

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 18 DECEMBER 2001

EAST AYRSHIRE WOODLANDS

Report By The Director Of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Committee approval for the East Ayrshire Woodlands Strategy and Action Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 23rd October 2001 the Development Services Committee was informed of the preparation of a Strategy and Action Plan for the project which would focus on future opportunities.
- 2.2 This paper provides the Committee with an outline of the range and type of projects contained within the Strategy and Action Plan attached.

3 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.1 The projects proposed within the Strategy build upon and expand the successful partnership that East Ayrshire Woodlands has created and it is anticipated that the project will continue to access substantial leverage funding of around £700,000 per annum.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the project will continue to provide training and employment opportunities for 24 unemployed people from East Ayrshire.
- 3.3 Since the cessation of the Millennium Forest from Scotland Trust the project has been required to re-focus its programme of works. The main new area of work will be focused towards major land reclamation projects It is also proposed that the project will undertake the following;
- a) establish a small locally based nursery,
 - b) concentrate on the further development of major land reclamation projects utilising the continued support of a variety of companies,
 - c) seek to develop a major land management project to include integrated support for access/woodland management and the protection of water courses,
 - d) to further develop environmental education through the 'TreeTrunk' initiative, targeted towards the 5-14 curriculum in schools throughout Ayrshire,
 - e) to assist in the delivery of the Scottish Executive ' Treefest Scotland 2002' events, a celebration of Scotland's trees woods and forests and

f) to explore, with partners, the development opportunities that may be available Ayrshire wide.

3.4 A more detailed description is provided in the Strategy and Action Plan attached.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 East Ayrshire Woodlands positively impacts on the delivery of the Council Plan priorities of 'Tackling Unemployment' and 'Protecting our Environment'. The project, through the creation, maintenance and management of native woodlands, assists Agenda 21 in the development and maintenance of a sustainable environment.

4.2 It is also recognised that the project will play an important role in the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Ayrshire.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is anticipated that the project will require a continued capital contribution and that core costs will also be the subject of consideration through the budget process.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is recommended to endorse the East Ayrshire Woodlands Strategy and Action Plan and to otherwise note the contents of the report.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

TM/CF
10/12/01

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Development Services Committee 23 October 2001 - East Ayrshire Woodlands

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EAST AYRSHIRE
woodlands

STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

AUTUMN 2001

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
2. PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN.....	5
3. THE VISION.....	5
4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES	6
4.1 SUSTAINABILITY.....	6
4.2 INTEGRATION.....	6
4.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	6
4.4 SENSE OF PLACE.....	6
5. CONTEXT FOR THE STRATEGY	6
6. WOODLAND RESOURCE.....	7
7. POLICY & PLANNING.....	7
8. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ECONOMY	8
9. QUALITY OF LIFE.....	8
10. STRATEGIC AIMS & OBJECTIVES	9
11. CONSTRAINTS	10
12. PRIORITISING ACTIONS.....	10
ACTION PLAN	11
1. MECHANISMS.....	11
1.1 GRANTS & INCENTIVES.....	11
2. COMPLIMENTARY MECHANISMS.....	12
3. RESOURCES	12

1. INTRODUCTION

Forests, woodlands and trees are a major component of our landscape and environment. They are a resource with which people connect emotionally, often subconsciously. Native Woodlands in particular, that is, those composed of native species adapted to local conditions, have a particularly strong link to our social and industrial heritage and have been the inspiration for many poets, storytellers and musicians. They still have a value today.

Unfortunately, our remnant native woodlands are largely a product of default. Other land use practices have seriously eroded their extent. Conversion to agriculture, extraction of coal and other minerals, the expansion of settlements and the rise of alternative fuels have all played a part in their decline. The co-operating partners in East Ayrshire Woodlands have identified an opportunity to re-develop this resource to realise benefits for the environment and economy of Ayrshire and to invest in the future to enhance the quality of life for those who live, work and visit in Ayrshire.

2. PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

This document has been prepared by East Ayrshire Woodlands on behalf of our partners to provide a clear focus for our approach to developing the native and community woodland resource. This strategy and action plan has a significantly wider remit than the East Ayrshire Native and Community Woodland Project Strategy 1996. It builds on the achievements and lessons derived from delivering the Millennium Forest for Scotland contract which was the catalyst that first brought the partners together.

