Scotland's Forestry Strategy

Implementation Plan

›› 2022-2025

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Ministerial Foreword

Since the devolution of forestry and the publication of Scotland's Forestry Strategy in 2019, forestry in Scotland has been a real and growing success story. The sector has proven its quite unique ability to contribute to a number of environmental, social, and economic government priorities – and this despite the very significant challenges of Covid-19, the deep and ongoing economic harm of Brexit, and the damage inflicted by extreme weather events such as Storm Arwen. The dynamism of the sector in the face of these challenges is something we should be proud of.

Between 2019 and 2022 we created more than 32,000 hectares of new woodland, planting around 64 million trees. These trees will provide multiple benefits for Scotland, including mitigating the impacts of climate change via substantial carbon sequestration, protecting and enhancing our rich biodiversity, sustaining a flourishing and sustainable rural economy, providing people with health and wellbeing benefits, and helping to protect communities and nature from the adverse impacts of climate change.

Scotland is leading the way in confronting the twin global climate and biodiversity crises – with ambitious targets and good long term progress. We are uniquely well-placed in Europe in terms of the capacity of our land to support nature-based solutions, including through increased tree cover. Scotland already hosts 46% of the UK's forests and woodlands and between 2019 and 2022; almost 80% of new woodland creation in the UK was carried out in Scotland.

The actions in this plan will help us build on this success over the next three years: working together to plant more trees, expanding our forests and woodlands, sustainably managing this important natural resource to deliver more benefits to the people of Scotland, and supporting a wellbeing economy that succeeds for all across economic, social and environmental dimensions. The scale and pace of the opportunities ahead of us are exciting, and over the course of this Parliament alone we will see over 80,000 hectares of new woodland being created across Scotland.

With big ambitions also come big challenges, and as we work collaboratively to achieve our shared ambition we must plant the right trees in the right places, ensuring that forestry fits well with other land uses and benefits communities. And while woodland creation is at the forefront of our efforts to mitigate climate change, we must also look at how we can decarbonise the sector's own activities and increase forestry's resilience. It is imperative that our forests and woodlands are able to thrive despite the increasing threats from climate change and pests and diseases, and it is also critical that we attract and develop a workforce with the right skills to make our vision and objectives a reality.

People and communities must be at the forefront of our efforts and we must strive to ensure that no-one is left behind. Increasing tree-cover is a critical element of the transformation required to address the twin environmental crises. However, we must be careful that the transition is sustainable, fair, and just – the way in which we choose to use our land must be for the benefit of all, those living and working in our communities today, and future generations to come.

Mairi McAllan MSP
Minister for Environment and Land Reform

Ro-ràdh Ministreil

Bho chaidh coilltearachd a thiomnadh agus bho chaidh Ro-innleachd Coilltearachd na h-Alba foillseachadh ann an 2019, tha coilltearachd ann an Alba air a bhith na sgeul soirbheachais a tha air a bhith a' sìor fhàs. Tha an roinn air dearbhadh gu bheil comas air leth aice gus cur ri grunn phrìomhachasan àrainneachdail, sòisealta agus eaconamach aig an Riaghaltas - agus seo a dh'aindeoin nan dùbhlan mòra a tha an lùib Covid-19, an cron eaconamach domhainn is leantainneach bho Bhrexit, agus am milleadh a dh'adhbharaich fìor dhroch shìde leithid Stoirm Arwen. Tha spionnadh na roinne mu choinneamh nan dùbhlan sin na rud air am bu chòir dhuinn a bhith moiteil.

Eadar 2019 agus 2022, chruthaich sinn còrr is 32,000 heactair de choilltean ùra, a' cur mu 64 millean craobhan. Bheir na craobhan seo grunn bhuannachdan do dh'Alba, a' gabhail a-steach a bhith a' lughdachadh buaidh atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde tro bhith a' glacadh tòrr carboin, a' dìon agus a' cur ris a' bhith-iomadachd bheairteach againn, a' cumail suas eaconamaidh dhùthchail a tha soirbheachail agus seasmhach, a' toirt buannachdan slàinte is sunnd do dhaoine, agus a' cuideachadh le bhith a' dìon choimhearsnachdan agus nàdar bho dhroch bhuaidh atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde.

Tha Alba air thoiseach air càch ann a bhith a' dèiligeadh ris an dà èiginn a thaobh na gnàth-shìde gu cruinneil agus a thaobh bith-iomadachd – le targaidean àrd-amasach agus deagh adhartas san fhad-ùine. Tha sinn ann an suidheachadh gun samhail san Roinn Eòrpa a thaobh a' chomais againn gus ar cuid fearainn a chleachdadh airson fuasglaidhean stèidhichte air nàdar, a' gabhail a-steach a' cur ri uiread nan craobhan. Tha 46% de choilltean na RA ann an Alba mar-thà agus eadar 2019 agus 2022; rinneadh chaidh cha mhòr 80% den obair cruthachaidh choilltean ùra san RA air fad ann an Alba.

Cuidichidh na gnìomhan sa phlana seo sinn gus togail air an t-soirbheachas seo thar nan trì bliadhna ri teachd: ag obair còmhla gus barrachd chraobhan a chur, gus ar coilltean a leudachadh, gus an goireas nàdarra cudromach seo a stiùireadh gu seasmhach gus barrachd bhuannachdan a lìbhrigeadh do mhuinntir na h-Alba, agus gus taic a chumail ri eaconamaidh sunnd a tha a' soirbheachadh do na h-uile thairis air gach taobh eaconamach, sòisealta agus àrainneachdail. Tha meud agus astar nan cothroman a tha romhainn brosnachail, agus thar beatha na Pàrlamaid seo a-mhàin thèid còrr is 80,000 heactair de choille ùr a chruthachadh air feadh na h-Alba.

Tha dùbhlain mòra an lùib amasan àrda, agus nuair a tha sinn ag obair còmhla gus an t-amas co-roinnte a choileanadh, feumaidh sinn na craobhan ceart a chur sna h-àiteachan cearta, a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil coilltearachd a' dol gu math le cleachdaidhean fearainn eile agus gu bheil e a' toirt deagh bhuaidh air coimhearsnachdan. Agus ged a tha cruthachadh choilltean aig fìor thoiseach nan oidhirpean againn gus atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde a lasachadh, feumaidh sinn cuideachd coimhead air mar as urrainn dhuinn obair na roinne fhèin a dhì-charbonachadh agus cuir ri ath-leumachd na coilltearachd. Tha e ro-chudromach gun soirbhich na coilltean againn a dh'aindeoin nan cunnartan a tha a' sìor fhàs bho atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde agus bho pheistean is galaran, agus tha e ro-chudromach cuideachd gun tarraing sinn agus gun leasaich sinn luchd-obrach leis na sgilean ceart gus an lèirsinn agus na h-amasan againn a thoirt gu buil.

