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STRATEGIES FOR THE SOUND USE OF WOOD
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Linking sustainable forest management to timber sourcing decisions and policies

Introduction Session

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Summary

The use of wood in construction can have many environmental advantages but it is important the wood comes from legal harvesting operations in well-managed forests. Otherwise in solving one problem we may well be creating another.

If we are to promote all the advantages of wood to the end user then we must be able to provide evidence that the wood they purchase is from sustainably managed forests.

The paper outlines the emerging concern of the global community over sustainable forest management and illegal logging. The United Kingdom is a major importer of timber and other forest products and the UK Government recognises it has a responsibility to consider the impact this demand has on forest management and the forest products trade beyond the United Kingdom. However before it can act it has had to get its own house in order.

The paper discusses work done in the United Kingdom to provide a credible certification system and argues that certification systems for home grown and imported wood are going to play an important role in influencing consumer and specified choice in the UK, not only in terms of what wood is used but in encouraging the use of wood – an environmentally compatible material – in place of other materials.
