 2. Europe

In parallel with world events, the 1980s saw rising European concern about the deterioration of its forests. This led, in 1990, to the first **Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe** (MCPFE) <http://www.mcpfe.org/resolutions/strasbourg>. Held in **Strasbourg**, this conference produced 6 Resolutions on the protection, conservation and sustainable management of Europe’s forests.

The second MCPFE was held in 1993 at **Helsinki** <http://www.mcpfe.org/resolutions/helsinki> to assess the implementation of the Strasbourg Resolutions and to set the Rio Summit’s Statement of Forest Principles in to a European context. “*General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe*” and “*General Guidelines for the Conservation of Biodiversity of European Forests*” were agreed together with resolutions covering climate change and co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

**Sustainable forest management (SFM)** is: “the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.”

(2nd Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Helsinki; 1993)

The third MCPFE was held in **Lisbon** <http://www.mcpfe.org/resolutions/lisbon> in 1998, this producing one resolution on the socio-economic aspects of forestry and another on a set of “*Pan European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management*” (referred to as “PEC”) [http://www.mcpfe.org/mcpfe/resolutions/lisbon/resolution\\_12.pdf](http://www.mcpfe.org/mcpfe/resolutions/lisbon/resolution_12.pdf). Through this conference the social and cultural importance of forests gained clearer recognition.

### **Pan-European Criteria**

*maintenance and appropriate enhancement* of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles;  
*maintenance* of forest ecosystem health and vitality;  
*maintenance and encouragement* of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood);  
*maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement* of biological diversity in forest ecosystems;  
*maintenance and appropriate enhancement* of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water);  
*maintenance* of other socio-economic functions and conditions.

The fourth MCPFE was held in **Vienna** in 2003 and produced a Declaration committing Ministers to action on SFM and sustainable development by:

- enhancing economic viability;
  - strengthening co-operation between the forest sector and other sectors through **National Forest Programmes**;
  - addressing the cultural and spiritual aspects of SFM; and
  - building on Helsinki resolutions on climate change and forest biological diversity.
- Improved PECs [http://www.mcpfe.org/publications/pdf/improved\\_indicators.pdf](http://www.mcpfe.org/publications/pdf/improved_indicators.pdf)

The MCPFE is regarded as an important example of informal co-operation towards SFM. It participates in the UNFF as an observer and co-operates closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity (and a wide range of other bodies).

### **3. The European Union (EU)**

The EU has no “forestry competence” as such, with responsibility for forestry policy resting with member states. However, it plays an important role in UK forestry through the provision of funding, environmental legislation, the protection of priority habitats and international co-operation. Funding comes from the Rural Development Regulation, Structural Funds (which contribute to the development of disadvantaged areas) and a range of other mechanisms supporting forest research and nature protection (eg LIFE programme). Examples of relevant EU legislation include the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.

The EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) continues to have an extremely important influence on the availability of land for forestry although strong pressure to reform it is prompting a shift away from support for “production” in agriculture to a wider Rural Development policy in which forestry is a key element. The associated Rural Development Regulations recognise the role of forestry as an integral part of rural development and help support the maintenance and development of the economic, ecological and social functions of forests in rural areas. The current (2005/2006) changes to the Rural Development Regulations will have an important bearing on forestry but this has not yet been finalised (as at 6 March 2006). Another consideration is that the enlargement of the EU is likely to lead to a reduction in Structural Funding for the UK (the current cycle of funding ends in 2006 and will be re-negotiated for the period 2007-2013).

In 1999 an **EU Forestry Strategy** [http://europa.eu.int/lex/pri/en/oj/dat/1999/c\\_056/c\\_05619990226en00010004.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/lex/pri/en/oj/dat/1999/c_056/c_05619990226en00010004.pdf) was agreed and defines the scope of EU actions, agreed objectives and key areas for action. The common principles relate to SFM and the multifunctional role of forests.

*“the importance of SFM for the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity, for the living conditions for animals and plants, and the fact that this SFM is one of many measures to combat climate change,...”*

#### **EU Forestry Strategy**

***“Emphasises the importance of the multifunctional role of forests and sustainable forest management based on their social, economic, environmental, ecological and cultural functions for the development of society and, in particular, rural areas and emphasises the contribution forests and forestry can make to existing Community policies”.***

*“ the contribution of forestry and forest-based industries to income, employment and other elements affecting the quality of life, whilst recognising the close connection between these two areas which influences their competitiveness and economic viability,....”*

The EU Strategy is designed to support rather than supersede countries' own actions and has recently been reviewed by the European Commission. This concluded that its guiding principles (SFM and the multifunctional role of forests) were still valid but that its implementation was often weak. An **EU Forest Action Plan** will now be developed (by mid 2006) to ensure the Strategy is delivered.

In 2001 the EU also set out a **Sustainable Development Strategy** ([http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001\\_0264en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001_0264en01.pdf)) which guides Member States' own strategies for sustainable development. It set out priorities for action based on cross-sectoral approaches to: climate change and the use of clean energy; public health; responsible use of natural resources; transport systems and land management.

## 4. UK

Following "Rio" and "Helsinki" the UK Government formally adopted a forestry policy to promote sustainability:

- the sustainable management of our existing woods and forests; and
- a steady expansion of tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide.

In 1994 the UK responded further to its international commitments by publishing *Sustainable forestry – the UK programme* and three other, separate but linked plans: *Sustainable development - the UK strategy*; *Biodiversity - the UK action plan* (which led to commitments to specific UK Biodiversity Action Plan {BAP} targets); and *Climate change – the UK programme*.

In 1998 the UK Government published the UK Forestry Standard (see below), bringing together, in one document, the criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests in the UK.

In 1999 the UK Government produced "A better quality of life: a strategy for sustainable development in the UK". This was linked with UK Indicators of Sustainable Development "Quality of Life Counts 1999". These included 15 "headline indicators". These were refreshed in 2004 <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/indicators/national/>.

In 2002 the *UK Forest Partnership for Action* was formed (<http://www.ukforestpartnership.org.uk/>). This is a partnership of government, the forest industry and environmental groups, set up to promote sustainable development in the forestry sector, both at home and internationally. It has agreed a number of priorities for action, including: Forest Certification; Forest Restoration and Protection; Illegal Logging; and Timber Procurement.

Supporting the UK Forest Standard is a suite of 8 Forests Guidelines (dating from 1990 through to 2003) covering: Nature Conservation; Landscape Design; Recreation; Archaeology; Community Woodland Design; Lowland Landscape Design; Soil; and Water.

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/searchpub/?SearchView&Query=\(Guidelines\)&SearchOrder=4&SearchMax=0&SearchWV=TRUE&SearchThesaurus=TRUE](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/searchpub/?SearchView&Query=(Guidelines)&SearchOrder=4&SearchMax=0&SearchWV=TRUE&SearchThesaurus=TRUE). These Guidelines have been reviewed following extensive consultation and a new, consolidated series will be produced in 2006.

In 2004 the **UK Forestry Standard** (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-5YXMGD>) was revised to take account of devolution and other developments such as the publication of the *UK indicators of sustainable forestry* ([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/pdf/fullsfi.pdf/\\$FILE/fullsfi.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/pdf/fullsfi.pdf/$FILE/fullsfi.pdf)). The latter contains 40 indicators grouped in to 6 themes of: woodland; biodiversity; forest environment; timber & forest products; people & forests; and economic aspects.

The Standard remains fully compatible with both the Helsinki Guidelines and the PEC (both of which can be viewed in the UK Forest Standard) and facilitated the production of a certification standard (the **UK Woodland Assurance Standard {UKWAS}**) <http://www.ukwas.org.uk/index.php> and the environmental labelling of UK-grown forest products. UKWAS is internationally recognised through the *Forest Stewardship Council* (FSC) and the *Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes* (PEFC).

In terms of wider sustainable development a shared, UK strategic framework for sustainable development was published in 2005: “**One future – different paths**” (<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/documents/publications/SD%20Framework.pdf>). This complemented “**Securing the Future**” [http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/documents/publications/strategy/SecFut\\_complete.pdf](http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/documents/publications/strategy/SecFut_complete.pdf), the Government’s new strategy for sustainable development. Five principles for sustainable development are recognised. For a policy to be sustainable, it must respect all five principles. The goal is to live within environmental limits with a strong, healthy and just society, by means of a sustainable economy, good governance and using sound science responsibly. The priority areas for shared action were agreed to be: Sustainable Consumption and Production; Climate change and energy; Natural Resource Protection & Environmental Enhancement; and Sustainable communities. To help measure progress, 20 UK Framework Indicators are being developed.

On a broader, organisational scale a number of initiatives have been launched to improve the delivery of public services. The catalyst for this was the **Modernising Government White Paper** 1999 <http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm43/4310/4310.htm> that set out to ensure that; policy making would become joined up and strategic; public service users, rather than providers, would be the focus; and services would become high quality and efficient.

In 2004 “**Civil Service Reform Delivery and Value**” [http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/reform/documents/delivery\\_values.pdf](http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/reform/documents/delivery_values.pdf) emphasised that the world has changed and that the culture of the Civil Service must change with it. In brief, the principal challenge is to shift focus from policy advice to delivery (outcome); to adapt to new situations and altering rules and practice accordingly; not to work in traditional departmental silos; and to work with partners outside Government. Following on from this, **Releasing resources to the front line** (“The Gershon Report”, 2004) [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/B2C/11/efficiency\\_review120704.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/B2C/11/efficiency_review120704.pdf) set out a strategy to release major resources out of activities that can be delivered more efficiently (“back office” tasks) into front line services that meet the public’s highest priorities. A key message from this was to simplify Civil Service administration.

## 5. Scotland

Since devolution in 1999, the Scottish Executive's primary aim has been aim to work with Scottish Ministers to improve the well-being of Scotland and its people. The Executive's priorities have been described in a number of key publications since 1999:

- ***“Social Justice ....a Scotland where everyone matters” 1999***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library2/doc07/sjmd-00.htm>

Social justice is about tackling poverty and injustice. It is about people and is also about places. Essentially it is an investment in fairness, equality and opportunity at both the individual and the area-based community level i.e. nobody should be disadvantaged by who they are or where they live. This publication set out a strategy to tackle social justice by investing in the people of Scotland to improve public services for all, tackle the social, educational and economic barriers that create inequality and end poverty. It also seeks to “close the opportunity gap” by giving people the opportunities they currently lack across the five priorities of health, education, crime, transport and jobs.

Linked to social justice is the concept of “*environmental justice*”. This means ensuring that people do not live in degraded surroundings with a poor quality of life caused by, for example, industrial pollution, litter, graffiti and vandalism. Dealing with environmental injustice is another core aim of the Executive.

- ***Social Inclusion - Opening the door to a better Scotland (1999)***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library/documents-w7/sima-00.htm>

Social exclusion has been defined as "a shorthand label for what can happen when individuals or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown". This report explains the principles of social inclusion, including an underlying commitment to the empowerment of individuals and communities, and an emphasis on prevention as the most effective and sustainable way of tackling social exclusion in the long term. The report also describes the four strands of the Executive's action programme - promoting opportunities, tackling barriers to inclusion, promoting inclusion among children and young people, and building stronger communities.

- ***The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999***

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5zgkw1>

The Forestry Commission is responsible administering the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999.

These regulations affect four “forestry” projects. These are:

- ◇ **Afforestation:** Planting new woods and forests, includes direct seeding or natural regeneration, planting Christmas trees or short rotation coppice;
- ◇ **Deforestation:** Felling woodland to use the land for a different purpose;
- ◇ **Forest roads:** The formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways on land used (or to be used) for forestry purposes. This includes roads within a forest or leading to one; and
- ◇ **Forestry quarries:** Quarrying to obtain materials required for forest road works on land that is used or will be used for forestry purposes or on land held or occupied with that land.

The regulations give each of these projects an area threshold. Lower thresholds are given for projects that lie within sensitive areas e.g. National Park, AONB.

- ***“The Way Forward: Framework for Economic Development in Scotland” 2000***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/economics/feds.pdf>

This declared a vision that economic development should raise the quality of life of the Scottish people through increasing economic opportunities for all, on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis. It gave priority to; the basic education system; transportation and electronic infrastructure; enterprise support; and the contribution of economic policy to the continuing prosperity of the regions of Scotland, to the reduction of social deprivation and to improved health.

- ***“A Smart Successful Scotland – Ambitions for the Enterprise Networks” 2001***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/enterprise/sss-00.asp>

This publication set out a vision for a Scotland where creating, learning and connecting faster was the basis for sustained productivity growth, competitiveness and prosperity (a strong economy for a strong society). To achieve that the Enterprise Networks were charged with growing businesses, achieving global connections and enhancing learning and skills.

- ***Highlands and Islands Enterprise Smart Successful Scotland: The Highlands and Islands Dimension 2002***

<http://www.hie.co.uk/HIE-hie-strategy-2002.pdf>

This set out the ambitions of the Highlands and Islands Enterprise network in delivering the national imperatives set out in “*A Smart Successful Scotland – Ambitions for the Enterprise Networks*” 2001, in that half of Scotland which contains just 8% of the population. The vision is for the area to become a dynamic and prosperous region at the economic and cultural heart of a progressive Scotland, making a distinctive and valued return to the UK and Europe. The aim is to enable people living in the Highlands and islands to realise their full potential. This will be achieved through four strategic objectives:

- ◇ Strengthening communities;
- ◇ Developing skills;
- ◇ Growing businesses; and
- ◇ Making global connections.

- ***Meeting the Needs....Priorities , Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland 2002***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/rural/mtnsd-00.asp>

This re-affirmed the Parliament’s commitment to sustainable development based on the principles that we should:

- ◇ have regard for others who do not have access to the same level of resources or wealth (environmental and social justice);
- ◇ minimise the impact of our actions on future generations by radically reducing our use of resources and by minimising environmental impacts; and
- ◇ live within the capacity of the planet to sustain our activities and replenish resources which we use.

To give impetus to sustainable development three priority areas, with possible targets were identified:

- ◇ Resource use;
- ◇ Energy (from renewable resources); and
- ◇ Travel (better land use planning and sustainable transport systems).

24 Indicators of Sustainable Development for Scotland were identified.

- ***The Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement 2002***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/sfps-00.asp>

Scotland's climate is different in many ways to the rest of the United Kingdom. Weather in the North of Scotland can be harsh and extreme. On the east and west coasts, weather is milder than in the North of Scotland, but the east suffers cold North Sea winds and the west can be very wet. These conditions make it particularly important that households in Scotland are able to heat their homes adequately.

Fuel poverty is not being able to heat a home to an acceptable standard at a reasonable cost and is caused by a combination of factors. Three of the most significant are household income, the cost of fuel, and energy efficiency of the home. This statement sets out the measures to eradicate such poverty by 2016.

- ***A Partnership for a Better Scotland (2003)***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/government/pfbs-00.asp>

This joint statement from the Scottish Labour Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats set out the Parliament's aims for the succeeding 4 years: to encourage and stimulate economic growth; tackle poverty and disadvantage; improve and sustain our environment; and to live in peace and safety. The desire is for a Scotland that: delivers sustainable development; puts environmental concerns at the heart of public policy and secures environmental justice for all of Scotland's communities.

Key priorities were established:

**Growing Scotland's economy** (the top priority) by:

- ◇ encouraging enterprise and lifelong learning;
- ◇ creating an effective transport system; and
- ◇ maintaining strong, prosperous and growing communities in rural Scotland.

**Delivering excellent public services** by;

- ◇ improving public services;
- ◇ improving Scotland's health; and
- ◇ improving education standards.

**Supporting stronger, safer communities** by:

- ◇ helping children and young people to realise their potential;
- ◇ creating a safer Scotland by reducing crime;
- ◇ enabling everyone to enjoy a decent quality of life (social justice); and
- ◇ making sport, culture and the arts inclusive and accessible.

**Developing a confident, democratic Scotland** by:

- ◇ creating a democratic framework (governance) that works well for its people and which puts the needs of communities and the country first;

**Working together** by:

- ◇ ensuring the two governing parties work effectively together

- ***Framework for Economic Development in Scotland (FEDS) 2004***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/government/fedsm.pdf>

This confirmed that growing the Scottish Economy is the top priority and also reaffirmed the 2000 vision: "Economic development should raise the quality of life of the Scottish people

through increasing economic opportunities for all, on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis.”

The challenge is to improve productivity as the UK lags significantly behind its major competitors and Scotland lags behind the UK (the gap widened in the period 1996-2002).

It laid out four principal outcome objectives:

- ◇ **economic growth** - with growth accelerated and sustained through greater competitiveness in the global economy;
- ◇ **regional development** - with economic growth a pre-requisite for all regions to enjoy the same economic opportunities, and with regional development itself contributing to national economic prosperity;
- ◇ **closing the opportunity gap** — with economic growth a pre-requisite for all in society to enjoy enhanced economic opportunities, and with social development in turn contributing to national economic prosperity; and
- ◇ **sustainable development** - in economic, social and environmental terms.

and four enabling objectives:

- ◇ a stable and supportive macroeconomic environment;
- ◇ a facilitating national economic context: encompassing the physical, human and electronic infrastructure;
- ◇ dynamic competitiveness in Scottish enterprises; and
- ◇ economic policies and programmes to secure the social, regional and environmental objectives.

It identified new emphases:

- ◇ **managing public finances**, so that we are efficient and effective in procuring and providing public services and investment, upholding the highest standards of financial and economic management;
- ◇ raising the **environmental sustainability** of economic development to safeguard the interests of future generations;
- ◇ **demographic change** in Scotland, which poses a set of challenges that we have to meet to guarantee the long-run sustainability of the economy; and the
- ◇ **planning system**, since it can facilitate or constrain enterprise and business development, and the quality of life.

With the main priorities for both private sector and public sector productivity re-stated as:

- ◇ **basic education and skills**: crucial to any strategy for economic growth and the bedrock for the foundation of a competitive economy;
- ◇ **research & development and innovation**: the foundations for improvements in productivity and for sustainable global competitiveness;
- ◇ **entrepreneurial dynamism**: the creation of new enterprise and a positive, risk-taking attitude to enterprise are central to the establishment of a dynamic economy;
- ◇ **the electronic and physical infrastructure**: joining business to business, consumer to business, and ensuring the efficient movement of goods, people, and ideas to the right places at the right times; and
- ◇ **managing public sector resources more effectively**: improving the efficiency and effectiveness with which resources are deployed in the provision of public services.

- ***A Smart Successful Scotland – Strategic direction to the Enterprise Networks and an enterprise strategy for Scotland 2004***

[http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/publications/smart\\_successful\\_scotland\\_refresh.pdf](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/publications/smart_successful_scotland_refresh.pdf)

This refreshed the 2001 publication with the aim of achieving the FEDS vision through a smart, successful Scotland where sustained and sustainable economic growth rests on continuing improvements in productivity. It sets out a mechanism for doing so in partnership by:

- ◇ **Growing businesses**                      delivering innovative companies growing in scale.
- ◇ **Learning and skills**                      making best use of our human capital and prepare for tomorrow's labour market.
- ◇ **Global connections** create world class locations as part of Europe and connected to the global economy.

- ***The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/20030001.htm>

This Act formed part of the Executive's modernising agenda and places a duty to secure "Best Value" in local government service provision. It also gave the statutory basis for community planning via Community Planning Partnerships.

- ***Community Planning Statutory Guidance***

This flowed from the Local Government in Scotland Act and set two main aims of Community Planning:

- ◇ Making sure people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions made on public services which affect them; allied to
- ◇ A commitment from organisations to work together, not apart, in providing better public services.

Two key principles were also outlined:

- ◇ Community Planning as the key over-arching partnership framework helping to co-ordinate other initiatives and partnerships and where necessary acting to rationalise and simplify a cluttered landscape; and
- ◇ The ability of Community Planning to improve the connection between national priorities and those at regional, local and neighbourhood levels.

- ***The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2004/20040258.htm>

These regulations impose a requirement to assess the effect of certain plans and programmes on the environment (as compared to the assessment of individual projects). These are commonly referred to as **Strategic Environmental Assessments** and form part of the sustainable development agenda.

One of the core environmental commitments the Scottish Executive made in *Partnership for a Better Scotland* was to legislate to introduce SEA across the range of all new strategies, plans and programmes developed by the public sector in Scotland. This goes beyond the Executive's existing obligation to give effect to the European Directive on the Assessment of Environmental Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes (2001/42/EC).

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) provides a systematic method of considering the likely effects on the environment of strategies, plans and programmes that set a broad-based context for future development activity. The Scottish Ministers regard it as a vital tool for

putting the environment at the heart of public sector activity, ensuring that alternative strategies, plans and programmes are fully and transparently considered before final decisions are taken. It is a key component of sustainable development.

- ***The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2005/20050015.htm>

This Act was one of the commitments relating to the Executive's "A Partnership for a Better Scotland" and introduces the need for Strategic Environmental Assessments for certain plans and programmes. It came into force on 20 February 2006 and repealed the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004, which was in force prior to the Act.

- ***Building a Better Scotland – Spending Proposals 2005-2008***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/enterprise/babs-00.asp>

This spending strategy re-emphasised that growing the economy was the top priority as it is "...the foundation on which we secure our children's future, the prosperity of our families and the capacity to drive up standards of public service that allow everyone to achieve their ambitions". To do so it focused on education and skills; research & development and innovation; entrepreneurial dynamism; the electronic and physical infrastructure (including a transport fund for forestry); and managing public sector resources more effectively.

The strategy also outlined the Parliament's philosophy towards the priorities set out in *A Partnership for a Better Scotland* (2003). For example:

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Safer, stronger communities:</b>   | clean and safe local environments<br>quality of life (including cultural facilities)<br>affordable housing<br>building sustainable communities<br>protection from crime<br>Environmental Justice Fund |
| <b>Confident democratic Scotland:</b> | greater involvement by people<br>invest in Scotland's cultural life<br>investment in education and visitor facilities in the Highlands (in advance of 2007 Year of Highland Culture)                  |
| <b>Securing Efficient Government:</b> | better procurement (eg e-procurement)<br>shared support and transactional services<br>streamlining bureaucracy  |

Three cross-cutting themes were identified:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Closing the Opportunity Gap:</b> | Improving the skills of the most disadvantaged children and young people;<br>regenerating the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods;<br>improving the health status of those in the most deprived communities;<br>improving access to high quality services for the most disadvantaged groups and individuals in rural communities;<br>mainstreaming equality in all policies/services;and |
|-------------------------------------|--|

tackling discrimination.

**Promoting Equality:** Promoting equal opportunities more widely.

**Embedding Sustainable Development principles:** Duty of best value; Strategic Environmental Assessments; and increased public availability of environmental information.

Targets were set for the three priorities identified in *Meeting the needs* (Resource use, Energy and Travel).

