

ACTION POINTS FROM CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVES GROUP MEETING

**Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Conference Room Z1/10**

Thursday 23rd January 2025, 1-4pm

Members: Andrew Vaughan ICF, Andrew Weatherall Scottish Environment LINK, Andy Tharme SOSE, Brendan Callaghan SF (Chair), Charles Dundas (Scottish Environment Link, Craig Turner Confor Nursery Group, Eddie Addis Confor, Gwen Wilkie Forestry & Land Scotland, Ian Cowe SF (Secretary), Ronald Christie (Guest), Jim Colchester Confor, John Gorman SEPA, Keith Wishart SF, Lindsay Bisset SF, Mark Hamilton Social Forestry, Morag Paterson Forest Policy Group, Willie McGhee Community Woodland Association.

Apologies:

April Armstrong Confor, Duncan Stone NatureScot, Debbie Green NatureScot (Alt), Fiona Holmes CNPA, Gordon Gray Stephens Community Woodland Association, Harry Wilson RSFS, Jonnie Hall NFUS, Nathan Bryceland Scottish Land and Estates, Simon Richie Scottish Environment Link (Alt), Tom Turnbull Association of Deer Management Groups, Tim Hall Scottish Environment Link,

1. Future Meeting Schedule

Dates for future meetings were agreed as:-

16th Sept 2025

2. Meeting Notes & Action Points

Action Points Carried Forward

- i) **Scotland's Rainforest:** Standing Item - Progress to be reported to the CRG. (WM)
- ii) **Sub-group Meeting Notes:** Standing Item – To be shared at each meeting. (IC)

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda

- Note of Sept 2024 meeting was agreed.

New Actions & Points to Note

SF FGS Updates

- SF to produce summary of FGS applications that are rejected/unsuccessful. (IC)
- Members are asked to consider volunteering to assist with testing the LTFP on-line application process (All)
FLS offered to assist with testing (GW)
- **Note:** Members would welcome further consideration by SF of regionalised analysis and subsequent prioritisation of WC across Scotland.
- **Note:** Members would appreciate sight of the latest research by Forest Research on Carbon Modelling.

- **Note:** Members would wish to have the opportunity to contribute to the development of any new guidance being developed to support/inform Community Groups about forestry projects.

Seed Zones and Plant Supply

Notes:-

- Members discussed the current challenges within the nursery sector, with particular focus on the difficulties faced with the collection of seed and production of some native broadleaved species.
- To alleviate some difficulties, a simplification of the seed zones was proposed.
- SF was not supportive of a change to the current seed zone arrangements, without a change in the scientific understanding that would support such a change.
- The CRG encourages:-
 - open dialogue between all parties to help understanding of the issues the sector faces.
 - the flexibility to use stock from neighbouring seed zones where appropriate under the current guidance.
- Members would welcome further consideration on:-
 - maximising seed collection in Scotland.
 - where possible, FLS to make more seed available to the sector.
 - actions to ensure seed collected in the UK, is used within the UK.

Action Points:-

- SF to highlight existing guidance on seed zones to staff to ensure consistency of implementation. **(BC)**
- SF to review and consider training opportunities for conservancy teams. **(BC)**

Cumulative Impact Assessment

- Members discussed and recognised the increased focus on this important area of work and noted that there was need to improve knowledge and understanding on this issue. The CRG recommended SF work to update and improve information available to the sector. **(BC)**

SF Implementation: UKFS Practical Guide on Creating & Managing Riparian Woodland

- Agenda item not discussed – carried over to next meeting.

Meeting Close