



COFORD report 2012-2013

COFORD report 2012-2013

The Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD) is an advisory body to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). The role of the Council is to advise the Department on matters related to forest research, and to advise on and support the development of the forest sector in Ireland.

The current Council was appointed by the Department at the end of 2011 to serve for a 3 year term, which expires at the end of 2014.

Chairman's statement

I am pleased to issue this report of the Council's activities.

COFORD is the one group that brings together all facets of the forest sector on the island of Ireland to work in partnership with government and public bodies to develop the sector. The forest sector is growing and increasing in importance in the economy and in its contribution to wider society. Its value to the economy in 2012 was almost €2.3 billion. Forests also provide recreation space for a growing number of urban dwellers and of course they play an important role in tackling climate change.

Our main focus has been around advising and working with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the development of a new national forest research strategy, which was submitted at the end of 2013. The strategy identifies a range of forest research topics to support the sustainable development of the sector over a 5 year period. The Council also established development groups to work with government and agencies on land availability for forestry, wood mobilisation and forest management planning. An update on each of these important activities is provided in the report.

We also updated the Council's *Forestry 2030* papers, which summarise the latest information and science on important aspects of the forest sector. These will be issued in 2014.

I want to thank the COFORD Council who have all made a significant time commitment to progressing our work, and to the officials of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and other agencies for their continuing input.

Council membership

Michael Lynn	Woodfab Timber Ltd, Chairman
Niall Coulston	Enterprise Ireland
Seamus Dunne	Forest Service, DAFM
Michael Fleming	IFA
Mike Glennon	Glennon Brothers Ltd
Dr Eugene Hendrick	Forest Sector Development/COFORD DAFM
Richard Howell	Research, Food & CODEX Co-ordination DAFM
John McCarthy	None-so-Hardy Nurseries Ltd
Gerard Murphy	Coillte
Dr Nuala Ní Fhlatharta	Teagasc
John Joe O'Boyle	Northern Ireland Forest Service
John Phelan	Woodland Managers Limited
Fred Tottenham	Irish BioEnergy Association (IrBEA)
Donal Whelan	Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA)

Secretariat and DAFM contact

Orla Cashen	Forest Sector Development/COFORD DAFM (Secretary)
Tom McDonald	Research, Food & CODEX Co-ordination DAFM

National Strategic Research Agenda for the forest sector

At its February 2012 meeting, the Council undertook to develop a new national forest strategy, in collaboration with Research and Codex Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Terms of reference

To develop a National Strategic Research Agenda for the forest sector for the period 2013-2017, in order to:

- deliver, from State investment in forestry research, sustainable economic return from the sector through enterprise development, growth of sustainable employment and improved competitiveness,
- ensure protection of our natural capital and address binding environmental requirements for climate change, water and other natural resource management, with reference to: current national and EU forest policy, legislative, market and external environmental drivers, previous national and EU forest policy initiatives, previous and current COFORD and other forestry research programmes, the work of the Forest Policy Review Group, Food Harvest 2020, the National Research Prioritisation Report and other relevant policies.

The group has completed its work and the publication of its report is imminent.

Membership

John Phelan	Woodland Managers Ltd, Chair
Pearse Buckley	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
Jhan Crane	Forest Service, DAFM
Dr John Cross	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Niall Coulston	Enterprise Ireland
Seamus Dunne	Forest Service, DAFM
Dr Nuala Ní Fhlatharta	Teagasc
Sandy Greig	Sandwood Enterprise
Dr Eugene Hendrick	Forest Service, DAFM
Dr Ruth Little	Environmental Protection Agency
Tom McDonald	Forest Service, DAFM
Jim McNamara	Irish Timber Council (nominee)
Gerard Murphy	Coillte
Prof Maarten Nieuwenhuis	University College, Dublin
John Joe O'Boyle	Forest Service, DARD NI
Donal Whelan	Irish Timber Growers Association

Secretariat

Dale Crammond,	DAFM – Research DAFM
Carol Howard	DAFM – Research DAFM
Tom McDonald	Research DAFM

Priority areas for forest sector development

Three priority issues were identified by the Council in February 2012: the afforestation programme, forest management planning, and mobilisation of roundwood. Council Working Groups, chaired by Council members, were established to address the issues identified.