• ***Going for Green Growth: a green jobs strategy for Scotland 2005***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/1693437/34386>

This strategy looks at the opportunities that our, and others', commitment to sustainable development represents. It sets an aim of seizing the business opportunities and advantages arising from the belief in, and commitment to, sustainable development. The vision is for a vibrant, low-carbon economy with Scotland a centre for green enterprise.

Two key areas of activity are identified:

- ◇ **Resource efficiency**  
Improving efficiency through smarter use of resources (water, energy, solid waste or raw materials).
- ◇ **New business opportunities**  
Renewable energy (particularly woodfuel from managed forests);  
Waste management and recycling, and “Other” (eg biofuels; construction & sustainable design; organic farming; eco-tourism and outdoor recreation; cleaner technologies including carbon sequestration; consultancy and energy audits.

In terms of “making it happen” the strategy is clear that “ the private sector is the engine of business productivity and of economic growth. However, the public sector has an important role to play in fostering an environment in which the private sector can flourish. This includes addressing any apparent market failures by supplying public goods which would not be supplied by the market; helping to remove market barriers to competition; addressing information failures; and dealing with externalities when the market outcome may not take into account wider social benefits or costs, for example environmental impacts”.

It goes on to identify five broad types of activity where the public sector can add real value:

- ◇ Information and awareness;
- ◇ Delivery of specialist advice;
- ◇ Access to finance to exploit opportunities;
- ◇ Creating a market; and
- ◇ Skills

- **Closing the Opportunity Gap (update) 2005**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Social-Inclusion/17415/opportunity>

Six closing the opportunity gap objectives were announced in 2004 and confirmed in this paper, together with targets:

- ◇ To increase the chances of sustained employment for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups - in order to lift them permanently out of poverty;
- ◇ To improve the confidence and skills of the most disadvantaged children and young people - in order to provide them with the greatest chance of avoiding poverty when they leave school;
- ◇ To reduce the vulnerability of low income families to financial exclusion and multiple debts - in order to prevent them becoming over-indebted and/or to lift them out of poverty;
- ◇ To regenerate the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods - in order that people living there can take advantage of job opportunities and improve their quality of life;
- ◇ To increase the rate of improvement of the health status of people living in the most deprived communities - in order to improve their quality of life, including their employability prospects; and
- ◇ To improve access to high quality services for the most disadvantaged groups and individuals in rural communities - in order to improve their quality of life and enhance their access to opportunity.

- **The Regulatory Reform Act 2001** <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/20010006.htm>, **“Regulation – Less is More” 2005** [http://www.brtf.gov.uk/docs/pdf/lessismore\\_exec-summary.pdf](http://www.brtf.gov.uk/docs/pdf/lessismore_exec-summary.pdf); the Government’s response [http://www.brtf.gov.uk/docs/word/lessismore\\_response.doc](http://www.brtf.gov.uk/docs/word/lessismore_response.doc) and the **Hampton Review 2005 (Reducing administrative burdens; effective inspection and enforcement)** [http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/budget/budget\\_05/other\\_documents/bud\\_bud05\\_hampton.cfm](http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_05/other_documents/bud_bud05_hampton.cfm) are indicative of the thrust towards trying to simplify regulation and administrative burdens on business.

This has relevance to both Forestry Commission Scotland and other Scottish Executive grant schemes and regulatory duties. In Scotland Ministers have pledged to undertake public service reform under the leadership of the Minister for Finance and Public Services. The desire is to reform public services around the needs and expectations of the people who use them, to tackle bureaucracy, simplify funding and ensure services are flexible and focused. In addition a number of Best Value initiatives are underway, seeking to balance quality and cost considerations, and with regard to economy, efficiency, effectiveness, the equal opportunities arrangements, and sustainable development.

A common thread throughout is to bust jargon and strive for simplicity.

- **Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy 2005**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1493902/39032>

This document sets out at a high level what Ministers are trying to achieve in Scotland.

- ◇ It provides the strategic framework for a number of the Executive's new and emerging strategies on climate change, transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green jobs and biodiversity. It does not attempt to replicate the detail of those programmes.
- ◇ Each section sets out the outcomes being working towards: what difference new and existing programmes and investment will make.

- ◇ It looks at these issues from different perspectives: from a focus on the health and well-being of individuals in Scotland through to the sustainability of the planet, with learning to live more sustainably a theme which runs across them all.
- ◇ Some key issues - travel, food, waste and the built environment - are considered in the round, to help illustrate the connections between both problems and solutions.
- ◇ It sets out the contribution that people in Scotland can make, whether individually or collectively.

The strategy also draws out the connections between issues, making the links between problems that are often presented as disparate and disconnected. The strategy explores for example:

- ◇ the social and environmental consequences of our purchasing choices and use of resources;
- ◇ the interaction between people and the environment we live in;
- ◇ the human consequences of global environmental challenges such as climate change.

## 6. Scottish Sectoral

### Climate change

- **Scottish Climate Change Programme 2000**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1050/0002275.pdf>

Scotland is committed to contributing an equitable share to the UK legally binding obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

A number of key targets were set out in this report:

- ◇ Kyoto (UK commitment): Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels in the period 2008-2012.
- ◇ UK Climate Change Programme: 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010. 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.
- ◇ Scottish Programme: 18% electricity generated from renewables by 2010.

The land-use sector's role in these targets is crucial given that (in Scotland) it accounts for 37% of emissions. Forestry, however, was recognised as a sector that could contribute significantly to Scotland's Climate Change Programme through carbon sequestration, by substituting wood for fossil fuels and by substituting wood for more carbon intensive construction materials.

**NB** A revised Scottish Climate Change Programme is in the final stages of preparation as at 6 March 2006.

- ***Sustainable Housing Design Guide for Scotland 2000***

<http://www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/deps/cs/shdg/>

Commissioned by Communities Scotland this publication was designed to be a first source to consult by housing providers who wish to move toward more sustainable development. The impetus for this was the knowledge that timber is a renewable and environmentally friendly raw material, and UK woodland management standards are comparable to those of most other western European countries. In addition:

- ◇ between 40 and 50% of UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are attributable to buildings, two thirds of this to the domestic sector;
- ◇ 10 per cent of UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are due to embodied energy used in the construction process; and
- ◇ Scottish housing emits 17.8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum, an average of 8.5 tonnes per dwelling.

Housing in particular can make a significant contribution to sustainability because:

- ◇ it consumes large amounts of resource in its construction, maintenance and use;
- ◇ it is a fixed asset with a long life; and
- ◇ it is central to quality of life and has implications beyond housing affecting transport, health, employment and community.

- ***Potential Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in Scotland 2001***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/lightgreen/pascc-00.asp>

A report by the Scottish Executive Research Unit that made the following key points:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change detailed generic objectives for adapting to climate change:

- ◇ Improving the robust design of infrastructure and long-term investments;
- ◇ Increasing the flexibility of vulnerable managed systems (e.g. changing activity or location and reducing expected economic lifetimes);
- ◇ Enhancing the adaptability of vulnerable natural systems (e.g. reducing non-climatic stresses);
- ◇ Reversing decisions that work against effective adaptation (e.g. slowing development in vulnerable areas like flood plains); and
- ◇ Improving the preparedness and awareness of society.

Two important implications from the results of this project were:

- ◇ There is a natural (and healthy) tension when managing climate impacts between the requirement for strategic planning and the requirement for local decisions to implement appropriate adaptation strategies; and
- ◇ Many of the difficulties with respect to managing climate change reflect the crosscutting nature of its impacts, which require co-ordination between many different stakeholders within different landscape units.

Issues for Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Biodiversity were:

- ◇ The management of Scotland's natural resources is the sector most sensitive to climate change. The results from this project suggest that, above all else, adapting to climate change demands flexibility in resource management. Defining and attempting to conserve practices or one species in a fixed location are likely to fail.
- ◇ The results from this study suggested that even to pose appropriate questions about the impacts of climate change on land use required a more co-ordinated vision than was currently the case. The fragmented and often overlapping nature of policies for forestry, agriculture and biodiversity impeded appropriate adaptation strategies. In the

medium-term, drivers of change from agriculture, from mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, from sustainability issues and from the protection of biodiversity might lead to a blurring and perhaps complete removal of the distinctions between policies for forestry, agriculture and biodiversity;

- ◇ The use of strategic landscape units is common when managing natural resources and could be employed usefully in Scotland to explore appropriate climate strategies.

- ***Timber Cladding in Scotland 2002***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/housing/tcis-01.asp>

This Scottish Executive publication set out to encourage the use of timber cladding (compliant with the then Scottish Building Regulations) by setting out current best practice based on UK and experience in similar climates to Scotland (e.g. British Columbia and Norway). The benefits of appropriate timber cladding are:

- ◇ Improved energy efficiency;
- ◇ Promotion of good design and siting;
- ◇ Encouraging originality and innovation;
- ◇ Overcoming the disadvantages of remoteness e.g. high building costs;
- ◇ Stimulating the prudent use of natural resources;
- ◇ Supporting local economic development;
- ◇ Increasing the use of local raw materials

This report led to further research trials on home-grown timber (particularly Sitka spruce). A report on that work is expected in mid-2006.

The use of timber and timber cladding was further encouraged by Scottish Executive Planning Advice Notes (e.g. PAN 72 – Housing in the Countryside) – see Planning below. Equally a number of Local Authorities, such as Highland, Argyll, Aberdeen City Council and the City of Edinburgh Council, have produced local sustainable development guides.

- ***Securing a Renewable Future: Scotland's Renewable Energy 2003***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/srfe-00.asp>

This Policy document set an additional aspiration for Scotland to generate 40% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020. It also established a Forum for Renewable Energy in Scotland (FREDS) to play a key role in identifying, co-ordinating, and facilitating actions to promote the development of Scotland's renewable energy industry. The report also re-stated the Executive's commitment to working with the Scottish Community Renewables Initiative partners (the Energy Saving Trust and Highlands and Islands Enterprise) to develop small-scale renewables projects.

- ***Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland – Promoting and Accelerating the Market penetration of Biomass Technology in Scotland 2005***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/enterprise/pabtis-01.asp>

A report from the Biomass Energy Group (established by the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland {FREDS} in January 2004) with a vision to develop a biomass industry in Scotland which will lead the UK's efforts in this sector, while supporting sustainable rural development and creating a wealth of jobs across the supply chain. It identified a number of action points relating to fuel supply, demand, regulatory issues, co-firing, securing competitive advantage and support for renewable heat.

- ***The Environment and Rural Development Committee: Report on Inquiry into Climate Change 2005***

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/environment/reports-05/rar05-05-vol01-01.htm>

The Committee supported the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's target of at least a 60% reduction in 1990 CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels by 2050 ("If we go for business as usual ... we are destined for something unimaginable."). The Committee stated that **"forestry has the potential to make a disproportionate positive contribution to emissions reduction by sequestering carbon during the growing phase, and by reducing emissions where biomass is used as a renewable energy fuel or timber as a construction material."** It went on to recommend that much greater political priority should be accorded to the role of forestry in addressing climate change, and recommended a review of the Forestry Strategy to address climate change considerations comprehensively. It also advocated that rural development funding, and other support mechanisms, should be examined urgently to assess how they could provide appropriate incentives to develop forestry for carbon sequestration and for use as a construction material.

