

**United Kingdom Woodland
Assurance Standard**

UKWAS

CONCORDAT BETWEEN THE
UKWAS STEERING GROUP AND FSC UK

September 2013

CONCORDAT BETWEEN THE UKWAS STEERING GROUP AND FSC UK

PREAMBLE

The 'UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)' partnership independently owns and manages a certification standard which can be used to verify whether a woodland in the United Kingdom is managed sustainably. The partnership is made up of economic, environmental and social stakeholders who work together in an inclusive and transparent way.

FSC UK is part of the global network for the assessment and mutual recognition of national forest certification schemes developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC UK's certification scheme for responsible forest management incorporates the UK Woodland Assurance Standard as the certification standard to be used for assessing whether a woodland is managed sustainably.

UNDERTAKINGS

Development and management of the UKWAS standard

Both parties being desirous to develop a forest certification standard for UK woodlands that reflects the requirements of the UK Government's UK Forestry Standard (and through this the guidelines adopted by European Forestry Ministers at Helsinki in 1993 and Lisbon in 1998), the Forest Stewardship Council's Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification's Sustainable Forest Management Requirements hereby agree that:

- On the one hand, the UKWAS Steering Group undertakes to fulfil those elements of the functions of an FSC national 'Standards Development Group' set out in the UKWAS Standard Setting Process document which has been designed, and shall be maintained, to ensure alignment with the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council.
- On the other hand, FSC UK as the Forest Stewardship Council National Office for the United Kingdom undertakes to fulfil those elements of the UKWAS Standard Setting Process assigned to it and all the other functions that FSC International requires of an FSC National Office necessary for the development of a UK national certification standard and its accreditation by FSC International unless specifically agreed that these will be undertaken by the UKWAS Steering Group.

Standing committees and task groups

From time to time the UKWAS Steering Group will establish standing committees and task groups to undertake specific work.

The UKWAS Steering Group undertakes to invite FSC UK to participate in the work of these groups and FSC UK undertakes to support their work by advising on alignment and other relevant issues.

Use of the UKWAS standard

FSC UK undertakes:

- To use the UKWAS standard only in accordance with the procedures set out in the standard by the UKWAS Steering Group.

RELATIONSHIP

FSC UK undertakes:

- To maintain full membership of the UKWAS company.

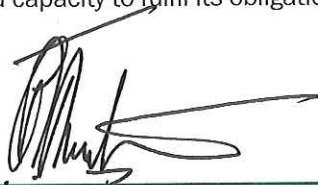
The UKWAS Steering Group undertakes:

- To accord FSC UK participation in the UKWAS Steering Group in the 'Forestry Standard Setting and Labelling Bodies' category in accordance with the UKWAS Steering Group Rules.

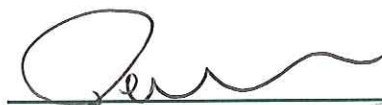
And notes that:

- In accordance with the requirements of the FSC, FSC UK will remain independent from the standard setting process and will not exercise its voting rights but will contribute to the standard-setting process as required.

Furthermore, each party will use its best endeavours to maintain the necessary competence and capacity to fulfil its obligations under this Concordat.



for FSC UK



for UKWAS Steering Group

KEY DOCUMENTS

- UKWAS - Memorandum of Association (Amended 25 November 2002)
- UKWAS - Articles of Association (Adopted 25 November 2002)
- UKWAS - Standard Setting Process (Version 2.0) (Adopted 12.03.13)
- UKWAS – Steering Group Rules
- Forestry Commission: The UK Forestry Standard (3rd edition 2011)
- PEFC International Standard – Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements (PEFC ST 1003:2010)
- FSC International Standard - Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship (FSC-STD-01-001) (V5-0) (February 2012)
- FSC International Standard – Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards (FSC-STD-60-006) (V1-2) (April 2009)

UKWAS
59 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2JG
United Kingdom

Tel : +44 (0)131 240 1419
Email : ukwas@confor.org.uk
Web : www.ukwas.org.uk

FSC UK
11-13 Great Oak Street
Llanidloes
Powys
SY18 6BU
United Kingdom

Tel : +44(0)1686 413916
Fax : +44(0)1686 412176
Email : info@fsc-uk.org
Web : www.fsc-uk.org