**National Forestry Stakeholder Meeting - Resilience**

**10th November 2022**

**Attendees:**

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| SF Chair | Alan Hampson |
| Minister for Environment and Land Reform | Mairi MacAllan |

**Group 1**

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| SF Facilitator | Pat Snowdon |
| SF Scribe | Amy Nicholson |
| Woodland Trust | Nick Phillips |
| Scottish Land and Estates | Stephen Young |
| Scottish Government, Environment and Forestry | Kevin Quinlan |
| Nature Scot | Claudia Rowse |
| Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority | Gordon Watson |
| James Jones & Sons Ltd | David Leslie |
| Heads of Planning | Ian Aikman |
| Forestry and Land Scotland | Simon Hodgson |
| Forest Research | James Pendlebury |
| Construction Scotland Innovation Centre | Sam Hart |
| Deputy Director, Domestic Climate Change Division | Philip Raines |
| Chief Forester for Scotland | Helen Mckay |
| SF Corporate Support Manager | James Aldred |
| SF Head of SFM | Helen Sellars |

**Group 2**

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| SF Facilitator | Jason Hubert |
| SF Scribe | Tim Gordon-Roberts |
| South of Scotland Enterprise | Dr Martin Valenti |
| Scottish Government, Future Environment Division, Deputy Director | Tim Ellis |
| RSPB | Andrew Weatherall |
| National Access Forum | Don Milton, Convener |
| National Farmers Union Scotland | Jonathan Hall |
| Institute of Chartered Foresters | Dr Stuart Glen |
| Green Action Trust | Douglas Worrall |
| Forestry and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group | Guy Watt |
| Forest Research | Chris Quine |
| Confederation of Forest Industries | Richard Hunter |
| Committee on Climate Change | Indra Thillainathan |
| Senior Policy Officer Climate Change Adaption | Kay White |
| Cairngorms National Park Authority | Colin McClean |
| SF Head of Operational Delivery | Brendan Callaghan |

**Agenda:**

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| **Welcome and introductions**  Alan Hampson (Chair), Head of Policy and Practice - Scottish Forestry  Brief round table introductions of attendees | **09:30** |
| **Ministerial remarks**  Mairi McAllan, Minister for Environment and Land Reform | **09:45** |
| **Brief introduction to the paper and discussion questions**  Helen Sellars, Scottish Forestry | **10:00** |
| **General comments on the framing and discussion paper and any additional key issues people would like to see identified?**  Greater inclusion of biodiversity as it is not used as much as the words ‘climate change’. Also more mention of land use.  Forestry statistics show more than 50% of trees are SS – relying so heavily on one species is a high risk.  Use Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) to increase species diversity – ask for more than UKFS.  Use existing and known species for diversity rather than bringing in unknown southern species.  UK imports 81% of the timber it processes, this produces high GHG emissions from transport and has risks relating to appropriate sourcing of sustainable material.  Support for forestry must be aimed at a scale and use species that allow for economic operation to help reduce imports, sustaining investment and keeping confidence in the forestry market.  Take better advantage of Forest Research’s figures relating to commercial woodlands to have a clear picture on long term trends and support taking a long term view.  Ensure we consider that afforestion on carbon rich soils can lead to carbon losses initially.  Ensure we avoid clashes between afforestation and peatland restoration as has happened in CNPA.  Consider forestry’s relationship to wider resilient landuse, diversification of species, deer management beyond just fencing, understory as well as trees, the combined impact of all changes.  Research from central Europe re: use of mixtures being more productive than single-species blocs. Can achieve productivity while building resilient forests.  The rapidly increasing level of new tree pests and diseases being imported is arguably biggest threat to the future of tree cover in Scotland and the carbon, biodiversity, timber and other benefits they provide. Over 20 new diseases introduced since 1990. Ash dieback could lead to loss of 80% of ash trees in Scotland. Just this one diseases estimated to cost UK economy £15 billion.Plea: When promoting the use of trees from southern Europe for adaptation advantages for timber production, we must also put in place sufficient policy measures to ensure trees are sourced responsibly, ideally grown in UK. Driving risky tree imports, could fuel more imported disease, fueling the overall problem. Prevention far cheaper than cure for tree diseases, for everyone.  Consistent with 'Key Principles' developed by Plant Health Centre: https://www.planthealthcentre.scot/key-principles | **10:10** |
| **Move into 2 groups for discussion:**  **National Stakeholder Meeting Responses to questions – summarised by theme**  **Question 1**  **What are the characteristics of climate resilient woodlands or forests in a resilient landscape? (i.e. as part of wider land use)**  Good ecological condition – healthy = resilient – metric – what scale?  Size / scale  Connectivity – good for species  - increase risk for pest and disease spread  Genetic variation  Commercially valuable / managed / productive  Supporting rural economy  Community involvement / benefit  Understood by public (risks of their behaviour and benefits)  Biosecurity  Response to immediate threats – deer, INNS, development  Mixed not mono-cultural  Higher diversity on better ground  Do best for land – eg. peatland restoration / forestry  Structure  Silviculture - varied  Assessed for future climate risks  **Question 2**  **What can we do to strengthen these characteristics in our woodlands and forest ecosystems to enable a) Adaptation, b) Resistance, response and recovery**  Grants to deliver more than UKFS, farm woodland management support  Revised management plans  Gap analysis needed (measures)  Recruitment, skills / knowledge building  Private investment  Manage deer / squirrels  Coordination with other land users / managers  Biosecurity  UKFS revision  Tree breeding  Change mindsets  Develop alternative end products for alternative species and sizes, product substitution  Regional and national initiatives  Public education / awareness | **10:25**  **10:45** |
| **Move back into Plenary: Group feedback and summing up**  Group 1 short feedback – given by Amy  Group 2 short feedback – given by Tim  Summing up - Alan Hampson  Lot to consider  All recognise challenging topic  Not just looking at climate crisis and loss of nature but increasing demand for fibre and timber  Scotland has great story to tell - but need to make sure forests are resilient  Question of responsibilities - many people (government, investors, land managers, etc.) have a role to play  Technical issues and uncertainty, behavioural issues  UKFS recognises as key issue for revision, revised version out for consultation currently  Will look at hybrid event for a National Forestry Stakeholder meeting next year; challenges re: venue | **11:10** |
| **Next steps and close -** Alan Hampson  The output from the meeting will be used to inform our approach to this issue over the next few months and our discussions with the other UK administrations on the review of the UK Forestry Standard. Resilience and adaptation identified as a key cross cutting theme that runs across the sections in the next edition.  A consultation on the draft content of that next edition of the UKFS is open until 8th December 2022 and I would encourage you all to respond. Further information is on Scottish Forestry’s UKFS webpage. | **11:25 – 11:30** |