Feumaidh daoine is coimhearsnachdan a bhith aig cridhe nan oidhirpean againn agus feumaidh sinn dèanamh cinnteach nach tèid dearmad a dhèanamh air duine sam bith. Tha cur ri uiread nan craobhan na h-eileamaid ro-chudromach den chruth-atharrachadh a tha a dhìth gus dèiligeadh ris an èiginn àrainneachdail dhùbailte. Ach feumaidh sinn dèanamh cinnteach gum bi an cruth-atharrachadh seasmhach agus cothromach - feumaidh an dòigh san cleachd sinn ar cuid fearainn a bhith a chùm leas na h-uile, an dà chuid an fheadhainn a tha a' fuireach is ag obair sna coimhearsnachdan againn an-diugh agus sna ginealachan ri teachd.

Màiri NicAilein BPA
Ministear airson na h-Àrainneachd agus Ath-leasachadh Fearainn

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Introduction

On 1 April 2019, the *Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018* [1] came into effect, completing the devolution of forestry to Scotland. The Act required that a Forestry Strategy be prepared, and prior to its enactment, in February 2019, Scottish Ministers published *Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029* [2]. With its 50-year vision and 10-year framework for action, the Strategy clearly articulated Scotland's ambition to have more forests and woodlands and for them to deliver more benefits to the people of Scotland, including: carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation; enhancing and protecting Scotland's rich biodiversity; growing an inclusive and sustainable rural economy; and helping Scotland's people adapt to the changing climate and improve their health and well-being.

The *Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018* also set out the requirement for the Scottish Government to report to Parliament on progress towards delivering its Forestry Strategy every three years. The first formal progress report is due to be laid in Parliament later this year. To coincide with the progress reporting cycle, in 2020, the first *Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan* (2020-2022) was published, which included the actions that the Scottish Government and its partners agreed to undertake to support the implementation of the Forestry Strategy up until the end of March 2022.

[1] Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (legislation.gov.uk)
[2] Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029

» BOX 1 – FORESTRY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2020-2022: DELIVERY PROGRESS

Over the last two years, significant progress has been made to deliver the actions set out in the first Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan, aimed at contributing to the realisation of the Forestry Strategy's vision and objectives and supporting the delivery of the key forestry achievements set out in box two. A full Forestry Strategy progress report will be prepared and laid before Parliament later this year.

A limited number of actions in the plan were delayed largely due to the need to re-prioritise resources to respond to the pandemic and most will be delivered in the near future. The following are examples of outputs delivered under the plan:

> » Published the Science and Innovation Strategy for forestry in Great Britain to continue to build the evidence base underpinning the sustainable management of Scotland's forests.
> » Increased the accessibility of the Forestry Grant Scheme for small-scale and non-sensitive applications by launching a small loans scheme and woodland creation guidance aimed at non-foresters.
> » Published guidance on ground preparation for forest managers, Cultivation of upland productive woodland creation sites, to support management decisions relating to woodland establishment.
> » Established a Forest Plant & Seed Supply Forum, made up of representatives of UK administrations and private nursery sector to understand plant supply issues relating to delivering woodland creation targets.
> » Published a sector skills strategy and a careers toolkit to attract new and more diverse talent to the forestry sector.
> » Rolled out a forest therapy programme in Scotland to promote the use of woodlands to improve mental well-being, including training practitioners to deliver forest bathing sessions.

Box one above summarises delivery of the first Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan. Box two opposite highlights some of the key achievements that have been made since forestry was devolved to Scotland, and Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 and its first Implementation Plan were published. Delivery examples provided in section 2 complement these highlights, providing illustrations of some of the related actions that the Scottish Government and its partners have taken over the last three years and the outcomes that these have achieved.

» BOX 2 – KEY FORESTRY ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2019

More than
32,000
hectares new woodland
created in Scotland

over
12,000
hectares of native woodland

7 million m³
Scottish timber
used in construction

£21 million invested
to reduce impacts of timber transportation on environment and communities

Woodland Carbon Code
131 projects validated

woodlands created predicted to sequester
3 million
tonnes CO2e
over the next 100 years

Almost
600
vulnerable adults with enduring mental health conditions

accessed **'Branching Out'**
our flagship positive mental health through nature programme

This new Implementation Plan covers the next 3-year reporting period, from 2022-2025. Building on the progress made so far, as well as recognising current and emerging priorities, it sets out the actions that the Scottish Government and its partners will deliver over the next three years to continue to progress the realisation of the Forestry Strategy's vision and objectives.

As delivery of this Implementation Plan requires action by the public, private, community and third sectors, it has been developed by the Scottish Government, with input from a range of stakeholders with forestry and land-use interests (see Annex A for a list of participants in workshops run to support the development of the Plan). This includes members of the National Forestry Stakeholder Group, which was established in July 2021 to advise the Scottish Government on strategic policy issues influencing the implementation of the Forestry Strategy, forestry targets and wider Scottish Government outcomes.

The next section outlines the key strategic drivers for this Implementation Plan, which were identified with stakeholder input. Section three then details our response to these drivers, setting out the actions that the Scottish Government and its delivery partners intend to carry out over the next three years to help deliver Scotland's Forestry Strategy. Section four of the plan explains how progress will be tracked and reported on.

Strategic drivers

The Forestry Strategy's 50-year vision, 10-year objectives and priorities for action remain as relevant today as they were three years ago when the Strategy was first published. However, since that time, the context within which the forest sector is operating has changed, not least of all due to the global coronavirus pandemic.

Following parliamentary elections in May 2021, the Scottish National Party and the Scottish Green Party agreed a policy programme, known as the Bute House Agreement[3], that sets out shared commitments over this Parliament.

Since the Strategy was published in 2019, there has also been growing recognition that the world is facing not only a climate crisis but also a biodiversity crisis and that nature-based solutions have an important contribution to make to addressing these. Reflecting this understanding, in our recently published National Strategy for Economic Transformation[4], we set out three ambitions that will support the achievement of our vision for economic transformation in Scotland. Alongside being fairer and wealthier, our ambition is that our economy will also be greener and that we will demonstrate global leadership in rebuilding natural capital and delivering a just transition to a net zero, nature-positive economy. Forestry will be an important element in the realisation of this ambition.

