



# Corporate Plan 2014-15

for FC Cross Border Activities

# Cross Border Corporate Plan 2014-15

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Images from top:  
Owen Paterson, Secretary  
of State for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs and  
Sir Harry Studholme,  
Forestry Commission Chair.



# Foreword

The Forestry Commission operates in England and Scotland to protect and expand the nations' forests and woodlands, increasing their value to society and the environment. Following the change to responsibilities for forestry in Wales, we have developed new relationships both with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Welsh Government, which we intend will be productive and beneficial for all.

Agreement has been reached across England, Scotland and Wales about the functions which will continue to operate on a cross border basis, where this represents the most efficient and effective means for their delivery. These functions include GB level tree health issues; the commissioning of evidence to deliver the Science and Innovation Strategy for Forestry in Great Britain, including the National Forest Inventory; standards for sustainable forest management.

The environment in which we work continues to change. Under the Woodland Policy Enabling Programme, we will continue to work up plans for how best to deliver the functions and services provided by the organisation to England, Scotland and Wales. We will continue to review the services and functions, and tailor them to serve country requirements, as we and the countries gain greater experience in the new ways of working.

This Corporate Plan for 2014-15 describes these cross border functions, and how they will be delivered.



# Our priorities

**Resilience:** Protecting our woodland resource and increasing its resilience to pests, diseases and the impact of climate change so that our woodland continues to deliver a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

**Evidence:** Ensuring that there is a robust evidence base available to the devolved forestry administrations across the UK to underpin their policies, decisions and advice.

**Standards:** Setting the standards for sustainable forest management in the UK and promoting it domestically and internationally.







# Resilience: Forest Biosecurity

We will protect our woodland resource and increase its resilience to pests and diseases so that our woodlands continue to deliver a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

Forest and wider ecosystem health is our highest priority. Society needs healthy and resilient forests, woodlands, and trees to support the economy, provide mental and physical stimulation, and act as a haven for Britain's rich and varied biodiversity.

The resilience of our woodlands, forests and trees is under assault as never before, from climatic changes and increasing numbers of damaging pests and diseases. The recent introductions of injurious pests and pathogens as an unfortunate consequence of international trade require us to anticipate future threats, enhance vigilance at our borders, and deal with those which have recently entered Britain, or are already established.

In 2013, we worked closely with the Defra Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Expert Taskforce to provide expert advice to help it formulate its recommendations. This year, we will continue to work with wider government and the forestry sector to help implement the response to the Task Force recommendations, and commence delivery of the GB Plant Health Strategy. Our Tree Health Service will develop an effective working relationship with Defra's Chief Plant Health Officer and the plant health services in each country to facilitate co-ordination in order to ensure, where appropriate, that pests and diseases are addressed in a consistent way across Britain.

Wherever possible, we will supplement our research funding on tree health through partnership and collaboration to build new capacity and capability in this area, through initiatives such as the Living with Environmental Change facilitated Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity one. We will continue to provide support and guidance to the forestry sector on forest resilience and specific aspects of tree health. We will develop and improve the new relationships with our forestry stakeholders and partners in government, which have been forged through common interest.

## Key actions for 2014-15

We will help to implement the recommendations of the Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Expert Taskforce and deliver the Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain by addressing the following themes:

### Prevent:

- Continue to meet EU inspection targets for wood and bark products, and
- Carry out additional inspections of commodities where these present a high risk to national biosecurity.

### Protect:

- Improve our surveillance at premises associated with certain high risk trades.
- Coordinate the actions of cross-border outbreak management teams, and provide updated advice and guidance to support the management of Chalara and *Phytophthora ramorum*.

### Prepare:

- Prioritise practical actions on tree pests and pathogens with partners on the Plant Health Risk Group.
- Assist in developing a prioritised pest risk register and new shared contingency plans on priority tree pests.
- Develop and pilot an e-learning package on biosecurity for the forestry, arboriculture and landscaping sector.

### Resilience:

- Support continued investment into research with partners, and
- Build biosecurity measures into the Science and Innovation Strategy for Forestry in Great Britain for future years.

