



(PEFC FI 1002:2022)

Sustainable forest management - Requirements



PEFC STANDARD
IN ENGLISH

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Foreword

PEFC Council (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) is an international forest certification system promoting ecologically, socially, economically and culturally sustainable forest management through forest management certification, chain of custody certification and labelling of forest-based products originating in certified forests.

Forest certification verifies the sustainable management and use of forests. PEFC certification supports society's goals for the sustainable use of forests and offers citizens a wide range of opportunities to enjoy forests. For companies and consumers PEFC assures the responsible origin of forest products.

PEFC Finland - Finnish Forest Certification Council promotes and governs PEFC certification in Finland and organises the standard setting of sustainable forest management in an open, transparent, consultative and consensus-based stakeholder process.

The Finnish PEFC system has been approved by the international PEFC since 2000.

Acceptance by the international PEFC requires that the national forest certification system meets the requirements of PEFC's international standards and governance.

This standard is part of the series of PEFC FI standards owned by PEFC Finland.

This document replaces PEFC FI 1002:2014 standard with the application date on 16 February 2023 and the transition period until 16 February 2024.

Therefore:

- a) No certification is allowed against this document (PEFC FI 1002:2022) between the publication date (16 February 2022) and the application date (16 February 2023);
- b) All new certifications issued after the application date (16 February 2023) shall comply with the requirements of this document (PEFC FI 1002:2022);
- c) All organisations that have been certified prior to the application date (16 February 2023) shall comply with the requirements of this document (PEFC FI 1002:2022) by the transition date (16 February 2024). The conformity with the requirements of PEFC FI 1002:2022 is then evaluated by the certification body as part of the external audits following the transition date.

Introduction

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is a holistic approach defined as the stewardship and use of forests and forest land in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels and does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

Since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio, SFM has been a leading concept in international and regional deliberations and activities. In Europe, a broad consensus on principles, guidelines, criteria and indicators for SFM has been reached as a part of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE, currently renamed as Forests Europe), that is an on-going process in which hundreds of experts from a wide range of stakeholders have been involved.

Finnish forests and forest management

Forests continue to be important for Finland – today perhaps in many more ways than ever before. According to recent research, for the forest owners the financial value of forests continues to be the most important of forest values. In surveys of the general public, the biodiversity, recreational use and climate impact of forests are increasing in importance. The diversifying forest industry is a strong influence both regionally and for the national economy in Finland, and it is dependent on the supply of domestic timber. Being based on renewability, Finnish forest industry contributes to solutions for replacing fossil economy with bioeconomy.

In 2018, the gross value of forest industry production was EUR 23.4 thousand million, and it made up 19 percent of the total value of the manufacturing industry production. The sector brings in over 20 percent of Finland's export revenue and is a significant employer, particularly in less urban areas. In relation to its size, Finland's dependence on forests and reliance on the activity of the forest sector is greater than that of any other country in the world. Finland has accumulated a unique volume of forest management and forest industry know-how.

Forest resources and forest growth

Three quarters, or about 23 million hectares of Finland's land area are covered by forests. In addition, there are over three million hectares of areas with a sparse tree cover, such as treeless peatlands and rocky terrain. For the most part, Finland belongs to the boreal zone, or the northern coniferous forest belt. Tree species native to Finland include four conifers and almost 30 broadleaves and woody shrubs. Most of the Finnish forests are dominated by conifers, often interspersed with broadleaves. In terms of financial value, the main species are Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and downy birch (*Betula pubescens*).

The purpose of forest management is to bring financial gain to the forest owner and society, and to ensure that forests will continue to be valuable for future generations. Forest

management in Finland is based on the concept of forest compartment, which refers to a section of forest with uniform needs of forestry operations and uniform growing site and tree stock. As a rule, forestry operations and fellings only cover fairly small areas. On private forest holdings in Southern Finland, for example, the average size of regeneration felling sites was 1.2 hectares in 2014, while the corresponding figure for Northern Finland was 1.8 hectares. In our Nordic conditions the growing cycle is long: 60–120 years, depending on species and growing site.

Following a regeneration felling the forests are regenerated either naturally with the help of seed trees, or through cultivation, using native species best suited to the growing site. Seedling and sapling stands are tended and thinned to create space to grow for good-quality, economically valuable trees.