There will also be a number of significant changes that happen over the course of this Plan which will alter the context in which it operates. For example, within the next three years we plan to publish a new Biodiversity Strategy, a new Climate Change Plan, and a new Climate Change Adaptation Programme. Within this period we will also introduce the successor to the Common Agricultural Policy. The Plan does not, therefore, preclude the need to address emerging priorities as they are identified.

Working with stakeholders, we have identified five strategic drivers to be considered in this Plan, which we set out below. Our response to these drivers is set out in section three and below we highlight some of the work already being carried out to help deliver against related objectives. The strategic drivers do not represent a wholesale departure from the strategic drivers set out in the Forestry Strategy, indeed many of them are similar to, or build upon those drivers. Where they differ, this mainly indicates a shift in emphasis and, while remaining closely aligned to the strategic drivers identified in the Strategy, they help to better reflect current circumstances and Government priorities.

» RESILIENCE

A key element of sustainable forest management is the need to safeguard the benefits of forests, not only for current, but also for future generations, and ensure that they are resilient to the future impacts of climate change, as well as to pests and diseases. This driver was included in the Forestry Strategy but since that time a number of developments have further shone the spotlight on this issue.

For example, last year the Climate Change Committee (CCC) published independent advice to Government in its Third Climate Change Risk Assessment[5]. The report identified eight priority risk areas where action is required as a matter of urgency over the next two years, three of these risks relate directly to forestry and focus on potential threats to biodiversity, carbon stores and timber supplies.

The CCC also noted that due to the changing climate, and in particular due to milder winters, there is likely to be an increase in the numbers of pests, pathogens and invasive and non-native species affecting forestry. Since the Forestry Strategy was published, the risks to our trees from pests and diseases has continued to grow and new tree health threats have emerged in the British Isles. For example, last year, the tree pathogen, Phytopthora pluvalis was identified in Cornwall and Devon, and it has also since been found in Scotland.

If we are to achieve the ambitions set out in the Forestry Strategy then it is also essential that tree-planting and woodland regeneration are protected from damage from wild deer. Although they form an important part of forest ecosystems, high numbers of them can damage trees through overgrazing and trampling. This can make successful woodland establishment challenging. At the end of 2019, the Deer Working Group (established by Scottish Government to provide independent advice to Ministers) delivered a report to Government setting out its recommendations on the changes required to ensure effective management of wild deer in Scotland[6]. After due consideration, in March 2021, the Scottish Government published its response to this report[7] and is now working towards implementing the recommendations.

» BOX 3 - DELIVERING A PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES TO HELP PROTECT SCOTLAND'S FORESTS FROM PESTS AND DISEASES

» Surveillance

Protecting the long-term health of Scotland's trees, woods and forests is of vital and increasing importance to the delivery of the Scottish Government's priorities.

Key to this is the work of the Scottish Forestry Tree Health team. Part of their work involves yearly aerial surveillance to spot early signs of tree health issues. They survey around 1.2 million hectares (80%) of Scotland's forests and woodlands each year.

Even through the pandemic, the team's work continued by using alternative technologies, including fixed-wing photography, drones and satellite imagery. The Tree Health team is currently evaluating the benefits of these technologies with a view to incorporating them, in some form, into future surveillance programmes.

The team remains constantly vigilant against new pests and diseases and co-ordinates action to manage existing pests and diseases. This ensures Scotland's forests remain economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. For example, when Phytopthora pluvalis was recently identified in Scotland, surveillance activities began immediately, and the disease was linked to four sites. Movement restrictions for infected material were then implemented to control the spread of the disease.

» Site-inspections

In addition to aerial surveillance work, last year 1,277 on-the-ground site inspections were carried out, and around 23% of the inspected sites were identified as requiring management or statutory control actions to address tree-heath concerns.

Where they could be identified, landowners or managers were informed of the results of relevant site inspections and information about the spread of particular pests or pathogens was shared with the wider forestry sector and other stakeholders. This information helped to directly inform management responses and strategic action plans dealing with specific pests and diseases such as Phytophthora ramorum.

» Working in partnership

Scottish Forestry's Tree Health Team, along with the Scottish Government Plant Health Team and Scotland's Chief Plant Health Officer, are part of the UK Plant Health Service. By working together, they ensure an integrated, cross-border approach to tree and plant health management.

Safeguarding plant health is a shared responsibility and Scottish Government provides advice to, and receives advice from, a wide range of stakeholders. This includes the Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group, which supports the industry to ensure that tree health and its management are well understood, and supports Government to ensure it continues to take a pragmatic and proportionate approach.

[5] UK Climate Risk
[6] The management of wild deer in Scotland: Deer Working Group report - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
[7] Deer Working Group recommendations: Scottish Government response - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

» REVERSING BIODIVERSITY LOSS

All of Scotland's forests make a significant contribution to supporting Scotland's rich biodiversity but particularly our native, ancient and semi-natural woodlands, as well as appropriately restored plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS). Our forests and woodlands are home to 172 protected species including the pine martin, Scottish Crossbill and black grouse; as well as an estimated 75% of the UK's red squirrel population. As such, supporting biodiversity objectives was identified as a key driver in Scotland's Forestry Strategy. The wider benefits of tree planting for the river environment, and wild salmon in particular, are also recognised in Scotland's Wild Salmon Strategy[8], published in January 2022.

The Woodland Ecological Condition[9] study was published in 2020 as official statistics and is the largest and most in-depth assessment of the ecological condition of woodland habitats in Great Britain. The study showed that almost all of Scotland's forests are making a real contribution in terms of environmental benefits. This baseline will enable us to monitor the impact of related policies and initiatives aiming to enhance those benefits in to the future. This includes work supported through the Forestry Grant Scheme to improve the condition of woodlands (including protected woodland sites), such as Rhododendron control.

Between 2019 and 2022, more than 32,000 hectares of new woodland was created in Scotland and around 40% of this was native woodland; Native woodland creation is happening at varying scales in Scotland, from large landscape-scale projects, such as a 933 hectare scheme in Sutherland, to small community woodlands, such as a 13 hectare native woodland planted by the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust.

Since the Forestry Strategy's publication, an even greater emphasis has been placed on the need for action in this area, recognising that, alongside the challenge of climate change (see the net-zero driver below), the world is also experiencing a global biodiversity crisis. We know that we need to act now to tackle these closely linked issues and forests and woodlands are a key part of the solution.

The Scottish Government has therefore recently made a number of commitments aimed at, not only protecting the biodiversity we have, but also enhancing and improving it. These include commitments to take forward a Natural Environment Bill and to produce a new Biodiversity Strategy, as well as forestry-specific commitments to: create at least 4,000 hectares of new native woodland each year and undertake an evidence-based review of the native woodland target; support the expansion and restoration of Scotland's rainforests; establish a National Register of Ancient Woodlands; and explore opportunities to pilot landscape-scale projects involving natural regeneration.

