



Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

## Reporting on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

A special request is related to any foreseen changes related to policies, institutions and instruments until December 2014. Please select the button to provide such information.

Yes  No

**COUNTRY:** United Kingdom

**DATE OF SUBMISSION:** 11/ 08/ 2014

### National correspondent:

Name: Sally Viner  
 Organization: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)  
 Address: Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR  
 Phone/Fax: 0207 238 5995  
 Email: sally.viner@defra.gsi.gov.uk

### Other professionals involved in the reporting process: 1

Name: Frances Snaith  
 Organization: Forestry Commission  
 Email: frances.snaith@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Deadline for submission :

## PART I: Policies for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

### A1. National forest programmes (NFP) or similar and related forest policies

NFP or similar process for forest related dialogue, policy development & implementation

Existence of NFP process or of similar process

Formal NFP process  
 Process explicitly guided by the FOREST EUROPE NFP principles  
 Similar process  
 Other. Please specify:

Name of NFP or similar process

Name: Sustainable Forestry in The UK; The UK's National Forest Programme  
 Internet Link: [www.forestry.gov.uk/sustainableforestry](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/sustainableforestry)  
 Starting year: 2003

Main formal decision making body of the process

Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry  
 Ministry responsible for forestry  
 Similar process  
 Other. Please specify:

Yes  No

**Significant changes related to the NFP process or similar since 2011**

If yes, please describe the reason/s for and type of changes [max.100 words]

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), a principal component of the NFP, was revised and reissued in November 2011. Forestry Commission Wales has been dissolved and a new body, Natural Resources Wales, has taken over its functions. Scotland awaits the outcome of a Referendum on Independence, therefore any review or revision of the UK NFP has been put on hold for the foreseeable future.

**Key lessons learned on the NFP process or similar**

Please specify [max. 100 words], particularly on the NFP principles related to NFP as iterative process, stakeholder participation and approaches to inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration:

The UK has well established consultation and participatory processes in place. For example, the Independent Forestry Panel England (formed in early 2012 and reported to the UK Government in July 2013), was consulted on what the public, forestry sector and others wanted for the future of the public forest estate in England and England's forestry policy.

**Comments on the NFP or similar process**

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant:

The articulation of forestry policy and implementation in the UK is devolved, although some overarching functions, such as plant health, are dealt with at a UK level. Each country Strategy is prepared by an open and consultative process endorsed by relevant country administrations. In England, Forestry Commission England reports directly to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Forestry Commission Corporate Plan 2013-14 [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCE\\_corp\\_plan\\_2013-14.pdf/\\$FILE/FCE\\_corp\\_plan\\_2013-14.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCE_corp_plan_2013-14.pdf/$FILE/FCE_corp_plan_2013-14.pdf) and England Forestry Strategy 2006 [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcefs.pdf/\\$FILE/fcefs.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcefs.pdf/$FILE/fcefs.pdf) In Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland reports directly to the Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change. Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006 and Scottish Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan 2014-17 <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/forestry-strategy> Forestry Commission Wales has been dissolved and a new body, Natural Resources Wales, has taken over its functions. Natural Resources Wales is responsible to the Welsh Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport. Woodlands for Wales Action Plan 2010 – 2015 <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/forestry/woodlandsforwales/wfwstrategyforwoodlandstrees/?skip=1&lang=en> [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/WoodlandforWalesActionPlan2012.pdf/\\$FILE/WoodlandforWalesActionPlan2012.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/WoodlandforWalesActionPlan2012.pdf/$FILE/WoodlandforWalesActionPlan2012.pdf) The Northern Ireland Forest Service is an Executive Agency within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Northern Ireland, and is subject to the direction of the Minister. Northern Ireland Forestry: A Strategy for Sustainability and Growth 2006 <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/strategy-for-sustainability-growth.pdf>

**Main Forest policy document (national forest programme document, forest policy statement, strategy or other)****Existence of forest policy document (other than law)**Yes  No **Title of main forest policy document and internet links**Name: UK Forestry Standard (together with country forestry strategies)  
Internet Link: [www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs)**Forest policy document development process**

