Scotland's Forestry Strategy

Implementation Plan

»2020-2022

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Scotland's Forestry Strategy
» 2019–2029 overview

VISION

» In 2070, Scotland will have more forests and woodlands, sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. These will provide a more resilient, adaptable resource, with greater natural capital value, that supports a strong economy, a thriving environment, and healthy and flourishing communities.

OBJECTIVES

» Increase the contribution of forests and woodlands to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth

» Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their contribution to a healthy and high quality environment

» Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, well-being and life chances

PRIORITIES

» Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed

» Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands

» Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives

» Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands

» Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets

» Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands

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Preface

Scotland's Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan 2020-2022 was prepared before the Scottish Government declared a national health emergency on the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

The plan was developed with input from a fixed-life stakeholder reference group, including representatives from the Confederation of Forest Industries, Institute of Chartered Foresters, Scottish Environment Link, Community Woodlands Association and Scottish Land and Estates. That group was established to advise on and support implementation of Scotland's Forestry Strategy by considering significant actions, appropriate progress indicators and lead delivery organisations for inclusion in the plan.

The Scottish Government is making this plan available, as much of the information provides a baseline for the initial delivery of Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 objectives; to expand Scotland's forests and woodlands so future generations can realise the full range and extent of the associated economic, social and environmental benefits. Priority will be given to the actions that best support the forest sector recover from the impacts of the coronavirus emergency. The two-year plan will be kept under review and discussions will be held with delivery organisations regarding the scheduling of associated actions.
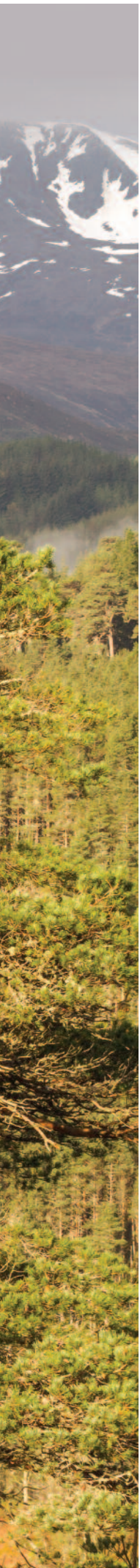
Contents

1

Introduction

Scottish Ministers published <u>Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029</u> in February 2019. The Strategy sets out Scotland's ambition to expand its forests and woodlands and to increase their role in helping address the global climate emergency (Box 1 overleaf), growing an inclusive and sustainable rural economy and contributing to people's health and well-being.

The Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 marked a new era for forestry in Scotland. Both the Act and the Strategy have the principles of sustainable forest management at their core, including adherence to the principle of 'the right tree, in the right place, for the right purpose', and recognising the opportunities to better integrate forestry with other land uses and businesses.

The Forestry Strategy committed the Scottish Government to publish an implementation plan to provide more detail on delivery, monitoring and reporting. This is that plan. Scottish Ministers must deliver their first statutory progress report to the Scottish Parliament in 2022. The plan therefore covers a two-year period. Future implementation and reporting cycles will be aligned over three-year periods.

This initial implementation plan signals a key milestone in realising the Strategy's vision (Figure A), building on a strong delivery track record. Section 3 of this plan sets out the most significant actions that the Scottish Government, its agencies and partners will take forward to support the delivery of the Strategy's 10-year objectives. Section 4 of the plan explains how we will track progress using a set of indicators measured over the next ten years. Section 5 sets out the schedule for reporting on progress.

This plan has been prepared by the Scottish Government with input from a range of forestry and land use interests including members of a fixed-life stakeholder reference group. The membership of the working group is listed in Annex A. The group was established to advise on and support implementation of the Forestry Strategy by considering significant key deliverables, appropriate indicators and lead delivery organisations for inclusion in the plan.

» BOX 1 – ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Scottish Government's 2018 Climate Change Plan outlines the crucial contribution of forestry to mitigating climate change through sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing carbon in sustainably managed forests and wood products. The Plan sets targets for increasing forest cover and woodland creation, and for increasing the use of timber in construction.

Recent figures show that:
» **In 2017, Scotland's forests and woodlands sequestered the equivalent of 9.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.**
» **In 2018-2019 Scotland exceeded the Climate Change Plan target for woodland creation, planting 11,210 hectares – representing 84% of all new woodland in the UK that year.**

The Scottish Government's Budget for 2020-2021 increases funding for woodland creation, while the Programme for Government 2019-2020 committed to consulting stakeholders on increased and accelerated woodland creation targets beyond 2021. Ministers will publish an updated Climate Change Plan later in 2020.

» **This implementation plan sets out further specific actions to support this priority - see pages 20-31.**

The key priority in the Forestry Strategy to enhance forestry's contribution to climate change mitigation is:
"Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives".

The Strategy identifies the following ways in which this priority will be addressed:

Supporting
the creation of a range of types and scales of new forests and woodlands.

Ensuring
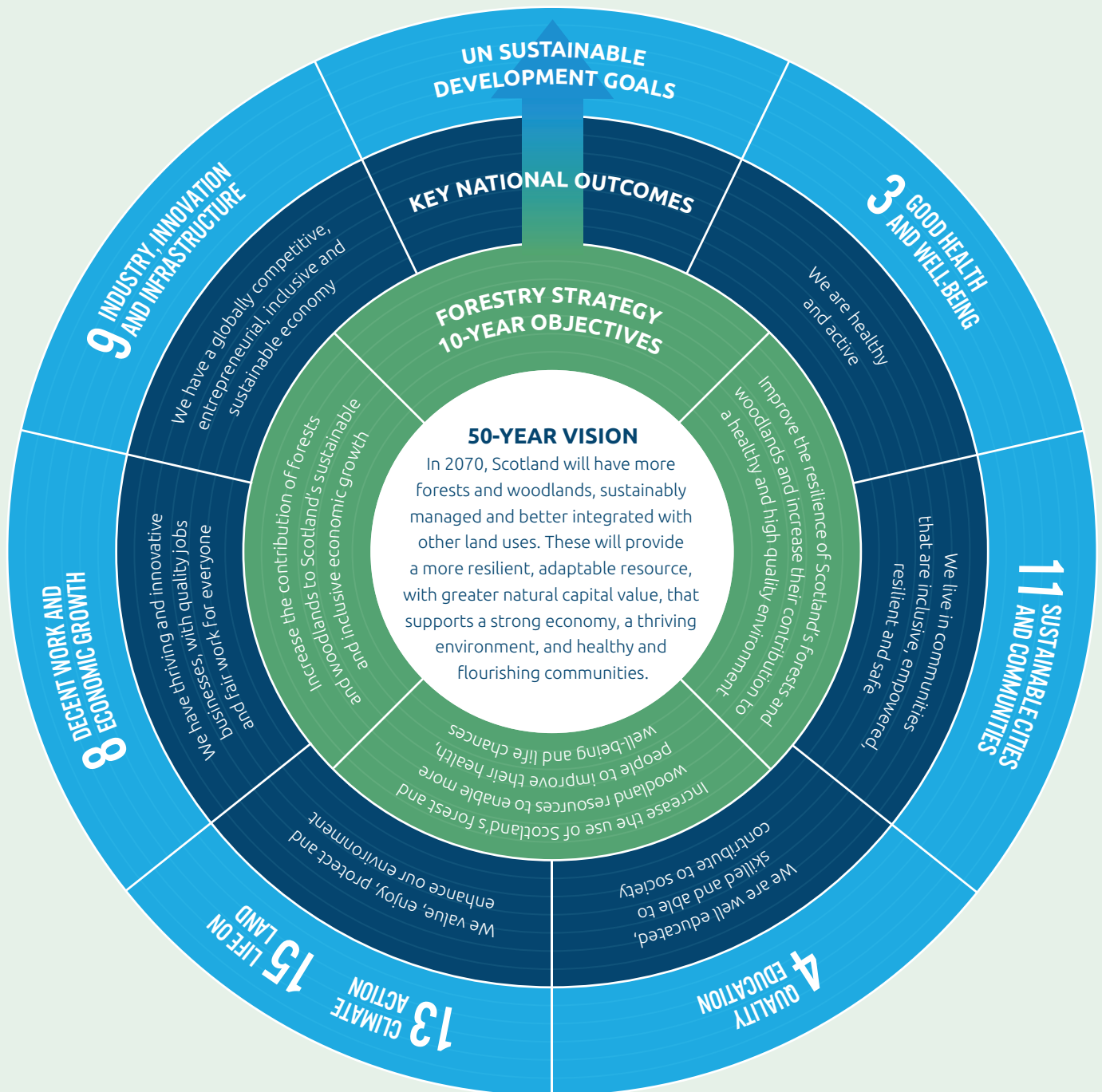**an integrated approach to land-use policy.**

Improving
understanding of forest establishment and maintenance techniques in Scottish conditions.

Encouraging
more tree canopy cover in urban areas.

FIGURE A - Linkages between the vision and objectives in the Forestry Strategy, key Scottish Government National Outcomes, and associated UN Sustainable Development Goals (Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 page 17)

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

KEY NATIONAL OUTCOMES

FORESTRY STRATEGY 10-YEAR OBJECTIVES

50-YEAR VISION

In 2070, Scotland will have more forests and woodlands, sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. These will provide a more resilient, adaptable resource, with greater natural capital value, that supports a strong economy, a thriving environment, and healthy and flourishing communities.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

We are healthy and active

Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their contribution to a healthy and high quality environment

We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Increase the contribution of forests and woodlands to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth

We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, well-being and life chances

We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment

15 LIFE ON LAND

13 CLIMATE ACTION

2

Delivery

Delivering the Forestry Strategy requires action across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. It will build on the significant progress already being made to expand and sustainably manage Scotland's forests and woodlands and to deliver the Government's wider forestry commitments.

» BOX 2 – FORESTRY COMMITMENTS

Climate Change Plan (2018)

Increase forest and woodland creation target

10 000 ha in 2018

12 000 ha per year from 2020/21

14 000 ha per year from 2022/23

15 000 ha per year from 2024/25

Increase forest and woodland cover to

21%

of the **total area** of Scotland by 2032

Increase use of Scottish wood products in construction

2.2 million m^3 in 2018

2.6 million m^3 by 2021/22

2.8 million m^3 by 2026/27

3.0 million m^3 by 2031/32

Scotland's Biodiversity – a Route Map to 2020 (2015)

Native woodlands

Increase the amount of native woodland in **good condition**

Create **3000–5000 ha** of new native woodland per year

Restore **approximately 10 000 ha** of new native woodland into satisfactory condition in partnership with private woodland owners through Deer Management Plans

BONN CHALLENGE (2011)

Scotland has signed up to the challenge that aims to **regenerate** **150 million ha** of **deforested and degraded landscapes** across the world by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030

Protected sites
Ensure protected sites are under **good conservation management**

To deliver increasing forestry ambitions, additional capacity will be needed across the forestry sector, to ensure the availability of adequate trees to plant and, that Scotland has appropriately skilled people to design, establish and manage our expanding forests and to ensure this work is carried out sustainably. This plan identifies key actions the Scottish Government and its partners will take.

The plan will be implemented using the range of delivery mechanisms described in the Forestry Strategy (pages 37-41):

» Financial support

The Scottish Government provides grant-aid and project funding for example through the Forestry Grant Scheme (Box 3) and the Strategic Timber Transport Fund. We will continue to work closely with partners to identify opportunities to secure further investment into forestry in Scotland; and to ensure that more people benefit from that investment.

» Robust and proportionate regulation

Scottish Forestry regulates forestry activity, woodland expansion proposals and forest management plans in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard to ensure Scotland's forests are sustainably managed. Scottish Forestry also implements the felling permission regulation associated with the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018.

