



Norway Study Tour Review Evaluation Report

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1 Introduction

Back in 1993, Reforesting Scotland organised a study tour to Norway. The aims of the study tour were:

- *To examine the Norwegian land use system and to identify the economic, social and environmental benefits and problems associated with it in the context of land use in Scotland, and;*
- *To develop thinking on issues relating to the future of land use in Scotland such as forestry, farming, crafting, rural policy, environmental management, rural development and land tenure.*

The study tour worked from a baseline comparison of the situation in each country as at 1993 as detailed in the appendices of this proposal. The findings of the study tour highlighted 7 observations and main themes that were felt “*to distill the experience of the tour and the ideas it generated so that a wider audience could take part in the ongoing debate about the future for rural Scotland.*” (NST report, 1994; p5) – these have also been detailed in the appendices of this proposal.

12 years on, the directors of Reforesting Scotland expressed the desire to carry out a survey to find out how circumstances and situations in Scotland have moved on in these particular theme areas. It was hoped that the findings from the survey would provide results that indicate the work of Reforesting Scotland might be considered as having been influential in stimulating debate about the future for rural Scotland.

Additionally, the directors also wanted to establish whether or not the participants of the original study tour believe that organising another similar type of tour would be beneficial, and to gather suggestions regarding appropriate areas or countries where such a tour could usefully take place from those that support the idea.

The participants of the Norway Study Tour were approached to complete a short questionnaire-based survey. The survey preparation & distribution, the data collation, codification and categorisation and analysis, and the preparation of a report on the survey findings and conclusions were all carried out for the directors by Elaine Reid.

2 Methodology used

2.1 Survey materials used & approach adopted

An introductory email message, a similarly worded introductory letter and a survey questionnaire were prepared for distribution to as many of the participants of the Norway Study Tour as was possible to contact – 30 participants were contacted either via email or post. A copy of the contacts list as used has been provided in the accompanying survey feedback report.

Distribution was done via either email (the preferred method) or post depending on what contact details were available for each study tour participant. Regardless of the method used, an accompanying letter explained the purpose of the survey questionnaire and asked the recipient to complete and return the questionnaire, again, either via email or post as appropriate. A dedicated email box was set up for electronic distribution and return of survey questionnaires. Survey questionnaires sent via post were returned directly to the survey organiser.

The questionnaire contained details of two pertinent extracts drawn from the original report in the preamble provided that were intended to serve as a handy reminder to those being surveyed, namely:

- a copy of the Norway/Scotland Baseline Comparison as at 1993 that was drawn on during the study tour, and;
- a copy of the themes and observations drawn from the visit.

Copies of both these extracts, along with a draft version of the proposed survey questionnaire, have been included in the appendices section of the report.

Responses were received from 22 NST participants– 20 of these participants submitted feedback for some or all of the questions posed, whilst the remaining 2 felt that there were not in a position to participate and therefore did not submit any feedback.

2.2 Data analysis approach adopted

The feedback data on the questionnaires returned were collated, codified, categorised and analysed by the survey organiser. Analysis and subsequent presentation of the findings was done on a part-qualitative & part-quantitative basis making use of Microsoft Excel software. The feedback given by all respondents for each of the questions posed was individually evaluated to create a view on the general feeling amongst them as to how, in their opinion, Scotland has moved forward in the 7 theme areas identified from the findings of the 1993 Reforesting Scotland Norway Study Tour. Feedback was evaluated on a question-by-question basis and was categorised to reflect the level of progress felt to have been made. The categories used were:

- No progress made to date;
- Modest progress made to date;
- Moderate progress made to date;

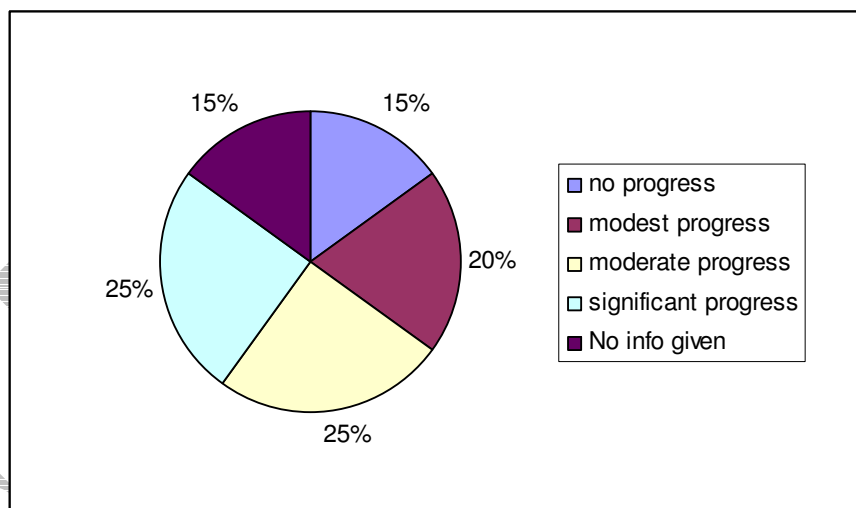
- Significant progress made to date, and;
- No answer given.

The decision on how to categorise each response was made using the level of positivity or negativity felt to have been expressed by the respondent in their answers. The 'No answer given' category was required as some of the respondents did not answer some of the questions posed. Where feedback was given, the pertinent parts have been extracted and inserted in this report to illustrate the response given. The initials of the person contributing each piece of feedback have been included at the end of each extract.