- formal NFP process or process explicitly guided by NFP principles  
 process similar to NFP or other process

**Name of endorsing/authorizing /enacting institution of the main forest policy document**

- Parliament  
 Council of Ministers or similar  
 Minister responsible for forestry  
 Forestry Department or similar  
 Other. Please specify:

agreed at ministerial level across all 4 government administrations

Date of endorsement / authorization / enactment

2011

**Evaluation of policy implementation**

- Periodically, pre-specified in the NFP document  
 Periodically, but not pre-specified  
 Not specified, not planned  
 Other

**Is there explicit reference to FOREST EUROPE instruments in the forest policy document?**

FOREST EUROPE definition of SFM

Yes  No 

FOREST EUROPE criteria and indicators for SFM

Yes  No 

FOREST EUROPE guidelines for NFPs

Yes  No 

FOREST EUROPE Classification of Protected and Protective Forests and Other Wooded Land

Yes  No 

FOREST EUROPE Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management

Yes  No

FOREST EUROPE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation

Yes  No

*If the responsibility for forest policy is decentralized:*

Existence of formally endorsed subnational forest policy document(s)

Yes  No

Yes  No

If yes, please describe the reason/s for and type of changes [max. 100 words]:

**Significant changes related to main forest policy document since 2011**

UK Forestry Standard extensively revised and reissued in November 2011 to take account of domestic and international commitments and policies on climate change as well as social aspects such as equality and diversity. [www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs). New policy statement published 2013 for England following an Independent Panel on Forestry review. The Scottish Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan (2014-17) lays out directions by theme. England: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-9CKG3E> Scotland: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/forestry-strategy>. Wales: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-85uczz>. Northern Ireland: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/strategy-for-sustainability-growth.pdf>

**Comments on the main forest policy document**

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

The UKFS is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. SFM as set out by the UKFS, is the fundamental tenet of forestry policy in the UK.

**Policy objectives by policy area**

**Policy areas**

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide. Promote both productive and native woodland, bring undermanaged woodlands back into production, encourage integration between farming and forestry. England - policy aspiration to increase woodland area from 10% to 12% by 2060. Scotland - increase woodland area from 17% to 25% by mid 21 century. Wales - create 100,000ha of new forest by 2030. Northern Ireland - double the forest area from 6% to 12% by 2056

**B1. Land use and forest area**

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

The mitigation of climate change is cited in all countries as one of the principal drivers of policies to increase the forest area. Enhanced focus on woodland creation, diverse species mix, landscape and integration with farming.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Sequester carbon through the growth of new woodlands and storage in timber construction. Encourage harvesting of wood products to reduce greenhouse emissions from the energy sector directly as woodfuel and from other sectors where timber replaces more energy intensive materials. Protection to safeguard the store of carbon in woodlands. SFM of existing woods and trees.

**B2. Carbon balance**

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Ambition for new woodland and the use of timber in construction.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

### B3. Health and vitality

Improve woodland and their use to promote health benefits. Greater opportunities for communities to benefit from woodland and trees particularly in urban areas to access green space and woodland. Bring undermanaged woodlands back into management providing access facilities. Protect the forest environment.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Increased emphasis through the Central Scotland Green Network, Europe's largest urban greenspace area.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

### B4. Production and use of wood

Maximise the added value of timber products, subject to environmental issues maximise the supply of softwood timber. Support the development of the biomass industry, particularly whilst maintaining the supply of timber from forests for mainstream forest industries; verify SFM. Support "Grown in Britain" an industry led initiative to promote use of domestically home grown timber and woodfuel. Renewable Heat Incentive, long-term financial support programme to support renewable heat, including woodfuel heating. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-use-of-low-carbon-technologies/supporting-pages/renewable-heat-incentive-rhi>

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

50 year forecast of potential softwood availability published. Increased emphasis on restocking forests, harvesting maximum available timber whilst seeking to provide a consistent level of supply to industry.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

