

FINLAND

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PART I L1

Resolution L1, Action 1:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

In the preparation of the National Forest Programme 2010 (NFP 2010) in 1998-1999 national public forums were attended by nearly 3,000 citizens. An opportunity to participate in the preparation of the programme via the Internet was also made available. In the development process of NFP 2010 (revision and updating) citizens will again have an opportunity to participate, because in addition to the Forest Committee, its ad-hoc working groups and the forest innovation forum (Tulevaisuuden metsäsalit), public forums will also take part in the programme's reorientation. Also the regional forests programmes were prepared in an open process of co-operation with interest groups / stakeholders.

In its planning activities for State forests, the Metsähallitus has adopted the principle of public participation to ensure that citizens' views are heard in the process. Regional Natural Resource Plans (NRMP) and Landscape Ecological Plans (LEL) for the state owned land are prepared in broad-based collaboration with participation by all interest groups. The approach involves the stakeholders and the public separately. Since 1995 Metsähallitus has held 161 public hearings for RNRP and 221 for LEP. 6900 citizens have participated in these RNRP hearings and 4500 in LEP hearings. The number of stakeholder meetings since 1995 for RNRP is 179 and for LEP 115, and number of participants for RNRP meetings 400 and for LEP meetings 900. The planning processes are finished at the moment but the contacts with the stakeholders are maintained by means of the follow-up meetings, excursions, etc. Public participation at Metsähallitus will be targeted to operational planning in the future.

Several campaigns aimed at various stakeholders groups such as Time for Wood (wood promotion), Tomorrow's Forests (mainly for forest owners), an operational model called "Learning Path for Forests" ("Metsän Oppimispolku") for schoolchildren, "Opportunities Lie in Forests" ("Metsissä mahdollisuus") model targeted at young people in three different areas in Finland.

Awareness of the benefits of sustainable forestry is promoted also by various public events and through forest museums with dynamic approaches. The Finnish Forest Museum and Forest Information Centre Lusto was founded in 1994 to preserve and maintain the traditional uses of forests and to promote forestry. In 2000 the collections of the museum contained about 7,000 objects and 100,000 photographs, hundreds of visual and sound recordings, books, other printed matter and archive material. The museum organises events and demonstrations that highlight Finnish forest culture and traditions. On average, some 40,000 people visit the museum annually; about 10% of them are foreign tourists.

A Sami Museum was founded in Inari in 1959 (renamed in 1998 Sami Museum Siida). The mission of the museum is to preserve and exhibit the spiritual and material cultural heritage of the Sami. In addition to national museums, there are a number of smaller regional and local forest museums around the country.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory



Financial/ economic



Informational means



Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented



In implementation



In preparation



Experiences gained:

Effective dialogue in general is working well as an information mean and as a conflict buffer and it is necessary. The difficulty is that dialogue is very time consuming for all parties.

The National Forest Programme 2010 is now being reviewed. The review is an external mid-term evaluation. A special attention will be paid on operational implementation of the programme, the preparatory process and content of the programme and further on organisation and resources of the implementation phase, follow-up, cooperation between parties and information flows, the innovative mode of the programme and cooperation between national and sub national forest policy makers. The review is carried out openly, basing on continuous learning and is action oriented. The review will be finalised by early autumn 2002.

Metsähallitus:

Regional Natural Resources Management Planning is a comprehensive process covering wide areas (from 0,5 to 2,5 mill. ha's). The process covers all aspects of sustainability and the land-use classes from strict nature reserves to commercial forests. The key words of the process are land-use, scenarios, broad operational guidelines and sustainability. Due to the abstract objectives and conceptual approach it was very difficult to get the people understand the process and on the other hand it was difficult to channel the people's demands and concerns into the decision making.

In the Landscape Ecological Planning a lot of information especially concerning game areas was received from the public and on the other hand it was easier to channel the people's demands and concerns into the decision making.

Public participation has been only piloted in the planning of forestry operations. The public has shown little interest in relation to the effort. The piloting is, however, still going on at the moment and future will show the feedback.

In the Regional Natural Resources Management Planning and Landscape Ecological Planning the stakeholder participation was much more fruitful than public participation. It was possible to organise working groups concentrating on various issues in the run of the planning projects. When stakeholders represent wide variety of interests they represent well the whole society.

