

A valuable resource for the people of Scotland

- Scotland has 17% forest cover compared to a UK average of 11% and a EU25 average of 36%.
- Scotland's forest industries have played a key role in developing a sustainability strategy for the forestry sector – Naturally Wood – which has earned the support of environmental NGOs such as WWF and the Woodland Trust.
- The annual aggregate value of the social and environmental benefits provided by Scotland's forests is estimated at over £100 million per year.
- Scotland's forests provide multiple benefits. As well as supporting a valuable downstream industry, timber sales pay for many of the recreational and environmental outputs of forestry.
- Forestry-related jobs are particularly significant in remote and fragile rural areas where employment opportunities are limited; these jobs are essential to the prosperity of the communities they help to support.
- The continued growth in the harvest of Scottish timber has stimulated massive investment - now averaging £120m per year - to create today's modern industries.
- Scotland's contribution to the UK's wood needs has doubled over the past 20 years in the face of stiff international competition.

About ConFor

The Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor) is the voice of the UK's forest industries. We represent almost 2,000 members from all parts of the timber supply chain, including growers, woodland managers, suppliers, contractors, harvesters, primary and secondary processors and students.

Further information can be found on the ConFor website at: www.confor.org.uk.

To contact us directly, please call our head office on 0131 524 8080, write to us at

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ConFor
Confederation of Forest Industries

Our forest industry

an opportunity for Scotland

- **Combating Climate Change**
- **Stimulating Investment and Jobs**
- **Promoting Biodiversity and Access**



Scotland's forest industries provide a unique opportunity to fight climate change and deliver economic growth.

www.confor.org.uk/sustainableforestry

Combating Climate Change

Sequestration

Scotland's history of tree planting is now offsetting approximately 8% of our carbon emissions.

Action: Increased planting, in particular of faster growing species, will continue to provide a significant climate change benefit and feed continued expansion of the industry.

Renewable energy

Generating heat from wood reduces emissions, helps tackle rural fuel poverty and promotes jobs - up to 10 times that for other renewable energies.

Action: A five year programme of capital funding is needed to turn potential into reality.

Substitution

Wood is a low energy, renewable material. Every cubic metre of wood used to substitute for other building materials reduces CO₂ emissions by 0.8 tonne.

Action: Promote the use of wood in construction.

Stimulating investment and jobs

Our sector contributes nearly £1billion a year to the Scottish economy. It provides 19,000 direct jobs and a further 12,000 are reliant on it.

The sector is expanding: investment of £400 million announced in recent years and growth in Gross Value Added (GVA) of 39% in eight years.

Growth in the sector is strongly linked to the increased availability of wood from Scotland's forests and increasing demand for a carbon-lean and renewable material with an amazing variety of every-day uses.

The Executive's Strategic Timber Transport Fund has been key to unlocking potential supplies of wood.

Action: It is vital for the continuing benefits of forestry to be realised that increased new planting takes place and there is continued support for the sustainable transport of wood.

Promoting biodiversity and public access

Scotland is a world leader in responsible forest management.

All harvesting of wood is carried out in accordance with the Scottish Executive's detailed standards for forest management. The overwhelming majority is independently certified against an international environmental standard endorsed by organisations, such as WWF and RSPB.

The sector is in the process of harvesting forests planted in the mid- to late-20th Century which are predominantly comprised of single species and provide limited open space for recreational access and biodiversity.

The restructuring of these forests is carried out in partnership with the Forestry Commission to provide a richer diversity of species and opportunities for public access.

Action: Ongoing public funding is needed to ensure that this important work can continue.

Act now to combat climate change and deliver sustainable economic growth

