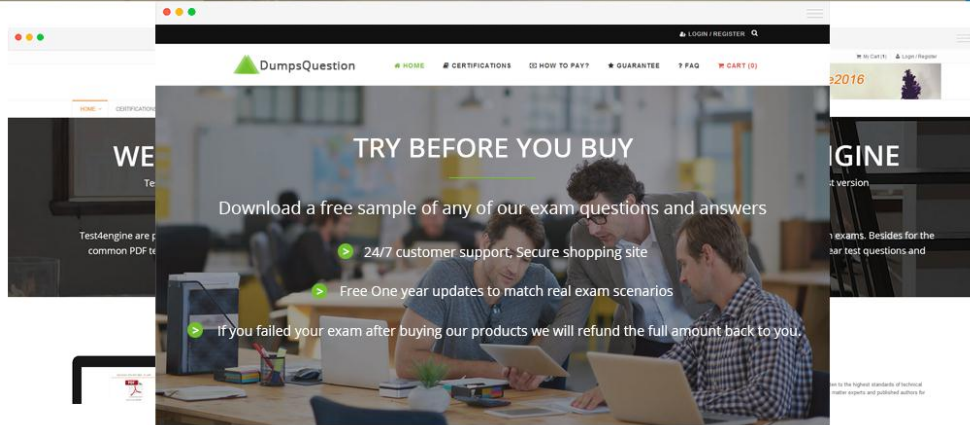


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Exam : **CIMAPRO19-CS3-1**

Title : Strategic Case Study Exam

Vendor : CIMA

Version : DEMO

NO.1 Two months have passed since the threatened disruption of the building work on the biomass power station. The threat has been resolved and work is again under way on the development.

You have received the following email from Peter Sorchi, CEO:

From: Peter Sorchi, Chief Executive Officer

To: Senior Finance Manager

Subject: Wildlife survey

Hi,

I tried to obtain some trustworthy advice from your boss this afternoon, but have come away feeling quite unsure that we are on the same wavelength.

As you know, the law in Marland is very clear concerning the protection of rare species of wildlife. Before building work commences on our new power station the Government will send a survey team to check for the presence of protected species. The attached article shows how sensitive an issue this can be.

As part of our corporate social responsibility, every one of Wodd's forestry teams has a small team of wildlife officers, whose job is to survey the forest and to identify all natural habitats. Trees can grow undisturbed for many years in a commercial forest before they are harvested and so natural habitats can become well established. Our wildlife surveys enable us to limit the harm done when trees are felled.

One of Wodd's wildlife officers in the North Forest has submitted a report on the sighting of a rare species of bat in the area that will be cleared for the power station. The report states that these creatures tend to be difficult to observe because they only come out very late at night and tend to roost in dense forest. This could, potentially, delay the start of work for six months while the bats are captured and relocated. Relocating the bats will also be expensive.

The Finance Director's advice was to ask the wildlife officer to change the report, stating that the original version was submitted in error and that the sighting occurred in a completely different part of the forest, well away from the planned construction site. There is only a small possibility that the Government inspectors will find the bats during their own inspection. In the event that they do then Wodd can claim that it was unaware of the bats' presence.

This whole exchange raises a number of issues for me.

- * Should we spend shareholder money on protecting wildlife in our forests?
- * What are the implications for our internal control system of the Finance Director asking for this report to be changed?
- * What are the difficulties in motivating our wildlife officers and how might we overcome these?
- * The Chairman is always complaining about how the executive directors are too aggressive when it comes to making a profit. How might I address that concern?

I would appreciate your response on each of the above issues.

Peter

Daily Gazette

Newt delays building project



There could only be one winner in the battle between a ten tonne bulldozer and a two centimetre amphibian. It was, of course, the amphibian who triumphed.

Work was just about to commence on the foundations for a new shopping mall on the outskirts of Capital City when an official conducting a wildlife survey discovered that a pond in the middle of the site was home to a colony of rare newts. This brought work to a halt until immature animals had reached a stage where they could be safely captured and moved to a safe location. This delayed work by more than two weeks and cost the developers a great deal of money.

Answer:

Complete your answer and submit

Topic 1, Wodd

Company Background

You are a Senior Finance Manager employed by Wodd.

Wodd is a forestry company that invests in forestry projects and adds value through participation in associated industries, such as the manufacture of paper. The company was formed in 1983, when a large area of forest was sold to a consortium of wealthy individuals who had established a company to undertake the purchase.

Over time, the company grew and the original founders sold their shares. Wodd has been quoted since 2002.

Wodd is based in Marland, a European country whose currency is the M\$. Marland is heavily

industrialised in the South, but has large uninhabited areas in the North. Its climate is temperate and is well suited to growing timber.

Wodd

Extracts from integrated report for the year ended 30 September 2015

About our report

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Wodd's Board is committed to strong corporate governance and leadership as well as transparency in its disclosures. Over the coming years, Wodd will continue to review its reporting approach and routines, to ensure it meets best practice reporting standards, the expectations of its stakeholders and maintains the visibility of how the Group creates sustainable value for the communities it serves.

