

**FSC Controlled Wood risk assessment  
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

INTERPRETATION OF ANNEX 2B OF THE STANDARD FOR COMPANY EVALUATION OF FSC CONTROLLED WOOD FOR UNITED  
KINGDOM  
(FSC-STD-40-005-V-2.1)

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**Summary of risk for United Kingdom**

Controlled Wood categories		Risk level
1	Illegally harvested wood	Low
2	Wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights	Low
3	Wood harvested in forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities	Low
4	Wood harvested in forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use	Low
5	Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted	Low

Geographic scope: United Kingdom

Types of forests: All

Control Wood categories: All

## 1. Illegally harvested wood

*The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to illegal harvesting when all the following indicators related to forest governance are present:*

Indicator	Evidence	Source
<p><b>Indicator 1.1</b> Evidence of enforcement of logging related laws in all districts in the UK</p>	<p><b>Regulation: England, Wales and Scotland</b></p> <p>All felling carried out in England, Wales and Scotland without either a felling licence or other permission is a criminal offence, unless it is covered by a recognised exemption, including 'de minimus' exemptions for small volumes and diameters.</p> <p><b>Regulation: Northern Ireland</b></p> <p>Owners of private woodlands of 0.2 hectares or more need a licence to fell trees (as of 17.06.2013), unless the felling is covered by a recognised exemption, and are required to re-establish the woodland under an approved felling management plan. Applications will be assessed against legal requirements, forestry standards and best practice guidance.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland, felling licences have been required from the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013. To date [01.08.2013] we have received a total of 10 applications distributed throughout Northern Ireland.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6dfky4">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6dfky4</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dardni.gov.uk/forests/service/index/environment/felling-licences.htm">http://www.dardni.gov.uk/forests/service/index/environment/felling-licences.htm</a></p> <p>Elicited Response: Forest Service Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</p>

	<p>In Northern Ireland a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) provides protection for those trees specified in the order and makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot or wilfully damage or destroy a tree, or permit these actions, without first seeking the consent of the Northern Ireland Planning Service.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland trees in a Conservation Area are automatically protected as if a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was in place.</p> <p><b>Enforcement: England, Wales and Scotland</b></p> <p>Enforcement is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission. Sixty successful illegal felling prosecutions were made across England, Scotland and Wales between 2002 and 2007.</p> <p><b>Enforcement: Northern Ireland</b></p> <p>Enforcement of TPOs is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Planning Service. It is an offence to contravene the provisions of a TPO. If a TPO is contravened then court action will normally be pursued. On summary conviction</p>	<p><a href="http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/planning_statements/pps09/pps09_additional_pce/pps09_trees.htm">http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/planning_statements/pps09/pps09_additional_pce/pps09_trees.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/supplementary_guidance/conservation/conservation_faq.htm#other-controls">http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/supplementary_guidance/conservation/conservation_faq.htm#other-controls</a></p> <p><i>Summary of Forestry Commission Data on Illegal Felling</i>, Richard Howe, Forestry Commission (Annex 1)</p> <p><a href="http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/planning_statements/pps09/pps09_additional_pce/pps09_trees.htm">http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/planning_statements/pps09/pps09_additional_pce/pps09_trees.htm</a></p>
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	<p>that person is liable to a fine with the potential for continuing daily fines.</p> <p>Although no collated data was available regarding the prosecution of those in contravention of a TPO, the Northern Ireland Planning Service website lists planning contraventions, including those relating to TPOs as news releases.</p> <p>“While it [Northern Ireland Felling Licence Regulation] does not cover orchards or trees in parks this is not a concern. We have other methods of protecting our ancient / significant trees through Tree Preservation Orders. The 2011 Planning Act saw an increase in the level of fine to 100k for violation of a TPO. With the legislation in place the key issue will now will be enforcement. The 2010 Forestry Legislation puts a requirement on Forest Service to create an inventory of all woodland in the province. It has been a subject of debate as to what % of Northern Ireland is woodland. This will be hopefully a first step towards protecting what we have. Accordingly I would suggest our assessment would be one of low risk. We will however be monitoring the situation to ensure that there is no further loss of our precious ancient and long established woodland.”</p>	<p><a href="#">9 trees.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/news/news_releases/news-treepreservationorder-19sep08.htm">http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/news/news_releases/news-treepreservationorder-19sep08.htm</a></p> <p>Elicited Response: The Woodland Trust Northern Ireland</p>
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	<p><b>Mitigation of Risk: Northern Ireland</b></p> <p>74% of Northern Ireland's forest area holds FSC certification. The percentage is much higher than in other UK countries (44% Wales, 31% England and 56% in Scotland), because of the high proportion of Forest Service managed woodland in Northern Ireland, all of which is FSC certified. (Forestry Facts and Figures 2009)</p> <p>Returns received by the Northern Ireland Forest Service (NIFS) from wood processors indicate that private sector felling is around 20K cubic metres of round wood per year . In comparison, NIFS sells about 400K cubic metres of round wood per year. Low round wood production from non-NIFS woodland reflects the low percentage of private sector woodland and the young age class distribution of these woods i.e. about 46% of private woodland in NI was planted since 1990.</p>	<p>Forestry Facts and Figures 2009  <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqf6j">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqf6j</a></p> <p>Forest Service Northern Ireland,  Northern Ireland Department of  Agriculture and Rural Development</p>
<p>FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 1.1: <b>LOW</b></p>		
<p><b>Indicator 1.2</b> There is evidence in the districts demonstrating the legality of harvests and wood purchases that includes robust and</p>	<p><b>Licences and Permits: England, Wales and Scotland</b></p> <p>In England, Wales and Scotland a felling licence from the Forestry Commission is required in order to fell trees, unless the felling is covered by a recognised exemption. Those who breach these requirements are normally</p>	<p><a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-649ft3">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-649ft3</a></p>