» BOX 4 - DELIVERING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONDITION AND EXTENT OF SCOTLAND'S RAINFORESTS

» Scotland's rainforest

Scotland's rainforest, also known as Atlantic woodland and Celtic rainforest, is made up of the native woodlands found on Scotland's west coast. The rainforest is home to some of the world's rarest bryophytes and lichens, which are found in trees, boulders, in ravine and on the ground. This makes Scotland's rainforest internationally important.

» Helping to restore Scotland's rainforest

Over the last three years, the Scottish Government has worked closely with the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest around the need to improve its condition, as well as to expand and re-connect it to other habitats.

In support of these ambitions, we have committed to support the restoration and expansion of Scotland's rainforest in our 2021-2022 Programme for Government: A fairer, greener Scotland.

It is anticipated that an additional 30,000 hectares of new woodland will be created through this work, both via planting and natural colonisation. The work will also support a just transition and rural development, presenting opportunities to upskill and train new operators based locally in west coast communities.

» Threats to Scotland's rainforest

Rainforests are under threat from several overlapping issues, but these can be broadly separated into four main areas: Invasive non-native species, herbivore impacts, management neglect and habitat fragmentation.

Our partnership working with the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest aims to address these threats and allow Scotland's rainforest to flourish.

» NET-ZERO

Scotland is a global leader in terms of its response to climate change and the Scottish Government remains committed to ending Scotland's contribution to climate change by 2045.

At the end of 2020, the Scottish Government published an Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018-2032[10]. This Plan recognised that the capacity that our land has to deliver nature-based solutions to climate change (alongside other outcomes, such as sustainable food production and nature restoration) is unique within the UK. Increased tree-planting is one such nature-based solution. In 2020, Scotland's forests absorbed 7.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide – the carbon sink they provide is equivalent to 14% of Scotland's gross greenhouse gas emissions.

In the Bute House Agreement we set out our intention to support public sector bodies to identify and implement opportunities to increase tree cover on land they own and manage, and to increase Forestry and Land Scotland's capacity to grow the public forest through the acquisition of land. Our Updated Climate Change Plan included new and increased woodland creation targets, rising in steps from 12,000 hectares annually in 2020/21 to 18,000 hectares a year by 2024/25. This will require a balanced and integrated approach to land-use and land-use change as highlighted within Scotland's third Land use Strategy [11], which recognises the need for local communities to be given the opportunity to inform the land-use decisions that affect them. It will also require closer working between farming and forestry, and support will be needed to increase the integration of trees on farms and crofts, and promote awareness of the benefits trees can deliver, such as providing shelter for livestock and diversification of income streams.

Expanding the area of Scotland's forests and woodlands will contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time improving biodiversity, providing spaces for people to use and enjoy, and generating an important commercial natural resource. Alongside being vital to supporting a sustainable rural economy, growing this commercial natural resource is also an important piece of the climate change mitigation jigsaw: Carbon is stored in the wood products harvested from Scottish forests and these wood products often substitute for non-renewable, non-wood products, as well as wood products harvested elsewhere (the UK currently imports around 60-80% of its wood and wood products).

At the same time, in order to address climate change and help to meet our net-zero ambitions, the forestry sector must also look to overcome the challenge of decarbonising its own activities.

» BOX 5 - DELIVERING CARBON EMISSION REDUCTIONS

» Decarbonisation

Helping to decarbonise the forestry sector is important in terms of our efforts to reach Net-Zero by 2045.

For many years, we have supported a modal shift from road to other transport through the Strategic Timber Transport Fund. For example, the TimberLink fund that supports the shipping of timber from Argyll to Troon has been running for 21 years and during that time has consistently reduced timber lorry movements by over 1,000,000 km per year.

In 2022, Scottish Forestry initiated a new project looking to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through investigating possible alternatives. This project will consider new technologies and innovations, such as electric HGVs and barges, and will explore whether and how they could be utilised by the forestry sector in Scotland.

» Timber use in construction

As set out in our Climate Change Plan, we aim to increase the use of sustainably sourced wood fibre in construction to help reduce carbon emissions by both storing carbon and by substituting for high-carbon alternatives. To contribute to the achievement of this goal, Scottish Forestry has been funding a range of research and implementing the Timber Development Programme through an annual programme of projects.

For example, in 2019, the UK Mass Timber Commercialisation project was initiated by Edinburgh Napier University, utilising funding from Scottish Forestry and the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre. Over the last 3 years the project has established an evidence base to support the use of domestically grown wood fibre use in the production of mass timber (a wood product comprised of multiple solid wood panels nailed or glued together, which provide exceptional strength and stability e.g. Cross Laminated Timber), including a pre-commercialisation business case for the establishment of a production facility in Scotland.

» Advancements in machine-grading

Scottish Forestry is also supporting Edinburgh Napier University to improve and increase the range of species that can be machine-graded. The results of this programme have led to the widespread use of x-ray grading machines in the sector, the acceptability of larch as a commercial species and now will allow mixed spruce and pine grading.

[10] Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 - update - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
[11] Land use - getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 to 2026 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

» JUST TRANSITION

As we work towards achieving our net-zero ambitions and decarbonising our economy by 2045, we must also strive to ensure that the transition is fair and has positive impacts for all. This fairer, greener future will prioritise collective wellbeing and ensure that the benefits of policies aimed at tackling climate change are distributed and shared widely, while the costs do not unfairly burden those least able to pay or whose livelihoods are potentially threatened as the economy changes.

Last year, the Scottish Government published its response to the recommendations of the Just Transition Commission[12], setting out its intentions, which include:

» Establishing a Just Transition Plan for Scotland's land and agriculture, including clear milestones up to 2045;

» Equipping farmers and land managers with the skills, training and advice they need;

» Ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to land-use change decision-making processes, and that an inclusive, democratic, natural capital-led approach is taken within the pilot Regional Land Use Partnerships that have already been established; and

» Creating communities that embed low-carbon lifestyles, while improving our health and wellbeing.

The Government has also committed to ensuring that Scotland's people are able to live and work sustainably on our land and that every opportunity should be taken to ensure that communities benefit from the land-use changes necessary to respond to the climate and biodiversity crises. This is closely linked to the community wealth building approach that the Scottish Government is currently exploring as a mechanism to deliver inclusive growth across Scotland, including a socially just use of land. It is also linked to the Interim Principles for Responsible Investment in Natural Capital that we have recently published, setting out our ambition to develop a values-led, high-integrity market for responsible investment in natural capital, that helps deliver policy goals for economic transformation, climate change and biodiversity, and that provides community benefits and supports a just transition.

