

# Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland – Metso

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## Background

- Protected areas concentrated in northern Finland:  
Proportion of protected forest and scrub land (2002):
  - northern Finland 13.4 %
  - southern Finland 1.4 %
- The human impact on forest biodiversity most extensive in southern Finland
- Most of the threatened forest species occur in southern Finland
- ➔ The National Forest Programme 2010 (1999): Forest biodiversity protection needs to be developed in southern Finland



## The Finnish Government Commission for the Protection of Forests in Southern Finland

- The Commission, with a broad base, was set up by the Finnish Council of State in 2000
- June 2002: A proposal for a programme outlining the goals, financing and activities needed for the protection of forests in southern Finland



## Metso-programme

- 23.10.2002: Government decision in principle on an action programme to protect biodiversity in forests in southern Finland, the western parts of the province of Oulu and the south-western region of the province of Lapland (=Metso-programme)

[www.ymparisto.fi/luosuo/essu/1\\_metso3.pdf](http://www.ymparisto.fi/luosuo/essu/1_metso3.pdf) (in Finnish)

- Includes 17 actions
- Improves protection for forest habitats and structural elements which are crucial for the forest biodiversity
- Based on the voluntary participation of forest owners





## Metso-programme – outline

- Testing out new instruments for protection on a voluntary basis in 2003-2007
- More resources for the restoration and management of habitats in existing nature conservation areas
- More resources for the enhancement of biodiversity in commercial forests
- More focus on biodiversity issues in forest training, forest management planning and other advisory services
- More resources for the research and monitoring of forest biodiversity
- Common ecological criteria for the programme



## Metso-programme

- The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have a shared responsibility for the programme coordination
- The need for additional financing during 2003-2007 totals about 62 million euros
  - Ministry of the Environment 29 million €
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 11 million €
  - Metsähallitus's (Finnish Forest and Park Services) income from land sales and labour costs 21 million €
  - In 2003 the financing of the programme was 3.2 million €





## Conservation biological criteria

- Common ecological criteria based on nature conservation biology to ensure cost-effective targeting of actions – “ecological shopping list”
- Prepared in 2003 by an expert working group appointed by the Ministry of the Environment
- The criteria are based on forest structures and habitat types important for biodiversity
- Separate criteria for each main forest habitat type



## Conservation biological criteria

- Important forest habitat types:
  - Heath forests in natural or semi natural stage
  - Forested mires
  - Hardwood swamps
  - Succession forests on upheaval land
  - Herb-rich forests
  - Open heath forests on sunny esker slopes
  - Semi-natural grazed forests
- Important structural elements:
  - Coarse woody debris (dead wood)
  - Burned and charred wood
  - Large deciduous trees, especially aspen





Herb-rich forests



Forested mires



Sunny esker slopes with specialised flora and fauna



Burned areas



Dead wood



Large aspen trees



Large old pine trees



## New instruments for voluntary conservation – pilot projects

- Natural values trading
- Competitive tendering
- Cooperation networks for forest biodiversity
- (Nature management areas)
- All the instruments are based on the voluntary participation of forest owners



## Natural values trading

- A landowner enters into an agreement to maintain or improve specified biodiversity values of his forest and in return receives a regular payment from the 'buyer' of these natural values (the State)
- 0,4 million €/ year in 2003-2007
- A pilot project in Satakunta (W Finland)
- First agreements were signed in autumn 2003 between landowners and the local Forestry Centre or Environment Centre
- Agreements are made for a 10(-20) year period
- The compensations include both timber and biodiversity values: 50-280 €/ha/year





## Competitive tendering

- The environmental authorities invite landowners to submit tenders on areas to be protected based on the conservation biological criteria, and the price at which they are willing to offer their sites for protection
- Main focus on areas to be protected permanently or for a long time period
- A pilot project starts in 2004 in certain parts of southern Finland
- 0,5 million € in 2004



## Cooperation networks for forest biodiversity

- Forest biodiversity is protected at the local level on the basis of voluntary cooperation between landowners
- The network also includes participation of local authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders
- Cooperation may centre on e.g. a national park, other conservation area or a recreation area and includes surrounding commercial forests belonging to various landowners
- The main principles involve innovation, extensive cooperation and interaction, and a striving to create new operating traditions
- Should also promote social and economic sustainability





## Cooperation networks for forest biodiversity

- Four pilot projects in different parts of southern Finland will be implemented in 2004-2006
- Most of the pilots are coordinated by local Forestry Centres
- 2.0 million € in three years
- Most of the funding will be used for compensations paid for the landowners – the projects plan to implement e.g. natural values trading



## Metso-programme – estimated effects and future aspects

- Time-lag in the positive effects on forest biodiversity
- The programme should increase the social acceptability of forest biodiversity protection and decrease environmental conflicts in forestry
- The private landowners attitude in regard to biodiversity protection should become more positive
- By the end of 2006 the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry evaluate the ecological, social and economic effects of the first stage of the programme  
⇒ 2007 decisions on the continuation of the Metso-programme