This draft version report on the survey findings and conclusions has been prepared for circulation to the Reforesting Scotland directors for information and comment. The directors may wish to consider arranging for the final version of the report to be professionally typeset and printed if they wish to use the information in the report in support of, for example, future funding applications.

3 Evaluation of survey feedback received

3.1 “Optimum use of biological potential”



A total of 35% of the respondents expressed some level of negativity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘no progress’ or only ‘modest progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “Slow progress but signs that we are moving forward within the Crofting areas” (AN)
- “...most of Scotland’s uplands especially remain under pressure...” (AD)
- “... this a worthy aim but can only be achieved over a long period of time.” (MH)
- “... this has really hardly been addressed - probably because there is no lead agency of a truly ecological and scientifically based nature with any clout.” (BP)
- “... the forestry, ... agriculture and nature conservation sectors need to converge as they do much more in Norway.” (DMcP)
- “Land ownership is still an obstacle here.” (AJ)
- “No progress of any significance.” (AW)

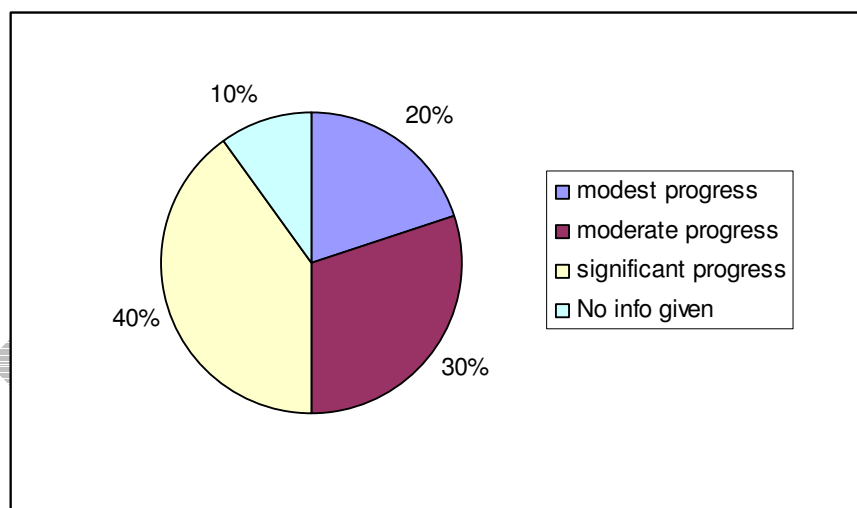
A total of 50% of the respondents expressed some level of positivity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘moderate progress’ or ‘significant progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “The Nature Conservation Act 2005 and the change in management of SSSIs reflect a greater concern for protection and enhancement and appropriate land management.” (PG-D)

- “Assessment – ongoing, restoration – started, sustained – too early to tell.” (GG)
- “Progress has been made. Some voluntary some under changes to legislation and or grant regimes.” (BR)
- “I think it has by the number of Community Woodland Schemes around Scotland and growing.” (SS)
- “Disappointing moderate improvement.” (BH)
- “Some move towards additional forestry in general and native and broadleaved species in particular but less as yet on the forest as an eco-system – but it seems to be coming.” (HL)
- “Some recognition of this in the CAP reforms, Forest estate review, deer commission vision and strategy, Forestry strategy.” (SP)
- “Scotland has moved forward in areas such as Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Scotland wide Biodiversity Action Groups. These have at least increased awareness of biodiversity in public and private sectors.” (SR)
- “Probably limited improvement in relation to the production of primary products like timber but certainly much better in terms of public goods and services from the countryside.” (AH)
- “Scotland is using a rather wider array of biological resources than it was in 1993 – most notably acceptance of the positive role of native woodlands and broadleaved trees is now far more widespread in a variety of land use sectors.” (RW)

15% of respondents did not answer this particular question.

3.2 “Extensive diverse forest”



A total of 20% of the respondents expressed some level of negativity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘no progress’ or only ‘modest progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “Remaining native fortune woodlands have improved but many remain un- or inappropriately managed. ... there has also been too much new woodland planting vs. restoring existing remnants ...” (AD)
- “A small amount of restructuring and woodland creation has been carried out since '93 but there is still a huge amount to be done.” (MH)
- “...we are far from overcoming the legacy of decades of plantation-based forestry.” (RW)
- “Idea now more widely endorsed ... but ownership pattern and tenure still inhibit achievement of this aspiration.” (AW)

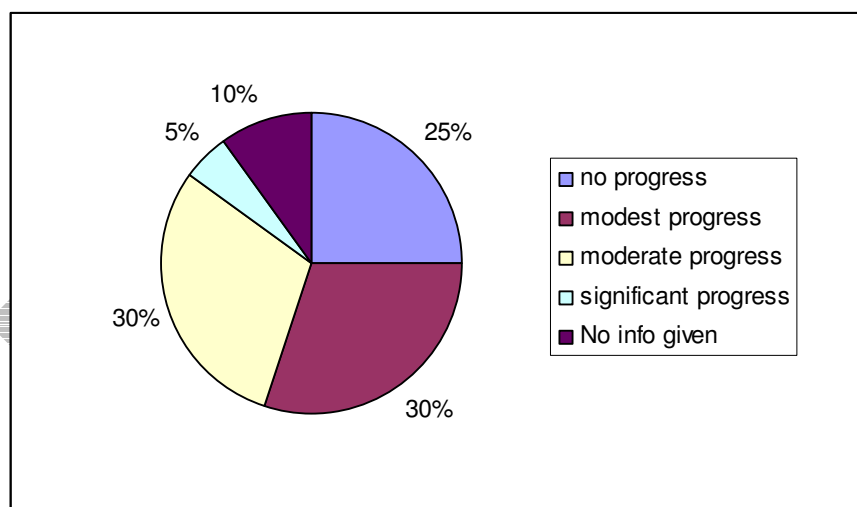
A total of 70% of the respondents expressed some level of positivity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘moderate progress’ or ‘significant progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “Several community forestry initiative now in operation with more in the pipeline ... (but there is) still room for further development ...” (AN)
- “The SFS targets include expansion of forest cover ... and to create a diverse forest resource of high quality. The emphasis has moved from quantity to quality ...” (PG-D)
- “Creation of this is certainly on the way.” (GG)
- “Progress had been made. Native wood establishment has increased significantly. Plantations are being restructured ...” (BR)