### B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services

Promote use of forests for multibenefits. Maximise forests natural capital, ensure ecosystem services are understood and valued. More people benefit from woodland related enterprises. Restore the area of forests utilised for timber subject to addressing wider environmental objectives. Promote informal recreation. Value the many social and environmental benefits of woodlands and develop new market opportunities to realise these. Build on the National Ecosystem Assessment, the Natural Capital Committee and the Ecosystem Markets Taskforce.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Increased emphasis on natural capital budgets and ecosystem services.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

### B6. Biodiversity

Bring EU designated sites and native woodlands into favourable management. Support re-establishment of species, e.g. white tailed sea eagle, osprey. Management and removal of invasive species. Restore the area of forests utilised for timber, subject to addressing wider environmental objectives. Greater diversity of species, genetic variability and larger and less fragmented forest woodland habitats. Protect and restore "Ancient Woodland". Establish forestry's potential contribution to relevant biodiversity strategy targets.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Significant emphasis on management and research into tree diseases affecting UK woodlands and trees. Trees of special conservation value are in favourable condition. Forests for natural flood management, protection forestry for steep ground. Restore the area of forests utilised for timber subject to addressing wider environmental objectives. Woodland expansion where it can help manage flood risk and safeguard clean water. Increase priority for flood risk management following flooding in (England) winter 2013/14.

**B7. Protective forests**

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Policies developed to manage disease spread and harvest diseased trees. Increased emphasis on use of woodlands for flood mitigation.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Add value by producing higher value timber products e.g. in construction and ensure the forest sector is more integrated and competitive. Use increased demand for biomass to bring greater returns for the forest owner. Promote a thriving and skilled workforce. Policy based on resilience - a forestry sector and woodland resource that keeps growing, providing multiple benefits; are financially sustainable and affordable; and are well equipped to respond to existing and future threats.

**B8. Economic viability**

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Ensuring that biomass and mainstream forest industries can co-exist around timber SUPPLY.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Maintain and increase employment, skills, better paid jobs and encourage uptake of opportunities in rural areas. Support industry led initiatives to increase skills and workforce in forestry, focus on apprenticeships. Forest Industry Safety Accord, industry led, supported by Government due to evidence of forestry's poor track record in safety <http://www.ukfisa.com/>

**B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)**

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Encourage public to use forests for recreation, well-being and tourism. Encourage community participation in forest management and encourage community ownership of forests. Support social enterprise and sector led initiatives to promote a 'woodland culture'.

**B10. Public awareness and participation**

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Greater emphasis on community ownership and leasing of forests, particularly in state forests. Encouraging small scale Woodlot licences for individuals to manage others' forests. Promotion of public access to forests by providing weekend residential huts/accommodation for communities.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

**B11. Research, training and education**

Increase skills levels and apprenticeships as well as professionalising the profession/sector (graduates). Support sector led programmes of forest education. Continue to fund cross-border forestry research. Science and Innovation Strategy for Forestry in Great Britain published: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/research>

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Ensure continued flow of trained workforce both at forest floor and professional forester level.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes  No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

**B12. Cultural and spiritual values**

Encourage greater awareness of forestry and their history. Support sector led initiatives to promote a â€œwoodland cultureâ€.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant:

**Comments**

All information can be found at: England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-forestry-policy-statement> Scotland: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/policies> NI: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/strategy-for-sustainability-growth.pdf> Wales: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/forestry/woodlandsforwales/wfwstrategyforwoodlandstrees/?skip=1&lang=en>

**Key measures and lessons learnt per policy area**

| Policy areas                               | Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011   | Key lessons learnt  |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>B1. Land use and forest area</b></p> | <p>If yes, please specify [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p> <p>If yes, please specify</p> <p>see "comments" below</p> <p><b>Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.</b></p> <p>see "comments" below</p> | <p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p>    |
| <p><b>B2. Carbon balance</b></p>           | <p>Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p> <p>see "comments" below</p> <p><b>Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.</b></p> <p>see "comments" below</p>  | <p>Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> |

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No **B3. Health and vitality**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**see "comments" below

