

## CENTRAL SERVICES REPORT

### **Purpose**

1. To advise Commissioners of developments within the FC's Central Services and the progress made to achieve the key actions and priorities as set out in the Cross Border and Forest Research Corporate Plans 2015 -16.

### Cross Border Activities and Corporate Plan Update

#### **Resilience: Forest Biosecurity**

We will protect our woodland resource and increase its resilience to pests and diseases so that our woodland continues to deliver a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

2. At mid-November there had been 92 interceptions of non-compliant material at ports, mostly wood packaging and dunnage requiring destruction. Steel consignments continue to be problematic and as a consequence of falling steel prices, any remedial treatment is felt more now by importers as margins are tighter.

3. Import checks on wood packaging material associated with a wider range of stone and steel commodities from China have resulted in a slightly higher interception rate than previously although findings are generally non-compliance with standards rather than findings of pests, with eight non-compliant consignments as of mid-November. At mid-November over 800 consignments of stone and steel from China had been checked and reconciled against total imports to determine whether inspectors are meeting the EU target of 15% inspection. As a consequence the rate at which HMRC holds some commodities has been adjusted to get closer to EU targets for inspection.

4. As opportunities arise we carry out spot checks on **unregulated material**. This has revealed that the description used for some bark fencing products which have been imported from China has meant that these were not routinely stopped for inspection. Now that we are aware about this trade we are working with importers to monitor it and to ensure that the material meets our landing requirements. An art installation from China contained a large amount of timber which had signs of previous longhorn beetle infestation. Imports of manufactured art installations are another form of import that we don't routinely monitor and on this occasion we decided to serve a notice to have the material fumigated as a precaution against further emergence of adult beetles.

5. A package of new legislation is drafted to consolidate national legislation and to implement tighter EU control measures on Asian Longhorn Beetle, Pinewood Nematode and *Xylella fastidiosa*, a cause of bacterial leaf scorch in trees. We will add a statutory firewood notification scheme to the package when we get Ministerial approval to introduce the scheme in England and Scotland.

6. Contingency plans are now published for Oak processionary moth, Pinewood nematode, and *Ips typographus*. Approved and awaiting publication is Bronze Birch Borer. Contingency plans drafted and at various stages of review by scientists and stakeholders: Emerald Ash Borer, Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp, *Dothistroma pini*, Spruce Budworm, Canker stain of Plane, Sweet Chestnut Blight, Pitch canker of Pine, Pine tree lappet moth, Western blackhead budworm, Siberian coniferous silk moth, Elm phloem necrosis phytoplasma.

7. We have been working with FC Safety, Health & Environment to review our Health and Safety arrangements for our contract inspectors and regional managers. As a result we now have in place an agreed Plant Health local health and safety policy statement, a health and safety resumption diary, and action plan.

### **Resilience: Climate Change and Ecosystem Services**

We will protect our woodland resource and increase its resilience to the impacts of climate change so that our woodlands continue to deliver a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

8. We are working with Forest Research, the Environment Agency and others to assess the economic value of woodlands for flood alleviation.

9. We recently received successful approval from the Defra Better Regulation team of the five assessments examining the economic impact of introducing and increasing various plant health fees that we submitted in October. This means that the FC Plant Health Service team can proceed to the consultation phase of the legislative process. The successfully approved assessments in turn indicate that government have carefully considered and taken on board a range of market and non-market costs and benefits of charging for these services.

10. We are supporting Forest Enterprise England to help develop a set of natural capital accounts for the Public Forest Estate (PFE) in England. The format for the accounts follows that advocated recently by the [Natural Capital Committee](#) and is intended to provide a clear view of the value of the PFE in supporting natural capital and providing ecosystem services (timber, recreation, carbon sequestration etc.) The accounts will be based on data e.g. timber revenues covered in existing financial accounts and as well as on values for the non-monetary benefits e.g. tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered delivered by the PFE. A first set of accounts for the PFE will be compiled by spring 2016.

## Standards

We will set the standards for sustainable forest management in the UK, within the framework of international agreements, and promote them domestically and internationally.

