

# Woods for Nature

## FCS Biodiversity Programme

### Progress Report 2010/11

## Woods for Nature Progress Report 2010-11

This report summarises the progress we made in implementing our Biodiversity Programme during 2010-2011. The programme was published in August 2008 and it included a commitment for Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) to publish an annual report on progress.

A summary of quantitative progress measures is set out in Table 1. The items in red also contribute to Scottish Forestry Strategy indicators for biodiversity. Table 2 contains a summary of our action in 2010/11 for each activity in the Programme.

Over the three years of the Programme delivery has been substantial across the range of activities in the Programme: 39 activities have shown good progress, with 2 reporting limited progress and 1 no longer relevant.

We have published a refreshed programme of action for the Programme up to March 2014 on our website ([link](#))

**Table 1 Summary of key progress measures for 2010/11**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Progress measures</b>
<i>Improve condition of designated sites</i>	<p><b>1. Percentage of designated woodland features which are favourable or unfavourable recovering at 31/3/11 was 67%.</b></p> <p><b>2. On the National Forest Estate (NFE) 97% of all designated features were favourable or recovering at 31/3/11</b></p> <p><b>3. During 2010/11 at least 744 ha of designated open or aquatic habitats were improved by management on the NFE and a further 24 ha were restored to open ground by felling trees.</b></p>
<i>Lead the delivery of targets for native woodland habitats</i>	<p><b>Targets progress 2010/11:</b></p> <p><b>a. Native woodlands put into management to improve condition,</b>  <b>Total = 7424 ha (annual target 6000 ha)</b>  <i>Cumulative progress from 2005/6= 19.6kha (59.4% of target)</i></p> <p><b>b. Non-native Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) put into full restoration to native woodland</b>  <b>Total = 290 ha (annual target 1000 ha)</b>  <i>Cumulative progress from 2005/6= 3.3kha (60.0% of target)</i></p> <p><b>c. Expansion of native woods</b>  <b>Total = 3386ha (annual target 4500 ha)</b>  <i>Cumulative progress from 2005/6= 13.9kha (56.7% of target)</i></p>



<p>Maintain and enhance remnant features on ancient woodland sites</p>	<p><b>Area of PAWS under assured long term management: total area at 31/03/11 was 37,871 ha. (an increase of 2371ha during the year).</b> This is 64% of the total PAWS area.</p>
<p>Enhance or restore priority open and wood pasture habitats</p>	<p><b>Areas of work on NFE to restore or improve open habitats 274 ha. (in addition to 768ha for designated sites)</b> <b>Grant support for creating open habitat: 29ha paid.</b></p>
<p>Action for key species in Scottish woodlands</p>	<p><b>Capercaillie</b> <b>Action on the NFE.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Predator control: 10539 ha</i></li> <li>• <i>Habitat improvement: 2995ha</i></li> <li>• <i>Broadleaved planting to enhance habitat: 70ha</i></li> <li>• <i>Lek counts: 40 leks, 63 cocks.</i></li> <li>• <i>Species monitoring programme underway</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Black grouse</b> <b>Action on the NFE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Predator control: 10, 000ha (plus work on 10,359 ha of capercaillie areas above)</i></li> <li>• <i>Habitat improvement: 4546 ha; plus cutting vegetation strips over 7km length for breeding habitat.</i></li> <li>• <i>Blocking drains for breeding habitat over 22.3km</i></li> <li>• <i>Fence removal: 14, 270m</i></li> <li>• <i>Lek counts: 106 leks, 309 cocks</i></li> <li>• <i>Species monitoring programme underway</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Red squirrel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Grants for grey squirrel control to help red squirrels: £285k approved and £151k paid.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Action on the NFE:</b></p>

- *Grey squirrel culling and monitoring carried out over 60,674ha: 3.6 FTE staff employed*
- *Pre-operational drey checks at all sites with red squirrels present.*

#### **Pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly**

##### *Action on the NFE*

- *Habitat improvement 17ha*
- *Population monitoring carried out in 5 forests*

#### **Chequered skipper butterfly**

##### *Action on the NFE*

- *Habitat improvement 59ha*
- *Population monitoring carried out in 4 forests*

#### **Juniper**

##### *Action on the NFE*

- *From 2013/14 the cuttings hedges formed from Scottish collections should be capable of supplying all needs on the national forest estate using local origin material*
- *Juniper monitoring programme is now well underway*

#### **Grant support for enhancing priority species and habitats**

**Grants were paid for 88ha under the RP Woodland Improvement Grant option**



Promote deer management in private woodlands	<b>Woodland areas supported by deer management planning grants area paid =88,778ha (slightly less than in 2009/10)</b>
<i>Promote biodiversity enhancements for planted conifer and mixed woods</i>	<p>1. <b>Restructuring grants for restocking with species other than Sitka spruce: 957ha paid under Rural Priorities, (including over 200ha of native species). Restructuring felling support totalled 2261ha paid.</b></p> <p>2. <b>Low impact silvicultural systems (LISS) grants were paid for 453ha</b> <b>The area of woodland on the NFE which is managed using these systems as an alternative to clearfelling reached 80,806ha during the year.</b></p> <p>3. <b>Long-term forest plans funding was paid in the year for 6601ha of additional areas, and schemes for a further 31,816 ha were approved</b></p>
<i>Control of invasive non-native species</i>	<b>Grants were approved for rhododendron control for 354ha and a value of £590k</b>
<i>Complete 2/3 of the fieldwork for the Native Woodlands Survey of Scotland by 2011</i>	<b>Total area surveyed had reached 60% of the overall total required and the area surveyed in year was 184kha</b>
<i>Information reporting our biodiversity action</i>	<p><b>Overall FES spend 10/11:</b></p> <p><b>Income £0.10m (£0.27m 09/10)</b></p> <p><b>Expenditure £5.97m (£4.65m 09/10)</b></p> <p><b>Net: £5.87m (£4.38m 09/10).</b></p> <p><b>Total spend was split as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Designated sites native woods £0.80m (£0.44M)</b></li> <li>• <b>Designated sites other £0.47m (£0.23m)</b></li> <li>• <b>Priority habitats native woods £1.84m (£1.03m)</b></li> <li>• <b>Priority habitats open £ 0.64m (£0.35m)</b></li> <li>• <b>FCS Bio Prog species £0.76m (£0.71m)</b></li> <li>• <b>Other UKBAP species £0.50m (£0.35m)</b></li> <li>• <b>Other biodiversity £0.97m (£1.5m.)</b></li> </ul>

**Table 2: Progress for each activity in 2010/11**

Actions in bold italics contribute to the quantitative measures in Table 1. And those in red contribute to SFS indicators  
**Progress colour code:** green = good progress; yellow = some progress but limited in one or more aspects; red = no progress; grey = no longer required.

Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<b>Objective 1: Help to halt the loss of biodiversity and reverse previous losses through targeted action for Species and Habitats</b>		
<i>Lead implementation of the Scottish Protected Woodlands Programme to improve the condition of designated woodland sites</i>	<p><b>1. Percentage of designated woodland features which are favourable or unfavourable recovering at 31/3/11 was 67%.</b> This represents a slight decline from 2009/10 as some sites have been reclassified downwards by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in their condition monitoring.</p> <p>2. FCS has continued to promote management to improve condition of unfavourable sites through 2010/11 working with SNH. By the end of the year 29 sites were classed as recovering through management that is underway. Advice has been given to managers and owners of other sites, and FCS and SNH are reviewing further action required to secure suitable management in these cases.</p> <p><b>3. On the NFE 97% of all designated features were favourable or recovering.</b></p>	
<i>Work with SNH to</i>	1. During 2010/11 at least 744 ha of designated open or aquatic habitats were improved	

Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>prevent or reverse damage caused by woodland to non-woodland designated sites</i>	<p>by management on the NFE and a further 24 ha were restored to open ground by felling trees. Most of this was made up of raised or blanket bogs and upland heath, but a range of other lowland habitats were included as well.</p> <p>2. Scientific work to identify priority areas for removal of forest edges in the Flow Country was concluded and guidance developed for woodland owners.</p>	
<i>Lead the delivery of targets for Scotland's native woodland habitats</i>	<p><b>1. Targets progress 2010/11</b></p> <p><b>a. Native woodlands put into management to improve condition,</b> <b>Total = 7424 ha (annual target 6000 ha)</b> -FES 1464 ha -grant support 5960 ha</p> <p><b>b. Non-native PAWS put into full restoration to native woodland</b></p> <p><b>Total = 290 ha (annual target 1000 ha)</b> -FES 121 -grant support: 169ha</p> <p><b>c. Expansion of native woods</b> <b>Total = 3386ha (annual target 4500 ha)</b> -FES 361 ha -grant support 3025 ha*</p> <p><i>*This includes new native woods totalling 2856ha under various grant schemes; and</i></p>	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
	<p><i>also a proportion of native species restocking in these schemes that are assumed to be conversion to native woods from non-native woods</i></p>	
<p><i>Promote or carry out management of ancient woodland sites to maintain and enhance their remnant features</i></p>	<p><b>Area of PAWS under assured long term management: total area at 31/03/11 was 37,871 ha.</b> This reflects an increase in area under long-term forest plans of 2371ha during the year. A total of 64% of the total PAWS area is now under plans.</p>	
<p><i>Take opportunities to enhance or restore priority open and wood pasture habitats, and publish proposals for the NFE</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Grant support for creating open habitat: 29ha paid.</b></li> <li>2. On the NFE, <b>at least 274 ha. were managed to improve condition of undesignated UKBAP priority habitats during 2010/11.</b> (Other areas improved/restored were in designated sites: see above).</li> <li>3. A total of 19,070ha of open ground was surveyed on the NFE to identify and map priority habitats and their vegetation communities. The NFE includes over 30% of open ground, so it contributes a very important part of the biodiversity value of the estate.</li> <li>4. Draft guidance for managing and restoring open habitats on the NFE was prepared.</li> <li>5. FCS published an interim policy of not supporting new woodland planting on areas with peat over 50cm. average depth.</li> </ol>	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
	<p>6. We published ancient wood pasture guidance, linked to relevant Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) grants information.</p>	
<p><i>Develop and implement programmes of action for six key species in Scottish woodlands, to identify the actions we will take</i></p>	<p>Monitoring plans are now in place for 5 of the 6 key species for the NFE. Red squirrel will follow in 2011/12.</p> <p><b>1. Capercaillie</b></p> <p><b>Action for capercaillie on NFE.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Predator control: 10539 ha</b></li> <li>• <b>Habitat improvement: 2995ha</b></li> <li>• <b>Broadleaved planting to enhance habitat: 70ha</b></li> <li>• <b>Lek counts: 40 leks, 63 cocks.</b></li> </ul> <p><i>In addition forestry operations were planned to avoid disturbance to capercaillie leks over 25,000ha in 15 forests.</i></p> <p><b>A species monitoring programme is underway on the NFE</b></p> <p><b>2. Black grouse</b></p> <p>Approvals for Rural Priorities schemes expecting to benefit black grouse were at high levels in both moorland and woodlands. Woodland work related mainly to woodland creation.</p> <p><b>Action for black grouse on NFE</b></p>	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Predator control: 10, 000ha (plus work on 10,359 ha of capercaillie areas above)</i></li> <li>• <i>Habitat improvement: 4546 ha; plus cutting vegetation strips over 7km length for breeding habitat.</i></li> <li>• <i>Blocking drains for breeding habitat over 22.3km</i></li> <li>• <i>Fence removal: 14, 270m</i></li> <li>• <i>Lek counts: 106 leks, 309 cocks</i></li> <li>• <i>A species monitoring programme was developed and is now underway on the NFE</i></li> </ul> <p>The black grouse trial management areas project concluded with reports on habitat changes and trends on black grouse in the 2 trial areas in Galloway and Fort Augustus. After 4 years since work started, monitoring showed a positive response to habitat management in Galloway and no significant change in Fort Augustus. Further monitoring is underway.</p> <p><b>3. Red squirrels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft management guidance for red squirrel stronghold sites was developed by a steering group of stakeholders led by FCS.</li> <li>• <b>Grants for grey squirrel control to help red squirrels: £285k approved and £151k paid.</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Action for red squirrels on NFE:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Grey squirrel culling and monitoring carried out over 60,674ha: 3.6 FTE staff employed</i></li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pre-operational drey checks at all sites with red squirrels present.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>4. Pearl bordered fritillary and chequered skipper butterflies</b></p> <p>FCS technical guidance on support using SRDP was updated. A new grant for woodland grazing was launched and this should help support favourable management for both these species.</p> <p>FCS, SNH and Butterfly Conservation continued to fund a project officer in 2010/11 to advise case officers, NFE staff and land managers on both species. Advice was given for 26 privately owned sites, including survey in some, and several are incorporating advice into management plans and/or SRDP applications. Survey methods and coverage were developed for both species. 25 days of advice, survey and training was delivered to NFE staff.</p> <p><b>Action for pearl bordered fritillary on NFE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Habitat improvement 17ha</i></li> <li>• <i>Population monitoring carried out in 5 forests</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Action for chequered skipper on NFE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Habitat improvement 59ha</i></li> <li>• <i>Population monitoring carried out in 4 forests</i></li> </ul> <p><b>5. Juniper</b></p>	