Forest management also includes the protection of biodiversity and water protection measures to prevent the leaching of nutrients after felling. Retention trees left standing singly or in groups on felling sites ensure the creation in commercial forests of deadwood and habitats important for many species. Selection and group selection fellings, which serve continuous-cover cultivation, have increased especially in Northern Finland and peatland forests. However, the share of continuous-cover fellings is still only about 3 percent of all fellings declared in 2020.

Changes in the state of the forests are regularly monitored by the National Forest Inventory (NFI) carried out by Natural Resources Institute Finland. The forest resource data produced by NFI is based on a comprehensive range of field measurements. According to the most recent inventory data, the total growing stock of Finnish forests is about 2,500 million cubic metres, and the annual increment is 108 million cubic metres. In the past hundred years the volume of the growing stock has doubled, thanks to the increment increasing clearly more than fellings.

In addition to increment and growing stock, Finnish statistics contain detailed information on the amount of timber harvested. In the 2010s, actual accumulated fellings of stemwood were about 60–70 million cubic metres per year. The increment of Finnish forests exceeds fellings and natural drain by about 20 million cubic metres.

Owing to the long history of forest use there are no extensive areas of completely untouched forests in Finland. Forests in their natural state are mainly only found in conservation areas in Lapland and Eastern Finland. In Finnish forest management, forests are regenerated with native tree species and the development of mixed forests is promoted. There are no intensively managed, monoculture plantations in Finland.

A special feature of Finnish forest management is the significant share of drained mires, or peatland forests. An estimated 20 percent of the current tree stock grows on peatlands. Up to the present, about 5.7 million hectares of mires in Finland have been drained for the purposes of forest management. This corresponds to 55 percent of the original area of mires. The most recent National Forest Inventory shows that the area of undrained mires is 4 million hectares.

Forest biodiversity

The safeguarding of forest biodiversity requires both conservation areas and an increased effectiveness in the nature management of commercial forests. Since commercial forests cover about 95 percent of the forest area in Southern Finland, the fate of forest biodiversity and threatened species is crucially dependent on the operations implemented in commercial forests.

In connection with the updating of this standard, an obvious need was recognised on the basis of research findings for increasing measures which support biodiversity in commercial forests. As such measures are likely to bring more costs for the forest owners, it is advisable to implement the changes in the standard at several stages and to assess the impact of measures during the standard's period of validity.

The one-sidedness of tree stock caused by previous agricultural use and the decrease of old-growth forests pose a challenge to the preservation of biodiversity. Forests form the primary habitat for about one third of the threatened species in Finland. According to the fifth Finnish assessment of threatened species (2019), 9 percent of forest species are threatened. The main reasons for their endangered position are forest regeneration and management operations, changes in the relative shares of tree species in forests, decrease of old and large trees, decrease of deadwood and of areas destroyed by fire. In particular, old heathland forests and herb-rich forests are valuable habitats for threatened forest species.

Structural features supporting forest biodiversity

Structural features of habitats that are important for forest biodiversity include standing and fallen deadwood, old broadleaves and conifers, trees with fire damage, heterogeneous growing stock and a mix of several species.

A high degree of cover on the landscape level can ensure the abundance and connectivity of many forest species. Among dwarf shrubs, bilberry may be characterised as the key species of boreal forests. The provision of shelter close to the ground is an important structural feature of the forest. Preserving thickets and other undergrowth and sparing the layering of trees during clearing and felling are methods that can ensure sufficient shelter close to the ground.

Sparing structural features important for biodiversity in the use of commercial forests can play a part in safeguarding forest biodiversity. Ecological studies have proved that certain structural features are important for maintaining forest biodiversity. In particular, dead and decaying wood is important for hundreds of forest species, and the aim is to spare and increase it. Similarly, the share of goat willow and aspen should be increased to protect biodiversity.

The dense network of forest roads and effective monitoring have practically eliminated forest fires in Finland. For a great number of forest species, burned wood is important, and

it should be increased in forests. This is done by controlled burning, with the purpose of halting the decline of species dependent on forest fires.

Conservation areas

The total extent of protected forests (forest and scrub land) in Finland is 2.9 million hectares, which is 12.6 percent of the forest area. Of the forest area under protection, 2.3 million hectares are situated in Northern Finland, covering about 20 percent of the forest area of that part of the country. In terms of safeguarding biodiversity, the greatest need for the further development of the conservation area network and nature management in commercial forests thus concerns Southern Finland.