<p>effective systems for granting licences and harvest permits.</p>	<p>prosecuted, the Forestry Commission has a presumption of pursuing a prosecution whenever it is likely to succeed and will be in the public interest.</p> <p><b>Licences and Permits: Northern Ireland</b></p> <p>In Northern Ireland a felling licence from the Forest Service is required in order to fell trees, unless the felling is covered by a recognised exemption. As felling licence regulation was only introduced in June 2013, no data on enforcement is yet available.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.dardni.gov.uk/forests-service/index/environment/felling-licences.htm">http://www.dardni.gov.uk/forests-service/index/environment/felling-licences.htm</a></p>
<p>FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 1.2: <b>LOW</b></p>		
<p><b>Indicator 1.3</b> There is little or no evidence or reporting of illegal harvesting in the district of origin.</p>	<p><b>UK Government Opinion</b></p> <p>It is generally accepted that there is very little evidence of illegal logging in the UK. The UK's Department for International Development published 'Money Laundering and Illegal Logging - Application of UK legislation' in 2004 which stated that "As far as the UK is concerned, illegal logging is almost exclusively an act that takes place outside UK jurisdiction..."</p>	<p><a href="http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?item=document&amp;item_id=135&amp;approach_id">http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?item=document&amp;item_id=135&amp;approach_id</a></p>

	<p><b>State Forestry Service Opinion</b></p> <p>This Forestry Commission report concludes that the proportion of illegal felling across England, Scotland and Wales between 2002 and 2006 has consistently been less than 1%.</p> <p><b>International Opinion</b></p> <p>There is no evidence to suggest that illegal logging is a widespread problem in the UK.</p>	<p><i>Summary of Forestry Commission Data on Illegal Felling</i>, Richard Howe, Forestry Commission (Annex 1)</p> <p><a href="http://www.illegal-logging.info/">http://www.illegal-logging.info/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.eia-international.org/index.shtml">http://www.eia-international.org/index.shtml</a></p>
<p>FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 1.3: <b>LOW</b></p>		
<p><b>Indicator 1.4</b> There is a low perception of corruption related to the granting or issuing of harvesting permits and other areas of law enforcement related to harvesting and wood trade.</p>	<p><b>World Bank Governance Indicators<sup>i</sup></b></p> <p>The UK ranks highly in almost all dimensions of governance, including control of corruption (93rd percentile), rule of law (92nd percentile) and government effectiveness (94th percentile).</p> <p><b>Corruption Perception Index</b></p> <p>In Transparency International's 2009 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) the United Kingdom is in 17<sup>th</sup> place with a score of 7.7. Despite the fact that the UK was ranked in 16<sup>th</sup> place in 2008, the CPI score has remained</p>	<p><a href="http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.asp">http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.asp</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009/cpi_2009_table">http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009/cpi_2009_table</a></p>



	unchanged, the UK's most recent assessment therefore continues to portray a low level of corruption perception.	
FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 1.4: <b>LOW</b>		
<b>FSC UK's cumulative assessment of risk for the category of illegally harvested wood in all districts in the UK is LOW</b> (England, Wales, Scotland) <b>Unspecified</b> (Northern Ireland)		

## 2. Wood harvested in violation of traditional or civil rights

*The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to the violation of traditional, civil and collective rights when all the following indicators are present:*

Indicator	Evidence	Source
<b>Indicator 2.1</b> There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from the country concerned.	There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from the UK.	<a href="http://www.globalwitness.org/pages/en/forests.html">http://www.globalwitness.org/pages/en/forests.html</a>
FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 2.1: <b>LOW</b>		
<b>Indicator 2.2</b> The country or district is not a designated source of conflict timber (e.g. USAID Type 1 conflict timber).	The UK is not associated with or designated as a source of conflict timber according to latest available research.	<a href="http://www.usaid.gov/">http://www.usaid.gov/</a> <a href="http://www.illegal-logging.info/sub_approach.php?subApproach_id=56">http://www.illegal-logging.info/sub_approach.php?subApproach_id=56</a>

FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 2.2: **LOW**

**Indicator 2.3** There is no evidence of child labour or violation of ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work taking place in forest areas in the district concerned.

**UK Engagement with ILO**

The UK has a permanent seat in the ILO governing body and, since the ILO's formation in 1919, has ratified 87 ILO conventions including the eight core conventions covering human rights in the work place.

**UK Child Labour Legislation**

The UK has specific child employment laws which restrict how much children can work and what kinds of work they may do. It is compulsory for children under 16 years of age to attend school.

Children under the age of 16 are only permitted to undertake light work.

**Child Labour: UK Record**

No evidence of child labour or violation of ILO fundamental principles on an exceptional scale is known to occur.

**Right to Collective Bargaining**

[http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pqconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&querytype=bool&hitdirection=1&hitstart=0&hitsrange=2000&sortmacro=sortconv&query=\(United+Kingdom\)@ref&chspec=19&](http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pqconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&querytype=bool&hitdirection=1&hitstart=0&hitsrange=2000&sortmacro=sortconv&query=(United+Kingdom)@ref&chspec=19&)

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/ParentsRights/DG\\_4002945](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/ParentsRights/DG_4002945)

<http://www.worksmart.org.uk/rights/viewsubsection.php?sun=75>

<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=2299>



FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 2.3: **LOW**

**Indicator 2.4** There are recognised and equitable processes in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to traditional rights including use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity in the district concerned.

**Rights and Legislation: UK**

The Bill of Rights 1689 enshrined ancient rights and liberties in statute.

The British Constitution is not written down in a single formal document. Instead the rights and responsibilities held as individuals and as a society are formed from a number of different sources.

**European Convention on Human Rights**

The UK ratified the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in 1951. Individuals in the UK can make a complaint to the European Commission of Human Rights should they wish to do so.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (EU) summarises the common values of the EU Member States and brings together in a single text the traditional civil and political rights as well as economic and social rights.

[http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathtways/citizenship/rise\\_parliament/making\\_history\\_rise.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathtways/citizenship/rise_parliament/making_history_rise.htm)

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Yourrightsandresponsibilities/DG\\_066931](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Yourrightsandresponsibilities/DG_066931)

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=005&CM=8&DF=&CL=ENG>

[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/human\\_rights/fundamental\\_rights\\_within\\_european\\_union/l33501\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/human_rights/fundamental_rights_within_european_union/l33501_en.htm)

	<p>The Human Rights Act 1998 gives further legal effect in the UK to the fundamental rights and freedoms contained in the European Convention on Human Rights.</p> <p><b>An International View of Civil Rights in the UK</b></p> <p>Freedom House<sup>1</sup>, in their 2009 <i>Freedom in the World</i> report, have categorised the UK as having a rating of one for both political rights and civil liberties on a one-to-seven scale, with one representing the highest degree of freedom and seven the lowest. The report also categorises the UK as 'Free', as opposed to 'Partly Free' or 'Not Free'.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/ukpga_19980042_en_1">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/ukpga_19980042_en_1</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=439">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=439</a></p>
<p>FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 2.4: <b>LOW</b></p>		
<p><b>Indicator 2.5</b> There is no evidence of violation of the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples taking place in the forest areas in the district concerned.</p>	<p><b>UK Government Opinion</b></p> <p>It is widely accepted that there are no indigenous people in the UK. Lord Triesman, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office made a statement to this effect the House of Lords in 2007 regarding (ILO) Convention 169</p> <p>The Government has not and does not plan to ratify ILO Convention 169, which it assesses does not apply to the</p>	<p><a href="http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld200607/ldhansrd/text/70619w0004.htm">http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/ld200607/ldhansrd/text/70619w0004.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page178">http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page178</a></p>

<sup>1</sup> Freedom House is a US based NGO that advocates democracy in international affairs, it conducts research about the level and nature of freedom and civil liberties around the world.

United Kingdom. The Government does not believe that there is evidence to show that signing this convention would positively impact the lives of indigenous people around the world, as the convention sets out a framework for the way in which governments operate towards indigenous people in their own territories. However, the UK supports the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by both the Human Rights Council and the United Nations General Assembly, is committed to implementing European Union Council Resolution of 30 November 1998 on Indigenous Peoples, and has also published the Policy Paper “Reducing Poverty by tackling social exclusion”, which includes the rights of indigenous peoples. In 2005, the UK agreed a joint statement on EU development policy that committed the EU to strengthen the mainstreaming of indigenous issues into its work. The EU also funds the International Labour Organisation to work on implementing ILO Convention 169 in Africa, Latin America and South Asia.

**UK Record: Treatment of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples**

No complaints have been made against the UK in relation to ILO Convention 169, however, the convention has not been ratified by the UK.

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<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>

	<p>The Scottish Crofting Federation's (SCF) indigenous people project has indicated that there is a historical case for crofters to be considered indigenous people under the terms of the UN legislation. The current status of the project is that the SCF have contacted the United Nations and are awaiting further information from them on how to proceed. In terms of the restitution of land that was taken from the indigenous peoples of the Highlands and Islands during the colonial era, it is generally considered by the SCF that the Forestry Commission have been one of the more proactive government bodies in offering opportunities for indigenous communities to take a level of control and ownership in government owned land in their areas.</p> <p>Survival International are running a campaign to get the UK to ratify the legislation on the basis that this would bring British firms operating overseas under the terms of UN legislation. Without this commitment from the UK Government the Scottish Crofting Federation contends that it is very difficult for crofters to make use of the UN system. The UK government has responded to this campaign stating that it does not plan to ratify the convention (see Government Opinion above).</p> <p>Tenant crofters can only acquire the right to manage woods through a specific legal process and with the</p>	<p><a href="http://www.crofting.org/uploads/news/crofters-indigenous-peoples.pdf">http://www.crofting.org/uploads/news/crofters-indigenous-peoples.pdf</a></p> <p>Elicited Response: Scottish Crofting Federation</p> <p><a href="http://www.survivalinternational.org/law">http://www.survivalinternational.org/law</a></p> <p>Elicited Response: Bill Ritchie MBE, Scottish Crofter and forest campaigner.</p>
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	approval of the landowner. Once that right is established it is secure. Crofters who have acquired the legal title to their land either as individuals or collectively also through a specific legal process have secure rights to manage the woods on the land.	
FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 2.5: <b>LOW</b>		
<b>FSC UK's cumulative assessment of risk for the category of wood harvested in violation of traditional or civil rights in all districts in the UK is LOW</b>		

**3. Wood harvested from forest in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities**

*The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to threat to high conservation values if:*

- a) Indicator 3.1 is met; or*
- b) Indicator 3.2 eliminates (or greatly mitigates) the threat posed to the district of origin by non-compliance with 3.1.*



Indicator	Evidence <sup>2</sup>	Source
<p><b>Indicator 3.1</b> Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local) do not threaten eco-regionally significant high conservation values.</p>	<p><b>Terrestrial Eco-regions</b>  Four terrestrial eco-regions have been identified in the UK: English Lowlands Beech Forests (PA0421); Celtic Broadleaf Forests (PA0409); Caledon Conifer Forests (PA0503) and North Atlantic Moist Mixed Forests (PA0429). PA0421, PA0409 and PA0503 have been classified as 'Critical/Endangered', PA0429 has been categorised as 'Vulnerable'.</p> <p><b>International Designations</b></p> <p><u>Biodiversity Hotspots</u>  Conservation International have not identified any Biodiversity Hotspots in the UK.</p> <p><u>High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas</u>  Conservation International have not identified any regions in the UK as High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas.</p> <p><u>Global 200 Ecoregions</u>  No forest or woodland areas in the UK have been identified</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nationalgeographic.com/world/terrestrial.html">http://www.nationalgeographic.com/world/terrestrial.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/Pages/default.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.conservation.org/explore/priority_areas/wilderness/pages/default.aspx">http://www.conservation.org/explore/priority_areas/wilderness/pages/default.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/">http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/</a></p>

<sup>2</sup> FSC International recommends specific evidence should be examined when assessing Indicator 3.1: regions identified by Conservation International as Biodiversity Hotspots and High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas; forest, woodland or mangrove ecoregions identified by WWF as Global 200 Ecoregions; Greenpeace identified Intact Forest Landscapes and those regions identified by IUCN as Centres of Plant Diversity.

	<p>as Global 200 Ecoregions.</p> <p><u>Intact Forest Landscapes</u></p> <p>Greenpeace have not identified any Intact Forest Landscapes in the UK.</p> <p><u>Centres of Plant Diversity</u></p> <p>No Centres of Plant Diversity have been identified in the UK by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).</p> <p><b>UK Biodiversity Action Plan</b></p> <p>65 habitats have been in the UK have been listed as priorities for conservation under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p><a href="#">ecoregions/ecoregion_list/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.intactforests.org/statistics/countries/united_kingdom.htm">http://www.intactforests.org/statistics/countries/united_kingdom.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://earthtrends.wri.org/text/biodiversity-protected/map-222.html">http://earthtrends.wri.org/text/biodiversity-protected/map-222.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk/NewPriorityList.aspx">http://www.ukbap.org.uk/NewPriorityList.aspx</a></p>
<p>FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 3.1: <b>LOW</b></p>		
<p><b>Indicator 3.2</b> A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the ecoregion.</p>	<p><b>Protection of HCVs: UK</b></p> <p>The UK has a responsibility to ensure the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species in both a national and international context. One approach to achieving this is the establishment of a system of protected sites. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is the statutory adviser to Government on UK and international nature conservation. The JNCC website outlines a number of protective designations that can be applied to a site.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1527">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1527</a></p>

	<p><u>Convention on Biological Diversity</u></p> <p>The UK signed the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992.</p> <p>The 'Fourth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity:United Kingdom' provides an overall positive analysis of the UK's efforts to protect and increase biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (England, Scotland and Wales) and Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) (Northern Ireland)<sup>ii</sup></u></p> <p>4115 SSSIs have been identified in England, 1456 in Scotland and 1019 in Wales. 293 ASSIs have been identified in Northern Ireland</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml">http://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gb/gb-nr-04-en.pdf">http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/gb/gb-nr-04-en.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sssi/default.aspx">http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sssi/default.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.snh.org.uk/about/abpa01.asp">http://www.snh.org.uk/about/abpa01.asp</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-landscapes--sites/protected-landscapes/sssis/current-sssis-in-wales.aspx">http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-landscapes--sites/protected-landscapes/sssis/current-sssis-in-wales.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ni-">http://www.ni-</a></p>
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	<p><u>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)<sup>iii</sup> (England, Wales, Northern Ireland) and National Scenic Areas (NSAs) (Scotland)</u>  40 sites have been designated as AONBs in England and Wales and 9 in Northern Ireland. 40 sites in Scotland have been designated as National Scenic Areas.</p> <p><u>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)/Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)<sup>iv</sup></u>  621 sites have been designated as SACs, SCIs or cSACs in the UK</p> <p><u>Classified and Potential Special Protection Areas (SPAs)<sup>v</sup></u>  256 sites in the UK have been designated as classified SPAs and 8 have been designated as potential SPAs.</p> <p><u>Ramsar: Wetlands of International Importance<sup>vi</sup></u>  166 Ramsar sites have been identified in the UK mainland.</p> <p><u>Important Bird Areas (IBAs)<sup>vii</sup></u></p>	<p><a href="http://environment.gov.uk/protected_areas_home/area_interest/asssites.htm">environment.gov.uk/protected_areas_home/area_interest/asssites.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.aonb.org.uk/wba/naaonb/naaonbpreview.nsf/Web%20Default%20Frameset?OpenFrameSet&amp;Frame=Main&amp;Src=%2Fwba%2Fnaaonb%2Fnaaonbpreview.nsf%2F%24LU.WebHomePage%2F%24first!OpenDocument%26AutoFramed">http://www.aonb.org.uk/wba/naaonb/naaonbpreview.nsf/Web%20Default%20Frameset?OpenFrameSet&amp;Frame=Main&amp;Src=%2Fwba%2Fnaaonb%2Fnaaonbpreview.nsf%2F%24LU.WebHomePage%2F%24first!OpenDocument%26AutoFramed</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.snh.org.uk/scripts-snh/abpa03.asp">http://www.snh.org.uk/scripts-snh/abpa03.asp</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1456">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1456</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1399">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1399</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&amp;cp=1-36-55_4000_0">http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&amp;cp=1-36-55_4000_0</a></p>
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	<p>287 IBAs have been identified in the UK mainland.</p> <p><b>Strength of Protection: UK</b></p> <p>The UK is rated in the 90<sup>th</sup>-100<sup>th</sup> percentile in the World Bank 'rule of law' index. It therefore has a high rating (<math>\geq 75\%</math>) indicating that legislation and law enforcement in the UK is strong and effective.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/datazone/iba.asp">http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/datazone/iba.asp</a></p> <p><a href="http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/mc_chart.asp">http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/mc_chart.asp</a></p>
<p>FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 3.2: <b>LOW</b></p>		
<p><b>FSC UK's cumulative assessment of risk for the category of wood harvested from forest in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities in all districts in the UK is LOW</b></p>		

**4. Wood harvested from areas being converted from forests and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses.**

*The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to conversion of forest to plantations or non-forest uses when the following indicator is present:*

Indicator	Evidence	Source
Indicator 4.1 There is no net loss and no	<p><b>No Net Loss: England, Wales and Scotland</b></p> <p>UK forest cover statistics produced by the Forestry</p>	<p><a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/land/alltables.htm">http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/land/alltables.htm</a></p>

<p>significant rate of loss (&gt;0.5% per year) of natural forests and other naturally wooded ecosystems such as savannahs taking place in the eco-region in question.</p>	<p>Commission show that between 1980 and 2005 there was no decrease in forest cover. The figures for both coniferous and broadleaved areas of forest cover actually increased during the sampling period.</p> <p><b>No Net Change: UK</b> The latest (2005) Global Forest Resources Assessment UK Report submitted to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations estimates that there has been no net change in areas of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland since 1990.</p> <p><b>Net Gain: UK</b> These figures show an overall increase in forest cover in the UK between 1998 and 2007.</p> <p><b>Woodland Conversion</b> There has been a presumption against the conversion of semi-natural woodland to plantations since the launch of the Forestry Commission's Broadleaves Policy in 1985.</p>	<p><a href="ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/ai988E/ai988E00.pdf">ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/ai988E/ai988E00.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk/pdf/reports2007/CS_UK_2007_Ch06_rev.pdf">http://www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk/pdf/reports2007/CS_UK_2007_Ch06_rev.pdf</a></p> <p><i>Protected Forest Areas in the UK,</i> Simon Pryor and George Peterken, 2001</p>
<p>FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 4.1: <b>LOW</b></p>		
<p><b>FSC UK's cumulative assessment of risk for the category of wood harvested from areas being converted from forests and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses in all districts in the UK is LOW</b></p>		

## 5. Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted

*The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to wood from genetically modified trees when one of the following indicators is complied with:*

Indicator	Evidence	Source
<p><b>a)</b> There is no commercial use of genetically modified trees of the species concerned taking place in the country or district concerned. OR</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>b)</b> Licences are required for commercial use of genetically modified trees and there are no licenses for commercial use. OR</p>	<p>Licenses are required for the commercial use of genetically modified trees and no licences for releasing genetically modified trees are pending or have been granted.</p>	<p><a href="http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20081023210236/http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/pdf/gm-guide_draft.pdf">http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20081023210236/http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/pdf/gm-guide_draft.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/pdf/euconsent.pdf">http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/regulation/pdf/euconsent.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>c)</b> It is forbidden to use genetically modified</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

trees commercially in the country concerned.		
FSC UK's overall assessment of risk for Indicator 5b: <b>LOW</b>		
<b>FSC UK's cumulative assessment of risk for the category of wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted in all districts in the UK is LOW</b>		



## Annex 1

### Summary of FC Data on Illegal Felling

E= England. S= Scotland. W=Wales

	2002/3			2003/4			2004/5			2005/6			2006/7		
	E	S	W	E	S	W	E	S	W	E	S	W	E	S	W
<b>*Number of cases of Alleged Illegal Felling Investigated</b>	37	47	39	33	42	39	36	40	81	33	38	74	26	37	29
<b>Number of successful prosecutions</b>	13	3	1	6	4	1	13	4	1	9	1	0	3	1	0
<b>Total volume of timber felled illegally (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	1073	4651	298	1284	219	1267	1021	531	420	933	1381	303	1473	738	40
<b>** Proportion of illegal felling (%)</b>	0.26	0.74		0.21	0.03		0.1	0.06		0.08	0.3		0.12	0.06	

\* Countries vary slightly as to how data is collected but this is the number of cases investigated. Investigation may lead to a case being prepared, ( or in Scotland brought to the Procurator Fiscal who decides if it in the public interest to bring a prosecution). Not all cases brought result in successful prosecutions.

\*\* Felling licensed, not including state forests. Some differences in how this data is described so should not be quoted. Probably safe to say illegal felling is less than 1%

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<sup>i</sup> The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project reports governance indicators for 212 countries and territories over the period 1996–2008, for six dimensions of governance: voice and accountability; political stability and absence of violence; government effectiveness; regulatory quality; the rule of law; and control of corruption.

<sup>ii</sup> The Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)/ Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) series has developed since 1949 as the national suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. These sites are also used to underpin other national and international nature conservation designations.

<sup>iii</sup> The primary purpose of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation is to conserve natural beauty – which by statute includes wildlife, physiographic features and cultural heritage as well as the more conventional concepts of landscape and scenery. Account is taken of the need to safeguard agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities. AONBs have equivalent status to National Parks as far as conservation is concerned. In Scotland, National Scenic Areas (NSAs) are broadly equivalent to AONBs.

<sup>iv</sup> SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive. SACs are areas which have been identified as best representing the range and variety within the European Union of habitats and (non-bird) species listed on Annexes I and II to the Directive. Sites which have been submitted to the European Commission by Government, but not yet formally adopted by the Commission, are referred to as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs). Sites which have been adopted by the EC, but not yet formally designated by governments of Member States are known as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). SACs, together with SPAs, form the Natura 2000 network

<sup>v</sup> SPAs are classified by the UK Government under the EC Birds Directive. SPAs are areas of the most important habitat for rare (listed on Annex I to the Directive) and migratory birds within the European Union. SPAs, together with SACs, form the Natura 2000 network.

<sup>vi</sup> Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, agreed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. Originally intended to protect sites of importance especially as waterfowl habitat, the Convention has broadened its scope over the years to cover all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognizing wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities. The Convention adopts a broad definition of wetland, namely "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or

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temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres". Wetlands "may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six metres at low tide lying within the wetlands".

<sup>vii</sup> The most important sites for birds are known as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Birdlife International's IBA programme is a worldwide initiative aimed at identifying and protecting a network of sites, critical for the conservation of the world's birds. identifying and protecting a network of sites, critical for the conservation of the world's birds.