

Statistics Work Plan 2012-13

The Forestry Commission's Statistics Team produces statistics on forestry to meet the needs of a wide range of users, provides advice on statistics and enables all parts of the Forestry Commission to comply with the standards set out in the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The work of the team contributes to the Forestry Commission's GB Corporate Plan objective for a robust evidence base.

This work plan for the year April 2012 – March 2013 has been developed to meet the needs of users of our statistics and services, including all parts of the Forestry Commission (FC), international organisations and external stakeholders. See:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7zejnv>

The work plan for 2012-13 is based on a total expected staff resource of 3.0 full time equivalents (1 Statistician, 1 Assistant Statistician and 1 Administrative Support). A number of changes have been made from the 2011-12 work plan, to take account of user requirements in the coming year. The main changes are:

- additional work to compile the biennial Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
- additional work to commission a UK Public Opinion of Forestry survey in 2013 (replacing the reporting of the 2011 surveys);
- an increase in the time set aside for diversity monitoring; and
- additional work to explore improvements to statistics on wood energy.

1. UK Official Statistics publications

Work on UK Official Statistics is expected to account for 1.2 person-years of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Carry out surveys and data collection to cover UK timber industries (February to April), as agreed with Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics.
- UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures) first release (May), as in 2011, based on UK industry statistics and surveys and Overseas Trade Statistics.
- Timber Price Indices first release (May and November), as in 2011
- Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking first release (June), as in 2011.
- Nursery Survey (September), as in 2011.
- Forestry Facts & Figures (September), as in 2011.
- Forestry Statistics (September), as in 2011.
- Methodology developments, including reviewing data availability.

2. Official Statistics for international organisations

Work on Official Statistics for international organisations is expected to account for 0.2 person-years of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (provisional May, final September) for timber production and trade, as in 2011.
- Timber Committee Questionnaire (September) for timber production and trade forecasts, as in 2011.
- Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts for Forestry (July) – annual economic data, as in 2011.
- Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – biennial, as in 2010.

3. Compliance with standards

Work on compliance with standards is expected to account for 0.5 person-years of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Develop and maintain statistics documentation to meet the requirements of UK Statistics Authority and GSS guidance.
- Provide advice to others in FC to assist them to identify and develop other official statistics and to comply with the Code of Practice (includes National Forest Inventory, climate change, FC National Offices, Forest Research).
- Implement requirements from the UK Statistics Authority's assessment of FC National Statistics outputs.
- Assist Inventory, Forecasting and Operational Support to prepare for potential National Statistics approval of the National Forest Inventory.
- For Survey Control, advise all parts of FC on possible surveys, and prepare reports to obtain ministerial approval.

4. Statistical services

Work on statistical services is expected to account for 1.0 person-years of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Support development and reporting of indicators for country forestry strategies (England, Scotland, Wales).
- Commission a 2013 UK Public Opinion of Forestry survey and support FC National Offices and others on commissioned surveys.
- Participate in collaborative household surveys on recreation in Scotland, England and Wales.
- Support on-site visitor monitoring, including All Forests Survey (Scotland), Quality of Experience and local surveys.
- Support Human Resources Division on diversity monitoring reporting.
- Support other parts of the FC by providing statistical advice and analysis (including Native Woodland Survey of Scotland).
- Advise on environmental monitoring and social and economic research.
- Identify work required and, if appropriate, commission research to improve statistics on wood energy.
- Provide input to review of Countryside Survey 2007.
- Provide statistics for other government publications, PQs, researchers, public enquiries.

Comments on this work plan for 2012-13 or possible future work can be directed to the address below.

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