It is recognised that only through a properly directed action plan that delivers real and lasting benefits at community level will we attract and retain a broad consensus support for our goals. It is therefore intended to be both ambitious and realistic. It must be seen in the context of a wider integrated approach to sustainable rural development and not as an exclusive single issue approach.

3. THE VISION

Sustainable management of the environment is a pre-requisite for a sustainable economy. Native and Community Woodlands, whilst only a part of our rural environment, are a significant component of our natural heritage. The co-operating partners in East Ayrshire Woodlands share a vision. We believe that, through consolidation and expansion, it will be possible to develop a resource that invites investment rather than protection. One that delivers multiple benefits in terms of landscape, conservation, access and employment.

Our aim is – “to develop sustainably managed and expanded native and community woodlands that will make a valued contribution to the economic and environmental prosperity of communities within Ayrshire”.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

4.1 SUSTAINABILITY

This principle must underpin all development. Sustainable forest management is defined as “the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological and social functions at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems”. (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of European Forests, Helsinki 1993)

4.2 INTEGRATION

There are many competing and complimentary pressures on our landscape. Native woodland is, and will continue to be, only a part of the intricate mosaic of land use within Ayrshire. It needs to exist alongside non-native forestry, agricultural, sporting, recreational, residential and industrial interests.

4.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Ayrshire is peppered with towns and villages that are directly affected by woodland management and development. Special interest groups such as ornithologists, ramblers, anglers, archaeologists, disability forum and so on, all may have interest in our activities. Mechanisms for dissemination of information, consultation and participation that help develop consensus must be established and resourced effectively.

4.4 SENSE OF PLACE

At a landscape level, the existing character of an area should be respected. Design of new native woodland and management of existing remnants will be far more sustainable if we work with, rather than against, natural processes. This is reinforced through the concept of Forest Habitat Networks and its adaptation will help reinforce local distinctiveness.

At a settlement/individual woodland level, social and economic heritage will have a significant impact on design. Rights of way, abandoned hill villages, redundant mineral railways and post industrial dereliction for example, will provide opportunities and challenges for integration and interpretation.

5. CONTEXT FOR THE STRATEGY

East Ayrshire Native and Community Woodland Initiative: Established in 1996/1997 for the specific purpose of securing funding from the Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust. 6 principle partners, East Ayrshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire, The Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group co-operated to initiate this project. It aimed to combine delivery of community woodland facilities in and around the settlements of East Ayrshire with the operation of an Intermediate Labour Market initiative that would provide training and employment opportunities in forestry for long term unemployed within the Coalfield Area.

The success of this project in achieving its targets has inspired the partners to look to the future with ambition. Over 260ha of new and existing woodlands on nearly 40 sites are now being managed. In excess of 14km of public access has been created. 77 people have completed the ILM with over 85% achieving a full SVQ Level II qualification and additional sectoral skills. 50% of completers have found employment as a direct result.

6. WOODLAND RESOURCE

Ayrshire is one of the most afforested parts of Scotland with 21.2% of the land area given over to forest. However, only 1.2% is composed of native species and of this, 60% is considered to be semi-natural in origin. This information is based on survey information with a minimum mappable area of 2ha and it is therefore likely that the extent of this resource is considerably underestimated. Even if the actual area is nearly doubled, when smaller remnants are taken into account, this is still half the national average. The fact that most of the native woodland areas are very small (<5ha), fragmented and associated with steep river valley slopes, impacts on their ability to deliver potential benefits.

No reliable information is available to allow distinction of the extent of different native woodland types. Mixed ashwoods are likely to be the major habitat type but oak and birch woodland will be significant and a range of wet woodland types will also be present.

7. POLICY & PLANNING

Over the last decade, policy support for native woodland has increased dramatically. International, national and local policies have developed mainly in recognition of its value in terms of biodiversity but also its role in delivering social and economic benefits.

In 1992, the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development, at the Rio "Earth Summit", set out principles for sustainable development under Agenda 21 that encompassed a very broad range of activities. Agenda 21 is a planned process that will lead to the existence and maintenance of a sustainable environment. It recognises that global impacts depend on sustainable local action.

