



# METSO Leaflet

FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN FINLAND 2003-2007

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## PILOT PROJECTS FOR THE COOPERATION NETWORKS SELECTED

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of the Environment have selected the projects for the network experiment under the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO). The 'cooperation networks' are one of the new instruments in the METSO programme to increase biodiversity in privately owned Finnish forests. Geographically the selected pilot projects represent Southern, Central, Eastern and Coastal Finland.

In Southern Finland, most of the forests are privately owned, resulting in relatively small amount of protected forests (average European level). In Northern Finland, where state-owned forests cover a major part of the land area, the amount of conserved or protected forests is the highest in Europe.

### Four projects selected

The selected projects were "Hämeen Metso"/Metso of Häme of the Häme-Uusimaa Forestry Centre, "Lohjan Seudun MetsäVasu"/MetsäVasu of the Lohja region of the Western Uusimaa Forest Management Association concerning an action model for voluntary protection of forest nature in the Lohja region, "Keski-Karjalan lehtoverkosto"/Central Karelia herb-rich forest network of the North Karelia Forestry Centre and "Merestä metsäksi"/From Sea to Forest" of the North Ostro-Bothnia Forestry Centre. During the three-year period up to two million euros will be used for the four pilot projects. The 'cooperation networks' aim to create e.g. tourist services, and target at establishing different kinds of conservation areas with the landowners in the networks. Read more on [http://www.mmm.fi/metso/uudet\\_suojelun\\_keinot/yhteistoimintaverkosto/ajankohtaista.html](http://www.mmm.fi/metso/uudet_suojelun_keinot/yhteistoimintaverkosto/ajankohtaista.html).

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### THE OUTCOME OF METSO IN 2003

#### Private forests:

#### Natural values trading

Land owners showed a wide interest in natural values trading. 'Natural values trading' is one of the new instruments to be piloted in the METSO programme, targeting to increase biodiversity in the Finnish forests. By the end of 2003, more than 140 land owners had offered sites with a surface area totalling over 1,300 hectares. 31 ten-year contracts covering 38 sites were made for ecologically valuable stands. They average 6,1 hectares in size and total 228 hectares. The annual funding for these contracts totals 400,000 euros.

As in all the new conservation methods piloted in METSO, the evaluation of supplied stands is based on 'Conservation biological criteria', specifically defined for the METSO Programme in its beginning.

Natural values trading is piloted in part of South-Western Finland. In 2004, the objective is to find coniferous forests other than those rich in decaying wood, already abundant in the scheme.

## Competitive tendering

The pilot project of 'Competitive tendering' was launched in Feb 2004 focusing in three local areas within Southern Finland. Competitive tendering is another new instrument to be piloted in the METSO Programme, targeting to increase biodiversity in privately owned Finnish forests. In the pilot the area is either hired for conservation for 20 years or sold permanently to the state for protection. The third alternative is establishing a private forest conservation area. A total of one million euros will be available for competitive tendering in 2004 and 2005.

## Nature management areas in private forests

A study for establishing small conservation areas within commercially managed forests was made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of the Environment during the year, and completed in December 2003. These 'Nature management areas' are included in the new instruments of METSO to increase biodiversity in Finnish forests.

In this instrument, cuttings would be increasingly allowed as the distance from the conserved area increases, and the land owner would get compensation for the reduced cutting possibilities. Nature management areas are intended to protect habitats e.g. of rare animal or plant species or represent sites with other value. The areas of nesting displays of capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) is an example of these relatively permanent local sites in Finnish forests.

Worth of mention is that the abbreviation METSO is capercaillie in Finnish. Nature management areas are planned to be piloted later in the METSO Programme.

## Training, forest planning and advisory services for private forests

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry commissioned Forestry Development Centre Tapio and Finnish WWF to examine the current opportunities available under Section 6 of the Forest Act. The report was completed in December.



Serenity of a restored pine bog in Nuuksio National Park. The ditches have been filled and they are already growing typical peatland vegetation.

## State forests:

### Conservation in commercial forests

During 2003 Metsähallitus (responsible for managing state-owned forests) evaluated the nature values of state-owned commercial forests in Southern Finland on about 160,000 hectares, of which 33,000 hectares were inventoried in the field. The inventory was carried out applying the criteria of high biodiversity value, defined in the METSO programme earlier this year.

The results will be analyzed during 2004, and - based on the natural resources planning system of Metsähallitus - the number and location of forests to be left outside commercial utilisation decided by the end of 2004, completing this METSO project.

### Restoration and management of habitats in nature conservation areas

During 2003 Metsähallitus carried out restoration measures in (state-owned) nature conservation areas on 916 hectares of forest and 707 hectares of peatland within the area covered by the METSO Programme in Southern Finland. Restoration and management of nature conservation areas on private lands will start in 2004 coordinated by the Regional Environment Centres.



The tree stand which recovered after the drainage will decay as a consequence of filling the ditches as the groundwater rises to its earlier level. Nuukio National Park. (On the left: close view.)

### **Research:**

The Biodiversity Research Programme MOSSE continues in 2004. The decisions on the funding of further projects and possibilities to launch new research projects were made in January 2004.

### **CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

A survey will be made of possibilities to establish a forest conservation foundation, targeting to finance the conservation acts increasing biodiversity in Finnish forests. The study will start in January and should be completed by the end of June 2004.

### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

The Forest Council monitors the implementation and progress of the METSO Programme. The Council includes representatives from the both ministries, all major forest organisations and domestic environmental organisations.

The monitoring group on ecological sustainability submitted its first report on METSO to the Council on 10 June 2003.

The Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has commissioned the Finnish Forest Research Institute to carry out the monitoring of the economic and social impacts of METSO.

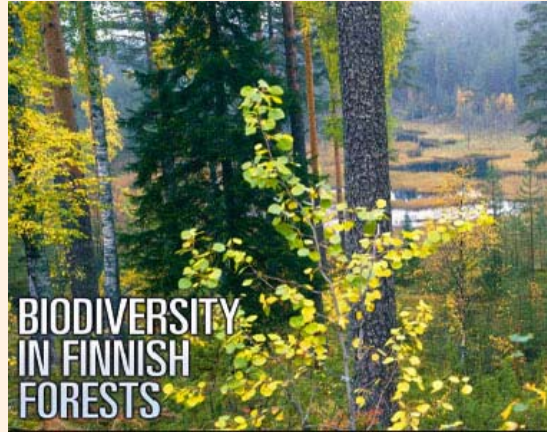
The Ministry of the Environment has appointed a special expert group under the monitoring group of the Biodiversity Action Programme to follow the impacts of the METSO Programme on biodiversity.

Overall monitoring of the programme will be carried out in cooperation between the above-mentioned parties. The monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of the programme are based on the evaluation criteria established by the METSO Committee. The first monitoring data on the implementation of the METSO Programme will be published in the next follow-up report of Finland's National Forest Programme 2010, which will come out in April 2004.



## METSO-RELATED PUBLICATIONS:

The brochure **Biodiversity in Finnish Forests** was published in December 2003. The brochure was made in cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of the Environment. It was published in **Finnish, Swedish, English and German**. The brochure is available at the ministries. The different language versions are also available on the METSO internet pages at [www.mmm.fi/metso/international](http://www.mmm.fi/metso/international).



## METSO AND THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland 2003-2007 (METSO) is implementing Finland's National Forest Programme 2010 for the part of biodiversity. The METSO Programme is an integral part of the implementation of various international agreements Finland has entered into. It makes significant contributions to meeting objectives for sustainable development set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 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). For further information on METSO and its connections to Finland's international agreements, see METSO web pages at [www.mmm.fi/metso/international](http://www.mmm.fi/metso/international).

## METSO IN SHORT

In Southern Finland, most of the forests are privately owned, resulting in relatively small amount of protected forests (average European level). In Northern Finland, where state-owned forests cover a major part of the land area, the amount of conserved or protected forests is the highest in Europe.

The METSO Programme focuses piloting cost-effective methods to acquire the most valuable targets under temporal conservation or permanent protection (quality instead of large areas). Because the Finnish forestry is typically practised in small-scale - average cutting areas are only 1-2 ha in size - METSO pilots additional ways to increase the small-scale biodiversity having already promoted by other programmes and the new Forest Act since the 1990'ies.

In October 2002 Finnish Government made a decision on METSO, the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland 2003-2007. METSO is part of the Finland's National Forest Programme 2010. METSO contains 17 sub-programs, including pilot programs to test new voluntary means for land owners to increase the biodiversity of forests in Southern Finland.

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METSO Programme: [www.mmm.fi/metso](http://www.mmm.fi/metso)