



# Lindean Community Woodland Association Scottish Borders, Scotland

*Two small woodlands that are owned by, and managed in partnership with, Borders Forest Trust*

# LINDEAN COMMUNITY WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

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This case study is one of a set written as part of a Forest Research project. Some case studies are written by the community group, others by researchers who visited and interviewed group members, but they have all been validated and endorsed by the community groups.

Forest Research developed a standard method for describing the case studies, outlined in Lawrence and Ambrose-Oji, 2013 “A framework for sharing experiences of community woodland groups” Forestry Commission Research Note 15 (available from [www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications)).

The case study comprises three parts:

1. The **Group Profile** provides essential information about the form and function of the community woodland group. Profiles were prepared following the methodology
2. The **Change Narrative** which documents key moments in the evolution of the community woodland group with a particular focus on the evolution of engagement and empowerment
3. The **Engagement and Impacts Timeline** documents milestones in the development of the community woodland group, its woodland and any assumed or evidenced impacts.

The case studies collectively provide a resource which documents the diversity and evolution of community woodland groups across Scotland, Wales and England. The method ensures that the case studies are consistent and can be compared with each other. We welcome further case studies to add to this growing resource.

For further information, and for the detailed case study method, please contact:

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## 1. Group profile

<p><b>Woodland: Bailhill Wood and Lindean Wood</b></p> <p><b>Map ref: NT 490 313</b></p> <p><b>Webpage: N/A</b></p> <p><b>Date of profile: December 2013</b></p> <p><b>Resources: Application for project funding under the RuralCare grant scheme, interview, Bailhill &amp; Lindean Community Woods Management plan 2006-2011</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Institutional context (in December 2013)</b></p>	
<p><b>1.1 Ownership of the woodland(s)</b></p>	<p>Bailhill and Lindean community woodlands are owned by the Borders Forest Trust (BFT), who manage the forests in partnership with the community, who are constituted as Lindean Community Woodland Association (LCWA).</p> <p><b>Classification of tenure: Formal agreement (private)</b></p>
<p><b>1.2 Access and use rights to the woodland(s)</b></p>	<p>Responsible public access (by foot, bicycle, horse or canoe) is guaranteed by the Land Reform Act. Motorised vehicles are not permitted within the forest. Mountain bikes are tolerated.</p> <p>The BFT, being the owner of the forest, is entitled to all timber and woodland products.</p>
<p><b>1.3 Regulations / responsibilities affecting the woodland(s)</b></p>	<p>The minimum legal requirements for H&amp;S, historic monuments and pest and diseases management as outlined in the UK Forestry Standard.</p> <p>LCWA is not aware of any obligations affecting the site, except for maintenance and repair of the March fences, which is mainly a responsibility of BFT.</p>

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<b>2. Internal organisation of the group/enterprise</b>	
<b>2.1 Group members, representation and decision making</b>	<p>LCWA represents the interests of the local community of Lindean, near Selkirk, a village with 43 households with a cross-section of ages and interests.</p> <p>Decision-making during the period of active management was done through the committee, which met regularly and held AGMs to elect a Treasurer, Secretary, Chair and Events Coordinator. There is no formal membership, but everyone was welcome to join AGMs at the time these were organised. Generally, these were attended by local people and a small number of people from outwith the community who had an interest in the woodland.</p>
<b>2.2 Communication and learning processes</b>	<p>During its active period, LCWA held regular committee meetings that could be attended by all members of the community during the period in which active forest management was taking place. Currently, meetings no longer take place. Informal communication about the woodland continues within the village when people meet at community events etc.</p> <p>The group has learnt that it is important to identify any person(s) that might object to the woodland management plans at an early stage and to get them involved with the project early on.</p> <p>The group also have learnt that events etc need to be proactively arranged for the woodland and then actively promoted to interested members. The group has found that although the woodland is continuously used for general walking, dog walking, and occasional mountain-biking by local youngsters - it requires a number of well motivated members to get anything more than this taken forward.</p>
<b>2.3 Structure and legal status</b>	<p>LCWA has a constitution but is not registered as a legal body.</p> <p><b>Classification of legal form: Unincorporated Association</b></p>
<b>2.4. Regulations / responsibilities affecting the group/enterprise</b>	<p>Given the constitution as a voluntary association there are no particular responsibilities, although the group is expected to contribute to the management of the forest as part of the management agreement with BFT.</p>