In 1993, a ministerial conference in Helsinki developed guidelines for European Forests in relation to sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity. In 1994, European countries proposed a set of Pan-European Criteria (PEC) on maintenance, conservation and enhancement of physical, biological, human and cultural resources in relation to forests. The UK Forestry Standard (1998) is the industry standard that encompasses and develops this guidance in a UK context.

A UK Biodiversity Action Plan was published in 1995 in direct response to the direction given at the Rio "Earth Summit". Subsequent habitat action plans have been prepared for nearly all native woodland types and include targets for expansion. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Ayrshire is now at an advanced draft stage.

The Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan (1999) recognises that the promotion of economic growth is the main driving force behind developing a revitalised Ayrshire. This must be achieved whilst protecting and promoting the viability of existing settlements, protecting and enhancing the countryside and wider environment and promoting development that is sustainable. An Indicative Forestry Strategy for Ayrshire is currently being prepared.

Natural Heritage Zones have been identified by Scottish Natural Heritage across the whole of Scotland. The Western Southern Uplands and Inner Solway Zone encompasses the south eastern part of Ayrshire, whilst the West Central Belt covers the north and west (excluding Arran). Prospectuses for each zone are currently in preparation but will contain a vision for the natural heritage and a series of goals to deliver this over a 25 year period.

Local Plans for the three Ayrshire Councils all contain policy commitments that support the management and expansion of native and broadleaf woodland, and which seek to develop appropriate public access/recreation facilities within woodland close to settlements.

8. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ECONOMY

A total of 2875 people were directly or indirectly employed in forestry in Ayrshire in 1997/98. Direct employment is estimated at only 60% of the national average but has been showing a steady increase over the last 10 years as conifer plantations established in the 1970's and 80's come into production. Volume production is forecast to treble over the next 15 years to around 1.3 million cubic metres per annum. Employment in the timber processing sector is significantly above the national average. Forestry related manufactured products had an export value of £56 million in 1997. Ayrshire is considered to be best placed by many for forest industry development. It can draw on the resources in Dumfries and Galloway and in Argyll and Bute as well as more locally. Ports at Hunterston, Ardrossan and Troon have the capability to handle timber. Scottish Enterprise has established the Scottish Forest Industries Cluster in partnership with the industry to seek to optimise growth within the sector.

Unemployment rates (SLIMS 2000) using the Claimant Count figures was proportionately the highest of all West of Scotland LEC areas at 8.5% compared to the Scottish rate of 5.7%. A FASTCO Labour Market Report into forestry predicts a 78% increase in forestry employment in SW Scotland over the next 10 years. It highlights skills shortages at SVQ Levels II & III. This is reinforced by the LANTRA Skills Foresight 2001 report which states that 36% of forestry business and 21% of the land-based sector as a whole identified problems with recruitment in the previous 12 months. This was due primarily to a lack of skills and work experience appropriate to the vacancies.

9. QUALITY OF LIFE

A 1999 Public Opinion Survey of Forestry confirmed that most people appreciate forest, woodland and trees as an important part of their landscape and environment. Generally, they wish this resource to look attractive and to offer opportunities for access and recreation. Some rural communities are particularly motivated by the potential of local forests to provide direct or indirect employment. Others are affected by negative impacts such as road haulage, fly tipping and fire raising.

There is a strong desire for the general public to visit and walk in forests and woodlands yet many of the larger facilities are located some distance from settlements and require access to private transport. Suitable sites on the edge of settlements can be developed to enhance opportunities for access at a local level and mitigate the need to travel.

The link between what people buy and use, and where it comes from is being lost. Education with regard to forestry and the environment generally is fundamental if people are to gain an understanding of land-management practices that will allow them to participate more knowledgeably in the consultation and decision making process.

10. STRATEGIC AIMS & OBJECTIVES

5 strategic aims have been identified that will provide a framework for the realisation of our vision. Together, they encompass a balanced approach to regenerating native and community woodlands and delivering multiple benefits to the communities of Ayrshire. A range of objectives or activity areas have been distilled to meet each of these aims.

- ***To secure and expand the extent of native and community woodland within Ayrshire***
 - (i) Biodiversity – safeguard and develop priority native woodland habitats identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan ie W8/9 Mixed Ashwoods; W11, 16 & 17 Oak-birch woodland; W7 Alder-ash woodland.
 - (ii) Reclamation of Vacant and Derelict Land – target woodland creation towards sites where significant scars on the landscape can be appropriately restored through planting of trees.
 - (iii) Management/Maintenance – resource extended management commitments detailed in management plans including the 40 sites (260ha) contracted under the Millennium Forest for Scotland contract.
 - (iv) Access to the Countryside – develop sites and projects that contribute enhanced facilities for residents and visitors and can be linked to a wider access network.

- ***To develop and deliver training and employment opportunities for unemployed people***
 - (i) Skills Development – expand and diversify training opportunities to meet the requirements of emerging employment opportunities in the land-based sector.
 - (ii) Job Creation – develop opportunities for sustainable employment at a community level linked to native and community woodland sites.

- ***To engage and support local communities in the management of their environment***
 - (i) Seek to Influence – develop effective mechanisms that will engage communities, organisations and agencies to play an active role in the delivery of our vision.
 - (ii) Social and Environmental Heritage – work with others to protect and interpret our industrial, social and environmental heritage within the context of woodland and countryside access projects.

- ***To promote, develop and deliver environmental education linked to woodlands***
 - (i) Demonstration Sites – develop a range of native and community woodland sites with supporting information that illustrates management and environmental issues.
 - (ii) Forestry Education – co-ordinate development and dissemination of information and be pro-active in the hosting of site-based events for the general public.

- ***To support the development of business opportunities linked to forest products***
 - (i) Add Value to Timber – promote best practice in management and harvesting of native and broadleaf woodlands.
 - (ii) Promote Hardwood Marketing – work with economic development agencies to identify potential business opportunities linked to both direct and indirect broadleaf woodland products.

11. CONSTRAINTS

The limited extent of our knowledge regarding scale, type, quality, ownership, current management etc of our native woodland resource means that it is difficult to formulate robust SMART targets for some of these objectives.

Long term aspirations, such as the attainment of our vision are beyond the timeframe that most people and agencies can realistically cope with. It follows that some of the objectives, particularly those linked to an extensive resource, cannot be delivered in the short term.

Unlike other parts of Scotland, Ayrshire has not had a regional native woodland initiative to lay the foundations for developing the native and community woodland resource. We are behind in terms of winning over hearts and minds to the importance of these habitats. Resources, particularly human and financial ones, are subject to a wide range of competing interests. Without significant resource investment, the rate at which our vision can be achieved will be greatly extended. Yet virtually all types of available support are output driven.

12. PRIORITISING ACTIONS

Whilst it would be preferable to work through a series of measurable criteria to develop a ranking of priorities in terms of specific actions, it seems far more likely that priorities will fluctuate with opportunity. For instance, by forging partnerships with those involved in restoration of opencast or deep mining sites, it may be possible to develop a programme of activity over a number of years. Geographical targeting, perhaps associated with the main river valleys, is another possible approach. Local/Community driven initiatives will always be given a high priority even where their impact on targets may be small.

Availability of significant funding sources from European, Central Government or local resources will also influence the timing of actions.

ACTION PLAN

This part of the East Ayrshire Woodlands Strategy and Action Plan considers the mechanisms and resources that are available or will need to be developed in order to deliver a range of actions that flow from the aims and objectives identified earlier. Not all of these actions will be implemented by East Ayrshire Woodlands since they may fall more fully within the remit of partners. There is a mixture of existing and new proposals for action and an attempt is made to formulate targets that are readily measurable, ambitious and achievable.

1. MECHANISMS

1.1 GRANTS & INCENTIVES

The Woodland Grant Scheme is the primary mechanism for supporting the creation of new woodland and the management of existing areas. It is administered by the Forestry Commission and is available on sites of 0.25ha and over.

The Farm Woodland Premium Scheme is linked to WGS but is operated by the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department. It effectively offsets the cost of taking land out of agricultural production and converting it to woodland by providing annual payments for a fixed period of 10-15 years.

Scottish Natural Heritage offers grant aid toward a wide range of projects which (a) improve the conservation of species, habitats and landscapes, (b) promote public enjoyment of the natural heritage, and (c) increase awareness and understanding of the natural heritage.

Landfill Tax Credit Scheme is a system whereby landfill operators may claim up to 90% of contributions to an approved environmental body back from H.M Customs & Excise up to a maximum of 20% of the operators landfill tax bill in any 12 months period. This funding can be used to remediate derelict land and to provide publicly available environmental amenity and recreational facilities amongst other things.

The Heritage Lottery Fund provides grants for projects that help preserve and enhance or widen public access to, or understanding and enjoyment of, our physical heritage. This includes natural habitats and countryside of local, regional or national importance.

EU Structural Funds under objectives 2 & 3 is available for projects that contribute to “strengthening the capacity to create and maintain sustainable economic growth that leads to greater economic and social cohesion, that protects and enhances the environment, and results in increased prosperity, jobs and an improved quality of life for residents in Western Scotland”.

Social Inclusion Partnerships support local initiatives that can help overcome barriers to inclusion through promoting opportunities to participate in work or education, tackling poverty, homelessness, poor health and regenerating communities and their environment.

New Deal is the government’s flagship policy for tackling unemployment. It is delivered through the Employment Service and a range of contracted partners and offers support to individuals who find a job with an employer, enter full time education and training, secure a work placement within the voluntary sector or join an environmental taskforce.

Training for Work is an approach to tackling unemployment within the adult population that is delivered through Local Enterprise Companies. It provides assistance to organisations providing training and work experience that will lead to employment.

Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire is able to support projects that enhance the areas' standing as a competitive location for inward investment. This can include the rehabilitation of vacant and derelict land. Local Authorities also have a role in relation to economic development and tourism.

2. COMPLIMENTARY MECHANISMS

The Scottish Wildlife Trust operate survey, ranger and conservation teams in Ayrshire. These are similar to East Ayrshire Woodlands ILM but do not operate on the ILM model. They are able to undertake projects both on SWT reserves and on other public and private land by invitation.

The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group offer advise and support to farmers and other landowners with regard to conservation management throughout Ayrshire.

Positive Planning approaches, whereby Local Authority Planning and Building Control sections can promote woodland and other environmental improvements in relation to appropriate development activities, can achieve significant impact.

Community and Volunteer Action can deliver excellent site-based projects at a local level. Often, such initiatives do require support from external organisations but their effectiveness is closely related to maintaining momentum and interest within their own communities. Such projects can, when properly constituted, access alternative sources of funding eg from the Scottish Executive's Rural Challenge, Charitable Trusts or Private Sector Environment Awards Schemes.

Access and Management Agreements between private landowners and a public agency, normally the local authority, can assist in spreading liabilities (perceived or real) that act as a barrier to further involvement by these parties.

3. RESOURCES

It is currently estimated that there are 2720ha of semi-natural woodland or 4331ha of native species woodland in Ayrshire. If we were to set a target of 25% increase in this resource over 10 years, we would be looking at establishing between 680ha and 1080ha, or 68-108 per year. Establishing new native woodlands, particularly where these are close to communities would, based on previous experience, cost in the region of £5-10,000/ha. It therefore follows that delivering our vision could cost between £3.4 and £10.8 million over 10 years. It must be borne in mind that this figure includes operating training programmes, survey and design work, fencing, footpath creation, community consultation and support, maintenance and management.

Every effort must be made to harness existing grant mechanisms and to secure outputs through economic development activity. It is clear that significant new and additional funds will be required. It is hoped that current partners, and those that are yet to be drawn into the vision, can be convinced of the immense and lasting value of our work and will be able to help secure the necessary level of investment.

STRATEGIC AIM: To Secure and Expand the extent of Native and Community Woodland in Ayrshire

OBJECTIVE: Biodiversity – Safeguard and develop priority native woodland habitats identified within the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/No	Timing	Target
1	Survey the native woodland resource of Ayrshire down to 0.25ha using nationally accepted methods	FC SNH ABRC SWT	NCC Data Phase 1 survey Survey teams Funding	E E E/N N	May – Sept 2000 May – Sept 2000	Interim Report December 2000 Final report by December 2000
2	Survey native woodland owners to determine current management/ use and attitudes toward the resource	SLF FWAG FC NFU	Membership lists Consultants Funding	E N N	July – Sept 2000	Final Report by December 2000
3	Promote and package the range of incentive schemes supporting native and community woodland in Ayrshire. Compile a comprehensive list of consultants and contractors.	FC SNH SERAD FWAG ICF FCA	Woodland Grant Scheme Rural Stewardship Scheme SNH Grants ICF/FCA lists	E E E E	Ongoing	Promotional leaflet by September 2001
4	Modify woodland designs to encourage and support key species identified within the Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Red Alert SNH SWT	Species Action Plan FC Guidelines Project Staff	N E E/N	Ongoing	Produce factsheet type guidance native woodland
5	Establish a supply for native tree species nursery stock of as local provenance as can be sourced	Nurseries Conservation Groups	Local seed collection	N	Ongoing	Contract with nurseries to grow and supply trees for project sites by summer 2002