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	<p>A programme of planting juniper seedlings in a Forestry Commission nursery for use in producing cuttings districts is progressing well. The seedlings are derived from seed collected by FCS staff in Scottish forests. The aim is to cover all seed zones and seed has now been collected from most of them to widen the selection of available seed zones in future. <b><i>From 2013/14 the cuttings hedges formed from Scottish collections should be capable of supplying all needs on the national forest estate using local origin material</i></b> (currently expected to be 28k plants per annum).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>A juniper monitoring programme is now well underway on the NFE.</i></b></li> </ul>	
<p><i>Work with Scottish Biodiversity Strategy partners to identify how to cater for other priority species within woodland habitats and through wider land use policy</i></p>	<p>1. We worked with SNH, Forest Research and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's Woodland Ecosystem Group to develop web based guidance which related priority species to their habitats and advises on habitat management needs, for the 169 UK priority woodland species found in Scotland. The advice links to the structural and ecosystem types used in woodland inventories (the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland and National Forest Inventory)</p> <p>2. We funded Plantlife to carry out a 1 year project to increase awareness and recognition of rare plant species and how to accommodate them in forest planning and grant applications aimed at forestry agents and managers.</p> <p><b><i>3. Grants were paid for 88ha under the Rural Priorities Woodland Improvement Grant option for Woodland Habitats and Species</i></b></p>	
<p><i>Work with FR to implement and refine</i></p>	<p>An enhanced version of the Habitats and Rare Priority and Protected Species (HaRPPS) decision support system was developed and is now being moved to and tested on a new</p>	

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<i>the HARPPS decision support system</i>	server.	
<i>Help enhance recording of information on the distribution of species</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FCS environmental staff undertook a series of species-awareness and species and habitat recording training training days to enhance recognition and recording skills.</li> <li>2. FCS worked with the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) to develop a digital dataset for all records of rare and threatened vascular plants in the NFE. Similar initiatives are underway for other taxonomic groups. This will help our staff to plan forest operations to minimise impacts on rare species and take opportunities to enhance them.</li> <li>3. We worked with the BTO to promote more volunteers to record woodland birds as part of the Breeding Birds Survey.</li> </ol>	
<i>Promote and implement best practice for protected species</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We published a guidance note on white-tailed eagles and forestry to guide managers on how to protect this species for which there are specific disturbance, damage and harassment offences. We worked with SNH, RSPB and land managers organisations to develop the guidance.</li> <li>2. We ran 2 training and awareness days on protecting badgers during forest operations with SNH and the Scottish Badgers Group for FCS environmental staff and over 50 staff were trained.</li> </ol>	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>Work to help enhance information, awareness and protection of high biodiversity value woodland in the development planning system</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are working with local authorities as they prepare development plans and forests and woodlands strategies, to help them identify important woods.</li> <li>2. Native Woodlands Survey of Scotland (NWSS): We published a promotional article in a planners journal and planners have been amongst 61 people who attended formal NWSS training sessions run by FC.</li> <li>3. With input from Scottish Natural Heritage and Woodland Trust Scotland we developed and piloted a method to investigate changes and losses of ancient woodlands which have occurred between the 1980s and the present by comparing data from the Scottish Ancient Woodlands Inventory and the NWSS data. The analysis will be carried out from 2011/12 for each local authority area once NWSS reports have been published.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Objective 2</b> <b>Broader action for landscapes and habitats</b></p>		
<i>Work with others to promote opportunities for collaborative deer management under the SRDP</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Woodland areas supported by deer management planning grants area paid = 88,778ha</b> (71944 SFGS, 16834 ha in RP),</li> <li>2. We participated in developing the consultation draft of a code for the sustainable management of deer which is required under the new Wildlife and Natural Environment Act and is being led by SNH</li> </ol>	