Strategic report

Wodd operates in the forestry industry. Wodd's activities include forestry management, harvesting timber and project work, such as helping to create amenity woodlands and forests.

Forestry Management

Wodd manages its own forests and also those of its clients. It is accredited by the Forestry Stewardship Council of Marland (FSCM) for managing sustainable forests.

The client management side of the business consists of forestry-related matters such as harvesting trees and replanting. Wodd can sell harvested timber on behalf of clients. Wodd also advises on taxation and grant applications.

Taxation and Grants

There are grants available for planting and fencing forests. Some grants are awarded by the Forestry Authority of Marland and some come from Government.

There are considerable tax benefits from buying and managing a forest in Marland. No income tax is paid when trees are felled and sold. No capital gains tax is paid if the forest is managed and sold in its entirety in the future. Investing in forestry can be extremely tax efficient for wealthy investors. Wodd has considerable expertise in advising on the tax aspects of forestry ownership.

Harvesting

Wodd fells standing timber in its own forests and on behalf of clients. Cutting down trees and replanting can enhance the health of a forest. Letting light penetrate to the forest floor encourages biodiversity. Removing diseased trees can reduce the risk of problems spreading. Gaps between stands of trees can act as firebreaks.

Wood is also a sustainable crop. The material itself has many uses. Mature trees absorb very little carbon dioxide, whereas freshly planted trees will capture carbon dioxide whilst they are growing. Wodd has invested in the latest heavy logging machinery that can fell trees and strip their branches. This equipment is suited to clearing areas of trees. Individual trees are still cut down manually with chainsaws.

Forestry work is often carried out in remote areas and can be dangerous.

Projects

Wodd does considerable work with the Forestry Authority of Marland. The Forestry Authority offers substantial grants towards planting and for fencing.

Wodd has undertaken projects on behalf of the Forestry Authority of Marland to create amenity forests. Typically, this involves making picnic areas, footpaths and cycle paths in existing forests in order to encourage the public to use them for leisure and enjoyment.

Chairman's statement

In 2014 the company focused on stabilising its results after a number of difficult years in recession.

The company has set its sights on achieving long-term stable returns from its activities with steady improvements in key areas to build a strong future for Wodd.

The company continued to strengthen its position in the markets and regions where it operates. Wodd is gaining an international reputation for excellent forest management which it hopes to enhance in the future.

Volatility in the US Dollar against the \$M caused us some problems over the last year. It is hoped that the economic uncertainties that led to this will settle down.

The company has built on its core strengths and has now had the management of all its forests accredited.

Wodd has engaged in some new planting projects over the past year which have all gone well. The more stable weather during the winter meant we did not have much wind-blow and did not have to replant many areas.

The increase in house building and construction has seen an increase in demand for timber and Wodd has benefitted from this and from the increase in timber prices due to this demand. This has helped to sustain the profits that were so welcome last year.

The Forestry Authority in Marland commended our efforts to increase the sustainability of our forests. By replanting areas we have harvested with fast-growing Sitka Spruce, we have improved our carbon storage by 3% in 2014. This was greater than expected.

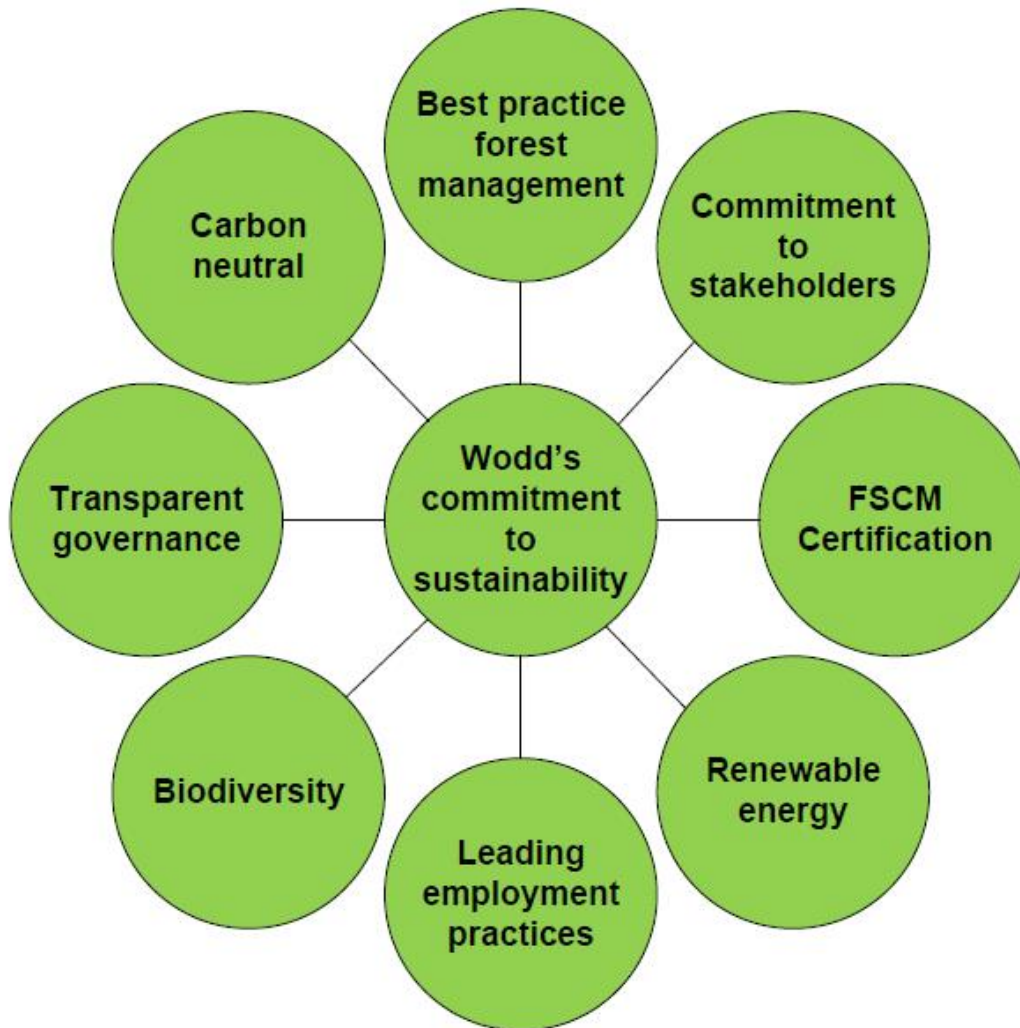
We entered into two projects last year assisting the Forestry Authority to improve the amenity forests in the north of Marland. These projects were completed during the year and have resulted in a 40% increase in the visitors to the forests; the cycle tracks and picnic areas have been especially popular.

The last few years have been challenging for Wodd. However, we believe the long-term fundamentals are now in place for Wodd to deliver its goal of steady long-term returns on its investments which it can pass on for the benefit of its shareholders.

Sustainability

Wodd's investment objective is to invest in assets which can be established and managed on an environmentally and socially sustainable basis.

We have invested in forests and have emphasised sustainability in all aspects of their management, including ensuring that the responsible harvesting of trees does not exceed the ability of the land to regenerate itself once replanted.



Social responsibility

Sustainability is a key factor in all investment decisions. We aim to manage our forests to the highest standards. Our expectation is that Wodd will be a net planter of trees, with the number of living trees increasing over time in all of our forests.

We aim:

*to obtain all existing accreditation for responsible and sustainable forest management and always aim to exceed all industry and regulatory standards.

*for a clear and constructive dialogue with local communities and other stakeholders. We are proud of our achievements and are keen to communicate these as widely as possible.

*to combine sound economic stewardship with our stewardship of natural resources. We provide shareholders with sustainable dividends and capital growth while ensuring that we do not do so at a significant environmental cost.

Our strategy and objectives

Our mission is to be the world leader in sustainable forestry management.

Our long-term strategy continues to be to:

1. Provide stable, long-term returns to our investors.
2. Be the preferred supplier of raw wood-based materials to a broad customer base.
3. Be the leading player in the forest industry regarding environmental and social conduct.
4. Expand existing and develop new large-scale projects.
5. Seek new ways of working to improve the sustainability of forests in the future.

Code of conduct

Stakeholders - We work with all of our stakeholders, ensuring woodlands and forests meet the needs of present and future society.

Respect - We value our colleagues and our stakeholders, valuing diversity and treating everyone with consideration.

Professional behaviour - We act with integrity and objectivity to achieve high standards of health and safety, quality and sustainability in everything we do.

Learning and development - We are always learning, developing the skills and knowledge to support the company.

Communication - We are open and honest with colleagues and with our stakeholders.

Environment - We seek to protect the environment for the enjoyment of both people and wildlife in the future.

Stakeholder engagement

The communities in Marland trust us. That is the foundation of our business.

We have built up trust by integrating corporate social responsibility and sustainability into the way we run our company.

We have incorporated ten principles (see page 23) into our working practices. These encourage responsible behaviour in the areas of the environment, anti- corruption, our workforce and human rights.

Our sustainable forestry management practices are long-term investments building value for our company and the society of Marland. We have strict targets that we strive to achieve on carbon storage and are now in surplus when we take into account our harvesting and transportation emissions.

We aim to make our forests and woodlands attractive and healthy places that can be visited and enjoyed. We offer basic facilities such as woodland paths, picnic sites and cycle tracks. We locate these away from areas where timber is being harvested so that visitors are safe at all times.

We actively seek to improve the environment by sustainable planting while improving the return to our shareholders.

Employees

Our employees are our greatest asset. They add a huge amount of value to Wodd. They work together as a team to ensure Wodd runs efficiently and effectively.

We have a diverse group of employees. Some of our best lumberjacks have worked with us for over 30 years. The work is hard, but they enjoy the communal spirit and work ethic encouraged by Wodd. Lumberjacks work in small groups in remote areas, sometimes camping for several weeks. They are happy to continue this work even though it can be difficult and dangerous.

Wodd encourages safe working practices and training.

We have been improving our gender balance, although there are still too few women working in the forests. We are pleased that we now have a number of female senior employees and directors.

Customer relevance

Being aware of our customers' needs has played a large part in our steady growth over the last few years. We value our customers and work hard at understanding their needs.

