

From: Personal Data
To: Personal Data; Personal Data @gov.wales; Personal Data @forestrycommission.gov.uk; Personal Data
Cc: Personal Data; @cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk; Personal Data @gov.wales; Personal Data; Personal Data
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: UKFS proposed change
Date: 04 May 2022 12:16:11
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear All,

Thank you to Personal Data and the team for bringing this proposal to the Board for consideration and to the Working Group for developing the proposal in light of our workshop earlier in the year.

Whilst I support the proposal to improve forest resilience by lowering the maximum proportion of one species as set out at para 5, I am concerned that the recommendation goes beyond this and seeks to use this change as an opportunity to shift the balance of objectives to deliver individual country policies eg more biodiversity. I expect any change to be strongly challenged by the mainstream forestry sector, at least in Scotland, and we need to put forward a clear and robust case for making such a change.

A few points and questions that I suggest need to be considered further in strengthening the case.

- The UKFS sets out what 'sustainable forest management' means in practice, and is an evidence-based professional standard (c.f. Building Standards),
- What professional advice can we draw on to support the reduction in the maximum of a single species to 65% (from 75%) on the basis of improved forest resilience? Can we cite figures from Europe about proportion of single species in other countries forest composition? What is the trend if we stick with current proportions, eg are we allowing the risk to increase?
- What is the justification for the state requiring this change in pursuance of SFM? Why now rather than in another 5 years' time? A - to reduce the risk t(to carbon stocks, timber supply biodiversity etc) on the basis that despite encouragement and guidance for the last 10-15 years the more commercially driven elements of the sector are not taking action to address this risk so the state needs to intervene.
- Whilst Scotland recognises the need for such action and would support a requirement to use an additional 10% of diverse conifers, we are not comfortable with the Working Group's proposal that there is also a requirement to use 25% native species to promote biodiversity as this would in effect be using the technical standard to deliver a policy objective. Is there any evidence that suggests that SFM must include 25% native species?
- Nothing to stop FGS or England equivalent from requiring a particular species mix only funding e.g. 50% max of a single species, but UKFS review process needs to be seen as independent of influence of lobbying from particular interests if it is to retain its independence and credibility.
- The UKFS needs to allow different administrations flexibility to balance their outcomes appropriately (we might be accepting of pine woods which are 75% pine).
- So need to ensure that UKFS remains a **technical standard**, backed

up by evidence and professional expertise, and doesn't stray into delivering policy.

Are we confident that the current review of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) remains a technical review and isn't straying into areas of policy?

Thanks again for the all the effort the Working Group have put into this.

Happy to discuss further if helpful

From: [Personal Data]@forestry.gov.scot>

Sent: 20 April 2022 15:23

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<[Personal Data]@forestry.gov.scot>; [Personal Data] [Personal Data]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

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Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: UKFS proposed change

Dear all,

Please find attached a paper recommending a proposed change to the % species guideline in the UKFS. Thank you to the working group for developing this proposal and recording their discussions.

The paper sets out the background, rationale and discussions between the country's working group leads to draft a proposed change, and asks the Board to:

- Approve the following amended wording for the associated guideline.
- Agree that the current Guideline is converted into a Good Forestry Practice Requirement.
- Consider stakeholder handling and whether further engagement (e.g. bi-lateral meetings) would be useful to complement the use of the Reference Group meeting as a sounding board regarding this and other changes to technical content.

It was suggested that the consideration of the paper and PB approval could be achieved via email due to the challenge of finding suitable dates for all to attend a specific meeting. Your working group member(s) will be able to brief you in detail about the discussions

I look forward to hearing your responses.

Kind regards

[Personal Data]

Scottish Forestry

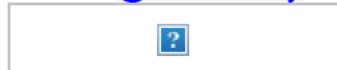
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Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

UKFS WORKSHOP
28th January 2022, 09.00 – 12.00
Key points and decisions

Attendees

Project Board members:

Personal Data (SRO / Chair)

Personal Data – NI

Personal Data – Wales

Project team

Personal Data – project lead

Personal Data – technical co-ordinator

Personal Data – project support

Working group members:

Personal Data (Scotland)

Personal Data (Wales)

Personal Data (England)

Personal Data (Wales)

Personal Data (NI)

Invitees:

Personal Data (Scotland)

Personal Data (Scotland)

Personal Data (NI)

Personal Data (Wales)

Personal Data (UK)

1. Purpose of the workshop

To agree how to handle three high-profile contentious Guidelines in the current UKFS. OU
SCO

OU SCO

2. Topic – 75% tree species threshold

Position agreed at the workshop:

- ❖ Retain 75% threshold in next edition.
- ❖ Revisit the wording of the Guideline to strengthen the rationale/ rigour that managers need to provide in order to justify their species choice.
- ❖ Revisit the wording of the information that supports the Guideline to indicate the intended outcomes of the threshold, and to flag that research is underway to revise the breakdown components for future editions of the UKFS.

Key points to support this position:

- Although there was some desire to have the % threshold reduced, there is no clear evidence to justify a new % so the next edition should focus on the principles not the metrics, including the risk to the sector of failing to diversify sufficiently.
- Consensus that this must remain as a UK position and not diverge by country.
- Although there was some support for exempting woodland types e.g. Caledonian pine, there was no consensus to strengthen this beyond the current Guideline.
- Opportunity to encourage applicants to maximise the benefit from the other 25% e.g. by improving connectivity, and to demonstrate how the different components of a new woodland will achieve the outcomes of increased biodiversity, resilience and sector sustainability.
- Should promote better the role of forest planning to reflect increased potential of non-timber national capital values, carbon capture etc – link to natural capital approach.
- To be cautious about the term 'management objectives' because it can be used to argue for a lack of diversity.

Action: Personal Data to identify potential dependency between UKWAS and UKFS on % threshold

Action: Working Group to suggest attendees for a follow-up session to explore options for change to contextual wording.

3. OU
SCO

[Redacted content]

OU O SCOPE [Redacted]

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OU O SCOPE [Redacted]

5. OU O SCOPE [Redacted]

OU O SCOPE [Redacted]

6. OU O SCOPE [Redacted]

OU O SCOPE [Redacted]

From: Personal Data <Personal Data@forestrycommission.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 February 2022 13:54
To: Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot>; Personal Data <Personal Data@forestry.gov.scot>; Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot>; Personal Data @gov.wales; Personal Data @daera-ni.gov.uk; Personal Data @daera-ni.gov.uk; Personal Data @daera-ni.gov.uk; Personal Data <Personal Data@forestry.gov.scot>; Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot>; Personal Data <Personal Data@forestry.gov.scot>; Personal Data @cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk; Personal Data @gov.wales
Cc: Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot>; Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: UKFS review - Workshop

Personal

Thanks for the note – I do want to challenge the point about the 75% species threshold though. I completely agree that we need more/stronger narrative focusing on what we are trying to achieve by ensuring there is more than one species present on site. I didn't think we had ruled out a change to the percentage at this stage though and thought this was still in play.

Personal

From: Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot>
Sent: 10 February 2022 11:28
To: Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot; Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot; Personal Data @gov.wales; Personal Data @daera-ni.gov.uk; Personal Data @daera-ni.gov.uk; Personal Data @daera-ni.gov.uk; Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot; Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot>; Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot; Personal Data @cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk; Personal Data <Personal Data@forestrycommission.gov.uk>; Personal Data @gov.wales
Cc: Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot; Personal Data @forestry.gov.scot
Subject: RE: UKFS review - Workshop

This Message originated outside your organisation.

Dear all

Thank you again for your time and input at the workshop.

Attached is a draft note setting out the key points and decisions we captured at the workshop on 28 January. It is not a minute and does not cover all of the detailed discussions.

To enable the project to progress work on these three topics it is important that the decisions set out in the note are confirmed.

I am conscious that there are a range of views on these issues, but as explained at the workshop we need to agree how we take these forward at a UK level in the next edition of the Standard. To support this UK approach can you please co-ordinate and send a single response (set of comments) for each country.

Kind regards

Personal Data

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Scottish Forestry

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Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

We'll send you a revised indicative schedule in the days ahead, and any papers will come to you before the meeting.

Please note, an agenda will be shared in January with specific time slots for each of the contentious issues, allowing you to invite your specialists along to relevant discussions without the need for them to join for the duration. In the meantime this invite can be forwarded as a placeholder if you want to block out their calendar.

Kind regards,

Personal
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Microsoft Teams meeting

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