

# PROJECT WOODLAND WORKING GROUP 2 SHARED NATIONAL VISION

## UPDATE TO FPG

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Matt Crowe – Chair of Working Group

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# REMINDER OF WHY WE ARE HERE

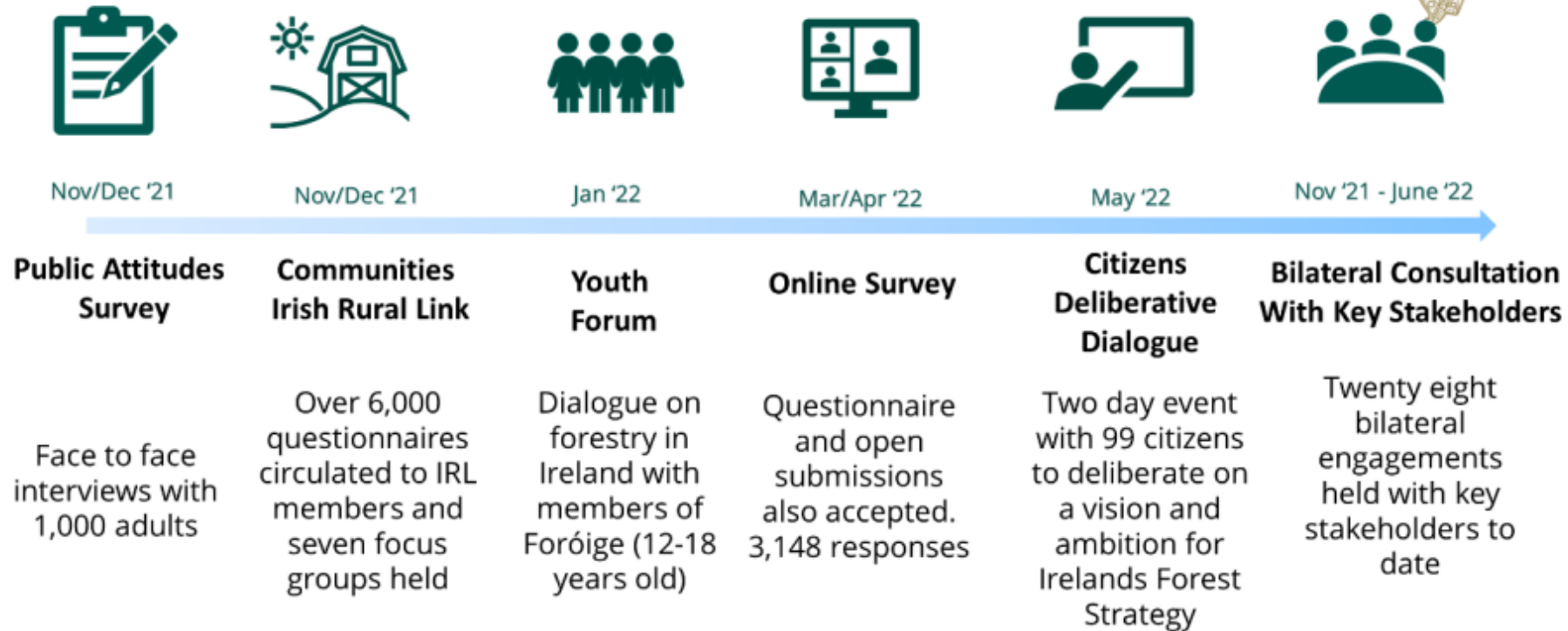
- ❑ ONCE IN A GENERATION OPPORTUNITY TO RESET THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF FORESTS & FORESTRY IN IRELAND FOR NEXT 100 – 200 YEARS
- ❑ FORESTRY CAN BE A BEACON FOR OTHER SECTORS GRAPPLING WITH ADAPTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS THE NEW NORM
- ❑ FORESTS & FORESTRY CAN DELIVER ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND BE TRULY ‘SUSTAINABLE’
- ❑ BROAD SOCIETAL INPUT & BUY-IN BEING SOUGHT FOR A SHARED NATIONAL VISION FOR TREES WOODS & FORESTS THAT WE CAN ALL SUPPORT

## Focus for WG 2

- 1) THE SHARED VISION (THE WHY AND THE WHAT)
- 2) STRATEGY TO DELIVER ON THE VISION (WHAT, WHO, HOW, WHEN)
- 3) COALITION BUILDING TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE VISION AND STRATEGY

# Summary of Consultations and Engagements

**Comprehensive public consultation and engagement to inform a cross society shared national vision**



4 An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

All Feeding Into Both the Vision and Strategy;  
Reports all on FS Website + Summary Report

## Significance of all of the Consultations and Reports

- Provides Broad Legitimacy for the Shared National Vision and the Strategy to Implement that Vision
- The vision is for change not business as usual

# Significance of all of the Consultations and Reports

Following an extensive period of engagement and consultation Ireland has, for the first time a Shared National Vision for the role of trees and forests. It is an ambitious vision, which if achieved, will result in an expansion of multi-functional and diverse forests, delivering multiple benefits for climate, nature, wood, people, economy and rural development. The overarching statement of this Vision is:

‘The right trees in the right places for the right reasons with the right management supporting a clean, healthy and well protected environment and a sustainable economy and society’.

The outcome of the recent public consultation and engagement produced wide ranging well represented views. It generated rich insights into the views and values of Irish citizens and forestry stakeholders. For example, it is clear that people want more trees and forest cover in the Irish landscape, with climate change and biodiversity seen as the key drivers for this. There is a preference for more diverse mixed and native forests to be established and managed in ways that can enhance ecosystems and biodiversity; benefit human health and wellbeing; and contribute to the national and local economy. There is a preference to see more wood products used both as a long-term store of carbon and as a substitute to using more carbon intensive products. The consultation also identified some of the key challenges such as having sufficient capacity and resources to meet the ambition set out in the Shared Vision; achieving better integration of trees and forests with traditional farming and agricultural practices.



# A SHARED NATIONAL VISION FOR TREES, WOODS AND FORESTS IN IRELAND BY 2050

**2050**, Ireland's forests and woodlands will be seen as a symbol of the transformational social, economic and environmental changes that were needed to address the climate, biodiversity, housing and health emergencies of the 2020s.

A much larger and more diverse **forest footprint** is being successfully managed to balance and deliver multiple objectives and benefits for climate, nature, water quality, wood production, people, the wider economy and rural communities.

It forms a valuable, compatible element of the farming enterprise and is **co-existing** in harmony with urban and other landscapes and valued highly by citizens.

There is nationwide awareness and understanding of the multiple benefits of forests. Forestry is at the centre of the circular and **green economy** with Irish grown timber the material of choice for the substitution of carbon intensive building products for new Irish homes.

It is also supporting a thriving and growing forest sector, long term quality **employment** for a sustainable workforce, ecosystem services and public, educational and recreational amenities.

Forestry is providing a profitable diversification option for farmers, with people living in rural, urban and suburban communities feeling a **sense of connection and pride** in their local forests and woodlands and the many benefits that they provide.

Legacy **environmental issues** associated with past forestry practices are being successfully addressed, building on improvements already made through enhanced sustainable forest management practices.

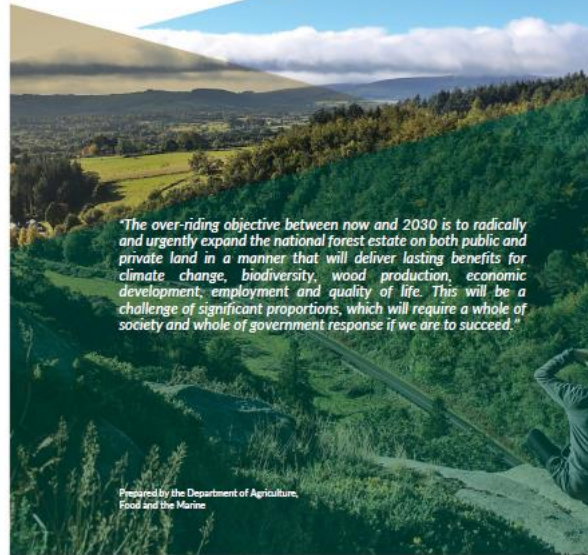
**"The right trees in the right places for the right reasons with the right management supporting a sustainable and thriving economy and society and a healthy environment."**

The Irish landscape now features a rich variety of diverse, resilient and healthy trees, woods and forests established for multiple purposes and **delivering multiple benefits** for the environment, economy and society on both public and private land.



## Ireland's Forest Strategy (2022 - 2030)

### Draft for public consultation



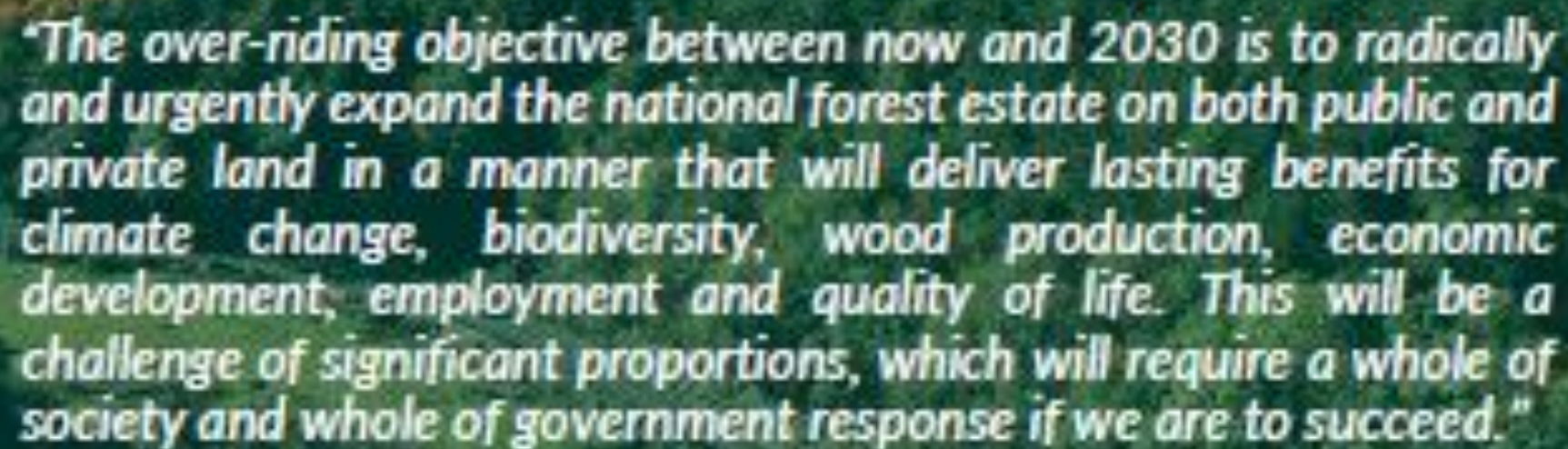
*"The over-riding objective between now and 2030 is to radically and urgently expand the national forest estate on both public and private land in a manner that will deliver lasting benefits for climate change, biodiversity, wood production, economic development, employment and quality of life. This will be a challenge of significant proportions, which will require a whole of society and whole of government response if we are to succeed."*



## Ireland's Forest Strategy Implementation Plan

### Draft for public consultation



An aerial photograph of a dense, vibrant green forest. A narrow road or path winds through the trees, starting from the bottom center and curving towards the right. The forest is thick and covers most of the frame, with some lighter green areas visible in the upper left corner, possibly indicating a different type of vegetation or a clearing.

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## Next Steps

- Complete the public and SEA consultations on both the Draft Forest Strategy and Draft Forest Strategy Implementation Plan
- You are all free to engage in this process
- Finalise the Strategy, Forestry Programme and Implementation Plan and get cracking on implementation
- Finalise and establish new Governance and Stakeholder Engagement Processes for the new Forest Strategy and Forestry Programme

The hard work of implementation begins now and we have the best chance of realising the ambitious vision for transformational change if you and the other organisations and groups that make up the broad coalition get fully behind the new vision and strategy.



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