

FINLAND

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PART II.1

Lisbon Resolutions

Resolution L1

GENERAL APPROACH

The main instrument for implementing of L1 decisions is the Finland's National Forest Programme 2010 (NFP 2010). It covers all the main actions and aspects agreed in L1. The implementation of NFP 2010 was launched in the beginning of 2000 according to the decision made on 18th November 1999 by the Finnish Government. The NFP 2010 is implemented through a follow-up and with over 30 different projects. Under NFP 2010 several special working groups - such as the working group on forest conservation in Southern Finland - have been established to solve such key issues which may prevent the execution of some parts of the programme. The NFP 2010 is based on Regional Forest Target Programmes, which the 13 Forest Centres are required, under the Forest Act, to produce for their jurisdictions. The implementation of the regional forest programmes are monitored through regional indicators. The evaluation of the NFP 2010 is under way in 2002.

In addition to the NFP 2010 the implementation of L1 has been promoted by the programmes of Promoting Renewable Energy sources, Rural Policy Programme "Countryside for the People", forest certification and on the state owned forest land by Regional Natural Resource Plans and Landscape Ecological Plans.

MAIN ACTORS AND INSTRUMENTS USED

NFP 2010 was prepared under the leadership of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the spirit of open cooperation. All the key major stakeholder participated in the drafting committee or working groups, nearly 40 additional experts were heard, 59 public forum with 2300 participants were organised and internet discussion forum was opened.

Finland's Central forestry legislation has been thoroughly reformed in the 1990s: (i) Act on Forest and Park Service (1994), (ii) Act on Forest Centre and Forestry Development Centre (1996) , (iii) Forest Act (1998), (vi) Sustainable Forestry Financing Act (1998), (v) Act on Forest Management Association (1999). A renewed Nature Conservation Act was prepared (1998) in connection with the forestry legislation.

Additional funds for implementing NFP 2010 has been allocated in the State budget. The private sector has also contributed for the implementation. Efforts to encourage the increase the wood-based energy has been made by governmental tax policy.

The main database and framework for NFP 2010 is National Forest Inventory and the MELA alternative calculations. The inventory data is compiled by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla). Several research programmes (Wood Wisdom, FIBRE, FIGARE, SUNARE and Metla's

programmes) has been launched in order to promote competitiveness of forestry, use of wood, forest biodiversity and to find out means to prevent the global climatical change and its effects.

Forestry Centres and Forest Management Associations with wood buyers inform on the silvicultural measures for forest owners by campaigns like “Tomorrows Forests”. A special Forest Forum (Forest Academia) has been established for decision makers in the society.

EXPERIENCES GAINED

The NFP 2010 fits well into Finnish tradition and society. Sectoral strategic plans have been prepared for decades in Finland (first forest programmes were prepared in 1960s (HKLN, MERA I and II), in 1970s (MERA III) and 1980s (Forest 2000). The frame which NFP provides to holistic development of forest sector is productive. The link to grass root level through Regional Forest Programmes is essential.

NFP 2010 is more extensive than any similar before, the entire process is being carried in open and transparent atmosphere. The governmental support has made possible the implementation of the political commitment and channelling financial sources for the programme.

Resolution L2

GENERAL APPROACH

Revising and further development of the Finnish criteria and indicators was initiated in August 1998. The work was finalised at the beginning of 2001, when the report ”The State of Forests in Finland 2000 - Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Finland ”was published. In Finland, work for the preparation of national criteria and indicators was launched already in 1994, and the first report was completed and published in 1997.

The goal of the revision of the Finnish national criteria and indicators was to adjust them to practical applications. The revision was focused on those indicators which best measure the achievement of sustainability and the changes in forests and forestry and serve the monitoring of the NFP 2010 and Regional Forest Programmes.