11. All four Ministers of the UK have now agreed for us to proceed with the light touch review of the UK Forestry Standard. Work will get underway before the end of the year under the direction of the 4-country steering group.
12. A UKWAS certification funders' meeting was held in August to consider future funding options. One of the options being considered is some sort of levy on the certified area.
13. Defra attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Forest Europe Ministerial Conference and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference (LBA conclusion) from 20-21 October, in Madrid. All draft documents were adopted and Rory Stewart (Defra Minister) will sign all documents on behalf of the UK. We shall address the implications of the Forest Europe Commitments in the forthcoming revision of the UK Forestry Standard.
14. The FC and DECC gave a joint presentation in September to the EU Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) to illustrate how the UK has approached the need to provide evidence of sustainability for woody biomass used for renewable energy.
15. The European Commission have put forward proposals to make further progress on an EU Forest Information System (FISE) agreed as a priority area under the EU Forest Strategy and its newly adopted Multi-Annual Plan (MAP) for Implementation. The details have been patchy and Member States are increasingly concerned about the implications for their National Forest Inventory. Commission proposals had also been presented at Council Working Party – we provided Defra with positioning advice. We have asked the Commission (DG Env) to hold further discussions/possible expert group meetings to discuss details in more depth to aid understanding of their proposals and we are working with our key staff/experts in IFOS/CFS to make sure FC/UK concerns are accurately represented.

## Evidence

We will ensure that there is a robust evidence base available to the forestry authorities across the UK to underpin their policies, decisions and advice.

16. The seven new research programmes are now underway, and meetings between the CFS Analysts, country policy teams and research programme leaders have been taking place. Outputs from the programmes have been collated into a new publications schedule, which is available to policy and research colleagues. The [new programmes](#) were published in October.
17. Dr Clive Potter from Imperial College has joined the Expert Committee on Forest Science and his appointment was announced in a [press release](#) from the Committee following the meeting.
18. The quarterly statistical release, Woodland Carbon Code Statistics (covering data to September 2015), was released on 15 October.

19. We are continuing to contribute to fortnightly briefings for the Secretary of State, covering current statistical issues and forthcoming key releases. The briefing is compiled and submitted by Defra's Head of Profession for Statistics.

### **Inventory, Forecasting and Operational Support (IFOS)**

20. The work of IFOS was recently recognised at the AGI (Association for Geographic Information) Awards where the work on Practical Application of Remote Sensing was shortlisted in the category for Excellence in Research & Development. The AGI congratulated the shortlisted entries, as a real achievement and one which should be celebrated and shared.

### **Forest Research Activities and Corporate Plan Update**

21. FR has currently secured £4.5 million of non-core income for the year against a corporate plan target of £4.6 million.

22. Senior FR staff got an introduction into how the new Fera Science Ltd. model will operate.

#### **FR Science Priority: Protect Our Trees and Forests**

23. FR worked with colleagues and collaborators from other organisations on the NERC GREENHOUSE 'campaign' at Harwood Forest, measuring Greenhouse Gas (GHG) fluxes from clear fell and mature Sitka spruce. This included work with an international 'summer school' on GHG measurements.

24. FR attended the International Wildlife Management Conference in Sapporo, Japan and gave a presentation on deer impacts in forests and their management, and participated in discussions on deer management in Japan. A brief report for Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute on deer management in Japan is currently in preparation.

25. FR recently undertook a survey of regrowth of host trees in the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) infected area in Kent and no sign of ALB activity found.

26. FR staff at NRS hosted a visit from Dr Richard Sniezko, who is a tree geneticist from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service based in Oregon (and has worked on a couple of successful resistance breeding projects in north America, the target pathogens being white pine blister rust and *Phytophthora lateralis*). He accompanied FR staff on visits to several larch sites infected with *P. ramorum* in order to give his thoughts on how to progress with assessing natural resistance to *P. ramorum* in the UK.

27. Staff from FR attended the international three-day workshop "Biopesticides – Innovative Technologies and Strategies for Pest Control" on 7-9 September organised by Swansea University. In addition to the formal workshop activities, there were numerous opportunities for networking and for exploring potential funding opportunities within Wales, the UK and Europe. These important peripheral discussions are still ongoing.

## FR Science Priority: Enhance Forest Ecosystem Resilience and Service Provision

28. The key action to disseminate results of the collaborative project on the future management of the native pinewood at Black Wood of Rannoch has been achieved with the publication in September 2015 of the [report](#) on the Black Wood of Rannoch. The report has been publicised by a number of the partners in the project and information disseminated to other interested parties.