Forest management planning

Terms of reference

- Devise and implement a national system of forest management planning for forests, in order to facilitate best practice, efficient and cost effective management and use of the national forest resource both state and privately owned with due reference to the Report of the Forest Policy Review Group
- Enable forest management plans to be used for production forecasting and reporting purposes in conjunction with the National Forest Inventory and other national models and systems
- Contribute to establishing a felling licence system, which would provide for increased efficiencies in harvest planning, reporting and regulation
- Support voluntary forest certification
- Facilitate electronic submission of felling licence applications and forest management plans.

Membership

Dr Eugene Hendrick	Forest Service, DAFM, Chair
Frank Barrett	Forest Service, DAFM
John Casey	Teagasc
Noel Heffernan	Forest Service, DAFM
Myles McDonagh	Coillte
Fergus Moore	Forest Service, DAFM
John Joe O'Boyle	Northern Ireland Forest Service
Geraldine O'Sullivan	IFA
John Phelan	Woodland Managers Ltd
Donal Whelan	ITGA

Secretariat

Forest Service	DAFM
----------------	------

The group signed off a draft forest management plan template in late 2013. The template was undergoing field testing at year end. Consultations with practitioners will begin when the template is at a more advanced stage. Software specifications and work plans to enable management plans to be electronically submitted and viewed by the owner were largely completed at year end. It is anticipated the new forest management planning system will be operational by the end of 2014. The group concluded that the production forecasting element of the work would have to be further considered, given the level of system design and programming potentially involved.

Land availability

Terms of reference

- Identify and document, in view of Government and EU and legislation policy, the area of land suitable for afforestation, taking into account the work of the Forest Policy Review Group, research and any other

information

- Identify and quantify the productivity thresholds and environmental designations and planning issues as they impact on land availability for afforestation, taking into account species considerations
- Identify other factors such as procedural, socio-economic and policy measures, taking into account the work of the FPRG, the Malone Report and research
- Include a stakeholders consultation process
- Make recommendation on ways to ensure achievement of afforestation goals.

Membership

Dr Nuala Ní Fhlatharta	Teagasc, Chair
Mr Paddy Bruton	Forestry Services Ltd, Forest Companies Representative
Dr Michael Carey	Irish Timber Growers Association
Mr Peter Carvill	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Dr Catriona Douglas	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Mr Seamus Dunne	Forest Service, DAFM
Dr Niall Farrelly	Teagasc
Mr Michael Fleming	Irish Farmers Association
Dr Gerhardt Gallagher	Society of Irish Foresters
Mr Donal Keegan	Forest Service, DAFM
Mr Liam Kelly	Teagasc
Mr John McCarthy	None So Hardy Nurseries
Mr. John O'Reilly	Greenbelt Ltd.
Ms Geraldine O'Sullivan	Irish Farmers Association
Mr John Roche	The Forestry Company Ltd.
Dr Deirdre Tierney	Environmental Protection Agency

Secretariat

Emer Eagle Teagasc

Since its establishment the group met on 19 occasions, including a workshop on issues around land availability and constraints and a field visit to sites in Co Kerry. Work on the identification of a range of issues including the physical land resource and site quality, environmental constraints, socio-economic and procedural issues has been largely completed. A final report, including recommendations is in preparation.

Mobilising wood supply and roundwood production forecasting

Terms of reference

- To identify and make recommendations on issues impacting on access to and mobilisation of wood resources at the national level, taking into account cost effectiveness and related issues, with due reference to the work of the Forest Policy Review Group, and relevant reports
- Further understand and assess ways to address projected shortfalls in wood fibre supply on the island
- Update information on wood harvest v forecast contained in Table 1 of the COFORD *All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011-2028*.

Membership

Mike Glennon	Glennon Brothers Ltd, Chair
Owen Cooney	Irish Timber Growers Association
Niall Coulston	Enterprise Ireland
Michael Fairgrieve	Northern Ireland Forest Service
Dr Eugene Hendrick	Forest Service, DAFM
Noel Kennedy	Teagasc
Richard Latimer	Irish Timber Council
Myles McDonagh	Coillte

The group met on seven occasions. A series of ad hoc meetings related to wood harvest compared with forecast (Table 1 of the COFORD *All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011-2028*) were held, and the Table is now updated to the end of 2012. A structured questionnaire on issues in wood mobilisation was sent to forest sector representative groups. Consultations have also taken place with the Forest Industry Transport Group and the Irish Forestry and Forest Products Association who are dealing with similar issues. The report is expected to be issued by the end of September 2014.

Forestry 2030 papers – updating

In addition to the three development groups the Council is updating its *Forestry 2030* policy papers on the following:

- Irish Forestry and the Economy*
- Irish Forests and Climate change*
- Irish Forests and Renewable Energy*
- Irish Forests and Biodiversity*
- Irish Forests and Recreation*

The work is being led by Donal Whelan (ITGA) in collaboration with council members and experts. The papers are due to be issued in July 2014.

Other matters considered by the Council

- Forestry Bill;
- Planning permission for forest entrances;
- Forest genetic resources;
- Wood product specification and advice.

COFORD Publications

A Guide to the Valuation of Commercial Forest Plantations by Henry Phillips, Daragh Little, Tom McDonald and John Phelan.

COFORD Connects Notes

Reproductive Material

No. 19 Use of exponential nitrogen loading in the nursery to promote nutrient uptake and quality of pedunculate oak seedlings

No. 20 Identifying and characterising hybrid ‘brown bud’ ash in Ireland.

Silviculture and Forest Management

No. 20 Dynamic Yield Models used in Irish forestry

No. 21 Nursing of oak in Ireland

Harvesting, Transport and Forest Machinery

No 28 Establishment of Short Rotation Coppice seen from a harvesting point of view

No 29 Harvesting of Short Rotation Coppice Willow

No 30 Storage of Short Rotation Coppice Willow fuel

Wood Processing and Product Development

No 17 Gasifier type firewood fuelled boilers (revised in 2012)

No 25 Handling and using wood fuels in a safe manner with regard to Carbon Monoxide (CO)

No 26 Woodflow and biomass use on the island of Ireland 2009

No 27 Woodflow and biomass use on the island of Ireland 2010

Forestry and the Environment

No 12 Suspended solid yield from forest harvesting on an upland blanket peat

No 13 Phosphorus release from forest harvesting on an upland blanket peat

No 14 A new vision of forest monitoring in Ireland and Europe – the FutMon

COFORD publications, including Coford Connects Notes issued in 2012-2013, can be accessed at www.coford.ie



COFORD Council 2011-2014

L to r sitting: Dr Nuala Ní Fhlatharta (Teagasc), Michael Lynn (Chairman), Niall Coulston (Enterprise Ireland),
 Seamus Dunne (Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine),
 Fred Tottenham (Irish BioEnergy Association)

L to r standing: Donal Whelan (Irish Timber Growers Association), John McCarthy (None-so-Hardy Nurseries Ltd),
 Dr Eugene Hendrick (COFORD Secretariat, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine),
 John Phelan (Woodland Managers Limited), Mike Fleming (IFA), John Joe O'Boyle (Northern Ireland Forest Service)

Members not in photo:
 Mike Glennon (Glennon Brothers Ltd),
 Richard Howell (Research, Food & CODEX Co-ordination, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine),
 Gerard Murphy (Coillte).

