

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

## Trees and Woodland Scientific Advisory Group (TAW-SAG)

### Meeting 15 Minutes: 18th July 2023

#### Attendees

- **Rob MacKenzie** (RMK) - [Chair], School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences University of Birmingham; Birmingham Institute of Forest Research.
- **Ian Bateman** (IB) - Director of the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute. University of Exeter.
- **Richard Buggs** (RB) - [Observer], Kew Gardens, Plant Health Group.
- **Paul Burgess** (PB) - Ecology and Management, Cranfield Soil and Agri-food Institute Cranfield University.
- **Keith Kirby** (KK) - Department of Biology, University of Oxford.
- **Mike Morecroft** (MM) - [Observer], Principal specialist on climate change, Natural England and Visiting Professor, University of Reading.
- **Clive Potter** (CP) – Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London.
- **Patricia Thornley** (PT) - School of Engineering and Applied Science, Aston University.
- **Gideon Henderson** (GH) - Chief Scientific Adviser, Defra
- **Naomi Matthieson** (NM) - Directors Nature for Climate Tree Programme
- **Daisy Ellis** (DE) - Head of Strategy, Engagement and Analysis, Defra.
- **Clare Williams** (CW) – Evidence and Analysis Team for Trees/Forestry, Defra.
- **Rebecca McIlhiney** (RMI)- Evidence and Analysis Team Leader for Trees/ Forestry, Defra.
- **Charlotte Williams** (ChW), Research & Development (R&D) Project Delivery Advisor, Defra.
- **Ian Tubby** (IT) – Head of Policy and Advice, Forestry Commission
- **Louise Hill** (LH) - Lead Advisor on Adaptation, Defra
- **Dan Doherty** (DD) - Head of Trees, Woodlands and Forestry Policy, Defra.
- **Cara Brander** (CB) - Energy Forestry & Innovation Policy Lead, Defra

#### Apologies

- **Julie Urquhart** (JU) - Environmental Social Science, University of Gloucestershire.
- **Chris Quine** (CQ) - [Observer], Chief Scientist, Forest Research.
- **Maggie Roe** (MR) - Landscape Planning Research & Policy Engagement, University of Newcastle
- **Ruth Mitchell** (RM) - Biodiversity and Ecosystems Group, Ecological Sciences Department, James Hutton Institute.
- **Stephen Cavers** (SC) - Ecology Evolution and Environmental Change - Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

## Item 1: Welcome and Updates

1. RMK welcomed everyone to the 15th meeting of the TAW-SAG.

## Item 2: Review and agree minutes from previous meeting

2. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed with the following comments:
  - a. International names from the spreadsheet were clarified.
  - b. To review the way the actions are presented: include descriptions for each action to improve transparency, and label at which meeting the action was set.
3. The actions were reviewed:

| From       | Number | Action  | Owner | Status                                      |
|------------|--------|---|-------|---|
| 09/05/2023 | 1      | Share landowners/managers' survey report with the Group.  | Defra | In progress – subgroup to meet in September |
| 09/05/2023 | 2      | Finalise temperate rainforest advice paper.   | RMK   | Complete                                    |
| 09/05/2023 | 3      | Circulate an international representatives spreadsheet for the Group to input into.             | CW    | Complete                                    |
| 09/05/2023 | 4      | Provide a paper detailing current and future spatial layers ahead of the September meeting.     | RMI   | In progress for next meeting                |
| 09/05/2023 | 5      | Organise Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment team to come back to another TaW-SAG meeting. | Defra | In progress – September                     |

**Action 1: All to review the international representatives' spreadsheet and send names of additional representatives to CW**

**Action 2: CW to check with CQ the name from Napier.**

## Item 3: Programme Board Update

4. DE and RMK provided an update from the Programme Board.
5. The key points of the Programme Board were:
  - a. There was a large focus on what will be required and not required for the transition into Environmental Land Management (ELM).
  - b. There was a discussion on the Annual Statistics with a stocktake on planting progress.
  - c. There were discussions on the results of the recent Infrastructure Projects Authority review of the NCF programme.

## Item 4: Summary of risks, benefits and uncertainties of different provenance choices for tree planting

6. LH gave an overview of the paper provided on provenance and confirmed the task of reviewing the risks and benefits. TaW-SAG discussed the paper and minor amendments and will provide advice later this month.
7. TaW-SAG discussed the paper and made suggestions for further areas to be in scope.

**Action 2: TaW-SAG to send any additional detailed comments on the paper directly to LH.**

### **Item 5: The use of emerging forestry species for forestry or energy forestry in England**

8. IT and RMI introduced this item for discussion.

**Action 3: TaW-SAG to provide a short advice paper on emerging forestry species.**

### **Item 6: AOB**

9. None.

Trees and Forestry, Strategy Engagement and Analysis Team July 2023

Dates of the next two meetings are 19th September 2023 and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023.