



METSO-The Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland

Boreal Forest Platform

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Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO)



Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO aims to

- halt the ongoing decline in the biodiversity of forest habitats and species, and
- establish stable favourable trends especially in Southern Finland's forest ecosystems.
- METSO is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- The programme is set to run until 2025.

Voluntary-based conservation



- Permanent protection or temporary protection
- Forest owners value the voluntary approach, the independence in decision-making and the chance to retain their property rights in the available conservation schemes
- Forest owners get full financial compensation equivalent to the value of timber at the protected site
- For forest companies, METSO offers tools for sustainable forestry and provides a green image that is also attractive to customers abroad
- Sites are especially favoured where habitats are well preserved in their natural state or could easily be restored, where they host rare or endangered species, or where they are important for ecological connectivity

Targets and results



- The Finnish government's objective by 2025 is to have sites covering about 96 000 hectares that will be voluntarily offered by landowners to be established as private nature reserves or that will be acquired by the State
- At the end of 2014, about 52% of the first target had been achieved.
- This includes 37 000 hectares offered by landowners and 13 000 hectares protected by the state.
- Most of the protected sites are heathland forest rich in decaying wood and wooded mires, which are most common habitats in Finland



<http://www.metsopolku.fi/en-US>