



METSO

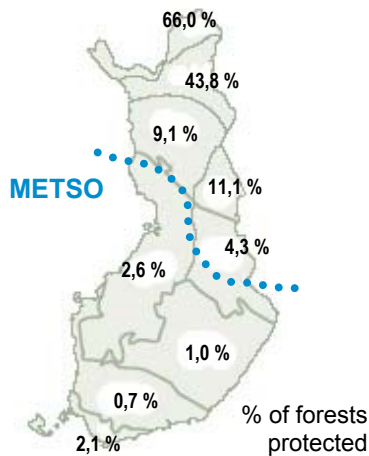
The Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland

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Contents

- METSO on the map & background
- Elements of the new generation environmental policy
- Criteria for protection
- Piloting new voluntary instruments
- Conclusions

METSO on the map



The Natura 2000 network



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Source: Metsähallitus 2005

Some history

Ἄν ἔτι μίαν μάχην νικήσωμεν, ἀπολώλαμεν

**One more such victory, and we shall be undone!
Pyrrhus in Asculum, 279 BC**



- National planning and implementation of nature conservation programmes since 1976
- Natura 2000 preparation 1994 -1998
- Effective measures for biodiversity when protecting large homogenous sites
- Participation was not voluntary
- Conflicts with landowners
- Time consuming legal processes
- Political mistrust
- The administration loosed some of its credibility

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• METSO; phase by phase

- 2000: WG on the need for forest protection in southern Finland and Ostrobothnia
- 2000-2002: Commission on the protection of forests in southern Finland (26 members, 25 meetings)
- 2002: Government decision in principle – METSO
 - 17 actions and pilot projects, including monitoring and assessment
- 2006: Assessment of the ecological, social and economic effects
- 2007: Decision on the continuation of METSO

• METSO – a new approach

- Halt the loss of biodiversity in forests of southern Finland!
- Cornerstones:
 - **Bottom up –principle**
 - **Voluntary conservation measures**
 - **Market based measures**
 - **Private-public partnership**
 - **Transparency**
 - **Cooperation between authorities**
 - **Ecosystem approach**



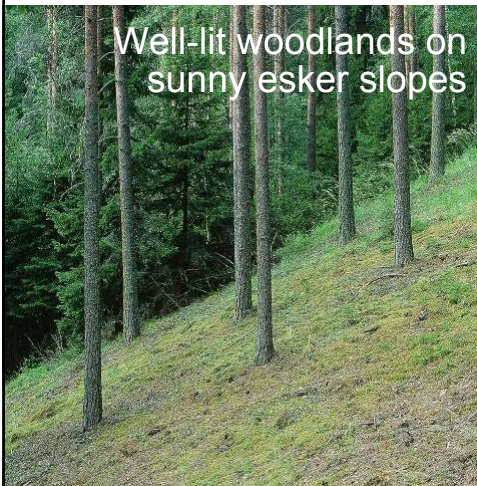
• METSO-programme – an outline

- New instruments for conservation on a voluntary basis
- More resources for
 - the restoration and management of forest habitats in protected areas
 - the enhancement of biodiversity in commercial forests
 - the research and monitoring of forest biodiversity
- More focus on biodiversity issues in forest training, forest management planning and other advisory services
- Special ecological criteria for site selection

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• Biological criteria



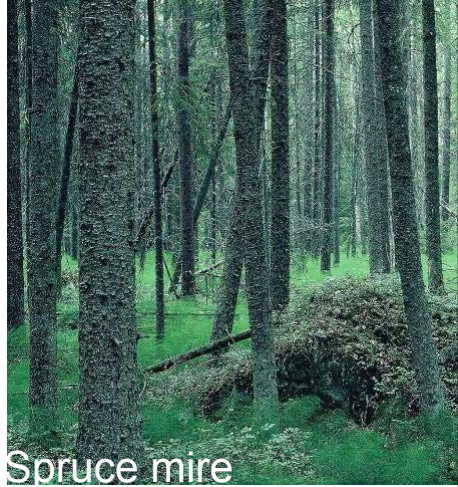
- Based on nature conservation biology to ensure cost-effective site selection
 - ▶ “ecological shopping list”
- Prepared by an expert working group
- Covers the most important habitats and structures for forest biodiversity

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- Biological criteria – habitats

- Natural heath land forests
- Spruce mires
- Swampy woodlands and wooded flood meadows
- Natural forests along the emerging coastline
- Herb-rich sites
- Well-lit woodlands on sunny esker slopes
- Woodland pastures and wooded meadows



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- Biological criteria – structural elements

- Decaying wood
- Burnt and charred wood
- Large broad-leaved trees, particularly aspen
- Structure of tree stands (age, stories, species)



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- New instruments for voluntary conservation

- Natural values trading
- Competitive tendering
- Forest biodiversity co-operation networks
- Nature management areas
- Based on the voluntary participation of landowners
- Conservation biological criteria for site selection



- Natural values trading

- Forest owners commit themselves through voluntary contracts to maintaining or enhancing valuable natural features
- The state compensates the landowner:
 - for timber
 - for biodiversity values
- Agreements are made for 10 – 20 years
- A pilot project was launched in 2003 in Southwestern Finland: 0,4 million € / year
- The first agreements were signed in 2003



• Competitive tendering

- Provides a way through which landowners can offer to rent or sell ecologically valuable areas of forest to the authorities
- The regional environment centres compare tenders:
 - the financial costs
 - the ecological benefits
- The main focus is on areas to be protected permanently or for a long time period
- Pilot projects started up 2004 – learning process
- State funding 2008-2011 > 180 M€



• Forest biodiversity co-operation networks

- Enhance dialogue between landowners, the local environmental and forest authorities, and other stakeholders
- Encourage forest owners to conserve biodiversity through the new voluntary tools
- Promote socially and economically sustainable development by actively involving local forest owners in conservation measures
- 2004 – 2006: region-specific pilot networks in key areas
- 2008-2011: based on voluntary local activity

• Forest biodiversity research programme

- Focuses on the ecological, economical and social impacts of nature conservation measures
- Increases knowledge on the biological characteristics and habitat requirements of Finland's forest species



Swampy woodlands and wooded flood meadows

• Estimated effects and future aspects; Is METSO a “strategic tigers leap”?

- METSO has increased the social acceptability of forest biodiversity protection
- Good cooperation in administration
- Coordinated communication
- Branding
- The landowner's autonomy is respected
- A voluntary activity is increasing
- The attitudes of private landowners and their local organisations in regard to biodiversity protection has become more positive
- The administration is willing to open new pathways; learning by doing
- The paradigm of nature conservation has changed, “now only the resources (money/time) set limits for success”

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• **People and Biodiversity Policies; a wider perspective**

- Bagnoli, Goeschl and Kovács 2008: People and Biodiversity Policies. OECD 2008:
- There is a general shift away from recommending "one size fits all" solutions
- There is a wide and growing base of documented policy experience available in merging efficiency and equity objectives and best-practice examples or a wide variety of institutional and ecological settings.
- The knowledge base for policy-makers, and hence the foundation for well-informed policies in the future, is continuously expanding.

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• **Thank you!**



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