

14 Active Community Participation



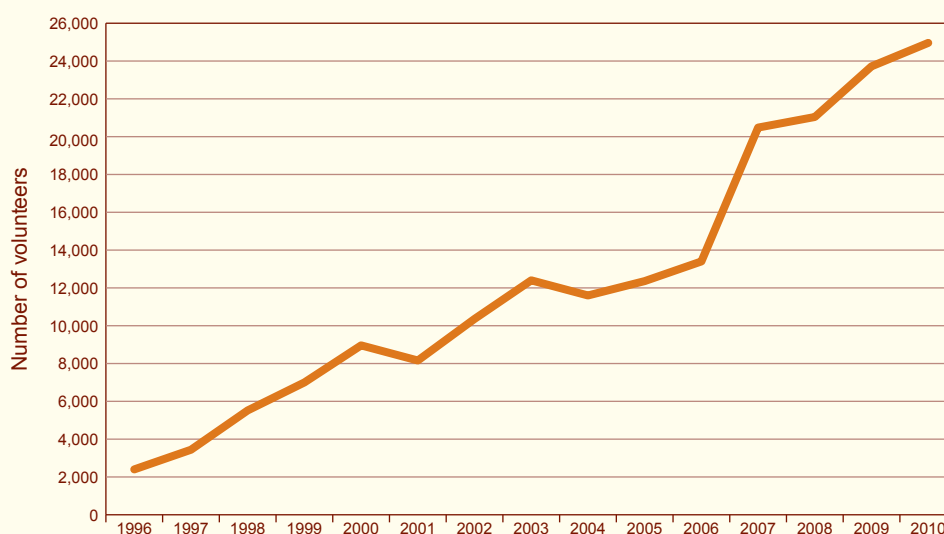
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Community participation in creating and managing The National Forest is a key objective to ensure long-term ownership of the Forest by local communities and to raise awareness of it regionally and nationally. This indicator measures volunteering by adults: for schools activity refer to the Sustainable Development Education indicator.

- Volunteer involvement in Forest-related activities has grown significantly from 2,400 people in 1996 to 24,960 in 2010. In total, 185,750 people have been involved in Forest-related activities between 1996 and 2010¹.
- Community engagement programmes include tree planting, conservation volunteering, recreation and health activities, environmental education, local heritage and community arts projects. Many of these activities increase social inclusion.

Volunteer involvement in The National Forest



- Community perceptions research² and citizens panel data³, show significant levels of awareness of the impact of The National Forest's creation, with residents becoming more aware of the growing Forest in the landscape and making the connections with new public access, recreation and tourism facilities.

* ACTION:

- 1) Maintain volunteer involvement in the Forest's creation and management.
- 2) Promote leadership within the voluntary and community sectors to expand volunteering opportunities.

DATA SOURCES:

- 1) NFC annual monitoring [2010].
- 2) Community Perceptions of The National Forest - Alison Millward Associates [2010].
- 3) East Staffordshire, South Derbyshire and Charnwood Citizens Panels data for the National Forest Company [2008].

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