**Consultation Questions:**

\*\*\*Please put these points into your own words

1. **Increasing timber supply**
	1. **How can the sustainable forest resource grown in Wales, be increased to make more timber and wood fibre available for the future?**

**Existing Woodlands**: Increasing the management of existing woodlands and forests

**New Woodland creation**: ensure there is a target of at least conifer at 65% minimum along with productive forest at 75%, mirroring the requirements of the UK Forestry Standards and existing grant scheme.

**Natural Resources Wales**: Ensure there are KPI’s attached to the regulator for:

* Woodland creation targets to ensure there is incentive to deliver woodland creation.
* Target annual volume offered to the market to instil more confidence in the wood processing sector and provide continuity for the supply chain.
* Use improved planting material where possible to optimise productivity.
* Use some of the income from timber sales to encourage commercial planting
	1. **How can volumes of Welsh timber and wood fibre coming to market be increased?**

The forestry and timber industry needs confidence and consistency.

* Grants for accessing woodlands and forests
* Easier Management plans for long term felling licenses to incentivise a shift to management plans not individual felling licenses
* Finding ways to alleviate bottle necks and delayed programmes within NRW delivering timber to market
* Grants to manage deer and grey squirrel: pest management
1. **Increasing resilience in our forests**
	1. **What actions can be taken in Wales to reduce the risks to our forests posed by climate change and pests and diseases?**
* Identify what key species should be supported for productive forestry in Wales as part of species diversification.
* Support further research into making Sitka spruce and other important production species more resilient to pest, disease and climate threats.
* Clear contingency plans and response teams need to be in place to deal with pest, disease, significant windblow or forest fires.
* Natural Resources Wales needs to allow more forestry focus, this needs to be accountable and pushed towards a clear mission statement from board level down.

 **How can growers and nurseries accelerate the implementation of adaptation measures?**

* Secure Funding for long term tree breeding ensuring there is stable funding into a range of species.
1. **Resource efficiency and circular economy**
	1. **What actions could be taken in Wales to encourage reuse and recycling of wood to minimise waste?**

It is important that we:

* Work in partnership with the Wood Recycling Association.
* Introduce incentives to innovate new products using post-use wood in long life products.
* Encourage R&D into long life reuse of post-use wood.
	1. **How could Wales promote innovation, to design and manufacture wood-based products with increased value, extended durability and climate resilience?**
* Help create demand for such products, without demand there will be no incentive for businesses to innovate and invest.
* Support innovation and commercialisation of new products such a wood fibre insulation.
* Create opportunities to showcase case studies of best practice of the above.
1. **Instilling confidence in demand**
	1. **What actions could be taken in Wales to increase the use of timber and wood fibre in long-term uses, such as construction?**
* Stabilise the supply chain, break the above barriers, Promote C16 rather than C24, educate architects and the greater supply chain.
* Welsh government to promote the greater use of timber and wood fibre in construction.
* Support innovation and commercialisation of new products
	1. **How can we use home-grown timber and wood fibre to maximise local supply chain opportunities?**
* Encouraging & promoting to architects and house builders the benefits of using Welsh timber
* Stipulating in contracts for government financed building projects to incorporate UK timber.

* 1. **How can Wales better align timber supply with market demand?**
* Welsh government to introduce incentives/building regulation favouring the use of biogenic material in construction materials.
1. **Developing sector capacity**
	1. **What challenges need to be addressed to improve recruitment and retention in forestry and timber industries in Wales?**
* Carry out a detailed labour market intelligence analysis to assess the scale of the challenge.
* Government to work with the forest and timber industry to promote forestry and wood processing as a key and vibrant industry that plays an essential part in the Welsh economy and its contribution to Net Zero.
* Government and industry to work together to develop and promote clear recruitment gateways for these sectors.
	1. **What gaps are there in forestry and timber training and skills provision in Wales?**
* Upskilling within the current workforce e.g. Forest Works Managers
* Access good quality trainers to train anticipated demand.
* Farming Connect or equivalent needs to be incorporated into this to signpost, advise and provide training to rural landowners.
* Investigating what the drop off is after college with forestry students data suggests students are going into arboriculture, farming and further education, reviewing and active steering into commercial forestry is needed.
	1. **What actions are needed to support the development and adoption of new products, processes and/or technologies?**
* Consistency in the industry and the opportunity to invest is needed.
1. **Underpinned by behaviour change**
	1. **What actions are needed to improve public understanding of productive forestry?**
* This needs to be on the agenda for politicians, society and all public organisations
* The Welsh Government Woodland Estates are our woodlands, everyone should have a vested interest in their investment.
* Welsh Government need to say with a loud clear voice forestry is positive, good for the economy, environment and for Wales.
* There needs to be better publicity & education to the benefits of using timber with Wales, both environmentally and carbon neutrality.
	1. **Do you support the proposal to establish an Industry Leadership Group in Wales? Yes/No**
* Yes, it must be industry led and supported by public sector, it’s important to bring leaders together but also to listen to them.
* In addition to this Natural Resources Wales should have at least two foresters on their board, and the barriers to ensuring this can happen need to be reviewed.
	+ 1. **If yes, what contribution could it make during the implementation of the Timber Industrial Strategy?**
* The focus of the ILG should be to oversee the implementation of the Timber Industrial Strategy.
* Membership should be focussed on experienced senior business managers from across the full wood supply chain including post-use wood.
	1. **Do you support the proposal to recruit a Chief Forester for Wales? Yes/No**
* Yes, it’s a strong title and they could help to open doors and be a figure head to help connect to the public.
* It needs to be the right person aligned to the values of the Welsh Timber and forest industry, to be able to work alongside Confor.
	+ 1. **If yes, what added value would the role bring to the forestry sector in Wales?**

The main role of the Chief Forester would be to:

* Provide independent advice to relevant the minister on the forestry
* Professionalism within NRW and to be responsible for maintaining and ensuring professional standards are adopted and applied in NRW.
* It is important this person is independent of Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government, and they need to feed into the ILG.
1. **What, in your opinion, would be the likely effects of the proposals on the Welsh language? We are particularly interested in any likely effects on opportunities to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English.**
	1. **Do you think that there are opportunities to promote any positive effects?**
* Forestry is a part of the rural land sector in Wales,
* Many foresters in Wales speak Welsh or learn Welsh.
* Forestry jobs are critical in supporting the language and enabling people to stay in their rural communities.
	1. **Do you think that there are opportunities to mitigate any adverse effects?**
* Funding support to learn Welsh in the sector.
* Translation support: FISA and forestry research guides: bilingual services/ funding to support industry guidance into the Welsh Language.
1. **In your opinion, could the proposals be formulated or changed so as to: - have positive effects or more positive effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English; or - mitigate any negative effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English?**
2. **We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them. Please enter here:**
* We support the review of priority habitats as a blocker in woodland creation.
* A review to woodland creation and its barriers to meeting the targets
* Our industry is important for Wales meeting net-zero and this needs to be acknowledged and promoted to society.
* A Land Use Strategy in Wales
* A prompt roadmap on how to deliver this strategy, by whom and by when: clear targets and accountability along with reviews built it
* Rates in the grants to be an incentive