- “Great strides have been made in this area both in state and private sectors. The WGS appears to have had a major effect on native tree planting in the Highlands and we need another 10 years of the same effort.” (BP)
- “... in the Highlands (initiatives) are all quite diverse (e.g.) wood production, mountain bike tracks, wildlife observation posts, walks, proposed housing development ...” (SS)
- “More planting happening; more natural regeneration occurring; needs to be maintained and furthered over several generations at least to make the necessary impact.” (BH)
- “Some move towards additional forestry in general and native and broadleaved species in particular but less as yet on the forest as an eco-system – but it seems to be coming.” (HL)
- “There has been immense progress in the thinking and planning of the public sector forests, stimulated by international processes, certification and to a lesser extent by grass-roots initiatives.” (DMcP)
- “...there is a greater general appreciation of woodland diversity.” (JT)
- “... general moves in the right direction in forestry policy.” (SP)
- “...at a more local level initiatives such as Crofter Forestry and Community Woodland promotion and ownership have assisted forest diversity in the Highland areas.” (SR)
- “Overall the resource is becoming more diverse with greater use of native species.” (AH)
- “There have been excellent developments created for tourism & leisure but not for employment & rural regeneration.” (AJ)

10% of respondents did not answer this particular question.

3.3 “Diversity of economic opportunity for land occupiers and communities”



A total of 55% of the respondents expressed some level of negativity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘no progress’ or only ‘modest progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “...we still have a good way to go and ... we especially shouldn’t underestimate deeply ingrained upland farming traditions...” (AD)
- “The economies of forest have not developed very much and in some respects have regressed ... Agricultural economies have also probably regressed during this period.” (MH)
- “Lots of experiments tried. Difficult to get the economics to work. Difficult for individuals and communities to take the plunge.” (GG)
- “Quite a lot of research / promotion is going on but progress is slow partly to do with market structures and cultural resistance to change ...” (BR)
- “... the dominance of deer and sheep in the biological system hamper the diversification and development of all other natural resource based sectors. As we have seen, these realities have not yet been seriously challenged.” (BP)
- “This does seem to have improved – but not in terms of the farm-forestry stuff we saw in Norway.” (HL)
- “The British Government has been very unimaginative in its adoption of Rural Development mechanisms. ... There is little other encouragement to link the forest resource with the communities which live beside it.” (DMcP)
- “More needs to be done in allowing new land occupiers to come in and develop new woodland resources or utilise existing resources. ... access to land for individuals remains problematic. Generally, the price of land is too high for far too many individuals, and young local people have real difficulties in securing a stake in their own community.” (JT)

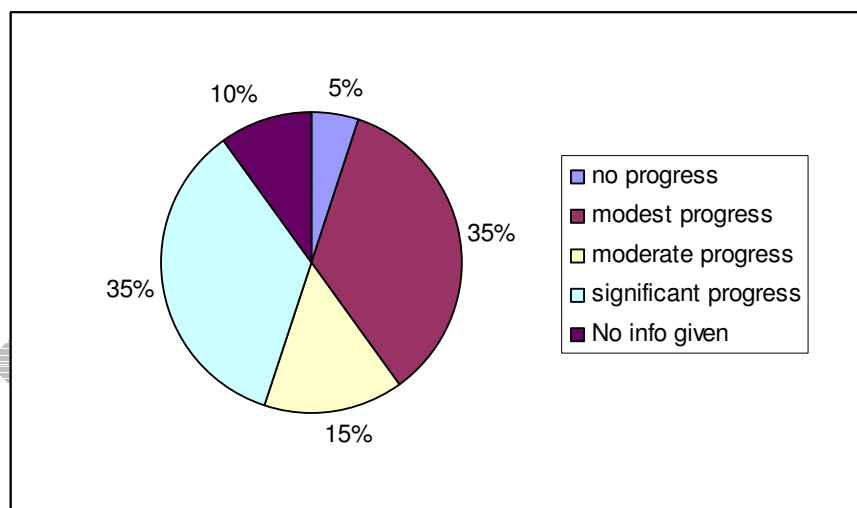
- “Still blighted by land tenure, and by unimaginative implementation of RDR.” (SP)
- “...we are still prevented from advancing this agenda significantly by the land ownership pattern and a persistent belief in the economies of scale ...” (RW)
- “Communities are still disenfranchised from land because of ownership.” (AJ)

A total of 35% of the respondents expressed some level of positivity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘moderate progress’ or ‘significant progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “...some community ownership and management but due to the nature of the existing forestry diverse economic opportunities will take some time to develop.” (AN)
- “The development of the SFGS with a Community Involvement section ... reflects the understanding of the role that communities can play in forest management.” (PG-D)
- “For community - housing, possible small business opportunities, mountain bike tracks, walks and archaeology and wildlife tourism opportunities.” (SS)
- “Some patchy progress, although a good deal of change at policy level.” (BH)
- “This has definitely increased, partly through economic necessity and partly due to initiatives such as the Crofting Community Development Scheme, other community European Structural Fund initiatives and the Scottish Land Fund.” (SR)
- “Some good examples of diversification.” (AH)
- “Land Reform has helped - both Community right to Buy and Agricultural Holdings Act.” (AW)

10% of respondents did not answer this particular question.

3.4 “Local access to and control of resources”



A total of 40% of the respondents expressed some level of negativity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘no progress’ or only ‘modest progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “Definitely improving but slow.” (GG)
- “...we are not really beyond the ‘pilot phase’ and there is still resistance to local ‘control’ in any real sense.” (BR)
- “Policies that more aggressively diversify and multiply land ownership to many more individuals as well as communities, alongside stable long-term support for environmental restoration, are needed.” (BH)
- “This has probably been one of the most progressive areas – both access and community forest ownership appear to have increased.” (HL)
- “Community Right to Buy and Crofters Right to Buy, now extended to state forests, are welcome but haven’t kicked in yet.” (DMcP)
- “...there is probably little change for the majority of people living in rural areas.” (AH)
- “Land reform agenda ... has suffered from a narrow focus and has done little to address the issue of diversifying access to resources.” (RW)
- “(Re) Partnership agreements with FC ... control is bureaucratic and establishment orientated.” (AJ)
- “Individual access remains at the whim of an increasingly exclusive market in land of which the most extreme example is housing. Overall, the crisis in housing significantly outweighs any gains on the Land reform front.” (AW)

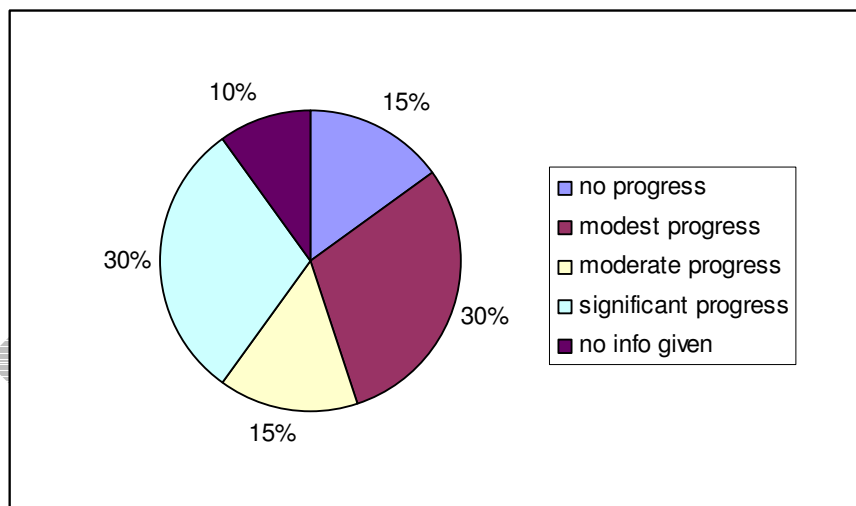
A total of 50% of the respondents expressed some level of positivity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘moderate progress’ or ‘significant progress’ has

been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “Funding support via Community Land Unit now makes it possible ...” (AN)
- “The creation of the Scottish Land Fund and now the National Land Scheme has meant increased local control of resources and an opportunity to identify exactly what kind of access is required e.g. amenity, ownership or partnership. ... The WIAT initiative reflects the acknowledgement that trees are not just significant in rural areas.” (PG-D)
- “The land reform incentive fuelled accelerated desire of (especially Highland) communities to gain control of land is most marked change since 1993 ...” (AD)
- “Large steps have been taken in this area – particularly through community woodlands, which RS has been very instrumental in pushing forward.” (MH)
- “Good strides have been made in this area too and exciting new models are being developed by new community groups.” (BP)
- “(Re) management agreement with FCS ... I do believe this option among communities is growing but also many community owned woodlands in Highlands.” (SS)
- “There has also been a considerable number of examples of greater community involvement and management of resources over the intervening years.... it has clearly created a more receptive culture.” (JT)
- “Land tenure constraints, but within these, encouraging signs ...” (SP)
- “There is no doubt in my mind that the advent of the Scottish Land Fund and Community Purchase Legislation has led to a greater access and control of local resources.” (SR)

10% of respondents did not answer this particular question.

3.5 “Rural support sensitive to local needs”



A total of 45% of the respondents expressed some level of negativity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘no progress’ or only ‘modest progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “Broader-based support being sensitive to local needs variations requires flexibility, which is not, as yet, enough on board incentive agency culture.” (AD)
- “Improving but bureaucracy frustrating.” (GG)
- “Hard to see the movement here. There are major problems in rural housing, crofting agriculture and other areas which the current support structures seem unable to tackle.” (BR)
- “I don’t think it is- agricultural grants go to the biggest farmers. Forestry grants go to forest owners, mostly wealthy people. Local schools, hospitals and post offices are being closed.” (DMcP)
- “The Executive’s New Approach to Rural Scotland would indicate greater sensitivity and a more joined up approach. However, the reality is that the Parliaments priorities are urban and the resources to deliver the theory are not available in practice.” (JT)
- “Rural development policy has stagnated since Sewel ...” (SP)
- “There are weak signs of increasing regionalisation in forestry, but it is still heavily dominated by the brown banana building.” (RW)
- “Local communities are so diverse that success here is patchy. Economic survival and patronising top down attitudes still prevail.” (AJ)
- “Modest improvement but still overwhelmingly focussed on agriculture.” (AW)

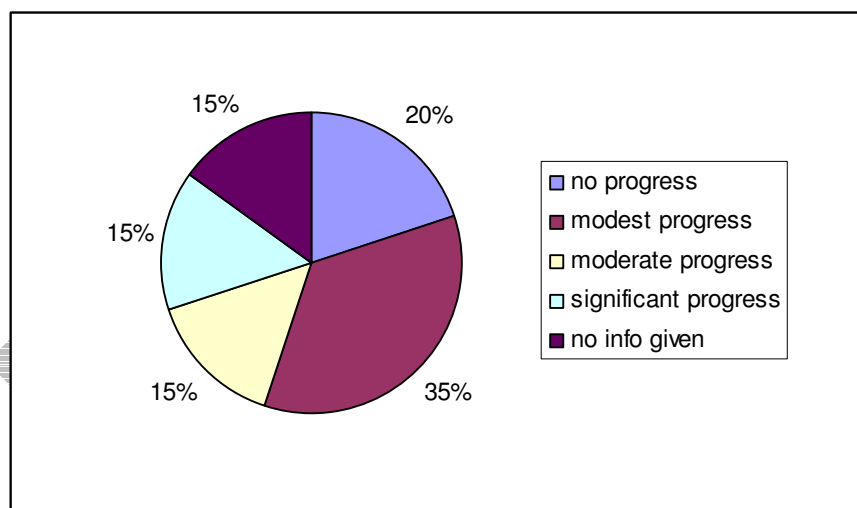
A total of 45% of the respondents expressed some level of positivity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was

categorised as reflecting that either ‘moderate progress’ or ‘significant progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “Rural Stewardship Scheme and Land Management Contracts offer individuals and groups the opportunity to participate in projects sensitive to local needs.” (AN)
- “Forest Rangers and District Managers work with communities, adopting a bottom up approach.” (PG-D)
- “Funding does appear to be reasonable well targeted with much more emphasis on small scale projects.” (MH)
- “It appears that the genuine will and structure of Local Enterprise Companies is there to deliver this goal.” (BP)
- “(There) is a lot of rural support generally around but much of it specifically for “communities on the edge” so the FCS and Highland Council and the enterprise companies have been very helpful...” (SS)
- “Significant change, including policies involving communities in decisions about meeting their needs.” (BH)
- “There are more rural partnerships and enterprise companies now than before – whether they are more effective is hard to say.” (HL)
- “The European Structural Funds in the Highlands have assisted a number of programmes for local community actions and development.” (SR)
- “Improving with further scope on the horizon.” (AH)

10% of respondents did not answer this particular question.

3.6 “Commitment to rural populations”



A total of 55% of the respondents expressed some level of negativity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘no progress’ or only ‘modest progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “While the focus of agricultural support has changed there is still not an integrated approach across all agencies to maintaining and developing rural populations.” (AN)
- “There is a growing political will in this area but too much focus in the vote catching central belt.” (AD)
- “Not too evident, but better.” (GG)
- “Probably slightly greater, but still woefully inadequate, especially in the sphere of rural resettlement.” (BH)
- “I think this is certainly the rhetoric (but) ... it needs more of the Norwegian type incentive (preferential tax regimes, fuel subsidies, etc) to bite.” (HL)
- “Minimal connection between rural and urban populations, mostly dysfunctional ... driving prices up above the reach of young local people.” (DMcP)
- “...there are major issues in transport, health and rural employment that have to be addressed. Many areas are still suffering depopulation and have an imbalance in age structure, loaded towards the elderly sector.” (JT)
- “(as with ‘Rural support sensitive to local needs’), rural development policy has stagnated since Sewel ...” (SP)
- “No real changes. Greater awareness that there is something called rural interests defined in terms of attitudes to hunting – providing a negative framing of rural issues.” (RW)
- “There has been no clear vision or strategy filtering down to communities.” (AJ)

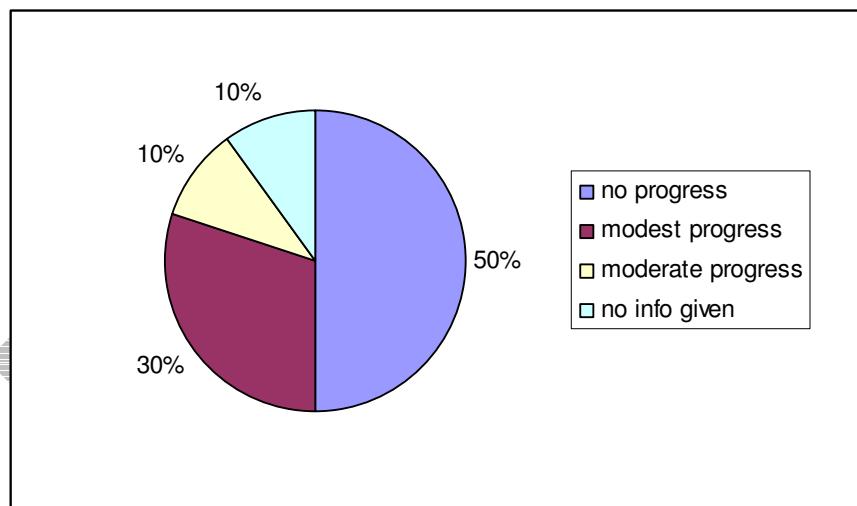
- “(as with ‘Rural support sensitive to local needs’), modest improvement but still overwhelmingly focussed on agriculture. Rural Partnerships, LEADER projects, Initiative on the Edge etc. are all useful initiatives and Scottish Parliament has improved rural representation and its very existence has in many ways improved the policy process.” (AW)

