

Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029

Description of indicators

Indicators

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.

Description

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 UK Woodland Assurance Standard 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.

Indicator	Source	Supporting information
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.	<p>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.</p> <p>It is intended that this data will be made available on a three-yearly basis.</p>
Number of community groups that own and lease forests and woodlands.	Data on community ownership is produced by the Scottish Government.	<p>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.</p> <p>This data is reported annually.</p>
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.	<p>he 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.</p> <p>The economic contribution includes: forestry, timber processing, forestry-related recreation/tourism, and forestry-related deer and game.</p> <p>It is intended that this data will be made available on a five-yearly basis.</p>
Volume of available timber.	National Forest Inventory Report produced by Forest Research.	<p>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.</p> <p>It is intended that this data will be made available on a five-yearly basis.</p>

Indicator	Source	Supporting information
Forestry sector net greenhouse gas emissions.	Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions data is reported by the Scottish Government.	<p>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.</p> <p>This indicator links to the National Performance Framework which reports Scotland's greenhouse gas emission expressed in million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.</p> <p>This data is reported annually.</p>
Woodland ecological condition.	National Forest Inventory Woodland Ecological Condition produced by Forest Research.	<p>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.</p> <p>It is intended that this data will be made available on a five-yearly basis.</p>
Condition of protected forest and woodland sites.	Site condition monitoring data produced by Nature Scot (formerly known as Scottish Natural Heritage).	<p>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 Nature Scot.</p> <p>This data is reported annually.</p>
Index of Abundance for Scottish Terrestrial Breeding Birds – Woodland Species.	Official statistics for terrestrial breeding birds produced by Nature Scot.	<p>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 Nature Scot.</p> <p>This data is reported annually.</p>
Number of visits to forests and woodlands.	Scotland's People and Nature Survey commissioned by Nature Scot.	<p>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.</p>

Indicator	Source	Supporting information
		This data is reported on a two or three-yearly basis.

Scottish Forestry
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