

Governance Theme

Our governance research focuses on the relationship between institutions, decision-making processes, and sustainable management of trees woods and forests in the wider landscape.

A major focus is the relationship between science, policy and practice, and the ways in which evidence is generated, understood and used by different stakeholders in planning and land management.

Our current research focuses on the scope for trees and woodlands within national and local planning frameworks; the value of partnerships that deliver forestry strategy objectives; the range of community woodland models and their relevance to sustainable development and empowerment; influences on decisions about wildlife management; and the engagement of private landowners in woodland creation and management.

For more information contact: anna.lawrence@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or see our website:

www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/peopleandtrees

Current work 2010-2011		
Title	Description	Contact
Place-making and community capacity review	A review of definitions, indicators and evidence for 'place', 'place making', community capacity, social capital etc. as used in current policy, and relevant to country forestry strategies	Amy Stewart
The role of trees and woodlands in new policy environments and planning processes	Scoping study to identify areas of interface between planning systems and forest policy priorities.	Claudia Carter
Partnership study	Three year project to assess the forms and value of partnership to implementation of the forestry strategies. Initial focus on Third Sector, to support FC England's contribution to DEFRA Third Sector strategy.	Bianca Ambrose-Oji
Local authorities' and woodlands	A cross-cutting study linking the planning, partnership, community forestry and community woodland studies, with a focus on the role of local authorities in managing and creating woodland in relation to community empowerment, regeneration and green infrastructure	Anna Lawrence
Woodfuel partnerships	A three year study to develop good practice guidelines for collaborative working in the woodfuel sector: What forms of partnership are appropriate for the establishment of an effective woodfuel sector?	Norman Dandy
Evidence review of landowner attitudes	A review of existing evidence in relation to owner attitudes to woodland management and creation, to assess its value in informing policy implementation.	Anna Lawrence
Role of grants in rural land use	Case studies to assess how grant schemes affect the behaviour of land owners and managers and their relative importance in the wider context of land use incentives.	Norman Dandy
Human dimensions of species management	A qualitative assessment of the interactions between wildlife management and broad forest management objectives, particularly in relation to recreation and other social forestry activities.	Mariella Marzano / Norman Dandy
Governance of community forests	Commissioned studies to assess extent and diversity of community woodland management. Literature review to	Anna Lawrence

and woodlands in Great Britain	assess relevance of and lessons from community woodland management in North America and Europe.	
Human dimensions of adaptive forest management	Literature review to assess relevance of and lessons from adaptive forest management in other temperate forest regions; specific focus on organisational learning. Case study on 'Implementation of Low Impact Silviculture in Wales: organisational culture and structure'; stakeholder analysis.	Anna Lawrence
Evidence based policy and practice in forestry	Literature review and case studies to assess opportunities for use of evidence in forest policy development and implementation.	Anna Lawrence
Learning from M&E	Linked to the evidence-based policy study, an assessment of the use of social monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data in the FC, and applications of lessons learnt	Jake Morris
Stakeholder perceptions of short rotation forestry	Investigating public, landowner and non-governmental organisation (NGO) perceptions of, and decision-making about, short-rotation forestry with a particular focus on the use of <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. for energy. DECC funded study in England	Norman Dandy

Recently completed work 2009-2010		
Title	Description	Contact
Systematic framework	A systematic approach which assesses geographical and social coverage of available research about people and trees or forests, to be able to better understand and exploit past research and its contribution to current knowledge. Situated within a systematic framework which helps to think through the implications of variables, scale and method. These are set out in a model which links society with trees woods and forests through processes including behaviour, decisions and policy processes. Includes meta-analysis of existing research.	Anna Lawrence
Deer governance	Two projects completed: 'Collaborative frameworks for land management: a case study of wild deer in Britain' (RELU funded) and 'The Management of roe deer in peri-urban Scotland' (funded by the DCS). Two papers published with more forthcoming.	Norman Dandy
Governance of community forests and woodlands in Great Britain	Overview paper comparing the historical and policy development around community forests and woodlands Case study of community benefits of National Forest Land Scheme (Scotland).	Anna Lawrence
Evidence based policy and practice	Presentations on 'Exploring the role of evidence in British forest policy and practice' Social research and the Forestry Commission: perceptions and applications. Study completed, report published.	Anna Lawrence Mariella Marzano
UK Forest Standard –Forests and People	Drafting of the social component of the UK standard for management of public forests. Completed Jan 2009.	Bianca Ambrose-Oji
Partnership with the Third sector	Review of Third Sector partnerships, based on interviews with FC England staff and partners. Report completed.	Bianca Ambrose-Oji