Resolution L1, Action 2:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

Since 1998 opportunities for public participation are being further improved, and new forms and ways of activity are introduced. (f.ex. interactivity and use of new communication networks). The preparation of large-scale forest projects or programmes in Finland generally takes place within working groups, in which the various interest groups are represented. Such interest groups include forest owners, the forest industry, forestry employee organisations, trade unions, hunters, the reindeer and tourist industries, NGOs, environmental organisations, local people and public authorities.

Opinion polls and surveys are used to map out the attitudes and opinions of the public towards forests and their management. The National Forest Programme 2010 was prepared in a broad-based participatory process, which placed a special emphasis on co-operation and transparency. The working groups charged with the preparation of the programme consulted a great number of experts. The regional programmes were prepared in an open process of co-operation with interest groups / stakeholders. Regional public hearings were organised.

The National Forest Programme 2010 is a process that will be reoriented and revised. Citizens will again have an opportunity to participate in the process in the future, because in addition to the Forest Committee, its ad-hoc working groups and the Forest Innovation Forum, public forums will also take part in the programme's reorientation.

Forest ownership is wide-spread in the Finnish society. Every fifth Finn, it is close to 900,000 Finns have a stake in forests, and are thus guaranteed to have a say in their management. Public discussion and debate on forests is extensive and covers a broad range of topical issues, because forests are regularly discussed in the media on both regional and national level.

Through its provisions on land use planning, the Land Use and Building Act, reformed in 2000, also enhances the opportunities for the public to participate in land use and town planning. Furthermore, the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure, and the Act on the Openness of Government Activities, as well as the Act on Cooperation with Undertakings, all encourage public participation. They also require that authorities make publicly available any information that affects the citizens. According to the Act on Equality, minority viewpoints and gender equality must be taken into consideration in decision making.

Special attention is paid to safeguarding the rights of the Sami people. Wilderness reserves have been established in Lapland to preserve the natural features of wilderness areas, and to secure the preservation of the Sami's culture and natural livelihoods. Any forest management activities undertaken in these areas must be suited to the special circumstances, and must also take into consideration the livelihoods of the local population. The Skolt Act and the Act on Natural Economy Industries also seek to enhance possibilities for public participation. The Act on Natural Economy Industries, hunting regulations and the Off-Road Traffic Act also confer on the local population special rights related to livelihoods, hunting and gathering berries.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory



Financial/ economic



Informational means



Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented



In implementation



In preparation



Experiences gained:

In the Finnish democracy system development of the conditions for the participation is a continuous process. Broad based participation improves the commitment, helps to avoid conflicts, but it requires much effort and time.

Resolution L1, Action 3:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

In 1997 renewed forest legislation support the economically, ecologically and socially sustainable forest management. The forest owners are granted state subsidies to promote silvicultural measures to promote the wood production and ecological sustainability in their own forests. Also the status for forest organisations were extensively reformed in the 1990s as well as the legislation concerning them. The Forest and Park Service (Metsähallitus) Act entered into force in 1994, the Act on Forest Centres and the Forestry Development Centre Tapio in 1996, and the Forest Management Association Act in 1999.

The Forest Act regulates fellings and places landowners under the obligation to secure the regeneration of the forest after final felling. In order to secure the maintenance of biological diversity, the Act contains definitions of key habitats that are especially important for the preservation of biodiversity in forest ecosystems.

The Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry aims at encouraging private forest owners to invest in the management of their forests. In 1999 altogether about €168 million were used for silvicultural measures in private forests. The share of forest owners in this was €122 million, and the State contributed 40 million. In 2000 the financial investments for silvicultural measures were slightly higher than the year before.

In 2000 the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry launched a project called Tomorrow's Forests, where efforts have been made especially for promoting management of untended seedling stands and first thinnings in forests where measures have been neglected as well as harvesting and chipping of wood for energy production in connection with these.

Renewed recommendations for good forest management practices for private forest owners are drawn up in 2000 by the Finnish Forest Research Centre Tapio, in cooperation with various parties. The Forest and Part Service revised its instructions for silviculture during 2000. Metsähallitus and forest industries revise their instructions for forest ecosystem management regularly in accordance with the principle of continuous improvement of the environmental and quality systems.

The Central Organisation of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) has reformed its forest biodiversity programme, which contains recommendations for the preservation of biodiversity to forest owners and defines the values on which the forest policy of the organisation is based.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory

Financial/ economic

Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented

In implementation

In preparation

Experiences gained:

Because the private, non commercial forest ownership (family forests) dominates in Finland motivating the private forest owners in crucial to maintain the high level sustainability. More research is needed to analyse changes in forest ownership structure and its influence on forest management. The tools for promoting are available.

Resolution L1, Action 4:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

The forest industry and Metsähallitus are training their employees and contractors on the regular basis. In the recent years in the training the pressures has been in the training of information technology and the data transmission, nature and environmental management, silvicultural guidelines, the quality of the timber.

For example in the year 2000 almost 2900 person-days of environmental training was provided to the personnel and the contractors of Metsähallitus. The level of training has been the same since 1997 when the environmental Management System (ISO 14001) was taken into action in Metsähallitus. The EMS was certified in 1998. No special attention has been paid to the gender aspect. The training has been provided equally to the women and men. Metsähallitus has developed an Internet-based e-learning package for their contractors.

In addition to vocational training, supplementary extended education is provided in the sector. Study programmes have been created for people with an academic degree. Forestry engineers are given opportunities to supplement their education and acquire a vocational polytechnic diploma. Other, more limited programmes for extended education include various supplementary courses, such as a diploma in nature management in forestry for officials within the sector. The diploma focuses on forest ecosystem management and biodiversity issues.

The Savotta 2000 project (2000-2006) was created in order to improve the forest sector image, which should increase the attractiveness of and interest in the sector. In 2000 the project concentrated on improving the wage systems in the sector and preparation of information material on forest occupations. Training of logging truck drives was started and basic training in forest machines was increased.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory

Financial/ economic

Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented

In implementation

In preparation

Experiences gained:

Education and training are key tools for in order to guarantee high quality and good results in the sector. More emphasis should be given for raising awareness on forestry among young people seeking their professional orientation. Interest to choose forestry as a profession has decreased, especially in the recent years.

Resolution L1, Action 5:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

Few studies of women as forest owners, professionals or as consumers of forest products have been conducted in the Finnish Forest Research Institutes and in the universities.

The forest centres and forest management associations provide courses only for women forest owners with special themes.

Also in the recent year in universities and polytechnics in forest sector the women have outnumbered the male students. In the field of more practical forest work there are only few women students or entrepreneurs.

The law concerning the equality of the gender demands that in the working groups set by the government/ministries a minimum of 40 % of each sex must be presented.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory

Financial/ economic

Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented

In implementation

In preparation

Experiences gained:

Special forestry events for female have been quite popular. There is evidently further need to emphasise gender aspects with various means in forestry.

Resolution L1, Action 6:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

Advisory and information services are provided in the forms of publications, newspaper articles and other printed material, personal consultation, and constantly developed by introducing new forms and procedures, such as Internet services designed for forest owners. Information on forestry is also distributed for all the citizens through consultation and service offices established in cities and built-up areas, as well as in conjunction with courses and other training events.

The nation-wide network of Forest Management Associations ensure on statutory basis forest advisory services for all forest owners. Advisory and training services for forest owners are also provided by the Forest Centres and several other organisations, including the Finnish Forest Research Institute, forest polytechnics and schools, and forest industry companies. A range of courses and training packages are also provided for forest owners. For example, the competence-based vocational qualification in forestry entrepreneurship is tailored for forest owners. Since 1998, forest owners have also had the opportunity to acquire a qualification in nature management.

The Forest Management Associations provide individual consultation for over 70,000 forest owners every year. The Forest Centres also provide personal consultation funded with State grants for over 30,000 owners annually, and organise about 700 seminars every year, with participation by over 30,000 forest owners. In accordance with the National Forest Programme 2010, the amount of State funding used for advisory services for forest owners has been doubled, and in 2001 reached 7,9 mill euros.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory

Financial/ economic

Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented

In implementation

In preparation

Experiences gained:

Information flow is working in principle quite well. As the values of the forest owners keep changing new approaches are constantly called for. One key area is to find out means to reach forest owners living in cities.

