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Recent developments in forestry provide challenges for scientists and practitioners: How can dominant public attitudes concerning woodlands be characterised, and how can they be translated into policy design? How do people see the future of woodlands? This paper analyses the developments that characterised forestry in Scotland at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It explores whether an appropriate balance being achieved between the economic, environmental and social aspects of forestry, and what its role is in sustainable rural development. We analyse institutions and stakeholder perceptions on forestry. The emphasis is on participatory approaches and on the development of capabilities for end-users involvement in the assessment and implementation of policy priorities for sustainable multifunctional (MF) forestry in Scotland.

## OBJECTIVES:

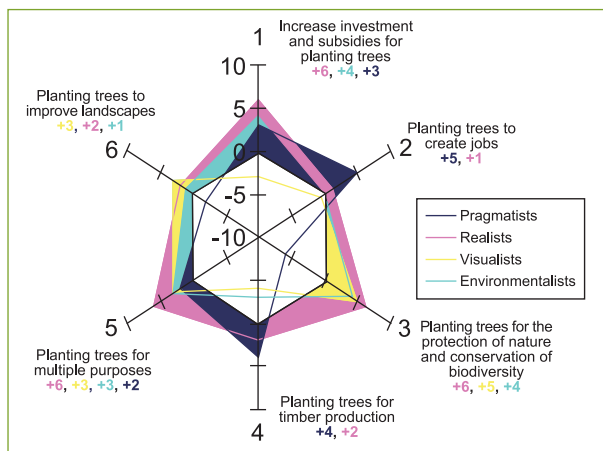
- Define the pressures for changes;
- Analyse forest policy and strategies; institutions and capabilities, and the delivery mechanisms of schemes with SF objectives;
- Assess stakeholder attitudes to woodlands and to the future of forestry in Scotland;
- Develop capabilities to link SF goals with local management practices

## SCOTTISH FORESTRY STRATEGY, 2006

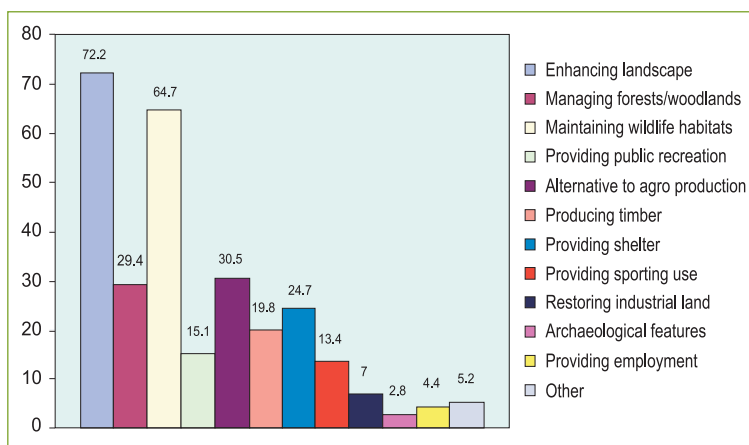
Climate Change  
Timber  
Business Development  
Community Development  
Access and Health  
Environmental Quality  
Biodiversity

## METHODOLOGY:

Institutional analysis, participatory methods, Q-method: sequential application of principal component analysis and correlation, and discourse and concourse analysis

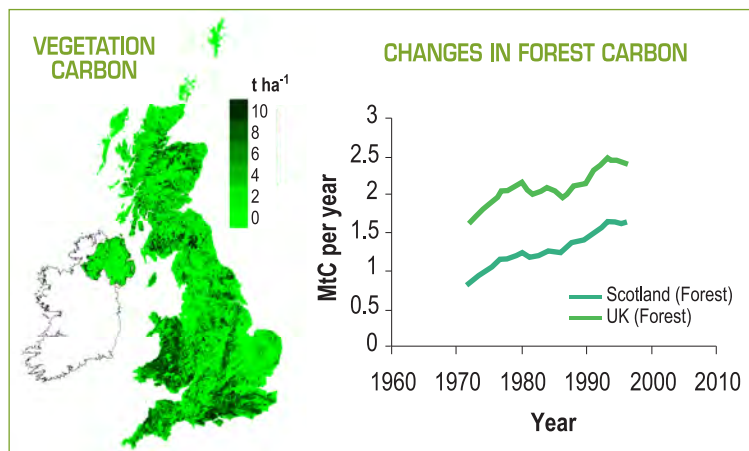


Public attitudes towards woodland development  
Source: Nijnik et al. (2006)



High priority objectives of woodland development defined in applications for subsidies under the Woodland Grant Scheme, 1995-2002, %. Computed on basis of data of UK FC

- The role of woodlands in MF countryside is increasing, with better integration of forestry with other land uses in rural landscapes;
- Major barriers for SF development are financial and institutional;
- Forestry is becoming an important provider of ecosystem, recreational and educational services;
- The wide range and scale of externalities associated with forestry creates a challenge for commercialisation;
- The role of forestry in carbon sequestration and renewable energy projects is rising.



C storage by forests in the UK: total above ground of ca. 120 MtC (80% in vegetation); in Scotland, it is over 40% of that in the UK.  
Source: CEH (2002) and FC (2008)