Our customers support sustainable forestry and are proud of our accredited status. We listened to our customers when they said they wanted to protect the environment and they have repaid us with their loyalty. Our customer base has increased over the last few years as they know we work to create value for them. We seek to generate value in all aspects of our business while continuing to offer excellent quality.

Customer care and satisfaction

We opened a customer care department to respond to customer queries and complaints quickly. Its focus is to respond to customer queries and complaints within an agreed time frame which depends on the complexity of the query. We are proud that we responded to 97.5% of queries within the agreed timeframe.

The number of repeat queries has fallen considerably as a result of this initiative.

Risks and uncertainties

Fluctuating demand

Wodd's principal activities rely on demand for timber, which is a basic raw material used in many industries.

Some of our customers operate in volatile or cyclical industries. For example, the building industry buys significant quantities of timber and timber-based products. The building industry can be affected significantly by movements in economic indicators such as interest rates, the availability of credit and the property market.

Selling prices fall in response to declining demand for timber. Wodd can reduce production in response because there is very little point in selling timber when prices are low. However, there are economies of scale associated with operating at higher capacities and so we can suffer increased costs when we manage output in this way.

The company regularly reviews the movement in market prices and seeks to obtain the best value for the company's products from existing and new customers.

International business

Many countries import large quantities of timber and their economies can further affect demand.

Apart from fluctuations in their economies, our ability to export to particular markets can be affected by trade disputes, tariffs, import restrictions and so on.

Exchange rate fluctuations

The company is exposed to foreign exchange risk. Pulpwood is priced in USD which can be volatile against the M\$.

Wodd is able to utilise financial instruments to hedge against adverse currency movements; there is no guarantee that it will be possible to hedge against a particular change at an acceptable price, or that any attempt to hedge would be successful.

Employee safety

Forestry workers are highly skilled. Harvesting timber in a safe and efficient manner requires training and experience. Working in forests can be difficult and dangerous and we provide advanced safety training for all our lumberjacks. We make sure we have the most advanced safety equipment available for the workforce.

However, there is the risk that serious accidents can occur in remote areas which could be serious.

We are insured fully for accidents.

Labour relations

Our forestry workers are unionised. There is an annual negotiation cycle for determining pay and working conditions. The involvement of the union tends to ensure that all companies in the industry pay broadly similar rates.

Production will be affected in the event that an agreement cannot be reached with union negotiators. It would be difficult to locate suitable temporary staff during a strike and the logistics of timber production would make industrial action, such as picketing vehicle entrances, highly effective.

Physical risks

Wodd may experience the impact of physical risks associated with forest assets such as fire, insect infestation or wind-blow in extreme weather.

Wodd's forests are managed, or insured as appropriate, in a manner to mitigate these. Advice on insect infestation is taken from the Forestry Authority.

Tax

Changes to tax and grant regimes governing forestry would have an adverse effect on the number of customers interested in investing in forestry and planting.

Changes in certain tax and grant regimes may adversely affect Wodd's financial performance.

Board of Directors

Peter Sorchi, Chief Executive Officer

Peter has had a long and successful career in forestry. He started in the industry 30 years ago and worked in the forests in Scotland for several years before starting his own business managing forests for the UK's Forestry Commission. He became involved in the certification of forests in the UK and regularly inspected woodlands for the Forestry Commission. He left Scotland and moved to Marland where he joined Wodd as a senior manager in charge of certification.

He joined the Board as Forestry Director in 2008 and became CEO in 2012.

Ibrahim Bengassa - Forestry Director

Ibrahim has been Forestry Director since 2013, having previously been the forestry manager in a large plantation in Nigeria.

Ibrahim has had a number of prestigious roles in the forestry trade. As Forestry Director, his role is to manage the forests and look after the investors.

Marcus Svenson - Finance Director

Marcus is a professionally qualified accountant. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting.

He joined Wodd's Board in 2008 after working in a number of senior roles in the timber industry in Sweden.

Sarah Johns - Marketing Director

Sarah has a degree in Marketing and has two prestigious awards for marketing gained when she previously worked for a major US company, rising to a senior managerial position.

She joined the company as Marketing Director in 2014.

Dr Maritza Lenzo - Human Resources Director

Maritza holds a Masters degree in Human Resource Management and she is a Fellow of the Marland Institute of Personnel and Development.

She has served in a variety of different entities. She joined the Wodd Board in 2013.

Dr Anton Carlov- Non-executive Chairman

Anton holds a Doctorate in Forestry Management and he is a Master of Business Administration.

He was a senior manager in a forestry management group in Siberia and became a director of it in 2008. Anton retired in 2014 and Wodd's Board was delighted to welcome such a prestigious person to serve as non-executive Chairman.

Dr Carlov is a highly respected business person in Marland and wider afield.

He chairs both the Audit and Remuneration committees.

Stuart McLellan - Non-executive director

Stuart has been a non-executive director on Wodd's Board since 2012. He worked in the timber industry in Canada for 15 years before joining Wodd. He worked as a lumberjack and safety officer for most of this time.

Stuart sits on the Health and Safety, Audit and Remuneration committees.

