Our Vision:
The world’s forests meet the social, ecological and economic rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations.

Our Mission:
To promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world’s forests.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international membership association. FSC UK is one of over 40 national offices. It sets responsible forest management certification standards for the UK, promotes the FSC chain of custody certification system, issues trademark licenses and provides a training and information service.

FSC UK (Ephesea UK) is a charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1130203) and a non-profit making company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (No. 06792524). VAT No. 118 9283 90.
Welcome

2015 was an important year for FSC both in the UK and globally. The 20th Anniversary event provided an opportunity to review FSC’s progress in the UK and also to thank those who have supported the charity over the last two decades.

Of course, whilst we can celebrate our achievements, there is still more work to be done.

With the publication of FSC’s Global Strategic Plan and revised priorities agreed for FSC UK, we have laid out the key areas we will be focusing on, nationally and internationally and the challenge is now to deliver on our commitments and meet our objectives. To do this we will need the continued support of our stakeholders.

Fundamental to FSC UK’s role as a National Office is our work on the National Forest Stewardship Standard and the revision of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard, on which the UK FSC Standard is based. This has been at the core of our forestry work in the reporting period. Reaching consensus on a national standard is no mean feat and we hope for a positive outcome to our submission to FSC International.

FSC reached the milestone of over 30,000 chain of custody certificates in March 2016 and we continue to see growth in the UK. As more organisations recognise the value in promoting FSC certified products, we have expanded the business team within FSC UK to ensure that we are better placed to support and promote these certificate/licence holders. Aligned with this is our work in educating and informing businesses and consumers of the importance of responsible forestry. With nearly half of UK consumers recognising the FSC logo we have an enviable level of awareness, but we need to ensure this converts into consumer demand, as well as reaching out to those remaining!

With the expansion of the UK team, we look forward to working proactively towards our mission of Forests For All Forever.

Meet the Team

Beth Bennett
Business Development Manager

Tallulah Chapman
Communications Manager

Owen Davies
Forest Standards Manager

Beth Gratrix
Office & Membership Administrator

Rachel Hembery
Business Advisor

Sue Lowe
Trademark Protection Officer

Arina Nagy-Vizitiu
Business Team Assistant

Julien Price
Communications Assistant

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FSC Certification

FSC certified forests worldwide: 187,026,156 hectares

FSC certified forests in the UK: 1,588,258 hectares

FSC Chain of Custody worldwide: 30,247 certificates

FSC Chain of Custody in the UK: 2,377 certificates

FSC Trademark Licences worldwide: 688 licences

FSC Trademark Licences in the UK: 87 licences

FSC in a Nutshell

FSC Forest Standards

- Maintain economic, social & environmental forest functions
- Respect the rights of indigenous peoples & local communities
- Preserve high conservation value forests
- Protect wildlife habitats

FSC Labels

The FSC labels can be found on wood, paper and other forest products made with material from FSC certified forests and/or verified recycled sources.

Independent certification bodies are accredited by Accreditation Services International (ASI) to audit organisations against the FSC standards and award FSC certification. FSC certified forests are audited against the appropriate national FSC standard, which is based on our global principles and criteria for responsible forest management.

Organisations between the forest and the end-user must be FSC Chain of Custody certified in order to pass on FSC claims and use the FSC trademarks. Retailers promoting finished, FSC-labelled products can choose to hold FSC Chain of Custody certification or an FSC Trademark Licence (administered by FSC), which allows the use of the FSC trademarks but not the passing on of FSC claims.

Figures correct as of April 2016
On 14th October FSC UK celebrated our 20th anniversary at an event at the London Aquatics Centre in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford.

The event kicked off with the Annual Members’ Meeting and was followed by entertaining and illuminating speeches by Peter Bonfield OBE, Chief Executive of the BRE Group, and all those who have served as Executive Director of FSC UK: Hannah Scrase, Anna Jenkins, Nick Cliffe, Charles Thwaites MBE and current Executive Director, Rosie Teasdale.

Attendees were presented with commemorative spatulas (kindly donated by T&G Woodware) to celebrate the milestone, echoing the first ever FSC labelled product to be produced and sold: a spatula sold in the UK. The Aquatics Centre, part of the first ever dual FSC/PEFC certified project – the London 2012 Olympic Park – and its whale-like roof of FSC certified Red Louro, provided a perfect backdrop to show how far FSC has progressed over the past two decades.

Photograph © FSC UK / M. Crossick
1. We’re governed by our members
We’re democratically governed, and over 800 social, economic and environmental members help us to set the right policies to protect the world’s forests.

