

# **The Scottish Forestry Strategy: Implementation Plan (2011-14) and Progress Report (2010-11)**

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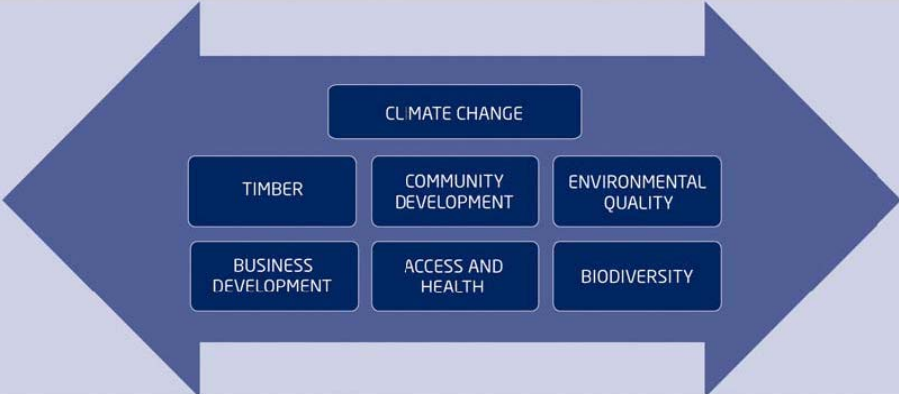
## INTRODUCTION

The *Scottish Forestry Strategy* was published in October 2006<sup>1</sup>. Implementation of the Strategy has been focused on delivering forestry benefits to Scotland to help achieve the Scottish Government's wider policies and contribute towards its National Outcomes<sup>2</sup>. The Strategy includes a commitment to publish implementation plans to guide delivery.

Recognising the crosscutting nature of forestry, the Strategy is organised around seven key themes. For each theme, this 2011-2014 Implementation Plan sets out actions for the coming year, involving around 90 action partners, and suggests directions for the following two years. Theme reference groups have fed into the process of identifying actions and the five Regional Forestry Forums have helped define additional local actions.

As it is now five years since the Strategy was published, consideration will be given to the need for a review of the Strategy during 2011-12.

The Strategy's outcomes and themes are shown in the schematic diagram below:

<b>Our vision</b>	<i>By the second half of this century, people are benefiting widely from Scotland's trees, woodlands and forests, actively engaging with and looking after them for the use and enjoyment of generations to come. The forestry resource has become a central part of our culture, economy and environment.</i>		
<b>Principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable development – underpinned by sustainable forest management.</li> <li>• Social inclusion - through helping to provide opportunities for all, and helping to build stronger communities.</li> <li>• Forestry for and with people.</li> <li>• Integration with other land uses and businesses.</li> </ul>		
<b>Outcomes</b>	Improved health and well-being of people and their communities.	Competitive and innovative businesses contributing to the growth of the Scottish economy.	High quality, robust and adaptable environment.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist community participation.</li> <li>• Enhance opportunities for health and enjoyment.</li> <li>• Contribute to growth in learning and skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a more efficient and competitive timber supply chain.</li> <li>• Facilitate the development of markets for forest products.</li> <li>• Facilitate rural business diversification and development.</li> <li>• Increase the contribution of forestry to tourism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help to tackle climate change.</li> <li>• Contribute positively to soil, water and air quality.</li> <li>• Contribute to landscape quality.</li> <li>• Protect and promote the historic environment and cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Help to protect and enhance biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>Key themes</b>			

<sup>1</sup> [www.forestry.gov.uk/sfs](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/sfs)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms>

## PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2010-2011

### Overview

This progress report summarises what FCS and the 2010-2011 action partners have delivered during the year against the three Strategy outcomes. Of the 209 actions in the 2010-2011 Implementation Plan, over 90% were achieved or are underway. More detail on progress is given in each of the theme and regional sections of the 2011-2014 Implementation Plan.

Theme/region	Action achieved/ underway	Carried over into 2011-12	Action superseded
Climate change	17	3	0
Timber	17	1	0
Business development	16	4	0
Community Development	17	0	0
Access and health	21	1	0
Environmental quality	14	6	2
Biodiversity	11	1	1
South Scotland	8	0	0
Central Scotland	21	0	0
Perth and Argyll	19	1	0
Grampian	18	0	0
Highland	10	0	0
total	189	17	3

### **Improved health and wellbeing of people and their communities**

The Strategy outcome of improved health and wellbeing of people and their communities contributes to a number of National Outcomes, namely: strong, resilient and supportive communities; improved life chances for children, young people and families at risk; tackling the significant inequalities in Scottish society; high quality public services that are responsive to local people's needs; longer, healthier lives; and young people who are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Along with SNH, FCS is a lead partner in the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN). This is one of 14 national developments specified in the National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2)<sup>3</sup>; its aim is to change the face of Central Scotland by restoring and improving the rural and urban landscape of the area. This will involve the creation of a strategic network of woodlands and other habitats, active travel routes, green space links, watercourses and waterways. During the year, the Partnership Board, chaired by Keith Geddes, was established as a focal point for the initiative. Following an extensive consultation process, a Vision document sets out how the CSGN, building on what has already been achieved, will deliver a high-quality green network across Central Scotland<sup>4</sup>.

Meanwhile, the Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) programme continues to fund the improvement of these important elements of urban greenspace, as well as the activities necessary to encourage people to use and enjoy their local woodland. In addition, there is increasing recognition of the potential of

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/07/02105627/0>

<sup>4</sup>

the *Branching Out* initiative<sup>5</sup>, which provides woodland based opportunities for adults who use mental health services. More information on these, and other, developments is provided in the sections on community development, access and health, and the regional reports.

## **Competitive and innovative businesses contributing to the growth of the Scottish economy**

This Strategy outcome can contribute to the National Outcomes for reducing the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production; realising our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people; being better educated, more skilled and more successful; and being renowned for our research and innovation.

The market for Scottish timber has remained buoyant in the past year despite relatively flat economic conditions. The Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Advisory Group (formerly the Forest Industries Advisory Board) has published its new *Roots for Future Growth* strategy<sup>6</sup> which aims to grow the forest and timber sector through investment and innovation in sustainable resources, processing capacity and products, markets and people. It will also focus on the opportunities that are available in the transition to a low carbon economy.

Ministers reconvened the Wood Fuel Task Force to report back on supply and demand issues in light of the rapid expansion of the sector in the last couple of years. This Task Force also concluded that there is no capacity to support further large scale electricity generation biomass plants from domestic wood fibre.

## **High quality, robust and adaptable environment**

A high quality, robust and adaptable environment can contribute to National Outcomes relating to well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need; living in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe; and a built and natural environment that is protected and enhanced for future generations.

Thus, forestry has a key role in supporting Scotland's current and future success as an enjoyable place to live and work. Simultaneously it can also deliver emissions reductions, contribute to economic development and help Scotland adapt to the climatic changes already 'in the post'.

The Scottish Government's report on policies and proposals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions *Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2010-2022*<sup>7</sup> was laid in Parliament on 14 March 2011. Rural land use is one of the key sectors for which policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are identified, along with proposals for further consideration. It notes that the *Scottish Government's Rationale for Woodland Expansion* (2009) set a target of planting a further 650,000 hectares of woodland that requires woodland planting rates to increase to an average of 10,000 ha/yr. It also states that, in support of this, the Scottish Ministers pledged to plant 100 million trees by 2015 as part of The Climate Group States and Regions Alliance's global commitment to plant 1 billion trees. The report

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7VWEEY>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.forestryscotland.com/forestry/strategy>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/lowcarbon/rpp>

suggests that, looking ahead, it may become appropriate to increase planting rates towards 15,000 ha/yr, but before doing so it will be important to establish that such a goal would be practicable and cost effective. An important factor will be the availability of sufficient suitable land on which to plant trees, recognising that new woodland must be created in appropriate places and in ways that are sensitive to other land uses such as agriculture. Reversing the historically low rates of recent new woodland creation was the focus of much activity by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) this year, as was tackling the recent trend of significant woodland removals (particularly from wind farm development).

Measures to build resilience to climate change were set out in a Forestry Sector Action Plan as part of *Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework* (2009)<sup>8</sup>. FCS has also been closely involved in the Scotland-related aspects of the emerging UK Climate Change Risk Assessment due for completion in January 2012.

Anticipating and responding to increasing threats from pests and diseases remained high on the agenda during the year. Red band needle blight of pine was detected at three major Scottish tree nurseries and this disease continues to cause significant mortality of Lodgepole pine as well as being detected increasingly on Scots pine. In addition, the first finding of *Phytophthora ramorum* on Japanese larch in Scotland was confirmed, as was a ramorum infection on one Lawson cypress; and the first known outbreaks of *Phytophthora lateralis* in the UK were confirmed on Lawson cypress at three sites in mid Scotland.

### **Cross cutting developments**

Scotland's first *Land Use Strategy* was laid in Parliament on 17 March 2011<sup>9</sup>. The *Land Use Strategy* for the first time takes a strategic approach to the challenges facing land use in Scotland. This highlights the importance of achieving a more integrated approach to land use, which is reflected in this Implementation Plan. The Strategy sets out three Objectives relating to the economy, environment and communities - the three pillars of sustainability. It also provides a set of Principles for Sustainable Land Use to guide policy and decision making across the public sector. FCS will working with partners to develop an action plan and implement the Land Use Strategy, and to take forward the Strategy's forest-related proposals.

The Rural Development Contracts - Rural Priorities element of the Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007/13 (SRDP) is the main delivery mechanism for woodland creation and is administered in a partnership between the Scottish Government, FCS and SNH. In May 2010, a new grant for Controlled Livestock Grazing of Woodland was announced; this joint initiative between FCS and SNH aims to encourage more management of semi-natural native woodlands in Scotland through sensitive livestock grazing. In January 2011, additional funding to help create more productive woodland was introduced through a 10% increase in grant support for new applications relating to productive conifer and productive broadleaf planting on sites recognised within the local Indicative Forest Strategy (IFS) as 'Preferred' or 'Potential'. Throughout the year continuing efforts were made to address concerns about the administration of the scheme and to promote integration

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/adaptation/AdaptationFramework>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Countryside/Landusestrategy>

with agriculture. The focus for woodland expansion continues to be away from prime agricultural land.

Looking ahead, reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will have important implications for forestry as the SRDP is a major element of the CAP and because of the impact of agricultural support on land availability. The report of Brian Pack's Inquiry into future support for agriculture in Scotland<sup>10</sup> stated that woodland should continue to receive incentives under the Pillar 2 (rural development) measures of the CAP.

In addition to support for woodland creation under the SRDP, alternative mechanisms are also being developed. The Woodland Carbon Code<sup>11</sup>, which was piloted during the year, is aimed at attracting finance to contribute to the costs of woodland creation by developing well-governed forest-related carbon markets through the provision of quality assurance standards that underpin forest-based carbon schemes. Meanwhile, UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been consulting on how businesses can use the Code protocols when measuring and reporting on net green house gas emissions. And integration with agriculture is being encouraged through the pilot scheme whereby FCS leases land from farmers for woodland creation on farms.

FCS published *The Right Tree in the Right Place*<sup>12</sup> in June 2010. This provides guidance to planning authorities on the multiple benefits that can be derived from well-planned and well-managed woodlands and encourages them to prepare new forestry and woodland strategies to guide future woodland expansion.

The United Nations proclaimed 2011 as the International Year of Forests (IYF). Scotland played its part in using this opportunity to increase public awareness of the key role of forests and sustainable forest management in building a greener, more equitable and sustainable future. This programme included a wide range of forest events, which continue during the rest of 2011.

### **Progress indicators**

The *Scottish Forestry Strategy* laid out a set of indicators for each key theme. Details on the definition, interpretation, implications and data source for each indicator are published separately<sup>13</sup>. The intention is that these progress indicators can help demonstrate what the sector is delivering, and focus effort and resources where it is most needed.

For those indicators updated annually, useful time-series data are now emerging. Of particular note are the following:

- The area of new planting continued to fall in 2009/10. However, indications from SRDP approvals and claims are that 2010/11 will show a substantial increase (the figures will be published in June). Further measures to stimulate new planting are set out in the section on Climate change (key theme 1).
- Continued increases in the installed capacity of wood energy plant. As noted elsewhere in this report, the Wood Fuel Task Force has recommended, in the

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/inquiry>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-84HL57>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-868FMB>

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/sfsindicators.pdf/\\$FILE/sfsindicators.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/sfsindicators.pdf/$FILE/sfsindicators.pdf)

light of updated estimates of wood fibre availability, biomass should be used for heat only and combined heat and power (CHP) applications, focusing on the delivery of the Scottish Government's heat targets.

- Sales of improved nursery stock continue to increase. This is a positive sign in terms of potential productivity of forest areas. However, as also noted elsewhere, there are concerns about the extent of woodland removal (for example from wind farm development), which highlight the importance of effectively implementing the Scottish Government's policy on control of woodland removal.
- There is continued uptake of community purchases through the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS), which is now entering a new phase with the leasing option (see section on Community Development – key theme 4).
- Steady progress continues to be made against Habitat Action Plan targets for native woodland.