Resolution L1, Action 7:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

Several campaigns are created to promote the wood as construction material and furnishing material. Time for Wood ("Puun Aika"), a campaign for promoting the mechanical use of timber and raising the level of value-added mechanical wood processing, was conducted under the direction of the Government in 1997-2000. In conjunction with the campaign, a programme was launched to promote entrepreneurship and exports based on the value-added mechanical processing of wood (Wood Finland action programme), as well as the programmes of the Centre of Expertise for Wood Products (National) and Woodtechnology and Forestry (in North-Karelia). The Finnish Forest Cluster Programme "Wood Wisdom" financed by the National Technology Agency (TEKES) promotes also the competitiveness of forestry and forest industry and use of wood.

The Finnish Forest Research Institute has launched in 2002 a new interdisciplinary research programme "Challenges of wooden products and their markets". Several researchers from various Finnish Research units take part in EU COST Actions, especially in: E9 Life cycle assessment of forest and forest products and E 21 Kyoto protocol, in which the benefits of wood has been studied.

The non-wood use of forests is studied in a number of research projects. The Finnish Forest Research Institute's research programme "Coordination of the Various Uses of Forests" (1995-99) addressed in particular the recreational use of forests and their immaterial values, non-timber forest products, and the importance and utilisation of wilderness areas. The Finnish Forest Research Institute also produces annual forecasts on regional crops of wild berries and mushroom.

The extensive National Inventory by Metla is currently under way in order to produce information on the amount, quality and accessibility of the Recreational Use of Nature (LVVI). Several other studies related to the recreational use of forests and landscape management are also under way in various research organisations and universities.

In May 2000 the Ministry of the Environment appointed a work group (Vilmat) to draw up a programme for the recreational use of nature and environmental tourism.

The focal areas of the development programme for the natural product sector for 2000-2006 drawn up by the theme group for the natural product sector operating in connection with the Rural Policy Committee are skills and entrepreneurship, quality, cooperation as well as sustainable and diverse utilisation of nature.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

As the society keeps changing wood as a material needs more and more attention and availability and development of readily available information. Urbanization also in Finland creates new needs for recreational and multiple uses of forests and requires more research.

Resolution L1, Action 8:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

General laws governing occupational health and safety, such as the Labour Protection Act, the Supervision of Labour Protection Act, the Act on Young Employees, and the Act on Working Hours, also apply to the forest sector. Legal provisions which apply to the forest sector in particular cover issues such as harvesting work, the use of pesticides, the safe use of tools and protective equipment, and joint accommodation for forestry workers.

These regulations has been included in the training programmes for forest professionals and they are been integrated in the Finnish Forest Certification Standards, and will be evaluated regularly by independent auditing process.

As an example working safety has been one of the cornerstones of the Metsähallitus' personnel strategy for a long time. Well-being of the personnel is one of the five values of the Metsähallitus.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory

Financial/ economic

Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented

In implementation

In preparation

Experiences gained:

The systems to apply these regulations does work in Finland. Updating of the regulations is the key issue, and they should be continuously followed and quaranted.

Resolution L1, Action 9:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

Socio-economic aspects are included in various research project of the Finnish Forest Research Institute, especially by the research of forest work, labour, forest ownership and multiple use of forests, and by research topics on forest based entrepreneurship on rural areas. The Metsämiesten Säätiö Research Foundation has launched in 2002 the financing of a special project for socio-economic values of forests. In 1998 a comprehensive work was carried out by compiling a book "Green Gold- The Finnish Forest Cluster", which includes several socio-economic aspects of forestry. Finland is also contributing for the research of the cultural and spiritual factors in sustainable forest management by compiling a feasibility study for MCPFE.

The multiple use of forests and non-wood forest products are taken into account in Finnish forest legislation. The legislation seeks to safeguard the multiple uses of forests, and places an emphasis on their importance for the development of the local economy. Under the Forest Act, forests which are valuable in terms of landscape, multiple use or forest research, may be managed in a way that is in harmony with their special character. The multiple uses of forests are coordinated by land development planning under the Land Use and Building Act, within the landscape ecological plans of Metsähallitus, the regional forest management plans of the Forest Centres, and in individual forest management plans. The present data contents of the GIS of Metsähallitus covers a wide variety of goods and services provided by the forests including valuable habitats of threatened species, scenery, game, important areas for other livelihoods (reindeer herding) and timber.

The efforts to expand ecotourism has also increased the amount of research and training provided in this sector. Trained guides are either self-employed entrepreneurs or work for ecotourism organisations. As demand and competition in ecotourism has increased, so has marketing and information services related to those services. Together with ecotourism enterprises Metsähallitus has launched cooperation projects, which seek to take the needs of ecotourism enterprises into account in forest management. The Finnish Forest Research Institute has launched also several research projects on "Sustainable tourism" especially in Lapland and established a professorship for this issue.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory



Financial/ economic



Informational means



Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented



In implementation



In preparation



Experiences gained:

More research is still required, while the biggest gaps which have been identified in further working on criteria and indicators are related socio-economic aspects of sustainability.

Resolution L1, Action 10:**Main measures taken to implement the commitment:**

The Finnish Forest Research Institute, which is responsible for Finnish Statistical Yearbook of Forestry, has put a lot of emphasis during last years for developing the account system of non wood products and services. The outlook and illustrations of Statistical Yearbook of Forestry were renewed totally in 2002. The present Statistical Yearbook covers a comprehensive evaluation of wood based industry and services in the national economy as well as non-wood products. The non- wood product statistics include aspect like recreation, wild berries, edible mushrooms and lichen, hunting, reindeer husbandry and peat production. Attempts to develop "green statistics" together with the Finnish Statistical Centre has been made.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

More research is required to incorporate non- wood services with national account system. Emphasis should also be put on the research of life cycles of wooden products in comparison to competing non renewable materials (concrete, stone, aluminium) and on the research of wood productions and manufacturing chains from forest to products.

Resolution L1, Action 11:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

Both forest certification and forest management guidelines provide voluntary tools for forest owners to promote sustainability in their forests. After four years of development work, technical preparations and capacity building the FFCS (Finnish Forest Certification System) became operational in 1999. Nearly 95 % of the Finnish production forests, i.e. 22 mill. hectares of forest, have been certified by independent certification bodies. In total, the number of forest owners involved is more than 311,000. In 2000 the FFCS was endorsed by PEFC (Pan European Forest Certification).

The preconditions for issuance of the certificates are been adequate, although minor nonconformities are been observed in all 13 forestry regions. Development needs are identified, especially in conjunction with e.g. the preservation of key biotopes in managed forests, the treatment of buffer zones for waterways and small water bodies, and maintaining the conservation values of protected areas.

The FFCS is a learning process for all associated with regional group certification. For example, the key biotopes have not been recognised and physically demarcated in the terrain as well as they should be. Through mutual cooperation, private forest owners, Metsähallitus, Forest Management Associations, forest industry enterprises, machine operators, loggers, and other organisations committed to forest certification are developing the planning and implementation of their forestry practices. The improvements are followed up by the independent certification bodies in their annual monitoring audits. The audits are valid for 5 years when the possible nonconformities has been corrected.

On the regional level, the aim is to develop forestry practices so that the nonconformities do not remain for long. Single cases of poor forestry practices may, however, occur due to the large number of annual cutting sites. The number of wood sales agreements annually is 100,000-150,000 over the whole country.

Forest certification is a continuously advancing process through which both information and experience are accumulating. The Finnish Forest Certification Standards are under revision. In 2002 a working group based on various stakeholders will update the standards according to the practical experience gained by applying the present standards, new research results and new international information and developments.

For the FSC certification a working group was founded in 2000 and a draft standard has been compiled in 2002. So far only small forest areas as experiment nature has been certified with FSC principles.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

Large scale operational applications of certification are still relatively new and comprehensive evaluations have not yet been conducted. It can be seen that certification is a good complementing tool for SFM, it intensifies the implementation of principles of SFM, improves the commitment not only private forest owners but of various stakeholders for SFM, and illustrate in practice how the SFM can be applied into the management.