Xai Ling - Non-executive director

Xai was appointed a non-executive director in 2013. He also has experience in the timber trade. He

worked in one of China's largest building companies as a timber buyer. He is a member of the Health and Safety committee and the Nomination committee.

Lianne Edwards - Non-executive director

Lianne has been a non-executive member of Wodd's Board since 2012. She is also a non-executive director of a major Croatian sawmill. She has had a long and distinguished association with that company, having served as senior purchasing manager for 15 years. Lianne sits on both the Nomination and Remuneration committees.

Financial statements

Wodd

Statement of profit or loss for the year ended 30 September

	2015	2014
	M\$ million	M\$ million
Revenue	10,623	11,685
Cost of sales	(3,298)	(3,067)
Gross profit	7,325	8,618
Unrealised gain on biological assets	1,108	752
	8,433	9,370
Operating expenses		
Administrative expenses	(2,481)	(2,307)
Forestry operating expenses	(847)	(822)
Operating profit	5,105	6,241
Interest expense	(635)	(583)
Profit for the year	4,470	5,658

Wodd**Statement of changes in equity****For the year ended 30 September 2015**

	Share capital and premium M\$ million	Revaluation reserve M\$ million	Retained earnings M\$ million	Total M\$ million
Balance at 30 September 2014	30,000	9,288	2,928	42,216
Revaluation adjustment		559		559
Profit for year			4,470	4,470
Dividend			(3,828)	(3,828)
Balance at 30 September 2015	<u>30,000</u>	<u>9,847</u>	<u>3,570</u>	<u>43,417</u>

Wodd**Statement of financial position
as at 30 September**

	2015 M\$ million	2014 M\$ million
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Forest lands		
Land	23,457	22,050
Biological assets	24,899	24,351
Property, plant and equipment	364	306
Total non-current assets	<u>48,720</u>	<u>46,707</u>
Current assets		
Inventory	920	883
Trade receivables	948	1,025
Cash and cash equivalents	1,186	1,275
	<u>3,054</u>	<u>3,183</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>51,774</u></u>	<u><u>49,890</u></u>
EQUITY		
Share capital and premium	30,000	30,000
Revaluation reserve	9,847	9,288
Retained earnings	3,570	2,928
	<u>43,417</u>	<u>42,216</u>
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Loans	7,045	6,480
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	<u>1,312</u>	<u>1,194</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	8,357	7,674
EQUITY + LIABILITIES	<u><u>51,774</u></u>	<u><u>49,890</u></u>

Notes

1 Accounting policy

Land is shown at fair value, as determined by independent valuers.

Standing forests are defined and reported as biological assets. The biological assets are evaluated and reported at fair value after deduction of estimated selling costs by an independent third party expert. Once the plantations have been successfully established, the fair value of standing forests is calculated as the present value of anticipated future cash flows from the assets.

2 Revenue and cost of sales

2015	Standing trees M\$ million	Service and consultancy M\$ million	Total M\$ million
Revenue	8,891	1,732	10,623
Cost of sales	(2,870)	(428)	(3,298)
Gross profit	6,021	1,304	7,325

2014	Standing trees M\$ million	Service and consultancy M\$ million	Total M\$ million
Revenue	10,043	1,642	11,685
Cost of sales	(2,670)	(397)	(3,067)
Gross profit	7,373	1,245	8,618

3 Forest assets at fair value

	Land M\$ million	Biological assets M\$ million	Total M\$ million
As at 30 September 2014	22,050	24,351	46,401
Cost of planting biological assets		976	976
Increase in fair value of biological assets		1,108	1,108
Biological assets harvested		(1,536)	(1,536)
Land purchased	848		848
Surplus on revaluation of planted land	559		559
As at 30 September 2015	23,457	24,899	48,356

Regulatory bodies

The Forestry Authority of Marland

The mission of the Forestry Authority of Marland is to provide an ecological framework for the promotion of a healthy and cleaner environment for future generations by expanding forests and

improving sustainable forest management.

The Authority offers partnership opportunities for forestry companies to create amenity woodlands for Marland, so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of the outdoors.

The Authority encourages forestry management companies to become accredited by the Forestry Stewardship Council of Marland (FSCM).

The Authority offers grants for planting and fencing forestry plantations and also offers assistance in applying for government forestry grants.

It offers advice on insect infestation in forests and other matters of sound stewardship of forests.

The Forestry Stewardship Council of Marland

The Forest Stewardship Council of Marland (FSCM) exists to support the responsible management of Marland's forests. We are a non-profit making and independent organisation.

FSCM publishes standards that promote environmentally sound and socially responsible development of forest lands. Companies who adhere to our standards are eligible to use our logo on their promotional materials and to display it on their products.

Consumers are increasingly concerned with the safe and responsible sourcing of timber-based products. The FSCM logo reassures customers that they are not contributing to the irresponsible destruction of forest lands, with associated harm to the environment and natural habitats.

The FSCM's has developed ten principles, which form the basis for our standard setting programme.

These principles are listed below:

Principle 1 - Compliance with laws and FSCM Principles

Those responsible for forestry management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they operate and shall comply with all FSCM Principles and Criteria.

