# United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard

**UKWAS**

## UKWAS Revision Process 2013-16

### Phases of the review

The revision and consultation process will be taken forward in three main phases:

- **Phase 1(Dec 2013-Sept 2014):** an **evidence gathering** phase including initial stakeholder consultation (60 days) to take place Feb-March 2014

- **Phase 2 (Oct 2014-Oct 2015):** a **main revision drafting** phase leading to a revision draft consultation (60 days) to take place Sept/Oct 2015

- **Phase 3 (Nov 2015-Nov 2016):** a **conclusion phase** including a further revision and pre-approval draft consultation (30 days) to conclude early February 2016 prior to any further amendment and final submission to FSC UK and PEFC UK by the end of April 2016.

The key elements of each phase are:

### Phase 1 - evidence gathering

This phase is essentially about the Steering Group identifying the key issues to be considered during the main revision drafting phase and involves the following elements:

a)       Interpretation Review – collate advice from Interpretation Panel.

b)       Technical Review – identify and collate any new scientific or technical knowledge e.g.UK Forestry Standard, Guidelines and supporting documents.

c)       International Benchmarking Review – request information from the certification schemes.

d)       Standard Users' Feedback Review – request information from the certification schemes.

e)       Initial Stakeholders' Consultation – undertake public consultation (Feb-March 2014).

f)       SLIM Woodlands Review – identify relevant issues.

g)       Certification Schemes' Requirements Review – request information from the certification schemes.

**Output:** An Issues Paper will be prepared which identifies the information to be taken into consideration during the main revision drafting phase.

**Timetable for Steering Group:**

- December 2013 – ask UK certification schemes to provide a final confirmation in writing of Certification Schemes' requirements by 31st March 2014.
- December 2013 – invite UK certification schemes to undertake International Benchmarking Review and Standard Users' Feedback Review and provide written reports to the Steering Group by 31st March 2014.
- January 2014 – prepare a short Initial Stakeholders' Consultation paper and release for 60-day consultation by 1st February with return date of 31st March 2014.
- April-May 2014 – PW (with Board) to prepare Issues Paper for Steering Group including the requirement, if any, for undertaking further research.
- Early June 2014 – Steering Group meets to consider Issues Paper and to initiate further work as necessary.
- September 2014 – PW (with Board) to conclude Issues Paper.

## Phase 2 – main revision drafting

The main revision drafting phase will be informed by the Issues Paper.

**Output:** a 'Revision Draft' of the UKWAS standard to be issued for a 60 day consultation.

**Timetable for Steering Group:**

- Sept/Oct 2014 – Steering Group meets to begin revision of UKWAS standard.
- End June 2015 – Steering Group to conclude revision draft
- September 2015 – issue Revision Draft for 60-day consultation with responses required by October 31st 2015.

## Phase 3 – conclusion phase

This phase will consider the responses to the consultation exercise and prepare a further draft to be issued for a 30 day consultation as a 'Pre-approval Draft'. Following this the draft will be revised as necessary and submitted to the certification schemes for approval via FSC UK and PEFC UK.

**Output:** a Final Draft for submission to the Certification Schemes.

**Timetable for Steering Group:**

- Late November 2015 – Steering Group meets to consider issues arising from consultation.
- December 2015 – Necessary revisions incorporated into draft.
- January 2016 – Steering Group issues 'Pre-approval Draft' for 30-day consultation by early February 2016.
- March 2016 – Steering Group meets to consider responses and conclude the drafting of the revised standard.
- By end April 2016 – Steering Group submits Draft to FSC UK and PEFC UK for onward transmission to certification schemes.
- November 2016 – launch of UKWAS 4th Edition at AGM.

**UKWAS Steering Group**
**19th September 2013**