### ***Climate change***

Indicator	Data source	Last assessed	Value	Reporting interval
Area of new planting	FCS	2005/06 2006/07 2007/08 2008/09 2009/10	3996 ha 6594 ha 4186 ha 3440 ha 2717 ha	1 year
Annual net carbon sequestration by new woodlands	FC	2006 2007 2008 2009 2010	0.36 MtCO <sub>2</sub> 0.40 MtCO <sub>2</sub> 0.42 MtCO <sub>2</sub> 0.43 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> 0.45 Mt CO <sub>2</sub>	1 year
Installed capacity of wood energy plant  (megawatt thermal and electrical: 2009 and 2010 figures have been adjusted in line with SG reporting on renewable heat capacity for biomass.)	FCS	2006 2007 2008 2009 2010	58 MWth 0 MWe 67 MWth 44 MWe 64 MWth 44 MWe 180 MWth 64 MWe 325 MWth 75 MWe	1 year
Number of non-domestic, wood fuelled energy systems installed	FCS	2006 2007 2008 2009 2010	49 91 154 170 217	1 year
Area of short rotation coppice grant aided	FCS	2005/06 2006/07 2007/08 2008/09 2009/10	34 ha 162 ha 487 ha 10 ha 0 ha	1 year
Index of roundwood road miles  (following a report on <i>Understanding the Carbon Footprint of Timber Transport in the United Kingdom</i> <sup>14</sup> this indicator has been discontinued)	FR	2006	51 miles/t (provisional)	

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.timbertransportforum.org.uk/Events.aspx?pid=13&id=146>

## Timber

Indicator	Data source	Last assessed	Value	Reporting interval
Actual wood production	FC	2005 2006 2007 2008 2009	6.6 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs 6.7 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs 7.2 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs 6.5 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs 6.4 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs	1 year
Forecast wood availability in the private sector	FC	2007-11	3.7 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs	5 years
Forecast wood availability from the national forest estate	FC	2007-11	3.2 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs	5 years
Timber's contribution to Scottish gross value-added	FC	2008	£460M (0.5%)	4 years
Sawmill log consumption		2005 2006 2007 2008 2009	2.3 Mm <sup>3</sup> 2.4 Mm <sup>3</sup> 2.6 Mm <sup>3</sup> 2.4 Mm <sup>3</sup> 2.6 Mm <sup>3</sup>	1 year
Sawmill sawnwood output	FC	2005 2006 2007 2008 2009	1.2 Mm <sup>3</sup> 1.3 Mm <sup>3</sup> 1.5 Mm <sup>3</sup> 1.3 Mm <sup>3</sup> 1.4 Mm <sup>3</sup>	1 year
Scottish wood's value share of the UK market	FC	2005 2006 2007 2008 2009	4.2% 4.0% 5.0% 4.7% 5.1%	1 year
Timber use in construction relative to other materials			Reliable data not available	
Area of new coniferous woodland	FCS	2005/06 2006/07 2007/08 2008/09 2009/10	1011 ha 2000 ha 744 ha 1168 ha 514 ha	1 year
Area of new broadleaved woodland where timber production is a significant management objective	FCS	2006 2007 2008 2009 2010	84 ha 311 ha 272 ha 223 ha 133 ha	1 year
Sales of improved nursery stock		2007 2008 2009 2010	22.3M plants 22.0M plants 25.0M plants 27.6M plants	1 year
Volume of certified timber from Scottish forests	FC	2005 2006 2007 2008 2009	5.5 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs 5.5 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs 6.1 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs 5.3 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs 5.4 Mm <sup>3</sup> obs	1 year

## Business development

Indicator	Data source	Last assessed	Value	Reporting interval
Forestry's contribution to Scottish gross value-added	FC	2008	£669M	4 years
Employment supported by the forestry related sector	FC	2008	31,100 FTE	4 years

Uptake of Rural Development Contracts (for woodland creation, sustainable forest management and woodland improvement)	FCS	2010	928 approvals	1 year
Proportion of statutory development plans recognising woodland benefits	FCS	2007	59%	5 years
Numbers of people enrolling or registering for forestry related short courses, qualifications and Modern Apprenticeship programmes	Lantra	2007	1,542	4 years
Numbers of people completing forestry related short courses, qualifications and Modern Apprenticeship programmes	Lantra	2007	1,070	4 years
Forestry's contribution to Scottish tourism gross value-added	FCS	2008	£209M	4 years

### *Community development*

Indicator	Data source	Last assessed	Value	Reporting interval
Number of schools involved in woodland based learning activities	FCS	2007 2008 2009 2010	569 461 375 349	1 year
Number of community groups involved in owning or managing woodland	CWA	2002 2007	51 138	5 years
Number of schools providing vocational courses that include forestry related skills	Lantra	2006/7 2007/8 2008/9 2009/10 2010/11	4 13 38 46 41	1 year
Proportion of adults and/or family members who attended an organised learning activity or event linked with Scottish woodlands in the previous 12 months.	FC	2005 2007 2009	10% 15% 7%	2 years
Proportion of adults who have heard or read about Scottish woodlands in the previous 12 months.	FC	2005 2007 2009	26% 58% 44%	2 years
Number of land parcels sold or leased under the National Forest Land Scheme.	FCS	2006/7 2007/8 2008/9 2009/10 2010/11	17 3 2 4 3	1 year
Area of land parcels sold or leased under the National Forest Land Scheme.	FCS	2006/7 2007/8 2008/9 2009/10 2010/11	877 ha 7 ha 2 ha 134 ha 964 ha	1 year
Independent satisfaction rating of community partnerships on the national forest estate. (Excludes non-response data: 2006 result adjusted accordingly)	CWA	2006 2009	82% 72%	3 years

### *Access and health*

Indicator	Data source	Last assessed	Value	Reporting interval
Proportion of the population with accessible woodland greater than 2 hectares within 500 metres of their home	WTS	2006 2009	23% 28%	3 years
Proportion of the population with accessible woodland greater than 20 hectares within 4 kilometres of their home	WTS	2006 2009	68% 83%	3 years

Proportion of adults (16 years +) who visited woodland in previous 12 months	FC	2005 2007 2009	50% 72% 57%	2 years
Number of visits to national forests	FCS	2007	8.7M	5 years
Number and length of Core Paths in woodlands	FCS		to be established in 2012	5 years
Proportion of visitors satisfied with woodland recreation provision	FC	2007	58%	4 years
Proportion of adults who used woodland, forest or tree covered park for exercise at least twice per week in the last four weeks	Scottish Health Survey	2009	10%	2 years
Number of 'volunteer days' associated with woodland activity	FCS	2007	47,444	5 years

### ***Environmental quality***

Indicator	Data source	Last assessed	Value	Reporting interval
Length/area of baseline rivers/lochs in forested catchments where ecological quality is of good or high status	SEPA	2008 2009 2010	719 km rivers 16 km <sup>2</sup> lochs 867 km rivers 15 km <sup>2</sup> lochs 876 km rivers 15 km <sup>2</sup> lochs	1 year
Length/area of baseline rivers/lochs affected by acidification where forestry is a significant exacerbating factor	SEPA		Reliable data not available	1 year
Number of forestry operations or activities leading to direct pollution of the water environment	SEPA	2010/11	17	1 year
Proportion of woodlands covered by approved forest plans in areas designated for their landscapes	FCS	2006	57%	5 years
Proportion of woodland area managed under low impact silvicultural systems	FCS	2006 2007 2008 2009	4.3% 5.2% 5.8% 6.0%	1 year
Number of current management plans for scheduled monuments in forests on the National Forest Estate	FCS	2007 2008 2009 2010	321 327 331 329	1 year
Number of monuments in forests protected under a current forest management plan or agreement	FCS	2007 2008 2009 2010	13,679 14,026 15,286 13,752 (52% of all monuments in all woodlands)	1 year

### ***Biodiversity***

Indicator	Data source	Last assessed	Value	Reporting interval
Area of native woodland	FCS	2005/6 2006/7 2007/8 2008/9 2009/10	392K ha 398K ha 399K ha 400K ha 402K ha	1 year
Proportion of woodland SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	SNH	1999- 2005 2007	57% 61%	1 year from 2007

		2008 2009 2010	70% 70% 69%	
Progress against Habitat Action Plan targets for native woodland condition (cumulative total from 2005 counting towards 2005-2015 targets)	FCS	2005/6 2006/7 2007/8 2008/9 2009/10	3.3K ha 8.4K ha 10.7K ha 11.4K ha 12.1K ha	1 year
Progress against Habitat Action Plan targets for native woodland restoration (cumulative total from 2005 counting towards 2005-2015 targets)	FCS	2005/6 2006/7 2007/8 2008/9 2009/10	0.4K ha 1.2K ha 2.1K ha 2.4K ha 3.0K ha	1 year
Progress against Habitat Action Plan targets for native woodland expansion (cumulative total from 2005 counting towards 2005-2015 targets)	FCS	2005/6 2006/7 2007/8 2008/9 2009/10	4.3K ha 4.6K ha 7.0K ha 8.1K ha 10.3K ha	1 year
Proportion of woodland related UK Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats identified as stable or increasing/recovering or in favourable condition	SNH	2005 2008	74% 75%	3 years
Area of PAWS with a commitment to restoration under long-term plans	FCS	2007 2008 2009 2010	34.5K ha 35.5K ha 35.5K ha 35.5K ha	1 year
Area of woodland with active, approved deer management plans	FCS	2007 2008 2009 2010	665K ha 732K ha 735K ha 727K ha	1 year
Loss of ancient, semi-natural woodland to development			to be established from 2011	
Woodland Bird Index (smoothed data now reported)	BTO	2006 2007 2008 2009	148 149 148 144	1 year
Woodland structure: mean deadwood volume	FR	1995- 1999	4.4m <sup>3</sup> /ha	6 years from 2007
Woodland structure and composition: mean understorey shrub layer cover	FR	1995- 1999	17%	6 years from 2007
Woodland structure and composition: mean no. tree and shrub species within stands	FR	1995- 1999	2.2	6 years from 2007
Woodland structure and composition: old growth as a proportion of Scotland's woodland cover	FR	1995- 1999	4.8%	6 years from 2007

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2011-14: KEY THEMES**

### **Key theme 1: Climate change**

#### **Progress and priorities**

This year's focus has been on continuing to deliver the FCS *Climate Change Action Plan's* early actions and developing support measures and other mechanisms required to achieve the Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Plan targets.

Following public consultation, the UK Forestry Standard and its suite of Guidelines, including one on climate change, was finalised with a view to publication in May 2011.

Adding to the evidence in the 2009 Read Report, the Forest Research study *Understanding the Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Balance of UK Forests* (to be published early in 2011/12) summarises key information on carbon stocks and carbon/GHG fluxes in UK forests and how these are influenced by forest growth and management decisions. These data are being incorporated in a carbon balance sheet tool which is now in its user-review phase prior to publication in 2011/12.

Forestry's key role in helping Scotland adapt to climate change, is predicated on the development of resilient forests. Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2009) set the strategic directions for building Scotland's overall resilience and a related series of Sector Action Plans<sup>15</sup>, including forestry, was developed in 2010. Future iterations of these Plans will be informed by five-yearly UK Climate Change Risk Assessments, the first of which will be completed by January 2012.

The review of the 2008 synopsis on the impacts of climate change on forestry in Scotland has been delayed by the limitations of the *UK Climate Change Projections* (UKCP09) for forestry assessments. Forest Research has been working closely with the Met Office and UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) to resolve this. Meanwhile, tools for assessing forest adaptive capacity and resilience are being tested by Forest Research at the ForeStClim<sup>16</sup> case study site at Craik forest.

As noted above, the upsurge in pests and diseases has continued, the most significant being: the detection of Red band needle blight of pine in three major Scottish tree nurseries coupled with the continuing significant mortality of Lodgepole pine and increasing detections on Scots pine; the first finding of *Phytophthora ramorum* on Japanese larch in Scotland, and a ramorum infection on one Lawson cypress; and the first known outbreaks of *Phytophthora lateralis* in the UK were confirmed on Lawson cypress at three sites in mid Scotland, this being of particular concern to the 'ornamentals' industry. A small breeding population of the Pine-tree lappet moth (*Dendrolimus pini*) near Beaulay continues to be the subject of extensive further DNA investigations and climate modelling to help determine an appropriate management response.

Aided by enhancements to SRDP-Rural Payments, woodland creation approvals in 2010/11 suggest the target of increasing woodland expansion to 10,000 hectares per year by 2015 is achievable, although there remains a need to increase the proportion of productive woodlands. As highlighted in the *Land Use Strategy*, integration with other land uses such as agriculture is important. Through Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES), FCS piloted trial leasing of land from farmers and other land holders for the creation of productive woodland proved successful and will be extended to 2011/12.

During the year, Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), in partnership with FCS, commissioned SAC to facilitate eight focus farm meetings to look at how the economic benefits of woodland can be maximised whilst maintaining stock numbers on Scottish livestock farms. Topics included integrated grazing and woodland; shelter/ fencing benefits; woodfuel/timber production; habitat networks/wildlife corridors; potential biosecurity benefits in putting distance

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<sup>15</sup> [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/adaptation/AdaptationFramework/SAP](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/adaptation/AdaptationFramework/SAP)

<sup>16</sup> "Transnational Forestry Management Strategies in Response to Regional Climate Change Impacts" - [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-7PNFBV](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-7PNFBV)

and barriers between neighbouring stock; assessing where shelterwoods should be located and shelterbelt design; and other woodland/farming topics raised by the attendees and the farmers. The meetings were held in South Scotland, Perth and Argyll and Grampian conservancies with three meetings in each.

The pilot phase of the Woodland Carbon Code is nearing completion with 15 candidate forest carbon projects in the UK (four in Scotland) undergoing validation by an approved certification body. The finalised Code will be launched in summer 2011.

The extent of woodland removal in the last decade, particularly from wind farm development, has generated significant concern in the forestry sector. This is being addressed through the application to all new schemes of the Government's policy on control of woodland removal. A methodology for collating woodland removal data has been piloted in Perth and Argyll Conservancy and will be rolled out to all Conservancies in 2011/12.

Through its Forest Renewables business unit FCS is working with *Partnership for Renewables* in the Scottish Borders and the central belt to develop wind power projects on the national forest estate. Following a Commercial Negotiation process it has also now selected development partners for five lots in Scotland, and a similar process has identified partners for hydro power generation.

