

# 1. Introduction

In this report, we aim to outline the unsustainable nature of Irish forestry, both publicly and privately owned. Specifically, it is shown that the state, through Coillte, is not adhering to the principles of Sustainable Forest Management.

It is demonstrated that the Forest Stewardship Council certification of Coillte Teoranta is not a verifier of the state's SFM commitments. Indeed, it is also demonstrated that FSC stand to lose much credibility internationally due to the certification of Coillte Teoranta's plantation style forestry.

Section 2 gives a brief outline of the history of forestry in Ireland, from pre-history to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the third section, the legislation of forestry in Ireland is discussed, which goes hand in hand with the formation of Coillte Teoranta and their economic mandate.

The fourth section details Ireland's SFM commitments, and describes the pollution caused by plantation style forestry, and the effect of forestry on indigenous and local people.

Section 5 gives nine case studies of developments in forestry that are adversely affecting local people and the environment, and the last section is a vision for the future of forestry in Ireland.