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<p><b>2.5 Forest management objectives and planning procedures</b></p>	<p>BFT and LCWA aim to increase the conservation, recreational and educational value of the woodland. The aims of the partnership, as outlined in the management plan (2006-2011), are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To retain and plant Scots pine to support the red squirrel.</li> <li>2. To monitor and clear formal path network</li> <li>3. To erect a series of steps on a steep section of path in Bailhill Wood.</li> <li>4. To spot herbicide around newly planted trees and replace small trees (&lt; 1.5 m) if these fail.</li> <li>5. To protect natural regeneration with tubes and stakes.</li> <li>6. To engage in small scale felling of spruce and sycamore whilst maintaining continuous woodland cover.</li> <li>7. To engage in annual monitoring of wildlife and conduct surveys of ground flora.</li> <li>8. To initiate a programme of community events/work days.</li> </ol> <p>BFT and LCWA aim to review, and prepare a new plan, every five years. The latest management plan bridges the period 2006-2011. Both parties have the intention of reviewing and updating this in 2014.</p> <p><b>Overall aim of plan: Public access and recreation</b></p>
<p><b>2.6. Implementing the woodland management plan</b></p>	<p>The management plan is implemented by BFT (and LCWA) with support of professionals for the purpose of tree felling, tree thinning and any engineering works. These activities were covered by grant funding (see Section 4.2 for more detail).</p> <p>Volunteers engage in all activities that can be safely undertaken. These include: Tree planting, improvement of access road and bridge, cleaning up rubbish, brushing on walking paths, building benches and spraying herbicide.</p>
<p><b>2.7. Business/operating model and sustainability</b></p>	<p>In the past, LCWA took a leading role in organising forest-based activities and events such as charcoal burning for the benefit of the community. The group is currently inactive due to completing the first phases of the management plan and changes to available time of (formerly active) board members. Currently, the group does not generate any income.</p>
<p><b>2.8 Benefit distribution rules</b></p>	<p>Any grant and fundraising income is saved for reinvestment within the forest. Charcoal made from sycamore cuttings has been distributed amongst local community members. There are no other assets</p>

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	or income to distribute.
<b>3. External linkages</b>	
<b>3.1 Partnerships and agreements</b>	There is a formal partnership with BFT. They aid in securing grant aid, preparing a management plan, organising training events, forest activities and educational events.
<b>3.2 Associations</b>	LCWA is a former member of Community Woodlands Association (CWA). Membership was not continued because of the group's current state of inactivity.
<b>4. Resources</b>	
<b>4.1 Forest/woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The size of Lindean and Bailhill Wood combined is 7.7 ha.</li> <li>• The woods are located next to the small settlement of Lindean, 4km north of Selkirk in the Scottish Borders.</li> <li>• Access is by a rough track (300 m), followed by an unsurfaced track (100 m). There is parking space for two cars at the entrance of the forest. Formal paths can be found in the west end of Bailhill Wood, while the remainder of the forest can be accessed through an informal path network. Lindean Wood has no formal path network with desire lines evident.</li> </ul> <p><i>Bailhill Wood:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skeletal soil sits on top of hillocks, whereas deeper stone soils have developed in the hollows. Bailhill Wood is situated on a prominent hill within the area.</li> <li>• The woodland has a mixture of conifers and broadleaves (predominantly conifers).</li> <li>• The conifers are larch and pines of around 70 years old. There are also younger areas of mixed conifer of around 40 years old. One compartment is dominated by mature oak (planted near 1850), another by an intimate mixture of ash, sycamore, beech, birch and gean.</li> <li>• There is an extensive fringe of mature beech. Some snowberry and red elder can be found in the southern tip of the wood. There is sparse ground flora with some grasses growing under oak, pine and larch. There is limited natural regeneration. The wood is fenced off by boundary post and wire stock fences, which are in good condition except for the northern part.</li> <li>• Features of interest include an informal seating area and a disused quarry.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Classification of woodland type: Mixed mainly conifer.</b></li></ul> <p><i>Lindean Wood:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alluvium soils can be found with wet, poorly drained areas on some flatter areas and thinner soils on deeper slopes. The wood is situated within a gully.</li><li>• The trees in Lindean wood are well spaced and surrounded by plenty of ground flora as a result of thin soils and a steep gradient. The forest includes a dozen tall poplars (with windblown crowns) including some planted Sitka spruce (of around 40 years old) around the top of the southern edge. There is a mixture of native species (hawthorn, ash, oak, elder and hazel) with ash and oak as the predominant trees. There are also a good number of dead elm trees. Natural regeneration is limited. The forest is enclosed by a post and wire fence.</li><li>• A feature of interest is a bothy/cabin, which was built by the Edinburgh Cycling Club in the early 1900s. Use is still permitted by BFT although it is no longer maintained.</li><li>• <b>Classification of woodland type: Mixed mainly broadleaved.</b></li><li>• Both woodlands have been managed relatively well in the past 70-90 years as the timber is of high quality. However, management between 10 and 20 years ago has been very minimal, with the exception of some conifer thinning.</li><li>• Wildlife of interest includes badgers (living in a badger set of at least 60 years old), roe deer, rabbits, buzzards, tawny owls, woodpeckers and many small birds. The grey squirrel has colonised the woodland and red squirrels are only spotted sporadically.</li></ul>
<b>4.2 Woodland and group funding sources</b>	<p>LCWA funded implementation of the 2000-2005 management plan by grants from the RuralCare scheme (£5000) and the Tweed Rivers Heritage Lottery bid (£14,847). An initial grant (£2000) from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) was secured to cover consultant fees around a design and costing of the intended work to the paths, roads and bridge.</p> <p>These sums were “match funded” by a significant cash injection from within the community and also contributions-in-kind through work done on the project.</p>