Wood fuel use in Scotland saved over 0.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2009. Implementation of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) by the UK Government will drive further demand and, accordingly, the Regional Biomass Advice Network has continued to facilitate mobilisation of existing wood fuel resources. As noted elsewhere, the Wood Fuel Task Force updated its estimates of woody biomass in Scotland and FCS is contributing to current reviews of bioenergy policy at a UK level. FCS is also working on the development of sustainability criteria through the Biomass and Biogas Sustainability Implementation Group of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The suite of energy forestry trials on the national forest estate is nearing completion and will help demonstrate the potential of energy forestry in Scotland.

Following the publication of the *Scottish Soil Framework* (2009), peatlands became a key focus for discussion in 2010, this being informed by the Forest Research report *Understanding the greenhouse gas implications of forestry on peat soils in Scotland*<sup>17</sup> which also validated FCS's proposal to operate a general presumption against woodland creation on deep peats (>50cms).

A report *Understanding the carbon footprint of timber transport in the UK*<sup>18</sup>, indicated that the contribution of timber transport to the overall GHG emissions from producing sawn timber or wood fuel was small (6%-15%). Given the cost and complexity of calculating timber miles the timber miles indicator will therefore be discontinued.

For 2011/12 the priorities are: to promote the new UKFS *Forests and Climate Change Guidelines*; launch the finalised Woodland Carbon Code; provide interim guidance to practitioners on planning resilient "future forests"; review

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<sup>17</sup> [www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCS\\_forestry\\_peat\\_GHG\\_final\\_Oct13\\_2010.pdf/\\$FILE/FCS\\_forestry\\_peat\\_GHG\\_final\\_Oct13\\_2010.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCS_forestry_peat_GHG_final_Oct13_2010.pdf/$FILE/FCS_forestry_peat_GHG_final_Oct13_2010.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> [www.timbertransportforum.org.uk/Events.aspx?pid=13&id=146](http://www.timbertransportforum.org.uk/Events.aspx?pid=13&id=146)

and monitor woodland removal; continue to consolidate the measures required to achieve the forestry sector's carbon saving targets, including woodland creation (working with farming interests to promote integrated land use and safeguard food production whilst recognising the need to achieve woodland creation targets); and enhance levels of awareness and vigilance, coupled with a rapid response capacity, for pests and diseases.

## **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

### ***Increasing awareness of the forestry sector's contribution***

- Review the FCS Climate Change Action Plan (FCS).
- Embed forestry sector contributions in the Scottish Government's evolving Adaptation Programme for Scotland (FCS).
- Following resolution of the UKCP09 data/methodological limitations, review guidance on the potential impacts of climate change on forestry in Scotland (FCS).
- Finalise and publish a carbon balance sheet tool for forest managers (FCS).

### ***Adapting to climate change***

- Publish the *UKFS Forests and Climate Change Guidelines* (FC).
- Publish guidance on "future forests" in a changing climate (FCS).
- Trial forest management simulations at Craik forest to measure adaptive capacity and options for enhancing resilience (FR).
- Continue to raise awareness of tree health issues within the forestry sector, seek to embed appropriate biosecurity measures as an integral part of sustainable forest management, and increase capacity for rapid response to new pest outbreaks (FCS).

### ***Mitigating climate change***

- Continue to ensure that the contribution of trees to climate change mitigation (and adaptation) is fully recognised during the CAP reform process (FC, FCS, SG).
- Provide through the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) grant aid of up to £30 million for owners wishing to create new woodlands which meet the UK Forestry Standard, which are located in with guidance in Indicative Forestry Strategies and which have been subject to public consultation (FCS, SG).
- Develop a communications plan for promoting woodland creation on farms that is integrated with farm businesses (FCS).
- Support the implementation of the Renewable Heat Incentive and other forestry related actions identified by the Scottish Government's Renewable Heat Implementation Group (FCS).
- Continue to monitor carbon savings from wood fuel use (FCS).

- Demonstrate business sustainability by reducing FCS carbon emissions by 3% (FCS).

### ***Increasing carbon sequestration and retention***

- Review FCS guidance on implementation of the policy on control of woodland removal and monitor annual rates of losses (FCS).
- Launch the Woodland Carbon Code (FC).
- Work with renewable energy companies to identify further sites for the installation of wind and hydro schemes (FES).
- Promote forestry to farmers and other landowners by undertaking local initiatives to engage owners of under-managed farm woodland and targeting owners in areas most suitable for expansion of productive woodlands (FCS).
- Create at least 1,000 hectares of new woodland on the national forest estate and extend the short term leasing scheme for woodland creation to increase the area of new woodlands funded by the FES re-positioning programme (FES).
- As proposed in the *Land Use Strategy*, identify more closely which types of land are best for tree planting in the context of other land-based objectives, and promote good practice and local processes in relation to tree planting so as to secure multiple benefits (FCS, SG).

### **An outline programme for 2012-2014**

#### ***Increasing awareness of the forestry sector's contribution***

- With Regional Forestry Forums, review climate change actions at regional level.
- Through public opinion survey, assess trends in public awareness of forestry's role in helping to combat climate change.

#### ***Adapting to climate change***

- Review fire preparedness and resilience, including research requirements.
- Support further research on, and promote the role of, trees and woodlands for urban climate control.
- Review priority actions for the expansion and restoration of vulnerable woodland types.
- Continue to raise awareness of tree health issues and seek to embed appropriate biosecurity measures as an integral part of sustainable forest management.

## ***Mitigating climate change***

- Maintain and review progress against forestry-related actions in the Renewable Heat and Renewable Energy Action Plans, and the Wood Fuel Task Force report.
- Review wood fuel market development and monitor levels of energy forestry creation.
- Review the potential for the development of biofuels from wood.

## ***Increasing carbon sequestration and retention***

- Review progress on net woodland expansion and, if necessary, further adjust control and delivery mechanisms to achieve Scottish Government targets.
- Review the scale of implementation of low impact silvicultural systems in Scotland and make recommendations accordingly.

## **Key theme 2: Timber**

### **Progress and priorities**

The Scottish harvest was 6.4 million m<sup>3</sup> (5.2 million green tonnes) in 2009. The rapidly developing market for wood fuel has continued to feature prominently with wood fuel use of around 0.9 million green tonnes in 2009 and projected to increase to over 1.2 million green tonnes in 2010. Almost 40% of this is recycled fibre.

The Wood Fuel Demand and Usage Study 2010<sup>19</sup> highlighted considerable potential demand for wood fuel from large scale projects currently in planning. Subsequently, the reconvened Wood Fuel Task Force's report<sup>20</sup> provided updated estimates of wood fibre availability in Scotland, based on improved data, and identified significant pressures on Scotland's wood resource. It concluded that, given the available resources, biomass should be used for heat only and CHP applications, focusing on the delivery of the Scottish Government's heat targets.

Over the coming year, FCS will work with Scottish Government on their review of banding under the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) and provide input to UK reviews of resource availability and the best use of biomass.

This year will also see the publication of the new Softwood Production Forecast for Scotland and other parts of Great Britain. It will provide essential information on the volume and quality of timber that will be available over the next 20 years from both the national forest estate and the private sector.

There has also been significant activity in timber development and research. Two landmark reviews have been produced; *External cladding in Scotland* and *Wood properties and uses of Sitka spruce in Britain*. Both are based on comprehensive research carried out over recent years.

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[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/WoodFuelDemandUsageScotlandUpdate2010.pdf/\\$FILE/WoodFuelDemandUsageScotlandUpdate2010.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/WoodFuelDemandUsageScotlandUpdate2010.pdf/$FILE/WoodFuelDemandUsageScotlandUpdate2010.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7APFXA>

FCS together with Scottish Enterprise, the forest industries and Forest Research has agreed to co-fund an Edinburgh Napier University led, European Regional Development Fund project to:

- Support SME's to develop and commercialise innovative uses of wood and wood products;
- Support research into timber quality in the main conifer species and share results;
- Carry out research on innovative new timber products including cross laminated panels and disseminate findings;
- Promote the use of Scottish timber in construction to key stakeholders.

This important new project will tie in closely to FCS' Timber Development Programme.

On timber transport, this year saw further projects completed at a cost of £5 million as part of the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme. The success of the Scheme in mitigating the environmental impacts of timber transport on rural communities has ensured £2 million of further support for new projects in 2011-12, together with £1 million for the Timberlink shipping service.

In the hardwood and premium softwood sector there has been an encouraging and continuing trend of new entrants to the sector. Two workshops were held at Falkland Estate in March 2011 to promote the potential economic benefits of managing small woodlands to produce quality timber and woodfuel. Further work is planned for the coming year.

FCS and Scottish Enterprise continue to support the Association of Scottish Hardwood Sawmillers in the development of their supply chain and training of new entrants to the sector. As part of its niche marketing strategy, Forest Enterprise Scotland hosted a very successful log shop for selling timber to small scale log users for hardwoods and premium conifers. The intention is to offer more log shops in the coming year.

## **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

### ***Promoting predictable and stable timber supplies***

- Produce a softwood production forecast highlighting volume and quality and host a series of meetings with key stakeholders to disseminate the outputs of the 2011 Production Forecast (FC, FCS).
- Offer 3.2 million m<sup>3</sup> (+/-5%) of timber for sale and restock over 3800 ha of productive woodland on the national forest estate (FES).
- Continue the work to deliver a hardwood production forecast for Great Britain in 2013 (FC).
- Update the Wood Fuel Task Force data following publication of the 2011 Production Forecast (FCS).
- Publish the Wood Fuel Demand and Usage Report for 2011 and advise Scottish Government of the contribution of wood fuel to the 11% renewable heat target (FCS).

- Continue to highlight the opportunities for quality hardwood timber and wood fuel in bringing undermanaged woods back into production (FCS).

### ***Encouraging more use of timber***

- Through the Edinburgh Napier University led Wood Products Innovation Gateway (Wood PIG) and other routes: support and commission research into innovative uses of wood for high-end value markets; support events that raise awareness of the benefits of using home grown timber; and disseminate the outputs of the research project to determine the potential for using home grown timber for the manufacture of cross laminated panels (ENU, FC, FCS, SE, WfG).
- Identify the further work required to take forward an industry standard carbon calculator to evaluate the benefits of using wood products (FC, FCS).
- Work with Historic Scotland to consider research needs on the development of best practice for the replacement of existing timbers in traditionally constructed buildings (FCS, HS).

### ***Increasing timber supply chain efficiency***

- Continue to manage and deliver the £3 million Strategic Timber Transport Fund for 2011/12, including the TimberLink public service shipping contract (FCS).
- Publish a final summary report of the outputs of the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme to March 2011 (FCS, TTF).
- Continue to support a Timber Transport Project Officer post to lead on timber transport development work (ConFor, FCS, SE, TTF).
- Publish the revised Timber Development Programme (FCS).

### ***Developing the hardwood and premium softwood sector***

- Develop and deliver guidance on managing small woodlands for growing quality timber (FR).
- Organise and support events to improve understanding of best practice in growing and marketing quality hardwoods (ASHS, FR, FCS, SFMA).
- Continue to work with British and Irish Hardwood Improvement Programme and Forest Research to improve availability of quality planting stock, eg through establishment of a sycamore and ash seed orchard in Scotland (FCS, FR, BHIP).
- Continue to develop and deliver log shops offering hardwoods and premium softwoods to small scale users (FES).
- Work in partnership to explore opportunities to support hardwood and premium softwood users to develop collaborative working to reduce transaction costs within the supply chain (FCS, SE).

## **An outline programme for 2012-2014**

### ***Promoting predictable and stable timber supplies***

- Review the impact of the Renewable Heat Incentive in promoting local wood fuel supply, particularly in previously undermanaged woodlands.
- Continue to monitor demand for wood for energy and impact on timber supply.
- Continue to support research into the timber properties of alternative productive tree species.

### ***Encouraging more use of timber***

- Continue to work with others to produce comprehensive data on the carbon value of timber products in a low carbon economy.
- Continue to support research into the wood properties and characteristics of home grown species.
- Explore specific opportunities for increased use of home grown timber and timber products.
- Continue to support research into innovative uses of wood for high-end value markets.
- Support initiatives to raise awareness of the benefits of using timber from Scottish forests.

### ***Increasing timber supply chain efficiency***

- In conjunction with others, develop a strategy for timber transport involving non-road network elements from remote areas of Scotland.
- Identify and support opportunities to enhance skills in the timber supply chain.
- Continue to support initiatives that will help improve supply chain efficiency.

### ***Developing the hardwood and premium softwood sector***

- Undertake local initiatives to engage owners of under-managed farm woods and those in areas most suitable for expansion of productive woodlands.
- Ensure grant incentives promote best silvicultural practice for growing quality broadleaves.
- Continue to work with industry to improve the supply relationships between growers and softwood and hardwood timber processors.

## **Key theme 3: Business development**

### **Progress and priorities**

The Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme, which has now closed, paid out £2.8 million over the last two years in grants to business across Scotland. The Scheme delivered a significant boost to the sector prior to the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive. Details of the Renewable Heat Incentive have been published and it will provide a major incentive for the uptake of renewable heat. On the supply side, there has been strong development of the sector reflecting increasing opportunities for business. To support the Renewable Heat Incentive, FCS has re-launched its usewoodfuel website<sup>21</sup> with updated information on using and supplying wood fuel. The Regional Biomass Advice Network is also promoting the *Fuel Good Factor* campaign to highlight the increased opportunities for wood fuel.

The last year has seen significant construction work on the FES £9 million Glentress Peel Visitor Centre development in the Tweed Valley, which will be a key addition to the South Scotland tourism portfolio.

The final sites for FCS's energy forestry trials will be planted in the coming year; existing sites are already yielding useful information.

The visitor experience at measurable sites across the national forest estate continues to improve. In the mystery visitor programme, managed jointly with and benchmarked against Historic Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland, FCS' overall average quality performance rating increased by 2% to 92.2% in 2010.

FCS is a funding partner in the Scottish Mountain Bike Development Consortium, whose goal is the sustainable future development of the activity. Work on national standards for trail grading, construction and management and on a regional development cluster in Tayside & Fife are well underway and a successful conference of over 160 businesses and other interested groups was held in October 2010.

In partnership with Scottish Enterprise, FCS facilitated development of a forest industry sector website portal<sup>22</sup>; when complete, this will provide a comprehensive one stop shop for those seeking a career in forestry or timber. With FEI and SFTTG, FCS also ran a Career Advisors workshop at Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith. Positive feedback from the 37 participants prompted proposals to run further workshops in 2011/12. FCS piloted an *Introduction to Forestry* course for years S4–S6 in partnership with Falkland Centre for Stewardship<sup>23</sup>.

Together with the Scottish Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology, FCS ran a *Women In Forestry* event at Barony College, Dumfriesshire in April 2010. Attracting over 30 participants, the event raised both awareness of women's career opportunities in forestry and the profile of the Forestry Commission as a women-friendly employer.

FES has been supporting forest apprenticeships for more than five years with thirty having achieved formal qualifications to date.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.usewoodfuel.co.uk/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.forestry-and-timber-careers.com/>

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.foresteducation.org/news/view/introduction\\_to\\_forestry\\_pilot\\_course\\_-\\_report/](http://www.foresteducation.org/news/view/introduction_to_forestry_pilot_course_-_report/)

## **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

### ***Realising economic potential***

- Working with others, to commission research to update the SFS indicator which sets out the economic contribution of Scotland's forests and forest industries (including forest tourism) to Scotland's economy (FCS).
- Support the Scottish Government's review of incentives for biomass for heat and power in 2011 (FCS, SG)
- Co-ordinate a biomass marketing programme through the Regional Biomass Advice Network project, including case studies of key target sectors (FCS).
- Ensure high levels of awareness of the opportunities for woodfuel through the forthcoming Renewable Heat Incentive (FCS).
- Market new opportunities for woodfuel recovery from harvesting sites on the national forest estate (FES).
- Review the impact of the Regional Biomass Advice Network EU project and identify further work required to stimulate the woodfuel market (FCS).

### ***Contributing to rural development***

- Continue to develop Scotland's Energy Forestry Trials at sites across Scotland, establishing the final Trial site and disseminating early results from the six sites in order to promote energy forestry to land managers, particularly farmers, and energy companies (FCS, FES).
- Continue to support the development of supply networks through the Regional Biomass Advice Network including Regional Wood Fuel Forums, co-operative models on woodfuel supply and dissemination of information on sustainability criteria for woodfuel supply (FCS).
- Continue to support the 7stanes Community Interest Company and continue to work with partners and stakeholders to review and identify business opportunities for tourism businesses to use the National Forest Estate (FES).
- Work with renewable energy companies to identify further sites for installation of wind and hydro schemes (FES).

### ***Tourism***

- Open the new Glentress Peel Visitor Centre in the Tweed Valley (FES).
- Finalise the development plans for the visitor centre at David Marshall Lodge, near Aberfoyle, Galloway Forest Park and the Queen's View Visitor Centre, near Pitlochry, and commence improvements (FES).
- Working with others, consider the opportunities for further work around knowledge exchange and skills development in the forest tourism sector (FES).
- Participate as fully as possible in the *Focus Years*, officially designated as the Road to 2014 (the next Homecoming Year) - Active Scotland and

Scotland's Islands in 2011, Creative Scotland in 2012 and Natural Scotland in 2013 (FES).

### ***Skills***

- Deliver a pilot career event with FEI and other partners, for young women (ENU, FCS, FEI).
- Run three regional career workshops for career advisors and FEI Cluster groups (FCS, FEI, SDS).
- Provide 30 apprenticeship places on the national forest estate (FES).
- Provide high quality placements for students (FES).
- Work with GLOW (schools intranet) to repeat the *World of Work* live online interviews about working in forestry (FCS, LTS).
- Pilot two employability schemes within the CSGN (FCS).
- Pilot a volunteering scheme within the CSGN (FCS).

### **An outline programme for 2012-2014**

#### ***Realising economic potential***

- Continue to monitor the development of the wood fuel market both at the strategic and local level.

#### ***Contributing to rural development***

- Explore opportunities to use next round of the SRDP to promote the contribution of woods and forests to timber production and rural development.
- Review the impact of the Renewable Heat Incentive and identify what further work requires to be done to ensure that a vibrant local market for wood fuel heat develops, for both domestic and commercial use, in rural areas.

#### ***Tourism***

- Ensure forests contribute fully to the quality and breadth of Scotland's growing eco-tourism sector.

### ***Skills***

- Ensure career information is available in variety of formats.
- Develop resources for use at career events.

### **Key theme 4: Community development**

## Progress and priorities

This was the sixth year of the Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) programme, which continues as FCS' main focus in improving the quality of life of people living and working in urban Scotland. The results of a long term study evidenced the positive impact that WIAT is having on people's lives. To sustain the delivery of these benefits, FCS increased the support level for WIAT Challenge Fund priority areas from 75% to 90%. The delivery emphasis is now shifting towards working with partners to support the programme's legacy, as exemplified by the development and launch of the National Network of Key WIAT sites across the four city regions. This network will provide a focus for the next phase of the programme (2011-2014), delivering long-term contributions towards sustainable urban forest management.

Through its *Woods for Learning Action Plan*, FCS focussed on supporting teachers and others delivering *A Curriculum for Excellence*. Working with SNH, SAPOE (Scotland's local authority network for outdoor learning) and Learning Teaching Scotland, FCS helped to produce the Outdoor Learning section of the LTS website<sup>24</sup>. In partnership with the Crown Estates, FC England and the Royal Highland Education Trust Faarming and Countryside Education initiative, FCS helped to produce *Forests for the Future* - a level 2 (upper primary) resource about trees and climate change.

Partnership funding from Scottish Government Education Directorate contributed to a Forest School Training Programme, facilitating access to woods within walking distance of schools and training staff in 30 schools to deliver and support Forest Schools. A Forest School Scotland co-ordinator was appointed for 2½ years to pull this activity together and expand training and delivery. Funded by a Forestry for People (F4P) grant, with partnership funding from the Education Directorate, this post is hosted by Living Classrooms on behalf of the Forest Education Initiative (FEI) Partnership. A new FEI website was developed and went live, along with an associated Facebook page. A two day FEI Networking Event - attracting over 60 participants - was themed around the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

The toolkit for public participation in forest and woodland planning was revised to reflect changes in social forestry policy and practice, including more work with third sector organisations, more urban forestry and projects aimed at diverse communities. The toolkit supports good practice relating to a wide range of community forestry opportunities. These opportunities were broadened when the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) was revised to include the option for communities to lease land for forestry purposes, using new powers provided for in the Public Sector Reform (Scotland) Act 2010. The NFLS now also provides for community-based renewable energy projects to be developed on the national forest estate.

## What needs to be done in 2011-2012

### ***Help to improve the quality of life and well-being of people across Scotland***

- Continue to support the development of the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN, FCS, SNH).
- Continue to support the work of the CSFT (FCS).

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/learningteachingandassessment/approaches/outdoorlearning/index.asp>

- Launch the third phase of the WIAT (WIAT III) programme (FCS).
- Host the 14th European Forum on Urban Forestry conference<sup>25</sup> and associated FAO workshop in Glasgow on urban and peri-urban forestry (FCS, GCC, GCVGNP).
- Evaluate the WIAT Challenge Fund to inform the development of future support under the next Scotland Rural Development Programme (FCS).

### ***Enhance forestry's engagement with communities***

- Continue to promote the menu of opportunities for communities to get involved with activities on the national forest estate (FES).
- Roll out the revised public engagement in forestry toolkit (FCS).

### ***Support community ownership and management on the national forest estate, where this will bring increased benefits***

- Support community organisations exploring the community leasing option under the NFLS (FCS).
- Provide detailed guidance on how communities can get involved in community renewable energy projects on the national forest estate (FCS, FES).

### ***Develop forestry's role in education and lifelong learning***

- Explore potential opportunities for parents/carers to work with nurseries and schools to help support forest kindergarten and Forest School (FCS, FEI).
- Deliver training for FCS staff and FEI partners on delivering Continuing Professional Development for teachers on using Woods for Learning (FCS, FEI Partners)
- Work with Initial Teacher Education establishments to deliver training on learning outdoors in local woods and greenspace for Curriculum for Excellence (FCS, ITE).
- Deliver two Forest Education Initiative Networking events focussed on International Year of Forests (FEI).
- Develop resources on using *Woods for Learning* for teachers and others (FCS, FEI, LTS).

## **An outline programme for 2012-2014**

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<sup>25</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/efufconference2011>

## ***Help to improve the quality of life and well-being of people across Scotland***

- Continue to support the development of the Central Scotland Green Network and embed support for CSGN priorities within FCS and other Government policies and programmes.
- Deliver WIAT III programme and action plan.
- Continue to build the evidence for the economic benefits from WIAT and green networks.

## ***Enhance forestry's engagement with communities***

- Continue to promote the menu of opportunities for local communities to benefit from their woodland.

## ***Support community ownership and management on the national forest estate, where this will bring increased benefits***

- Continue to support community ownership and management through the community engagement framework.

## ***Develop forestry's role in education and lifelong learning***

- Host the 2012 EU Forest Pedagogues Conference (FCS and FEI partners)
- Link *Woods for Learning* to the Games Legacy within Developing Global Citizens theme in the Curriculum for Excellence.

## **Key theme 5: Access and health**

### **Progress and priorities**

Led by FCS, the *Branching Out* initiative - using woodlands as recovery settings for people experiencing mental health problems - was given the annual Michael Varnam Award by the UK Public Health Association, in recognition of outstanding contribution to Health, Humanity and Environment.

Through an ambitious partnership campaign *Greening the NHS estate*, FCS worked in partnership to enable several hospital sites to be developed as health-promoting environments; these included Ninewells in Dundee, Lawson Memorial in Golspie, and more than 70 acres of green space and woodland surrounding the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital at Larbert. Through the *Green Exercise Partnership* (FCS, NHS Health Scotland and SNH), FCS explored greening options with senior representatives from the Estates and Public Health departments in 6 Scottish Health Boards. Scottish Government made £36,000 available to three Area Health Boards for this NHS initiative.

In February a partnership between FCS, University of the Highlands and Islands, Centre for Rural Health, and NHS Forth Valley secured £90,000 from the Arts & Humanities Research Council to fund a two year post doctoral research study examining the design and development of hospital grounds greenspace for health and well-being. This project will test how to collect information on the self-reported health benefits of participation in greenspace activities and how this information could be used to estimate social return on investment in hospital greenspace.

In September FCS held a seminar on developing greenspace in hospital grounds. This showcased joined up delivery between the environment and health sectors in Scotland and highlighted projects that demonstrate how planning and design of NHS greenspace can promote better health and wellbeing for staff, patients, visitors and local people.

A Phototrail/Accessibility survey project was completed in Scottish Lowlands Forest District in partnership with Fieldfare Trust (a national charity promoting countryside access for disabled people). More than 150 km of paths, tracks and roads were surveyed and classified in terms of accessibility, resulting in strategic recommendations to help improve physical access to woodlands in the short, medium and long term. Accessibility assessment maps were produced for several woodland sites (e.g. Blairadam, Carron Valley, Callender Wood, Devilla, Easterhouse, Forth, Kilpatrick hills, Larbert, Newbattle and Twechar/Croy). Thirteen phototrails, covering 27 kilometres, are now available<sup>26</sup>.

In partnership with Sustrans Scotland and Uddingston Grammar School in North Lanarkshire, FCS encouraged pupils, parents and staff in active travel to and from school on waymarked green transport corridors. The study included a rapid appraisal of evidence and conducted a public consultation exercise to agree interventions. These included signage, waymarking woodland trails, brashing and thinning of overgrown areas, mountain bike training for teachers, bikes and a bike storage unit to allow PE staff to deliver outdoor cycling lessons for pupils. The baseline study will be followed up in 12 months time and findings published with recommendations to help other schools promote green transport corridors.

## **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

### ***Contribute to health improvement and narrowing the health gap in Scotland by increasing the number of people who visit woodlands and the outdoors.***

- Extend the *Branching Out* service for patients using mental health services (FCS, NHS, area Health Boards, SAMH).
- Review *Woods for Health* strategy (FCS).

### ***Make access to woodlands easier for all sectors of society***

- Improve Forester GIS data on national forest estate recreation facilities, record data on Recreation Manager and undertake a survey to ensure recreation facilities promote equality of opportunity and comply with the Equalities Act 2010 (FES).
- Open 10 kilometres of new trails and paths near urban areas to improve amenity and accessibility (FES).
- Develop an affordable work programme for undertaking improvements across the national forest estate (FES).

### ***Use woodland access to help improve physical and mental health in Scotland***

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.phototrails.org>

- Develop pilot sites at key hospitals through the *Green Exercise Partnership* under the *Greening the NHS estate* initiative (FCS, NHS, SNH).
- Publish and launch NHS green space design guidance (FCS, NHS).

***Provide a greater range of ways for people to enjoy woodlands***

- Complete follow up and publish findings of active travel by green transport corridor study (FCS).

**An outline programme for 2012-14**

***Contribute to health improvement and narrowing the health gap in Scotland by increasing the number of people who visit woodlands and the outdoors.***

- Continue to deliver and develop Branching Out service for patients using mental health services in liaison with area Health Boards.

***Make access to woodlands easier for all sectors of society***

- Extend Phototrails approach in Forest Districts to create a national network of fully accessible trails that allow those with disabilities, their carers and able bodied people to make informed choices about what forest recreation sites to visit.
- Publish findings of the natural play study at Merrylee Primary School in Glasgow to help inform future natural play developments in school grounds.
- Explore opportunities to use next round of the SRDP to promote access to woodlands.

***Use woodland access to help improve physical and mental health in Scotland***

- Work with health professionals and existing GP exercise referral schemes to promote green prescription opportunities at forest sites in Scotland.
- Continue to support the *Greening the NHS estate* programme to increase woodland cover and high quality green space surrounding health care facilities.

**Key theme 6: Environmental quality**

**Progress and priorities**

Recognising the potential of forestry to support sustainable flood risk management, FCS agreed to be a candidate Responsible Authority under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. This will give FCS a key role in promoting new planting as part of natural flood risk management techniques and the multiple benefits that can arise from riparian and floodplain planting. Work to support the two River Basin Management Plans in Scotland continues; actions have been consolidated to address the problems arising from forestry

operations on river banks, and proactive steps taken to address the problems of diffuse pollution and invasive non-native species.

Following the publication of the *Scottish Soil Framework* (2009), peatlands became a key focus in 2010, with FCS declaring an intention to operate a general presumption against woodland creation on deep peats (>50cms). Understanding of the greenhouse gas implications of forestry on peat soils took a step forward with the publication of a commissioned Forest Research report on the subject<sup>27</sup>. This provided evidence to support contributions to a number of Government and other public agency reports, and will support a move to finalise a FCS position on woodland planting in peatland areas.

Draft guidance<sup>28</sup> has been developed aimed at the managers of conifer woodlands planted primarily for timber production. It demonstrates ways in which planning for and implementing measures to deliver diversity can contribute towards ecological and economic resilience. Following this guidance should help mitigate the anticipated effects of climate change, and improve the forests biological and visual contribution to the local landscape.

Some 60 people from a cross-section of local authorities and other organisations have now completed the FCS two-day course in urban woodland design. The training course has been developed for all those engaged in the creation and management of woodlands intended for active use by local communities under the WIAT programme.

Building on the Joint Agreement between FCS and Historic Scotland signed last year, the partners have now developed a Joint Action Plan. The Plan covers a two-year period and describes the activities that the organisations intend to carry out to foster the identification, conservation and interpretation of the historic environment in Scotland's forests and woodlands.

Draft guidance has been developed for managers of all trees and woodlands in a designed landscape<sup>29</sup>. It describes the tree and woodland features through the historic periods of design in Scotland and provides guidance for their conservation and management.

The Historic Environment Information & Advice for Forest and Woodland Managers in Scotland resource has been fully revised and updated.

Priorities for this implementation plan period are:

- Agree an achievable work plan as part of FCS obligations under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009;
- Further develop and promote an evidence-based position on woodland planting and removal on peat soils;
- Promotion of the new UK Forestry Standard and associated suite of Guidelines;
- Development of an education resource on Scotland's woodland culture.

## **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-7KHELL>

<sup>28</sup> to be published on FCS website

<sup>29</sup> to be published on FCS website

### ***Help to protect Scotland's water, soil and air resource***

- Publish and promote the new UKFS Water and Soils Guidelines (FC).
- Develop a work plan for fulfilling FCS obligations under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (FCS).
- Publish and promote a FCS Policy Statement on woodland planting and removal on peat soils (FCS).
- Develop and deliver a FC Practice Note on acidification (FC).
- Develop and deliver updated support for woodland managers on woodland creation to mitigate diffuse pollution (FCS).

### ***Contribute to Scotland's diverse and attractive landscapes***

- Publish and promote the new UKFS Forests and Landscape Guidelines (FC).
- Develop and deliver training course for woodland managers to promote best practice in forest landscape design and planning (FCS).
- Publish and promote best practice guidance for the delivery of biologically diverse and visually attractive forest landscapes, robust to the anticipated effects of climate change (FCS).
- Publish and promote best practice guidance that contributes towards the conservation and management of trees and woodlands in designed landscapes (FCS).

### ***Help to manage Scotland's historic environment and its interpretation and enjoyment***

- Publish and promote the new UKFS Forests and Historic Environment Guidelines (FC).
- Develop and deliver an education resource on the history of Scotland's woodland culture (FCS).
- Develop and deliver a series of illustrated case studies and associated guidance promoting the conservation management of significant historic environment features in Scotland's woodlands and forests (FCS).
- Develop guidance that promotes the stewardship of all scheduled monuments in woodlands under an agreed management plan (HS).
- Review the Designated Historic Assets Register on the national forest estate in liaison with Historic Scotland (FCS, HS).

### **An outline programme for 2012-2014**

#### ***Help to protect Scotland's water, soil and air resource***

- Undertake agreed actions to implement the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

- Explore opportunities to use next round of the SRDP to promote the establishment and management of trees, woodlands and forests for their contribution towards helping to protect water resources.
- Deliver forestry-related aspects of the anticipated Government position paper on peatland soils.
- Working with stakeholders, identify exemplar actions on the national forest estate to reduce the risk of landslides, landslips and rock falls affecting key transport routes.

### ***Contribute to Scotland's diverse and attractive landscapes***

- Explore opportunities to use next round of the SRDP to promote the establishment and management of trees, woodlands and forests for their contribution towards Scotland's cultural landscapes.

### ***Help to manage Scotland's historic environment and its interpretation and enjoyment***

- Explore opportunities to use next round of the SRDP to support the effective identification, conservation and promotion of all aspects of the historic environment in Scotland's forests and woodlands.

## **Key theme 7: Biodiversity**

### **Progress and priorities**

Joint work to improve the condition of designated woodlands progressed well. Features on the national forest estate are above the 95% target for favourable or recovering status, and FCS and SNH work with private landowners led to an increase in grant schemes being approved to address unfavourable condition. Under SRDP Rural Priorities grant schemes, some 6670 hectares of native woodland management and 3259 hectares of native woodland creation were approved during 2010.

A workshop hosted by FCS in January led to development of a Scottish initiative to promote and expand landscape scale ecological restoration projects, in which native woodland projects will play a big part.

To help understand how to manage woodland ecosystems for priority species, SNH, FCS and FR (working with partners in the Woodland Ecosystem Group) have developed web-based guidance which relates priority species to the habitats which they rely upon and advises on how to sustain them by generic habitat management. This will link to grant information and comprehensive information on habitats from the Native Woodlands Survey of Scotland. Plantlife also carried out a project in partnership with FCS to improve awareness of rare woodland plant species amongst forestry agents and managers and encourage targeted grant applications.

FCS has developed monitoring programmes for the national forest estate for all six FCS key priority species. Conservation work progressed for all six species, including widespread support payments under SRDP Rural Development Contracts for black grouse conservation in woodlands and moorlands.

SNH published a grey squirrel control strategy for Scotland and grey squirrel control continued in key areas; effort is now being focussed on evaluating the effects of control and systematically assessing the spread of squirrelpox virus in south Scotland. Guidance was developed with a range of stakeholders for managing red squirrel stronghold areas.

A strategic guide to managing and restoring open habitats is being prepared for the national forest estate, which contains over 30% of non-wooded areas.

Guidance was developed for forest managers in the Flow Country SAC/SPA to help them plan forest-edge clearance to benefit the adjacent designated blanket bog features. This was based on work by a multi partner Science Group which assessed the evidence of edge effects from forests in the central Flows on habitats and birds.

As part of Central Scotland Green Network planning, a set of integrated habitat network opportunity maps were produced by FR for woodland, grassland and wetland habitats.

Work is well advanced to develop a national strategy for the national forest estate to control rhododendron, and new higher rates of payment under Rural Priorities were introduced to help encourage control on other land.

FCS published summary reports from the Native Woodlands Survey of Scotland (NWSS) for 11 local authority areas<sup>30</sup> and surveyed 184,000 ha despite the difficulties created by the severe winter weather. This field-based survey of all of Scotland's native woodlands is identifying their location, extent, type and condition. The survey team also worked with partners to train users and develop examples of uses of the published data.

FCS worked with International Year of Biodiversity 2010 partners to promote woodland biodiversity awareness. FCS also ran four Woodland Biodiversity CPD courses for teachers and rangers throughout Scotland.

A conference which concluded the Action for Mountain Woodlands Project highlighted the importance and fragility of these habitats and the potential role they can play as a missing biodiversity link between woodlands and montane ecosystems. FCS issued revised guidance on how grants under the SRPD can help to support them.

Priorities for the coming period will include:

- an emphasis on understanding and promoting an ecosystem approach driven by the new set of global biodiversity targets agreed in 2010;
- a general focus on how to achieve the best effect from limited resources and cost- effective monitoring of responses with a partnership approach;
- coordination of efforts against invasive non-native species;
- the continuing need to conserve ancient and native woodlands;
- better understanding of where and how to encourage adaptation of forest biodiversity to land use and climate change.

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/nwss>

## **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

### ***Help reverse biodiversity decline by targeted action***

- Bring at least 25 designated woodland features, and 3,000 hectares of other native woodlands, into management towards favourable condition (FCS, SNH)
- Use Native Woodland Survey of Scotland results to help prioritise and promote native woodland management and restoration of ancient woodland sites on the national forest estate and private land (FCS, FES).
- Publish guidance on control of invasive non-native species in Scottish woodlands; and co-ordinate action to control rhododendron, including putting in place a long term eradication plan for rhododendron the national forest estate (FCS, SNH).
- Promote use of woodland priority species advice in SRDP Rural Development Contract forest plans and on the national forest estate (FCS, SNH, WEG)
- Review the success of black grouse and capercaillie conservation measures and recommend priorities for further work (FCS, GCWT, RSPB, SNH).
- Promote juniper management through advice on RDC support (FCS, Plantlife).
- Publish an open habitats strategy for the national forest estate (FCS, FES).

### ***Help reverse biodiversity decline by broader actions***

- Publish a revised FCS Biodiversity Programme (FCS).
- Ensure that woodland deer management for biodiversity is suitably reflected in the new Code for Sustainable Deer Management (FCS, SNH).
- Develop targets for ecosystem health across all woodland ecosystems, which take account of linkages to other ecosystem types and to ecosystem services (WEG).
- Create at least 4,500 hectares of new or converted native woodland to help meet Habitat Action Plan targets and develop habitat networks, focussing promotional effort towards rarer woodland types (FCS).
- Lead development of a Scottish landscape-scale ecological restoration initiative to promote principles and best practice and facilitate future projects (FCS, SNH).

### ***Increase awareness of woodland biodiversity***

- Deliver two woodland biodiversity awareness days for teachers and others (FEI).
- Co-ordinate action to encourage more voluntary recording of wildlife in woodlands (FCS, SNH).

- Publish advice to increase awareness of woodland ecosystem services and their links to biodiversity (FC).

### ***Improve knowledge for better decision making***

- Survey 188,000 hectares of woodland for NWSS and publish 8 reports for local authority areas (FCS).
- Develop and publish baseline indicators of High Nature Value Forestry and High Nature Value Farmland, part of the high level indicators for assessing impact of SRDP (FCS, SAC, SG, SNH).
- Analyse changes in ancient woodland area and condition over a 30 year period in at least 10 local authority areas, by comparing Native Woodland Survey and Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory data (FCS, SNH, WTS).

### **An outline programme for 2012-2014**

#### ***Help reverse biodiversity decline by targeted action***

- Each year improve the condition of designated woodland features and bring 3,000 hectares of other native woodlands into management towards favourable condition.
- Each year bring at least 1,000 hectares of non-native PAWS sites into restoration towards native woodlands.
- Implement red squirrel strongholds; and review regional red squirrel conservation projects and implement the new plans.
- Set up a series of juniper 'orchards' to supply cuttings, based on seed collections across the ranges of Scottish seed zones.
- Contribute to a national monitoring strategy for priority habitats and species and start implementation.
- Implement guidance on how to locate and design new woodlands in order to reduce impacts on the biodiversity value of open habitats.

#### ***Help reverse biodiversity decline by broader actions***

- Promote understanding and implementation of the new UK Forestry Standard and UKFS Forests and Biodiversity Guidelines
- Publish biodiversity-related guidance for planning and managing urban/post-industrial woods in green networks.
- Establish joint projects for treeline woods through partnership projects.
- Encourage new floodplain and other wetland woods to contribute to both biodiversity and reducing flood risk or diffuse pollution, through opportunity mapping and promotion.
- Encourage new landscape-scale ecological restoration projects.
- Incorporate NWSS and new woodland map data into development plans, forestry and woodland strategies and habitat network plans.

- Explore opportunities to use next round of the SRDP to help reverse biodiversity decline.

### ***Increase awareness of woodland biodiversity***

- Implement a co-ordinated volunteer recording approach.
- Include woodlands and woodland biodiversity in Local Biodiversity Action Plan awareness messages.

### ***Improve knowledge for better decision-making***

- Complete the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland fieldwork and all reports.
- Complete sampling for the National Forest Inventory in Scotland and estimate revised values of indicators of woodland structure and composition.
- Develop systems for recording biodiversity-related spatial information for SRDP Rural Development Contract schemes in woodlands.
- Publish advice on the predicted effects of climate change on native woodland ecosystems in Scotland and implications for policy and management.
- Publish guidance on converting plantations to native woodland and forest landscape restoration indicators and establish monitoring regimes in exemplar projects.
- Publish web-based guidance on woodland biodiversity for use by Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - REGIONS**

### **South Scotland**

**(Borders, Dumfries and Galloway and part of Ayrshire SEARS regions)**

#### **Progress and priorities**

South Scotland is a predominantly rural area, characterised by small to medium sized market towns. The natural environment is particularly diverse, ranging from montane scrub habitats in the uplands, right through to lowland raised mires and fertile river valleys. The population is widely dispersed, at roughly half the average density of the rest of Scotland. The economy is characterised by low wages, with average wages significantly below the national average.

The area contains about 25% of the total forest resource of Scotland, and as such presents unique opportunities for contributing to the local economy; timber processing is a significant employer in the region. The region's rural character and extensive woodland cover, present significant opportunities for the further development of wood fuel as an energy source. As an existing active hub for the forestry sector, the region is well placed to develop capacity to service the increasing demands for appropriate skills and development for this growing sector. Forests and rivers are an important characteristic of the upland areas, where good forest design and implementation will contribute to achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, as well as maintaining the demands from the commercial sector.

The woodland resource also creates unparalleled opportunities to develop the tourism and leisure sectors in many areas including activity sports, wildlife and health. For example, the 7stanes project continues its aim to widen the appeal of mountain biking while ensuring that wider tourism business, health and social benefits are secured for the south of Scotland.

During 2010-11, progress against actions included:

- Within South Scotland, FES has been actively involved in the acquisition of land for the development and expansion of robust forests and open ground habitat networks;
- A significant number of woodland creation proposals have been approved through the SRDP process. This included over 1000 hectares of productive woodland across South Scotland.
- The UNESCO Biosphere nomination for Cairnsmore of Fleet, and Silver Flow and Merrick Kells (now known as *The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve*) has received Scottish Government endorsement. The nomination will now be submitted to UNESCO and a decision should be made by spring 2012.
- *Ayrshire's Treasured Tree Hunt* was a public engagement project to gather and record information on distinctive trees in Ayrshire (including the Isle of Arran). Particular emphasis was given to ancient and veteran trees, with the overall aim of raising awareness of the special place trees have in our natural and cultural heritage.

- FES continues to deliver access and health initiatives throughout South Scotland. One significant development, on the national forest estate in the Borders region, came into operation in spring 2011.
- Galloway Fisheries Trust, with support from FCS and SEPA, are currently undertaking a restoration project to address some of the issues surrounding acidification.
- Galloway Forest District, which has special responsibility for montane scrub (including treeline scrub) completed an Amwood (action for mountain woodlands) project in partnership with SNH and the Cree Valley Community Woodland Trust.
- Galloway Forest Park became the UK's first Dark Sky Park (DSP) in late 2009. In the first year of DSP status, a small-scale survey of local businesses showed over 600 additional bed nights spent in the immediate area as a direct result of the Dark Skies project.

## **What needs to be done in 2011 - 2012**

### ***Climate change***

- Promote the value of woodland to the agricultural community in helping manage carbon input/output of business, potentially through whole farm plans (FES, FCS).

### ***Timber***

- Promote, through demonstration and pilot projects, a holistic approach on farm and forestry potential through land use/business plans that integrate woodland expansion with agriculture (FES, FCS).

### ***Business development***

- Prepare a targeted action plan to address the shortage of labour resource in the trees and timber industries in South Scotland (SFTT).

### ***Community development***

- Explore with local authorities the role that forestry land might play in achieving wider policy objectives, particularly for rural housing and the removal of long term vacant and/or derelict land (DGC, FES, SBC).

### ***Access and health***

- Implement and promote access for all for recreation and tourism purposes. Special attention will be given to access which encourages and provides health and social benefits in co-operation with other relevant bodies (FES).

### ***Environmental quality***

- Develop the application of an Ecosystem approach to land use within the Tweed Basin Flood and Wetland Management (TF).

### ***Biodiversity***

- Promote the expansion of the ashwood and wet woodland habitat networks in the south of Scotland (FCS).

## **An Outline Programme for 2012-2014**

### ***Climate change***

- Disseminate and promote the work of the *Scottish Borders Woodland partnership Construction and sustainable development using local timber project* in Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway to encourage the use of timber in construction and insulation and the use of massive timber.

### ***Timber***

- Promote the development of the quality timber resource (both hardwood and softwood) in the south of Scotland and encourage woodland expansion which supports this.

### ***Business development***

- Progress the creation of a forest industry *centre of excellence* based in the South of Scotland (SFTT).

### ***Community development***

- Develop educational packages for schools, disadvantaged groups and lifelong learning programmes promoting the greater use of woodlands as outdoor learning centres.
- Encourage pupils to consider forestry as a career choice.

### ***Access and health***

- Work with Medical professionals to identify needs that can be addressed through trees, woods and forests, and try to meet those needs.

### ***Environmental quality***

- Complete, for all south Scotland Local authorities, the expanded list of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes; and encourage all stakeholders and managers of both private and public forest areas to prepare and disseminate suitable management guidance.

### ***Biodiversity***

- Promote multi-purpose landscape scale projects for biodiversity.

## **Central Scotland**

**(Clyde Valley, part of Forth and part of Ayrshire SEARS regions)**

### **Progress and priorities**

Central Scotland has around 3 million people (around 60% of Scotland's total population) living within the area. The region's woodland resource, roughly 140,000 hectares, takes in a range of landscapes, from those with a high environmental value, such as the Campsie and Pentland Hills, to those suffering significant environmental blight and degradation through previous industrial activities. The 2010/11 priorities focussed on climate change,

business development, community development, access and health, and biodiversity.

To help tackle the effects of climate change, FCS successfully secured funding for West Lothian Council to undertake a study examining the options for producing wood fuel to supply biomass installations within Council buildings. In addition, the Biomass Development Officer has provided advice and assistance to over 100 individual businesses, organisations and householders.

The Conservancy has also finalised and published its *Engagement Strategy* for engaging with minority and disadvantaged groups throughout Central Scotland<sup>31</sup>. This was supported by a detailed 3 year Implementation Plan and was launched by the Central Scotland Engagement Officer in January 2011.

A potential site for the Commonwealth Arboretum project was identified by the Conservancy staff and work continues in partnership with Clyde Gateway to deliver an ambitious project that could support the regeneration of Glasgow's East End. The Conservancy Branching Out Programme<sup>32</sup> received a major award from the UK Public Health Association as well as being awarded "Best Green Healthcare" project at the Scottish Green Awards.

The Conservancy has been actively promoting the use of woodlands as a learning environment. This has included the promotion of both Forest School and Forest Kindergarten. As well as continuing the delivery of sessions in partnership with Local Authorities in GCV, FCS has invested in training provision and is currently looking at a comparative exercise to identify models that best suit Early Years staff. A Forest Kindergarten Conference was held in Clydebank to raise awareness of the benefits that outdoor education can deliver for pupils, parents and staff and a Forest Kindergarten film was developed with St Pauls Nursery<sup>33</sup>.

The Conservancy also ran a 10-week programme with the Women's Aid group at Cathkin Braes in Glasgow to engage with women and children who have experienced domestic abuse.

FCS continued work with the Strategic Development Plan Teams in both Glasgow & Clyde Valley and South East Scotland in the development of both Main Issues Reports and the Strategic Development Plan, ensuring good coverage of key issues relating to both forestry and green networks.

In collaboration with partners, FCS has worked on the development of the Clyde & Avon Valleys Landscape Heritage Lottery Fund Partnership Stage 2 bid. FCS has also worked with SEPA to develop a methodology to identify strategic woodland opportunities to address River Basin Management Plan objectives in the Conservancy.

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/centralscotlandengagement>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7VWEEY>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8WWrRzf7ZU>

During 2010-11, progress against actions included:

- A Biomass for Business Event was organised by the Central Scotland Biomass Development Officer.
- The Central Scotland Woodfuel Forum was established to encourage the uptake of woodfuel as a renewable energy.
- FCS administered 48 applications for the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund.
- CSFT appointed dedicated staff resource to lead on woodland creation in the Central Scotland Forest.
- Commenced development of a new generation of Forest and Woodland Strategies in Glasgow & Clyde Valley, Edinburgh & Lothians, and Fife.
- A Woodland Action Plan was developed for the Pentland Hills in liaison with Local Authorities and the LFGNP to identify opportunities for both woodland management and woodland creation
- The FCS Engagement Officer delivered a full and wide ranging programme. She worked with a number of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups including the Somali Association, Nepal Scotland, Blackhall Mosque, members of Chinese and Eritrean communities. Other activities included four cultural festivals using woodlands, namely a Chinese Autumn festival, the Diwali festival of light, the Vaisaki harvest festival and an interfaith event supporting healing trees initiatives, attending Edinburgh and Glasgow Mela festivals and involvement in Black History Month. Ten BME women completed a leadership programme to give them confidence to confidently take their communities to woodland sites for visits and activities. A series of woodland visits were organised with the Glasgow Centres for independent living disability champions.
- The Forest Kindergarten Officer delivered 6 new Forest Kindergarten Projects and delivered 17 CPD sessions to early years staff and parents. A total of 57 pre-school children, 15 early years staff and 2 parents have been engaged on a regular basis with Forest Kindergarten
- Early Years DVD developed in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, focused on the Forest Kindergarten project.
- Our Lady and Joseph's Nursery and Forest Kindergarten project was nominated for 2010 Green Awards, for Best Green School.
- FCS awarded Forestry for People (F4P) Challenge Funding to Woodland Trust Scotland towards the VISITwoods programme in Scotland.
- FCS organised 3 Forest School Level 3 Leader training and 1 Forest School Level 2 training in Central Scotland and provided continuous support to trainees.

- Delivered the first National Branching Out seminar, on 15 September 2010. This brought together the health, environmental and voluntary sectors to showcase options for using greenspace to deliver mental health and wellbeing benefits.
- Branching Out expanded into the NHS Lothian and NHS Forth Valley areas, working with new partners Edinburgh & Lothian's Greenspace Trust and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.
- FCS secured £20,000 from NHSGGC for the next phase of the Branching Out patient referral programme.
- FCS secured £29,000 in a joint bid with SAMH to deliver Branching Out as part of their Get Active strategy.
- Pilot delivered with Apex Scotland to provide volunteer opportunities on the national forest estate. They have now secured additional funding via Forestry for People (F4P) Challenge Funding.
- FC ran two Urban Woodland Design Courses for 30 stakeholders operating in the key WIAT areas.
- An Implementation Plan for the Millennium Woodlands in Edinburgh was produced to highlight opportunities for woodland management and social activities.
- Established a new partnership in Castlemilk, one of the key WIAT sites.
- Published a case study and launched a video of the natural play demonstration site in Merylee Primary school in Glasgow.
- FCS ran a "Go Mountainbike" programme with Shawlands Academy in Glasgow.
- Undertook research to examine opportunities for a Green Network Partnership in Ayrshire.
- The Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Partnership assumed a more strategic remit in order to align itself with the South East Scotland SES Plan and CSGN; consequently it is now known as Lothians and Fife Green Network Partnership.

## **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

### ***Climate change***

- Continued support for the development of a mature biomass energy industry through the provision of advice and assistance to primary producers, supply chain businesses and energy end-users throughout Central Scotland (FCS).

- Continue to support the development of the Central Scotland Forest (CSFT, FCS).
- Connect unmanaged urban and other small woods with local heat markets (FCS).
- Develop and launch a new woodland creation planting model for Central Scotland (FCS).
- Explore new mechanisms that will help deliver the woodland creation targets within the Central Scotland Forest and Central Scotland Green Network, including carbon funding and compensatory planting (CSFT ELGT, FCS).
- In partnership with Lothian & Fife Green Network Partnership, develop and publish a Forestry & Woodland Strategy for Edinburgh & the Lothians (FCS, LFGNP).
- In partnership with the Strategic Development Plan Authority, develop and publish a Forestry & Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow & Clyde Valley City Region (GCVSDPA, FCS)
- In partnership with Fife Council and Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, prepare a Forestry & Woodland Strategy for Fife (FifeC, FCCT, FCS).
- In partnership with the Ayrshire Joint Planning Team, develop a Forestry & Woodland Strategy for Ayrshire (AJPT, FCS).
- Organise an event for planners/ developers that aims to increase awareness of the Scottish Government's Policy of Woodland Removal and sharing guidance on how to comply with the policy (FCS).

### ***Timber and business***

- Maintain the impetus on promoting the increased use of timber in construction, particularly in urban regeneration projects (FCS).
- Develop and run two events focussing on lowland woodland management, including the value of broadleaves as timber and fuel wood, how to manage woodlands and a demonstration of small machinery (FCS).
- Explore opportunities to promote the use of timber in construction at the Ravenscraig Innovation Park (FCS).

### ***Community development***

- Continue implementation of Central Scotland Engagement Strategy (FCS).
- Continue to develop the Commonwealth Arboretum and Commonwealth Community Woodland Legacy Projects (FES, FCS).
- Support forest-related education initiatives that contribute to national outcomes, including Forest Kindergarten, Forest Education Initiative and Forest Schools (FCS, FEI).

- Investigate opportunities for the development of woodland volunteering programmes and training/ employment schemes within Central Scotland in partnership with the voluntary sector (FES, FCS).

### ***Access & health***

- Play an active role in delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network, including the administration of applications for the CSGN Development Fund (CSGN, FCS).
- Promote and encourage both staff and the public to populate the Visit Woods website (WTS).
- Continue to support, and expand, the Branching Out programme across 3 health board areas in central Scotland and expand into a fourth board area (FCS, NHSF, NHSGGC, NHSL).
- Develop and deliver a bespoke training programme to increase number of delivery partners offering Branching Out (FCS).
- Work with NHS Health Scotland to secure Scottish Government funding for Branching Out (FCS, NHS).
- Support British Waterways Trust in the development of their Woodland and Waterways on Referral Project (BWT, FCS).

### ***Environmental Quality***

- Promote the role of forests and woodlands for improving water quality with the Forth and Clyde River Basin Management plans in partnership with CSGN (CSGN, FCS).

### ***Biodiversity***

- Continued promotion of Integrated Habitat Networks (FCS).
- Identify opportunities for woodland creation and management following the Forest Habitat Network concept, especially in areas where key forest-dependent species are vulnerable (FCS).

## **An Outline Programme for 2012 - 2014**

### ***Climate change***

- Continue to support woodland creation as identified in the various forestry strategies and frameworks, including Central Scotland Green Network.

