



Irish Timber Growers
Association

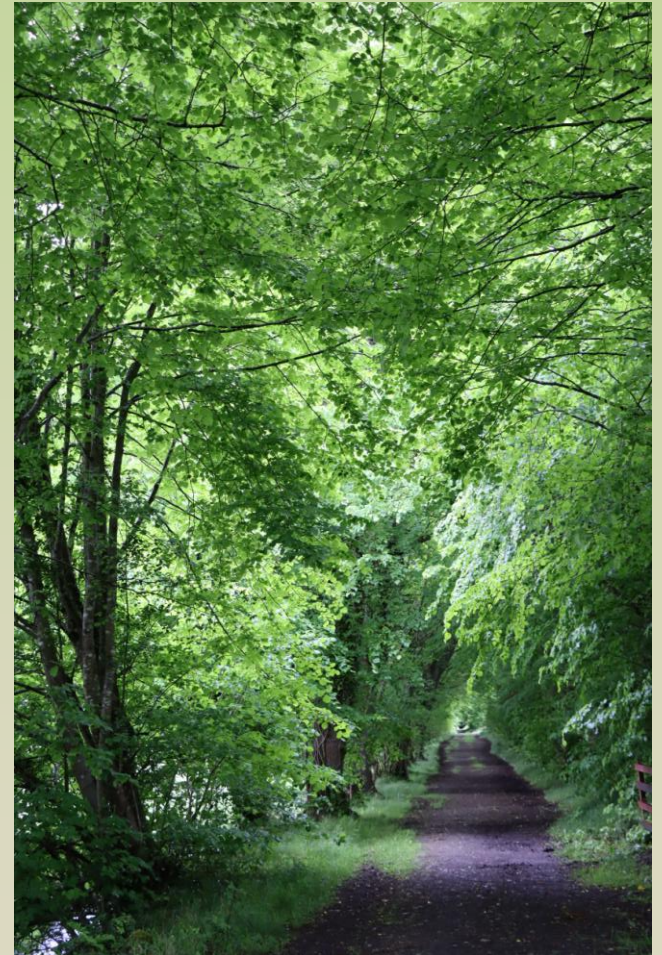
Non-Wood Forestry: Who benefits? Who pays?

Donal Whelan

Ecosystem Services: Balancing benefits with payments
- Role of Certification

Focus of presentation

- Ecosystems Services and new EU Forest Strategy
- Role of Certification
- Future structures required



New EU Forest Strategy

Aims

- promoting **sustainable forest management (SFM)**;
- providing **financial incentives** for forest owners and managers to adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as those linked to **carbon storage and sequestration**;
- promoting **alternative forest industries**, such as ecotourism, as well as non-wood products, such as cork, honey and medicinal plants;
- providing **education and training** for people working in forest-based industries and making these industries more attractive to young people;

New EU Forest Strategy

- ‘recognises the central and **multi-functional role** of forests, and the contribution of foresters and the entire forest-based value chain for achieving by 2050 a sustainable and climate-neutral economy’
- ‘the **most important role** of wood products is to help turn the construction sector from a source of greenhouse gas emissions into a carbon sink’
- ‘**wood should be used as much as possible for long-lived materials and products** to substitute their carbon intensive and fossil-based counterparts, for example in buildings and furniture’



Ensure that forests are managed sustainably by

- Encouraging the **bio-economy** sector to embrace sustainable principles
- Promoting the uptake of **sustainably harvested wood** in the **construction sector**
- Promoting win-win measures for all in **sustainable forest management**

New EU Forest Strategy

- ‘The Strategy seeks to develop, among other things, **financial incentives**, in particular for private forest owners and managers, for the provision of these ecosystem services.’ (P.3)
- ‘The right thing to do must also be **economically viable**’ (P16)
- ‘Forest owners and managers **need drivers and financial incentives** to be able to provide, in addition to wood and non-wood materials and products, also ecosystem services ...’ (P.16)
- Next Forestry Programme and implementing above

Ecosystem Services

Forests provide range of services:

- **Provisioning Services:** Forest products, timber, food, etc
- **Regulating Services:** Regulation of floods, air & water quality, climate mitigation & disease control, etc
- **Supporting Services:** soil formation, nutrient recycling
- **Cultural Services:** Recreational, spiritual & other non-material values and benefits to people

Who Pays? The Land Owner!



Forestry – a Venus Flytrap?