FINLAND
PART I L2

Resolution and number of Action: L2, Action 1		
Main measures taken to implement the commitment:		
<p>Revising and further development of the Finnish criteria and indicators was initiated in August 1998 by a working group appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. 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.</p> <p>The revision process was to focus on those indicators, which best measure, the achievement of sustainability in forestry and the changes in forest ecosystems. For this purpose, some indicators have been combined to make them more comprehensive, and some have been left out. The most significant changes are the development of the content of biodiversity (criterion 4) and socio-economic factors (criterion 6), and the change in the number of indicators considered. The descriptive indicators have been merged into one single indicator for each criterion. Each new indicator embraces all the regulatory, economic, informational and institutional factors that affect sustainability. The revised list of criteria and indicators contains a total of 47 individual indicators, whereas the previous list contained about 160 of them.</p> <p>The present criteria and indicators can be used in reporting on the national and regional sustainability of forest management and as an aid to decision making. They also serve as a basis for forest certification.</p> <p>After four years of development work, technical preparations and capacity building the FFCS (Finnish Forest Certification System) came operational in 1999. Nearly 95 % of the Finnish production forests, i.e. 22 mill. hectares of forest, have been certified by independent certification bodies. In total, the number of forest owners involved is more than 311,000. The FFCS is based on regional group certification, and it exploits the Pan-European criteria and indicators. In 2000 FFCS was endorsed by PEFC (Pan European Forest Certification).</p>		
Main instruments used (please mark):		
Legal/ regulatory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Informational means <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation status (please mark):		
Already implemented	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In implementation <input type="checkbox"/> In preparation <input type="checkbox"/>
Experiences gained:		
<p>The process for the development of the national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management is an important regulatory instrument for forest policy, one which has both a national and a sub-national dimension. The criteria and indicators provide a tool for describing, in international contexts, sustainable forest management as it is practised in a country. Furthermore, they provide a constructive perspective on the international debate on forests, can contribute to the achievement of a wider consensus on the content of sustainable forest management globally. The development process needs both sufficient amount of time and a certain amount of tailored research.</p> <p>The sustainable management of forests is promoted not only by the development of the criteria and indicators for sustainable forestry, but also by the development of forest certification. However, the approaches used in these two processes of development are different. The criteria and indicators are based on intergovernmental agreements, whereas forest certification represents voluntary activity by market actors. Forest certification is based on the criteria and indicators as well as on the forest and environmental legislation of each country, and supports and complement their development.</p>		

Resolution L2, Action 2:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

Working group (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Finnish Forest Research Institute) on Action 2 has been established. The Finnish Forest Research Institute will establish a continuous updating system for Finnish criteria and indicators in conjunction of forest statistical information system. 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. The Finnish Forest Research Institute, the Forestry Development Centre Tapio, the Finnish Environment Institute, and the Regional Forest Centres and Environment Centres occupy a key position in developing the system for gathering data on sustainable forestry in Finland.

The compilation of the basic data on the biodiversity of forests was included in the 9th national forest inventory.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

Co-operation in the collecting of data needs to be increased, and the compilation of statistics must increasingly take into consideration aspects (especially socio-economic factors, non- wood products) that can be used to measure the achievement of sustainability in forestry.

Collecting the data proved to be more demanding than expected by compiling the renewed set of criteria and indicators in 1998-2000. Some parameters that had proved to be effective indicators of sustainability were difficult to express in numerical terms, or there was no comprehensive statistical data available on them. Some parameters were successfully compiled thanks to the results of special studies.

Resolution L2, Action 3:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

National criteria and indicators are part of the regular reporting systems on the status of the Finnish forests and forestry. The work on the national criteria and indicators in Finland has been in line with the results, conventions and recommendations of international and intergovernmental processes (UNCED, IPF/IFF/UNFF, the pan-European Ministerial Conferences on Forest Protection, FAO and its TBFRA). On the national level, the work has aimed at promoting transparency, consensus and the discussion of basic values.

Finland is actively involved in international work on TBFRA developments (Kotka meeting series), on further development forest health monitoring system in Europe (ICP Forest Programme), on the definitions and terms of protected forest areas (COST E4 Action "Forest Reserve Research Network, E 27 PROFOR "Protected Forest Areas in Europe", EEA list on designated conservation areas) and on the developments on monitoring biodiversity and non-wood aspects in forestry (as partner in the research projects in SAI work at ISPRA, Italy, EU projects MNTEFR, Bio Assess and BEAR).

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory



Financial/ economic



Informational means



Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented



In implementation



In preparation



Experiences gained:

There are no major obstacles in national reporting, but international (UN/ECE) reporting, especially harmonising the definitions and terms needs further developments and research.

Using existing information where it is relevant is important. Sometimes additional / new information should be collected.