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Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No **B4. Production and use of wood**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**see "comments" below

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Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No **B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**see "comments" below

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Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No **B6. Biodiversity**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**see "comments" below

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Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No **B7. Protective forests**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**see "comments" below

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Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No **B8. Economic viability**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**see "comments" below

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Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No **B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**see "comments" below

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Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No **B10. Public awareness and participation**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**

see "comments" below

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No

**B11. Research, training and education**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**

see "comments" below

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No

**B12. Cultural and spiritual values**

see "comments" below

**Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.**

see "comments" below

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

**Comments**

All information can be found below: England: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-9frj9j>, Scotland: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/policies>. NI: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/strategy-for-sustainability-growth.pdf> Wales: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/forestry/woodlandsforwales/wfwstrategyforwoodlandstrees/?skip=1&lang=en>

**PART II: Overall institutional frameworks and by policy area**

**A2. Institutional frameworks**

| Please specify the type of forest-related institutional arrangements | Part of Ministry                    | Sub-national ministries or bodies | Other body. Please specify |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| - forest policy administration                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| - legislative supervision & enforcement                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| - support to private forest management                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| - management of public forests                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Other. Please specify:   |                                     |                                   |                            |

| Government bodies  | Please specify the level of main responsibility | Central government                  | Subnational governments             | Other. (please specify in comments below) |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| - administering forest policy development and implementation |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                  |
| - legislative supervision & enforcement                      |   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                  |
| - support to private forest management                       |   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                  |
| - management of public forests                               |   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                  |
| Comments [max. 100 words]                                    |   |                                     |                                     |   |



Forestry policy in the UK has been devolved since 1999. Each country has mechanisms for co-ordinating forestry policy with National Committees appointed by the Forestry Commissioners under section 2(3) of the Forestry Act 1967 for England and Scotland. (Changes in Wales advised in Part I and below).

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests</b> | Name or group/type <sup>1</sup> :                                       | Forest-related staff <sup>2</sup> (2013, Full time equivalent)  |
|  | Total [estimate]  | 3027 - includes all parts of the Forestry Commission (Great Britain, Scotland, England and Wales), the Northern Ireland Forest Service and 9 Defra (central government) staff |
|  | ...of which forest administration <sup>3</sup>                          | No breakdown available  |
|  | ...of which management of public forests                                | No breakdown available  |
|  | ...of which public forest research, education and training institutions | 178   |
| ... of which others  |   |   |

**Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, since 2011**

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]

Forestry Commission Wales has been dissolved and a new body, Natural Resources Wales, took over its functions from April 2013. Natural Resources Wales is responsible to the Welsh Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport.

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.

**Comments**

The Independent Panel on Forestry examined current forestry policy in England and made a number of recommendations. Its 2012 report and its recommendations underpinned a refreshed Government policy statement for England (published in January 2013): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-forestry-policy-statement> Implementation of this policy statement was reported on in January 2014: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Forestry\\_and\\_Woodlands\\_Policy\\_Statement.pdf/\\$file/Forestry\\_and\\_Woodlands\\_Policy\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Forestry_and_Woodlands_Policy_Statement.pdf/$file/Forestry_and_Woodlands_Policy_Statement.pdf)

**Institutional frameworks per policy area**

**Significant changes in institutional frameworks since 2011**

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

**B1. Land use and forest area**

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

**B2. Carbon balance**

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

**B3. Health and vitality**

A new co-ordinated framework with new funding for all operational activity in relation to plant health has been established in the UK. The UK has initiated a review of animal and plant health capability (the Walport review). Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

**B4. Production and use of wood**

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

**B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

**B6. Biodiversity**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

**B7. Protective forests**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

**B8. Economic viability**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

**B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

**B10. Public awareness and participation**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

**B11. Research, training and education**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

Yes  No

**B12. Cultural and spiritual values**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Since April 2013 forestry responsibilities in Wales have been transferred from the Forestry Commission to Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh government.

**Comments**

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

**PART III: Overall legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments and by policy area**

**A3.Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments**

## Legal/regulatory frameworks

General characteristics of legal/regulatory framework: formal authority on main forest matters is laid down... [multiple answers possible]

- in constitution  at central government level
- in legislation enacted by parliament  at federal level
- in administrative decrees / regulations only  other

Other: Devolved Administrations

Main forest and SFM related legal/regulatory act with national scope (e.g. Forest law, act or code)

Name and reference to legal document

Forestry Act 1967 (as amended), the Plant Health Act 1967.  
www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2010/10/pdfs/nia\_20100010\_en.pdf

Main changes from previous legal act

Date of enactment

1967 2010

Date of latest amendment

Are the following FOREST EUROPE instruments explicitly referred to in the [national?] legal/regulatory framework?

FOREST EUROPE Definition of SFM

Yes/fully No

FOREST EUROPE C&I for SFM

Other

Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

The Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulation 2013 transposes the EU's Timber Regulation into Great Britain law. The purpose of the legislation is to prohibit the import and use of illegally harvested timber and timber products in EU countries.

Comments

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

The Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 was created to enable the delivery of forest policy and subsequent implementing legislation.

## International commitments

Significant initiatives undertaken since 2011 in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country

Yes  No

If yes, please specify [max. 100 words]

Comments

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

In 2011 a revised UK Forestry Standard was issued reaffirming UK commitments to international agreements in the area of forestry. During 2013 we initiated a programme of work to address PES across the UK which included market based mechanisms for their provision. The UK launched the Woodland Carbon Code in July 2013.

## Legal/regulatory frameworks per policy area

## Significant changes in institutional frameworks since 2011

**B1. Land use and forest area** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B2. Carbon balance** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B3. Health and vitality** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B4. Production and use of wood** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

---

**B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B6. Biodiversity** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B7. Protective forests** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

---

**B8. Economic viability** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

---

**B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

---

**B10. Public awareness and participation** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

---

**B11. Research, training and education** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

---

**B12. Cultural and spiritual values** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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Comments

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant:

## PART IV: Overall financial instruments/economic policy and by policy area

### A4. Financial instruments and economic policy

#### Economic policy

#### Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests

Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of publicly owned forests

The UK provides government support for state owned forests to sustain and increase delivery of public benefits, to protect and improve the resilience of the resource, to help supply raw material for the timber processing sector and to support the rural economy.

Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of privately owned forests or other

The main objectives in supporting private forestry are to increase delivery of public benefits, to protect and improve the resilience of the resource, enable the supply of raw material for industry and increase the resource through forest expansion.

#### Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2011

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]

#### Comments

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.

The UK is focused on ensuring the continued health of our trees and forests and continue to deliver a Biosecurity Programme to preserve the health and vitality of forests, trees and woodlands. This is pursued through strategies that exclude, detect and respond to existing and new pests and pathogens of trees.

#### Financial instruments

#### State/federal forest management, act or code)

Please specify financial arrangements related to state-owned forests and their management [max. 100 words]

- Profit/financially self-sufficient forest management
- Additional financial support from government to forest management
- Other. Please specify

#### Government financial instruments: private forest management

Please specify the use of financial instruments for private forests and their management, incl. main objectives [max. 100 words]. *For the EU Member States, please specify apart from the EU Rural Development Programme Funds.*

- Grants/subsidies. Please elaborate:

Grants fund the creation of woodland and its management and aim to sustain and increase delivery of public benefits.

- Tax measures. Please elaborate:

Includes income and corporation tax, Capital Gains Tax, Inheritance Tax and VAT aimed at supporting rural objectives, forest-industry businesses and encouraging sustainable land use.

- Incentives. Please elaborate:

- Public funds. Please elaborate:

- Investment support. Please elaborate:

- Loans. Please elaborate:

Other. Please specify:

**Significant changes in financial instruments related to forests since 2011**

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

| Year: 2012-13  | Domestic funding (mil€)   | External funding <sup>4</sup> (mil€) | Total (mil€)  |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Operational expenditure                                  | 80.7  | 2.3                                  | 83.0          |
| Transfer payments (support to private forest management) | 64.7  | 20.0                                 | 84.7          |
| <b>Total public expenditure</b>                          | <b>145.4</b>  | <b>22.3</b>                          | <b>167.8</b>  |
| <b>Of which...</b>                                       | For forest administration                                       |                                      | 17.5          |
|  | For management of public forests                                |                                      | 54.2          |
|  | For public forest research, education and training institutions |                                      | 11.3          |
|  | For other institutions. Please specify:                         |                                      | not available |
|  | figures in GB £ million sterling                                |                                      |               |

If transfer payments are made for forest management and conservation, indicate for what specific objective(s) - Please tick all that apply.

- Reforestation  
 Afforestation  
 Forest inventory and/or planning  
 Conservation of forest biodiversity  
 Protection, of soil and water  
 Forest stand improvement  
 Establishment or maintenance of protected areas  
 Other

Please specify the allocation of total public expenditures among the six criteria

- Estimate of resources %**
- C1. Forest resources and carbon  
 C2. Health and vitality  
 C3. Productive functions  
 C4. Biodiversity  
 C5. Protective functions  
 C6. Socio-economic functions

**Note: the total must be 100 %**

**Comments and lessons learnt**

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

The figure given "for forest administration" is currently estimated as the total operational expenditure minus the management of public forests and forest research.

**Financial instruments per policy area**

**Significant changes in financial instruments since 2011**

**B1. Land use and forest area** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B2. Carbon balance** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B3. Health and vitality** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B4. Production and use of wood** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B6. Biodiversity** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B7. Protective forests** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B8. Economic viability** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B10. Public awareness and participation** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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**B11. Research, training and education** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

---

**B12. Cultural and spiritual values** Yes  No   
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

## Comments

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

## PART V: Overall informational means and by policy area

### A5. Informational means

#### Main characteristics of informational means

Is there public access to forest inventory data ?

Yes  No

If yes, please specify:

Summary data of the current National Forest Inventory is available to the public via the Forestry Commission website. This includes an annual INSPIRE compliant GIS map of all woodlands and summary woodland composition information. Historical inventories are publicly available.

Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist?

Yes  No

If yes, please provide reference: [max. 100 words]

Communication strategies reflect priorities for the UK and also for Devolved country specific policies. Information is supplied in publication form, as Official Statistics, via the Forestry Commission website, linked to the Direct Government website. Press releases are made for each publication.

Does a national report on the status of sustainable forest management exist?

Yes  No

If yes, please provide reference/link: [max. 100 words]

#### Significant changes in informational means / forest related communication since 2011

##### Informational means

Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]

Please see above. The UK Government now embraces more social media, multimedia and developing technologies to maximise our communication.

**Forest related communication** Yes  No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]

Information arising from evidence gathering programmes is supplied as and when it is analysed and/or formulated, making it much more current than historic information, which was often released several years after it was gathered.

## Comments

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.

[www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory)

#### Financial instruments per policy area



## Significant changes in informational instruments since 2011

Yes  No **B1. Land use and forest area**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

A revision of forest area was made using new technology (GIS, aerial photography and satellite imagery) and found 8% more woodland area in Great Britain.

Yes  No **B2. Carbon balance**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

A revision of forest area was made using new technology (GIS, aerial photography and satellite imagery) and found 8% more woodland area in Great Britain.

Yes  No **B3. Health and vitality**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes  No **B4. Production and use of wood**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

A production forecast for conifers based upon mensuration data arising from the forest inventory was published for the first time in 2012, for broadleaves in 2014, and for 50 and 100 years, for the first time in 2014.

Yes  No **B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes  No **B6. Biodiversity**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes  No **B7. Protective forests**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes  No **B8. Economic viability**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

A series of information on economic viability of harvesting was published between 2011 and 2014, including the distance of timber to roads, ease of access and harvesting, timber sizes and species etc.

Yes  No **B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes  No **B10. Public awareness and participation**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

**B11. Research, training and education**Yes  No 

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

**B12. Cultural and spiritual values**Yes  No 

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

**Comments**

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant: