

# Forestry Policy Approaches in the UK

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# Concepts, Concepts, Concepts,...

- Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Adaptive Management
- Integrated Management
- Ecosystem Services
- Multi-functional Management
- Multi-purpose Management
- Ecosystem Approach
- Natural Capital Approach
- Nature's Contributions
- Nature-based Solutions
- Ecosystem Management
- Resilience Management
- ...
- ...
- ...

# Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

## Rio Forest Principles

*'... forest resources and forest lands should be sustainably managed to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations'*  
(UNCED, 1992)

United Nations



General Assembly

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992)

Annex III

NON-LEGALLY BINDING AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES  
FOR A GLOBAL CONSENSUS ON THE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL TYPES OF FORESTS

PREAMBLE

- (a) The subject of forests is related to the entire range of environmental and development issues and opportunities, including the right to socio-economic development on a sustainable basis.
- (b) The guiding objective of these principles is to contribute to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests and to provide for their multiple and complementary functions and uses.
- (c) Forestry issues and opportunities should be examined in a holistic and balanced manner within the overall context of environment and development, taking into consideration the multiple functions and uses of forests, including traditional uses, and the likely economic and social stress when these uses are constrained or restricted, as well as the potential for development that sustainable forest management can offer.

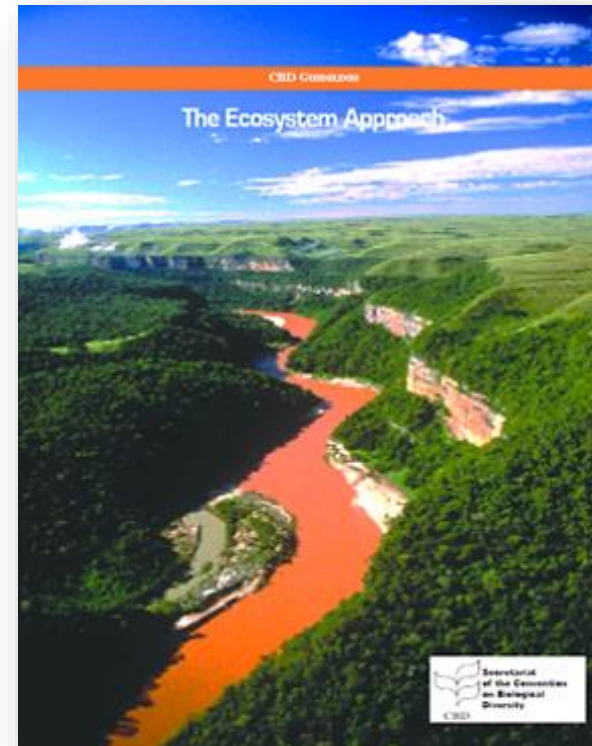
# CBD Ecosystem Approach (EA)

## Definition

*“A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way” (CBD, 1995)*

## 12 Ecosystem Approach Principles (CBD, 2000)

### Principle 5: ecosystem services (ES)



# Aims and Methods

## **Aim**

To investigate the relationship between UK national forestry and global policy approaches

## **Objectives**

- to identify the main forestry policy approaches in the UK
- to examine their relationships and
- how these relate to global approaches, using the CBD's ecosystem approach

## **Methods**

Comprehensive literature/documentary review and expert interviews

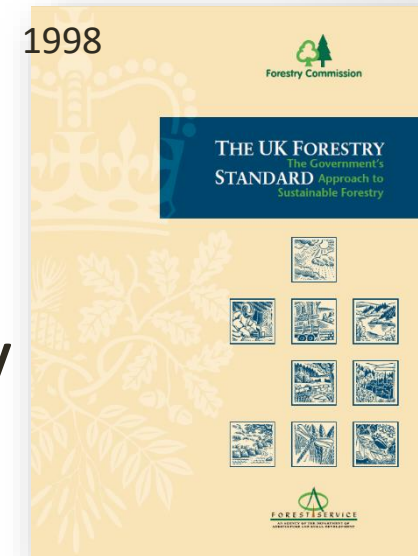
# A) Results – Documentary Review

## UK Forestry Policy Approaches

(1920 - 50s: Mono-purpose forestry for timber)

- 1960s - today: Multi-purpose/functional forestry
- 1990s - today: Sustainable forest management

Today, the two principles of sustainability and multi-functionality conjointly underpin forestry policy



