



# SUSTAINABLE WELFARE FROM DIVERSIFIED FORESTS

Finland's National Forest Programme 2010



## WHAT IS NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME 2010?

Finland's National Forest Programme 2010 is a strategic action programme adopted by the Finnish Government, aimed at responding to national and international needs in the forest sector by developing the management, use and protection of forests. According to the objectives, the forests should provide work and livelihood to the Finns, develop as viable and diverse entities and offer spiritual and physical recreation to all.

Finland's National Forest Programme was drafted in a spirit of open cooperation. The process involved representatives of different administrative sectors, the private sector and a large number of other organisations and private citizens.

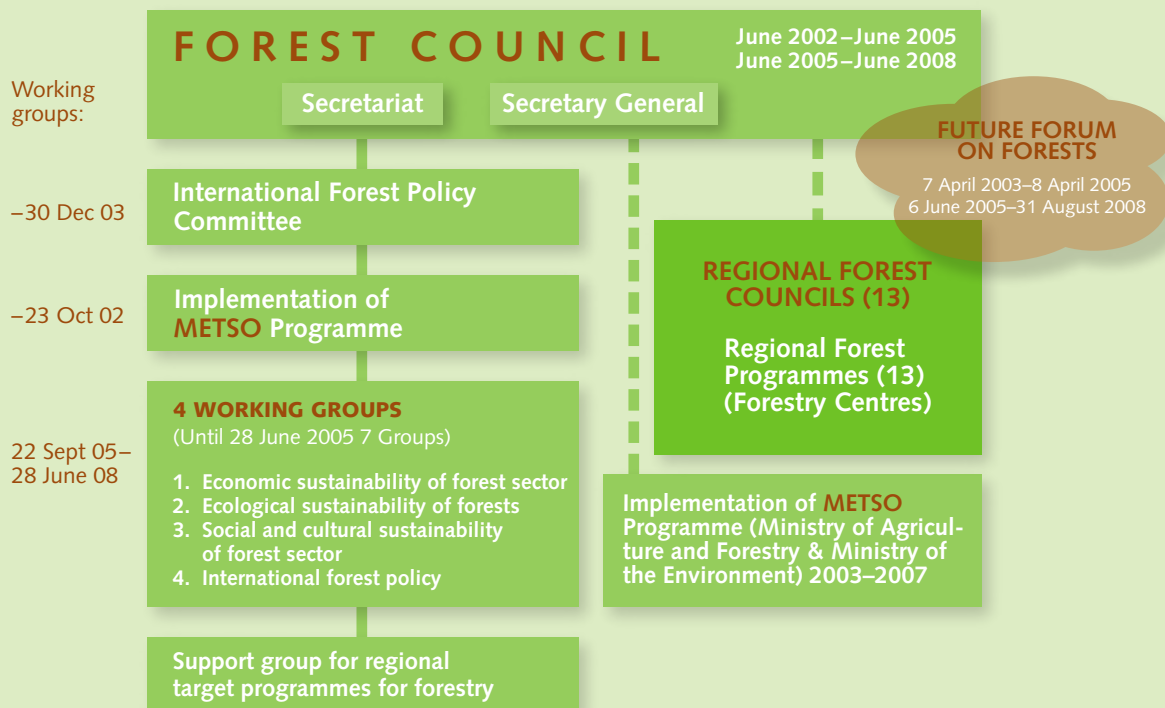
The implementation and possible revision of the National Forest Programme is directed and followed by the Forest Council and its Secretariat and working groups, whose work is steered by

the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. All the bodies involve a large number of stakeholders and NGOs.

The programme implementation is funded by the different ministries, forest owners and forest industry, as well as contributions from other private actors.

Regional Forest Programmes are the counterpart of the National Forest Programme on the regional level. The preparation of the programmes is directed by the Regional Forestry Centres, supported by the Regional Forest Councils. They set down the objectives and actions for the economically, ecologically and socially sustainable use and protection of forests. The programme period of the regional programmes is five years, and the most recent programmes have been drawn up for the years 2006–2010. The programmes function as background material for the revision of the National Forest Programme, which is in turn implemented through the regional programmes.

