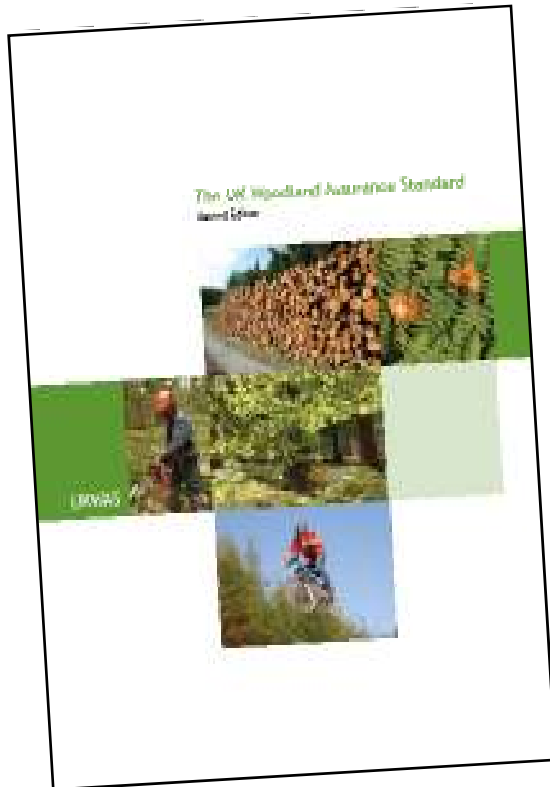


# Promoting SFM through Certification Standards

*-UK Experience-*



Peter Wilson

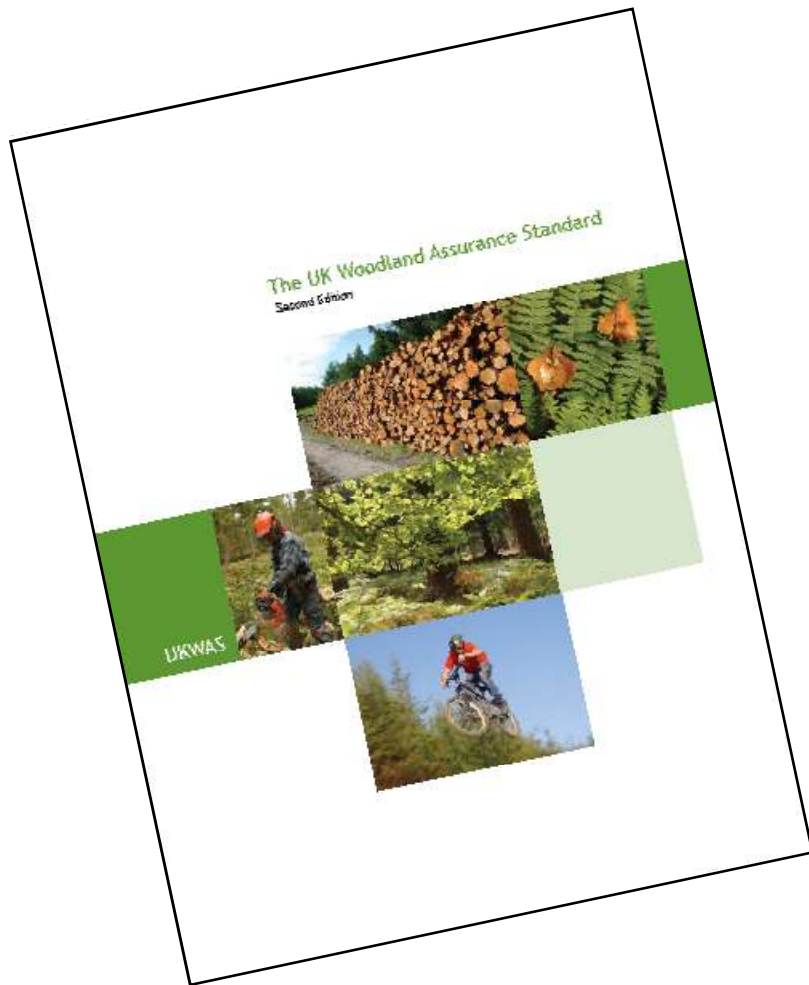
Executive Chairman

UK Woodland Assurance Standard  
partnership

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- History
- Process
- Governance
- FSC & PEFC
- Delivery
- Upsides & downsides
- Can TOSIA help?

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# Discord & Accord

- 1980s – Forestry had a bad image!
- 1990s – Consensus building: UK Forestry Accord (1996).
- Certification debate brings discord: FC brings parties together to develop ‘audit protocol’ (1997).
- Government’s ‘UK Forestry Standard’ as regulatory tool (1998).
- Independent ‘UK Woodland Assurance Standard’ for SFM certification(1999).

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# Basis for Consensus

- Ownership of the certification standard must rest with the stakeholders and all decisions to be based on consensus.
- Independent 'UK Woodland Assurance Standard' concept – a standard for use in others' certification programmes.

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# Basis of UKWAS Standard

- To meet requirements of Government's UK Forestry Standard and Guidelines
- ...and hence European Forestry Ministers' Guidelines – Helsinki and Lisbon (1993 & 98)
- To conform with Forest Stewardship Council's Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship.

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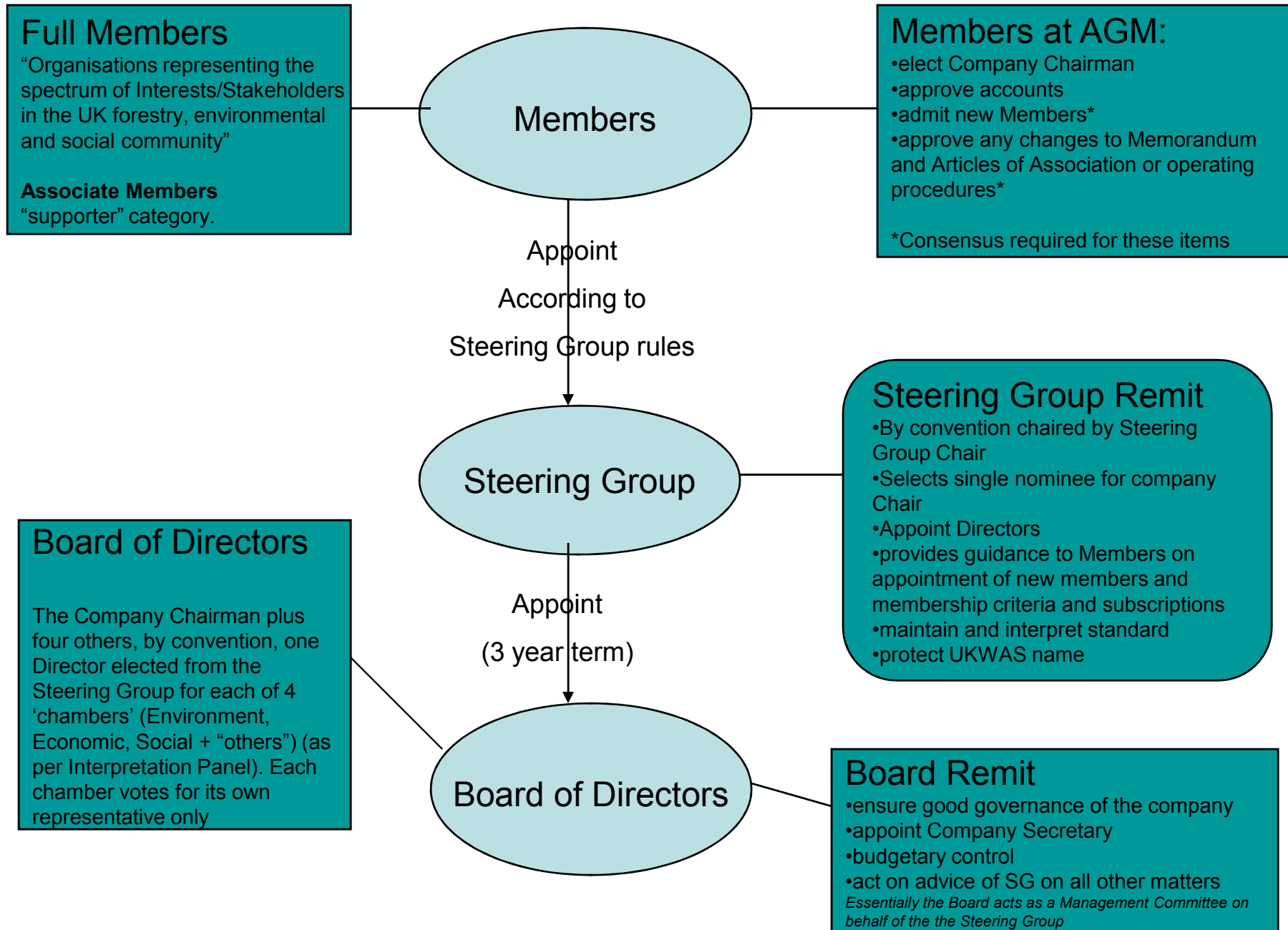
# UKWAS Process