- ***Scotland's Renewable Energy Potential: Realising the 2020 Target 2005***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/09144010/40120#1>

This report by the Future Generation Group of FREDs concluded that Scotland is well placed to meet its renewable electricity targets, thereby contributing to tackling global warming and in so doing creating a viable new industry with particular benefits for remoter areas and communities. It recommended a total of around 6 GW renewable installed capacity, this being contained on the electricity system without threat to security of supply. They considered continuing support for onshore wind to be essential if investor confidence in the renewables market generally is to be maintained. It endorsed the implementation of the recommendations of the FREDs marine, biomass and hydrogen energy groups if these technologies are to make a contribution and Scotland is to achieve its ambition of a mix of renewables technologies.

- ***Biomass Task Force report to Government 2005***

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/acu/energy/biomass-taskforce/>

The report by the Biomass Task Force (chaired by Sir Ben Gill) sought to shift the barriers which stand in the way of the greater use of the biomass resource and to provide solutions leading to their removal. Central to the proposals was the fact that biomass is unique as the only widespread source of high-grade renewable heat and yet has not featured in policy despite the fact that heat accounts for one third of primary energy consumption.

- ***Wood Fuel for Warmth 2005***

[http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/news/resource\\_download\\_search.php?attach\\_id=T472CQY-76G8X6J-RPAG47Z-5THHT8H](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/news/resource_download_search.php?attach_id=T472CQY-76G8X6J-RPAG47Z-5THHT8H)

This report by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) in Scotland demonstrated that wood-fuel heating could make a significant contribution to cutting carbon emissions – while providing much needed new rural jobs, and reducing fuel poverty. It examines the issues surrounding wood fuel for heat in Scotland and makes a series of recommendations designed to enhance the use of wood fuel as a much needed contribution to reductions in carbon emissions required to deliver the stretching targets set by the Scottish Executive.

- ***EU Biomass Action Plan 2005***

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/res/biomass\\_action\\_plan/doc/2005\\_12\\_07\\_comm\\_biomass\\_action\\_plan\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/res/biomass_action_plan/doc/2005_12_07_comm_biomass_action_plan_en.pdf)

This plan concluded that Europe needs to break its dependence on fossil fuels and that biomass is one of the main alternatives.

## Planning

The Planning system has three goals: social justice, economic competitiveness and environmental quality. The planning process seeks to ensure that development is planned and designed so that it contributes to achieving them. The current emphasis on sustainability underlies how important this is, not just for us, but for future generations.

The Planning system has a pivotal role in shaping and delivering the Scottish Forestry Strategy. Details can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Planning-Building/Planning>

- ***The Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1997/1997008.htm>

Sets out the details of Structure Plans, Local Plans, Development plans, Development Control, Applications for Planning Permissions, compensation, enforcement and TPOs.

- ***Designing Places - A Policy Statement for Scotland***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/planning/dpps-00.asp>

This was the first policy statement on designing places in Scotland and marked the Scottish Executive's determination to raise standards of urban and rural development. It sets out the policy context for important areas of planning policy, design guidance, professional practice, and education and training. It is aimed at everyone who plays a part in shaping the built environment, whether as politicians, developers, planners, designers, opinion-formers or anyone else whose attitudes have a direct or indirect influence on what gets built.

- ***Indicative Forestry Strategies (Circular 9/1999)***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1999/04/circular-9-1999-root/circular-9-1999-strategy>

This Scottish Executive Development Department Circular advocated IFSs as playing a positive role in guiding and influencing future planting and felling. It reflects the multi-benefit nature and the positive roles which forestry can have in rural and peri-urban areas and underlines the importance of having sustainable policies for forestry that embrace environmental, social and economic objectives.

The Government want local authorities to have a role in influencing the future of forestry in their areas by articulating democratically expressed local views about this major land use. Consequently, the Circular gave a prominent role to planning authorities by having IFSs included in their Structure Plans. The principle of partnership is fundamental in view of the wide range of interests affected by forestry proposals.

- ***Scottish Planning Policies (SPPs)***

These set out the national approach to planning matters. Key documents of direct relevance to the SFS are:

- ◇ *SPP1 The Planning System* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/spp1-00.asp>  
This SPP provides an overview of the land use planning system in Scotland under current arrangements. It sets out the key principles and the Executive's priorities for the system to guide policy formulation and decision making towards the goal of **sustainable development**. It sets out how the planning system will contribute to economic competitiveness, social justice, environmental quality, design and integrated transport.
- ◇ *SPP2 Economic Development* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/spp2-01.asp>  
This emphasises that economic development should raise the quality of life of the Scottish people through increasing economic opportunities for all, on a socially and

environmentally sustainable basis. The planning system should provide strong support for economic development, both new and expanding businesses, where it is consistent with other national and local policies, in particular the promotion of social justice and sustainable development.

- ◇ SPP3 Planning for Housing <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/spp3-00.asp>. Refers to the need for energy efficient housing and sustainable housing design.
- ◇ *SPP15 Planning for Rural Development* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/spp15-00.asp> Rural Scotland is defined here as meaning the countryside and settlements of 3000 population or less, although the guidance will have wider relevance as the links between rural areas, small towns and urban areas are also important. It is estimated that about a million people, 19% of Scotland's total, live in rural areas. The SPP encourages a more supportive attitude towards 'appropriate' development whilst acknowledging and valuing the enormous diversity of rural Scotland. It sets out the approach, key messages and objectives that should underpin planning policies and decisions affecting rural areas and describes the increasingly important links between development planning and community planning.
- ◇ SPP17 Planning for Transport <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/16154406/44078>  
Land use planning has a key role in supporting the achievement of the Scottish Ministers' economic, environmental and social objectives. The national focus on transport is now on delivery of projects. Integration of land use and transport planning can play a positive role in supporting the Scottish Executive's transport delivery agenda. For the transport network to most effectively support the economy, land use planning should assist in reducing the need to travel; in creating the right conditions for greater use of sustainable transport modes; and in avoiding or mitigating adverse environmental impacts.
- ◇ A new SPP(11) on physical recreation and open space is being prepared and will set out space standards and promote green networks and outdoor access. Planning advice is also being developed on micro-renewables with the expectation that biomass, community heating, domestic wind and hydro systems will be encouraged.

- ***National Planning Guidance (NPPGs)***

NPPGs provide statements of Government **policy** on nationally important land use and other planning matters. Key documents for the SFS are:

- ◇ *NPPG 5 Archaeology and Planning* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1998/10/nppg5>  
As part of its intention to work towards sustainable development, this NPPG seeks to encourage the preservation of our heritage of sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic interest, so that they may be enjoyed today and passed on in good order to future generations.
- ◇ *NPPG 14 Planning and Natural Heritage* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1999/01/nppg14> gives guidance on how the Government's policies for the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural heritage should be reflected in land use planning.
- ◇ *NPPG 18 Planning and the Historic Environment* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1999/04/nppg18> This sets out the planning policies in relation to the historic environment with a view to its protection, conservation and enhancement. It explains how the protection of the historic environment and the promotion of opportunities for change can contribute to sustainable development and recognises that the historic environment comprises more than just the physical remains of the past. Social and economic factors contribute

significantly to the cultural heritage and help define the character of the historic environment.

Other NPPGs of potential relevance include: **NPPG 19** Radio Telecommunications; **NPPG 11** Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space; **NPPG 10** Planning and Waste Management  
**NPPG 6** Renewable Energy Developments; **NPPG 5** Archaeology and Planning; and **NPPG 4** Land for Mineral Working.

- **Planning Advice Notes (PANs)**

These provide guidance on delivery of policy objectives.

- ◇ *PAN 60 Planning for Natural Heritage* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2000/08/pan60-root/pan60> The Scottish Executive is committed to safeguarding Scotland's unique natural heritage and integrating the principles of sustainable development into all Government policies. This PAN provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment and encourages developers and planning authorities to be positive and creative in addressing natural heritage issues.
- ◇ *PAN 65 Planning and Open Space* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pan65-02.asp> Provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces. The planning system performs two key functions in relation to open space: protecting areas that are valuable and valued; and ensuring provision of appropriate quality in, or within easy reach of, new development.
- ◇ *PAN 67 Housing Quality* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pan67-00.asp> This note explains how “Designing Places” should be applied to new housing.
- ◇ *PAN 68 Design Statements* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pan68-00.asp> This note encourages all applicants, including developers, architects, designers and agents, to consider design as an integral part of the development process. The result should be improved quality of new development, lasting improvements to the built environment and successful places.
- ◇ *PAN 72 Housing in the Countryside* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pan72-00.asp> This sets out the key design principles which need to be taken into account: by applicants when planning a new development and by planning authorities, when preparing development plans and supporting guidance, and determining applications. The purpose is to create more opportunities for good quality rural housing which respects Scottish landscapes and building traditions.
- ◇ *PAN 73 Rural Diversification* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pan73-00.asp> Scottish Ministers are committed to supporting rural life, rural communities and the rural economy. This includes promoting sustainable development in rural areas. This PAN draws on recent research as well as existing initiatives, policies and best practice, across Scotland, the UK and further afield to highlight how the planning system can assist in rural diversification.
- ◇ *PAN 74 Affordable Housing* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pan74-00.asp> This sets out how the planning system can support the Executive's commitment to increase the supply of affordable housing. It provides advice and information, including existing examples of better practice. The planning contribution is set within the wider housing policy context and recognises other mechanisms for the provision of affordable housing, some of which are delivered by Communities Scotland.
- ◇ *PAN 75 Planning for transport* <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/16154453/44538> The aim of Scottish

Ministers is to create an accessible Scotland which has a safe, reliable and sustainable transport system. Integration is key to delivery. The integration of land use planning with transport, taking account of environmental aims and policies, and policies on economic growth, education, health and the objective of a fairer, more inclusive society, is crucial. Planning authorities should identify relevant national and stakeholder strategies and consider their co-ordination.

- **National Planning Framework for Scotland 2005**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/npf04-00.asp>

This is a framework to guide the spatial development of Scotland to 2025. It sets out a vision of Scotland in which other plans and programmes can share and to which they can contribute. It is not an economic development strategy but complements the Executive's *Framework for Economic Development in Scotland*, highlighting the importance of place and identifying priorities for investment in strategic infrastructure to enable each part of the country to play to its strengths in building a Scotland which is competitive, fair and sustainable. It divided Scotland in to four broad natural zones: the Northern Highlands and Islands; the Central Highlands; the Lowlands and the Southern Uplands.

- **Modernising the Planning System White Paper 2005**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/27113519/35231>

The proposals for modernisation include four main principles:

- ◇ **Fit-for-purpose** Getting away from the “one-size-fits –all” approach.
- ◇ **Inclusive** Widen opportunities for local involvement.
- ◇ **Efficient** Streamline decision making and appeals process.
- ◇ **Sustainability** Recognise planning’s role in sustainable economic development. Use of Strategic Environmental Assessments.

A plan hierarchy is proposed: National Planning Framework  
Strategic Development Plans (for City Regions)  
Local Development Plans

- **Planning etc(Scotland) Bill 2005**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/51-planning/index.htm>

This Bill results from *A Partnership for a Better Scotland (2003)* and seeks to strengthen the involvement of local communities, speed up decisions, reflect local views better and allow quicker investment decisions. This, therefore, relates to sustainable development.

The Bill also:

- ◇ Enhances the role and status of the National Planning Framework;
- ◇ Reinforces the primacy of development plans;
- ◇ Improves the operation of the Development Control process (now known as Development Management);
- ◇ Allows for better enforcement of unauthorised development;
- ◇ Enables earlier community involvement in the planning process;
- ◇ Amends Tree Preservation Orders so that some historical or veteran trees can be protected on grounds of “cultural or historical significance”(previously TPOs could only be served “in the interests of amenity”. It is also enables the immediate notification of a TPO (the previous system required lengthy notification procedures).