Resolution L2, Action 4:**Main measures taken to implement the commitment:**

Working group (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Finnish Forest Research Institute) on Action 2 and 4 have been established and cooperation with national and international research institutes on the issue are going on. The Finnish Forest Research Institute has contributed through research projects (like Various Uses of Forests), National Forest Inventory and compiling annually the Finnish Forest Statistics for the availability of data, their relevance and cost effectiveness for criteria and indicators. An important study on the practical applications of criteria and indicators was carried out by EU LIFE project in 1999-2002, namely: "Demonstration of Methods to Monitor Sustainable Forestry". In this project 5 countries Sweden, Finland, Denmark, France and Germany have reviewed and compared their national criteria and indicators as a practical tool to guide the sustainable forest management.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

The scientific contribution is key issue for the development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. It is important to commit further several research institutes and organisations as well as researchers for the development of criteria and indicators so that the political process can be based on scientific and analytic approach. This is a long term work and takes years of continuous improvement. However, it is important to keep in mind that the final set of criteria and indicators is a compromise by the society.

Resolution L2, Action 5:

Main measures taken to implement the commitment:

In Finland, work for the preparation of first national criteria and indicators was launched in 1994, and the first report on the national criteria and indicators was completed in 1997.

Since the first list of criteria and indicators was drawn up, international discussion on the concept of sustainability has further evolved, new research data on the different dimensions of sustainability have become available, and general interest in the sustainable management of forests has further increased.

For all these reasons the revised set of criteria and indicators of 2001 can give a comprehensive overlook on the state of forest in Finland and also illustrate the progress and change in sustainable forest management as it is seen presently.

With these two state on art of reviews of sustainable forest management and time series a very comprehensive overlook can be obtained. Because the changes in forestry are not rapid, the evolution period between two assessments with criteria and indicators could be from 5-10 years at least.

Continuous evaluation is going on by the members of the Finnish National Criteria and Indicator working group and by the sub-national Forest Committees.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

The development process of criteria and indicators is been effective and useful, broad based participation creates wide commitment and has enlarged the views. In some topic areas (such as biodiversity, socio-economic factors) at the sub-national level more active cooperation would be needed.

The set of criteria and indicators is not only based on scientific research but is also a political compromise of a certain time. The basic set should be as stable as possible in order to fullfill the task of providing a tool for the follow up of the chances in the key parameter of sustainable forest management. This is especially relevant at higher/larger levels.

Resolution L2, Action 6:**Main measures taken to implement the commitment:**

Finland has considerably contributed to the development of the criteria and indicators thru different processes, agreements, initiatives at global, regional and bilateral levels. Finland organized and hosted the first one Intergovernmental Seminar on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (ISCI) in August 1996. Together with USA, FAO and ITTO Finland will organize the second International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, CICI-2002, which will be hosted by the National Forest Service (Instituto Nacional de Bosques, INAB) of the Government of Guatemala. The Conference, which will support the work programme of the United Nations Forum on Forests, UNFF, is organized in direct response to the recommendations of the FAO/ITTO/UNEP/CIFOR/IUFRO Expert Meeting on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, 15-17 November 2000. These recommendations were, subsequently, endorsed by the 15th Session of the Committee on Forestry, COFO (March 2001), and supported by the XXXth session of the Council of the International Tropical Timber Organization, ITTC (May 2001).

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

Intensive cooperation and coordination is needed especially at global level. Through national developments of criteria and indicators a core set of criteria and indicators can be created for all the regional processes, and the development is supporting the commitment for national forest programmes. It is important to increase the coverage of criteria and indicators developments by new countries still outside the processes and encourage countries to take part. Limited resources or infrastructure can be obstacles for participation.

Resolution L2, Action 7:**Main measures taken to implement the commitment:**

The revised Finnish set of criteria and indicators is especially aimed to support the Regional Forest Programmes and Plans. Also the Finnish Forest Certification System (FFCS) promotes the implementation of Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management into the practice, because FFCS is linked with PEFC certification frame. In both – Regional Forest Programmes and Forest Certification the participation is organised in open spirit for various interested stakeholders.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

Sub-national and local participation with bottom-up approach needs clear targets and clarifying the concept of sustainable forest management. The international commitments are not directly interpreted for the local use. Linking levels basing on needs and demands is a challenging task.