29. FR hosted a site visit by a SEPA-led team from the Strathard Ecosystems Services Project to the Slowing the Flow at Pickering project on 21 October and then contributed to a visit by the Right Hon. Elizabeth Truss MP, Secretary of State for Defra, to the same project on 23 October.

## FR Science Priority: Ensure Sustainable Management and Adaptation of our Forests to Climate Change

30. The key action to “Release a new version of the ForestGALES Decision Support Tool to assist managers minimise wind damage through woodland design and management” has been achieved with the new improved version of ForestGALES (version 2.5) being released in October 2015. The release was accompanied by wider communications activity including social media, highlights on the FR website and a detailed article in the forestry press (Forestry and Timber News, October 2015, pp 26-27).

31. FR has delivered a new version of the forecast system to IFOS. This version, which will replace the version used by all Forest Districts since 2012, incorporates updated models and newly defined management and forecast types providing an additional 25 output screens for users.

32. In an extension to the original work on ranking ash seedling populations for Chalara resistance, FR has identified further trial sites and met landowners for the “Living Ash” and LWEC projects. The National Forest Company (a non-departmental public body sponsored by Defra) has identified a new planting site near Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Leicestershire) which will be planted this winter as part of this work. Field assessments of all the trials were completed on 27 October and the data is currently being collated and analysed.

33. The key action to “Identify seed origins of birch and silver fir that are suitable choices for future climates” has been achieved with the publication of two peer-reviewed papers:

*Early height growth of silver birch (Betula pendula Roth) provenances and implications for choice of planting stock in Britain* Lee, S.J; Connelly, T; Wilson, S; Malcolm, D.C; Fonweban, J; Worrell, R; Hubert, J; and Sykes, R.J Forestry 2015; pages (tbc)

*Effects of provenance on the survival, growth and stem form of European silver fir (Abies alba Mill.) in Britain*; G. Kerr, G; Stokes, V; Peace, A; and Jinks. R. *European Journal of Forest Research* 134, pp 349-363.

## FR Science Priority: Effect Knowledge Exchange

34. FR hosted an 'Agency Social Research Network' meeting at Alice Holt for social researchers from Natural England, Environment Agency, NRW, Defra/Exeter University and Welsh Government. They discussed recent farmer and woodland owner segmentation studies, priorities for social research and how to work with Universities.
35. A [BBC4 programme](#) following a year in the life of a 400 year-old native oak tree at Wytham Woods was shown on 1 October. The programme received lots of publicity and good reviews.
36. FR in association with ClimateXChange organised a day long workshop in Queen Elizabeth Forest Park in October under the general banner of Climate Ready Forestry looking at flood mitigation, soil erosion and tree stability. There were 23 participants ranging from land managers to policy advisors and regulators.
37. FR's Joan Cottrell has had a paper published in *Regional Environmental Change - Fady, Cottrell, Ackzell, Alía, Muys, Prada & González-Martínez 'Forests and global change: what can genetics contribute to the major forest management and policy challenges of the twenty-first century?'*
38. As part of FR's key action to participate in specific targeted events, FR was well represented at the Confor Woodland Show (11-12 September). This included participation in the FC marquee and at Confor/FC seminars including "Species introduction" and "Tree Health and Resilience". In conjunction with FCE, FR's Technical Development team organised bespoke small-scale harvesting machinery demonstrations in nearby woodland that attracted over 100 attendees. Similar demonstrations are being arranged for NE England and Scotland (in 2016/17).

## FR Business Priority: Grow Our Business

39. Notwithstanding FR's recent bid successes – and hopes of further income from the 23 bids currently awaiting evaluation – the general outlook remains very tough due to the collapse of UK government Departments' research spending (other than through existing commitments to tree health through LWEC3 and RESAS) and the Government's intention to rely more on Research Council (RC) funded evidence. FR is consequently more dependent on EU participation for future income streams than previously and recent efforts have therefore focused on; (i) Horizon 2020 (H2020) competitions; (ii) developing opportunities for LIFE+ participation; and (iii) supporting Interreg bids.
40. So far FR has had a 20% success rate (3 out of 15 projects that have been evaluated to date) in H2020 which is above the 13% average for previous competitions and certainly as good as anything being achieved by our sister forest research institutes across Europe. It is also encouraging that 55 H2020 topics are identified as being of potential interest to FR.
41. In LIFE+ and Interreg, success rates very much depend on collaborating with organisations with a strong track record of success. There is good potential for FR to