## Tourism and Access

- ***A New Strategy for Scottish Tourism 2000***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library2/doc11/sfst-00.asp>

The Scottish Executive's vision for Scotland's tourism industry identifies the need to develop a modern tourist industry in touch with its customers; a skilled and enterprising industry which has embraced the culture of lifelong learning; and an industry which provides the quality of service our visitors demand. If the industry itself responds to this challenge tourism can take its rightful place at the heart of Scotland's economy (it already accounts for 3% of Scotland's economic output). A key target was a 50% revenue growth from tourism by 2015.

A consultation, "*Ambitions for Tourism*"

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/20112717/27193> was launched by the Scottish Tourism Forum, on behalf of the Executive, in 2005 to help update the Tourism Strategy.

- **Tourism Framework for Action (2002-2005)**

[http://www.scotexchange.net/businessdevelopment/legislation/framework\\_for\\_action.htm](http://www.scotexchange.net/businessdevelopment/legislation/framework_for_action.htm)

This built on the New Strategy for Scottish Tourism. It set out the opportunities and challenges that face the industry and identifies what action needs to be taken, particularly by businesses themselves, supported by the public sector, if Scotland is to become a must-visit, must-return destination.

- **Visit Scotland's Vision 2005**

[http://www.scotexchange.net/tourism\\_organisations/scottishlevel/visitscotland/vs\\_vision\\_priorities\\_and\\_objectives.htm](http://www.scotexchange.net/tourism_organisations/scottishlevel/visitscotland/vs_vision_priorities_and_objectives.htm)

VisitScotland's vision is to contribute significantly to the advancement of Scottish tourism by giving it a real presence in the global marketplace and benefiting the whole of Scotland. Their priorities are:

- ◇ To attract visitors to Scotland;
- ◇ To engage with partners within the industry; and
- ◇ To add value to the visitor experience.

The core objectives are to:

- ◇ **Attract** visitors by building a successful Scottish tourism brand;
- ◇ **Market** Scotland as a must-visit, must-return destination for business and leisure travel domestically and internationally through a research based, multi media, fully integrated marketing programme;
- ◇ **Engage** and work in partnership with the tourism industry;
- ◇ **Enhance** the visitor experience;
- ◇ Provide strategic direction to the industry; and
- ◇ Manage its business efficiently and effectively.

- ***Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (see also – Rural)***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/20030002.htm>

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act ended the historic legacy of feudal law and created a framework for responsible access to land and inland water and also for rural and crofting communities to have the right to buy land in their area. It had three principle themes:

- ◇ Public Access - the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code**  
<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/access/ApprovedCode050604.pdf> explains rights of responsible access to land and inland water;
- ◇ Community Right to Buy - rural communities can register an interest in, and then buy, land following indication that a landowner wishes to sell; and
- ◇ Crofting Community Right to Buy - crofting communities have the right to acquire and control the croft land where they live and work.

Also included in the Act were the concepts of **core path networks** and **Local Access Forums**.

- ***Space for People 2004***

<http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/publications/publicationsmore/spaceforpeople.pdf>

A Woodland Trust report analysing the availability of accessible woodland in the UK and including an Access Standard (with an aspiration that no person should live more than 500m from an accessible wood of not less than 2 hectares nor more than 4 kilometres from a wood of 20 hectares).

## Health

- ***Disability Discrimination Act (1995)***

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga\\_19950050\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga_19950050_en_1.htm)

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) is a Government measure intended to reduce discrimination against disabled people. Significant parts of the law (such as employment) came into force on 2 December 1996. From October 1999 service providers have had to make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled people, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way services are provided. From October 2004 service providers have had to make 'reasonable adjustments' to the physical features of premises to overcome physical barriers to access. Parts of the law relating to education came into force in September 2002, with other parts having come into force in 2003 and with the final parts coming into force in 2005. New parts of the law relating to employment came into force in October 2004. There have been a number of amendments to the Act, by the passing of other acts (for example, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001) and by the passing of regulations.

- ***Towards a Healthier Scotland 1999***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library/documents-w7/tahs-00.htm>

This White Paper from the then Scottish Executive sought to address Scotland's record of ill-health. It recognised the country's position at or near the top of international "league tables" of the major diseases of the developed world - coronary heart disease, cancer and stroke. It also acknowledged that good health is more than not being ill, it required work on a broad front to improve **physical, mental and social wellbeing**, fitness and **quality of life**.

- ***Health in Scotland – the challenge 2003***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2003/03/16747/19932>

This framework focuses on tackling health inequalities as identified in two previous documents, ***Towards a Healthier Scotland*** White Paper 1999

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library/documents-w7/tahs-00.htm> and ***Our National Health: A plan for action, a plan for change*** 2001 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/health/onh-00.asp>. It

shifts emphasis away from ill health to prevention and health improvement. Of direct relevance to forestry is the intention is to close the health gap between rich and poor, and to tackle the "big three" priorities of heart disease, cancer and poor mental health.

- ***Let's Make Scotland More Active - A Strategy for Physical Activity 2003***  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/culture/lmsa-00.asp>

As a nation, Scotland is inactive, unfit and increasingly overweight (obese). The health of two-thirds of the Scottish adult population is now at risk from physical inactivity, making it the most common risk factor for coronary heart disease in Scotland today. This trend starts before young people have left school. The health effects of an inactive life are serious and accounts for over a third of deaths from heart disease and threatens the progress made in this area over many years. Added to this is the disease, disability and poor mental health that come from growing levels of obesity and a lack of physical strength. Physical inactivity has been called the 'silent killer of our time'.

This strategy was prepared by the Physical Activity Task Force that was set up in response to the White Paper "*Towards a Healthier Scotland*".

The Strategy sets out the vision that: "People in Scotland will enjoy the benefits of having a physically active life". The goal is: "To increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland." To achieve this the message for people is:

- ◇ be active most days;
- ◇ moderate activities are good for you; and
- ◇ be active for at least 30 minutes in total or one hour if you are a child or young person.

The strategy set a number of objectives, the most relevant to forestry being: to develop and maintain long-lasting, high-quality physical environments to support inactive people to become active.

- ***National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-Being action plan 2003-2006*** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2003/09/18193/26508>

Since its launch in October 2001, the National Programme has been working nationally and locally to raise the profile of, and to support further action in, mental health improvement (promotion and prevention), to address the stigma of mental ill health and to prevent suicide in Scotland. The work of the National Programme forms a key part of the Scottish Executive's work on improving health in Scotland and in achieving greater social justice by working to address mental health inequalities and reduce the opportunity gap experienced by people with mental health problems.

The four key aims for National Programme action during 2003-2006 are:

- ◇ Raising awareness and promoting mental health and well-being;
- ◇ Eliminating stigma and discrimination;
- ◇ Preventing suicide; and
- ◇ Promoting and supporting recovery.

The National Programme aims to work with and through others to achieve these key aims in the following priority areas:

- ◇ Improving infant mental health (the early years);
- ◇ Improving the mental health of children and young people;
- ◇ Improving mental health and well-being in employment and working life;
- ◇ Improving mental health and well-being in later life;
- ◇ Improving community mental health and well-being; and
- ◇ Improving the ability of public services to act in support of the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental illness.

- ***Mental Health Improvement: What Works? 2002***

[http://www.wellontheweb.org/well/files/Evidence%20briefing%20Scotland%20\(April%2003\).doc](http://www.wellontheweb.org/well/files/Evidence%20briefing%20Scotland%20(April%2003).doc)

A briefing produced by *Mentality* for the Scottish Executive's National Programme on Improving Mental Health and Well-being.

There is now an abundance of data demonstrating the importance of mental health and well-being to the overall health and productivity of individuals, families, organisations and communities in Scotland. This briefing summarises what is known about evidence of effectiveness for improving mental health.

Interventions to improve mental health have a role to play in preventing mental health problems, (notably depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviour and substance misuse) but they also have a much wider range of health, social and economic benefits. For example, interventions to build social support for excluded and isolated groups, to reduce stress in the workplace, to tackle bullying in schools, to increase access to green, open spaces and to reduce fear of crime, all contribute to health gain through improving mental well-being, in addition to any impact they may have on preventing mental disorders.

- ***Delivering for Health 2005***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/02102635/26356>

While essentially about the NHS this report set out a programme of action with the aim of continuing to improve the health of the people of Scotland with a shift towards preventive medicine and more continuous care in the community. Forestry can assist through the provision of opportunities for health-giving activity (both mental and physical) where it is most needed thus helping to reduce the health gap (the inequality in life expectancy across Scotland).

- ***Public attitudes and environmental justice in Scotland 2005***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/10/2791230/12310>

Environmental injustice is said to exist when some groups, in particular those living in more deprived communities, are unfairly or disproportionately more likely to suffer poor environmental conditions (environmental inequity); and when one or more groups do not have adequate access to the information and decision making structures that affect their local environment.

This report is a study of the reported incidence, distribution and impact of subjective environmental incivilities in Scotland ('environmental incivility' is any aspect of the environment that people are capable of discerning through hearing, sight, touch or smell and about which they may be inclined to feel negatively eg litter and graffiti, overhead power lines or a landfill site, and 'goods' that may be absent such as somewhere pleasant to walk or sit).

Those suffering environmental injustice are more likely to feel anxious, more likely to say they get depressed, and more likely to consider their health to be poor for someone of their age. They are also more likely to smoke. Those lacking somewhere pleasant to walk are more likely to report not having taken a walk of a mile or more over the last year as well as being more likely to smoke. It appears that the presence of environmental incivilities has an adverse impact on community cohesion.

The study suggests that an attempt to reduce environmental incivilities in deprived areas would help reduce inequality and could be expected to improve the health status and community cohesion of those living in such areas.

- ***Trees and Woodlands: Nature's Health Service***

<http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/inf-d-5zbbg5>

This FC publication provides information and evidence (from England) supporting the idea that the use and enjoyment of woodlands and green spaces improves people's overall health and well-being.

- ***The Education (National Priorities) (Scotland) Order 2000***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2000/20000443.htm>

This Order set out the five priorities for education in Scotland:

- ◇ To raise standards of educational attainment for all in schools, especially in the core skills of literacy and numeracy, and to achieve better levels in national measures of achievement including examination results;
- ◇ To support and develop the skills of teachers, the self discipline of pupils and to enhance school environments so that they are conducive to teaching and learning;
- ◇ To promote equality and help every pupil benefit from education, with particular regard paid to pupils with disabilities and special educational needs, and to Gaelic and other lesser used languages;
- ◇ To work with parents to teach pupils respect for self and one another and their interdependence with other members of their neighbourhood and society and to teach them the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society;
- ◇ To equip pupils with the foundation skills, attitudes and expectations necessary to prosper in a changing society and to encourage creativity and ambition.

Woodlands and forests can help schools to deliver the National Priorities, particularly: inclusion and equality; values and citizenship; and learning for life.

- ***“Life Through Learning; Learning Through Life” - The Lifelong Learning Strategy for Scotland 2003***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/lifelong/lism-00.asp>

Lifelong learning encompasses the whole range of learning: formal and informal learning, workplace learning, and the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that people acquire in day-to-day experiences. It is about personal fulfilment and enterprise; employability and adaptability; active citizenship and social inclusion.

