

FR INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Agenda Item 8

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Paper 31/22

12 September 2022

Purpose

1. To update the FC Executive Board on FR's current international links and activities.

Background

2. Historically the FC had some international presence, but this has dissipated in recent years, whereas FR has increased its international presence in part due to its support of Defra's international forestry activities.

Discussion

3. Aside from its contracted role to support Defra's international forestry activities, FR have staff involved in several key international forestry bodies. These include, amongst others, Chris Quine being on the main council of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations, James Pendlebury being on the board of the European Institute of Planted Forests and Gary Kerr being Chair of the European Forest Institute Scientific Advisory Committee.
4. Most importantly, FR's Mulumba Agaba leads on our international activities in support of Defra. As a consequence, Agaba attends several events worldwide on behalf of the UK government and his main activities are given in Appendix 1.
5. In addition to these activities FR has a long history of collaboration with research institutions across Europe and further afield in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Brazil, Canada, USA, South Africa, Vietnam and Japan. This list isn't exhaustive but highlights some countries where FR has long standing connections or is currently active.

Resource implications

6. FR currently receives £140k per annum from Defra as part of the FC's breakup devolution settlement to cover Agaba's activities. However, Defra is ceding its international forestry activities to a new team being created by BEIS & the FCDO. This team recently visited FR at NRS and are keen to keep Agaba on until next March whilst they review their approach. In addition, they are now aware of FR's range of activities and current interests and projects and how we might be in a position to support their renewed country focus in places like China and India.

Risk Assessment

7. Risk None other than reputational and this is already covered in FR's risk register.

Equality Impact Assessment

8. N/A

Communications

9. FR's activities are either publicised in conjunction with Defra where appropriate or largely in conjunction with partners in relation to specific projects.

Recommendations

10. The Board are asked to note the current range of international activities and representation undertaken by FR

Professor James Pendlebury, Forest Research CEO
01/09/2022