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<i>Target our deer management effort on the national forest estate to reduce biodiversity impacts from deer</i>	Ongoing. Effort is focussed on reducing and maintaining background deer populations across the NFE at sustainable levels with specific focus on enhancing biodiversity in key native woodland areas such as Glen Affric.	
<i>Work with SNH and FR to develop and test decision support tools to help users develop forest habitat network plans</i>	We worked with SNH, FR, and Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT) in the Central Scotland Green Network area to develop integrated habitat network (IHN) opportunity maps for enhancing networks of woodland, wetland and some types of grassland. These IHNs complement more focussed network-building guidance for native woodlands, which will be refined with NWSS data.	
<i>Promote woodland expansion and restructuring to strengthen forest habitat networks through forest planning for private and NFE woods</i>	Ongoing.	
<i>Work with stakeholders to</i>	During 2010/11 we supported work by several local authorities to revise their woodland strategies, including Angus, Argyll and Bute, Ayrshire LAs, Dumfries and Galloway,	





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<i>embed FHN plans into Indicative Forestry Strategies, planning policy guidance and development plans</i>	Edinburgh and Lothians, Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Perth and Kinross. The guidance in our booklet 'The right tree in the right place' was the basis for our support.	
<i>Promote biodiversity enhancements for planted conifer and mixed woods</i>	<p><b>1. Restructuring grants for restocking with species other than Sitka spruce: 957ha paid under Rural Priorities, (including over 200ha of native species). Restructuring felling support totalled 2261ha paid.</b></p> <p><b>2. Low impact silvicultural systems (LISS) grants were paid for 453ha</b> <i>The area of woodland on the NFE which is managed using these systems as an alternative to clearfelling reached 80,806ha during the year.</i></p> <p><b>3. Long-term forest plans funding was paid in the year for 6601ha of additional areas, and schemes for a further 31,816 ha were approved</b></p>	
<i>Promote biodiversity planning according to published best practice in all types of new planting schemes</i>	Ongoing	
<i>Develop proposals for increasing the area of native species on the</i>	Done in 2009	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>national forest estate</i>		
<i>Develop guidance to enhance biodiversity in conifer plantations, urban woods and brownfield planting schemes</i>	<p>1. We developed guidance on diversifying conifer forests to help managers maintain productive woods whilst enhancing landscape, biodiversity and resilience to climate change, which will be launched following the new guidelines and UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) series in autumn 2011.</p> <p>2. Biodiversity considerations were incorporated into urban woodland design courses of which 2 were run in the year, 4 altogether, with a total of 70 people trained.</p>	
<i>Work with partners to tackle invasive non-native species affecting woodlands</i>	<p>1. Work has continued to control Rhododendron on the NFE especially on those designated sites where it was identified as a reason for unfavourable condition. FES collated information on rhododendron on the NFE and are developing a long term strategy for its control or eradication.</p> <p><b>2. Grants were approved for rhododendron control for 354ha and a value of £590k</b></p> <p>3. We helped develop the consultation draft of the Scottish Government code of practice and a framework for public bodies for dealing with invasive non-native species issues.</p>	
<i>Develop an exemplar regional project for rhododendron control in Argyll and Bute</i>	Promotion work continued in Argyll and also in Highland with dedicated project officers. Awareness has been raised but grant uptake has been slow for a number of reasons	
<i>Contribute on the NFE to</i>	1. We employed a total of 3.6 Full time equivalents in grey squirrel control efforts,	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>population control of grey squirrels in key areas to benefit red squirrel populations</i>	including culling and monitoring, mainly in South Scotland to help prevent the spread of squirrelpox virus.	
<i>Lead development of an exemplar forest landscape restoration project</i>	<p>1. We held a workshop meeting for a range of stakeholders in January 2011 which led to a wide Landscape scale ecological restoration initiative, ideally including all types of ecosystems. We co-ordinated work with partners to develop this, starting by collating information on native woodland restoration examples and developing cases studies in Scotland and India as part of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.</p> <p>2. Loch Katrine restoration project is progressing well and is a good example of large scale restoration of native woodland.</p>	
<i>Work with nurseries and collectors to enhance the supply of Scottish sourced planting stock</i>	<p>1. <b>Registration of seed stands:</b> 70 potential seed stands have been identified for native species on NFE. We developed a work plan to inspect and register these; registration requires survey work in 2011/12. Demand for native species planting stock on the NFE is increasing, so it is important to identify and develop suitable seed supplies.</p> <p><b>2. Grant support (Land Managers Options) for management or registration of seed stands: nil</b></p> <p>3. In view of ongoing shortages of Caledonian pine stock from most native pine seed zones we agreed a further year of flexibility in allowing greater transfer between pine seed zones other than for western refugia.</p>	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<p><b>Objective 3</b> <b>Increase awareness/public enjoyment of biodiversity</b></p>		
<p><i>Review with partner organisations our needs and capacity to help people enjoy the environmental aspects of woodlands and identify priorities for the future</i></p>	<p>We ran four courses demonstrating woodland biodiversity teaching resources for teachers and countryside rangers, based on a pilot event in 2009</p>	
<p><i>Promote active engagement in wildlife conservation tasks as part of voluntary work on the NFE</i></p>	<p>Local volunteers were involved in wildlife conservation and viewing projects, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntly Peregrine Wild Watch</li> <li>• Glentress Osprey Watch in association with Kailzie Gardens and RSPB</li> <li>• David Marshall Lodge Osprey Watch, in association with RSPB</li> <li>• Mull Eagle Watch, in association with RSPB, SNH, Strathclyde Police and Mull and Iona Community Trust (focus on white-tailed eagles)</li> <li>• Scottish Beaver Trial, in association with Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Seek opportunities to develop wildlife watching on the NFE</i></p>	<p>1. Work has continued to improve public access to the Scottish Beaver Trial in Argyll, with a new floating walkway giving views of a beaver dam. Extra interpretation has been installed.</p>	



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	<p>2. Access has been improved at the Garbh Eilean wildlife hide on Loch Sunart, with an enlarged car park, new signage and interpretation.</p> <p>3. A new hide has been installed at the Galloway Red Deer Range.</p> <p>4. New interpretation has been added at the Allt Mhuic butterfly reserve on Loch Arkaig, highlighting the rare chequered skipper.</p> <p>5. A self guided Red Squirrel Trail has been added to Devilla forest, complete with interactive interpretation and 'squirrel silhouettes' to look out for. And a new red squirrel viewing facility and feeding station has been installed in Glenrigh forest car park.</p>	On Track
<i>Review with partner organisations our provision for ecology and conservation issues within our Woods for Learning programme</i>	No longer required.	Not Started
<i>Help to develop</i>	1. FCS worked with partners to promote the International Year of Biodiversity - working	On Track