### ***Timber and business***

- Maintain the impetus on promoting the increased use of timber in construction, particularly in urban regeneration project, and growing quality hardwoods.

### ***Community development***

- Continue to support the delivery of the National Network of Key WIAT sites in Central Scotland
- Continue implementation of Central Scotland Diversity Engagement Strategy.

### ***Access & health***

- Play an active role in delivery of Central Scotland Green Network.

### ***Biodiversity***

- Continued promotion of Integrated Habitat Networks.

### ***Environmental Quality***

- Continue to promote the role of forests and woodlands in meeting RBMP objectives.

## **Perth and Argyll**

### **(Argyll, Tayside and part of Forth SEARS regions)**

#### **Progress and priorities**

Perth and Argyll Conservancy covers some of the most diverse range of cultural, historic and natural landscapes in Scotland ranging from the machairs of the Argyll islands to the cities of Stirling and Dundee and the productive farmlands of Perthshire, Angus and Fife. It covers three major FES Districts and includes Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park as well as being the southern gateway to the Cairngorms. Around 16% of Scotland's population live within the region and the larger part of the urban population of Scotland is within an hour's travel, offering significant opportunities for outdoor, forest-based, tourism, recreation and education.

Twenty-two percent of the area is forested, a reflection of the long history of forest creation and management by both the national forest estate and traditional estates. It is a region open to new approaches to integrated land use where a diversity of objectives can be delivered by well-targeted public support.

Regional priorities for 2010-2013 focussed on climate change mitigation through woodland expansion and wood energy, Woods in and Around Towns, agricultural diversification into forestry-related activities, woodland-based tourism and biodiversity. A number of events were supported to promote the role of forestry in the Conservancy. These included the 'Big Tent' (Falkland), Dundee Food & Flower Show and Cowalfest.

During 2010/11, progress against action included:

- A significant increase in approved woodland creation proposals compared to previous years.
- The Argyll & Bute Indicative Forestry Strategy (IFS) was fully consulted upon, agreed by Argyll & Bute Council and is due to be finally published early in 2011/12. The IFS is likely to support substantive new woodland creation.

- Progress on the Angus Local Woods & Forestry Framework was slower than anticipated but is due for completion also early in 2011/12. The Framework is likely to support new woodland creation within the Angus context.
- Perth & Kinross IFS remains to be completed but, after a lull, progress is picking up for completion in 2011/12
- Stirling, Clacks and Fife Councils are actively reviewing their IFS with a view to substantive review in 2011/12
- Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority has proposed to subsume its review of the Local Woodland & Forestry Framework within a pilot land use strategy in response to the Scottish Government's *Land Use Strategy*.
- FCS set-up a pilot, in conjunction with the Regional Forestry Forum and ConFor, in Perth & Kinross to better assess, in light of some large-scale woodland removal projects and current standards of open ground in forest design, any woodland loss since 2000 and any prospective change in the future productive potential of the forest area following felling and restocking. This pilot will inform a wider study to be held across Scotland in 2011/12.
- A number of projects were accepted for support in Argyll under the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme.
- Biomass Networks in Argyll and East Scotland were supported with meetings held in both Oban and in Perth respectively to promote the potential of the Renewable Heat Incentive to key stakeholders.
- Collaboration with Scott McG Wilson (Forestry Consultant) and Forest Research to produce a new publication *Using Alternative Conifer Species for Productive Forestry in Scotland* aimed at encouraging a more diverse range of timber species and products in Scotland.
- Conservancy staff worked with Forest Research and National Office to help introduce guidance on short rotation eucalyptus forestry in a pilot Forest Plan area in Argyll.
- Production of a summary report on the current status of Douglas fir and European larch crops within the Conservancy.
- Support for a number of events to help promote farm woodlands to farmers including 3 events in Perthshire held in partnership with QMS, a field workshop on Falkland Estate on the timber potential of farm woods was also held under the auspices of the RBAN project (and with particular emphasis on the biomass potential and on hardwood quality).
- Work with the Argyll Agricultural Forum to support the Working Farm Woodlands Project in Argyll and collaborated in submitting a bid for EU support under the Northern Peripheries Programme to develop the project
- A study on the potential for an integrated Forest Tourism promotion and collaboration in Argyll & Bute was commissioned and presented to an all-Argyll Tourism Summit where it was positively received.
- A number of targeted promotions to encourage forestry businesses to take advantage of the funding opportunities available under SRDP Rural Priorities. There were a number of subsequent successful bids including support for enhanced forest access, specialised forest harvesting equipment, and mobile sawmills.

- An economic assessment of the Perthshire Big Tree Country (PBTC) project was completed which suggested an additional visitor spend of around £1.8 million per annum resulting from the initial £2 million investment in Phase I of the project. In addition the PBTC Business Support Scheme, in partnership with Gleneagles Hotel, achieved the first £100,000 milestone of contributions which was in turn used to support a number of PBTC projects including the 'Wild Connections' festival.
- Following on from earlier work and collaboration on a proposed *National Tree Collections of Scotland*, FCS commissioned consultants to undertake follow-up work in preparation for a national launch in summer 2011 as part of the International Year of Forests celebrations.
- *The Enchanted Forest* was transferred to a local community interest company in Pitlochry 2010 who then subsequently ran a successful event in the autumn of the year.
- Work with Falkland Estate in developing a Centre for Stewardship in community involvement in woodland management and sponsored an event in February to bring together a series of stakeholders on developing the project.
- Inviting Penny Cousins (a member of the Regional Forest Forum) to undertake a review of how social forestry objectives were being pursued in the Conservancy. This review will be used to help better deliver our approach to this topic in future years.
- Stirling Council agreed to fund a further year of the Woodland & Greenspace partnership in 2011/12.
- A number of projects in the Conservancy were successful in attracting support under the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund. These included the Campsies and Touch Hills study, the potential for a North Stirling Woodland Park, the Forthbank Loop, and the Stirling Green Arc all in Stirling and the Green Infrastructure and Gartmorn Green Hub projects in Clackmannanshire.
- The Ninewells Hospital project in Dundee (part of the Dundee TWIG initiative) has advanced significantly as an exemplar of how to utilise hospital grounds to encourage a healthy outdoor lifestyle amongst patients and staff.
- FCS is now represented on the board of Fife Coast & Countryside Trust. A workshop was held to promote joint collaboration between FCS and the Trust.
- Argyll Fisheries Trust were supported to undertake an investigation on the impact of culverts and other forest road engineering works on fisheries in the area. Feedback is due in June 2011.
- The incidence of *Phytophthora* outbreaks on rhododendron and larch in the west of the Conservancy increased input into plant health work. Conservancy staff contributed significantly to two workshops on the subject as well as making a number of visits to help concerned forest managers.
- In partnership with SNH, help in drafting enhanced guidance for land managers wishing to establish woodland within golden eagle SPA's without compromising the bird interest.

- An additional 10% of grant support under SRDP Rural Priorities was made available for woodland creation in the Argyll Isles in recognition of additional costs and need to protect and expand the valuable existing woodland habitat network.
- Enhanced support under SRDP for rhododendron clearance was coupled with a workshop to ensure key stakeholders were aware of all the opportunities.
- Conservancy staff continued to lead on the Woodland Grazing initiative in collaboration with Forest Research and SNH through three workshops and seminars.
- With over 30,000 visitors per year since 2009, the *Go Ape* tree-top attraction at David Marshall Lodge is one of the top three such sites in the UK.

## **Priorities for 2011/12**

### ***Climate change***

- Finalise outstanding IFS's and Woodland Frameworks in Argyll & Bute, Angus, Perth & Kinross and promote the opportunities for woodland creation available in those locations (A&BC, AnC, FCS, P&KC).
- Work with the other local authorities to revise existing IFS guidance in line with 'The Right Tree in the Right Place' (CIC, FCS, FifeC, StC).
- Collaborate with Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority to develop an integrated Land Use Strategy for the National Park and realise the potential for woodlands and forestry in the Park (FCS, LL&TNP).
- Support a programme of events across the Conservancy in support of the International Year of Forests 2011 including a Forest Festival at Scone Palace (FCS).
- Complete work on investigating forest loss and undertake appropriate action to address any identified short-comings (FCS).

### ***Timber***

- Collaborate with the Project Officers for the Argyll Timber Transport Group and the Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group to develop further bids for the Strategic Timber Transport Fund (ATTG, FCS, S&TTTG).
- Further develop collaboration with Argyll & Bute Council to enhance the system of managing timber transport flow arising from forest felling approvals (A&BC, FCS).
- Maintain Biomass Networks in Argyll and East Scotland and help further support the development of biomass as a source of renewable energy particularly in light of the availability of the Renewable Heat Incentive (FCS).
- Organise a seminar on the potential for alternative conifers for productive forestry in support of the recent publication and additional information from Forest Research (FCS, FR).
- Report on the findings into potential woodland loss across the Conservancy and ensure current policies on woodland removal are fully adhered to (FCS).

- Continue working with local farming interests to develop farm forestry. Should funding be available, initiate a work programme to help deliver targeted actions on farm woodlands in Argyll. Additionally we will seek to support locally the work undertaken by Grampian colleagues on collaboration with farm machinery rings to promote forestry activity (FCS).

### ***Business development***

- Collaborate with tourism stakeholders in Argyll and the Isles to take forward the recommendations of the Argyll Forest Tourism report (FCS).

- Collaborate with other partners in the Perthshire Big Tree Country project to develop the business support scheme to help add value to the various projects including the iCONic<sup>34</sup> project (FCS).

- Collaborate with the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh to help launch Phase 1 of the National Tree Collections of Scotland initiative in the summer of 2011 and make progress on Phase II (FCS, RBGE).

### ***Community Development***

- Collaborate with Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils to draw down support from the CSGN Development Fund for identified projects and monitor implementation (CIC, FCS, StC).

- Continue development work with the Centre for Stewardship at Falkland Estate to support their proposals for rural skills training, added value, community engagement and designed landscape stewardship and agree a firm partnership plan for the following 3 years (CfSFE, FCS).

- Implement agreed recommendations from the Regional Forest Forum Report on supporting Social Forestry objectives across the Conservancy (FCS).

- Monitor the various National Forest Land Scheme and other community-led forest projects, mainly in Argyll & Bute, to ensure they are supported to help deliver local community aspirations (FCS).

### ***Access and health***

- Promote the grounds of Ninewells Hospital in Dundee as an exemplar of good practice in living an active lifestyle and link in the findings to potential other locations in those areas with suitable projects such as Dundee, Perth & Stirling (FCS, NHST).

- Promote the work undertaken in Blarbuie Wood in Lochgilphead on the potential for supporting work on mental health and well-being (FCS).

### ***Environmental quality***

- Review the findings of the work of the Argyll Fisheries Trust on forest road culverts etc and agree future actions (FCS).

- Continue close monitoring of the situation with *Phytophthora* and respond as required to help mitigate and contain any reported outbreaks (FCS).

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.perthshirebigtreecountry.co.uk/index.asp?pg=160>

## ***Biodiversity***

- Pursue a vigorous campaign of invasive rhododendron removal via the various grant support mechanisms to help protect sites of high conservation value (FCS).
- Continue to work with the various squirrel project officers to promote the identified red squirrel refugia as well as a targeted programme of grey squirrel control in key strategic locations (FCS).

## **An outline programme for 2012-2014**

### ***Climate change***

- Continue to promote and support woodland creation as identified in the various forestry strategies and frameworks.

### ***Timber***

- Continue to develop good links with the farming community to develop farm woodland management and expansion.
- Continue to support continued diversification of the forest resource in support of economic, ecological and plant health objectives.
- Support the work of the Timber Transport Groups in facilitating improved timber transport solutions across the Conservancy.

### ***Business development***

- Further develop the identified potential for forest-based tourism to contribute added value to the rural economy.
- Monitor the biomass situation, as well as other opportunities for adding value to timber, and act to address any perceived local short-comings.

### ***Community development***

- Build on the work on Falkland Estate to serve as an exemplar of support for this type of model of forest management.
- Monitor community involvement in forestry in the more rural parts of the Conservancy and, if necessary, act to support opportunities.
- Support forest skills training and education initiatives which help deliver positive outcomes.
- Review both the Dundee and Stirling WIAT projects to agree the future way forward.

### ***Access & health***

- Monitor the impact of Core Path plans on forestry interests.

### ***Environmental Quality***

- Ongoing monitoring of plant health issues especially in relation to *Phytophthora*.

## ***Biodiversity***

- Pursue ongoing action against invasive non-native species such as rhododendron and grey squirrels.

## **Grampian**

**(Grampian and Moray SEARS region)**

### **Progress and priorities**

Grampian is a diverse region consisting of 155,000 hectares of woodlands complemented by large productive agricultural areas. Large native pinewoods support a wide range of biodiversity with significant species such as capercaillie and red squirrel.

The commercial forests contribute to a significant processing and nursery industry. Renewable energy developments including biomass and wind have become increasingly important.

SRDP Rural Development Contracts have supported a variety of sustainable forestry operations from the Caledonian Pinewoods of Deeside to the farming areas on the Buchan plain.

The role of home grown timber in sustainable construction as a replacement for high embodied energy products such as steel and concrete is becoming better understood. To inform the knowledge base a publication on the use of home grown timber is being incorporated into planning guidance supported by a series of seminars across the region.

Encouraging appropriate woodland expansion will be a key focus for the coming year along with strengthening our involvement in urban woodlands in preparation for the introduction of WIAT III.