- Grants are provided as an incentive to attract landowners to plant
 - They are **not** a source of income
 - Where premium payments exist they are short lived in the context of the role and longevity of the forest
- Once planted owners are caught in a regulatory ‘flytrap’ – with entitlement to generate income potentially ceded to a regulator including timber harvest, carbon rights and many other ecosystem services

Planting Licence, Road Licence, Felling Licence
All can be refused and no compensation!



Agriculture in Contrast!

Paid not to harvest



Voluntary Carbon Markets

- According to the latest State of the Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM) report from Ecosystem Marketplace, the market grew in value, approaching \$2 Billion in 2021.
- This quadrupling in market value from 2020 was driven by an acceleration of nature-based solutions trading volume.....

UK Woodland Carbon Code

- A *'Forest Carbon Code'* (FCC) could be established in Ireland to provide quality assurance standard for planting projects ensuring they are **verifiable, additional and permanent**;
- Such units could then be sold to companies and others who wish to show that they are mitigating their Carbon emissions through Voluntary Carbon Offsets;
- In keeping with the EU Forest Strategy, *'private initiatives can finance carbon farming schemes through the generation of carbon certificates that can be traded in the markets.'*

Voluntary Carbon Offsets

- Development of Irish Forest Carbon Code (FCC) would provide economies of scale, also ensuring:
- Forest owners & managers would have clear standards
- Potential carbon buyers would have reassurance
- Code would assist in marketing of Forest Carbon Units
- Projects would carry specific Carbon Code label
- Certified projects can display their verified status

Role of Certification

Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Paper

‘Forest Certification - Do Governments have a Role? ‘

(UNECE Timber Committee Policy Forum, 2005)

Certification policies are influencing all forest products markets sectors

Conclusion:

"All Governments may have a role with regard to forest certification, although the nature and extent of the roles varied widely between countries, according to their circumstances and politics. Examples of roles played by Governments include:

- a. As a Forest owner*
- b. Buyer/consumer of forest products*
- c. Contributor to capacity building in the field of certification*
- d. Support, including finance, to drafting national standards and putting in place the necessary institutions*

... "

Certification

- Voluntary process: Best SFM practice & improve access to market
- Certification ensures adherence to legal obligations & regulations
- Third party independent verification by external auditors – compliance

Certification Standards and forest policy;

- Must ensure active engagement with Standard Setting Process,
- Ensure alignment of policy & certification standards
- Build up national Certification expertise

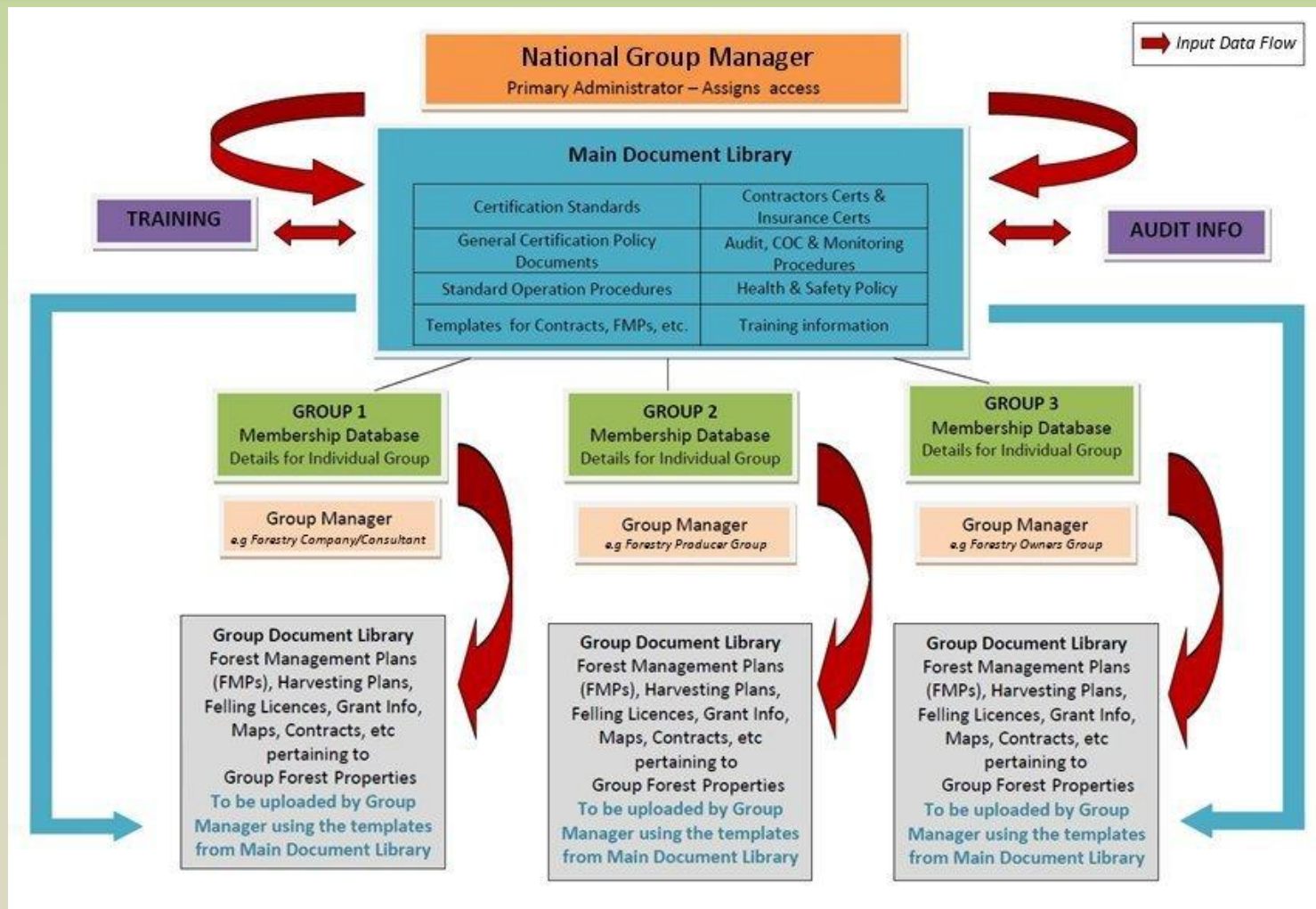
Engagement with Certification = potential reduction in intensity of policing