Case study

## Wood packaging inspections and visit to China



In 2013 Forestry Commission Plant Health Inspectors completed over 1000 import checks on high risk wood packaging associated with imports of stone products from China. This had been the source of the Asian Longhorn beetle outbreak in Kent, which was successfully eradicated in 2012. During the first six months 20,000 consignments were reported as entering into the EU from China and 12% of these were landed in the UK. We inspected approximately 40% of consignments and these revealed that 99% complied with the international standard of wood packaging, ISPM15. There were no cases in the UK of harmful organisms being found. While the compliance rate in other member states was also > 97%, there were a number of live pest findings, including 4 findings of Asian Longhorn beetle.

In June 2013, a member of the FC Plant Health team was invited to be part of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit mission to China to investigate the source of the wood packaging material. The FVO team visited two Provinces in China where there had been previous problems with the standard of wood packaging. The audit findings were published in February 2014 and we have been updating our inspectors with intelligence from the visit and the findings from other member states.

Spot checks will be carried out on wood packaging as it is off-loaded from containers in order to improve confidence in the inspection findings to date.

Looking forward to 2014 we will do more targeted checks on other commodities from China. While we expect to maintain the minimum level of wood packaging checks required by the EU we intend to resume intelligence-led inspections on other commodities like iron and steel products.







## Learning to live with Chalara dieback of ash

In 2013 we were able to observe the impact of Chalara on ash trees over a full growing season. The year was characterised by copious displays of ash flowering, but little evidence of new areas of infection with trees in most regions growing strongly.

Our surveillance effort concentrated on finding infections in newly planted sites and the number of these confirmed cases grew steadily as the suspect batches of plants were traced to planting sites. Numerous reports of suspected die-back were received by the Forest Research diagnostic team through the Tree Alert recording system but by far the majority of these turned out to be false alarms.

In April we updated the risk assessment on Chalara to incorporate the most recent findings and new scientific evidence. This indicated that the risk of disease spread from the well-established wider environment infections was far greater than the risk from recently planted trees. Evidence was also emerging of the disease being present in East Anglia since at least 2008.

The tree health team in England investigated some of the older infected sites and discovered the first evidence in this country that the disease was causing basal lesions on trees. The Natural Resources Wales team discovered their first wider environment outbreak in Carmarthenshire in May. This was the first case where there was a clear link between an infected 2006 planting site and the disease spreading into trees growing in hedgerows nearby.

Further evidence of an association between older infected planting and the spread into trees in the wider environment then emerged at sites in Devon, Dorset and Somerset. In common with Wales, these were counties outside of the heavily infected regions in the east and south east of England where there was no other source of infection. Woodland owners were advised to extend their vigilance to ash trees planted up to 20 years ago to help develop an understanding of how disease can develop on ash of this age. More research and evidence for the source of the planting material is required to understand exactly what has happened at these older sites.

Last November, an EU FRAXBACK<sup>1</sup> workshop was held in London to provide an update on the most recent scientific evidence from countries living with ash dieback in continental Europe. Speakers commended the approach taken by the UK and confirmed that there is little point fighting the disease but rather that effort should focus on making our woodland resource more resilient for the future. There was unanimous support for the potential for selection and breeding of resistant ash for the future.

We will continue to work with stakeholders and Defra to update the Chalara management plan for England by April 2014. We will also continue to liaise closely with stakeholder groups in Wales and Scotland.

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1. FRAXBACK is an EU action to share knowledge and information about Ash dieback

## Indicators

- Number of new tree pests and diseases established in the last 10 years (contextual measure).
- Number of interceptions of non-compliant imports.
- Meet our customer-care target of inspecting 95 per cent of imports of wood and wood products on the day of notification of landing, or the next-again working day.
- Percentage of the research budget committed to biosecurity.







