

# Sustainable Forestry

## Sustainable Forestry SCIO - Criteria for Membership

### 1. Introduction

These are the criteria to be met when considering applications or nominations for membership of the Sustainable Forestry SCIO (SF SCIO). These need to be considered by applicants and the SF SCIO Board of Trustees. The criteria should be read in conjunction with the SF SCIO constitution.

### 2. Background

The SF SCIO has a two tier structure:-

- The members – individuals or institutional representatives. Members have powers to make fundamental decisions e.g. alter the constitution, and elect the board of trustees.
- The board of trustees – individuals or institutional representatives elected by the members who hold regular meetings, an annual AGM, control and supervise the activities of the SCIO, manage finances, make investments and award grants and commission work.

### 3. Membership: legal duty

Members of the SF SCIO have a legal duty ‘to seek, in good faith, to ensure that the charity acts in a manner which is consistent with its purposes’.

### 4. Qualifications for membership: general

Membership shall be considered by the Board from any person or organisation who/which (i) demonstrates a good understanding of, and support for, the Organisation’s purposes; and (ii) a willingness to make valuable contribution to the organisation’s activities; but the Board may, at its discretion, refuse to admit any applicant to membership. The Board shall notify each applicant promptly (in writing or by e-mail) of its decision on whether or not to admit to membership.

### 5. Qualifications for membership: institutional nominations

Each Institutional Member, whilst it is a Member, is entitled to nominate representative(s) to vote for that Institutional Member and exercise that Institutional Member’s other rights as a Member. An Institutional Member is entitled to remove any Authorised Representative nominated by it and appoint another to act in their place, either permanently or temporarily, at any time and from time to time. Any such appointment or removal shall take effect on receipt of written confirmation from

the Institutional member at the Organisation's registered office or produced at the Members' meeting. Where there is more than one Authorised Representative for an Institutional Member that Institutional Member may rank priority for its representation between or among those Authorised Representatives.

## 6. Qualifications for membership: other

The following criteria will apply when considering nominations from institutions or applications for membership from other parties:

- Employees of the SF SCIO – are not eligible for membership. A person who becomes an employee after admission to membership shall cease automatically to be a Member.
- Residency – individual members are required to be resident in Scotland, whilst member bodies are required to have a main office / business address in Scotland.
- Specialist expertise – applicants or nominees are expected to subscribe to the constitution of the SF SCIO and possess some expertise in one or more of the following fields:-
  - Forestry / woodland management / forest research.
  - Environmental science to include nature conservation biodiversity and/or carbon management.
  - Business management to include finance, communications, contract management, sustainability.
- Age restriction – members must be 16 years and over.
- Board power of veto – the board will have the power to accept or reject any nomination or application for membership. This will be exercised in a considered manner and will be applied when nominated members or applicants are not deemed to be able to fulfil their responsibilities as members or do not meet the membership criteria.
- Nomination committee – will comprise of the board of trustees which comprises of no more than two members drawn from each of the four founder member organisations.
- Expiry of membership – members will retire when asked to do so by their employers or when they resign or retire from the employment of one of the membership organisations.

## 7. Equality and diversity

In exercising their responsibilities in the consideration of nominations and applications for membership the board will ensure that all aspects of equality and diversity are properly considered.

## **8. Application / nomination process**

Applications / nominations for membership should be made in writing to the SCIO Administrator no less than twenty one days in advance of the SCIO AGM. The submission should set out why the individual / organisation is deemed suitable and conforms to the specified criteria.

## **9. Register of Members**

The Board will maintain an up to date register of members which sets out details of the member in accordance with the Organisation's constitution.

## **10. Withdrawal, Transfer and Expulsion from membership**

Members may withdraw on tendering of written notice to the SF SCIO. Membership is not transferable. Any person other than a founder member may be expelled in accordance with the procedures laid down in the SF SCIO's constitution.