- **Resources required to fully engage with Certification process**

Ecosystem Services & Certification

- **Both Certification Standards** - Requirement to protect and enhance ecosystem services (ES), in particular (but not limited to) **Biodiversity**
- **Additional Ecosystem Services claims procedure**
 - ❑ Claims - Subject to FM Certification and separate third-party validation of positive impact of FM on ecosystem services
 - ❑ Allowing Certificate Holders to make specific (verifiable) claims about the ecosystem services
 - ❑ Help forest managers quantify **the intangible value** of forest
 - ❑ Assist in marketing ES claims
 - ❑ Assurance for sponsors/investors of ES claims

Potential National Group Initiative



KTG: Vehicle to roll out Certification

- Working from North-East Forestry Group initiative
- Mandatory Elements of KTGs – Demonstrate how these relate to Forest Certification (FC) requirements
- Other KTG topics to demonstrate FC requirements:
 - ❖ Forest Management Planning (FMP Key to Certification)
 - ❖ Monitoring
 - ❖ Forest Certification Process
 - ❖ Biodiversity
 - ❖ Health & Safety
 - ❖ Chemical Use

PEFC Certified Products

Miel Muria: PEFC-certified honey in the spotlight

25 AUGUST 2021 | FOOD

A family business from Tarragona, Spain, Miel Muria is a pioneer in producing PEFC-certified honey.

The company has recently achieved PEFC certification, and is one of the first honey producers in Europe using the PEFC label to communicate the sustainable origin of their product.

Their honey is also the first PEFC-certified honey to be exported worldwide.

Being committed to traceability and sustainability, for Miel Muria it was a logical step to become PEFC-certified.



PEFC Certified Products



Other Certified Products

NTFPs by the numbers



60+

Number of NTFPs
certified by FSC

40+

Number of
countries
producing FSC-
certified NTFPs

12+

million

Number of FSC-
certified hectares
globally, including
NTFPs

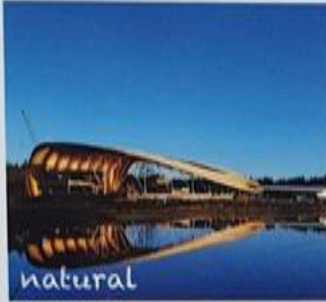
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Examples “non-timber forest products”

- Bamboo, bark, pine cones, seeds
- Fish, fruit, venison, mushrooms
- Honey, cinnamon, maple syrup, tea
- Natural gums, resins, oils, wax
- Natural rubber, cork, rattan

Even Pigs!





Further Information

FORESTRY AND TIMBER YEARBOOK 2022



Cheers!