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>communications messages and campaigns to promote understanding of biodiversity amongst the public</i>	<p>to promote awareness and enjoyment of woodland biodiversity, using local events and a joint exhibit developed with SNH at the Royal Highland Show.</p> <p>2. Thirteen press releases on biodiversity subjects were issued in 2010/11.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 4</b> <b>Improve knowledge of biodiversity and integrate into decision- making</b></p>		
<i>Help produce and promote new UK Forests and Biodiversity guidelines and train our staff</i>	<p>All text was finalised, final publication was in November 2011.</p>	
<i>Publish advice on the implications of climate change for biodiversity policy and the role of native woodlands in mitigation and adaptation</i>	<p>1. We have included initial advice in the integrated diversification guidance we have developed for planted conifer forests (see above) in respect of native woodland areas and native species planted in them.</p> <p>2. Forest Research have published general advice on implications of climate change for adaptation of forest and forest ecosystems. Further needs will be reviewed with SNH and others.</p>	
<i>Help develop guidance for</i>	<p>Done in 2008/09.</p>	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>applicants to target SRDP measures to achieve the best biodiversity outcomes in woodlands</i>		
<i>Develop Forest District Biodiversity plans and enhance the assessment and recording of biodiversity features throughout the NFE</i>	Done in 2008/09	
<i>Publish a Woodland Grazing Toolkit to advise land managers</i>	Published with grant support. Launch and training in spring 2010. Initial uptake was slow but guidance has now been simplified.	
<i>Complete 2/3 of the fieldwork for the Native Woodlands Survey of Scotland by 2011 and publish initial reports</i>	<p><b>1. By March 2011 the area surveyed had reached 60% of the overall total required and the area surveyed in year was 184kha.</b> We faced considerable challenges from the severe winter weather in maintaining work for our surveyors who for a time were confined to small areas of islands such as Islay and Jura.</p> <p><b>2. We have now published reports for 13 local authority areas.</b> A formal Ministerial launch of the first set to be published was held in May 2010.</p>	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>Work to ensure that the next NIWT (= National Forest Inventory) project meets Scotland's needs, and that fieldwork is underway by 2009</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Method development was done in 2009/10. National Forest inventory field work was well underway during 2010/11, although with early emphasis on sampling for the new Production Forecast.</li> <li>2. FCS are seeking to ensure synergies with the NWSS project</li> </ol>	
<i>Review and influence FC funded biodiversity research programmes to meet Scotland's needs</i>	FCS has continued to influence priorities for funding of FR biodiversity research through Programme Advisory Groups.	
<i>Promote new research on climate change and biodiversity, converting plantations to native woods and landscape scale indicators</i>	Relevant research is partially underway: further needs will be assessed in 2011/12.	
<i>Develop and report a suite of Scottish</i>	1. Indicator suite was developed in 08/09 and is reported each year as part of the Scottish Forestry Strategy implementation plan.	





Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>indicators for woodland biodiversity</i>	2. In 2010/11 we helped to develop a baseline indicator for high nature value farming and forestry to meet obligations to monitor the impact of the Rural Development Regulation.	
<i>Improve information systems for reporting our biodiversity action</i>	<p><b>Overall FES spend 10/11:</b>  <b>Income £0.10m (£0.27m 09/10)</b>  <b>Expenditure £5.97m (£4.65m 09/10)</b>  <b>Net: £5.87m (£4.38m 09/10).</b></p> <p><b>Total spend was split as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Designated sites native woods £0.80m (£0.44M)</b></li> <li>• <b>Designated sites other £0.47m (£0.23m)</b></li> <li>• <b>Priority habitats native woods £1.84m (£1.03m)</b></li> <li>• <b>Priority habitats open £ 0.64m (£0.35m)</b></li> <li>• <b>FCS Bio Prog species £0.76m (£0.71m)</b></li> <li>• <b>Other UKBAP species £0.50m (£0.35m)</b></li> <li>• <b>Other biodiversity £0.97m (£1.5m.)</b></li> </ul>	
<i>Enhance our guidance on management planning and survey and monitoring</i>	<p>Guidance on survey methods for open habitats was developed for the NFE and published on the intranet. It is used to assess land acquisitions to evaluate plantable areas.</p> <p>Over 19,000ha of open ground were surveyed on contract; earlier survey data for 40,000</p>	



Programme Activity	Actions in 2010/11	Progress rating
<i>methods and implement on the National Forest Estate</i>	ha were digitised and included in the sub-compartment database.	