Principle 2 - Rights and responsibilities

The right to exploit land and any associated forestry resources shall be formally documented so that the legal right to conduct operations can be demonstrated.

Principle 3 - Respect for indigenous peoples

Those responsible for forestry management shall recognise and respect the legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands and other resources.

Principle 4 - Respect for employees and local communities

The social and economic wellbeing of forestry workers and of local communities shall be preserved.

Principle 5 - Good use of available resources

Those responsible for forestry management shall identify the various resources that can be found in the forest, with a view to maximising environmental and social benefits.

Principle 6 - Environmental impact

Those responsible for forestry management shall maintain biological diversity and shall preserve resources such as water, soil and other ecological resources.

Principle 7 - Management plan

Forestry lands shall be managed in accordance with a specific management plan that states the long-term objectives of management and the means by which they will be achieved. The plan will be tailored to the land and the nature and scale of operations.

Principle 8 - Monitoring and assessment

Those responsible for forestry management shall monitor operations so that the economic and environmental effects of operations are kept under review.

Principle 9 - Sensitive locations

Particular care will be taken in the management of activities in forests that have a high conservation value. Those responsible will pay particular attention to maintaining and enhancing the factors that

create that high value.

Principle 10 - Plantations

Principles 1 to 9 apply equally to plantations. In addition, those responsible for the creation and management of plantations shall aim to complement the value of natural forests.

Press clippings

TIMBER TRADE NEWS

Interview with Peter Sorchi CEO of Wodd

Why is investment in forestry so tax efficient?

There is no income tax on harvested timber and no capital taxes on the growth in the value of the tree crop. An investment will also qualify for relief against inheritance tax after two years of ownership. So if taxation is managed properly there is no tax payable on the investment or the income from felling the trees.

What are the main markets for timber?

Forest owners can benefit from a variety of markets. There are several main markets: construction, packaging, pallets, fencing, panel board, paper and biomass for energy and heat – this last market has led to new competition for the least valuable part of the tree and therefore increased the value of the whole tree to timber purchasers.

The World Timber Index indicates that timber prices are volatile. Is this an issue in considering an investment in forestry?

The benefit of forestry is that when prices drop there is no need to harvest. Value is stored in the trees while they mature and the trees continue to grow both in volume and value. There is generally a window of five to fifteen years in which a crop can be harvested, which means that the volatility in timber prices can be exploited to the landowner's advantage.

Is an investment liquid?

There is an active market for forest properties which sees good properties sold quickly. Having said that, forestry is the same as any other property, it is potentially illiquid as there is no perfect, established market. The trees continue to grow in volume, should a property remain unsold.

Who manages the forestry?

Experienced local managers. They provide ongoing budgets for the development of the forest, which are reviewed by Marland and amended as necessary in order to ensure that the investment achieves the best possible return. It is important that the forest is managed with trees being thinned out and dangerous trees removed, replanting also must be planned to maintain a sustainable forest.



How is the forestry asset valued?

By taking into account location, the age and quality of the crop and the state of the infrastructure, in particular the access to the forest. Value can be ascertained by market evidence and calculated on a discounted cash flow basis.

Why is forestry regarded as an inflation hedge?

There is a limited supply which is constrained by the fixed area of productive forests in Europe. There is a diverse spectrum of wood-based products that permeate the global economy and ensure that demand is robust.

What type of tree is best to invest in?

Sitka spruce produces the greatest volume of timber in the shortest time in Europe (it has a 30-45 year rotation) and has the greatest diversity of end uses. Once established, Sitka spruce grows at about 6% per annum.

What are the main risks of an investment into forestry?

The main risks are fire and wind-blow. These are insured against. There is currently no insurance cover for pests and disease, but trees with a relatively short rotation, such as Sitka spruce, are less vulnerable to pests and disease than trees with a lifespan of more years. The forestry authority offers excellent advice on pests and diseases and their treatment.

What are the environmental benefits to owning forestry?

All our properties have full Forest Stewardship Council of Marland (FSCM) certification. This means that all harvested areas are replanted, ensuring that the forests are sustainable. Furthermore, the forests are managed in an environmentally friendly manner which encourages biodiversity. Forests are in the frontline in the battle to restrict CO₂ emissions. They also encourage wildlife.

Forestry Monthly

No. 515

MS3.20

Sustaining a Future for Forestry.

Editorial

Forestry companies that recognise the importance of the industry for growing a sustainable economy will thrive in the future. It's not just about maintaining growing forests and selling timber but also in providing services.

The successful forest companies of the future will recognise this opportunity, use it to advance their own bottom line, and help ensure that forests survive and thrive.

Climate change, growing populations, huge increasing demand for food, water and energy are changing the way the world values forests. This vision is being advanced by new markets that are emerging for forest services such as carbon storage, wildlife preservation and recreational facilities. This trend is creating huge opportunities for forest companies with the foresight to reinvent themselves and look beyond the traditional role of timber felling and planting.

Forest companies of the future will expand their business model beyond delivering products to providing a variety of services to local communities. Timber revenue will still be important, but successful companies will have new sources of revenue to consider.

In order to meet these increasing roles, forests companies must be able to move

from harvesting and planting to a service focused business.