For these practical purposes, some indicators as developed in 1997 have been combined to make them more comprehensive, and some have been left out. The descriptive indicators have been merged into one single indicator for each criterion. The most significant changes are the development of the content biodiversity (Criterion 4) and socio-economic factors (Criterion 6), and the change in the number of indicators. The present revised list of criteria and indicators contains a total of 47 individual indicators, whereas the previous list from 1997 contained about 160 of them as separate indicators. The regional indicators have been defined in order to monitor the execution on regional forest programmes.

The monitoring of the development of the indicators are now being established in Finnish Forest Research Institute to complement the existing Forest Information Service.

Forest certification complements the implementation of criteria and indicators into the practical forest management. The Finnish Forest Certification System (FFCS) was developed for Finnish forests in 1996-99. The FFCS covers all the dimensions of forest certification: the standards, chain of custody certification, and the accreditation and quality of external auditing. The FFCS is based

on regional group certification, and it exploits the Pan-European criteria and indicators. In 2001 95 % of forests (total 22 mill. ha) in Finland were certified by FFCS. FFCS is been endorsed by the PEFC (Pan European Forest Certification) in 2000. For the FSC certification a working group was founded in autumn 2000 and a draft standard proposal has been compiled in 2002.

MAIN ACTORS AND INSTRUMENTS USED

In 1998, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry appointed a broad based working group to bring the national criteria and indicators up to date. The Finnish Forest Research Institute was responsible for the preparation of the report, compiling the data and editing the report.

For the preparations of forest certification a broad based National Working Group consisting of 27 various stakeholders was created. The FFCS is administrated by the Finnish Forest Certification Council (FFCC), which consists at present of 13 various major stakeholders in forestry. The standards will be revised in 2002.

EXPERIENCES GAINED

The process for the development of the criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management is an important instrument for implementing and further developing forest policy in Finland. They provide also a constructive, country's perspective on the international debate on forests.

Collecting the data proved to be more demanding than expected. Some parameters were successfully compiled thanks to the results of special studies. Development of the monitoring of sustainability in forestry with a transparent, continuous and efficient system will be one of the most challenging tasks in the future. The most important national sources of information in Finland are the National Forest Inventories, forest statistics, statistics on the national economy, and statistics on forest protection and environmental issues in forestry. Co-operation in the collecting of data needs to be increased.

Experiences showed that there was insufficient information especially at the sub-national level, in particular on the multiple use of forests, their social significance, or the biological diversity of forest ecosystems. Therefore, data gathering and coordination should be further developed.

PART II.2

Helsinki Resolutions H1 and H2

Parallel to the implementation of Resolutions L1 and L2 the main instruments for the implementing H1 and H2 further in Finland since 1998 have been the renewed forestry and nature conservation legislation, the National Forest Programme 2010 (from 2000) and the revision of the national set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management in 1998 - 2000. The main emphasis was to adapt the resolutions H1 and H2 into the practical forestry throughout Regional Natural Resource Plans, Landscape Ecological Planning and forest certification. The forest certification performance standards set several additional requirements in Finland. A system has been created to survey key biotopes and protected habitats within the production forests in Finland and some key biodiversity indicators has been integrated with the measurements in national forest inventory.

In the implementation of H2 the Finnish National Action Programme on Biological Diversity (1997-2005) creates the frame for future actions. The Finnish proposal to the European Union

concerning Natura 2000 network on conservation areas included 1458 areas with total surface area of 4,8 million ha (12 % of the total area). 97 per cent of the land areas included in the proposal were already covered by a nature conservation programme or reservation. In September 2000 the Natura 2000 network has been supplemented by 295 new areas, comprising about 11 200 ha. Two broad based working groups were appointed in 1999 - 2000 to develop the forest protection in southern Finland.

The latest report of the work group for the follow-up of the endangered species was completed in 2000. It is estimated that every tenth of the 15 000 species for which there are data available is endangered and 37,5 per cent of these live in forests. The endangerment of the species living in the forests seems to have slowed down in the 1990s.