» BOX 3 – FORESTRY GRANT SCHEME

funding for the scheme has increased from

£31 million
2016-2017

£51 million
2019-2020

The Forestry Grant Scheme offers financial support for landowners and land managers to create new woodland and sustainably manage existing woodland. Over the last 4 years funding for the scheme has increased from £31 million in 2016-2017 to £51 million in 2019-2020.

For owners of existing woodlands there are grants to support improvement and sustainable management of forests and woodlands. These include preparing long-term forest plans and deer management plans, improving the condition of native woodlands, bringing neglected urban woodlands into management, species conservation (e.g. red squirrels) and provision for public access.

A significant focus for the Forestry Grant Scheme is supporting the delivery of woodland creation through grants to help establish a range of woodland types including: conifer, diverse conifer, native Scots Pine, native broadleaves and small or farm woodlands.

Ministers have committed to maintaining the structure of the Forestry Grant Scheme during the period of stability for rural funding that runs until 2024-2025, except for practical simplifications and improvements in customer service.

For further information:
https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/forestry-grants

» Managing national forests and land

Scottish Ministers provide leadership in sustainable forest management and sustainable development through their stewardship of national forests and land. Forestry and Land Scotland has set out its plans for the management of national forests and land, and how it supports the Forestry Strategy, in its Corporate Plan (2019-2022) (see Box 4).

» BOX 4 – FORESTRY AND LAND SCOTLAND

Forestry and Land Scotland is an executive agency of Scottish Government. It was established in April 2019 to look after Scotland's national forests and land.

The Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan (published in October 2019), sets out the direction of travel for the organisation and priorities the period 2019-2022.

The Plan contains five Corporate Outcomes which have been developed to guide the work of Forestry and Land Scotland. Each has been aligned to related priorities for action in Scotland's Forestry Strategy. The Corporate Outcomes are summarised as:

- » **Supporting a sustainable rural economy**
- » **Looking after Scotland's national forests and land**
- » **National forests and land for visitors and communities**
- » **A supportive, safe and inclusive organisation**
- » **A high performing organisation**

The Corporate Plan also sets out a Vision and Mission for Forestry and Land Scotland and how its work will contribute to delivering Scotland's National Performance Framework.

For further information:
https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/who-we-are/corporate-information/corporate-plan

» Working with others

Partnership working is essential to the successful delivery of the Forestry Strategy and this implementation plan. As demonstrated in the work of the Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group, the Central Scotland Green Network Trust and in the Scottish Government's work with other UK administrations on cross-border issues such as tree health, the UK Forestry Standard and forestry research.

» Action across the public sector

Delivery of the Forestry Strategy will be co-ordinated with delivery of other Scottish Government plans and strategies (see Figure B), and incorporated into the plans of Scottish Government agencies such as Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry (see Box 5). Other public authorities have a statutory duty to promote sustainable forest management and many public bodies will continue to play an active role, such as through the development of forestry and woodland strategies by planning authorities.

» A joined up approach to policy

Scottish Forestry works with colleagues across the Scottish Government and wider Scottish administration to deliver an integrated approach to the development and delivery of forestry policy. This includes managing the potential impacts of EU exit on how we deliver this plan, such as any changes to existing approaches to plant health.

» BOX 5 – SCOTTISH FORESTRY CORPORATE PLAN

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation. Their purpose is the sustainable management and expansion of forests and woodlands to deliver more for Scotland. They do this by ensuring sustainable forest management is an integral part of public policy; by protecting and enforcing standards and forestry regulations; and by helping to achieve woodland creation targets. Their first Corporate Plan will set out their Strategic Objectives for the next three years.

The Corporate Plan will provide information on Scottish Forestry's priorities and activities for each of their strategic objectives, and the resources available. For further information: https://forestry.gov.scot/

FIGURE B - Other key Scottish Government Plans
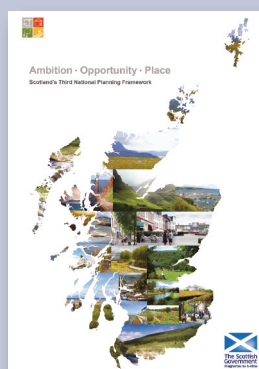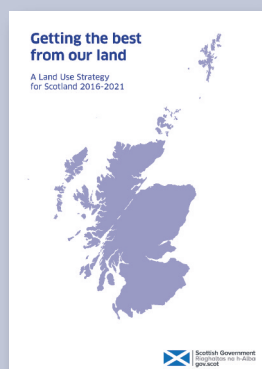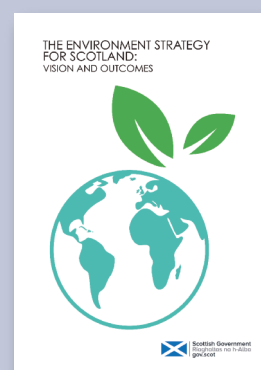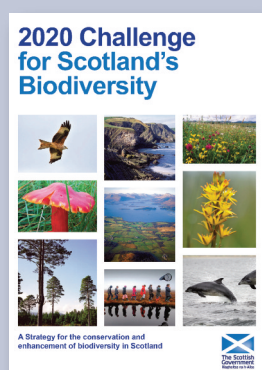
» Gathering, analysing and sharing forestry data

To ensure we have the best information to inform the important decisions on how to expand, protect and managed our forests and woodlands, we will continue to invest, and work with other UK administrations and partners to carry out surveillance and monitoring of Scotland's forests. We will also continue to engage leading scientists and other experts to help interpret and disseminate this data for use by forest managers, policy makers and others.

Actions

The Forestry Strategy identified six priority areas for action over the next ten years. The Scottish Government, in consultation with partners, has identified the significant actions that will take forward these priorities. The list of actions reflects work already underway as well as new opportunities to strengthen delivery. It is not exhaustive but does represents what the Scottish Government, in discussion with partners, believes are key actions that will have a significant impact on achieving the Strategy's objectives.

Environmental, equality and business impact assessments were completed for the Forestry Strategy, and further assessments on specific actions will be carried out as required.

The full set of actions are set out in the tables on pages 20-31, and identify the lead organisation and the main delivery partners for each.
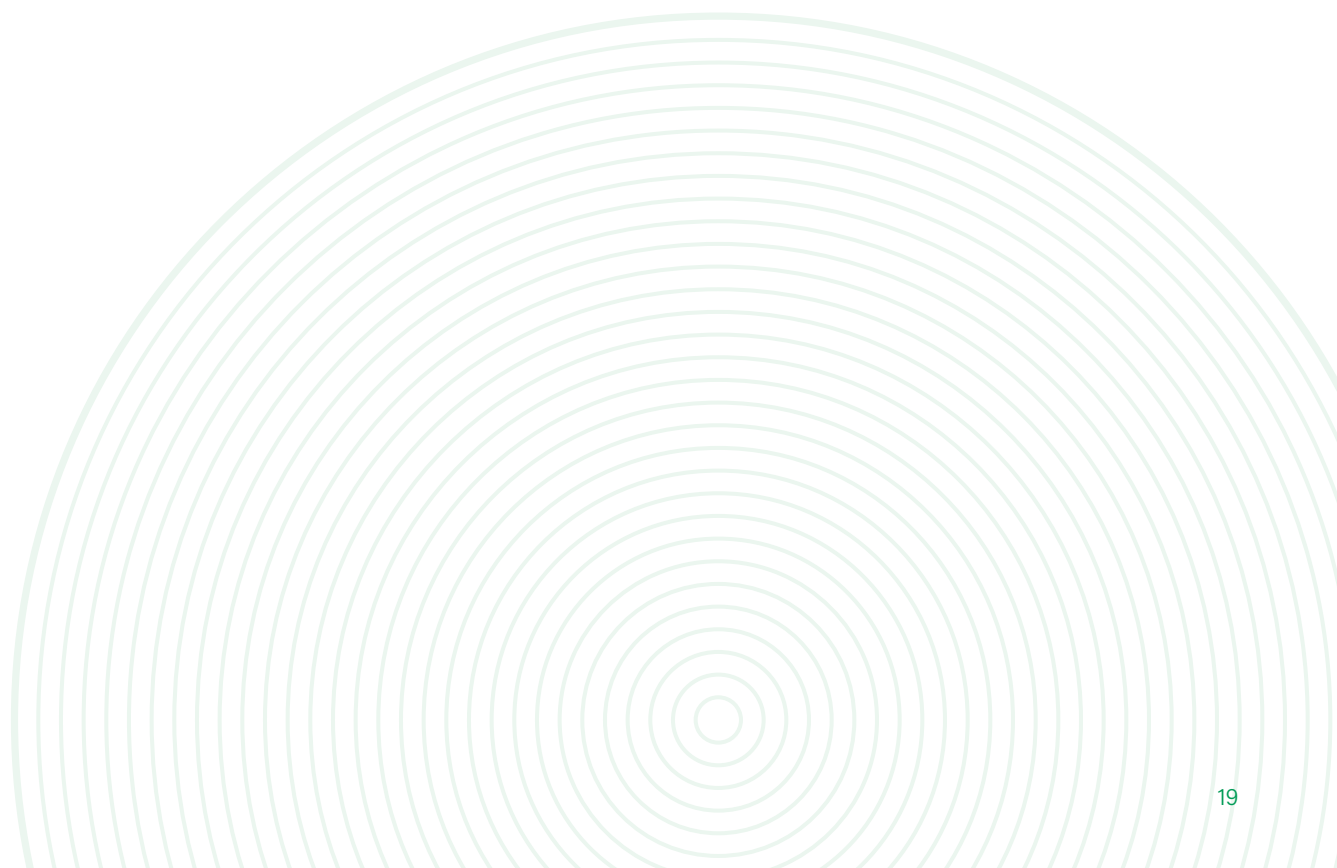
Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed

Forestry Strategy Activities

» Maintaining and promoting the UK Forestry Standard as the benchmark of good forestry practice, and assessment of the quality of forest and woodland expansion proposals and forest management plans

» Further developing our shared understanding of the application of sustainable forest management principles in a Scottish context

To deliver this priority the Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Ensure that all approved forest plans and woodland creation proposals meet the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). Report on UKFS compliance (**SF**)

» Deliver the Forestry Grant Scheme to enhance sustainable management of Scotland's forests in support of the Forestry Strategy (**SF**)

» Use proportionate regulation to support implementation of the UKFS and promotion of sustainable forest management (**SF**, SEPA, SNH)

» Promote and support development of UKFS-compliant long term forest plans to ensure forests and woodlands are sustainably managed, resilient and support implementation of the Forestry Strategy (**SF**, ICF)

» Coordinate work on the UKFS across UK administrations and manage the interface with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (**SF**, NIE, UKG, WG)

» Support promotion of UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS, Confor, ICF, **SF**)

» Engage in international forums and dialogue on sustainable forest management, working with other UK administrations as appropriate, to strengthen international relations and to ensure that the success of forestry in Scotland is recognised and reflects international good practice (**SF**, SG)

» Monitor sustainable expansion and management of woodlands (**SF**, FR)

» Implement the Control of Woodland Removal Policy (**SF**, PA, SG)

» Invest in research to support promotion and practice of sustainable forest management in Scotland and to support wider implementation of the Forestry Strategy (**SF**)

» Manage Scotland's national forests and land in accordance with UKWAS (**FLS**)

» Support continued professional development to ensure forestry practices promote sustainable forest management (**ICF**, SF)

By 2022 the Scottish Government and its partners will also:

» Coordinate cross UK work to prepare for the next UKFS review (**SF**, NIE, UKG, WG)

» Work with other UK administrations on research commissioning and production of the next Science and Innovation Strategy (**SF**, NIE, UKG, WG)

» Complete a stock-take of UKFS implementation and use the findings to inform the next UKFS review (**SF**, Confor, HES, ICF, SEPA, SNH)

» Work with the forestry and wood processing sector to deliver the SEPA sector plan's priority actions to ensure forestry activities and businesses comply with environmental regulations (**SEPA**, Confor, SF, SFTTILG)

Delivery organisation abbreviations (lead organisation in **bold**)

Confederation of Forest Industries	Confor	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA
		Scottish Forestry	SF
		Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group	SFTTILG
Forestry and Land Scotland	FLS	Scottish Government	SG
Forest Research	FR	Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Historic Environment Scotland	HES	Welsh Government	WG
Institute of Chartered Foresters	ICF	UK Forestry Standard	UKFS
Northern Ireland Executive	NIE	UK Government	UKG
Planning Authorities	PA	UK Woodland Assurance Standard	UKWAS

Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives

Forestry Strategy Activities

» Supporting the creation of a range of types and scales of new forests and woodlands using native and other tree species for a range of purposes, including production of timber

» Ensuring an integrated approach to land-use policy that seeks to maximise the synergies and reduce the potential conflicts between different land uses

» Improving our understanding of appropriate forest establishment and maintenance techniques in Scottish conditions

» Encouraging an increase in tree canopy cover in urban areas

Below

To deliver this priority the Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Support establishment of regional land use partnerships to maximise the potential of Scotland's land to contribute to combating climate change (**SG**, SLC)

» Deliver the Forestry Grant Scheme to support appropriate woodland creation to help meet the Scottish Government's woodland creation targets (**SF**)

» Engage with the Confor Nursery Producers' Group and provide Government support to help identify and address plant and seed supply issues (Confor, **SF**)

» Support advisory visits to identify opportunities for farm and croft woodlands, agroforestry and urban forestry (**SF**, FAS, SA)

» Support development and delivery of green networks through woodland creation, targeted incentives and partnership working (**SF**, CSGNT, ELGT, GCVGNP)

» Implement the Woodland Investment Programme to support new woodland creation on national forests and land (**FLS**)

» Support the work of the Vacant and Derelict Land Task Force to bring land back into productive use (**SLC**, **SEPA**, FLS, SE, SNH)

By 2022 the Scottish Government and its partners will also:

» Consult stakeholders on revised woodland creation targets and publish an updated Climate Change Plan (**SG**, SF)

» Refresh guidance to support planning authorities to meet the requirement to produce forestry and woodland strategies (**SF**, COSLA, HOPS)

» Improve Forestry Grant Scheme effectiveness by completing the actions identified in the review of the grant application process and increasing the accessibility of the scheme for small-scale and non-sensitive applications (**SF**)

» Identify opportunities to increase green finance investment to support woodland creation including through use of the Woodland Carbon Code (**SF**, SG)

» Support the forestry sector to develop a plant and seed supply strategy (**Confor**, FR, SE, HIE, SFTTILG, SASA, SE, SF, SoSE)

» Review options on how to support rural population and deliver economic and social benefits by ensuring synergies between planning, woodland creation and housing provision (**SG**, HOPS SF)

» Publish and disseminate guidance on ground preparation for forest managers (**SF**, FR)

» Coordinate a review into suitable approaches for monitoring urban canopy cover and how these can best target opportunities for creating new urban woodlands (**WTS**, COSLA, CSGNT, FR)

Delivery organisation abbreviations (lead organisation in **bold**)

Central Scotland Green Network Trust	CSGNT	Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture	SASA
Confederation of Forest Industries	Confor	Scottish Enterprise	SE
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities	COSLA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA
Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust	ELGT	Scottish Forestry	SF
Farm Advisory Service	FAS	Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group	SFTTILG
Forestry and Land Scotland	FLS	Scottish Government	SG
Forest Research	FR	Scottish Land Commission	SLC
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership	GCVGNP	Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	HIE	Soil Association	SA
Heads of Planning Scotland	HOPS	South of Scotland Enterprise	SoSE
		Woodland Trust Scotland	WTS

Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets

Forestry Strategy Activities

» Supporting the ambitions of the Forest and Timber Technologies sector, as set out in their strategy, Roots for Further Growth

» Encouraging and supporting innovation, research and development, and the adoption of new technologies and practices throughout the wood fibre supply chain

» Ensuring wood fibre availability from Scotland's forests and woodlands is predictable and increases over time

» Supporting businesses of different types and scales to develop and grow markets for value-added wood products and forest tourism and recreation opportunities

» Attracting new and more diverse talent to the forestry sector and improving the capacity, capabilities and safety of the existing workforce

» Supporting efforts to enable the sustainable transport of timber and mitigate risks of potential negative impacts

To deliver this priority the Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Support the Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group to deliver its strategy "Roots for Further Growth" and increase the sector's contribution to inclusive economic growth (**SFTTILG,** HIE, SE, SF, SoSE)

» Support the development and updating of the National Forest Inventory including wood fibre availability forecasts (**FR**, Confor, SF, SFTTILG)

» Collaborate with the smallscale timber processing sector to encourage new entrants and support sustainable growth (**ASHS**, HIE, SE, SF, SoSE)

» Work with construction industry professionals and others to identify opportunities to increase the use of wood products in construction (**SFTTILG**, HIE, SE, SF, SoSE)

» Deliver the Scottish Timber Transport Fund and support Regional Timber Transport Groups and the Timber Transport Forum to help identify and address timber transport issues (**SF**, Confor, LA, TS)

» Encourage improvement in health and safety performance in the forestry sector through promotion of the Forest Industry Safety Accord (**FISA**, Confor, FLS, SF, SFTTILG)

» Develop and implement a timber marketing strategy for Scotland's national forests and land (**FLS**)

» Support Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through the provision of visitor attractions on national forests and land (**FLS**)

» Support commercial activity on national forests and land including agricultural management, rural housing and renewable energy opportunities, to sustain rural communities (**FLS**)

By 2022 the Scottish Government and its partners will also:

» Publish a study on the economic contribution of the forestry sector (**SF**, Confor, SFTTILG)

» Publish a 25-year timber availability forecast and updated productive species yield models (**FR**, Confor, SF, SFTTILG)

» Coordinate support for forestry sector businesses to adopt new technologies and build data management capability to improve efficiency and productivity (**SFTTILG**, HIE, SE, SF, SoSE)

» Publish a sector skills strategy to attract new and more diverse talent to the forestry sector including increasing the proportion of women working in forestry (**SFTTILG Skills Group**, SF, SG)

Delivery organisation abbreviations (lead organisation in **bold**)

Association of Scottish Hardwood Sawmillers	ASHS	Highlands and Islands Enterprise	HIE
Confederation of Forest Industries	Confor	Local Authorities	LA
Forest Industry Safety Accord	FISA	Scottish Enterprise	SE
Forestry and Land Scotland	FLS	Scottish Forestry	SF
Forest Research	FR	Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group	SFTTILG
		South of Scotland Enterprise	SoSE
		Transport Scotland	TS

Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands

Forestry Strategy Activities

» Improving the understanding of the threats to Scotland's forests and woodlands and potential mitigating actions, through education, research, surveillance and the development of new technologies

» Managing for, and mitigating against, the threats posed by tree pests and diseases through biosecurity measures and contingency planning

» Supporting forest design and silvicultural actions which increase the capacity of forests and woodlands to adapt to, and thrive in, a changing climate

» Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, in particular by using the recruitment of natural regeneration and improving mitigation of the risks posed by invasive non-native species, deer and other herbivores

To deliver this priority the Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Invest in research, surveillance and monitoring to improve understanding of the threats to Scotland's forests and woodlands and improve forest resilience (**SF**, SASA)

» Deliver the Tree Health Service as part of wider Scottish and UK plant health activity (**SF**, SASA, STHAG)

» Publish practice guidance and support training for forestry managers on the threats to Scotland's forests and how forest design and management can improve forest resilience (**SF**, FR, ICF)

» Use incentives, regulation and partnership working to protect and improve native woodland condition (**SF**, CNP, LLTNP, RSPB, TfL, WTS)

» Develop a programme of actions to improve the resilience of Scotland's national forests and land to the impact of climate change and tree health threats (**FLS**)

» Support landscape scale habitat management to protect and expand the range of key iconic protected and priority woodland species (e.g. beaver, red squirrel, wildcat, capercaillie, pearl-bordered fritillary) (**SF**, BC, RSPB, SNH, SRMG, SSRS, SWT)

By 2022 the Scottish Government and its partners will also:

» Publish Scottish Ministers' response to the Deer Working Group review including actions relating to forestry (**SG**, SF)

» Develop the Tree Health Service in response to emerging threats and improved understanding of specific pests and diseases, including exploring the feasibility of new technology to enhance monitoring (**SF**, SASA, STHAG)

» Implement a refreshed Deer Management Strategy for national forests and land (**FLS**)

» Promote the new approach to monitoring the ecological condition of woodland, and use the monitoring data to support implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy post 2020 (**SF**, FR, SNH)

» Create a forest resilience 'resource' to provide the latest evidence on risks and approaches to improve forest resilience, and to engage the forestry sector and stakeholders on the key findings from this evidence (**FR**, ICF, SF)

Delivery organisation abbreviations (lead organisation in **bold**)

		Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels	SSRS
		Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture	SASA
Butterfly Conservation	BC	Scottish Forestry	SF
Cairngorms National Park	CNP	Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Forest Research	FR	Scottish Raptor Monitoring Group	SRMG
Forestry and Land Scotland	FLS	Scottish Tree Health Action Group	STHAG
Institute of Chartered Foresters	ICF	Scottish Wildlife Trust	SWT
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park	LLTNP	Trees for Life	TfL
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB	Woodland Trust Scotland	WTS

Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands

Forestry Strategy Activities

» Supporting and enabling design and management of forests and woodlands to increase their positive impacts on air, water, soils, biodiversity and landscapes

» Safeguarding priority habitats and species

» Identifying and managing the cultural and historic value associated with our forests and woodlands

» Supporting activity to improve the ecological condition and habitat quality of native forests and woodlands, including PAWS

» Supporting the management of forests and woodlands to provide natural flood management and shelter for livestock

To deliver this priority the Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Support the creation and management of well-designed forests and woodlands that meet the requirements of the UKFS to deliver environmental benefits and protect historic features (**SF**, Confor, ICF, SEPA, SNH)

» Keep supplementary practice guidance up-to-date and support information provision and training for forest managers (**SF**, Confor, FR, ICF, SEPA, SNH)

» Support projects focusing on improving the condition of priority and important native woodlands, including landscape scale initiatives (**SF**, AWA, CNP, LLTNP, RSPB, SG, SNH, TfL, WTS)

» Manage Scotland's national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity (**FLS**)

» Work with key stakeholders to identify internationally important breeding habitats for birds and appropriate protection measures (**SF**, BTO, CNP, RSPB, SNH)

» Disseminate spatial data to land managers from the pilot work on mapping the extent of known historic environment features in the Scottish Borders, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council areas (**HES**, CC, SBC, SC, SF)

» Work with neighbouring land managers to undertake landscape scale control of rhododendron to conserve ground flora and improve habitats (**FLS**)

By 2022 the Scottish Government and its partners will also:

» Develop and implement policies to increase carbon sequestration through management of Scotland's forests and woodlands (**SF**, FLS, FR, ICF, SG)

» Undertake further mapping of the extent of known historic features and disseminate the data to help inform woodland creation proposals and forest plans (**HES**, ALGAO, SF).

» Review evidence of the contribution of urban forestry to the quality of urban environments, and its potential role in helping towns and cities in Scotland adapt to a changing climate (**FR**, CSGNT, ELGT, GCVGNP, SF)

» Develop an asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland's national forests and land (**FLS**)

Delivery organisation abbreviations (lead organisation in **bold**)

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers	ALGAO	Historic Environment Scotland	HES
Atlantic Woodland Alliance	AWA	Institute of Chartered Foresters	ICF
British Trust for Ornithology	BTO	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park	LLTNP
Cairngorms National Park	CNP	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB
Central Scotland Green Network Trust	CSGNT	Scottish Borders Council	SBC
Clackmannanshire Council	CC	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA
Confederation of Forest Industries	Confor	Scottish Forestry	SF
Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust	ELGT	Scottish Government	SG
Forestry and Land Scotland	FLS	Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Forest Research	FR	Stirling Council	SC
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership	GCVGNP	Trees for Life	TfL
		Woodland Trust Scotland	WTS

Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands

Forestry Strategy Activities

» Improving people's understanding of the practice and value of forestry and the wider benefit it provides (e.g. for livestock husbandry, flood management or health and well-being)

» Supporting the provision of more opportunities for children to play and learn in forests and woodlands, particularly in urban areas

» Increasing the use of forests and woodlands to improve people's health and well-being

» Providing more opportunities for urban and rural communities to influence the decisions affecting their local forests and woodlands, including through increased community ownership

» Supporting the provision of appropriate education and skills training to encourage wider participation in forest- and woodland-related employment

» Encouraging a more diverse range of people to value and use forests and woodlands, particularly those close to where they live

To deliver this priority the Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Roll out across Scotland the forest kindergarten 'training the trainers' programme (**SF**, SG)

» Deliver events across Scotland for farmers, crofters and land managers on benefits of woodland creation and forestry including accessing support under the Forestry Grant Scheme (**SF**, FAS, SA, WTS)

» Promote and support access provision in forests and woodlands (**SF**, NAF, SNH)

» Support outdoor learning networks to deliver continuous professional development for learning practitioners (**SF**, CNP, LLTNP, NTS, SG)

» Develop links between the health, forestry and environment sectors through initiatives such as 'Branching Out' to encourage use of forests and woodlands as a health promoting resource (**SF**, CWA, NHS Scotland, SG)

» Provide opportunities for local communities to comment on forest and woodland creation and management plans and proposals (**SF**)

» Use incentives, regulation and partnership working to maintain and improve urban woodland and green networks for the benefit of local communities (**SF**, CSGNT, ELGT, GCVGNP)

» Support community organisations involved in using, managing or owning woodland, and the provision of independent advice for community woodland groups (**SF**, CWA, SG)

» Deliver a woodland engagement programme to encourage greater use of forests and woodlands by a more diverse range of people, in particular, members of protected characteristics groups (**SF**, CEMVO)

» Actively encourage participation in and visits to national forests and land by people who are care experienced, of low socioeconomic status and/or from protected characteristic groups (**FLS**)

By 2022 the Scottish Government and its partners will also:

» Develop a Forest Therapy programme (**SF**, NHS Scotland, FTI)

» Deliver a campaign designed by young people, for young people, to raise the profile of the role of forestry in delivering environmental, social and economic benefits and associated employment opportunities (**YS**, SF)

» Develop and implement a Communities Strategy and Visitors Strategy for Scotland's national forests and land (**FLS**)

» Coordinate the delivery of a public information campaign to improve understanding of the practice and benefits of sustainable forest management (**Confor**, ICF, SF, SFTTILG)

» Produce and promote a careers resource with a range of education and training providers (**SFTTLG Skills Group**, SF, SG)

Delivery organisation abbreviations (lead organisation in **bold**)

Cairngorms National Park	CNP	Institute of Chartered Foresters	ICF
Central Scotland Green Network Trust	CSGNT	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park	LLTNP
Community Woodlands Association	CWA	National Access Forum	NAF
Confederation of Forest Industries	Confor	National Health Service Scotland	NHS Scotland
Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations	CEMVO	National Trust for Scotland	NTS
Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust	ELGT	Scottish Forestry	SF
Farm Advisory Service	FAS	Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group	SFTTILG
Forestry and Land Scotland	FLS	Scottish Government	SG
Forest Therapy Institute	FTI	Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership	GCVGNP	Soil Association	SA
		Woodland Trust Scotland	WTS

Monitoring

A set of high-level indicators has been identified to track and report progress against the Strategy. The indicators have been selected to cover a range of the Strategy's activities. Together they will demonstrate progress towards the Strategy's 10-year objectives. The indicators chosen will use the best available data and are designed to reflect national and international priorities including:

» Relevant National Performance Framework indicators.

» Internationally recognised measures of sustainable forest management (e.g. indicators for UN Sustainable Development Goal 15).

» Scottish Government forestry commitments on climate change, community ownership, biodiversity and economic growth.

» The indicators are:

» Total area of forests and woodland

» Area of woodland creation

» Area of UK Woodland Assurance Standard certified forests and woodland

» Area of forests and woodland covered by management plans

» Number of community groups that own and lease forests and woodland

» Economic contribution of forestry to the Scottish economy

» Volume of available timber

» Forestry sector net greenhouse gas emissions

» Woodland ecological condition score

» Condition of protected forest and woodland sites

» Index of Abundance for Scottish Terrestrial Breeding Birds – Woodland Species

» Number of visits to forests and woodlands

A description of the indicators is provided in Annex B.

» Development work

In addition to reporting these indicators, we will continue to keep under review methods for monitoring sustainable management of Scotland's forests and woodland. This work will include refining existing indicators and identifying potential new measures that can strengthen the link to the National Performance Framework or wider Scottish Government policies such as inclusive economic growth, use and access to greenspace, and wider public engagement. We will also explore opportunities to gather further data on the use of forests and woodland by people and the health and wellbeing benefits they derive from that use.

5

Reporting

Under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (Annex C), Scottish Ministers are required to publish a report every three years on progress in implementing the Forestry Strategy, and to lay a copy of the report before the Scottish Parliament.

The Act specifies the end of the first reporting period as 31 March 2022. A report will be prepared following that date. The report will demonstrate progress in delivering the Forestry Strategy's priorities for action and associated activities, focusing on actions and indicators set out in this implementation plan.

Further reports will be published at the end of subsequent reporting periods in 2025 and 2028.

6

Annexes

Annex A
Membership of Fixed-Life Stakeholder Reference Group

ORGANISATION

» Association of Deer Management Groups

» Central Scotland Green Network Trust

» Community Woodlands Association

» Confederation of Forest Industries

» Forest Research

» Highlands and Islands Enterprise

» Institute of Chartered Foresters

» Heads of Planning Scotland

» National Farmers Union Scotland

» Scottish Enterprise

» Scottish Environment Link

» Scottish Environment Protection Agency

» Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group

» Scottish Land and Estates

» Scottish Natural Heritage

» South of Scotland Economic Partnership

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

» Environment and Forestry Directorate

» Forestry and Land Scotland

» Scottish Forestry

» Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy Directorate

Annex B
Description of indicators

Indicator	Source	Supporting information
Total area of forests and woodlands	Forestry statistics and forestry facts and figures produced by Forest Research	The definition of woodland is land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20% (or having the potential to achieve this). Woodland includes native and non-native trees; semi-natural and plantation areas. This data is reported annually.
Area of woodland creation	Forestry statistics and forestry facts and figures produced by Forest Research	New planting is the creation of new areas of woodland by planting trees on land that was not previously woodland. The statistics include new woodland that is created by natural regeneration and colonisation of trees on land near existing woodland. The statistics also show the different types of woodland that have been created. This data is reported annually.
Area of UKWAS certified forests and woodland	Forestry statistics and forestry facts and figures produced by Forest Research	Certified woodland in the UK has been independently audited against the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Forestry certification schemes are owned by international non-governmental organisations and exist to promote good forest practice. They offer product labels to demonstrate that wood or wood products come from well-managed forests. This data is reported annually.
Area of forests and woodland covered by management plans	The data on management plan coverage is generated from Scottish Forestry's records of long term forest plans, management plans and Forestry and Land Scotland's land management plans.	A management plan sets out management objectives, and the forestry activities required to deliver a range of economic, social and environmental goods and services from a specific forest and woodland through sustainable forest management. It is intended that this data will be made available on a three-yearly basis.
Number of community groups that own and lease forests and woodlands	Data on community ownership is produced by the Scottish Government	The Scottish Government reports on the number of assets in community ownership as part of the National Performance Framework. The number of forests and woodlands in community ownership can be derived from this data. In addition, Forestry and Land Scotland lease forest and woodland sites to community groups. This data is reported annually.

Indicator	Source	Supporting information
Economic contribution of forestry to the Scottish economy	Economic contribution of the forestry sector in Scotland is available from a study commissioned by Scottish Forestry	The economic contribution of forestry in Scotland is estimated through the forestry sector contribution to Scottish Gross Value Added (GVA) and the employment supported by the forestry-related sector. This was most recently calculated in 2015. The economic contribution includes: forestry, timber processing, forestry-related recreation/tourism, and forestry-related deer and game. It is intended that this data will be made available on a five-yearly basis.
Volume of available timber	National Forest Inventory Report produced by Forest Research	The National Forest Inventory provides a record of the size and distribution of forests and woodlands in Great Britain and information on key forest attributes. This information, together with growth and yield models, is used to forecast softwood and hardwood timber availability. It is intended that this data will be made available on a five-yearly basis.
Forestry sector net greenhouse gas emissions	Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions data is reported by the Scottish Government	Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions data is the key source for understanding the origins and magnitudes of emissions. Emissions from forestry are reported in this data and include changes in net emissions relating mainly to stock changes, resulting from afforestation, deforestation and harvested wood products. This indicator links to the National Performance Framework which reports Scotland's greenhouse gas emission expressed in million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This data is reported annually.
Woodland ecological condition	National Forest Inventory Woodland Ecological Condition produced by Forest Research	The woodland ecological condition assessment has been developed to provide evidence on the current state of woodland ecological condition and how it changes over time. The assessment uses 15 ecological condition indicators to enable woodland stands to be classified as favourable, intermediate or unfavourable in terms of their ecological condition. It is intended that this data will be made available on a five-yearly basis.

Indicator	Source	Supporting information
Condition of protected forest and woodland sites	Site condition monitoring data produced by Scottish Natural Heritage	The Scottish Government currently reports on the condition of natural features on protected nature sites as part of the National Performance Framework. The condition of natural features on protected forest and woodland sites is available from this data. Data on all protected sites including forest and woodland sites is available from Scotland's environment web. This data is reported annually.
Index of Abundance for Scottish Terrestrial Breeding Birds – Woodland Species	Official statistics for terrestrial breeding birds produced by Scottish Natural Heritage	The Scottish Government currently reports on the abundance of terrestrial birds as a proxy for biodiversity as part of the National Performance Framework. The abundance of woodland species is available using a subset of this data and is reported by Scottish Natural Heritage. This data is reported annually.
Number of visits to forests and woodlands	Scotland's People and Nature Survey commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage	Scotland's People and Nature Survey collects data on participation in outdoor recreation and the health and well-being benefits associated with visiting the outdoors, including forests and woodlands. This indicator links to the National Performance Framework which reports the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week. This data is reported on a two or three-yearly basis.

Annex C
Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018
Section 7 Report on forestry strategy

(1) The Scottish Ministers must, as soon as practicable after the end of each reporting period, prepare and publish a report setting out—

    (a) progress made in the reporting period in respect of the objectives, priorities and policies included in the forestry strategy,

    (b) an assessment of the extent to which funding and support provided by them has assisted in achieving such progress,

    (c) steps taken in the reporting period to keep the forestry strategy under review.

(2) The Scottish Ministers must lay a copy of each report prepared and published under this section before the Scottish Parliament.

(3) In this section, "reporting period" means the period of 3 years beginning with the day on which the forestry strategy was last published and each subsequent period of 3 years.

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