5 main goals were identified:

- ◇ A Scotland where people have the confidence, enterprise, knowledge, creativity and skills they need to participate in economic, social and civic life;
- ◇ A Scotland where people demand and providers deliver a high quality learning experience;
- ◇ A Scotland where people's knowledge and skills are recognised, used and developed to best effect in their workplace;
- ◇ A Scotland where people are given the information, guidance and support they need to make effective learning decisions and transitions; and
- ◇ A Scotland where people have the chance to learn, irrespective of their background or current personal circumstances

The benefits are:

- ◇ Lifelong learning contributes to the development of society through the achievement of other social goals such as civic participation, sustainable development, improved health and wellbeing, reduced crime and greater social cohesion.
- ◇ Investment in knowledge and skills brings direct economic returns to individuals and collective economic returns to society.

Forestry can help deliver lifelong learning opportunities through its work, its employees, community engagement and relevant partnerships.

- ***Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/shasla-00.asp>

This contains information for practitioners on the provisions within the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2004/20040004.htm> which aims to modernise and improve the current system for identifying and addressing the needs of all children and young people who may face a barrier to learning and need additional support.

This is of relevance as forests can provide a robust and calm learning environment for children with certain support needs.

- ***Out There (2005)***

<http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/ChannelNavigation/Resource+Library/Publications/Out+there+Country+side+sports.htm>

Sportscotland's consultation on its current policy position and aspirations for countryside sports. The vision is to see countryside sports practised to their full potential, by all and in harmony with the environment.

## Transport

- ***Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2003***

<http://www.ukfpa.co.uk/>

This booklet sets out the actions required to deliver the aim of enhancing the efficiency, safety and environmental standards of timber transport to increase the competitiveness of the industry.

- ***Scotland's Transport Delivering Improvements 2002***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/transport/stdi-03.asp>

This report set a vision of: delivering transport improvements consistent with the Executive's overarching vision and appropriate to the needs in different parts of Scotland, and delivering a transport system fit for the 21st century. It highlighted the need to focus on congestion in and around major metropolitan areas; the delivery of greater integration and the completion of vital missing links in the transport network.

- ***Scotland's Transport: Delivering Improvements: Transport Indicators for Scotland***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/transport/stdi-01.asp>

This document was a follow-up to the above and emphasised that the Executive is also committed to improving rural transport networks and is very conscious of the pivotal role transport plays in the Scottish economy. It also stressed that safety within communities is paramount.

## Water/Soil/Air

- ***Water Framework Directive 2000***

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/wfd/>

The Water Framework Directive is a wide-ranging and ambitious piece of European environmental legislation which became law in Scotland at the end of 2003 through the ***Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/20030003.htm>

The Directive establishes a new legal framework for the protection, improvement and sustainable use of surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater across Europe in order to:

- ◇ Prevent deterioration and enhance status of aquatic ecosystems, including groundwater;
- ◇ Promote sustainable water use;
- ◇ Reduce pollution; and
- ◇ Contribute to the mitigation of floods and droughts.

The main environmental objectives are to protect and improve Scotland's water environment. This will include preventing deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and, where possible, restoring surface waters and groundwater damaged by pollution, water abstraction, dams and engineering activities to 'good status' by 2015.

In Scotland, this work is being taken forward by SEPA, in conjunction with the Scottish Executive, in line with the timetable for action set in the Directive. SEPA is organising its work on the Directive under a number of key work areas:

- ◇ **Regulatory regimes** to control activities not previously regulated in Scotland, to ensure that WFD objectives are met. These regimes cover abstractions, impoundments, and engineering works as well as a new control regime for point source discharges to replace the existing Control of Pollution Act (CoPA) 1974.
- ◇ **River Basin Characterisation** via environmental pressures and impacts analysis (which will identify those water bodies that are at risk of failing the environmental objectives set out in the Directive) and economic characterisation (links economic activity with the environmental impacts that result from it) will lead to a monitoring network to identify where improvement action is required.
- ◇ **Monitoring and classification** based on a new Ecological Classification system to cover all surface water and groundwater bodies. The new system, with five quality classes underpinned by monitoring a range of biological quality elements, will be supported by measurements of physico-chemistry, hydrology and morphology.
- ◇ **River Basin Management Planning**. Each River Basin District must have a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) by 2009. These plans will set out, amongst other things, the environmental objectives (targets) for all water bodies, present the Programme of Measures (actions) to achieve these objectives and display the monitoring programmes set up to assess progress. Crucially the RBMP's must be produced in a participative and consultative manner. SEPA is charged with leading and developing this new basin planning process in Scotland and will seek to work with stakeholders to produce effective and deliverable plans. Delivering the Programme of Measures will rely on a number of organisations, individuals and other plans and planning processes working together to shared objectives.

To inform the production of guidance and these SEPA themes, a range of research activities and contracts are underway or scheduled. SEPA takes forward much of its WFD research via the Scottish and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research (SNIFFER).

- *The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Working Together for Clean Air 2000* <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy/>

These proposals form an essential part of the UK's strategy for sustainable development with its four aims of: social progress which meets the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; prudent use of natural resources; and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Although primarily concerned with reducing pollution (8 specific pollutants, including ozone) there are elements of direct relevance to forestry, notably: supporting local authorities' via land use planning; and creating opportunities for more people to cycle and walk rather than using cars.

- ***Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA) Code***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/pepfaa-00.asp>

This Code provides practical guidance for farmers and those involved in agricultural activities, including farm advisers, on minimising the risks of environmental pollution from farming operations.

- ***EU Thematic Soil Strategy (imminent)***

<http://www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&q=EU+Thematic+Soil+Strategy&meta=>

Soil is subject to a number of degradation processes or threats in the EU. In an earlier communication "Towards a Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection", the Commission identified eight threats to soil, namely: erosion, decline in organic matter, **local and diffuse** contamination, sealing, compaction, decline in biodiversity, salinisation **and** landslides.

As stipulated in the 6th Environment Action Programme, the European Union has decided to adopt a Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection as part of its aim of protection and preservation of natural resources. The Commission services are currently finalising a proposal for this Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection.

The Strategy will comprise three elements: a Communication laying down the principles of Community Soil protection Policy; a Legislative proposal for the protection of soil- A Soil Framework Directive - that would aim to strike the right balance between EU action and subsidiarity; and An analysis of the environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposals.

- ***The National Waste Strategy 1999***

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/guidance/nws\\_1999.htm](http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/guidance/nws_1999.htm)

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) published this National Waste Strategy for Scotland (NWS). It was driven by a combination of European Legislation, environmental pressures and public expectation and outlines how Scotland can set about decreasing the amount of waste being landfilled and increase the amount being reused and recycled. It was designed to help Scotland move towards more sustainable waste management practices, by reducing the quantity and hazardous state of the waste and increasing the amount of value recovered.

- ***The National Waste Plan 2003***

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/guidance/nwp.htm>

***This document is regarded as*** the keystone to implementing the National Waste Strategy and was launched by SEPA and the Scottish Executive. It outlines how Scotland can achieve increased levels of recycling and an overall reduction in the amount of waste we produce by 2020. Its publication followed extensive research and consultation by SEPA in partnership with local authorities, the waste industry and community groups.

Headlines are:

- ◇ A seven-fold increase in recycling and composting waste, and a reduction in the use of landfill sites by 66%;
- ◇ The National Plan and 11 Area Plans set out the Executive's targets for sustainable waste management until 2020, including plans for segregated kerbside recycling waste collection in nine out of ten Scottish homes;
- ◇ Initial targets of recycling and composting 25% of municipal waste by 2006, and by 2020 raising this figure to 55%; and
- ◇ Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill from 90% to 30% by 2020.

Businesses were also asked to play an important role: "Being green will not mean being in the red - it can be good both for the environment and the bottom line. The National Plan will help develop new markets for recycled material which can be exploited by companies in Scotland."

## Natural Heritage

- **Ramsar Convention 1971**

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-161>

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Sites proposed for selection are advised by the UK statutory nature conservation agencies. In selecting sites, the relevant authorities are guided by the criteria set out in the Convention. Compared to many countries, the UK has a relatively large number of Ramsar sites, but they tend to be smaller in size than many countries. The initial emphasis was on selecting sites of importance to waterbirds within the UK, and consequently many Ramsar sites are also Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive. However, greater attention is now being directed towards the selection and review of Ramsar sites based on non-bird features.

- **EU Birds Directive 1979**

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1979/en\\_1979L0409\\_do\\_001.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1979/en_1979L0409_do_001.pdf)

This Directive addresses the conservation of all wild birds throughout the European Union, including marine areas, and covers their protection, management, control and exploitation. It applies to the birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. It places a broad requirement on Member States to take necessary measures to maintain the populations of all wild birds at levels determined by ecological, scientific and cultural needs. In doing so, Member States must also consider economic and recreational needs. The Directive divides into two main parts: habitat conservation and species protection. In summary, it requires Member States to preserve, maintain and re-establish sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all wild birds.

- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (which amended the status of capercaillie)**

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1377>

This Act consolidated and amended existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain. It generally makes it an offence to:

- ◇ intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests with special penalties available for offences related to birds listed on Schedule 1. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking birds, restricts the sale and possession of captive bred

- birds, and sets standards for keeping birds in captivity;
- ◇ intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed in Schedule 5 and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places. The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals;
- ◇ pick, uproot, trade in, or possess (for the purposes of trade) any wild plant listed in Schedule 8 and prohibits the unauthorised intentional uprooting of such plants; and
- ◇ establish non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9.

The Act provides for the notification and protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – areas of special scientific interest by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. It also prohibits the undertaking of agricultural or forestry operations on land within National Parks (as applied to England) which has been either moor or heath for 20 years, without consent from the relevant planning authority.

The Act also requires authorities to maintain up to date definitive maps and statements, for the purpose of clarifying public rights of way.

- ***The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992***

<http://www.biodiv.org/convention/articles.asp>

This is a United Nations high level agreement made at the Rio Earth Summit, to which the UK is a signatory, and which commits us to "*the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources*".

- ***Forest Biological Diversity***

<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/forest/default.asp>

The CBD addresses forests directly through the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity adopted in 2002. The forest work programme constitutes a broad set of goals, objectives and activities aimed at the conservation of forest biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising from the utilisation of forest genetic resources. The programme consists of three elements. The first covers largely biophysical aspects, such as the reduction of threats to forest biological diversity through restoration, agroforestry, watershed management, and the establishment of protected areas. The second element deals with the institutional and socio-economic environment that in turn enables the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity. The third element covers assessment and monitoring.

- ***EU Habitats and Birds Directives (1992)***

<http://www.snh.org.uk/about/directives/ab-dir01.asp>

These remain the two most influential pieces of European legislation relating to nature conservation and are a major contribution by the European Community to implementing the 1992 Biodiversity Convention.

The 'Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora' was adopted in 1992 and is commonly known as the Habitats Directive. It complements and amends the 1979 'Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds', commonly known as the Birds Directive.

The Birds Directive protects all wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats within the European Community. It gives EU member states the power and responsibility to classify **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** to protect birds which are rare or vulnerable in Europe as well as all migratory birds which are regular visitors.

The Habitats Directive builds on the Birds Directive by protecting natural habitats and other species of wild plants and animals. Together with the Birds Directive, it underpins a European network of protected areas known as **Natura 2000**. This network includes SPAs classified under the Birds Directive and a new set of international nature conservation areas introduced by the Habitats Directive, **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**.

As well as establishing Natura 2000 areas, the Directive has a number of wider implications, such as those relating to European Protected Species. The Birds Directive also makes certain provisions for protection of wild birds in the wider countryside outwith protected areas.

- **UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)**

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>

is the UK Government's response to the above Convention and describes the UK's biological resources; commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources; and has 391 Species Action Plans, 45 Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans with targeted actions.

- **Natural Heritage Futures**

<http://www.snh.org.uk/futures/Data/>

Scottish Natural Heritage has prepared a suite of publications to guide the future management of the natural heritage towards 2025, within the wider context of sustainable development. The Natural Heritage Futures initiative promotes integrated management of the natural heritage and is based on three main outputs:

- ◇ the natural heritage across 6 national themes (including forests and woodlands);
- ◇ the natural heritage in 21 local areas (each of which has its own distinctive identity resulting from the interaction of geology, landforms, landscapes, wildlife and land use);and
- ◇ national assessments which provide data and information about the natural heritage, presented both at national level and within each of the 21 areas.

These publications emphasise that people's lives depend on having a healthy, attractive and effectively functioning environment, as well as robust social structures and a viable economy. The aim of achieving all those things together is sustainable development.

- **6th EU Environmental Action Programme(2001-2010)**

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/>

This takes forward the above Convention and identified four environmental areas to be tackled for improvements: Climate Change; Nature and Biodiversity; Environment and Health and quality of life; and Natural Resources and Waste. It includes a target to: "*protect and restore the functioning of natural systems and to halt the loss of biodiversity in the European Union by 2010*".

- **Nature Conservation (Scotland ) Act (2004)**

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2004/20040006.htm>

This Act sets out measures to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. It introduces a new general duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity and to have regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

It extends, develops and will ultimately replace the existing SSSI system; enhances protection of wildlife (including a new concept of reckless disturbance); introduces a fossil code; and put a requirement on Ministers to designate a Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

- **Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands 2004** (Scottish Biodiversity Strategy)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/05/19366/37239>

This strategy sets out a vision for the future health of Scotland's biodiversity, and maps out a 25-year framework for action to conserve and enhance biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and well-being of all the people of Scotland. It aims to meet UK and international obligations.

The Strategy identified a number of common issues requiring action:

- ◇ Promoting biodiversity as a key consideration of all proposals, plans and policies. The *Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004* made this a statutory obligation on public bodies;
- ◇ Supporting the *UK Biodiversity Action Plan* (UKBAP) prioritised and targeted action for key species and habitats through *Species and Habitat Action Plans* (SAPs and HAPs);
- ◇ Taking account of the *Scottish Priority Species and Habitats List* (a requirement of the *Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004*);
- ◇ Improving data management and sharing (through the National Biodiversity Network and Local Record Centres);
- ◇ Engaging with businesses in the context of sustainable development commitments;
- ◇ Taking steps to address Climate Change;
- ◇ Conserving genetic biodiversity (a requirement under the *Convention on Biological Diversity* 1992);
- ◇ Minimising the environmental impact and threat of non-native species; and
- ◇ Incorporating the ecosystem approach (a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way).

- **Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plans(2005-2007)**

<http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/pageType1.php?id=3&type=1&navID=31>

These implementation plans have been produced by the Scottish Biodiversity Forum. They identify the priority actions to begin to implement the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy over its first 3 years. The actions complement the targets in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

The identified priorities for action are:

- ◇ restoration of natural processes within forest ecosystems through the development of forest habitat and other semi-natural habitat networks;
- ◇ restoration and condition improvement of ancient and semi-natural woodlands;
- ◇ restructuring of production woodlands to increase biodiversity;
- ◇ improving the protection of ancient and native woodland; and
- ◇ better understanding the nature and condition of the woodland resource.

- **Building a Better Scotland – Spending Proposals 2005-2008**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/enterprise/babs-00.asp>

A high level target was expressed for bringing the natural features of SSSIs into favourable condition (80% by 2008, 95% by 2010).

## Deer Management

- **Wild Deer in Scotland: A long-term vision 2000**

<http://www.dcs.gov.uk/downloads/Vision%20Statement.pdf>

This is the Deer Commission for Scotland's vision for the place of wild deer in Scotland in 15-20 years time. Overall the intention is to manage wild deer on a sustainable basis to produce a valued asset with a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits both locally and in the wider public interest. There is an emphasis on integrated management between land-uses

- ***Deer Commission for Scotland: Long Term Strategy 2001***

<http://www.dcs.gov.uk/downloads/Vision%20Statement.pdf>

This strategy sets deer management in the context of sustainable land management, local rural economics and the protection of agriculture, woodlands and vulnerable natural heritage habitats and landscapes.

- ***Joint Agency Agreement on Deer Management 2004***

<http://www.dcs.gov.uk/downloads/AGREEMENT%20ON%20STRATEGIC%20PRINCIPLES%20FOR%20USING%20INCENTIVES.doc>

DCS, FCS, SEERAD & SNH, are the Scottish public bodies most closely involved with deer management. They agreed on the need for a joint approach to working with deer managers on the use of incentives and regulation and to secure effective management of deer and other herbivores where their impacts on the environment or public safety are causing concern. This will be governed by strategic principles aimed at securing the maximum overall public benefit and meeting international obligations.

- ***Joint Agency Agreement and Guidance on the use of Deer Fencing 2004***

<http://www.dcs.gov.uk/downloads/final%20fencing%20policy.pdf>

A joint agreement between DCS, FCS, SNH AND SEERAD to promote best practice and assist both private individuals and the public sector agencies in deciding whether to fund and/or permit deer fencing. Issues to be taken in to account include: public safety; biodiversity; deer welfare; landscape and cultural heritage; access and socio-economics.

- ***Best practice Guidance 2004 et seq***

[http://www.dcs.gov.uk/BestPractice/p\\_downloads.htm](http://www.dcs.gov.uk/BestPractice/p_downloads.htm)

A series of DCS guidance notes designed as a reference source and to provide a benchmark against which deer management activities can be compared. Central to the concept of best practice is first and foremost public and practitioner safety, followed by animal welfare and appropriate training.

## Cultural Heritage

- ***Passed to the Future Historic Scotland's Policy for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment 2002***

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pasttofuture.pdf>

This statement outlines Historic Scotland's commitment to ensuring that the historic environment is used and managed in a sustainable way. This means managing the impact of both natural processes and human activity in such a way that our environment retains its historic character. The aim is to ensure that the characteristics of the historic environment are understood and taken account of so that its overall quality is enhanced rather than diminished.

- ***Historic Land-Use Assessment Data 2005***

<http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/HLA/start.jsp>

The Historic Land-use Assessment is an analysis of past and present land-use. It is a web-based presentation that allows the user to view the data by Historic Land-use Type, Period or Category as well as by Relict Period, and to print out a report of any selected area. To date over 45% of Scotland has been analysed and presented. The work is jointly sponsored by Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

## Culture

*Cultural Policy Statement 2004*

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/ncs04-00.asp>

This set out several key principles, primarily (but not exclusively) aimed at arts:

- ◇ Each person has rights of access to cultural activity in Scotland;
- ◇ The need for collaboration, co-operation and co-ordination across all sectors; and
- ◇ Nurture creativity.

## Agriculture

- ***A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture 2001***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/agri/fssa.pdf>

This strategy set out a vision for a prosperous farming industry, benefiting all the people of Scotland by:

- ◇ focusing on producing food and other products that the customer wants;
- ◇ playing a major role in **sustainable rural development** and helping to maintain the prosperity of our rural communities;
- ◇ being a leading player in the protection and enhancement of our environment; and
- ◇ embracing change and new opportunities.

The Strategy introduced a new concept of whole farm support – **Land Management Contracts (LMCs)**. It also referred specifically to forestry as a means of diversifying by offering new opportunities for income generation, environmental improvement and linkages with recreation and tourism. The need for an **integrated approach to land use** was also highlighted.

- ***“Custodians of Change” 2002***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/agri/aewg-00.asp>

This Report of the Agriculture and Environment Working Group 2002 and the Scottish Executive’s response in 2003 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/coch-00.asp> highlighted a number of key points of relevance to the SFS:

- ◇ The priority environmental issues for Scottish Agriculture in the next 5-10 years are: Diffuse pollution to water; biodiversity and habitat protection (particularly LBAPs); and landscape change;
- ◇ Agricultural payments will shift from supporting production to supporting the provision of public goods (“decoupling”);
- ◇ Whole Farm Plans and Land Management Contracts, linked to maintaining Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC), should be developed;
- ◇ Delivery should have a regional focus;
- ◇ Influences of Climate change;
- ◇ The influence of the Water Framework Directive and the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive;
- ◇ The development of National Parks;
- ◇ The need for integrated land-use decisions via: a fit-for-purpose system of advice, skills and training; and refocused research input;
- ◇ Reaffirmation of the need for sustainable rural development; and
- ◇ Making the most of the review of the Scottish Rural Development Plan, the mid-term review of the CAP and widening the range of options supported by the Rural Development Regulations.

## Rural

- ***Crofter Forestry (Scotland) Act 1991***

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1991/Ukpga\\_19910018\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1991/Ukpga_19910018_en_1.htm)

The terms of the 1991 Act were subsequently consolidated in the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993. It provides that, having obtained the necessary approval from the Crofters Commission and consent from the landlord, a common grazings committee "may plant trees on, and use as

woodlands any part of the common grazings in accordance with the approval and consent". Similarly the Act amended the definition of "cultivate", as it applies to the statutory conditions relating to crofting tenure, to include the planting of trees and the use of the land as woodlands. A landlord may apply to the Scottish Land Court for authorisation to resume land so that it may be used, let or feued for planting. However, the Act also provides that a landlord may not competently apply to the Court for authority to resume land planted by a Grazings Committee for as long as it continues to be used as woodlands. It further affirms that the landlord has a continuing right to cut or take timber except timber and other trees planted by the crofter or a predecessor in the tenancy or which may be necessary for ornament or shelter. All of this has greatly helped crofters to diversify into crofter forestry.

Nevertheless, several uncertainties arose from this Act and the Land Reform Policy Group (LRPG) recommended that there should be legislation to clarify the right of crofters to plant trees on their land and to give them a clear right to exploit the trees they plant for timber and other purposes including the right to sell the timber and timber products. The aim is to provide that where a crofter forestry scheme has been created the crofter (or crofters where the scheme is on a common grazing) has the exclusive right to cut, abstract, use and sell the timber and other forestry products derived from the woodlands created through the scheme. It should further provide that this should be the case whether the woodlands were planted by the crofter or were the result of a regeneration scheme.

- ***Rural Development Regulation 1999: Rural Development Plan for Scotland (amended 2003)***. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/rural/srdpv4-00.asp>

This set out a description of rural Scotland, with particular emphasis on the agricultural and forestry sectors, strategic priorities for the investment of EU and domestic funds to support certain activities that fall within the scope of the Regulation, and forecast levels of expenditure.

Ministers are keen that "actions taken across the Executive are consistent with enhancing the economic, social and environmental well-being of rural Scotland."

Specific linkage to forestry was expressed including: "The **afforestation of agricultural land** provides opportunities for diversification, even in those areas where land quality is relatively poor. This activity will build upon the success of Scotland's forestry sector, and help to exploit market opportunities for forest products, and the increased use of Scottish forests for recreational tourist purposes. New afforestation will also help to counter the forecast shortfalls in the availability of softwoods by 2042. This measure will provide additional sources of income for producers at a time when financial returns from mainstream agriculture are unlikely to sustain the industry."