Also linked to a just transition is the recognition that different communities may be impacted differently by the effects of climate change. We need to ensure that not only are our forests, woods and trees resilient to the future impacts of our changing climate (as set out above in a separate driver above), but also that we target our efforts to ensure that woodland creation and management activities contribute to helping people and the wider environment adapt to climate change: Forests, woodlands and trees can help us adapt to climate change in a number of ways, from providing shelter and shade to people, livestock and wild salmon, to supporting natural flood management and slowing rainwater runoff in urban areas.

» BOX 6 - DELIVERING ADVICE AND SUPPORT ON INTEGRATING TREES ON FARMS AND CROFTS

» Integrating Trees Network: a growing successs

Farmers and crofters across Scotland have been sharing their experiences, warts and all, about growing trees as part of their businesses.

The Integrating Trees Network is a farmer and crofter-led initiative, supported by Scottish Forestry and the Scottish Government.

It has built up a network of six farm woodland demonstration sites across Scotland, with the hosts showcasing how growing trees has benefitted their business. Since its inception in early 2021, it has run twelve virtual events, with over 1,000 people signing up.

The initiative engages with farmers and crofters in a number of different ways, through its webpages, social media, online videos and through hosting regular events for any and all Scottish farmers and crofters.

» Crofting community

When the Integrating Trees Network was launched there was a fantastic response from crofters too. The interest was so great that it soon became clear that there should be events run purely for crofters. There have now been three such events, full of people sharing their experiences and discussing the challenges of tree planting, asking advice and highlighting the benefits trees can provide to crofts.

These fantastic farming hosts have shared their experiences and have produced a number of key practical messages for others who are thinking about growing trees.

» Croft Woodlands Project

Since 2015, Scottish Forestry has worked with a range of partners, including the Woodland Trust and Point and Sandwick Trust, to deliver the Croft Woodlands Project.

This project provides free advice and support for crofters in all the crofting counties. Under the initiative around 660 hectares of new woodland has been taken forward, a total of 950 site visits have been carried out, several webinars have been held and 678 people have attended training courses.

» GREEN RECOVERY

The Scottish Government's vision for economic recovery from the Covid pandemic is one that is green, and which responds to both the climate and biodiversity crises, with a focus on creating and sustaining good, green jobs. As has already been set out above, there is a recognition that people will need to be supported to develop the green skills required to underpin a transition to a net-zero economy.

Scotland's forestry sector currently supports over 25,000 jobs across Scotland, including among demographic groups where job creation is particularly needed, such as in rural and remote areas and among younger age categories. Employment opportunities in both the public and private forestry sectors are growing in response to our ambitious woodland creation targets and rising domestic timber production, which is forecast to increase by more than a third over the next 10 years.

Benefits will not only be felt through direct employment, woodland expansion and a growth in timber production, it will also provide benefits to the wider rural economy and will support jobs in associated supply chains.

The well-being and health benefits that green spaces, including woods and forests, provide to people has also been thrown into sharp relief by the pandemic. A 2021 survey of a representative sample of the Scottish population[13] found that 37% of people reported that they spent more time outdoors now than they did pre-pandemic and almost three in five (58%) agreed that nature had become more important to their health and wellbeing. 73% of respondents stated that their time outdoors helped them to de-stress, relax and unwind and 66% stated that it made them feel energised and revitalised.

Another 2021 study on valuing the mental health benefits of woodlands [14], noted that during the coronavirus pandemic, the prevalence of mental distress increased. As such, access to trees, woods, forests and other natural environments, including urban greenspace, has become even more important for many individuals to support and maintain their well-being. It has been estimated that the annual value of mental health benefits associated with visits to Scotland's woodlands is around £26 million (at 2020 prices).

It is therefore important that this Implementation Plan considers how we support continued access to, and use of forests and woodlands as part of our recovery from the pandemic and as many adjust to new, more hybrid ways of working or continue to work from home. It is also among the reasons why the Government has committed to consult on ways to increase easily accessible, sustainably managed woodlands, including native woodlands, in urban or peri-urban areas.

» BOX 7 - DELIVERING HEALTH, WELL-BEING, EMPOWERMENT AND WEALTH-BUILDING BENEFITS FOR SCOTLAND'S COMMUNITIES

Scottish Forestry is working with a wide range of partners to help deliver the Scottish Government's priorities around improving people's health and well-being, community wealth-building, empowerment, and supporting a just transition.

» Supporting people to use woods and forests more

For example, it is working with the Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations to ensure a diverse range of people can enjoy and benefit from access to Scotland's forests and woodlands.

Scottish Forestry is also working with Health Boards and regional delivery partners to deliver the award winning Branching Out programme to tackle mental ill health. The Branching Out programme provides green health opportunities using Scotland's forest resource, offering a holistic pathway to a healthier and fairer society.

» Advice and support

Scottish Forestry also provides direct funding to the Community Woodlands Association (CWA), which supports around 200 community woodland groups across Scotland. The funding enables CWA to provide independent advice and guidance to community organisations on a range of issues including:

» Acquiring woodland assets from the public and private sector (including via the Community Asset Transfer Scheme – see below);

» Enhancing delivery of social and economic benefits e.g. recreation infrastructure projects, business development and social enterprise initiatives; and

» Building organisational capacity and advising on governance issues e.g. constitutions, charitable status and establishing trading subsidiaries.

» Asset transfer

The Scottish Government also supports community empowerment through the Community Asset Transfer Scheme for Scotland's national forests and land, managed by Forestry and Land Scotland. The scheme launched at the beginning of 2017, and just over five years later, 25 requests for asset transfer have been approved, 18 of which have been completed. These include Inverawe Community Woodland – a small woodland purchased by the community because of its importance for local amenity and biodiversity – and leases for community hydro schemes on Raasay and at Ballachulish.

[13] NatureScot Research Report 1289 - Enjoying the Outdoors - Monitoring the impact of Coronavirus and social distancing - Wave 3 survey results (September 2021) | NatureScot
[14] Valuing the mental health benefits of woodlands (forestresearch.gov.uk)

3

Delivery and Actions

» Delivery

Delivery of the Forestry Strategy is a shared endeavour and will involve action across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. Delivery over the next three years will build on the significant progress we have already made to expand and sustainably manage Scotland's forests and woodlands and to deliver the Government's wider forestry commitments.