Resolution L2, Action 8:**Main measures taken to implement the commitment:**

Through adopting the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management in the National Forest Programme 2010 and Regional Forest Programmes as well as in silvicultural recommendations and certification dissemination of these guidelines automatically goes to the various stakeholders, forest owners and interested parties.

Forestry Centres responsible for drawing up and revising the sub-national forest target programmes have organised open forums, forestry training and extension for all stakeholders.

Main instruments used (please mark):

Legal/ regulatory Financial/ economic Informational means

Implementation status (please mark):

Already implemented In implementation In preparation

Experiences gained:

To fully achieve the aims and objectives of sustainable forest management more training and extension is needed for all stakeholders and interest groups especially at sub-national level.

ANNEX:

Resolution L1: Future Actions

The Signatory States and the European Community, commit themselves to:

1. Develop, at adequate levels, a dialogue with the public and efficient programmes to increase awareness of the benefits of sustainable forestry for society.
2. Continue to develop the conditions for the participation of relevant stakeholders in the development of forest policies and programmes.
3. Explore ways and means to maintain and develop at national level sound regulatory, institutional and economic frameworks conducive to enabling and motivating all forest owners to practice sustainable forest management and to make long term investment in forestry.
4. Adapt education and training systems and programmes contributing to the development of a highly skilled, multidisciplinary workforce, also enhancing the involvement of women in forest related activities.
5. Encourage studies on gender aspects of forest policy and practices in Europe especially in the context of education, training, communication and decision making to improve sustainable forest management.
6. Promote the development of education and training programmes, especially directed to forest owners and managers, focusing on new opportunities and techniques for the production of goods and services from forests under sustainable management.
7. Encourage comparative studies of wood and non-wood substitutes, considering their complete life-cycles and strive for conditions favourable for the production, marketing and consumption of wood and other products and services from forests under sustainable management, as viable alternatives to competing products using non-renewable natural resources, generating more employment and income.
8. Promote the improvement and application of appropriate safety and health standards and practices, professionalism of forest owners, forest workers, and contractors, and skills certification.
9. Engage further research efforts on the socio-economic aspects of sustainable forest management, in particular on the assessment and valuation of the full range of forest goods and services, in order to provide reliable information for policy and decision making and public dialogue.
10. Promote the incorporation of the results of assessment and valuation of wood and non-wood forest goods and services into national economic and natural resource accounting systems.
11. Evaluate the potential impacts of quality assurance systems and programmes such as voluntary and independent forest certification systems on sustainable forest management in the line of the proposals for action agreed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF).

Resolution L2: Actions

The signatory states and the European Community commit themselves to:

1. Promote the development and implementation of national criteria and indicators using the Pan-European criteria and indicators as a reference framework, and taking into account specific country conditions and integrate them into national forest programmes or other relevant policy frameworks.
2. Improve the quality and promote the necessary adaptations of national data collection systems, to fulfil the needs of information for national and international reporting on sustainable forest management recognising the need for continuity of terms and definitions.
3. Use to the extent possible the criteria and indicators in international reporting on the status and conditions of European forests. Also call upon the UN/ECE, FAO and other relevant organisations to consider whether their regular international reporting, particularly the Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) Programme, could take into account the most updated criteria and indicators.
4. Encourage national and international research institutes to evaluate the consistency, relevance and cost effectiveness of indicators in assessing sustainable forest management, as well as availability of national data. Together with governments and organisations, identify needs, promote and support necessary co-operative research to improve and better assess the multiple functions and uses of forests which are considered as being insufficiently covered by the existing set of criteria and indicators.
5. Evaluate, at a national level, the development over time in measurable indicators with respect to the agreed developed objectives in order to assess progress made in sustainable forest management.
6. Engage efforts with other international and regional processes and initiatives, FAO, UNEP¹ and other relevant international organisations as well as conventions, to further elaborate common definition of key terms and concepts, as well as methodologies for data collection, storage and dissemination in order to enhance comparability of the different sets of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.
7. Encourage the adaptation of the “Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management” to the specific national, sub-national and local economic, ecological, social and cultural conditions, with participation of the interested parties.
8. Disseminate the “Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management” or equivalent existing national standards in line with the guidelines, to the forest owners, forest managers, forest organisations, general public, and other interested parties, and encourage their voluntary use.

¹ UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme