

# A Delivery Plan for England's Trees, Woods and Forests

## Summary

This **Delivery Plan launched on 15 December 2008 by Huw Irranca-Davies MP** translates the Government's 2007 Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (ETWF) into action and results on the ground.

It shows national activities and actions that will help deliver regional and local results and runs until to 2012. It will be revised after that. It has been drawn up together by the **Forestry Commission** and **Natural England** and signals even closer collaboration between the two organisations.

No one organisation, or Government alone, can effectively address the issues facing our trees, woods and forests or the opportunities they present to society now and in future. It signals a **new approach** to working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations. Many of these have been involved in sharing their thinking about the objectives, activities and actions that the Delivery Plan contains.

It is the **first** collective approach to England's trees, woods and forests from organisations small and large, private, public and NGO, and reflects the great range of benefits they can bring.

The Delivery Plan is **particularly focused** on:

- Establishing sound evidence through research for decision making in an uncertain world;
- Identifying new delivery mechanisms and reducing old blockages to action;
- Focusing activity and action on shared priorities;
- Recognising the role that economic viability plays in tree and woodland owners' decisions; and
- The multiple benefits (or ecosystem services) that trees, woods and forests offer society.

It **recognises** that:

- Business and economic viability are key drivers that can help deliver wider public benefits;
- It is important to think of action at the wider landscape scale, particularly in adapting to climate change;
- The benefits of trees and woods are particularly valuable in urban and growing communities;
- We need to continue efforts to improve the role that trees, woods and forests play in shaping and contributing to our natural environment;
- We need to plan more effectively for trees, woods and forests to be an integral part of new communities. We also need to improve the contact and relationship existing communities have with their trees and woods; and
- Trees, woods and forests are important to wider land management and need to be included in debate and decision making, for example in relation to biodiversity, flood management and soil conservation.

The **primary audiences** for this Delivery Plan are stakeholders and delivery partners, both existing and new. It pulls together what different organisations are doing to drive forward the delivery of a shared strategy. More work will be needed to embed this approach, in developing new priorities, building stronger partnerships and in reaching out to new stakeholders.

## The Aims of the ETWF Strategy

### **Aim 1: A Sustainable Resource.**

To provide, in England, a resource of trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations.

### **Aim 2: Climate Change.**

To ensure that existing and newly planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to the impacts of climate change and also contribute to the way in which biodiversity and natural resources adjust to a changing climate.

### **Aim 3: Natural Environment.**

To protect and enhance the environmental resources of water, soil, air, biodiversity and landscapes (both woodland and non-woodland) and the cultural and amenity values of trees and woodland.

### **Aim 4: Quality of Life.**

To increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to the quality of life for those living in, working in or visiting England.

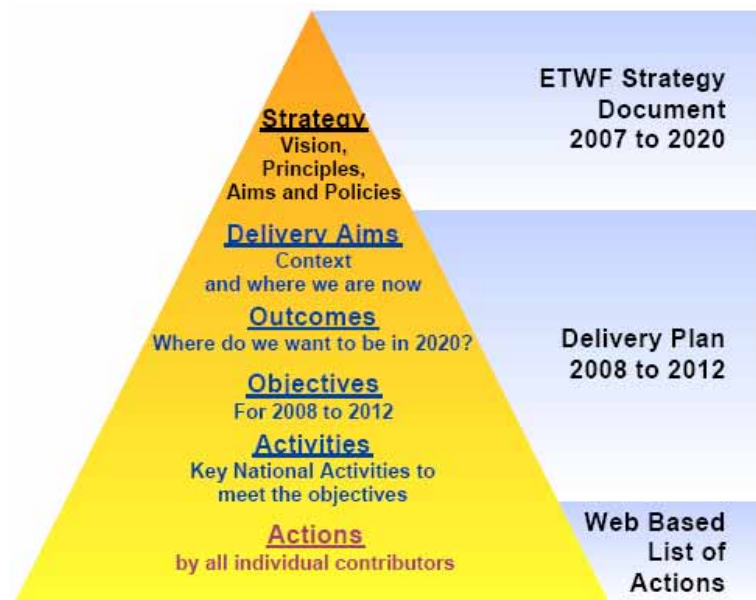
### **Aim 5: Business and Markets.**

To improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and promote the development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products and ecosystem services where this will deliver identifiable public benefits, nationally or locally,

## Delivery Plan structure

The Delivery Plan is in **two main parts**. The **first (printed) part** is focused on national activities, predominately those of the Forestry Commission and Natural England, in partnership with other national organisations. The plan describes the activities that will have the greatest impact and best demonstrate the direction of travel.

The **second part** comprises a collection of the national actions that stakeholders and delivery partners have agreed and it will be held on the Internet at [www.forestry.gov.uk/etwf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/etwf)



This part of the plan will be 'live' and dynamic, allowing the evolution of new actions and activities throughout the life of the plan. It will also be important in monitoring and evaluation.

The Delivery Plan is structured around the five aims of the ETWF Strategy. Aim 1 draws from the other four aims and binds them together with the central focus of achieving the right tree in the right place and a sustainable resource. Aim 5 recognises the need for an economically viable forest business sector to support the achievement of the other aims.

## The objectives of the Delivery Plan for 2008 to 2012

### **AIM 1: A Sustainable Resource**

- To provide and protect a sustainable resource of trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most to society.
- To embed trees, woods and forests into wider policies, strategies and programmes.
- To achieve better engagement with owners, managers and local communities.
- To manage more woodland sustainably and improve its economic viability.
- To plant trees and create new woodland in priority places.

### **AIM 2: Climate Change**

- To increase the resilience of trees, woods and forests to climate change.
- To increase the role of trees and woodland in adapting the rural landscape to climate change.
- To enhance the role of street trees and urban woodland in minimising the impacts of climate change on our towns and cities.
- To increase the contribution of trees, woods and forests to climate change mitigation.
- To use trees, woods and forests to help communicate and improve understanding of climate change issues and bring about behavioural change.

### **AIM 3: Natural Environment**

- To increase knowledge and recognition of the contribution of new and existing woodland to the provision of ecosystem services.
- To conserve ancient woods and veteran trees and increase the area of native woodland habitat. Ensure they are resilient to climate change and provide opportunities for people to enjoy woodland wildlife.
- To conserve and enhance the biodiversity associated with non-native trees, woods and forests, and non-woodland habitats and species.
- To conserve rare or threatened species and intervene in appropriate ways to manage the threats to their conservation.
- To enhance the contribution of trees, woods and forests to wider landscapes, and ensure their historic and cultural values are being protected and appreciated.

### **AIM 4: Quality of Life**

- To create more attractive and inspiring places by enhancing the contribution of Green Infrastructure to local environmental quality.
- To increase the use of trees, woods and forests for recreation and physical activity, promoting healthier lifestyles, enjoyment and a greater understanding of the natural environment.
- To enable more people in more places to enjoy the personal and social benefits of trees, woods and forests, contributing to more active, stronger and sustainable communities.

### **AIM 5: Business and Markets**

- To promote the use of wood and timber as renewable materials and help identify market opportunities in sustainable construction and product substitution.
- To strengthen supply chains within the emerging woodfuel industry.
- To increase the use of trees, woods and forests as a basis for leisure and tourism businesses.
- To develop a range of business models that improve the opportunities for woodland owners to pursue viable woodland management.
- To improve recruitment and retention rates for the sector and enhance skills through the provision of accessible and relevant training.

The Delivery Plan is available from [www.forestry.gov.uk/etwf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/etwf)