- Independent body
- Standard setting role, not a 'scheme'
- Inclusive and transparent process
- Balanced representation – economic, environmental & social
- Consensus required for all decisions.

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# Milestones

- UKWAS endorsed by FSC and launched in May 1999.
- UKWAS provides standard for PEFC UK scheme (2002).
- UKWAS company established to own and manage standard on behalf of UK forestry, environmental and social communities (2002).
- First UKWAS revision completed (2006).
- Small woodlands review completed (2008).
- UKWAS Revision 2009-11 process launched.

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# Relationship with FSC & PEFC

- Concordats agreed with FSC UK and PEFC UK in 2007 set out the roles of each body.
- UKWAS Steering Group provides the standard-setting function.
- FSC UK & PEFC UK undertake the other national level functions.

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# UKWAS Review 2009-11

Conforms with PEFC & FSC requirements

3 phases:

- **Phase 1(2009):** an **evidence gathering** phase including initial stakeholder consultation (60 days) to take place in May and June 2009
- **Phase 2 (2010):** a **main revision drafting** phase leading to a revision draft consultation (60 days) to take place December 2010 – January 2011
- **Phase 3 (2011):** a **conclusion phase** including a further revision and pre-approval draft consultation (30 days) to take place by end April 2011 prior to any further amendment and final submission to FSC UK and PEFC UK for approval by the end of July 2011.

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# UKWAS Review 2009-11

## Main issues:

- UK Forestry Standard revision (2010)
- Forest Practice Guidelines revisions (2010)
- New climate change requirements based on new UKFS / Guidelines
- Possibly new FSC Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship (2010)
- Users concerned with cost and bureaucracy.

# What has UKWAS delivered?

- Certification is a powerful communication tool
- 1.5 million ha certified by FSC to UKWAS – c.40% all UK woodland and c.70% of commercial woodland (2008).
- Forest management no longer a controversial issue in UK.
- Contribution to raising SFM standards.
- Access to SFM and CoC certification by FSC and PEFC.
- UK growers can supply timber processors with certified raw material.

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# International context

- UKWAS is only independent standard to be recognised by FSC
- UKWAS is only standard to be recognised by FSC and PEFC
- Greater flexibility in international markets.

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# Upsides & Downsides of UK Model

- A single UK certification standard
- Flexibility: not tied to any one certification scheme
- Fallback option to 'go it alone' if necessary
- Access to 2 global certification schemes: FSC & PEFC labels for UK forest products
- Option of dual FSC-PEFC certification
- FSC system is very prescriptive so limiting scope for flexible approach
- UKWAS partnership 'blamed' for all certification process issues.

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# Can TOSIA help?

UKWAS standard requires:

- ‘management planning documentation’
- evidence that woodland management takes full account of environmental, social & economic impacts
- a rationale for management prescriptions
- a rationale for operational techniques.

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# Can TOSIA help?

In principle – yes!

In reality – up to you guys!

It must take account of key issues:

- Scale of management
- Costs for small-medium owners
- Ease of use.

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# Can TOSIA help?

Keys to success:

- Remember, it is a tool for practitioners not for academics
- So involve real, practical forest managers at the heart of the process
- Test it in real life as you go
- Continually challenge whether what you are doing is relevant and practicable to the forest managers.

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**GOOD LUCK,  
GUYS!**

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Further information on [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk)

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