## BODIES OF FINLAND'S NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME



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### Key areas and objectives of Finland's National Forest Programme 2010:

#### FORESTRY IS PROFITABLE AND CREATES EMPLOYMENT

Annual harvesting of roundwood is raised to 63–68 million cubic metres by 2010 while sustaining a high level of silviculture and management of the forest environment. Another goal is to increase the use of wood for energy by 5 million cubic metres per year.

#### GROWTH PROSPECTS FOR THE FOREST INDUSTRY

The preconditions for competition of the Finnish forest industry are preserved so that the annual use of domestic wood increases by 5–10 cubic metres by 2010. Another goal is to double the value of the wood product exports by 2010.

#### SECURING ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

The favourable conservation status of living organisms and habitats in forests is reached and maintained by a sufficient combination of conservation areas and diversified management of commercial forests.

#### FORESTS ARE WELL MANAGED

Forest management and improvement measures will be implemented so that the annual harvesting of roundwood, which rises to 63–68 million cubic metres, stands on a sustainable base. To achieve this, the annual total investments in wood production must be raised back to the earlier level of about 0.25 million euros.

#### RECREATION AND NATURE'S PRODUCTS FROM FORESTS

Forests are used and protected in a way that takes account of the traditional forms of forest use and promotes the material and spiritual welfare offered by forests. The commercialisation and marketing of nature tourism is developed.

#### REINFORCING THE FOREST KNOW-HOW

Forest expertise is improved through further reinforcement of the forest sector innovation founded on research, education and internationalisation.

#### FINLAND IS ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL FOREST POLICY

Sustainable forestry is promoted through active international forest policy, research and training cooperation and forest and environmental communication.



## Achievements of Finland's National Forest Programme

- Use of domestic roundwood grew to 60–61 million cubic metres towards the end of the 1990s and has stayed there, except in 2005.
- Production volume of wood products industry has grown and value added has risen. Domestic use of wood products has grown to 1m<sup>3</sup>/year/capita, which is the highest in the world.
- Use of energy wood has grown steadily so that the objective of 5 million cubic metres in 2010 will be reached.
- Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland for 2003–2007 (METSO) has been a success. Voluntary means of forest protection have been tested as pilot projects. At the same time the implementation of traditional conservation programmes has continued so that these will be completed by the end of 2009. Methods which ensure the preservation of forest biodiversity have been introduced in commercial forests. Natural resource planning of Metsä-hallitus allows the reconciliation of the different uses of forests as a participatory process.
- Areas covered by the tending of young stands, forest fertilisation and forest road improvement and sufficient funding for these
- Multiple use of forests
- Future Forum on Forests
- Active participation and cooperation in international processes, in the EU and bilaterally

## Challenges remain

### In the development of actions

- Forest industry exports, use of wood
- Domestic investments of forest industry
- Roundwood removals
- Profitability of forestry
- Implementation of nature conservation programmes, future of the METSO Programme
- First thinnings, ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching
- Financing for recreational use, broadening the knowledge basis, definition of responsibilities
- Improving top expertise in forest research, diversification and expanding the scope of education and research, futures study
- National and international communication
- Development cooperation funds

### In the development of processes

- Committing various actors to programme implementation
- Resources and their allocation
- Solving conflicts
- Follow-up, acquisition and utilisation of information

## Revision of Finland's National Forest Programme

The revision of the National Forest Programme was started in autumn 2005. The revision is prepared by the Forest Council, Secretariat and working groups and the work is monitored and directed by the Forest Council. Most of the groundwork for the futures review is done by the experts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and certain institutes in the administrative sector, especially the Finnish Forest Research Institute. The working groups and Secretariat will finalise the futures review before its submission to the Forest Council. The futures review will be completed by July 2006 and it will be used in the preparation of the Government Programme after the next Parliamentary election.

The working groups will start the preparation of the strategy and actions section in the latter half of 2006 after the futures review has been completed. The Secretariat will coordinate the work and compile the results into a balanced entity. The work will be completed so that, as set down in the Government Programme, the Forest Council processes the revised National Forest Programme 2015 by the end of 2007 and it is submitted to the Government for approval at the same time with the decisions on the future of the METSO Programme.

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