A total of 30% of the respondents expressed some level of positivity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘moderate progress’ or ‘significant progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “The FCS is developing mechanisms for participation, explaining and sharing views and working together towards consensus.” (PG-D)
- “This has really been achieved as part of ‘rural support sensitive to local needs’.” (MH)
- “...there is a stronger commitment to rural populations through infrastructure support ...” (BR)
- “Yes I do believe there is.” (SS)
- “Commitment to rural populations has improved over the period ...” (SR)
- “Improving.” (AH)

15% of respondents did not answer this particular question.

3.7 “Cultural landscape is a useful concept”



A total of 80% of the respondents expressed some level of negativity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘no progress’ or only ‘modest progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “There may be potential to develop this concept ...” (AD)
- “This is a very strong concept ... which still has a long way to go in Scotland – there is also confusion over what constitutes a cultural landscape. The concept of forest culture is perhaps more useful as an aim in Scotland.” (MH)
- “Not much change.” (GG)
- “Not sure this has been picked up.” (BR)
- “The concept is valid enough but I have never been convinced of how useful a tool it is within a truly radical re-assessment of goals both cultural and ecological.” (BP)
- “I do not think we are sufficiently aware of the importance of cultural landscapes ...” (SS)
- “Little progress, but not unexpected, as the tradition of the ecologically denuded ‘cultural landscape’ will take generations to shift.” (BH)
- “... we have not even started on this.” (HL)
- “Our barren forest and agricultural landscapes are generally not something to be proud of. ... Our best cultural landscapes are fishing villages, like the East Neuk in Fife. That just about says it all.” (DMcP)
- “This is a concept that is not well developed and requires to be developed and promoted with much greater vigour.” (JT)
- “Little progress; in some ways it is used to glorify a corrupted concept of deer forest and thus resist reform.” (SP)
- “While there is perhaps a greater recognition of this in the Highlands of Scotland it has not reached the level of Norway where it is more embedded in the culture.” (SR)

- “Still early days but some promising initiatives which help demonstrate the potential of this useful approach.” (AH)
- “The term 'cultural landscapes' is now recognised in a way it was not in 1993, but it is hard to say that it has forced any changes in policy or practice.” (RW)
- “This is the area which has been managed often by outside agencies. Indigenous local knowledge is the glue of rural society and needs to be recorded and known, slow support here.” (AJ)
- “If this was ever even remotely thought about it is now dead and buried under the rampant proliferation of environmental designations.” (AW)

A total of 10% of the respondents expressed some level of positivity regarding the degree of progress made to date in this particular area as their feedback was categorised as reflecting that either ‘moderate progress’ or ‘significant progress’ has been made to date. Comments from feedback drawn from these particular respondents have been summarised below:

- “With the focus change from livestock production to land management additional training/advice will be required ...” (AN)
- “Through the Tourism and Environment Task Force the idea of interpreting the landscape has been promoted. ... Local community initiatives seem better placed to work with the concept.” (PG-D)

10% of respondents did not answer this particular question.

3.8 “How has the Norway Study Tour has influenced you in your work?”

Survey participants were asked – “*In around 100 words, how do you feel the Norway Study Tour has influenced you in your work, and also how the Tour and its consequences in your work has led to wider impact?*” The responses given indicate that the NST appears to have had a significant influence on them and on their own work. The variety of resulting influences and effects are too numerous to summarise here, therefore details of all the responses given have been provided in the accompanying Survey Feedback document.

3.9 “Do you think it would be beneficial to arrange another study tour?”

Survey participants were asked – “*Do you think it would be beneficial to arrange another study tour? If yes, where do you think such a tour should visit?*” The responses given were largely very positive, with a wide variety of locations being suggested for a future study tour, such as:

- Scandinavian countries e.g. Finland, Norway
- Northern Europe
- Baltic states e.g. Lithuania,
- Major European countries e.g. France, Netherlands, Germany
- Central or Eastern Europe
- Switzerland or Austria
- North America
- Black Forest
- Eire
- Northern Italy & countries of the former Yugoslavia
- Probably not Norway again

Some interesting points were raised that should be considered before making any decision about future study tour format, participants and location – some of the key ones have been summarised below:

- “Take politicians this time – and have an agenda to come back and make fiscal changes.” (HL)
- “This time ensure all political parties are represented (and **not** their environment person, but the economic or regeneration portfolio holder), alongside **social** and **economic** bodies ...” (BH)
- “Many people have organised tours in the meantime and we don’t want to duplicate.” (DMcP)
- “A tour to one or two of the countries which have recently joined the EU would be of benefit.” (SR)
- “It should focus on social and economic factors relating to rural development and forestry.” (AW)
- “... ideally with a country with at least a comparable population.” (AD)

- “Somewhere where a community has made a good and continuing success.” (GG)
- “The benefit of another study tour would depend entirely on what objectives were being pursued.” (AH)
- “... should probably find somewhere with a lot of community-led land-based initiatives, diverse forestry and timber building.” (BP)
- “A European Union or North American situation(s) where a thriving human culture exists in a situation of deliberate, multi-generational forest regeneration ...” (BH)

Details of all the responses given have been provided in the accompanying Survey Feedback document.