- ***Rural Scotland: A New Approach 2000***  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library2/doc15/rsna-00.asp>

This expressed a vision of "a rural Scotland where everyone matters: every community, every family, every rural Scot." It went on to say: "We want to work together to create a rural Scotland:

- ◇ Integral to Scotland's success, dynamic in harnessing its traditional strengths, and with an appetite for change;
- ◇ Providing opportunity for our young people - so they don't have to leave to get on;
- ◇ Offering a high quality of life to all its citizens, with access to services; and
- ◇ Sustaining and making the most of its natural and cultural heritage."

The above reaffirmed Ministers' commitment to social justice.

The new approach was based on acknowledging and valuing rural Scotland for its distinctiveness and for the contribution it makes to Scotland as a whole. Understanding the priorities and needs of rural Scotland, and how rural circumstances are different. And, tackling rural issues and problems in ways which are sensitive to and appropriate for rural areas.

- ***The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2000/20000010.htm>

This Act set out the four aims of National Parks in Scotland:

- ◇ to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;
- ◇ to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area;
- ◇ to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public; and
- ◇ to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

It set a particular duty on public bodies to have regard to the National Park Plan.

- ***Rural Scotland: Taking Stock 2003***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/rural/rsts-00.asp>

Produced by the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Rural Development, this was the first stock-take of the progress made under the four broad themes identified in “Rural Scotland: A New Approach”:

- ◇ Supporting Economic Development;
- ◇ Breaking down barriers (social justice for all);
- ◇ Improving access to services that take account of the particular needs of rural areas; and
- ◇ Sustaining and making the most of our natural and cultural heritage - to ensure that those who live, work and visit our countryside can enjoy a high quality, healthy environment, and that the distinctive and valuable cultural heritage of our rural areas is flourishing.

The Executive confirmed five key priorities that are particularly important to all the people of Scotland: jobs, education, transport, crime and health. In addition to these five priorities, it identified two overarching themes: closing the opportunity gap and promoting sustainable development.

However, it acknowledged that the way in which these issues manifest themselves in rural areas can be quite different from that in our cities. Distinctive policy responses, tailored to local rural circumstances are therefore required to deliver the rural vision.

- ***Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003***

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2003/20030002.htm>

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act ended the historic legacy of feudal law and created a framework for responsible access to land and inland water and also for rural and crofting communities to have the right to buy land in their area. It had three principle themes:

- ◇ Public Access - the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code**  
<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/access/ApprovedCode050604.pdf> explains rights of responsible access to land and inland water;
- ◇ Community Right to Buy - rural communities can register an interest in, and then buy, land following indication that a landowner wishes to sell; and
- ◇ Crofting Community Right to Buy - crofting communities have the right to acquire and control the croft land where they live and work.

Also included in the Act were the concepts of **core path networks** and **Local Access Forums**.

- ***Draft Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill 2005***

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/03/20881/54896>

The reform of crofting legislation follows the *Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003* which gave crofting communities the right to seek to purchase croft land itself. This draft Bill will allow crofters and crofting communities greater rights and enhance their ability to determine and secure their own future.

The Crofters (Scotland) Act 1955 and its later additions assisted the retention of population in the more remote and fragile communities of the Highlands and Islands. Tenants' rights have remained secure and crofters' use of croft land for principally agricultural pursuits has been unimpeded. With changes to society and the economy the need now is for crofting legislation which, while continuing essential protection, also enables crofters to take advantage of these changes.

The aim is to amend the legal framework of crofting to increase the opportunities open to croft tenants and croft owners, to enable those living in some of our most remote rural areas of the Highlands and Islands to use their land in new ways as well as continuing in traditional ways.

It is also the intention to reduce the bureaucracy associated with crofting and to enable the Crofters Commission to become self-standing and independent of central government. The Commission's powers would be expanded to include power to make grants and they will be given new roles in ensuring croft land is well used and grazing regulations are observed.

This draft act has particular relevance to the concept of forest or woodland crofts by potentially:

- ◇ enabling new crofts to be created;
- ◇ introducing an option to waive crofter tenants "right to buy"; and
- ◇ extending the permissible activity on crofts beyond agricultural use.

## **Forestry**

- ***The UK Forestry Standard (2004 edition)*** (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-5YXMGD>)

This is the UK's Standard for sustainable forest management and is linked to international protocols for sustainable forestry. It is the basis of forest monitoring and is the basis from which the UK Woodland Assurance Standard was developed.

- ***UK Woodland Assurance Standard {UKWAS 2000}*** <http://www.ukwas.org.uk/index.php>

This is the Certification Standard for use in the certification of sustainable forest management in UK forests by independent certification bodies such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Council. It is currently under revision.

- ***Forests for Scotland – The Scottish Forestry Strategy 2000***

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/cmar-5j817s>.

Forestry is devolved and in its programme for Government “**Making it Work Together**”(1999) (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library2/doc03/miwt.pdf>) the Scottish Executive said that one of its priorities was to promote sustainable forest management. As a result, the Executive published its Forestry Strategy in November 2000, the first-ever Government initiative to set up an integrated framework for the long-term development of forestry in Scotland.

It set out:

A **Vision** for forestry in Scotland: “*Scotland will be renowned as a land of fine trees, woods and forests which strengthen the economy, which enrich the natural environment and which people enjoy and value.*”

The whole Strategy was based on the principle of sustainability and the Guiding Principles of : *integration, positive value, community support, diversity and local distinctiveness.*

Five **Strategic Directions** were identified:

- ◇ *maximise the value* to the Scottish economy of the wood resource;
- ◇ create a *diverse forest* resource for the future;
- ◇ make a *positive contribution to the environment*;
- ◇ create opportunities for *more people to enjoy trees, woods and forests* in Scotland; and
- ◇ *help communities benefit* from woods and forests.

24 **Priorities for Action** were also identified.

- **Forestry Devolution Review 2002**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2002/08/2087>

The key outcome of the review was the devolved management of the Scottish forest estate by Forest Enterprise Scotland and greater integration between the Forestry Commission’s National Office for Scotland and Rural Affairs Department.

- **A Level Playing Field for Forestry 2003**

<http://www.forestryandtimber.org/downloads/paper-amended.pdf> A discussion paper from the Forestry and Timber Association which examined the current state of forest economics and a vision for the future based on sustainable forest management to meet the needs of the UK. It then examined some of the challenges in achieving that vision.

- **Naturally Wood 2003**

[http://www.confor.org.uk/sustainableforestry/index.asp?level1\\_sel=5&level2\\_open=5](http://www.confor.org.uk/sustainableforestry/index.asp?level1_sel=5&level2_open=5)

This Forest Industries Development Council (now ConFor) strategy sets out how both the UK’s domestic growing and processing businesses and the importers and traders will work together to develop further the credentials of wood as a sustainable raw material.

The stated Vision was:

“The UK forest industries sector aims to be a key tool for delivering the UK’s commitment to sustainable development and an exemplar for other business sectors seeking to build strong sustainability credentials.”

It suggested the forest industries should be seen as central to a sustainable UK society because:

- ◇ forests deliver social, environmental and economic value to the community;
- ◇ wood and wood-based products are integral to everyone’s everyday lives; and

- ◇ wood is a naturally renewable and versatile material providing the benchmark against which other products must be judged.

It indicated that each link in the UK wood-chain from the forest to the production and distribution of wood-based products is important because it contributes to a product's sustainability profile.

To maximise their positive impact the document suggested that the forest industries need to ensure that:

- ◇ all wood used in the UK comes from sustainably managed or recycled sources;
- ◇ wood is efficiently harvested, transported and processed into wood-based products; and
- ◇ more wood-based products are used in more ways so replacing less sustainable materials.

- ***Scottish Forest Industries (Undated)***

[http://www.forestryscotland.com/pages/publications\\_detail.asp?id=1](http://www.forestryscotland.com/pages/publications_detail.asp?id=1)

This Scottish Forest Industries Cluster document explains the background to and future challenges for the Scottish forest industries, a sector that has invested over £1 billion in the last 20 years to compete in the global marketplace.

- ***Roots for Growth 2000***

[http://www.forestryscotland.com/pages/publications\\_detail.asp?id=8](http://www.forestryscotland.com/pages/publications_detail.asp?id=8)

This Scottish Forest Industries Cluster strategy paper focuses on the private sector development opportunities and potential. It is based on the Scottish Enterprise "Cluster" approach as used in other industries. The web-site also includes the sequence of Roots for Growth annual reports.

- ***Responding to the challenge: Forest Enterprise and community involvement in Scotland 2002***

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/MHobleymainfinal0402.pdf/\\$FILE/MHobleymainfinal0402.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/MHobleymainfinal0402.pdf/$FILE/MHobleymainfinal0402.pdf)

This report by Dr Mary Hobley was commissioned by the Forestry for People Advisory Panel and part funded by WWF. Its purpose was to advise on the organisational systems, structures, skills and shared values required to deliver a community involvement vision within Forest Enterprise Scotland. It proposed 11 major action areas and made over 50 detailed recommendations. Forest Enterprise Scotland responded formally to the report, indicating how it would take forward the recommendations

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FEHobleyResponse0103.pdf/\\$FILE/FEHobleyResponse0103.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FEHobleyResponse0103.pdf/$FILE/FEHobleyResponse0103.pdf).

- ***Economic Analysis of the Contribution of the Forest Estate Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland 2004***

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCSforestestatefinal2.pdf/\\$FILE/FCSforestestatefinal2.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCSforestestatefinal2.pdf/$FILE/FCSforestestatefinal2.pdf)

This report by CJC Consulting recommended the phased re-positioning of the national forest estate more towards the delivery of environmental and social outputs. It drew attention to the large parts of the national forest estate which, at today's timber prices appear either uneconomic to replant or, in some cases, unprofitable to harvest. It also advocated a more flexible disposal and acquisition strategy to support the broader aim of repositioning.

- ***Review of Land Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland 2004***

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/reportonlandreview.pdf/\\$FILE/reportonlandreview.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/reportonlandreview.pdf/$FILE/reportonlandreview.pdf)

This was part of a comprehensive review of the size, nature and distribution of the 667,000 hectares of forests and other land owned by Scottish Ministers and managed by Forestry Commission Scotland and included the economic analysis shown above. Ministers accepted all 30 recommendations contained in the Report.

In brief the review suggested that, by about the 2050, the national forest estate would be a more diverse resource; it would make a positive contribution to the environment, creating more opportunities for recreation and benefiting communities. On the other hand the private sector would become the dominant force in timber production for the wood processing industry. The focus for the publicly owned national forests would be delivery of goods and services to generate public benefits.

- **Economic Evaluation of the Central Scotland Forest and Grampian Challenge Funds 2004**

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCchallenge.pdf/\\$FILE/FCchallenge.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCchallenge.pdf/$FILE/FCchallenge.pdf)

This report by CJC Consulting concluded that challenge funding is an effective instrument but that it should focus more clearly on delivering social and environmental benefits rather than mainly timber production.

- ***European Forest Sector Outlook Study 2005***

[http://www.fao.org/documents/show\\_cdr.asp?url\\_file=/docrep/008/ae661e/ae661e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/008/ae661e/ae661e00.htm)

This study presents long term trends for supply and demand of forest products (roundwood, sawnwood, panels, pulp, paper, non-wood products) and services and outlook to 2020, in western and eastern Europe and four major CIS countries, including Russia. It reviews trends for the forest resource, trade, markets and recycling. It stresses the future shift in the balance of the sector to the east, and the importance of cross-sectoral issues, notably consequences for the forest sector of energy, environment and trade policies, which are examined in some detail. The study is based on a major collaborative effort by experts in the countries covered by the study, under the auspices of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission. The study identifies a number of major policy issues and proposes some policy recommendations, as a basis for future debate.