participate in the Defra-led LIFE+ Integrated Project bid on 'Peatland Management' and the South Downs National Park Authority-led Technical Assistance bid for Integrated Project 'Big Chalk' – but FR must, by mid-December, confirm roles and matched funding availability if we are to participate. However, the HM Treasury initiative to recover from Defra and its English Agencies 60-70% of EU LIFE+ receipts, under the 'Department Pays Principle', is an extremely worrying and short-sighted development which could kill collaborative environmental research. It is also unclear whether this initiative is limited only to LIFE+ or will be extended by HMT to other EU funding sources.

42. New bids for COST (EU funded research) were submitted in September 2015. This included a bid regarding "Payments for Ecosystem Services - Forest for Water" led by FR and involving partners from 17 countries.

43. In line with its key action requirement FR continues to provide doctoral training and PhD studentships. FR has prepared a joint application to NERC with Aberdeen University for a PhD student to work on "Pine Marten predation on Grey Squirrels" and has also submitted a NERC CASE PhD studentship bid (with University of Aberdeen) on "DNA metabarcoding as a forest biodiversity monitoring tool".

44. Recent contract wins have included: (1) FR-led LWEC3 plant health bid "**Global threats from Phytophthora spp.; understanding drivers of emergence and opportunities for mitigation through nursery best practice**" (£340K for FR); (2) the Reading-led LWEC3 plant health bid "**PuRpOsE: PRotecting Oak Ecosystems**" (£250K for FR); (3) a **soil and nutrient status report on the Major Oak Tree in Sherwood forest** (£10k for FR); (4) a Scottish Government **CXC Rapid Evidence Assessment on Soil Carbon and Land Use in Scotland** (£15K for FR); (5) Innovate UK 'Space for Smarter Government' Small Business Research Initiative pilot grant for the **SAPPHIRE project (Space Applications for Precision Plant Health Information, Response & Evaluation)** awarded to the EO company Rezatec, (£6K for FR as the 'government user') and (7) **New Zealand project "tree health: a toolkit for the urban battlefield"**, to explore the potential of UAV, precision spraying and social research, through which FR will receive c. £10K to fund our participation.

## Ways of Working

45. The consultation with the FC Trade Unions (FCTU) on a refreshed Forest Research Agency closed in October. The FCTU made 14 recommendations most of which were accepted. The project board met on 21 October and agreed to move to implement the proposals to;

- Introduce a new vision and set of objectives for Forest Research
- Transfer a number of functions (IFOS, Publications, Statistics and parts of CFS Corporate Services) currently delivered by Corporate and Forestry Support over to Forest Research.

46. Forest Research Chief Executive will now lead on the implementation effort in conjunction with Director, Corporate and Forestry Support, and will continue to engage with

staff and the FCTU throughout the process. The changes are due for implementation on 1st April 2016.

47. The Central Services Change Programme (CSCP) have now agreed a composite timeline with the Business Strategy Group (BSG) for establishing their new Corporate Service arrangements. However, there are a number of significant areas where countries and FR have indicated that it will not be possible to pursue a coordinated approach or where there is considerable uncertainty around other dependencies which is preventing a firm commitment to a milestone date. The Business Cases for decentralising Equality & Diversity and Procurement have been endorsed by the BSG and went to consultation with the FCTU in November. There are business cases pending on Learning and Development, Safety, Health and Environment and recent decisions have meant that Internal Audit and Corporate and Forestry Support work not transferring into FR have emerged as priorities.

48. There was a meeting with NRW in October, a central theme of which was NRW's ongoing liability for additional costs. FC has tabled a proposal which will bring clarity and a clear end point for terminating these costs but discussions on this are continuing. As previously advised NRW have confirmed that they wish to come off all FC systems by April 2017 and any ongoing services that are required after 1 April 2017 will be sourced directly from either Forest Research, FC Scotland or FC England. This is likely to include forest inventory, forest research, engineering services and plant and seed supply. The longer term aim is to establish a partnership based relationship for sharing best practice in forestry management across the UK.