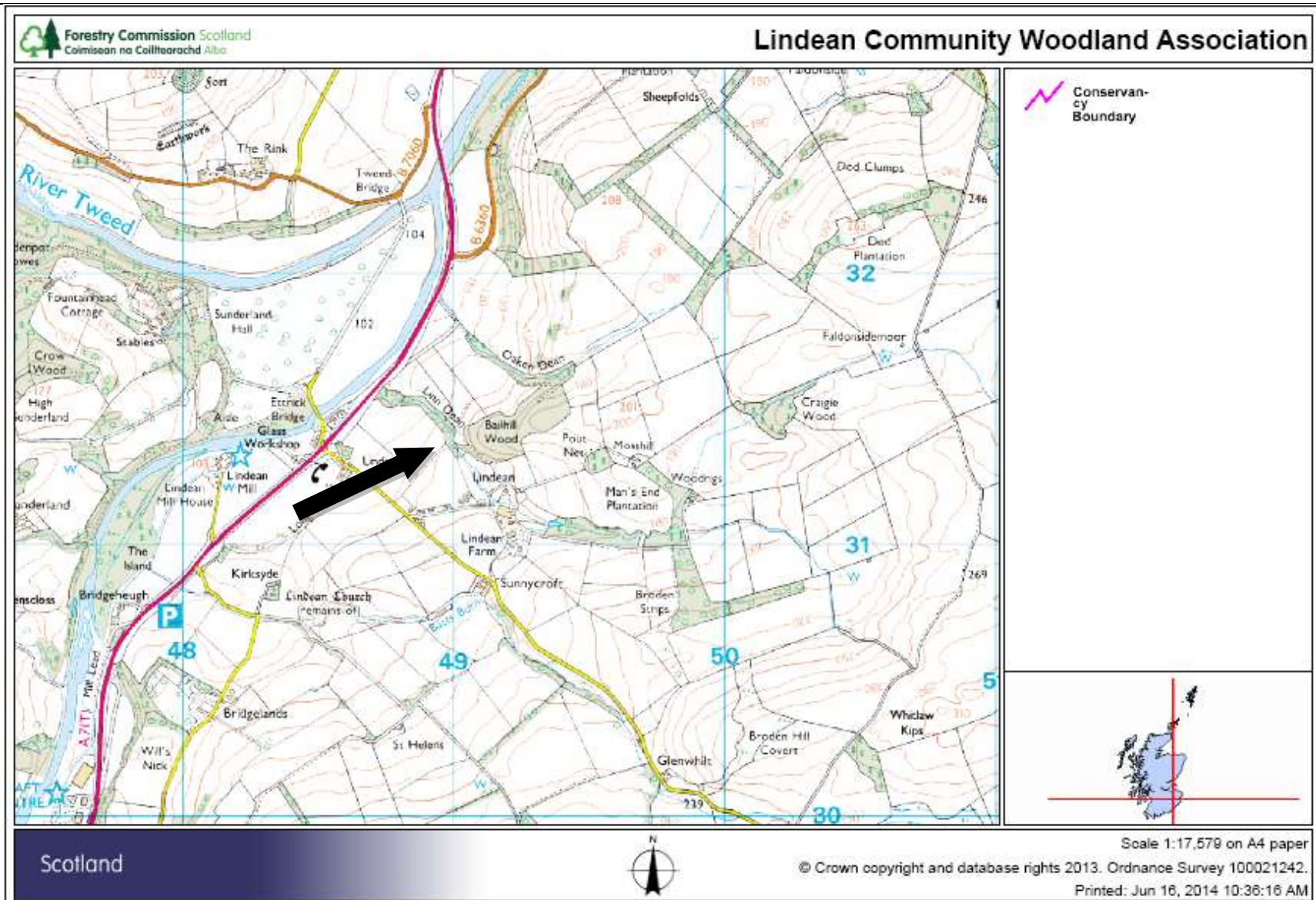
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<b>4.3 Knowledge, skills, human and social capital</b>	<p>Members of LCWA have basic forest management skills, although persons with chainsaw certificates are lacking. The background of a group member in both forestry and engineering was of benefit during communication with consultants and BFT.</p> <p>BFT and LCWA organised practical training courses (e.g., spraying herbicide), which were well sought after.</p>
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## 2. Change Narrative