6	Establish a standard format for native woodland appraisals including woodland owner's objectives	NWI FC SNH	NVC system NWI systems FC advisors	E E E	Ongoing	Agree and instigate system by Spring 2002
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STRATEGIC AIM: To Secure and Expand the extent of Native and Community Woodland in Ayrshire

OBJECTIVE: Reclamation of Vacant and Derelict Land – Target woodland creation towards sites where significant scars on the landscape can be appropriately restored through planting trees

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/N	Timing	Target
7	Work with mineral operators to identify opportunities for native and community woodland development	MO's FC SEP LA's SEA SIP	WGS Land Funding Planning Conditions	E N N E	Ongoing	30ha/yr
8	Develop partnerships with private sector developers for the reclamation of brownfield sites to woodland and conservation	Developers LA's SEA FC SEP SIP	WGS Land Planning Conditions Funding	E N E N	Ongoing	10ha/yr
9	Promote conversion of surplus agricultural land particularly that close to communities or including remnant native woodland, to new native woodland	Landowners FC SIP FWAG	WGS FWPS Land	E E N	Ongoing	28ha/yr

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STRATEGIC AIM: To Secure and expand the extent of Native and Community Woodland in Ayrshire

OBJECTIVE: Management/Maintenance – Resource extended management commitments detailed in management plans, including the 40 sites contracted under the Millennium Forest for Scotland contract

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
10	Maintain all sites part funded by the Millennium Forest for Scotland in line with the agreed management plan	FC MFST Landowner EAC	WGS MFS grant EAC funding ILM project contractors	E E N E/N E/N	Ongoing for up to 25 years depending on management agreement	260ha
11	Secure and implement management operations on additional woodland areas established in the previous year.	FC FWAG Community Landowner	WGS Volunteers ILM project contractors	E N E/N E/N	Ongoing for up to 10 years depending on management agreement	40ha/yr
12	Develop and implement management plans for existing native and policy woodlands to safeguard their continued existence	Landowner FC SNH FWAG SWT	WIG/AMG Heritage lottery SEA LA's Land Consultants contractors	E N N N N E E/N	Ongoing	5 sites/yr

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STRATEGIC AIM: To Secure and Expand the extent of Native and Community Woodland in Ayrshire

OBJECTIVE: Access to the Countryside – Develop sites and projects that contribute enhanced facilities for residents and visitors and can be linked to a wider access network

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
13	Contribute to the development of access strategies within Ayrshire and seek to encourage a holistic approach to land management associated with access routes	AP SEA PfA SNH LA's ATB AJSP	Survey info. Funding	N N	Ongoing	Agreed access strategy for whole of Ayrshire by 2003
14	Develop and upgrade access provision to and within project sites	SNH Landowner Communities FC	Funding ILM project Volunteers	E/N E/N N	Ongoing	2000m/yr
15	Develop 'Sense of Place' initiatives to encourage public use	Communities Artists Museums Schools	Funding Volunteers Timber	N N E	Ongoing	1 environmental art or other initiative each year
16	Make access to the countryside as wide as possible with particular consideration for those with disabilities	DF PfA WfA LA's	Land Expertise Funding	N N N	Ongoing – agreed design guidelines for use in all project sites as appropriate by summer 2002	1 designated disabled access woodland site to be created each year

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STRATEGIC AIM: To develop and deliver training and employment opportunities for unemployed people

OBJECTIVE: Skills Development – expand and diversify training opportunities to meet the requirements of emerging employment opportunities in the land-based sector