During 2010/11, progress against actions has included:

- Installation of boilers – a recent survey identified over 15MW installed capacity, with projects in the pipeline to achieve 20MW later in 2011 coinciding with the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive.
- SRDP woodland creation approvals were on target with the majority of schemes being processed via ongoing approvals.
- The use of timber in sustainable construction planning advice has been presented to the Moray Council Sustainable Design Seminar, Royal Town Planning Institute Grampian Chapter and also to the North East Forest Industry Cluster. The work was welcomed by all groups and is being actively used by the Local Authority planning teams.
- The Forest Education Initiative Development Officer has developed and delivered CPD training events for over 30 teachers. Sixteen are now enrolled to undertake level 3 Forest School Leader training which will be delivered in partnership with Aberdeen University.
- Strong arrangements are in place with Aberdeen City Council for taking forward WIAT work on the Don Corridor Key Site. A significant contract for

work along the Don has just been let with FCS representation on the steering group.

- Innovative partnership working with the Criminal Justice System and Aberdeen City Ranger service has been very successful and will be expanded in 11/12 becoming self financing.
- An Urban Woodland Design course was delivered for participants from our WIAT partner organisations. Due to positive feedback and heavy demand the course was delivered for a second time later in the year.
- An Institute of Chartered Foresters regional group meeting focused on flooding. Forestry presentations to the River Basin Planning Area Advisory Group concentrated on the positive effects that forestry can have on water quality.
- Red Squirrel conservation has focused on control of grey squirrels that have been spreading from Aberdeen city out along the rivers. Evidence in the field suggests the policy is working with the reappearance of reds in areas where they have previously been absent.
- The North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan has formed a woodland ecosystem group which is taking forward the review and updating of all woodland related action plans.

### **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

#### ***Climate Change***

- Promote the benefits of biomass, continuing to increase the installed capacity of boilers in the region (new baseline installed capacity study being carried out winter 2010) (AC, FCS, GBP, SE).
- Approve 1000ha of woodland expansion through SRDP Rural Development Contracts for planting winter 2011 following *The right tree in the right place* advice (FCS).
- Promote and raise awareness of the Woodland Carbon Code (FCS).

#### ***Timber***

- Promote recently produced guidelines on the use of timber in sustainable construction to support the planning process in each council area (AC, ACC, FCS, MC).
- Explore opportunities for smaller scale, high value added production and end use of local timber in high value end products (FCS, FPRI, SFTTAG).
- Promote commercially orientated planting and restocking to grow timber outputs in the medium term and secure investment in processing industries in the North East (FCS).

#### ***Business Development***

- Provide information, training and support covering farm woodland establishment and management (FCS, NFUS, SAC, SFTT).
- Investigate the promotion of co-operative working models (FCS, SAOS).

## ***Community Development***

- Promote professionalism in woodland education via Forest School Leader Training courses (FCS, NEFEI).
- Maintain a strong partnership with Aberdeen City Council for delivery of the WIAT III Key site on Donside (ACC, FCS).
- Encourage greater local “ownership” of woodlands by promoting the uptake of funding opportunities (FCS).
- Share knowledge and awareness of woodland related policy and promote the positive contribution that woodland can make to large development projects (FCS).

## ***Access and health***

- Work with planners and developers to promote woodlands as part of the green space requirements for new housing developments (AC, ACC, FCS, MC).
- Focus on strategic access provisions across ownership boundaries contributing to implementation of the core paths plans and recognised long distance routes (AC, ACC, FCS, MC, VS).

## ***Environmental Quality***

- Ensure woodlands contribute to a good quality freshwater environment (DCP, FCS, JHI, SEPA).
- Promote national guidance for the management of designed landscapes and the historic landscape (FCS).
- Promote PAWS and ancient woodland restoration and management (FCS, WTS).

## ***Biodiversity***

- Conserve and protect the north east Red Squirrel population (FCS, NELBAP, NTS, SNH).
- Promote management of designated sites and adjacent areas in order to progress towards favourable condition (FCS, NELBAP, SNH, WTS).
- Review and prioritise actions for the forestry related habitat and species action plans (FCS, NELBAP, SNH, SNW).

## **Looking ahead to 2012 – 2014**

### ***Climate Change***

- Continued focus on woodland creation including a commercial element.

### ***Timber***

- As woodfuel use expands (eg through projects supported by Renewable Heat Incentive), promote opportunities to manage currently neglected woodlands and bring additional volume into the market.

## ***Environmental quality***

- Promote role of forestry in flood management and mitigation of diffuse pollution.

## ***Community development***

- Promote continued focus on urban and urban fringe woodlands, particularly in more deprived communities and areas with less green space provision.

## **Highland and Islands**

**(Highland, Western Isles and Northern Isles SEARS regions)**

## **Progress and priorities**

There are 350,925 hectares of woodland in the Conservancy. Timber production is forecast at 1,180,924 cubic metres a year with production from private woodlands forecast to increase by 14 % over the next 10 years. This timber supports a large processing industry and rapidly expanding biomass industry, with Balcas set to produce 100,000 tonnes of pellets a year. Bringing timber to market from remote woodlands remains a challenge for transport infrastructure. In accessible areas, it remains vital to create new woodland for timber production.

The Conservancy contains more than 50% of Scotland's fragmented native woodland and many sites of high environmental quality, including almost 60% of Scotland's Natura network. Much work has been done to secure and expand the remnant native woodlands with over 35,000 hectares planted in the last 10 years and red squirrel conservation has benefited from active engagement.

The Highland and Islands area contains most of the 'Crofting Counties' and has led community woodland development. Many large community owned and managed woodlands have been established and new ones are coming forward under the National Forest Land Scheme. Woodlands also play a critical role in the expanding outdoor activity industry and generally underpin an important tourism sector.

During 2010/11, progress against actions has included:

- Approval of over 2,000 hectares of new woodland through SRDP Rural Development Contracts, and new planting 210 hectares on the national forest estate at Sibster.
- Six new woodfuel boilers have been installed and commissioned this year. Highland Birchwoods (the lead partner in the Renewable Heat – Advice and Support project) have appointed a project manager to provide more co-ordination and offer additional advice on training and installations.
- Timber production forecast data (for the private sector and the national forest estate) has been collected by HTTG, and GIS maps are in preparation showing all preferred haul routes, access points and forecast timber volumes per access point. Use of home grown timber was promoted at the Highland Housing Expo and several other events. Using Local Timber – Contributing to Sustainable Construction, Guidance for North Scotland has been published and THC are in the process of adopting this as Supplementary Guidance.

- To implement the work of the steep ground working group, a presentation was made to the Highland Forest Industry Cluster detailing the assessment of challenges associated with steep ground working, particularly in the Great Glen; a Steep Ground Management Board has been set up, led by FES; an A82 Project Manager will begin work in May 2011; a Slope Stability Project Officer will also be appointed in 2011; and a Steep Ground Group is focussing on timber harvesting.

- FCS has continued to facilitate National Forest Land Scheme applications. RSPB have purchased part of Dyke, and FCS has accepted a proposal for a phased purchase of Forsinain (conditional on a working agreement being reached between RSPB and the North Sutherland Community Forest Trust, which is itself proceeding with purchase of an adjacent part of Dyke). 40 hectares at Rumster has been purchased and cases at Broadford and Sleat on Skye are progressing. Interest at Embo is now being taken forward in partnership with FES (North Highland Forest District). Aigas Community Trust is in the process of submitting a proposal for their planned purchase to be converted to a lease. There is interest at Insh and renewed interest at Kiel in Morvern and at Kirkton. The Black Isle Partnership is exploring opportunities for community wind power on the Black Isle.

- A new Isles model has gone to Europe as part of the SRDP modification for 2010, with the aim of introducing enhanced incentives to support woodland expansion in the Northern and Western Isles.

- Work on greening the site of Lawson Hospital, Golspie will begin in May 2011.

- Cairngorms National Park have appointed a project officer to implement the Spey Catchment Management Plan and encourage the expansion riparian woodland in this area.

- In support of the Peatland Strategy and Peatlands Partnership, the work of the Science group is progressing and further exploration of sensitive edge distances for SPA and SAC areas has been completed.

- A Rhododendron Control officer has been appointed by Highland Birchwoods and is engaging landowners and agents in plans for priority sites.

## **What needs to be done in 2011-2012**

### ***Climate Change***

- Deliver 2,000 hectares of woodland expansion through the SRDP with an increase in the proportion of productive conifer planted (ConFor, FES, FCS, SGRPID).

- Ensure effective communication of the developing plant health issues and their potential impact on timber supplies (FCS).

### ***Timber***

- Gather and interpret timber production data for Highland and actively promote the North Scotland guidance on Using Local timber-contributing to sustainable construction (FCS, HIFIC, THC).

- Implement the work of the steep ground working group on the national forest estate, focusing on the A82 corridor, and seek to disseminate to the private sector (FCS, FES).

### ***Community development***

- Introduce enhanced incentives to support woodland expansion in the Northern and Western Isles (CES, FCS, OIC, SIC).
- Deliver, manage and develop the National Forest Land Scheme, supporting community applications within the Conservancy as new policy on leasing emerges (FCS, HIE).

### ***Environmental Quality***

- Working through the Spey Project Officer, expand riparian woodland in the Cairngorms National Park focusing on the Spey Catchment (CNPA, FCS, SDSFB).

### ***Biodiversity***

- In support of the Caithness & Sutherland Peatland Strategy, produce guidance for preparing Forest Plans and work with owners to incorporate action for the appropriate restoration of peatland (FCS, SNH).
- Prepare case studies on Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) restoration to inform delivery on the national forest estate (FCS, FES).
- Working through the Rhododendron Control officer, accelerate the clearance of Rhododendron ponticum from priority habitats (FCS, SNH).

## **An outline programme for 2012-2014**

### ***Climate Change***

- Provide co-ordinated advice and support to businesses and communities seeking to utilise biomass.

### ***Timber***

- Work with the HTTG to improve access to timber and reduce the impacts of timber transport on Highland roads.

### ***Community Development***

- Support development of woodland crofts in suitable locations.

### ***Environmental Quality***

- Through proactive engagement with owners, use woodlands to contribute to achieving good ecological and chemical status in Highlands's water bodies.
- Develop previously established new native woodlands through habitat enhancement.

### ***Biodiversity***

- Work with owners to implement works which move designated woodland sites to “unfavourable recovering” condition.
- Agree red squirrel strongholds, promote restoration projects for priority species, progress PAWS restoration and montane scrub recovery.

## **ANNEX: ACTION PARTNERS**

Aberdeenshire Council	AC
Aberdeen City Council	ACC
Angus Council	AnC
Argyll and Bute Council	A&BC
Argyll Timber Transport Group	ATTG
Association of Scottish Hardwood Sawmillers	ASHS
Ayrshire Joint Planning Team	AJPT
British and Irish Hardwood Improvement programme	BIHIP
British Waterways Trust	BWT
Cairngorms National Park Authority	CNPA
Central Scotland Forest Trust	CSFT
Central Scotland Green Network	CSGN
Centre for Stewardship at Falkland Estate	CfSFE
Centre for Timber Engineering	CTE
Clackmannanshire Council	CIC
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	CES
Community Woodland Association	CWA
Confederation of Forest Industries (UK) Ltd	ConFor
Dee Catchment Partnership	DCP
Dee District Salmon Fisheries Board	DDSF
Dumfries & Galloway Council	DGC
Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust	ELGT
Edinburgh Napier University	ENU
Fife Coast and Countryside Trust	FCCT
Fife Council	FifeC
Forest Research	FR
Forest Education Initiative	FEI
Forest Enterprise Scotland	FES
Forest Products Research Institute	FPRI
Forestry Commission	FC
Forestry Commission Scotland	FCS
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership	GCVGNP
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority	GCVSDPA
Glasgow City Council	GCC
Grampian Timber Transport Group	GTTG
Green Business Partnership	GBP
Highland Birchwoods	HB
The Highland Council	THC
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	HIE
Highland Forest Industry Cluster	HIFIC
Highland Timber Transport Group	HTTG
Historic Scotland	HS
Initial Teacher Education establishments	ITE
Institute of Chartered Foresters	ICF
James Hutton Institute	JHI
Lantra – the sector skills council for the environment and land-	Lantra

based sector	
Learning Teaching Scotland	LTS
Local Authorities/Local Planning Authorities	LPAs
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority	LL&TNP
Lothian & Fife Green Network Partnership	LFGNP
Moray Council	MC
National Farmers' Union of Scotland	NFUS
National Health Service Forth Valley	NHSF
National Health Service Greater Glasgow and Clyde	NHSGGC
National Health Service Lothian	NHSL
National Health Service Health Scotland	NHSHS
National Health Service Scotland	NHS
National Health Service Tayside	NHST
North East Forest Education Initiative	NEFEI
North East Forest Industries Cluster	NEFIC
North East Local Biodiversity Action Plan	NELBAP
Orkney Islands Council	OIC
Paths for All	PfA
Paths to Health	PH
Perth and Kinross Council	P&KC
Plantlife	Plantlife
Reforestation Scotland	RS
Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh	RBGE
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB
Scottish Association for Mental Health	SAMH
Scotland's Environment and Rural Services	SEARS
Scottish Agricultural College	SAC
Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society	SAOS
Scottish Association for Mental Health	SAMH
Scottish Borders Council	SBC
Scottish Enterprise	SE
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA
Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies	SFTT
Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Advisory Group	SFTTAG
Scottish Government	SG
Scottish Government Rural Payment and Inspections Directorate	SGRPID
Scottish Native Woods	SNW

Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Scottish Wildlife Trust	SWT
Shetland Islands Council	SIC
Skills Development Scotland	SDS
Spey District Salmon Fishery Board	SDSFB
Stirling Council	StC
Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group	S&TTTG
Sustrans – the sustainable transport NGO	Sustrans
The Timber Transport Forum	TTF
Tweed Forum	TF
UK Forest Products Association	UKFPA
Visit Scotland	VS
Wood for Good	WfG
Woodland Ecosystem Group	WEG
Woodland Trust Scotland	WTS