Scottish Forestry and Forestry and Land Scotland both produce Corporate Plans, which set out how their activities will support delivery of the Forestry Strategy. Implementation of this Plan will utilise a variety of different delivery mechanisms, as set out in the Forestry Strategy (pages 37-41), including working in partnership with others, gathering, analysing and sharing forestry data, managing our national forests and land, robust and proportionate regulation, financial support, action across the public sector and joined-up policies.

The Scottish Government has committed to provide an additional £150 million to accelerate progress towards our commitment of 18,000 hectares of tree planting a year by 2024/25. This includes £20 million to support an increase in state nursery production, £30 million to support the expansion of Scotland's national forests, as well as an extra £100 million of funding support available through the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS). Efforts are also continuing to develop and improve the FGS as part of the Stability and Simplicity rural funding transition.

» Actions

Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 identified six priority areas for action. Working with partners, the Scottish Government has identified the significant actions that will be carried out over the next 3 years to address these priority areas and deliver Scottish Government's priorities and the Strategy's vision and objectives. These actions include those already underway, as well as new initiatives. The main delivery partners for each action are identified and the lead partner is marked in bold. The organisation abbreviations are explained in Annex B.

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

Forestry Strategy Priority

Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed

Support and promote the implementation of sustainable forest management

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Deliver the Forestry Grant Scheme (**SF**), ensuring compliance with the UK Forestry Standard for approved forest plans and woodland creation proposals (**SF**, HES, NS, SEPA, CNPA, LLTNPA), and using proportionate regulation to support these activities and prevent woodland loss (**SF**, SG, SEPA, NS, LAs, CNPA, LLTNPA).

» Coordinate work on the UKFS between UK administrations and manage the interface with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (**SF**, NIE, UKG, WG), supporting it's promotion (UKWAS, Confor, ICF, **SF**), and managing Scotland's national forests and lands in accordance with its principles (**FLS**).

» Support continued professional development (**ICF**, SF).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Develop further enhancements to the FGS to deliver greater public value (**SF**, SG).

» Publish the fifth edition of the UKFS and support user training (**SF**, WG, NIFS, FC, ICF).

Develop a shared understanding of sustainable forest management in a Scottish context and improve understanding of its practice and value

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Engage in international forums and work with other UK administrations to inform and apply international good practice (**SF**, SG).

» Publish information and provide resources and evidence on sustainable forest management, including sustainable woodland creation, as it applies to Scotland, and the benefits it provides (**SF**, FR).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Promote better understanding of the benefits that sustainable forestry delivers to the people of Scotland (**SF**, Confor, FLS, SG, CWA, SEL).

» Deliver state-of-the-art evidence on the benefits (economic, environmental and social) delivered by the forestry sector, including its contribution to the circular economy (**SF**, SG, FR, FPG, Confor, WRA, ZWS).

Forestry Strategy Priority

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

Support the creation of a range of types and scales of new forests and woodlands

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Encourage and promote appropriate creation of a wide range of woodland types drawing on a variety of funding sources, and demonstrating the interim principles for responsible investment in natural capital (**SF**, CNPA, LLTNPA).

» Identify and address constraints to plant and seed supply (Confor NPG, **SF**).

» Support the development of Scotland's Young People's Forest (**YS**, **YIS**, CF, NS, PF, SE, Wood).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Work with stakeholders to increase responsible private investment in new woodlands and grow the woodland carbon market by 50% (**SF**, FLS).

» Explore the opportunities to pilot landscape-scale projects involving natural regeneration of woodlands, possibly within the existing National and Regional Parks (**SG**, CNPA, LLTNPA, NS, SF).

» Support the identification of opportunities for farmers and crofters to realise the benefits of tree planting and reduce the barriers to them doing so (**SF**, SG, WTS, FAS, SA, ICF).

Identify opportunities for woodland creation as part of an integrated approach to land-use

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Support opportunity mapping for woodland creation at a landscape scale (COSLA, HOPS, **SF**, CNPA, LLTNPA).

» Build on the success of existing partnerships and initiatives (such as the Integrating Trees Network) to promote the benefits of forestry and woodland creation to farmers, crofters and urban and rural land managers (**SF**, SG, WTS, FAS, SA, ICF).

» Support the Regional Land Use Partnerships with the ongoing development of Regional Land Use Frameworks, including the identification of regional opportunities and priorities (**SG**, SLC, CNPA, LLTNPA).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Review guidance to support planning authorities to produce Forestry and Woodland Strategies (**SF**, SG, COSLA, HOPS).

» Support public sector bodies to identify and implement opportunities to increase tree cover on land they own and manage (**SF**, SG, COSLA, NS).

Encourage an increase in urban tree canopy cover

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Support the development and delivery of green networks (**SF**, GAT, ELGT, GCVGNP, CCF, LAs).

» Deliver the Wee Forests programme as part of the global family of Miyawaki/Tiny Forests (**NS**, Ew, SG, SF, local delivery partners).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Develop and implement a framework to increase easily accessible and sustainably managed urban and peri-urban woodlands. (**SF**, WTS, COSLA, NS, SG, FR).

Forestry Strategy Priority

Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets

Support businesses of different types to develop and grow markets

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Deliver the "Roots for Further Growth" strategy, including identifying and pursuing opportunities to increase the use of wood products in construction (**SFTTILG**, HIE, SE, SF, SoSE, SG, BE-ST) and to develop the small-scale timber and hardwood processing sector (**ASHS**, HIE, SE, SF, SoSE).

» Update and develop the National Forest Inventory, including wood fibre availability forecasts, and use the new 25-year softwood production forecast to explore the future wood supply/demand balance (**FR**, Confor, SF, SFTTILG).

» Support and grow sustainable forestry and tourism businesses on Scotland's national forests and land through delivering Timber Marketing Strategy and Visitor Strategy (**FLS**).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Promote better use of data in the wood supply chain (**FR**, SF, Confor, SFTTILG Digitisation group).

» Identify and pursue opportunities to increase sustainable fibre recovery from harvesting operations and promote the use of new wood-based products that can support the decarbonisation of other industries. (**Confor**, SFTTILG, FLS, SF, BE-ST).

Attract new and more diverse talent to the forestry sector and improve the capacity, capabilities and safety of the existing workforce

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Implement the sector skills action plan (**SFTTILG Skills group**, SF, Confor, ICF, SG, SDS, Lantra).

» Promote the Forest Industry Safety Accord (**FISA**, Confor, FLS, SF, SFTTILG).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Scope and establish a technical training hub (**Confor**, ICF, Lantra, SF, SFTTILG).