# A) Legislation and Policy Documents - Summary

Approaches	Global Legislation/ Policy	EU Legislation/ Policy	UK Legislation	UK Key Policy Documents/ Guidelines
<b>Multi-purpose Forestry</b>			1968 Countryside Act 1985 Countryside Act	1985 Broadleaved Policy
<b>Sustainable Forest Management</b>	1992 UN Voluntary-Forestry Principles	1993 MCPFE*- Voluntary Guidelines	2004 Planning Act	1994 Sustainable Forestry Policy 1998/2009 Forestry Standard 2011/2017 Forestry Standard
<b>CBD Ecosystem Approach</b>	1995 CBD EA 2000 CBD Decision-12 EA Principles	2010 Habitats-Regulation	2000 Countryside Act 2006 Environment Act	2007 EA Action Plan 2011 UK Forestry Standard
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	2000 CBD EA-Principle 5 (2005 MEA) 2007 NLBI**	2015 MCPFE-Resolution	2000 Countryside Act 2006 Environment Act	2007 ES Valuation Guide 2011 UK Forestry Standard (UK NEA)

\*= Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, \*\* = Non-legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests

EA = Ecosystem Approach, ES = Ecosystem Services

Source: Raum, 2018



# A) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) vs. Ecosystem Approach (EA)

**UNEP (2003)** EA: Further Elaboration,  
Guidelines for Implementation and  
Relationship with SFM

*“SFM can be  
considered as a means  
of applying the  
ecosystem approach to  
forests”*

**Forestry Commission (2011):** UK  
Forestry Standard

*the CBD's 12 EA  
principles “are being  
applied through the  
UN principles of  
sustainable forest  
management already  
agreed”*



# B) Results – Expert Interviews

## **Stakeholder Perceptions**

- There appeared to be confusion amongst some stakeholders,
- who conflated concepts seemingly without understanding the details (especially the ecosystem approach and ecosystem services),
- and with different levels of understanding in different communities
- Some seemed to use the specific terminology of approaches interchangeably, arguably layering new ideas on top of existing ones (especially ecosystem services on top of multi-purpose forestry)

# B) Results – Expert Interviews

## Stakeholder Perceptions

- Others' appeared to consciously re-brand existing concepts because it better suited their goals (e.g. raising revenues, tree planting)
- For example, the existing idea of multi-purpose forestry was reframed to forestry for the provisioning of ecosystem services because of the ES's explicit revenue raising potential
- The frequency of new, and often ambiguous, policy approaches was also found to be challenging to stakeholders, and
- we found signs of policy fatigue and/or disillusionment

# Synthesis

Nevertheless, in UK forestry, neither the CBD's EA nor the ES concept were seen as something fundamentally new (Raum, 2018):

- the former displayed many elements of the governing sustainable forest management approach and
- the latter was understood as an extension of multi-purpose forestry

<b>1960s/ 1970s</b>	<b>Multi-purpose Forestry →</b>	<b>Concept of Ecosystem Services</b>
<b>1990s</b>	<b>Sustainable Forest Management ≈</b>	<b>Ecosystem Approach</b>

# Summary and Conclusion

- Numerous policy approaches exist for natural resource management/forestry
- In the UK, as elsewhere, their application is challenging (frequency, ambiguity → conflation, fatigue, failure)
- They are used in different ways by different stakeholders (different framings and levels of understanding)
- Today, the main approaches are ‘multi-purpose forestry’ and ‘sustainable forest management’
- The SFM remains the overriding principle
- The specific emphasis on ES through the MEA (2005) and UK NEA (2011), however, is influencing SFM
- Need for less approaches, clear definitions, unambiguous principles

# References

**UNCED (1992)** Non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

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**UNEP (2003b)** Ecosystem Approach: Further Elaboration, Guidelines for Implementation and Relationship with Sustainable Forest Management

**Forestry Commission (1998) (2004) (2011) (2017)** The UK Forestry Standard. The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry

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**CBD (1995)** COP 2 Decision II/8: Preliminary Consideration of Components of Biological Diversity Particularly Under Threat and Action Which Could be Taken Under the Convention

**CBD (2000)** COP 5 Decision V/6 Ecosystem Approach

**MEA (2005)** Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Ecosystems and Human Well-being. Synthesis

**Defra (2007a)** Securing a Healthy Natural Environment: An Action Plan for Embedding an Ecosystems Approach

**Defra (2007b)** An Introductory Guide to Valuing Ecosystem Services

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**Raum (2017)** The ecosystem approach, ecosystem services and established forestry policy approaches in the United Kingdom. *Land Use Policy*, 64, 282—291

**Raum (2018)** Reasons for adoption and advocacy of the ecosystem services concept in UK forestry. *Ecol. Econ.*, 143, 47—54

**Raum & Potter (2019)** The challenges of implementing global policy: the ecosystem approach and forestry. Grantham Institute Briefing note No 9 April 2019

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