Protected forests consist of forests in statutory conservation areas and biodiversity protection sites in commercial forests. The extent of forests under statutory conservation is 2.4 million hectares, and that of biodiversity protection sites is 0.5 million hectares.

The Natura 2000 network safeguards habitat types and habitats of species defined in the European Union's Habitats Directive. In Finland, the Natura 2000 network covers 5 million hectares. Of this, three quarters, or 3.6 million hectares are on land. The total number of sites is 1,866. The number of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) among these is 1,721, and the number of Special Protection Areas (SPA) in line with the Birds Directive is 470. There is some overlap between the SAC and SPA.

Voluntary protection

The Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland 2014–2025 (METSO programme) brings together the protection and commercial use of forests. It aims at halting the decline of forest habitats and forest species and at stabilising the favourable development of biodiversity. The programme implementation is based on means that are voluntary and ecologically and economically sustainable. The programme was adopted by the Finnish Government in June 2014, and is set to continue after 2025.

Protection in the METSO programme is based on voluntary activity by land owners, and it can be either permanent or temporary. Voluntary protection helps safeguard forest habitats that are representative of the structural features of the stands and exhibit a wide range of species.

The Helmi Habitats Programme is a new, extensive programme initiated by the Ministry for the Environment. It aims to strengthen biodiversity in Finland and to safeguard the vital ecosystem services provided by nature. At the same time, it helps curb climate change and promote adaptation to it. The Helmi programme aims to deal with the most important direct cause of the decline of biodiversity in Finland: the decrease and qualitative decline of valuable habitats. The programme includes the following:

- Protecting and restoring mires
- Restoring aquatic bird habitats and wetlands, including shorelines
- Managing traditional biotopes

- Managing woodland habitats, such as herb-rich forests and sunny slopes of eskers
- Managing and restoring aquatic and shore habitats, such as sandy beaches

Actors within the forest sector have an important role in informing land owners about options for protection and in identifying and selecting sites valuable for biodiversity.

Ground and surface waters

Finland is rich in different types of water bodies and also has significant groundwater resources. The recreational use of water bodies is of great importance in Finland. The Water Framework Directive, in force throughout the EU, has the binding objective of achieving a good qualitative and quantitative status for all water bodies by 2027 at the latest, and of preventing a decline in their status. The directive applies to all water bodies governed by the Finnish Water Act and all groundwater areas. To achieve the objectives, water management plans and actions plans are drawn up every six years and submitted to the Finnish Government for adoption. These documents also contain national and regional measures and steering methods which the forest sector must comply with.

Research has found that current buffer zones, especially along water bodies classified as brooks, are insufficient for safeguarding the status of water bodies. The buffer zones along water bodies, the operations carried out on them and the preservation of shade created by trees next to the water are of great significance for preserving a good status of waters. Particular attention should be directed to water bodies with a naturally reproducing salmonid population. The implementation of forest management operations and their impact on the status of water bodies should also be studied in future.

A more detailed planning of draining and soil preparation is also urgently needed to ensure a minimum impact on water bodies. Decreasing soil preparation will directly decrease the impact on water bodies.

As regards the safeguarding of groundwater, the main objective is to prevent the decline of groundwater quality and a drop in groundwater tables. Forestry operations that have the most significant effect on groundwater include fertilisation, the use of plant protection products and all ditching and other soil preparation. Some of the groundwater areas are also important for valuable natural sites, either in their natural state or resembling natural state and protected by law.

Forests and climate

For long, the annual increment of forests has clearly exceeded annual harvesting volumes. This means that the carbon storages in forest vegetation and forest soil in Finland have increased continuously; that is, forests have acted as carbon sinks. The net carbon sink, or the amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide sequestered, of Finnish forests since 1990 has varied between 17.4 and 47 million metric tons, calculated as carbon dioxide equivalents (million tons of CO₂eq).

Comparing the forest carbon sink with Finland's total emissions, it may be said that as an annual average, the sink has been equal to over one third of Finland's total emissions. As part of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, Finland has committed to maintain until 2020 a carbon sink of 19 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) a year. As part of the common goal of the EU, the reference figure set for the carbon sink of Finnish forests for the years 2021–2025, excluding wood products, is about 23.5 million tons CO₂eq a year, and including wood products, about 29.4 million tons. The reference figure for the carbon sink of forests is a calculated estimate of forest carbon sinks for the years 2021–2025.