» Launch the Scottish Junior Forester Award to encourage wider participation in forest- and woodland-related employment (**RFS**, JMT, SF, FLS).

Support efforts to improve the sustainability of operational activities

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Support the forest industry to reduce the social and environmental impacts of timber transportation, including through delivery of the Scottish Timber Transport Fund (**SF**, Confor, LAs, TS, TTF, RTTG)

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Identify and pursue opportunities to decarbonise Scotland's wood supply chain. (**SF**, Confor, SF, FLS, SFTTILG, TTF).

Forestry Strategy Priority

Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands

Improve understanding of the threats to Scotland's forests and resilience to these threats

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Invest in research, surveillance and monitoring and deliver the Scottish Tree Health Service as part of wider Scottish and UK plant health strategies (**SF**, SASA, STHAG, PHC, FR).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Develop Scottish Forestry's 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, PHC, FR).

» Develop and promote a forest resilience resource to provide the latest evidence on risks and approaches to improving forest resilience (**FR**, ICF, SF, Confor).

Manage for, and mitigate against threats to Scotland's forests

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Carry out research and develop and promote practical resources to encourage greater understanding and consideration to be given to adaptation and resilience in management planning for new and existing woodlands. (**SF**, FR, ICF).

» Implement 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), and deliver the FLS Deer Management Strategy (**FLS**, LAs).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Publish and promote UK Forestry Standard practice guidance on adapting forest and woodland management for the changing climate (**FR**, ICF, SF, Confor).

» Develop and implement the forestry-related recommendations of the Deer Working Group, including collaboration to deliver deer management at a landscape-scale, and through delivering improvements to woodland deer management planning in forest plans (**SF**, NS, FLS, SG, CNPA, LLTNPA, RSPB).

Forestry Strategy Priority

Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands

Enhance the climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits delivered by forests.

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Develop evidence and understanding of carbon management within the forest and across the forestry supply chain, and pilot new decision-making tools (**SF**, FR, ICF, Confor).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Develop and implement an integrated approach to riparian management to improve the climate resilience of rivers, water quality, river morphology, and the availability of habitat networks. (**SF**, SG, MS, SEPA, NS, FR, CNPA, LLTNPA).

» Publish and promote UK Forestry Standard practice guidance on designing and managing woodlands and forests to reduce flood risk (**FR**, ICF, SF, SEPA, Confor)

» Deliver opportunity mapping for woodland creation as a means to mitigate flood risk in designated catchments (**SF**, SEPA).

Improve the ecological condition of native woodlands and enhance forest and woodland habitats

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Protect and improve native woodland condition by: monitoring woodland ecological condition and using this data to underpin the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (**SF**, FR, NS); increasing ancient woodland restoration on Scotland's national forests and land (**FLS**); and through the use of incentives, regulation and partnership working (**SF**, CNPA, LLTNPA, RSPB, TfL, WTS).

» Support landscape scale habitat connectivity and management to protect and expand the range of key protected and priority woodland species (**SF**, FLS, BC, RSPB, NS, SRMG, SSRS, SWT, CNPA, LLTNPA) and undertake targeted action for vulnerable priority species on Scotland's national forests and lands (FLS).

» Identify internationally important breeding habitats for birds and appropriate protection measures (**SF**, BTO, CNPA RSPB, NS).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Establish a National Register of Ancient Woodlands in Scotland, based on existing data sources such as Native Woodland Survey of Scotland and Ancient Woodland Inventory, and encourage owners and managers to maintain them and improve their condition. (**SG**, NS, SF, WTS).

» Produce a new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, including setting evidence-based targets for both native woodlands and natural regeneration (**SG**, NS, SF).

» Develop and implement a partnership programme to protect and expand Scotland's rainforest (**SG**, **ASR**, SF)

Forestry Strategy Priority

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

Increase the accessibility and use of forests and woodlands, and the diversity of users

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

» Use incentives, regulation and partnership working to promote and support access provision in forests and woodlands (**SF**, NAF, NS, FLS, CNPA, LLTNPA), including maintaining and improving accessible urban woodland and green networks (**SF**, GAT, ELGT, GCVGNP).

» Deliver the forest kindergarten 'training the trainers' programme (SF, SG) and support outdoor learning networks to deliver continuous professional development for learning practitioners and increase engagement of schools with Outdoor Woodland Learning Scotland (**SF**, SG, FLS).

» Support the delivery of health and well-being benefits through initiatives such as Branching Out and Forest Bathing (**SF**, FLS, CWA, NHSS, JMT, SG).

» Deliver a range of engagement activities to encourage greater use of forests and woodlands by a more diverse range of people, in particular, members of protected characteristics groups (**SF**, CEMVO, NS, JMT, Backbone, RSPB, FLS, CNPA, LLTNPA).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Increase the co-ordinated promotion of the opportunities for adults and children to engage in woodland-based activities that improve mental health and physical well-being as part of the nation's covid recovery efforts (**SF**, CWA, NHSS, JMT, WTS, FLS, SG).

» Deliver a national community champions network to empower people with protected characteristics to lead activity within woodlands and forests (**SF**, WSREC, Bb, FLS).

Provide more opportunities for communities to influence decisions affecting their local forests and woodlands and benefit from them

The Scottish Government and its partners will continue to:

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

» Promote opportunities for community groups and organisations to be involved in using, managing or owning woodland, and support the provision of independent advice for community woodland groups (**SF**, CWA, FLS, SG).

The actions we will give a particular focus to this period are:

» Work with the forestry sector and communities to promote the principles set out in the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement and improve the opportunities for communities to be involved with the development of forestry proposals and plans (**SF**, SLC, Confor, FLS, SG).