# Resilience: Challenges posed by climate change

We will protect our woodland resource and increase its resilience to the impacts of climate change so that our woodlands continue to deliver a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

Forestry has a significant role to play in helping to tackle climate change in the UK. Trees and woodlands take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere as they grow, and wood products offer the potential to substitute for fossil fuel intensive fuels and materials. Woodlands also provide a means of helping us adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change; for example, by contributing to flood risk management and providing shade in towns and cities. These two examples demonstrate how forests and trees provide benefit to people through sensitive management of the environment. Further woodland expansion and rural jobs and businesses can be supported through innovative approaches to valuing these benefits.

Our evidence and analysis is showing how increasing levels of woodland creation in Great Britain could help to meet policy objectives related to climate change. Our support for research on how woodlands contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation is

further strengthening the evidence base, which is used to support policy and operations across the forest sector. We are also funding new research into the provision of other ecosystem services – including the regulation of water quantity and quality – which will help to build a business case for the role of woodlands in delivering such services.

We are working with DEFRA and other partners to develop natural capital accounts for forestry. These accounts will help to demonstrate the wider role of woodlands in underpinning the economy, environment and society.

These benefits can only be provided if forests and woodlands remain resilient to change. We will work with stakeholders in the public and private sectors to ensure that advice and information is available and relevant to supporting sustainable forest and woodland management.





Image: Forest Carbon Ltd

## Woodland Carbon Code

A UK market in woodland carbon has been growing in recent years. Initially beset by poor quality projects, the Forestry Commission launched the Woodland Carbon Code in 2011 to bring robust and consistent standards to woodland creation projects aimed at carbon sequestration and to underpin market confidence in them.

We worked in partnership with other bodies across the forestry and carbon sectors to develop the Code. Now in its second year of operation, over 140 projects have registered to seek validation under the Code. These projects will sequester over 5,000,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the next 50-100 years. Over 40 projects have already been validated, and independently certified under the Code.

There has been a range of investors to date. These have been principally from retail and travel companies as well as local authorities, and have been driven largely by corporate social responsibility (CSR) objectives. An amendment to the Government's Environmental Reporting Guidelines in 2013 allows clearer reporting by companies of the contribution of woodland creation in the UK towards CO<sub>2</sub> emissions abatement.

The Code provides robust protocols for estimating carbon sequestration and for ensuring that projects deliver additional CO<sub>2</sub> abatement to 'business as usual' and that this abatement is secured permanently. In April 2013, a group scheme was introduced to allow projects to share certification costs. In July 2013 a carbon registry was

launched, providing added transparency and security in how carbon credits are generated and retired ("used") under the Code. The registry is operated by Markit Environmental, the world's leading carbon registry.

The Code only allows carbon credits to be generated ex post (i.e. after sequestration has taken place), and after projects have been verified to demonstrate that carbon has accumulated in the woodlands as predicted. The first carbon credits are due to be created in 2016, when the first round of verification checks is carried out in woodlands validated in 2011.

Work is underway to finalise the procedures to be used for monitoring and verifying projects after they have been validated. Verification will be required at year 5 and (at least) at 10 year intervals thereafter. A workshop will be held in early 2014 to examine proposed verification methods and a verification protocol will be introduced in summer 2014.

We expect that the Code will continue to evolve, and are currently supporting ESRC-led research to examine risk assessment procedures for forestry projects and the implications for how risk is handled under the Code. We are also funding research to see if metrics could be incorporated into the Code which enable assessment of the wider social and environmental benefits of woodland creation. This would be intended to meet demand from corporate and other investors for CSR projects.

## Key actions for 2014-15

- Introduce monitoring and verification procedures for the Woodland Carbon Code to enable verified credits to be issued from 2016.
- Evaluate risk assessment procedures under the Code and metrics which could be used to assess the social and environmental impacts of woodland creation projects.
- Work with partners to develop natural capital accounts for forestry.
- Build the evidence base to support understanding of forest ecosystem service markets.
- Encourage forestry's contribution to a green economy by working with experts in and beyond the forest sector to develop enabling and funding mechanisms for woodland creation.
- Facilitate new nature-based business opportunities through piloting and testing new funding models for woodlands.

