

Statistics Work Plan 2013-14

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 2013 – March 2014 has been developed to meet the needs of users of our statistics and services, including all parts of the Forestry Commission (FC), Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government, international organisations and other external stakeholders. Further information on user engagement is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7zejnv.

The work plan for 2013-14 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 2012-13 work plan, to take account of user requirements in the coming year. The main changes are:

- **UK Official Statistics releases:** Increased resources will be required to analyse and report on the UK/ England, Scotland and Wales Public Opinion of Forestry surveys, run in February/ March 2013. Additional resources will also be required to produce quarterly Woodland Carbon Code Statistics releases (first produced in January 2013).
- **Official Statistics for international organisations:** An increase in resources will be required to compile UK data for international organisations as a result of the periodic nature of some international returns. Work will be required to compile the 5-yearly Forest Resources Assessment for FAO and the 4-yearly State of Europe's Forests for Forest Europe, but not on the biennial Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
- **Compliance with standards:** Work in this area is expected to reduce, now that the UK Statistics Authority's assessment of the Forestry Commission's National Statistics outputs has been completed, although some additional resource will be required to run the biennial User Engagement Survey.
- **Statistical services:** There is expected to be no requirement for work on the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey (last run in 2011). The staff resource required to commission Public Opinion of Forestry surveys will reduce.

1. UK Official Statistics publications

Work on UK Official Statistics is expected to account for 1.3 person-years (42%) 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 2012, based on UK industry statistics and surveys and Overseas Trade Statistics.
- Timber Price Indices first release (May and November), as in 2012
- Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking first release (June), as in 2012.
- Nursery Survey (September), as in 2012.
- Forestry Facts & Figures (September), as in 2012.
- Forestry Statistics (September), as in 2012.
- Produce quarterly releases on Woodland Carbon Code Statistics, in April, July, October and January, similar to the release issued in January 2013.
- Analyse and report on 2013 Public Opinion of Forestry surveys in UK/ England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Methodology developments, including reviewing data availability.
- Maintenance of Statistics pages on FC website (internet and intranet).

2. Official Statistics for international organisations

Work on Official Statistics for international organisations is expected to account for 0.3 person-years (12%) of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (provisional May, final September) for timber production and trade, as in 2012.
- Timber Committee Questionnaire (September) for timber production and trade forecasts, as in 2012.
- Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts for Forestry (July) – annual economic data, as in 2012.
- Forest Resources Assessment and the State of Europe's Forests – 4-5 yearly.
- Participate in international meetings on forestry statistics.

3. Compliance with standards

Work on compliance with standards is expected to account for 0.4 person-years (13%) 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).
- Run a User Engagement Survey, analyse & report on the results, and produce an implementation plan setting out how we plan to address the issues identified.
- Undertake annual statistical quality reviews, covering one survey and one output, similar to those undertaken in 2012.
- For Survey Control, advise all parts of FC on possible surveys, and prepare reports.
- Liaise with other Government Departments on statistical issues.

4. Statistical services

Work on statistical services is expected to account for 1.0 person-years (33%) of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Support development and reporting of indicators for country forestry strategies (England, Scotland, Wales).
- Support Forest Service in commissioning a Public Opinion of Forestry Survey in Northern Ireland.
- Participate in collaborative household surveys on recreation in Scotland and England.
- Support on-site visitor monitoring, including All Forests Survey (Scotland) and local surveys.
- Support Human Resources Division on diversity monitoring reporting.
- Support other parts of the FC and Natural Resources Wales/ Welsh Government by providing statistical advice and analysis (including Native Woodland Survey of Scotland).
- Advise on environmental monitoring and social and economic research (including work to improve statistics on wood energy).
- Provide statistics for other government publications, POs, researchers, public enquiries.

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Comments on this work plan for 2013-14 or possible future work can be directed to the address below.

Sheila Ward
Statistician
Forestry Commission
E-mail: statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk