

Statistics Work Plan 2015-16

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 objective for a robust evidence base in the Forestry Commission's Corporate Plan for Cross Border Activities.

This work plan for the year April 2015 – March 2016 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 2015-16 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 2014-15 work plan, to take account of user requirements in the coming year. The main changes are:

- **UK Official Statistics:** Increased resources will be required to analyse and report on the 2015 Public Opinion of Forestry surveys, due to the biennial nature of the surveys.
- **International Statistics:** An overall reduction is expected in the resources to compile UK data for international organisations. As a result of the periodic nature of some international data collections, the level of input required on the biennial Joint Wood Energy Enquiry and on the 4-5 yearly Forest Resources Assessment and State of Europe's Forests is expected to reduce.
- **Compliance with standards:** Work in this area is expected to increase, with the biennial User Engagement Survey due to run in Autumn 2015.
- **Statistical services:** The staff resource required to commission Public Opinion of Forestry surveys is expected to reduce, as a result of the biennial nature of the surveys. However, additional resource has been set aside to provide support to National Offices on the development of country forestry statistics and on emerging issues.

Statistics Work Plan 2015-16

1. UK Official Statistics

Work on UK Official Statistics covers data collection, analysis, quality assurance and production of statistical releases. This is expected to account for 1.2 person-years (around 41%) of staff resource in 2015-16.

Tasks within this work area and indicative estimates of the staff resource required for each task in 2015-16 are presented in the table below.

Task	% of total staff
Carry out surveys and data collection to cover UK timber industries (February to April), as agreed with Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics	9%
UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures) first release (May)	1%
Timber Price Indices first release (May and November)	1%
Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking first release (June)	4%
Nursery Survey (September)	1%
Forestry Facts & Figures (September)	3%
Forestry Statistics (September)	10%
Woodland Carbon Code Statistics first release (April, July, October and January)	1%
Analyse and report on 2015 Public Opinion of Forestry surveys in UK/England, Scotland and Wales	5%
Develop/ improve methodologies (e.g. statistics on woodland loss, windblow, restocking)	3%
Maintain Statistics pages on FC website	2%
All tasks in UK Official Statistics Work Area	41%

2. International Statistics

Work on International Statistics covers the provision of UK forestry data to international organisations and liaison on international statistical issues. This is expected to account for 0.3 person-years (around 9%) of staff resource in 2015-16.

Tasks within this work area and indicative estimates of the staff resource required for each task in 2015-16 are presented in the table below.

Task	% of total staff
Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (provisional May, final September) - timber production and trade – for Eurostat, UNECE, FAO and ITTO	2%
Timber Forecast Questionnaire (September) - timber production and trade forecasts – for UNECE	1%
Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts for Forestry (July) – annual economic data – for Eurostat	1%
Participate in international meetings on forestry statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurostat Working Group on Forestry Statistics, • Eurostat Task Force on Forest Accounts, • FAO/ UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, • FAO/ UNECE Teams of Specialists (Forest Products Statistics). 	3%
Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – final results – for UNECE	1%
Forest Resources Assessment and the State of Europe's Forests – participate in Forest Europe review of pan-European indicators of Sustainable Forest Management and provide support to international publications by FAO and Forest Europe	1%
Provide support to DECC reporting to UNFCCC on the UK's Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Greenhouse Gas inventory	1%
All tasks in International Statistics Work Area	9%

3. Compliance with Standards

The Compliance with Standards area covers work to ensure that the Forestry Commission complies with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice on Official Statistics and with statistical best practice. This is expected to account for 0.4 person-years (around 13%) of staff resource in 2015-15.

Tasks within this work area and indicative estimates of the staff resource required for each task in 2015-16 are presented in the table below.

Task	% of total staff
Develop and maintain statistics documentation to meet the requirements of UK Statistics Authority and Government Statistical Service guidance	2%
Provide advice to others in FC to assist them to identify and develop other official statistics and to comply with the Code of Practice	3%
Undertake Survey Control duties on behalf of the FC, providing advice and reporting on statistical survey activity	1%
Undertake annual statistical quality reviews, covering one survey and one output	2%
Liaise with Defra, Devolved Administrations and other Government Departments on statistical issues	2%
Input to Defra Ministerial statistics briefing	1%
Run a User Engagement Survey, analyse & report on the results, and produce an implementation plan for addressing the issues identified	2%
All tasks in Compliance with Standards Work Area	13%

4. Statistical Services

Work on statistical services covers the provision of statistical advice, support and analysis to the Forestry Commission and others. This is expected to account for 1.1 person-years (around 37%) of staff resource in 2015-16.

Tasks within this work area and indicative estimates of the staff resource required for each task in 2015-16 are presented in the table below.

Task	% of total staff
Support development and reporting of indicators for country forestry strategies	3%
Support development and reporting of country forestry statistics	3%
Provide statistical advice, support and analysis to the FC and Natural Resources Wales/ Welsh Government (including diversity monitoring and support for emerging issues)	9%
Advise on environmental monitoring and social and economic research (including participation on review of countryside observations)	4%
Participate in and advise on collaborative household surveys on recreation (Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment, Scotland's People and Nature Survey)	1%
Support on-site visitor monitoring, including FE Scotland visitor surveys and FE England/ Sport England monitoring	5%
Provide statistics for other government publications, Parliamentary Questions, enquiries from researchers & the general public, including requests under the Freedom of Information Act	12%
All tasks in Statistical Services Work Area	37%

Comments on this work plan for 2015-16 or possible future work can be directed to the address below.

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