In Finland, fellings are an important factor affecting the annual fluctuation of the forest carbon sink. In addition to trees, the forest carbon sink includes the changes in soil carbon storage caused by human activity. In terms of Finland's meeting its climate goals, forest carbon sinks are of crucial importance, and they can be increased through good forest management and afforestation. In the land use sector, emission reductions can be achieved by preventing deforestation and restricting the clearing of forests, particularly on peatlands.

Halting deforestation is the primary means in the land use sector for curbing climate change. Carbon sinks and storages can be safeguarded by favouring longer growing cycles and increasing growth by fertilisation, for example. Fertilisation is an effective method, especially in peatland forests with plenty of nitrogen in the soil and also the best potential for increasing tree growth.

One quarter of Finland's forests grow on peatland. Peat decays slowly and produces greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide in aerobic conditions and methane in anaerobic conditions. Emissions from the soil of peatland forests correspond to about one quarter of the carbon sink in Finnish forest. Forest management operations and regulation of water tables can reduce the rate of decay of peat and emissions from peatland forests. Keeping a sufficient density in peatland forests can ensure a suitable level of drainage and avoid the need for ditching, which increases emissions.

The longer growth period and increasing temperatures caused by climate change increase tree growth. On the other hand, warmer temperatures increase the risk of forest damage, especially as regards pests and destructive phenomena which have previously been curbed by the cold climate in Finland. Climate change may also increase the risk of drought and wind damage, as well as damage following from these.

Control of forest damage contributes to achieving goals related to both adaptation to and curbing of climate change. Preparing for climate change emphasises the importance of good forest management. One useful method is to pay increasing attention to the vitality of the growing stock and to promoting a wide range of species in forests. Fluctuations in the amount of water and especially the risks caused by increasing wintertime precipitation must be taken into account, particularly with a view to water protection.

Forests are mainly in private ownership

The ownership and right of possession of forests are defined by legislation that covers all land areas. The National Land Survey of Finland maintains a cadastral information system, and one of its basic databases is the register of titles and mortgages, which contains up-to-date information on the owners of property units. This is a public register, and information on the owner of a property unit is also public.

Private forest owners, that is, ordinary families, own 60 percent of forest land and 70 percent of forest growth. Out of the domestic timber procured by industry, 80 percent is sold by private forest owners.

Forest owned by the State and managed by Metsähallitus cover one quarter of forest land, but only about one tenth of fellings are carried out on State land. Forest companies own just under ten percent of forest land, and their share of fellings is about the same. Local authorities, church parishes, foundations and forest collectives own the rest, or about five percent of the forest land.

The majority of forests owned by private people are situated on fertile land in Southern Finland. State forests are mainly situated on poor lands in Northern Finland. This is why the share of fellings and growth in private forests is greater than their share of forest area. The number of family holdings of at least 2 hectares in size is about 350,000. The number of owners of these is almost twice that, or 600,000, for holdings are often owned jointly by spouses, and some are owned by shareholders in a death estate or by forestry partnerships. The average size of family forest holdings is 30 hectares.

Table 1. Ownership of forests and growing stock in Finland.

	Private	Other	State	Companies	Total
Forestry land (1,000 ha)	13,617	1,493	9,191	1, 945	26,246
Growing stock (million m ³)	1, 588	152	520	214	2,475
Annual increment (million m ³)	81,64*		2,618**		107,82
Annual harvesting (1,000 m ³)	53,125*		10, 565**		63,690

*Private and Other combined

**State and Companies combined

Legislation and political steering

The long-term sustainability of forestry in terms of timber production has been the focus of intensive attention in Finland since the late 1940s. In the 1990s, the objectives of forest policy were extended to also include ecological sustainability. Measures by the Government,

legislation, national and regional forest programmes and the activity of and cooperation between private forest owners have provided support to sustainable forestry.

The first Forest Act was enacted in Finland in 1886, and its latest revision was made in 2014. In its current form the Act gives the forest owners more freedom than before as regards forestry operations. In addition, many other acts, such as the Nature Conservation Act and Water Act, steer the sustainable management and use of forests. Legislation which has an impact on forest management is described in more detail in Annex 2. The use, management and protection of forests is also governed by EU legislation, which is either applied directly or implemented through Finnish legal instruments.