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
17	Develop and promote a structured and flexible package of training, work experience and aftercare support for long-term unemployed.	SEP SCVO ES SIP teams EAEI Colleges SEA LA's	Beneficiaries Trainers Funding Facilities Work sites	E/N E/N N N E/N	Ongoing – new start in June 20	Provide up to 3 places/yr target on SIP areas
18	Develop and implement training opportunities surveying and research	SEP SCVO SWT Colleges SEA ABRC	Beneficiaries Trainers Office etc. Funding	N N N N	Ongoing – operational by spring 2002	Provide up to 1 places/yr
19	Develop alternative work experience/placement opportunities with local companies to strengthen quality and flexibility in training programmes	Employers ES EAEI SCVO	Support staff Funding Employers	N N N	Ongoing	Provide up to 5 places/yr

20	Commission study/research into land-based sector employment in Ayrshire and SW Scotland generally	SEA SLIMS LANTRA FASTCO Colleges	Funding	N	2001 + bi-annually thereafter	Report on market state in autumn each study year

STRATEGIC AIM: To develop and deliver training and employment opportunities for unemployed people

OBJECTIVE: Job Creation – develop opportunities for sustainable employment at a community level linked to native and community woodland sites

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
21	Promote and develop opportunities for self-employment for beneficiaries and others following completion of training	ABP's EUSF EAEI CRT	Funding Training	N N	Ongoing	1 new business supported each year and still in business after 2 years
22	Develop a community business model project linked to maintenance and management of geographically linked project sites	ABP's EUSF CRT SIP	Training Business Loans Community Reps	N N N	Ongoing	~ 2 community businesses established and running by 200

STRATEGIC AIM: To engage and support local communities in the management of their environment

OBJECTIVE: Seek to Influence – develop effective mechanisms that will engage communities, organisations and agencies to play an active role in the delivery of our vision

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
23	Develop a community involvement strategy/plan covering the full range of potential engagement	AEEF LA's SIP's	Community Staff LA 21 officers Funding	E/N E N	July – Nov. 2001	Agreed plan by March 2002
24	Establish formal communication/consultation mechanism with landowner representatives and forestry industry representatives	SLF NFU FE ICF	Project staff Partners	E E	Autumn 2001	Support from landowners and industry interests
25	Develop local community woodland management groups for sites in and around towns and villages	CC's LA's Landowner	Sites Project staff Funding	E/N E N	Ongoing	At least 1 new management group per year

STRATEGIC AIM: To engage and support local communities in the management of their environment

OBJECTIVE: Social and Environmental Heritage – Work with others to protect and interpret our industrial, social and environmental heritage within the context of woodland and countryside access projects

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
26	Work in concert with existing heritage agencies, museums and interest groups to interpret and manage local features in sympathy with past use	LA's CC's SNH HGS Archaeologists	Funding Expertise	N N	Ongoing	Appropriate interpretation brought into project design from the outset

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STRATEGIC AIM: To promote, develop and deliver environmental Education linked to woodland

OBJECTIVE: Demonstration Sites – develop a range of native and community woodland sites with supporting information that illustrates management and environmental issues

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
27	Develop demonstration sites covering all native woodland types represented within Ayrshire to illustrate alternative management practices	FC Landowner	Land Funding	N N	Ongoing	10 easily accessible sites by 2005

STRATEGIC AIM: To promote, develop and deliver environmental education linked to woodlands

OBJECTIVE: Forestry Education – co-ordinate the development and dissemination of information to schools, and be pro-active in the hosting of site based events for the general public

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
28	Work in partnership with others to develop support material for the 5 – 14 curriculum linked to project sites	LA's AEEF MFST	Funding Expertise	N N	Ongoing	Develop general and specific teaching aids by summer 2002
29	Re-launch and promote the Forestry Education Initiative in Ayrshire and in particular update and market the Tree Trunk Resource Box.	FC Forest Industry	Funding Expertise	N E	August 2001	Co-ordinate 10 school visits each term
30	Investigate the potential for developing a youth naturalists club associated with the project	Ranger Service	Funding Facilities	N N	Summer 2001	Annual events programme for YNC in each LA area.
31	Attend a programme of promotional events throughout Ayrshire	FWAG SWT ABG RSPB	Funding Display material PR material	N N E/N	Ongoing	Attend at least one event in each LA area each year
32	Promote new and existing public access woodlands developed by the project	LA's FC	Funding Signage Trail leaflets	N E/N N	Ongoing	Host at least 1 public event in each LA area each year on project sites

STRATEGIC AIM: To Support the Development of business opportunities linked to forest products

OBJECTIVE: Add Value to Timber – promote best practice in management and harvesting of native and broadleaf woodland

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
33	Promote improvement to quality of growing timber by encouraging respacing, stem selection, pest control, high pruning etc. within broadleaf woodland	FC TGA SEFC FWAG	Demo sites Marketing material	N N	Ongoing	Co-ordinate 1 demonstration event in Ayrshire every 2 years
34	Develop local contractor expertise in sensitive harvesting techniques for native and broadleaf woodland	FCA SLF FC FASTCO	Demo sites Training courses	N E/N	Ongoing	Resource training for contractors and owners
35	Promote secondary processing on site to reduce haulage constraints and costs – mobile saw benches, firewood processing, wood chip production, stake and fence post production.	FCA SLF FC FWAG	Local contractors Machinery Marketing material	E/N E/N N	Ongoing	Co-ordinate 1 demonstration event in Ayrshire every 2 years
36	Promote management of woodland for game and conservation	SLF GCC FWAG	Marketing material Demo sites	N N	Ongoing	Co-ordinate 1 demonstration event in Ayrshire every 2 years

STRATEGIC AIM: To support the development of business opportunities linked to forest products

OBJECTIVE: Promote Hardwood Marketing – Work with economic development agencies to identify potential business opportunities linked to both direct and indirect broadleaf woodland products

Ref. N	Delivery Action	Partners	Resources	Existing/Ne	Timing	Target
37	Promote the use of innovative marketing approaches eg. Woodlots and/or co-operative approaches such as the packaging of small parcels of standing timber air dried logs and planked material	SEFC FC	Funding	N	Ongoing	£20,000 value hardwood timber sales each year
38	Assess the potential for developing local brand marketing eg. Ayrshire produced charcoal, garden furniture, etc.	SEFC ABP's ATB	Funding	N	2002	Establish an Ayrshire brand scheme for non mainstream woodland products
39	Identify, invest in and establish local adding value processing facilities eg. Kiln drying, flat pack furniture, parquet and veneered flooring etc.	SEFC ABP's	Funding	N	2002/03	Establish local processing facilities
40	Support woodland craft workers eg. wood turners, sculptors/artists, basket weavers, signmakers, etc.	SEFC ABP's	Funding Marketing	N N	Ongoing	Establish an association of Ayrshire craft workers
41	Investigate the potential for small recreation businesses associated with woodlands eg. po trekking, off-road cycling, field archery, etc.	ATB ABP's	Funding	N	2002	Feasibility study for the development of recreation linked businesses.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABG	Ayrshire Bat Group	LA's	East, North and South Ayrshire Councils
ABP's	Ayrshire Business Partnerships	LANTRA	LANTRA National Training Council
ABRC	Ayrshire Biological Records Centre	LARS	Local Authority Ranger Services
AEEF	Ayrshire Environmental Education Forum	MFST	Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust
AJSP	Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Team	MO's	Mineral Operators (Coal, Sand & Gravel, etc.)
ATB	Ayrshire Tourist Board	NFU	National Farmers Union
CC's	Community Councils	NWI	Native Woodland Initiatives
CRT	Coalfield Regeneration Trust	PfA	Paths for All Partnership
EAEI	East Ayrshire Employment Initiative	SCVO	Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
ES	Employment Service	SEA	Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire
EUSF	European Social Fund	SEFC	Scottish Enterprise Forestry Industries Cluster
FASTCO	Forestry and Arboricultural Safety & Training Council	SEP	Strathclyde European Partnership
FC	Forestry Commission	SERAD	Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department
FCA	Forestry Contractors Association	SIP	Social Inclusion Partnerships
FE	Forestry Enterprise	SLF	Scottish Landowners Federation
FIR	Forestry Industry Representatives	SLIMS	Strathclyde labour Market & Intelligence Service
FWAG	Ayrshire and Arran Farming and wildlife Advisory Group	SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
GCC	Game Conservancy Council	SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
HGS	Historic Gardens Society	TGA	Timber Growers Association
ICF	Institute of Chartered Foresters	WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme

AGENDA