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### 1. Group History. Moments of change, motivations and engagement

In 1997, Borders Forest Trust (BFT) purchased Bailhill and Lindean Woods through a grant from Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust (MFST) with the aim of conserving and restoring the native woodland. After a series of events organised by BFT to engage the community, a group of local people took the initiative to clear old rubbish dumps from the entrance of the wood and started organising community events such as bird watching (**informal enjoyment to active engagement**).

The Lindean Community Woodland Association (LCWA) was officially established in 2000 in order to access the Heritage Lottery funding for the river Tweed (£14,000). On top of this, LCWA also managed to secure funding from the Rural Care scheme (£5,000) and SNH (£2000). The SNH funding was specifically used to undertake a design and costing of required work. A significant cash contribution was also provided from within the community. This resulted in the involvement of the group in decision-making (**active engagement to decision-making**).

The key motivations for group formation were:

- To establish natural regeneration of trees
- To improve the biodiversity
- To improve access to the wood

When the planned works of the initial management plan were completed in 2002, the intensity of management got downscaled and no new applications for funding were made by LCWA.

Currently, there is still active management of the forest, but this is confined to clearing rubbish and tidying up by volunteers (**decision-making to active management**). However, resurrecting the group to engage in decision-making, if need be, would be relatively easy as the original drivers of LCWA are still residing within the community.

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## 2. Challenges, barriers and opportunities for change: Key issues in evolution

### Facilitating factors

- **Successful attempts by BFT to involve the community into forest management**
- **Advice by BFT** on matters such as finance.
- **Linkages between members of the community and BFT**
- **Motivation of community members to engage in forest management activities.** Two or three key motivators managed to engage 20 to 30 people in active forest management.
- **External funding and a generous donation from within the community** allowed for upgrading of the access road amongst other activities.
- Woodland management has been facilitated by **courses organised by BFT on basic woodland management activities** such as spraying herbicide that were attended by several LCWA-members.
- Similarly, **knowledge sharing with other community woodland groups** at events organised by the Community Woodlands Association has also benefited woodland management.

### Barriers

- The **limited size of the woodlands** and **the small size of the community** limit opportunities for long-term group involvement with high intensity. For many volunteers, creating an asset for their young children was a main motivation to get involved. These have now grown up, which has reduced motivation of the original active members to remain involved.
- **Local opposition** by neighbouring landowners has resulted in acts of sabotage (e.g., planting trees in front of new-built benches to block the view; stacking old farm implements and equipment in front of benches). There was an objection to the community woodland project due to a feud with BFT around positioning of the fence enclosing the woodland and other fears for change.
- LCWA has been offered the opportunity to take on ownership of the woods by BFT. However, the group declined this because of **concerns over insurance and liability**. In addition, uncertainty over the consequences of group folding for

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the future of the forests if in community ownership prevented the group of progressing to full management. The group also did not perceive any immediate benefits related to this move given the **limited value of timber** at that time.