Helsinki Resolution H3

In practical terms H3 is implemented by the forest sector co-operation at programme and project level. The most remarkable of them is the *Finnish-Russian Development Programme on Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation of Biological Diversity in Northwest Russia* consisting of forestry and nature protection projects. The Programme is now starting its second Phase from year 2001 to 2004. The Programme is the main Finnish input for implementing of the Northern Dimension, the Barents Region Forest Sector Initiative and the SUD Programme of the Arctic Council in the cases when projects take place in the areas of these initiatives.

In Baltic Sea region Baltic 21 is a joint process promoting sustainable development, emphasising in regional development and focusing on seven economic sectors including forests, spatial planning and on education. Under the Baltic 21 Action Programme in the Forests Sector Finnish-Baltic co-operation projects are ongoing.

Helsinki Resolution H4

The National Climate Strategy (2001) states that more research is needed in order to understand the causes, mechanisms and impacts of climate change. Another important branch of research is the development of existing and new adaptation and mitigation methods and technologies. However, a bulk of research has is being carried out already.

The Finnish Research Programme on Climate Change (SILMU) was initiated in 1990, lasted for six years and comprised over 60 research projects. The key research areas were the climate change anticipated in Finland, estimation of the effects of changing climate on ecosystems, and the development of adaptation and prevention strategies.

In 1999, the Academy of Finland launched FIGARE, the Finnish Global Change Research Programme. The main objective is to find scientific, social, economic and technological solutions to help intervene in the process of global change or to adapt to the ongoing changes. The programme comprises 36 projects and runs to year 2002.

The Finnish Biodiversity Research Programme (FIBRE) and the Research Programme on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (SUNARE) also contain climate-related topics.

The Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA) started in 2000 an extensive research programme "Pools and fluxes of carbon in Finnish forests and their socio-economic implications" This programme consists of three projects, scheduled for 2000-2005: (i) Forest carbon sinks and the

economic costs of the Kyoto Protocol, (ii) Modelling forest carbon cycles and (iii) Pools and fluxes of carbon on mineral soils and peatlands.

The University of Joensuu established in 2000 the Centre of Excellence for Forest Ecology and Management. One of the key topics of the Centre is to study the acclimation of forest trees in elevating temperature and atmospheric carbon.

Strasbourg Resolution S1

The Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) annually inventories tree condition, using internationally standardised methods, on about 440 permanent sample plots. The most important variables used to describe crown condition in Finland are defoliation and discoloration of the crown, and abiotic and biotic damage. In addition, a number of other parameters have also been measured, as well as needle samples for chemical analysis on part of the plots have been annually collected. The intensive monitoring of forest ecosystems is carried out on 31 observation plots: 27 of the plots on mineral soil sites and 4 on peatlands. 17 of the plots have stands comprising Scots pine and 14 Norway spruce. The intensive monitoring has concentrated on the evaluating the integrated effects of stress factors on the forest condition. A number of the plots are located close to background, air quality monitoring stations.

The Finnish forest condition monitoring programme is being evaluated by the European Forest Institute in 2002.

Strasbourg Resolution S2

The National Plant Genetic Resources Programme for Agriculture and Forestry was written. The programme presents the principles, objectives and proposals for measures concerning the protection and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture, horticulture and forestry. Finnish Forest Research Institute was appointed to be the responsible body for gene conservation of forest gene resources, which gave a formal frame to the conservation activities that had already started. Since 1998 the area of gene reserve forest for Scots pine and Norway spruce has increased by 890 hectares, and the target area for in situ conservation is now almost reached. During the period 1998-2001 the ex situ conservation of noble hardwoods had high priority and total 947 clones or families were planted in special gene conservation collections.

Strasbourg Resolution S5

The EUROSILVA network gave an excellent opportunity for the Finnish researchers to exchange ideas and develop new research methodologies with other European scientist and further coordinate research on tree physiology.

Strasbourg Resolution S6

The database of the European network for Research into Forest Ecosystems maintained by IUFRO has been up-dated.