## Shared Services

### **Pay Award 2015**

49. Pay discussions were held on Friday 20 November with representatives from the FCTU. A formal pay offer was made in writing to the FCTU on the same date. The FCTU has rejected the offer.

50. The pay deal will be imposed.

### **H&S**

51. HSE visited West Argyll FD as a result of a Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) RIDDOR report. Subsequently, Scotland, England and Forest Research are reviewing their compliance with the HAVS OGB and based on the results the FC will review HAVS guidance, training and implementation.

52. A report of potential exposure to asbestos was made in England. HSE are investigating this case and this has been reported under RIDDOR.



## **Electricity**

53. The audit of the management of electricity in Scotland has been completed and a report will be written for each Forest District with a summary report for the Chief Executive. The reports will be done by end of December.

## **Lone Working**

54. In September 2015, the contract with Guardian 24 was terminated on the grounds that they failed to deliver an integrated lone working system that allows the FC to have a lone worker system that seamlessly incorporates spot trackers. As part of the contract they have to continue to deliver a telephone lone-worker service for 90 days. Tenders are being evaluated and the FC will award the contract with the new system in place by 15 December 2015.

## **Staff Survey 2015**

55. The Staff Survey ran in September 2015, with 62% of staff responding. Staff Engagement remains high at 71%.

## **Graduate Programme**

56. Three graduates joined the FC in summer 2015 (one in FC England and two in FC Scotland) and their core induction has now been completed. FC England will commence recruitment for one graduate to join in 2016.

## **Central Services finances 2015/16**

57. The BMR exercise for the half-year position has been completed. Forecasts indicate minor savings across the shared services and CFS. However, these are offset by VAT liabilities in relation to over recovery of Tax on IS Contractors, non-business use of vehicles in FR and the Shared Services and the historic incorrect use of partial exemption VAT percentages.

## **Tax Audits and Tax Working Group (TWG)**

58. The requirement to co-ordinate the work of the varying tax resources, and recognition of the range of tax issues faced by the FC, has led to revised governance arrangements for the handling of tax. This has seen the creation of a formal Tax Project headed by a Tax Advisory Team. This will provide a clearer focus on the delivery of tax solutions across the FC and specifically:

- Develop a strategic approach to tax;
- Manage actions required to deal with current tax issues;
- Co-ordinate our corporate response to the HMRC audits;
- Ensure permanent solutions are put in place through changes to existing systems and the development of new systems;
- Develop revised tax guidance which can be clearly understood by staff;

- Deliver appropriate training and awareness sessions to staff; and
- Consider options for devolution of tax affairs to countries and prepare for transfer work.

59. We are in the process of finalising a settlement on the over recovery of VAT on our fleet for non-FE activities. We have already put in place arrangements to no longer recover VAT in these areas and continue to work in identifying activities where we can continue to recover VAT in FEE and FES.

60. HMRC have agreed for FC to undertake our own audit of the FE's and produce an initial report and risk analysis which HMRC will then review. This report should enable FE to more accurately gauge the potential level of liabilities arising from the non-business/business activities question and exempt activities. This work will take up to six months to complete.

Jean Lindsay  
Director Central Services  
December 2015

**PURPOSE**

To provide Commissioners with an update on the recent 14th World Forestry Congress held in Durban, South Africa on the 7 – 11 September 2015.

**BACKGROUND**

The World Forestry Congress (WFC) is the largest and most significant gathering of the world's forestry sector and it has been held every six years since 1926 under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized by the government of the host country. It is a forum for the sharing of knowledge and experience regarding the conservation, management and use of the world's forests, and covers such issues as international dialogue, socio-economic and institutional aspects, and forest policies.

The aim of the WFC is to contribute to orient/shape international action in silvicultural aspects and stimulate global competency and reflection that can inform the development of the global forestry sector. The WFC may also be providing guidance to national and international forestry organizations as to the most appropriate and effective means to coordinate international actions concerning technical and policy. Finally, the Congress can contribute to identify action lines, define guidelines to stimulate the development of national policies, propose incentives to orient the public and private sector, promote international cooperation in forestry matters, whilst contributing to social progress and the conservation of natural resources at global, regional and national levels.

