

Evaluation and Appraisal Theme

Social research into 'Evaluation and Appraisal' focuses on the development and use of **frameworks, methods and tools** to support decision-making in the forestry and land use sectors in UK and Europe. These may be applied during all stages in the project, programme or policy cycle, i.e. *ex-ante* appraisal or impact assessment, ongoing monitoring, and *ex-post* evaluation.

The research is 'social' in two senses. First, we seek to ensure that **social and cultural values** are incorporated better into evaluation and appraisal. This is of particular concern for the less tangible values associated with well-being and quality of life. We do this through development of social indicators at a range of spatial scales, often implemented alongside qualitative social research as part of 'mixed methods' approaches. A good example is the M&E framework used for the Quality of Life Theme of Forestry Commission England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy.

Secondly, as social scientists, we work closely with modellers and other natural scientists to contribute to the development of **decision support systems** (DSS). By engendering a culture of partnership-working and trans-disciplinarity, we seek to involve stakeholders in all stages of DSS development to enhance uptake by potential end users and maximise opportunities for collaborative learning. Methods and tools include those associated with participatory modelling, action research, institutional and stakeholder analysis, Delphi methods, and multi-criteria decision analysis.

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www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/peopleandtrees

Current work 2010-2011		
Title	Description and links	Contact
Monitoring & Evaluation of FCE Quality of Life	Development and implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the Quality of Life Theme of the Forestry Commission England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy. The methodology involves analysis of profiles of visitors, visits, sites and catchments for six case study areas across England, and development of a 'quality of life' index.	Jake Morris
WIAT Monitoring & Evaluation	Development and implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework for a series of priority sites within Forestry Commission Scotland's Woodlands in and Around Towns (WIAT) programme. Identification of social indicators and methods of assessment, and engagement with WIAT site representatives.	Jake Morris
Uptake of Decision Support Systems in the forestry sector	Aims to support and enhance the development and uptake of DSS for UK forestry. Semi-structured interviews with end users and other stakeholders, and case studies of existing and new DSS. Includes participation in the FORSYS COST Action.	Amy Stewart
Green Networks and People: testing new approaches to planning and delivery	Development of new approaches to green network planning and management in the Scottish central belt. Applied social research alongside FR modellers, local authorities and others, to test and develop methods at a range of spatial scales, and then to communicate, train and support potential end users.	Mariella Marzano
Models for Adaptive Forest Management (MOTIVE)	The EU funded MOTIVE project will run from 2009 to 2013. It aims to provide insights, data, and tools to improve policymaking and adaptive forest resource management in the face of rapidly changing climatic and land use conditions. Coordination of	Mariella Marzano

	stakeholder engagement across the nine European case studies, and researching attitudes and perceptions towards climate change as part of the Welsh case study.	
Northern ToSIA	Funded by the EU Northern Periphery Programme from 2008 to 2011. Seeks to operationalise the Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment (ToSIA) developed by EFORWOOD (see below), within the Cairngorms National Park and three other case studies in Norway, Sweden and Finland. Coordination of stakeholder engagement, and an institutional analysis to explore how the tool might fit into planning and policymaking. The work in Scotland is also part of the 'Uptake of DSS' project (see above).	David Edwards
EUSTORMS	A project to assess the effectiveness of current EU policy to mitigate the impacts of catastrophic storms on forest resources in Europe. Responsible for identifying and evaluating storm-related policies in UK and facilitating an EU stakeholder workshop.	Mariella Marzano

Recently completed work 2009-2010

Title	Description and links	Contact
The Economic and Social Contribution of Forestry for People in Scotland	A two-year comprehensive valuation of the current social and economic benefits of Scottish forestry, forests and woodlands derived by the people of Scotland. The study used a suite of 30 indicators, economic analyses, household and questionnaire surveys, GIS viewshed analysis, and two qualitative case studies. The findings contributed to the monitoring and evaluation framework used for the Scottish Forestry Strategy.	David Edwards
MCPFE social indicators	Development of data collection protocols for MCPFE Pan-European Indicators 6.10 'Accessibility for Recreation' and 6.11 'Cultural and Spiritual Values'.	David Edwards
EFORWOOD	An EU funded project which ran from 2006 to 2010 to develop a Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment (ToSIA) for European forestry-wood chains. Leadership of Work Package 2.3 'Social and Cultural Values' which comprehensively reviewed existing social indicators for sustainable forest management. Development of a method to incorporate recreational value into the ToSIA framework by use of a scoring system for different forest types, and a Delphi survey of 46 experts in forest preference research across four contrasting European regions, supplemented by literature reviews. A series of reports and journal articles are being prepared.	David Edwards
SENSOR	The EU funded project SENSOR ran from 2004 to 2009, and developed a Sustainability Impact Assessment Tool (SIAT) for assessing impacts of land use changes caused by EU policies. Institutional analysis was used to explore how the tool could fit into EU policymaking, and a Framework for Participatory Impact Assessment (FOPIA) was developed through qualitative social research in six sensitive area case studies across Europe.	Jake Morris