

# Sector: Forestry



# Sector profile

- 17% of Scotland's land area; > 25% in some regions; 45% of UK woodland area
- Rebuilt from early 20<sup>th</sup> C nadir of 5%
- 75% is coniferous including commercial, productive forests with introduced species (e.g. Sitka spruce)
- Native woodlands, Trees outside woodlands (rural, urban and peri-urban)
- Two-thirds in private ownership
- Devolved forestry - ongoing policy support for woodland expansion and sustainable management

# Sector profile



- Approx. 7 mill tonnes softwood produced annually
- Significant source of employment and raw material for domestic saw-milling and wood processing industry
- £1 billion GVA for Scottish Economy; 25000 FTE jobs (CJC consulting 2015)
- Non-market/public values of biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, recreation, landscape, air pollution absorption

# Threats

- Previously - Climate extremes (strong winds, droughts), climate change, deer
- Increasingly – Pests and Diseases
- Endemic pests and diseases – changing relationships/environments
- Recently introduced pests and diseases – global pathways
- Yet to arrive ‘nasties’ and ‘unpredictables’
- Decline in some (chemical) solutions

# Current management

- Pre-treatment of plants for planting and some top-up spraying
- Biological control
- Sanitation (and statutory) felling
- Improved biosecurity – ‘Keep it Clean’
- Citizen science to contribute to early warning – Observatree project

# Challenges

- Time-scales
- Low intensity management
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Expanding the range of solutions
- Specific pests and diseases (and the specifics of the host/environment interactions)
- Knowledge and awareness
- Capacity and capability