

## 2002 WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Introduction

1. This paper provides information for the Forum on arrangements for the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development and how forestry issues will be handled. The paper invites written comments from Forum members and contact details are given at the end of the paper.

### Background

2. In his speech on the environment in March this year, the Prime Minister noted that the UK is actively preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002, and that Departments across government would be working to engage business and ngos in the preparations.
3. The Forestry Commission has been tasked to lead the government's contribution on forestry which was identified as one of the five key sectors (the others being water, energy, tourism and finance) where the Prime Minister said he would be inviting business leaders, together with ngos, to work to develop strategies to promote sustainable development.
4. The forestry sector is well placed to contribute, for a number of reasons:
  - the UK has a good story to tell on sustainable forestry, including: government actions since Rio; certification; and the development and implementation of industry standards (UK Forestry Standard and Guidelines, EIA regulations etc);
  - there are links, through forest certification, to consumers of forestry products;
  - there are links to global environmental issues, including illegal logging and other trade matters.

### Industry Sustainability Strategy

5. The forestry industry sector has agreed to prepare a Sustainability Strategy for the World Summit. This is being co-ordinated by the Forest Industries Development Council (FIDC). The strategy will cover the UK wood chain, from nurseries, forests and woodlands, through to primary wood processing.



## **UK Government Statement**

6. The UK government is preparing a Statement on Sustainable Forestry in the run-up to the World Summit. The Statement will set out progress made in the forestry sector since Rio, and government actions to promote sustainability in the sector, looking forward to future challenges.

## **Forest Certification**

7. The United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) Steering Group is looking at ways of further promoting forest certification in the UK and encouraging greater access, for example, by small woodland owners. The UK government is also taking steps, in addition to its international efforts to combat illegal logging, to requiring its central government departments and their agencies to actively seek to buy timber and timber products from sustainable and legal sources.

## **Summary**

8. The England Forestry Forum is invited to note these developments in the run-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. Anyone wishing to contribute comments or ideas on any of these issues is invited to write to Tim Rollinson or Marcus Sangster at the Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT; (telephone: 0131 314 6424/6433).

**Forestry Commission  
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