» Develop and implement a framework for increasing forestry's contribution to the delivery of local community benefits and community wealth building (**CWA**, **SF**, SLC, SG, FLS).
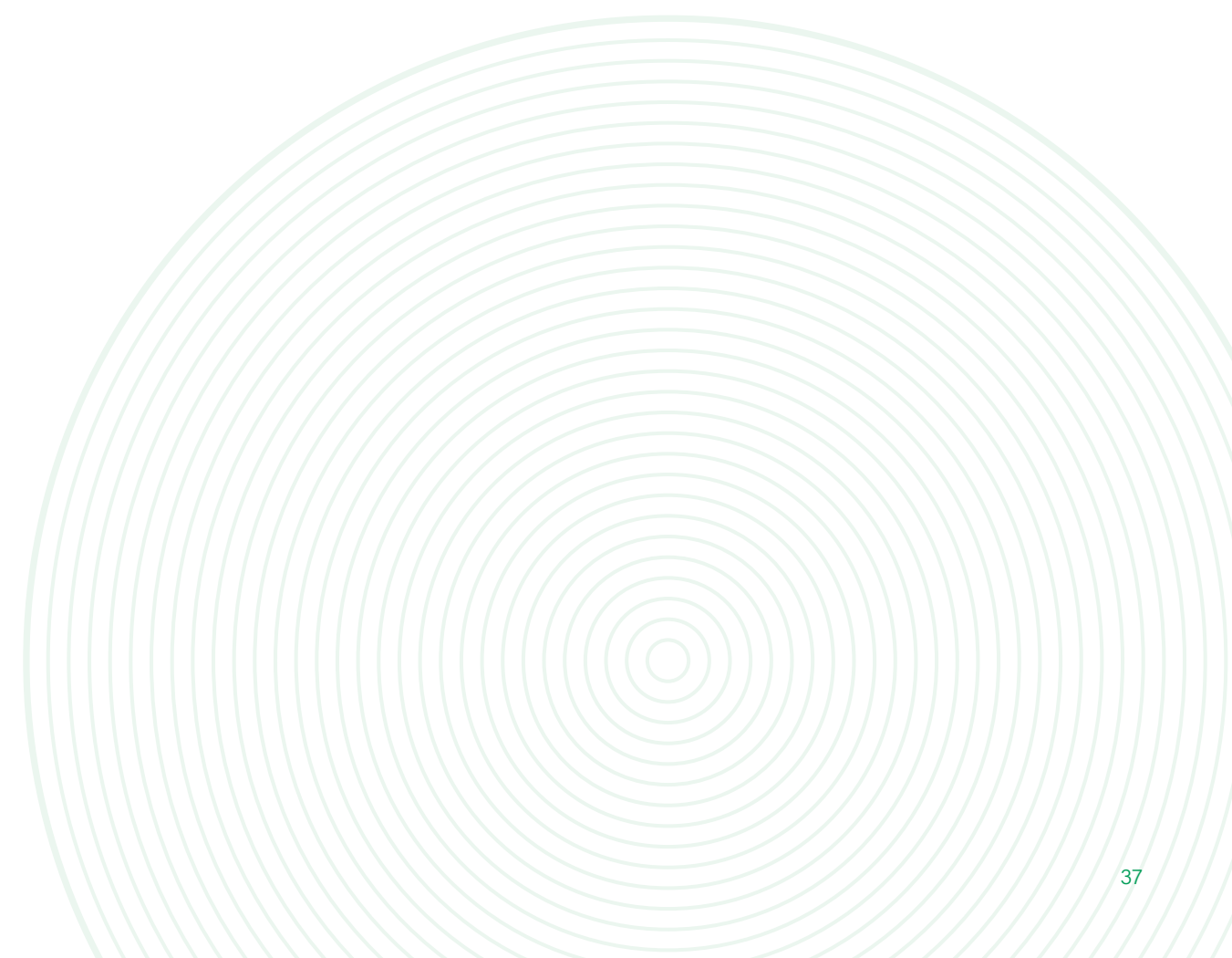
Monitoring and Reporting

Details of these high-level indicators can be found at: https://forestry.gov.scot/forestry-strategy

Under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018, 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 and a report will be prepared in due course.

As set out in the first Implementation Plan, alongside detailing progress against the Strategy's priorities for action and associated activities, the report will also present progress against a set of high-level indicators that will be used to demonstrate progress against the Strategy's 10-year objectives.

4

Annexes

Annex A
Stakeholders and delivery partners that attended one or more workshop held to support development of the Implementation Plan

- » Cairngorms National Park
- » Chief Forester for Scotland
- » Clyde Climate Forest
- » Committee on Climate Change
- » Community Woodlands Association
- » Confederation of Forest Industries
- » Forest Research
- » Forestry and Land Scotland
- » Forestry and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group
- » Green Action Trust
- » Heads of Planning Scotland
- » Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- » Historic Environment Scotland
- » Institute of Chartered Foresters
- » James Hutton Institute
- » John Muir Trust
- » Lantra
- » Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority
- » National Access Forum
- » National Farmers Union Scotland
- » NatureScot
- » RSPB
- » Scottish Enterprise
- » Scottish Environment Link
- » Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- » Scottish Land and Estates
- » Scottish Land Commission
- » South of Scotland Enterprise
- » Transport Scotland
- » Woodland Trust Scotland
- » Young Scot

Annex B
Delivery organisation abbreviations

ADMG	Association of Deer Management Groups
ASHS	Association of Scottish Harwood Sawmillers
ASR	Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest
Bb	Backbone
BC	Butterfly Conservation
BE-ST	Built Environment – Smarter Transformation
CF	Corra Foundation
CCF	Clyde Climate Forest
CEMVO	Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations
CNPA	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Confor	Confederation of Forest Industries
Confor NPG	Confor Nursery Producers Group
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
CWA	Community Woodlands Association
ELGT	Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust
Ew	Earthwatch
FAS	Farm Advisory Service
FC	Forestry Commission
FISA	Forest Industry Saftey Accord
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
FPG	Forest Policy Group
FR	Forest Research
GAT	Green Action Trust
GCVGN	Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HIE	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
HOPS	Heads of Planning Scotland
ICF	Institute of Chartered Foresters
JMT	John Muir Trust
LAs	Local Authorities
LLTNPA	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority
MS	Marine Scotland
NAF	National Access Forum
NHSS	National Health Service Scotland
NIE	Northern Ireland Executive

NIFS	Northern Ireland Forest Service
NS	NatureScot
NTS	National Trust for Scotland
PA	Planning Authority
PF	Pears Foundation
PHC	Plant Health Centre
RSFS	Royal Scottish Forestry Society
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RTTG	Regional Timber Transport Groups
SA	Soil Association
SASA	Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
SDS	Skills Development Scotland
SE	Scottish Enterprise
SEL	Scottish Environment Link
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SF	Scottish Forestry
SFTTILG	Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group
SG	Scottish Government
SLC	Scottish Land Commission
SoSE	South of Scotland Enterprise
SRMG	Scottish Raptor Monitoring Group
SSRS	Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels
STHAG	Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
TfL	Trees for Life
TS	Transport Scotland
TTF	Timber Transport Forum
WG	Welsh Government
UKG	UK Government
UKWAS	UK Woodland Assurance Scheme
WSREC	West of Scotland Regional Equality Council
WRA	Wood Recyclers Association
WTS	Woodland Trust Scotland
YlS	Youthlink Scotland
YS	Young Scot
ZWS	Zero Waste Scotland

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