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4 Conclusions from evaluation of survey findings

From the survey findings, the general feeling amongst the respondents seems to be that good progress has or is being made on the following themes:

- Optimum use of biological potential;
- Extensive diverse forest, and;
- Local access to and control of resources.

The respondents also appeared to feel that, on balance, poor progress has or is being made on the following themes:

- Diversity of economic opportunity for land occupiers and communities, and;
- Commitment to rural populations, and;
- Cultural landscape is a useful concept.

The respondents appeared to be evenly split on whether or not progress has or is being made on the following theme:

- Rural support sensitive to local needs.

From the survey findings, it would appear that the general feeling amongst respondents is that the NST significantly influenced the work of the individuals who participated in the study tour and that many worthwhile working relationships were established as a result of participating in the tour, which, in itself, could be said to have broadened the tour's impact. Some comments drawn from the feedback given are detailed below:

- “The study tour cemented the relationships between participants in a way that last until this day even though they see little of each other ...” (DW)
- “The positive relationship / common understanding developed with many members of the group did pay some dividends later.” (RC)
- “(Re) The ongoing relationships that were built on that tour ... Many of us on the tour continue to work together in our different professional / personal capacities.” (BR)

It is evident that the NST has been influential in stimulating debate about the future for rural Scotland amongst those that participated in the study tour and other individuals, groups and organisations that they are involved with. Some comments drawn from the feedback given are detailed below:

- “This (the NST outcomes) led to the development of the Crofting Community Development Scheme... “ (SR)
- “(The NST outcomes) supported the development of community land ownership through the Crofting Trust Advisory Service and other initiatives.” (AN)

It is much less clear, however, as to whether or not the NST itself has been influential in stimulating debate in the wider environment about the future for rural Scotland – some key comments drawn from the feedback given are detailed below:

- “... I realised that first-hand experience like the Norway Study Tour was a critical, even pivotal, experience for many of the participants, and *that targeting opinion- and policy-formers with such an experience could play a very important part in shaping their thinking* and therefore bringing about the changes to which Reforesting Scotland and many others aspire.” (BH)
- “As to the wider impact, I think it influenced some key opinion formers at the time and inspired them in their own work. It also helped create some relationships which appear to have been productive. *However, I do not believe that it has had a major long term impact. The biggest change in the past decade has been devolution. Policy makers continue to pay very little attention to experiences from places like Norway.*” (AW)

5 Appendices

5.1 Norway/Scotland Baseline Comparison as at 1993

| NORWAY | SCOTLAND |
|---|--|
| Small country of 4 million people on north-west fringes of Europe | Small country of 5 million people on north-west fringes of Europe |
| Temperate and boreal ecology | Temperate and boreal ecology |
| Oceanic and continental climate | Oceanic climate |
| Allodial land tenure with many owners and a regulated land market | Feudal land tenure with 80% of private land owned by 4000 owners and a free market in land |
| Small-scale landownership pattern | Large-scale landownership pattern |
| Extensive and diverse forests resource owned by farmers – mainly native species | Forest resource mainly in the form of intensively managed plantations of exotic conifers owned by the State and private estates and institutions |
| Integration of forestry and agriculture at all levels | Separation of agricultural and forestry activities |
| Agricultural policy central to sustaining rural populations and delivered via small farms | Common Agricultural Policy in UK chiefly production oriented and dominated by large farms |
| Norway an independent country outwith the EC | Scotland a country of the UK within EC |
| Public right of access to the countryside enshrined in law. | Rights of access to the countryside historically constrained |

Source – NST Report, 1994; pp12-13

5.2 The Norway Study Tour: Observations and Main Themes

1. Optimum use of biological potential

The land should be used in a way in which the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The biological potential of land should be assessed, restored and sustained.

2. Extensive diverse forest

An extensive and diverse forest resource managed in the interests of all of society provides a wide range of benefits, options and products.

3. Diversity of economic opportunity for land occupiers and communities

Farmers and rural communities thrive on a diverse range of economic opportunities which can provide flexibility, multiple skills and exploitation of niche and small-scale markets.

4. Local access to and control of resources

Resources should be distributed equitably and be related to an appropriate scale of ownership. Decision making should be devolved and 'bottom-up'.

5. Rural Support sensitive to local needs

Incentives and support should be closely targeted and sensitive to local variations and needs.

6. Commitment to rural populations

Urban and rural society should be mutually supportive and accountable. This requires clearly articulated political commitment.

7. Cultural landscape is a useful concept

Most of our landscape is a product of the interaction of people and the land over many hundreds of years. Such landscapes and the skills associated with their management represent extremely valuable sources of acquired knowledge and information which can easily be lost forever.

5.3 Copy of survey questionnaire sent to NST participants



Norway Study Tour Review Survey Questionnaire

February 2005

Dear Norway Study Tour Participant,

Reforesting Scotland is conducting a survey amongst the participants of the 1993 Norway Study. The aim of the survey is to gather feedback from the participants in order to ascertain how they feel that Scotland has moved on since the tour took place in the themed areas identified in the study tour report.

The Norway Study Tour report outlined a baseline comparison of the situation in each country as at 1993 as detailed below.

Norway/Scotland Baseline Comparison as at 1993

| NORWAY | SCOTLAND |
|---|--|
| Small country of 4 million people on north-west fringes of Europe | Small country of 5 million people on north-west fringes of Europe |
| Temperate and boreal ecology | Temperate and boreal ecology |
| Oceanic and continental climate | Oceanic climate |
| Allodial land tenure with many owners and a regulated land market | Feudal land tenure with 80% of private land owned by 4000 owners and a free market in land |
| Small-scale landownership pattern | Large-scale landownership pattern |
| Extensive and diverse forests resource owned by farmers – mainly native species | Forest resource mainly in the form of intensively managed plantations of exotic conifers owned by the State and private estates and institutions |
| Integration of forestry and agriculture at all levels | Separation of agricultural and forestry activities |
| Agricultural policy central to sustaining rural populations and delivered via small farms | Common Agricultural Policy in UK chiefly production oriented and dominated by large farms |
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| Public right of access to the countryside enshrined in law. | Rights of access to the countryside historically constrained |

Source – NST Report, 1994; pp12-13

The findings of the study tour highlighted seven ‘observations and main themes’ that were felt *“to distill the experience of the tour and the ideas it generate so that a wider audience could take part in the ongoing debate about the future for rural Scotland.”* (NST report, 1994; p5). The ‘themes and observations’ have been detailed below.

The Norway Study Tour: Observations and Main Themes

1. Optimum use of biological potential

The land should be used in a way in which the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The biological potential of land should be assessed, restored and sustained.

2. Extensive diverse forest

An extensive and diverse forest resource managed in the interests of all of society provides a wide range of benefits, options and products.

3. Diversity of economic opportunity for land occupiers and communities

Farmers and rural communities thrive on a diverse range of economic opportunities which can provide flexibility, multiple skills and exploitation of niche and small-scale markets.

4. Local access to and control of resources

Resources should be distributed equitably and be related to an appropriate scale of ownership. Decision making should be devolved and ‘bottom-up’.

5. Rural Support sensitive to local needs

Incentives and support should be closely targeted and sensitive to local variations and needs.

6. Commitment to rural populations

Urban and rural society should be mutually supportive and accountable. This requires clearly articulated political commitment.

7. Cultural landscape is a useful concept

Most of our landscape is a product of the interaction of people and the land over many hundreds of years. Such landscapes and the skills associated with their management represent extremely valuable sources of acquired knowledge and information which can easily be lost forever.

Reforesting Scotland would be grateful if you could take a few moments to answer the questions posed on the following survey questionnaire. In particular, we are interested in your own feelings and opinions as to what difference the Norway Study Tour has made, for example:

- Was the tour instrumental in any of the thinking within FAPIRA;
- Did it influence the development of the Scottish Forestry Strategy;
- Has it influenced review and revision of the WGS in Scotland;
- Did it influence the growth of the CW movement and eventual establishment of the CWA;
- Are there traces of Norway Study Tour influence in the current social forestry ambitions within FCS through, for example, WIAT?
- Did it influence the land reform agenda?;
- Did it influence the setting up of the Scottish Land Fund etc?

These are just a few suggestions to help kick off the thought process – we would encourage you to answer the questions posed in the survey questionnaire by referencing other relevant developments in addition to these initial suggestions if others should spring to mind.

The questionnaire should take no longer than about 15 minutes to complete. It would be most helpful if the length of the answers given could generally be kept to about 3 or 4 lines in length to aid the subsequent collation and analysis of response data.

Once the questionnaire has been completed, the Directors would be grateful if you could return your completed questionnaire to the Reforesting Scotland office via email to survey@reforestingscotland.org (or: via post in the enclosed Freepost envelope) by 11th March 2005.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this request.

Reforesting Scotland Directors

2005 Norway Study Tour Review Survey

In your opinion, how has Scotland moved forward in these themed areas as identified from the findings of the 1993 Reforesting Scotland Norway Study Tour:

1. Optimum use of biological potential

2. Extensive diverse forest

3. Diversity of economic opportunity for land occupiers and communities

4. Local access to and control of resources

5. Rural Support sensitive to local needs

6. Commitment to rural populations

7. Cultural landscape is a useful concept

In around 100 words, how do you feel the Norway Study Tour has influenced you in your work, and also how the Tour and its consequences in your work has led to wider impact?

Do you think it would be beneficial to arrange another study tour? If yes, where do you think such a tour should visit?

Thank you for taking the time to fill out and return this questionnaire – it is very much appreciated.

Reforestation Scotland Directors

Would you like to receive a copy of the final report on the survey review?
YES NO

5.4 List of survey participants

NST participants contacted who participated in the survey

| Name | Initials |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Alaistair Nicolson | AN |
| Priscilla Gordon-Duff | PG-D |
| Alan Drever | AD |
| Martin Howard | MH |
| Robin Callander | RC |
| Graham Grant | GG |
| Bill Ritchie | BR |
| Bernard Planterose | BP |
| Sheena Slimon | SS |
| Brendan Hill | BH |
| Howard Liddell | HL |
| Donald McPhillimy | DMcP |
| John Toal | JT |
| Simon Pepper | SP |
| Sandy Renfrew | SR |
| Alan Hampson | AH |
| Rick Worrell | RW |
| Drennan Watson | DW |
| Alyne Jones | AJ |
| Andy Wightman | AW |

NST participants contacted who did not feel able to participate in the survey

Graham Gill
David Minns