

METSO COOPERATION NETWORKS

Cooperation networks on forest biodiversity are among the methods employed for implementing the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland 2008-2016 (METSO). Through the METSO cooperation networks the forest owners are better able to develop forest biodiversity and livelihoods based on this as well as the recreational use of forests. The most important ecological objective of the cooperation networks is to create extensive and interconnected areas that ensure the preservation of biological diversity or to support the efforts to this end. Participation in the networks is voluntary, and the networks do not bind the forest owners who opt to stay out in any way.

The seven METSO cooperation networks are:

- Climate change in forests – Great Crested Newt as top model, METSO as safety network (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for North Karelia)
- Siberian Jay diversifies the protection of forest nature (Finnish Association for Nature Conservation)
- Nature management with fire (Forestry Centre for Southeast Finland)
- Master planning of nature management in forestry (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Varsinais-Suomi)
- Pine woods and shore willows – Cooperation Network of Central Finland (Forestry Centre for Central Finland)
- Cooperation on Sipoonkorpi forest (Forestry Centre for the Coastal Regions)
- From Tahkovuori Hill to Kinahmi herb-rich forest – centre for herb-rich forests as a tourist attraction in Tahko region (Forestry Centre for North Savo)

Six of the projects were launched in autumn 2009 and one in the beginning of 2010. The projects are co-funded by the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and they will be completed in 2011–2013. The funding of about 0.5 million euros for 2009–2011 is intended for project coordination and other similar purposes. The funding for individual projects varies between 49 000 and 99 000 euros. The funding for the implementation of the measures is applied for separately, for example, under the Nature Conservation Act and Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry.

"Pine woods and shore willows" protects entities that are interconnected with each other and promotes nature tourism. Tourism is also the focus in "From Tahkovuori Hill to Kinahmi herb-rich forests", where the biodiversity objective is to preserve the nature values of areas with herb-rich forests, mires and brooks. The aim of "Nature management with fire" is to manage sunlit slopes of sandy esker ridges and promote nature management services concerning prescribed burning.

Comprehensive planning for specific catchment areas is developed in "Master planning of nature management in forestry". "Cooperation on Sipoonkorpi forest" develops a model area for collaboration among forest owners. "Climate change in forests – Great Crested Newt as top model, METSO as safety network" protects wooded areas with wetlands and small water bodies which are common habitats for Great Crested Newt and other wetland species. Siberian Jay and other species of spruce forests are the focus in "Siberian Jay diversifies the protection of forest nature".



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In all projects the actors include, besides forest owners and other local residents, the Forestry Centres and the area of responsibility 'Environment and Natural Resources' of the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. In many of the projects the actors also include the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, its district organisations and other nature organisations, forest management associations and unions of forest owners, towns and municipalities, Metsähallitus, forest companies (e.g. UPM-Kymmene), local tourism entrepreneurs and contractors, universities and research institutes. In a few projects the Forestry Development Centre Tapio, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners and of Swedish-speaking Agricultural Producers, hunting, fisheries and rural authorities, Regional Councils, village associations, advisory organisations, local action groups, hunting and fishing associations, and individual schools, education establishments or fire brigades may also be involved.

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Contact information of the projects:

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Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for North Karelia, Sirkka Hakalisto, tel. 358 (0)40 827 5175, sirkka.hakalisto(at)ely-keskus.fi

Siberian Jay diversifies the protection of forest nature
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Risto Sulkava, tel. 358 (0)50 560 2113, risto.sulkava(at)sll.fi

Nature management with fire
Forestry Centre for Southeast Finland, Seppo Repo, tel. 358 (0)400 715 990, seppo.repo(at)metsakeskus.fi

Master planning of nature management in forestry
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland, Mikko Jaakkola, tel. 358 (0)40 769 9031, mikko.j.jaakkola(at)ely-keskus.fi

Pine woods and shore willows – Cooperation network of Central Finland
Forestry Centre for Central Finland, Pirita Soini, tel. 358 (0)40 358 1535, pirita.soini(at)metsakeskus.fi

Cooperation in Sipoonkorpi forest
Forestry Centre for the Coastal Regions, Karen Wik-Portin, tel. 358 (0)20 772 6117, karen.wik-portin(at)skogscentralen.fi

From Tahkovuori Hill to Kinahmi herb-rich forest – centre for herb-rich forests as a tourist attraction in Tahko region
Forestry Centre for North Savo, Jarmo Laitinen, tel. 358 (0)20 772 8024, jarmo.laitine(at)metsakeskus.fi