Scanda, Scandinavia's largest forest company, is doing exactly that. Approximately 20% of annual revenue sales comes from biomass for energy and non-timber services such as wind farm leases and hunting and fishing licences. In addition, Scanda is managing a quarter of its land for conservation and promotion of biodiversity. The company is also experimenting with ways to maximise carbon uptake through different forest management measures and plans to sell the additional uptake to carbon markets.

Other large organisations are shifting focus to incorporate services. Many have proportions of their forest land under revenue-generating conservation and wildlife protection agreements.

Some large paper and packaging companies are branching out into the market for biomass and ecotourism.

Climate Change: Trees not only capture and store carbon while they are growing, they also produce fossil fuel substitutes (such as biomass) and provide flood control and regulate water flowing down hillsides all helping to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Increasing demand for renewable energy and materials: Limited supply and rising prices of fossil fuels are increasing demand for renewable timber-based energy and materials. The European Union has pledged to boost biomass energy consumption which will increase demand for timber.

Restoring nature's services: There is an increasing requirement for increases in funding to restore the ecosystems created by forests in order to reduce flooding and prevent reservoirs becoming blocked with silt washed down from the hills.

Increasingly people are keen to enjoy nature: With so many of us living in large cities there is an increasing interest in escaping to the countryside with fresher air and good views in the evenings and at weekends. Urban forests could improve air quality, reduce noise and provide a healthy clean environment for city dwellers.

Extract from Darrell's financial statements

Darrell is one of Wodd's major competitors. It is based in Marland.

Darrell**Statement of profit or loss****for the year ended 30 September**

	2015	2014
	M\$ million	M\$ million
Revenue	16,842	18,095
Cost of sales	(9,263)	(9,409)
Gross profit	7,579	8,686
Unrealised gain on biological assets	1,009	1,241
	8,588	9,927
Operating expenses		
Administrative expenses	(3,066)	(3,279)
Forestry operating expenses	(940)	(1,014)
Operating profit	4,582	5,634
Interest expense	(545)	(720)
Profit for the year	4,037	4,914

Darrell**Statement of financial position
as at 30 September**

	2015 M\$ million	2014 M\$ million
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Forest lands		
Land	26,486	24,249
Biological assets	21,598	20,734
Property, plant and equipment	5,374	3,869
Total non-current assets	<u>53,458</u>	<u>48,852</u>
Current assets		
Inventory	1,500	1,215
Trade receivables	1,063	1,224
Cash and cash equivalents	931	4,875
	<u>3,494</u>	<u>7,314</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>56,952</u></u>	<u><u>56,166</u></u>
EQUITY		
Share capital and premium	28,000	28,000
Revaluation reserve	4,417	4,265
Retained earnings	16,661	13,297
	<u>49,078</u>	<u>45,562</u>
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Loans	6,000	9,000
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	<u>1,874</u>	<u>1,604</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>7,874</u>	<u>10,604</u>
EQUITY + LIABILITIES	<u><u>56,952</u></u>	<u><u>56,166</u></u>

NO.2 You have received the following email from Marcus Svenson, Finance Director:

From: Marcus Svenson, Finance Director

To: Senior Finance Manager

Subject: Biomass proposal

Hi,

The Board has just heard a presentation by an engineering consultancy concerning a proposal to develop a biomass power station adjacent to our North Forest.

The Board has asked us to put together some thoughts about the merits of this proposal. We would proceed on the basis that we would build the power station and sell the resulting electricity to the national power generator which has a number of coal-fired power stations, each of which is nearing the end of its useful life and the coal has to be shipped in, so we should find it relatively easy to guarantee sales. The power generator has indicated that it would be possible to negotiate a three year contract in the first instance, with the expectation that this would be extended by subsequent three year contracts, subject to price and performance.

We would be responsible for building and operating the power plant and we would also have to pay for 50% of the cost of power lines for connecting to the national electricity grid, with the other 50% being funded by the national power generator.

Please draft a briefing paper that I can present to the Board on the following:

How can we predict whether the share price is likely to increase or decrease if we commit ourselves to this project? You should identify the challenges associated with answering that question and indicate how we might address them.

What are the long-term risks associated with future revenues from the sale of electricity? How might we manage these?

Marcus

Reference Material:

1. Biomass power – what is it?

- Biomass is any product derived from living organisms.
- One use for biomass is to burn it in specially designed power stations in order to generate electricity.
- There are many biomass power stations in the USA and they are becoming more commonplace in other countries.

2. The proposal

- Wodd's North Forest is an extensive plantation of low-grade timber.
- Soil and weather conditions mean that trees tend to be unsuitable for timber production and so they are generally sold for pulp.
- Wodd could build a biomass power station on site to be run on trees harvested from North Forest and its surrounding developments.

3. Economic issues

- Electricity generated from local forests could be sold for more than the value of the trees as pulp.
- The business would be capital intensive, but the running costs would be minimal.

4. Sustainability

- Forests can be harvested responsibly, with new planting to replace felled trees.
- Burning timber releases greenhouse gases, but the newly planted trees will absorb CO₂.
- Mature trees do not absorb CO₂.
- Converting biomass into electricity using local facilities means that fuel is not being transported over long distances.

4 Sustainability cont.

- Harvesting trees at Wodd's other nearby sites creates biomass in the form of other plant life, such as branches stripped from felled trees.
- This material is presently of little value, but could be used as biomass.
- If it is not used as fuel then this material will rot over time and will release greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.

5. Any questions?



Answer:

Complete your answer and submit

NO.3 Four weeks have passed since your encounter with the Chairman. The directors of both companies were informed of the proposal to merge two weeks ago and the public was informed two

days ago.

You have received the following email from Marcus Svenson, Finance Director:

From: Marcus Svenson, Finance Director

To: Senior Finance Manager

Subject: Merger negotiations

Hi,

Please see the attached table and also a comment that I downloaded from a Wodd shareholder's blog, showing the market capitalisations for Wodd and Darrell both before and after the merger announcement.

If I am reading this correctly, it would appear that we are suffering at the hands of Darrell because the market believes that it is getting more of the benefit from the merger. This is before the terms of the merger have even been announced.

I need you to do two things:

Please draft a formal response to Market Blogger's post. We will insert this into his blog as a formal response from Wodd's Board and we will also email it to all shareholders.

Please draft an outline strategy for negotiating with Darrell's Board. Clearly, I want Wodd's shareholders to get the best possible deal out of this merger.

Marcus

Reference Material:

	Wodd	Darrell
Before announcement	M\$ 62.00	M\$ 68.00
After announcement	M\$ 77.00	M\$ 108.00

Answer:

Complete your answer and submit

NO.4 The formal merger with Darrell has been negotiated and the legal formalities have been completed. The two company management teams are working on the integration of the two businesses.

You receive an email from Peter Sorchi, the Chief Executive of the merged company:

From: Peter Sorchi, Chief Executive Officer

To: Senior Finance Manager

Subject: Integration of IT and treasury

Hi,

I need you to advise me on a couple of matters. The attached press clipping shows how sensitive this is.

We need to integrate the IT and treasury functions of the former Wodd and Darrell. I thought that it would be a simple matter of identifying the common ground and slimming down both companies' departments to cover the new entity, but I have the heads of both IT and treasury from each company arguing that their approaches are better for the merged group and that they should take the lead.

Wodd's Treasurer claims to be an expert in natural hedging of currency risks and Darrell's argues that her department was highly successful because it makes excellent use of derivatives for hedging. Both agree only on the fact that they cannot work together. I am afraid that I have to agree with them on that and the Board will have the difficult decision of choosing between them.

I have the opposite problem with the IT function. The two Heads of IT are excited to be able to

combine their databases and to develop their respective interests in Big Data. They claim that we should retain all of the professional staff in both departments and possibly even expand the merged IT Department beyond that. Given the rationalisation in all of our other functions, I do not think that we can agree to that, but I would hate to throw away a worthwhile opportunity.

Please give me your thoughts on the following:

- * What approach to hedging is more likely to meet our needs: natural hedging or heavy use of derivatives?
- * Ignoring hedging, what other factors should we consider in deciding between the two treasurers?
- * Are the two heads of IT likely to be correct in arguing that we need to retain all existing IT staff in order to exploit synergies in data, particularly opportunities to leverage Big Data?
- * What would the challenges be in motivating them to reduce their joint staffing levels and how might we deal with these?

Peter

Answer:

Complete your answer and submit

NO.5 Daily Gazette

Draft story for comment

The singer, the forester and the tax adviser

Popular singer Barry Crauder is regarded as one of our more financially-aware personalities. He works hard, releasing at least one new album every year and serving as a judge on a popular talent show.

He has a reputation for investing this income wisely, choosing to save for his future rather than squandering on the trappings of the show business lifestyle.

Crauder's popularity was severely damaged when it emerged that he pays little or no tax on the investment income derived from his portfolio of investments. That is because he has used one of the few remaining tax loopholes, namely investment in forestry. He owns significant areas of forestry in the far North of Marland. We estimate his earnings from those investments to exceed M\$800,000 every year and yet he has not paid a single Cent in tax on that income since he first invested in forestry ten years ago. In contrast, a typical fan who earns the national average wage of M\$28,000 every year will pay approximately M\$7,000 in tax.

So, could we all invest in forestry? Well, not unless we can afford it. I posed as a wealthy business entrepreneur and approached several leading tax advisers. Most were interested in helping me to invest a seven figure sum to avoid tax, but warned that saving tax could be expensive in terms of fees and commissions.

Four firms recommended forestry as the ideal investment. All recommended Wodd, with whom all four claimed to conduct "significant business". They said that a typical client would give Wodd a bank draft and leave the purchase and subsequent management to Wodd in return for a fee. Most clients had never even seen the forests that they own and none ever need to make a management decision concerning the growth or sale of timber.

Sadly, investing in forestry is a rich person's pursuit. I was warned that companies such as Wodd are unlikely to entertain a potential client whose initial investment does not run into the tens of millions of M\$.

Please address any response to Sonia Jones, care of the Daily Gazette news desk, as quickly as possible.

Answer:

Complete your answer and submit

