



METSO Newsletter

FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN FINLAND (METSO) 2003-2007
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METSO PROGRAMME CREATED A NEW APPROACH FOR NATURE CONSERVATION IN FINLAND

According to the evaluation report, one of the greatest achievements of the METSO Programme is that it created a new approach for forest protection, based on voluntary offers by landowners. The METSO Programme proved a success. The new voluntary schemes suit well for safeguarding forest biodiversity. The new approach has won wide approval among forest owners and citizens.

The METSO Programme will end next year, but the ministries responsible for METSO are already preparing to the time after 2007. Preparation of a new Forest Biodiversity Action and financing Programme is already going on in the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. It is scheduled to be submitted to the Government next autumn together with the upgrade of the National Forestry Programme.

The biodiversity programme will emphasize southern Finland and is aimed at further, significant improvement in forest biodiversity. Financing need is estimated preliminary to be close to 70 million euros per year during the next 10 years.

METSO became a success story

The evaluation shows that the voluntary means tested in the METSO Programme have won wide approval. Perhaps the most remarkable achievement of METSO is, however, that it created a new approach for forest protection. METSO's voluntary principle and co-operation with local stakeholders interested in safeguarding biodiversity beat the old top-down mandatory approach.

With the help of the METSO trial Programme, Finland is finding operational common ways to achieve the appropriate level of forest protection. The report suggests use of a large set of different schemes, applied to the local social and economic conditions, and encourages co-operation of local people, NGOs and stakeholders.

The network of protected areas should become more connected and developed so that it includes wider range of different habitat types. The evaluation emphasizes ecosystem approach.

Clear need for a new action and financing programme

The evaluation sees a clear need for an action and financing programme, aimed at further, significant



An English summary of the evaluation report of the METSO Programme is scheduled to be published in Feb '07.

improvement in forest biodiversity especially in southern Finland. In fact, its preparation has already begun in the Ministry of the Environment and in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. It is scheduled to be submitted to the Government next autumn



together with the upgrade of the National Forestry Programme. Financing need of the **Forest Biodiversity Action Programme (2008-2016)** is estimated preliminary to be close to 70 million euros per year during the next 10 years.

Government approved a new Biodiversity Strategy

21 Dec 2006 Finnish Government made a decision in principle to approve new Biodiversity Strategy for Finland. The Strategy covers also forests, and it has been openly prepared by large number of stakehold-

ers and several ministries, led by the Ministry of the Environment. Finland has now defined a general frame how biodiversity issues will be addressed hereafter. The **Strategy of Protection and Sustainable use of Biodiversity 2006-2016** - has a catchphrase "Save Nature - For People".

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METSO AND FINLAND'S INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The **METSO** Programme is an integral part of Finland's implementation of various international agreements. METSO makes significant contributions to meeting the objectives for sustainable development set out by the Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD**), the United Nations Forum on Forests (**UNFF**), and the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (**MCPFE**). Maintaining and enhancing the biological diversity of forests is one of the resolutions of the MCPFE Vienna Conference (April 2003).

METSO IN BRIEF

METSO - the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland 2003-2007 - is part of Finland's National Forest Programme 2010. METSO contains 17 sub-programmes, including pilot projects designed to test innovative voluntary means for landowners to promote biodiversity in the forests of southern Finland. The METSO Programme aims to design and test cost-effective measures to acquire the most ecologically valuable forest sites in southern Finland for temporary conservation or permanent protection.

Forestry is typically practiced on a small scale in southern Finland, where average cutting areas are only 1-2 ha. METSO is piloting new ways to increase biodiversity under such conditions, complementing the work done through several other programmes since the 1997 Forest Act.

The METSO Programme was carefully prepared through processes involving many stakeholders such as forest industry associations, forest owners' organisations, the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation and WWF Finland, as well as the two ministries responsible for the Programme, so as to complement and supplement Finland's National Forest Programme 2010. Like the rest of the National Forest Programme, METSO is backed up by intensive research and survey work and will be evaluated.

Coming soon:

- Summary of the METSO Evaluation report (Feb '07)
- Seminar to start preparing the "new METSO" - Forest Biodiversity Action Programme (Mar '07)



English pages of the METSO Programme: www.mmm.fi/metso/international