## Indicators

- Projected amount of carbon captured to 2050 by Woodland Carbon Code approved British woodlands.
- Number and type of dissemination activities emanating from our work on climate change and ecosystem services.





# Evidence

We will ensure that there is a robust evidence base available to the forestry authorities across the UK to underpin their policies, decisions and advice.

Robust and credible evidence is crucial for informed and effective policy making, and operational activity. Through our commissioned programmes of research, and externally purchased projects, we will provide a solid evidence base. This reflects the interests of the devolved administrations and our stakeholders. This is a key element of the cross border work and our analysts facilitate the translation of the science into practical guidance, to ensure optimum and effective uptake.

The publication of the Science and Innovation Strategy for British Forestry earlier this year will allow us to take the next phase of research commissioning forward. This will engage policy makers,

researchers, analysts and stakeholders to identify the key research questions we need to address over the next 4-5 years.

Evidence will be commissioned to support the resilience themes above to support work on improved tree health responses, and ways to realise the value of the many ecosystem services provided by forests and woodlands.

Phase 1 of the National Forest Inventory is nearing completion. NFI data underpins the key statistics used by the forestry sector, and is critical to the delivery of sustainable forest management in Britain and the continuing investment in the forest sector.

## The National Forest Inventory

Case study

The National Forest Inventory (NFI) is the principal source of evidence concerning the distribution and composition of forests and woodlands within Great Britain. In 2014/15 the NFI will continue its rolling field survey programme, undertaking 3000 samples across GB woods. This work will complete the first 5 year cycle of the NFI, enabling FC to produce a wide range of core data and analysis on topics such as carbon content, damage from pests and diseases, recreational use by the public and biodiversity measures.



## High nature value farming and forestry (HNVFF):

Case study

The HNVFF impact indicator is one of two biodiversity indicators to assess the impact of Rural Development Programmes throughout the EU. Each UK country will be reporting against their own rural development programmes. EU Member States are required to develop baseline indicators, result indicators and impact indicators for HNVFF and report on these. Initial guidance published by the EU's DG Environment, only added forestry at a late stage, thus the concept is not yet fully developed. This means that the process of identifying HNV forestry is likely to lag well behind that of farming.

In 2012 the European Environment Agency (EEA) published further guidance on how Member States should define the HNV Forestry indicator. This was entirely inappropriate to many Member States, including the UK, and presented a significant financial burden. We successfully lobbied, via the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, against the proposed EEA guidance. In late 2013 the EEA developed a remote sensing methodology and trialled it for beech across Europe. This required statistical and research analysis to ensure that it approximated to our understanding of truth on the ground. We are now talking directly to EEA on production of more appropriate guidance and clarification of purpose of the indicator to make sure that it is not detrimental or over-burdensome to British forestry interests.

## FC role in Official and National Statistics

Case study

The Forestry Commission publishes a range of Official Statistics outputs which are fully compliant with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

In addition, we have been successful in getting the UK Statistics Authority to designate five of our statistical outputs as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation as National Statistics can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

Meet identified user needs;

- Are well explained and readily accessible;
- Are produced according to sound methods; and
- Are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The Forestry Commission's National Statistics releases are:

- Forestry Facts & Figures
- Forestry Statistics
- Timber Price Indices
- UK Wood Production and Trade
- Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking.

These are produced annually, published on the FC website and as a convenient pocket-sized booklet.

We work with members of trade associations in the Expert Group on Timber Trade and Statistics to compile information on the supply and demand of timber and forest products and assess information needs in new areas, including the developing wood-fuel markets.

## Key actions for 2014-15

- Engage with stakeholders to develop future research programmes under the Science and Innovation Strategy for British Forestry.
- Direct and manage research programmes relevant to the forestry sector, and disseminate results.
- Leverage our research spend by extending the close partnership working with other government departments and external organisations.
- Provide timely and accurate official statistics (including National Statistics) on the forestry sector, such as forest area, timber volume, biomass and carbon stored, to inform trade and industry, government and the general public.
- Publish statistics on forest health and on forest biodiversity attributes such as the amount of deadwood, tree regeneration and habitat type; and information to inform LULUCF<sup>2</sup> reporting.
- Develop a communications strategy and plan for effective dissemination of research outputs.
- Allow wider access to the evidence base by making the back catalogue of publications available through the website.

## Indicators

- The proportion of funds spent on research delivery against commissioning costs.
- The amount of leverage obtained from FC research resources.
- Published metrics on deliverables arising from the Science and Innovation Strategy.
- National Forest Inventory sample plots against target number required.

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2. Land use, land use change and forestry

# Standards

We will set the standards for sustainable forest management in the UK and promote them domestically and internationally.

We will maintain the United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS), as the definitive approach to sustainable forest management both internationally and domestically.

In the international context, the UK is signatory to a range of agreements affecting forests and the environment at both regional and global levels and the UKFS ensures these commitments are met in our domestic forestry practice. The UK also has a number of strategic objectives and obligations in the areas of protecting forests, climate change, the natural environment, and poverty reduction. The Forestry Commission will continue to participate in promoting sustainable forest management internationally, using the UKFS as our exemplar, and sharing UK experience with other countries on a bilateral and multilateral basis. For example, we contribute to the New Generations Plantations Project, led by WWF – International. Within the European Union, we will use the UKFS to inform the UK Government’s negotiating approach on forestry issues. We will apply our wealth of practical, technical and scientific expertise, and use our high international standing to engage with international processes and influence the outcomes.

Domestically, the UKFS continues to act as the foundation for British forestry providing a common framework for the delivery of forestry policies at country level and the benchmark against which regulations and incentives are applied. The UKFS provides a proportionate,

flexible, low burden approach to sustainability and we will continue to ensure it remains current and relevant to support other mechanisms such as independent certification and better regulation. By maintaining the UKFS and associated guidance we can ensure that forestry activities supported by government’s incentives secure additional benefits and deliver an appropriate balance of environmental, economic and social objectives. For example, its worth has been recognised by the Independent Panel on Forestry in England, the Task Force on Forestry Regulation, and the “Grown in Britain” initiative.

We will also use the UKFS as a basis for ensuring that Government policies relevant to sustainable forest management are consistent. This is particularly important in developing policy where there are forestry-related issues such as climate change, rural development, payment for ecosystem services, incentives for renewable energy, timber procurement policy, and implementation of the EU Timber Regulation. We will provide support and expertise to the appropriate policy leads to inform the UK approach, both domestically and internationally.

We will provide cross-border expertise, help steer developments, and support organisations, such as the UK Woodland Assurance partnership, NGOs, and the Confederation of Forest Industries (Confor) to further sustainable forest management in the UK.





## UKFS Practice Guide on Managing Forests in Acidified Water Catchments

Case study

Acidification, principally due to atmospheric pollution, continues to affect acid sensitive regions of the UK, damaging fisheries and causing adverse ecological changes in freshwaters. Under certain conditions, forestry can enhance this detrimental effect so there is a need to ensure it does not lead to increased acidification or delay recovery. In a highly contentious area, we have developed a cross-border approach, drawing on 20 years of research and working with Forest Research, water scientists, water regulators, the conservation agencies and forestry authorities in the four countries. Published in 2014, the Practice Guide and a supporting Research Note describe the measures required to minimise the risk of adverse impacts in relation to new planting, felling or restocking proposals.

## Ensuring a robust UK forestry line on European issues.

Case study

Through representing the UK at the EU Standing Forestry Committee, we helped shape the EU Forestry Strategy and were influential in developing the Committee's opinion on using existing forestry mechanisms to provide evidence of sustainability of biomass. Our expertise and influence have helped design the establishment of a Forest Information System of Europe, which will ensure this does not result in burdens beyond what we already undertake in our national forestry inventory. We also supported Defra in the broader Forest Europe process to review the criteria and indicators for sustainable forestry, which are used to inform the UK Forestry Standard.

## Key actions for 2014-15

- Complete a light-touch review of the UKFS as a web-based up-date.
- Develop a practice guide on floodplain woodlands in support of the UKFS Forests and Water Guidelines.
- Work with colleagues in Defra and DECC to ensure that UKFS-based regulatory approaches allow UK growers access to markets for biomass and wood-fuel and meet the UK Government Procurement Policy.
- Develop an approach for independent assessment of the implementation of the UKFS in discussion with the 4 countries and using experience gained at country level in 2013/2014.
- Work with Defra to ensure a successful adoption of the EU Forest Strategy and Council Conclusions that reflect UK interests for sustainable forest management.
- Monitor developments on a Legally Binding Agreement for forests in Europe and work with Defra on the implications for the UK on the outcomes of final negotiations, including implications for devolved administrations.

## Indicator

Due to diverging country data, the current indicator based on felling licences and forest plans cannot be consistently assessed. We will define a new indicator for this area of work during 2014/15.



# Ways of Working

This section covers corporate issues such as organisational changes, Spending Reviews, governance and the Woodland Policy Enabling Programme.

In 2014 we will be working with the three countries to provide support and ensure business continuity as the structural arrangements for forestry in each country continue to evolve to meet their varying needs.

At the same time, we will continue to support the Forestry Commissioners in providing sound governance and ensuring that the Forestry Commission's statutory duties are met.



## Key actions for 2014-15

We have established a Business Strategy Working Group, which will provide the focus for the countries to work in partnership to develop a roadmap for change. This will ensure that as users withdraw from shared services there is a model that allows the costs base to adjust to changing demands and treats affected staff fairly and consistently.

- In Wales, we will support the transition of services to Natural Resources Wales in line with their timetable and support arrangements for those FC services which it has been agreed will continue.
- We will work with FC England to develop a change plan for the services delivered to Forest Services and the proposed Public Forest Estate Management Organisation.
- At the same time we provide support to other services users, particularly in Scotland, to ensure business continuity is maintained while changes are underway elsewhere.
- As part of the next phase of the Woodland Policy Enabling Programme, we will address the issue of what organisational models might be appropriate for delivering cross border functions in the future. This phase is scheduled to run throughout 2014 and will include a consultation with stakeholders at the end of the year.

## Indicator

- Total spend on cross border activities follows agreed SR10 targets.







# Annex A: Indicators and Actions

The indicators detailed below are intended to provide information on trends, and are reported on in the Cross Border Activities annual report together with information about the delivery of actions during the year.

## Resilience – Challenges for forest biosecurity

### Delivery Priority Indicators

1. Number of new tree pests and diseases established in the last 10 years (contextual measure).
2. Number of interceptions of non-compliant imports.
3. Meet our customer-care target of inspecting 95 per cent of imports of wood and wood products on the day of notification of landing, or the next-again working day.
4. Percentage of the research budget committed to biosecurity.

### Key actions for 2014/15

#### Prevent:

- Continue to meet EU inspection targets for wood and bark products, and
- Carry out additional inspections of commodities where these present a high risk to national biosecurity.

#### Protect:

- Improve our surveillance at premises associated with certain high risk trades.
- Coordinate the actions of cross-border outbreak management teams, and
- Provide updated advice and guidance to support the management of Chalara and Phytophthora ramorum.

#### Prepare:

- Prioritise practical actions on tree pests and pathogens with partners on the Plant Health Risk Group.
- Assist in developing a prioritised pest risk register and new shared contingency plans on priority tree pests.
- Develop and pilot an e-learning package on biosecurity for the forestry, arboriculture and landscaping sector.

#### Resilience:

- Support continued investment into research with partners, and
- Build biosecurity measures into the science and innovation strategy for future years.

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## Resilience – Challenges posed by climate change

### Delivery Priority Indicators

5. Projected amount of carbon captured to 2050 by Woodland Carbon Code approved British woodlands.
6. Number and type of dissemination activities emanating from our work on climate change and ecosystem services.

### Key actions for 2014/15

- Introduce monitoring and verification procedures for the Woodland Carbon Code to enable verified credits to be issued from 2016.
- Evaluate risk assessment procedures under the Code and metrics which could be used to assess the social and environmental impacts of woodland creation projects.
- Work with partners to develop natural capital accounts for forestry.

- Build the evidence base to support understanding of forest ecosystem service markets.
- Encourage forestry's contribution to a green economy by working with experts in and beyond the forest sector to develop enabling and funding mechanisms for woodland creation.
- Facilitate new nature-based business opportunities through piloting and testing new funding models for woodlands.



## Standards

### Delivery Priority Indicators

7. Review and define a new indicator for this theme during 2014-15, and the total areas of woodland captured under these plans.

### Key actions for 2014/15

- Complete a light-touch review of the UKFS as a web-based up-date.
- Develop a practice guide on floodplain woodlands in support of the UKFS Forests and Water Guidelines.
- Work with colleagues in Defra and DECC to ensure that UKFS-based regulatory approaches allow UK growers access to markets for biomass and wood-fuel and meet the UK Government Procurement Policy.
- Develop an approach for independent assessment of the implementation of the UKFS in discussion with the 4 countries and using experience gained at country level in 2013/2014.
- Work with Defra to ensure a successful adoption of the EU Forest Strategy and Council Conclusions that reflect UK interests for sustainable forest management.
- Monitor developments on a Legally Binding Agreement for forests in Europe and work with Defra on the implications for the UK on the outcomes of final negotiations, including implications for devolved administrations.

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## Evidence

### Delivery Priority Indicators

8. The proportion of funds spent on research delivery against commissioning costs.
9. The amount of leverage obtained from FC research resources.
10. Published metrics on deliverables arising from the Science and Innovation Strategy.
11. National Forest Inventory sample plots against target number required.

### Key actions for 2014/15

- Engage with stakeholders to develop future research programmes under the Science and Innovation Strategy for British Forestry.
- Direct and manage research programmes relevant to the forestry sector, and disseminate results.
- Leverage our research spend by extending the close partnership working with other government departments and external organisations.
- Provide timely and accurate official statistics (including National Statistics) on the forestry sector, such as forest area, timber volume, biomass and carbon stored, to inform trade and industry, government and the general public.
- Publish statistics on forest health and on forest biodiversity attributes such as the amount of deadwood, tree regeneration and habitat type; and information to inform LULUCF reporting.
- Develop a communications strategy and plan for effective dissemination of research outputs.
- Allow wider access to the evidence base by making the back catalogue of publications available through the website.

## Ways of Working

### Delivery Priority Indicators

12. Total spend on cross border activities follows agreed SR10 targets.

### Key Actions for 2014-15

- In Wales, we will support the transition of services to Natural Resources Wales in line with their timetable and support arrangements for those FC services which it has been agreed will continue.
- We will work with FC England to develop a change plan for the services delivered to Forest Services and the proposed Public Forest Estate Management Organisation.
- At the same time we provide support to other services users, particularly in Scotland, to ensure business continuity is maintained while changes are underway elsewhere.
- As part of the next phase of the Woodland Policy Enabling Programme, we will address the issue of what organisational models might be appropriate for delivering cross border functions in the future. This phase is scheduled to run throughout 2014 and will include a consultation with stakeholders at the end of the year.

# Annex B: Source and Uses of Funds

£million		2013-14 Planned	2014-15 Indicative	2015-16 Indicative
<b>Source of Funds</b>				
Parliamentary Funding	Resource	13.137	12.058	11.668
<b>Use of Funds</b>				
GB Activities	Research	9.492	8.352	8.352
	Analysts	0.966	0.879	0.879
	Plant Health	0.689	1.017	0.627
	Corporate Support	1.575	1.432	1.432
	Other	0.415	0.378	0.378
<b>Total</b>		<b>13.137</b>	<b>12.058</b>	<b>11.668</b>
Staff Numbers (Full-time equivalent)		31.4	31.4	31.4

## Note

Parliamentary funding in 2014/15 includes £0.4m for enhanced plant health activities.





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The Forestry Commission is a non-ministerial department responsible to the Governments in England and Scotland.

On agreed cross border functions the Forestry Commission reports to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

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1260/June2014/50/Park Lane Press

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