3: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - draft actions v2.0

AIMS	OBJECTIVES	Actions (partners)	Lead partner	Comments	Indicator of success
Increase contribution to natural resource protection and biodiversity	Ensure woods and forests are resilient to climate change	see Climate Change section			
	Increase knowledge of state of woodland resource	Align with partners and develop common measures and reporting systems to i) establish good baseline information and ii) facilitate reliable and consistent monitoring of extent, condition, BAP progress and outcomes of public funding. (FC, NE, BSW, WT, RPA).	FC?		Baseline database and ability to report
	Protect, improve and manage ASNW and veteran trees	Improve interface of HLS/EWGS (FC, NE). Priority to identify woods of less than 2ha that could go into HLS and ensure they do.	FC/ NE		better uptake of grant, smoother process
		Develop procedures to ensure succession of ancient, veteran and noble trees, in woodland and in wider landscape, through training, promotion, practical management (NE, WT/ATF, local authorities, NFU, CLA, TW network/Tree Council)	NT	see if NT can lead dissemination of good practice?	Best practice note publicised and disseminated
	Reverse decline in woodland bird species	Develop project with RSPB to ensure best practice in management actions to improve conditions for priority woodland birds in Dartmoor, Exmoor and Forest of Dean. (FC, RSPB, NE, WT, NT))	RSPB, FC/PFE/ NE	requires further discussion with RSPB and partners first, but could include follow up to woodland birds seminar, with dissemination of research findings to FC staff and woodland owners, field visits, repeat volunteer surveys of woodland birds in key areas.	output indicator, eg programme of activity to include monitoring agreed and underway,
	Restore open ground BAP habitats	develop regional priorities for implementation of national policy when agreed (FC, RSPB)	FC/ RSPB,	see also action under Business & Markets	Agreement on regional priorities
	Maintain at least 95% woodland SSSIs in favourable condition	SSSI owners to assign appropriate resources to achieve this; FC and NE to have system to ensure owners are reminded? Strongly encourage owners of unfavourable status woodland SSSIs to initiate appropriate management	NE		Woodland SSSIs maintained at or above 95% favourable
	Continue PAWS restoration	increase area of PAWS under improvement and restoration and positive management (WT, FC)			
	Increase knowledge and recognition of the contribution of new and existing trees and woodlands to ecosystem services	Develop and disseminate simple info on ecosystem services to demonstrate value of trees and woods to society/local communities, using localised examples.(Defra family, with eg WT, FoA, GWCF)	NE/Defra Family		Leaflet or web-based information produced and publicised
	Ecourage planting of more new woodlands	identify areas for new planting/management to improve water quality and resource protection under RBMP (FC, EA, SW Water, WT, NE) and target pilot projects accordingly	EA?		2 or 3 projects identified and under way
		Review locations for priority targetting of effort and incentives in creating new woodland, at local and landscape scale, using Nature Map, Regional Biodiversity Delivery Plan, AWPAs and other drivers. (BSW, NE, FC, WT, GI groups)	NE/FC	Simon Bates, NE offering to lead a task and finish group on this. Have discussed with Steve C - willing to contribute	consensus and coordinated work to achieve new woodland in target areas
	Trees, woods and forests contributing to regional biodiversity targets (including wood pasture, parkland and orchards)	Develop and support landscape-scale initiatives to restore UK BAP priority habitats, conserve associated species and increase resilience to climate change (SWPLs, BSW, NE, FC, RSPB)	BSW		agreement on the most imporant projects to take forward

Increase contribution to landscape quality, culture and archaeology	Improve understanding and integration of landscape (including historic landscape) issues in woods and forestry to help achieve the right tree in the right place	**Training in use of landscape assessment tools eg LCA, Historic Landscape Characterisation, and their relevance to landscape scale woodland working (NE, AONBs, FC, agents, English Heritage). Extend use of LIDAR to other woodland areas to extend archaeological knowledge**	NE, SW Landscape Panel?		
Conserve biodiversity associated with non-native tree species	Encourage high standards of biodiversity management for all woods through targeted advice	**Demonstration events on NNRs, PFE sites and other owners, eg exemplar Douglas fir sites**	PFE,	Need to check with Forest District Managers.	1 event held per year in SW?