2. We have the highest standards
We set higher standards than any other forest certification scheme, which gives users the best assurance that certified forests are being managed responsibly.

3. We’re respected and credible
We are the preferred certification scheme for business and the one most widely used by members of the Fortune 500.

4. Our impact is far-reaching
Operating in over 100 markets, we issue more certificates globally than any other timber certification scheme.

5. We have a positive impact
Of any existing forest certification scheme, we provide the highest level of protection for endangered species and natural forests.

6. We have influential support
Our membership includes the world’s largest and most respected environmental NGO’s such as Greenpeace and WWF, both of which are vocal in their support of FSC over others.

7. We’re transparent
Every process and decision we make is open to public review and our product claims are independently audited.

8. Our standards are globally consistent
Wherever we operate in the world, our standards are based on the same principles and criteria.

9. We think local
Every FSC forest certification process is open to local consultation so the people who live there can always have their say.

10. We’re recognised
FSC is the only forest certification scheme member of ISEAL Alliance, the global association for sustainability standards.
Recent expansion of the FSC UK team has allowed us to be more proactive and to improve our services. Aligned with this was the need to redefine our strategic priorities and develop action plans in order to maximise our effectiveness. Whilst we will always need to react to new challenges and opportunities, we need to have clarity in terms of our overarching priorities and to translate these priorities into objectives and, ultimately, targets and work plans.

The FSC UK Strategic Plan ensures that domestic matters and key issues, such as supporting our certificate base and meeting contractual obligations, are addressed, whilst also being developed in the context of FSC’s global vision and mission and our own charitable objectives.

The following UK priorities were agreed for 2015-18:

- Improve standards for forest management and promote FSC forest management certification in the UK for all sizes and types of forest
- Engage, support and represent existing and potential FSC Licence Holders (this includes Certificate Holders) to maximise demand for FSC certified products and projects
- Inform and educate people about FSC and forest ecosystems to foster awareness and understanding and elicit positive behaviour change
- Ensure that FSC is positioned as the most credible forest certification scheme
- Improve effectiveness of how FSC operates as One Global Organisation

Unfortunately, much of the world still faces major forest challenges - we need to be bolder, stronger, and measurably more effective.

The FSC Global Strategic Plan 2015-2020 clarifies FSC’s identity and role in the global forest system to ensure that our direction fits the challenges that the world’s forests and forest stakeholders face.

The three strategies that make up the plan acknowledge our two core areas of work – our normative framework and standards, and positioning FSC in the marketplace – and the transformation that needs to take place within FSC as an organisation to excel in these two core areas.
In 2015 British Land, Mace, and Make Architects delivered one of London’s largest and most significant new office developments using only responsibly-sourced timber within the building, and during its construction.

The development, 5 Broadgate, is one of the largest single office buildings in the City of London’s financial district, with 700,000 square feet of floor space over 12 storeys. It has used 1,200 cubic metres of timber (the equivalent of approximately 250 mature trees) including everything from MDF and plywood to tropical hardwoods for the building’s finishes; all sourced from responsibly-managed forests.

In April 2015 the development received FSC Project Certification (TT-PRO-004448). This requires 50% of the timber used for the project to be FSC 100%, FSC Mix or post-consumer reclaimed with the remainder being from ‘controlled’ sources.

FSC UK worked with the project team to create a short film about FSC Project Certification, which was promoted in construction industry titles and online.

The film can be accessed via the FSC UK YouTube Channel.

1. GfK Face-to-Face Omnibus poll of 1,066 UK adults (24th March - 5th April 2016)
2. YouGov Online Omnibus Poll of 2,080 UK adults (30th-31st March 2015)
National Forest Stewardship Standards are the foundation of the FSC system, setting out how our international Principles and Criteria should be addressed at a country level. These standards have to take account of the particular circumstances of each country, including the types of forests present and the cultural values attached to them.

When developing new standards or revising existing ones, it is vital to seek the views of a range of economic, environmental and social stakeholders so that requirements can be properly adjusted to reflect national conditions.

In autumn 2015 UK stakeholders had an opportunity to comment on a revised draft of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard, or UKWAS, used in FSC forest management certification in this country. This is part of the five year revision cycle for the standard, which takes account of changing international requirements, national conditions and technical knowledge.

The final draft will be scrutinised by FSC International staff who will check that all of the appropriate procedures for standard development have been followed before it is passed to the independent Policy and Standards Committee for approval. If all goes well, the revised standard will be approved and ready to be rolled out around the end of 2016.

Some of the changes adopted by the UKWAS Steering Group in the current draft include:

- Modified dispute resolution requirements (UKWAS 1.1.4), to address FSC Criteria 1.6 & 7.6.
- Appropriate engagement with police and statutory bodies to address illegal or unauthorised activities (UKWAS 1.2.1), to address FSC Criterion 1.4.
- A new, explicit requirement for environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable long-term policy and objective (UKWAS 2.1.1), to address FSC Criterion 7.1.
- A new requirement to avoid high grading (UKWAS 2.4.3(b)), to address an instruction in the International Generic Indicators for FSC Criterion 10.11.
- Modified requirements for regeneration to ‘pre-harvesting or more natural conditions’ (UKWAS 2.8.1), to address FSCCriterion 10.1.
- A new requirement to halt or relocate operations if conservation values are damaged (UKWAS 3.1.4), to address International Generic Indicators relating to FSC Criteria 4.7 & 9.3.
The Royal Horticultural Society’s (RHS) Chelsea Flower Show is Britain’s most prestigious flower show, attracting more than 150,000 visitors from all over the world.

FSC UK exhibited at the 2015 event as part of the Discovery Zone within the Great Pavilion, the education area of the show. The exhibit, The Forest in your Garden, was awarded a much-coveted silver medal.

Show visitors flocked to the leafy haven in their thousands, learning about forests and FSC and signing up to the WWF UK forests campaign and EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) petition.

Visitors were invited to enter a world where the forest meets the garden, and explore how wood can be used in our gardens, whether in the form of trees, timber or forest products.

The exhibit was sponsored by Sainsbury’s and WWF UK. A number of FSC certified companies also gave support by donating FSC certified products: B&Q (decking), Brooks Bros (timber and plywood), Burgon and Ball (tools), Gardman (tools), Duncombe Sawmill (planters), Forest Garden (arbour) and William Sinclair Horticulture (horticultural bark).
Income

Over the financial year under review income has exceeded expenditure by £133,617. We began the year with an opening balance from the previous period of £400,884 and have ended with a carry forward of £534,501. It should be noted that this carry forward figure includes the increased reserves fund of £175,155.

Membership revenue continues to increase, providing £40,460 of income during the reporting period. However, the most significant increase was in the income received under the Activity Compensation Fee (ACF). This is currently calculated on a formula which is primarily based on the Annual Accreditation Fee (AAF) charged to certified companies in the UK. The increased income from the AAF comes with additional delivery expectations and it is anticipated that expenditure will rise as the charity seeks to meet these expectations.

FSC UK would like to thank all those who have supported our work over the last financial year, and indeed the past 20 years. Special thanks this year go to Sainsbury’s and WWF UK.

Expenditure

Whilst expenditure was higher this year compared with last (£291,375 compared with £282,824) it was lower than predicted due to staff vacancies within the business team for most of the reporting period. Increased staff costs and overall expenditure are predicted in 16/17 as we seek to meet the charity’s increased commitments.

Reserves Policy

A policy had previously been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be equivalent to 3 months’ of expenditure. However, it was agreed in October 2015 that this policy should be extended to 6 months’ of expenditure. At the end of the reporting period over £175K was held in reserve.

The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and, in the worst-case scenario, to cover the cost of closing the charity. The Steering Group is confident that, at the equivalent to 6 months’ expenditure, the charity would be able to continue at worthwhile activity levels in the event of a temporary significant drop in funding.

The trustees have subsequently declared that they wish to ensure that the estimated cost of closing the charity not exceed 50% of reserves.
Meet the Trustees

Colin Bradford
Chair

Mark Barthel
Vice-Chair

Allen Mawby
Treasurer

Mike Bekin

Jon Kirkpatrick

Hubert Kwisthout

Constance L. McDermott

Meriel Robson

UK Members

Environmental Chamber

Born Free Foundation
Fauna & Flora International
Greenpeace UK Ltd
Florin Ioras (individual)
Sian Jones (individual)
Meriel Robson (Individual)
Hannah Scrase (individual)
Soil Association
The Woodland Trust
WWF UK
Zoological Society of London

Economic Chamber

B&Q Plc
Blueline Office Furniture
Boots UK Ltd
Bound Oak Ltd
Chartwell PM Ltd
Confederation of Forest Industries
Exova BM TRADA
The Forest Company Ltd
Home and Leisure International Ltd
HSBC Holdings plc
Hubertus van Hensbergen (individual)
Kingfisher plc
Lend Lease Europe
Mike Bekin (individual)
Mondi plc
Premium Timber Products
Soil Association Certification Ltd
Timber Trade Federation UK

Social Chamber

Fair Rubber e.v.
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Constance Lynn McDermott (individual)
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