- Some **group members were concerned that forest management would lead to a high influx of visitors and lack of parking space**. There were also concerns about the cost of the project but these were addressed by a study, funded by SNH, on the design and costing of the wood management.
- Some **funding was paid in arrears**, which created issues with cash flow.
- The **access road is not in group ownership**, which limits work on improving the road surface from being carried out.

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### 3. Evolution of income streams

In the 2000-2002 period, which is the only period during which LCWA generated an income, about 50 percent of the total revenues (£40,000) was raised through grants. The remaining income was obtained from donations and fundraising.

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### 4. Woodland history and change: Benefits and impacts before group involvement

The woods were previously part of the Sunderland Hall estate. During that time, the site was used to mine for shale coal. The wood was, however, clearfelled in the 1920s, leaving little or no trees in 1930. After replanting, the woodland was purchased by BFT in 1997. The purchase and management cost was funded with help of a grant by Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust (MFST).

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Time Period	Owner/Manager	Objectives / Benefits (and evidence)	Major operations	Access and use rights
- 1997	Sutherland Hall estate (PRIVATE - FREEHOLD)	To mine for shale coal, farming	Tree felling and replanting	Private land
1997	BFT (PRIVATE - FREEHOLD)	Conservation  Public access	Thinning sycamore, installing new field gate and kissing gate, clearing rubbish  Installed bench seating	Land Reform Act. Use rights with BFT

## 5. Woodland history and change: Benefits and impacts since group involvement

BFT has fenced one quarter of Bailhill woodland edge and thinned some sycamore for charcoal making. Bench seating has been installed in two compartments. A new field gate and kissing gate were installed at the wood entrance. This was all done in 1998.

Since community involvement, work has been undertaken on planting native trees, thinning and fencing the forests. The majority of work has, however, focused on improving public access. This was done through the construction of formal paths with interpretation panels, a bridge and visitor parking. To engage local people with the forest, a programme of events was organised including charcoal burning and bird watching. The woodland was furthermore used by Knowepark Primary School, Selkirk, to support curriculum activities. This education was provided by BFT with some local community involvement.

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Time Period	Owner/Manager	Objectives / Benefits (and evidence)	Major operations	Access and use rights
2000 -	BFT / LCWA (PRIVATE – MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT)	<p>Conservation</p> <p>Public access</p> <p>Quality of life (forest events programme)</p> <p>Education</p>	<p>Planting native trees, protecting regenerating oaks, thinning multi-stem sycamore, replacing fencing, clearing rubbish</p> <p>Construction of formal paths, a bridge and parking spaces, installing interpretation panels</p> <p>Forest School activities</p>	Public right of way. Use rights with BFT

## 6. Future plans

There is a need to re-establish contacts with BFT in order to update the forest management plan and to reinstate the regular visits by project managers to the forest. In the future, there will be a need to clear some of the dead wood from the forest and to do general maintenance activities. In addition, LCWA is considering getting in touch with the owner of the access road to discuss resurfacing.



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## 3. Engagement and impacts timeline

Year	Event	ENGAGEMENT	Reasons	Changes / Impacts and outcomes Social (evidence)	Changes / Impacts and outcomes Woodland (evidence)	Changes / Impacts and outcomes Financial / Economic (evidence)
1997	Purchase of woods by BFT, who subsequently involve the community in forest management	INFORMAL ENJOYMENT to ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT	To conserve and restore the native woodland	Organisation of woodland events  Use of forest to support curriculum activities by local school.	Clearing up piles of rubbish, thinning operations	Free charcoal for community
2000	Formation of LCWA	ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT to DECISION-MAKING	To access grant funding and contribute to the forest management plan	Stronger sense of community by those involved in management activities.  Increased tension between community and several local landowners.	Planting native trees, protection of natural regeneration, improved access and signage, improved fencing.	Receipt of grant funding (accounts)
2003	Completion of major infrastructural works	DECISION-MAKING to ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT	Intended activities in management plan completed	More intensive use of the forest than before community involvement, stronger sense of responsibility to upkeep the forest	None	None