**INTRODUCTION**

I was very fortunate to be able to attend this congress along with Gary Kerr from Forest Research. We both made presentations during Congress sessions - Gary on silviculture and resilience, and myself on plant health. These were well received and generated useful discussion.

**PRE-CONGRESS PROGRAMME**

I attended a pre-Congress symposium<sup>1</sup> on Forest Research in South Africa, which was attended by around 250 delegates. This was a fascinating day of presentations, which provided a real insight into the research challenges faced by the South African forestry sector. The silviculture is quite different to our own, for example, Eucalyptus grown for pulp wood on a 4-5 year rotation with yield class 30+, or fast grown Pinus patula, regularly pruned. Yet the striking thing was that the challenges research is being asked to address, such as sustainable production, tree breeding, pests and pathogens, climate change and carbon, and water management are the same as we face in the UK. There are areas where our own research is more advanced, and I have passed on contact details to FR colleagues, where there may be future opportunities for knowledge sharing or collaboration.

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<sup>1</sup> For symposium proceedings visit [www.icfr.ukzn.ac.za/publications/other/](http://www.icfr.ukzn.ac.za/publications/other/)

## CONGRESS PROGRAMME

Just under 4000 delegates from 142 countries attended the main Congress. There was strong political support from the South African Government, which fielded the Deputy President at the opening ceremony and four ministers during the proceedings. The programme was a mixture of large plenary sessions around broad topics, and smaller sub-theme dialogues. Of particular interest to the UK was an excellent presentation on the Forest Resources Assessment, which FC statistics provides data for. The key headlines from this were:

- Since 1990, 129m hectares of forest have been lost.
- Meanwhile, the net annual rate of forest loss has slowed by 50% from 0.18 percent in the early 1990s to 0.08 percent during the period 2010-2015.
- Today, the bulk (93 percent) of the world's forest area is natural forest - a category that includes primary forest areas where human disturbances have been minimized, as well as secondary forest areas that have regenerated naturally.
- Planted forest currently accounts for 7 percent of the world's overall forest area, having increased by over 110 million hectares since 1990.
- The report stresses the critical importance of forests to people, the environment, and the global economy.
- The forest sector contributes about \$600 billion annually to global GDP and provides employment to over 50 million people

There was a lively plenary session on Forests and Climate Change. In South Africa, there is a significant issue with climate change and invasiveness of species. At present this is not an issue in the UK, but if more Eucalyptus species are used in future, it could become more important. The United Nations Forum on Climate Change is seeking a Legally Binding Agreement on climate change with ambitious targets, which may be challenging to deliver in the UK. Concern remains globally that deforestation continues at an alarming rate, though has been reduced by 50% according to the latest FRA. There is also, particularly from the NGOs and Greenpeace, a general feeling that time is running out to do something about temperature rises. One of the plenary speakers was indicating that Greenpeace and Pacific nations are likely to push for a maximum 1.5 degree rise at the COP21 talks in Paris in December. They may refuse to ratify any agreement if this is not accepted.

I was invited to meet with a delegation from the Republic of (South) Korea, who were canvassing for votes to host the next Congress in 2021. Korea has been undertaking some large scale forest landscape restoration work since the 1950's, when the forest area was 3.5m hectares. Today it stands at 6.3m hectares, with most of the increase taking place by 1980. The subject of forest landscape restoration was a key topic through the Congress, with estimates of 300m hectares globally requiring restoration.

The Global Forest Landscape Restoration Partnership was recently chaired by our last Director General, Tim Rollinson. It is committed to achieving milestones such as the Bonn Challenge target to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020. The current chair is Peter Besseau, Director of International Affairs for the Canadian Forest Service.

## OUTCOMES

The key outcomes from the Congress<sup>2</sup> were three short documents:

1. A new vision - The Durban Declaration – a new way of thinking and acting – for the future of forests and forestry in sustainable development at all levels.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://webapps.daff.gov.za/wfc2015/English/outcomes.html>

2. A message on the role of forests in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), directed to delegates at the UN General Assembly and other relevant bodies and processes.
3. A message for the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on how forests can contribute to the new climate-change regime.

Roger Coppock  
Head of Corporate and Forestry Support  
October 2015