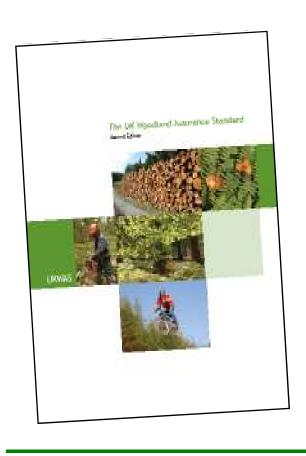
# Promoting SFM through Certification Standards

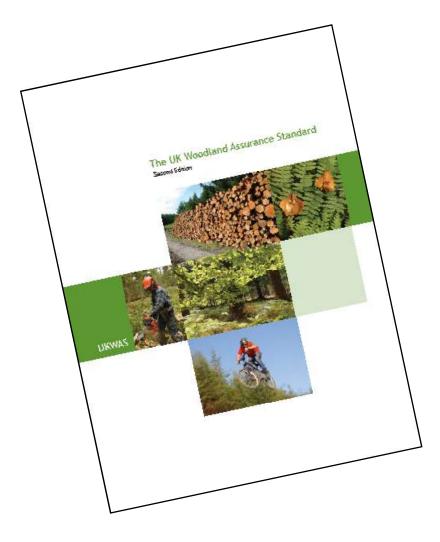
-UK Experience-



# Peter Wilson Executive Chairman

UK Woodland Assurance Standard partnership

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 



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

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### 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).

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### **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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### **UKWAS** Process

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

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### Members at AGM: **Full Members** •elect Company Chairman "Organisations representing the spectrum of Interests/Stakeholders approve accounts in the UK forestry, environmental Members admit new Members\* approve any changes to Memorandum and social community" and Articles of Association or operating **Associate Members** procedures\* "supporter" category. \*Consensus required for these items Appoint According to Steering Group rules **Steering Group Remit** •By convention chaired by Steering **Group Chair Steering Group** Selects single nominee for company Chair Appoint Directors **Board of Directors** •provides guidance to Members on appointment of new members and Appoint membership criteria and subscriptions The Company Chairman plus maintain and interpret standard four others, by convention, one (3 year term) protect UKWAS name Director elected from the Steering Group for each of 4 'chambers' (Environment, Economic, Social + "others") (as per Interpretation Panel). Each **Board Remit Board of Directors** chamber votes for its own ensure good governance of the company representative only appoint Company Secretary budgetary control act on advice of SG on all other matters Essentially the Board acts as a Management Committee on

behalf of the the Steering Group

#### 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 2009-11process launched.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

## 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### 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 preapproval 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

#### 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

### **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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

# 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

## 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

# 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.

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

# GOOD LUCK, GUYS!

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard** 

Further information on <a href="https://www.ukwas.org.uk">www.ukwas.org.uk</a>

**United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard**