



FORESTRY CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2021-26

The FCCP is committed to working together to make a material contribution to the pace and impact of adaptation of our woods trees and forests to climate change. The action plan seeks to provide a common and authoritative voice to advocate strongly for policies which incentivise adaptation, to provide input to the development of research priorities and to support provision of learning, knowledge sharing and dissemination for practitioners.

The action plan is informed by the British Woodland Survey 2020 and by the collective experience of members of the FCCP. Organisations collaborating in the FCCP are actively promoting adaptation and engaging their networks. These individual initiatives are welcome and encouraged. This plan focuses exclusively on actions which the partnership can develop and deliver collectively, which will have greater impact than working alone.

1. CLIMATE CHANGE ACCORD

Context

The Climate Change Accord was first published in 2015 and signed by 35 tree, woodland and forestry organisations. It sets out inclusive and commonly-agreed principles of adaptation which are intended to inform policy, research and practice. It is recognised that the Accord needs to be refreshed in the light of experience and to provide a platform for a renewed promotion and advocacy for individual and collection action on adaptation.

Action

To refresh the Climate Change Accord and seek wide and active support from tree, woodland and forestry organisations to communicate and promote it to their respective networks.

2. COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Context

The primary target audience for the FCCP are those who are responsible for trees woods, and forests, including landowners, foresters, farmers, ecologists, countryside professionals, and key influencers. Individual FCCP member organisations have the capability to reach parts of these audiences, but the FCCP lacks a communications platform to promote its collective aims and messages. This severely hampers its effectiveness.

Goal



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To create an effective communications platform for the FCCP which will provide consistency and unity in messaging and an industry focal point for:

- Advocacy of climate adaptation
- Signposting practitioners to online research and practice resources on other web sites including case studies, training events, policy documents, decision support tools
- Promoting FCCP and other FCCP organisation training events which support adaptation practice.
- Organisation and promotion of FCCP events such as the All England Woodland Resilience awards, webinars and conferences
- Hosting FCCP collective policy papers and publications.

This means creating and supporting a professional web site (or web pages hosted on another site) and social media capability. It also requires resource to support FCCP members to communicate common messages to their respective networks. Funds need to be raised to achieve this aim.

Action

To develop the case for support for the creation and delivery of a well-funded communications and engagement plan for the FCCP and to seek funding, initially from FCCP members, the wider sector, and third parties.

3. TRAINING

Context

Evidence of the BWS2020 points to a substantial unmet demand for practical training in all elements of woodland adaptation. This includes knowledge of forest soils identification, use of decision support tools, species and provenance choice, and continuous cover management. Training on these topics and many others is already provided by members of the FCCP and others. The FCCP has also worked with individual members of the group to organise and promote webinars on a wide range of topics relevant to adaptation practice.

Goal

To ensure practitioners and influencers at all levels can access the training required to adapt woods to environmental change consistent with the UKFS.

Actions

To organise a survey of practitioners to gauge their training needs, to assess the extent to which these needs are met by current or planned provision, and to identify training gaps. On the basis of this survey, develop a FCCP training plan.



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To develop a “hub” to signpost practitioners to training providers including recordings of training previously delivered where accessible.

4. RESEARCH

Context

Evidence suggests that although there is an increasing amount of climate change-related research taking place in the UK, it is not always well informed by the needs of practitioners. Relevant research is not always disseminated to those who can take action. The FCCP has a role to engage with the research community to help identify research gaps and to provide feedback on published research so that long term decisions can be based on the best evidence available.

Goal

To provide a collective voice on adaptation research priorities, to disseminate relevant research, and provide feedback on applied research intended to help practitioners make evidence-based decisions.

Actions

- Sponsor regular research into changing attitudes and experience of practitioners to environmental change by continuing to support the British Woodlands Survey and other research which provides insight to inform the work of the FCCP.
- Create a workable process to identify gaps in adaptation-related research that emerge from training, webinars and conferences organised or promoted by the FCCP and provide feedback to research organisations.
- Support an ESC User Study coordinated by FR to provide feedback on ESC to inform its development and wider adoption.

5. POLICY AND REGULATION DEVELOPMENT

Context

Although individual member organisations promote their respective views on climate adaptation of trees woods and forests, the FCCP can provide a common and authoritative voice which should carry considerable weight with policy makers. Through collective adoption of the principles of the Climate Change Accord, there is more convergence than divergence of aims and objectives on adaptation among woodland and forestry practitioners. It is the role of the FCCP to make this common voice heard in the right places.



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Goal

To provide an effective voice for tree, wood and forestry practitioners in the development and delivery of forestry policy and guidance on climate adaptation

Action

To establish a process for the FCCP to provide input to significant policy developments including:

- Defra's Tree Action Plan resilience implementation plan
- The revision of the UKFS
- Adaptation incentives in ELMS
- The National Adaptation programme

6. INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

Context

The FCCP has operated as an informal network to share information and knowledge on climate adaptation. It is recognised that for the FCCP to acquire the necessary licence to operate, and to deliver its aims and objectives, it needs to be formally constituted. This means an agreed terms of reference which sets out its aims and objectives, scope, and governance process which defines how the group works together and how decisions are made.

As part of this process we will assess how best to work with the other devolved administrations on common objectives and actions relating to climate change adaptation, recognising that a UK-wide approach will have greater impact at all levels.

Action

- Agree a terms of reference and governance process, implement and review on at least an annual basis.
- Invite devolved administrations to join the FCCP to broaden its reach and impact to advocate and promote adaptation good practice which is common across the UK.



ACTION PLAN 2021-26

#	Topic	Action	Who	By When	Status	Next Action
1.1	CLIMATE CHANGE ACCORD	To refresh the Climate Change Accord and seek wide and active support from tree, woodland and forestry organisations to communicate and promote it to their respective networks.	Sylva Foundation	31/12/2021	Ongoing	Sign off
2.1	COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT	To develop the case for support for the creation and delivery of a well-funded communications and engagement plan for the FCCP and to seek funding, initially from FCCP members, the wider sector and third parties.	Simon Lloyd	30/01/2022	Await launch of web site and agreement of secretariat role	Develop case for support
3.1	TRAINING	To organise a survey of practitioners to gauge their training needs, to assess the extent to which these needs are met by current or planned provision and to identify training gaps. On the basis of this survey, develop a FCCWG training plan	RFS	31/12/2021	Circulate draft survey incorporating comments received	Send out survey



Forestry and Climate Change Partnership

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4.1	RESEARCH	Sponsor regular research into changing attitudes and experience of practitioners to environmental change by continuing to support the British Woodland Survey and other research which provides insight to inform the work of the FCCP.	Sylva Foundation	2025	Continue to make best use of 2020 survey data to support the work of the FCCP	N/A
4.2		Create a workable process to identify gaps in adaptation related research that emerge from training, webinars and conferences organised or promoted by the FCCP and provide feedback to research organisations.	Forest Research	2022	Not yet started	Develop feedback process
4.3		Support creation of a use group to provide feedback on ESC to inform its development and wider adoption	Forest Research	2022	User group being established	Formally incorporate FCCP into user group



Forestry and Climate Change Partnership

#	Topic	Action	Who	By When	Status	Next Action
5.1	POLICY AND REGULATION	To establish a process for the FCCP to provide input to significant policy developments, such as:	Forestry Commission Natural England	2022	FC setting up review processes and structures	Formally incorporate FCCP into consultations
6.1	GOVERNANCE	Agree a terms of reference and governance process, implement and review on at least an annual basis.	Simon Lloyd	31/12/2021	Sign off terms of reference	Organise AGM
6.2		Invite devolved administrations to join the FCCP to broaden its reach and impact to advocate and promote adaptation good practice which is common across GB/UK	Forestry Commission	2022	Seeking appropriate forum for raising this proposal	