The National Forest Strategy 2025 implements the forest-related objectives of Agenda 2030. More clearly than before, it takes into account such things as climate sustainability and safeguarding forest biodiversity. The strategy describes the priority areas and measures concerning forest sector development that the public sector will focus on and that forest sector organisations will collaborate on, as part of the joint development of the forest sector. The entirely new projects added to the strategy deal with climate-sustainable forestry, international forest policy, influencing at the EU level and developing products made from wood. Overarching themes of the projects in the strategy include digitalisation and increased communication and interaction. In addition to these, more of the projects in the strategy now take into account the diversification of forest management methods, the safeguarding of biodiversity, the protection of water bodies and the diversification of business activity.

The National Forest Strategy is closely linked to the bioeconomy strategy. The aim of the Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy is to create new economic growth and new jobs through increased bioeconomic business activity and products and services with a high added value, while also safeguarding the conditions for the functioning of natural ecosystems. The objectives of the Strategy for Protection and Restoration of Small Water Bodies include improving the enforcement of legislation related to small water bodies and intensifying measures to improve the status of small water bodies.

The Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres) further the safeguarding of biodiversity and monitor, among other things, that attention is paid to the environment and nature in projects and measures that intervene with the environment. Among other things, the ELY Centres process the declarations made on the basis of Articles 7 a and 14 b of the Forest Act, and participate in the drawing up of regional forest programmes. As for the Water Act, the ELY Centres process notifications of forest drainage and manage other tasks based on the Water Act, such as monitoring of habitat types protected by the Water Act.

Finland is committed to the EU's biodiversity strategy, which aims at halting the decline of biodiversity by 2030. The strategy includes objectives for nature conservation and restoration, and proposes measures to attain the goals. The strategy also proposes various nature-based solutions which, in addition to safeguarding biodiversity, can reduce emissions from mires, peatlands, forests, meadows and agricultural land and promote adaptation to climate change. Several of the measures proposed would have an impact on forests and

forestry. In addition, the Commission is about to start preparing the EU forest strategy, due to be completed in 2021. The objectives of the EU strategies are implemented through national legislation, programmes and other steering methods.

The Finnish Forest Centre monitors compliance with forest legislation. The Forest Centre is tasked with, among other things, monitoring and implementing the Forest Act, the Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry, the Game Animals Damages Act and the Forest Damages Prevention Act.

The monitoring of compliance with the Forest Act is chiefly based on checking declarations of forest use. A declaration must be submitted to the Forest Centre ten days before the start of felling. The Forest Centre inspects the implementation of forestry and nature management operations, the quality of work of forest professionals in the forest and compliance with the legislation on the use of public funds. The inspection also assesses the preservation of habitats of special importance and other valuable natural objects in line with Article 10 of the Forest Act.

The ELY Centres also steer and coordinate the implementation of the Act on Water and Marine Resources Management by means of drawing up, in cooperation with stakeholders, water management plans in order to attain the binding goals of water and marine resources management by 2027.

Planning the management and use of forests

The first regional forest programmes as stipulated by the Forest Act were completed in 1998, and have subsequently been revised approximately every five years. The programmes provide an overview of the status and development needs of the forests and forestry in each regional unit of the Finnish Forest Centre. Regional forest councils, with a comprehensive representation from different stakeholders, support the regional units of the Forest Centre in drawing up and monitoring the regional forest programmes.

Regional forest programmes serve as the development plans and action plans of the forest sector in each region. The programmes are drafted in collaboration with the regional forest councils.

The objectives of the regional forest programmes are based on the region's development needs and the goals of the national forest strategy. The programmes harmonise economic, ecological and social objectives. The curbing of and adaptation to climate change have been a focal point in programme preparation. Regional forest programmes for the years 2021–2025 were adopted for fourteen regions in November 2020. The new regional forest programmes for the years 2021–2025 promote the diversified and sustainable use of forests. They aim at creating more jobs and well-being in the regions, safeguarding forest biodiversity and providing means to prepare for and adapt to climate change.

Forest resource data

The gathering of forest resource data on Finnish private forests is a statutory task of the Finnish Forest Centre. Forest resource data is gathered with the help of public funding, and it consists of place-bound, compartment-level data on the growing site and tree stock, biodiversity and other special features, as well as data on proposed forest management and felling operations and of operation history.

Forest resource data has been gathered using two principal methods: as fieldwork consisting of compartment-level assessment and data collection based on remote sensing. The data gathering complies with forest legislation valid at the time, forest management recommendations, the requirements of forest certification systems and the data gathering guidelines in line with the operation system of the Forest Centre. The tree stand interpretation grid based on remote sensing covers all forests since the 2013 inventory, but compartment-level forest resources data is primarily generated for private forests.

The Forest Centre makes an inventory every ten years. During the intervening years data is updated to take account of forest growth between inventories and the impact of forest management and fellings on the amount of growing stock, as well as of eventual changes in holding boundaries and in the purpose of forest use.

metsään.fi service

The metsään.fi service (in Finnish) contains information on the forest holdings of an owner and the basic data of the growing stock by compartment. In addition, the service contains proposals on tending and felling operations needed, and information on eventual natural sites on the holding. The tending and felling proposals are given for the following five years. Every proposal also includes the year during which it is best carried out.

The metsään.fi service provides an overview of an owner's forest holdings and their potential. Comprehensive maps and aerial images that can be printed out, basic information on the growing stock and the proposed tending operations make the preliminary planning and implementation of forestry operations easier.

In addition to tending, felling and natural sites, the service allows the viewing of areas of storm or insect damage, the flow patterns of surface waters or the access data of forest resource data. It is also possible to see whether the holding is located in a groundwater or nature conservation area or whether archaeological sites, nests of the Siberian flying squirrel or occurrences of other threatened species have been found on the holding.

Guidance and services to forest owners

Authorities encourage forest owners to manage their forests well. State aid is available for safeguarding sustainable timber production, maintaining forest biodiversity and improving forest health. Sustainable forestry is also promoted by means of the national Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management, education and training and forest certification.

In forest management and use, recommended best practices of forest management are applied that can be followed by all groups of forest owners. Out of the recommended best practices forest owners may choose the management methods that best correspond to their goals. They give information on the basis and methods of sustainable forest management for a case-by-case application. The recommended best practices aim at overall sustainability, harmonising different goals related to forest management. Guidance is used to encourage forest owners to adopt measures that have the best impact on good forest management, biodiversity and water protection.

The recommended best practices of forest management are drawn up jointly by researchers and experts of forests and ecology and those using the recommendations. An important role in generating the background information for the recommendations is played by researchers at various institutes and educational establishments. Other bodies that contribute to the content by describing best practices include forest owners, forest industry, ENGOs and NGOs, forest sector experts and forest workers. Forest professionals use the recommendations when providing services to forest owners and when implementing forestry operations.

Forest management guidelines have also been issued by Metsähallitus for State lands and forest companies for their lands and customers.

Guidance to forest owners is provided by the forest management associations, the Finnish Forest Centre, forest service companies, companies that purchase timber and many other actors in the forest sector. They also provide service related to the management and use of forests.

The Finnish Forest Centre provides training to thousands of forest owners and other forest sector actors annually. In addition to personal guidance, training is given both face-to-face and on-line. In 2018, targeted personal guidance was given to 8,266 forest owners, and a total of 869 training events were arranged for both forest owners and forest sector professionals, with a total of 20,862 participants.

Private forest owners may be granted statutory aid for certain forest management operations. The aid applications are handled and approved by the Finnish Forest Centre. Aid is available for measures and projects that promote forest growth and health, the accessibility of forests and nature management.

The members of the forest management association consist of forest owners, and the associations look after their interests. The associations are active in every part of the country, and they provide forest owners with a wide range of services everywhere. The services cover forest and nature management, forest planning and services related to timber trade.

Multiple use of forests

Forests are an important recreation environment for Finns and an important element in nature tourism. Practically all Finns go in for outdoor recreation, and for the most part this is done in areas with forests. Entering forests is allowed on the basis of everyman's rights (right to roam), which allow everyone to move on lands owned by another on foot, ski or horseback or by bicycle without express permission, provided that no harm or nuisance is caused. In addition, everyman's rights allow the free picking of berries and mushrooms in forests. The use of motorised vehicles and making a fire require permission from the land owner.

Natural products are an important group of forest products. Natural products are gathered extensively for domestic use, but in many areas, commercial activity is also important. Even so, most of the berry and mushroom crop remains in the forest, and over-picking of berries or mushrooms is not a problem or a threat to sustainability. Due to crop fluctuations, the amount of berries and mushrooms picked for sale varies from one year to the next.

The main crops picked for sale are bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*). The most important mushrooms picked for sale are Boletus species. According to Natural Resources Institute Finland (formerly the Finnish Forest Research Institute), in an average crop year the total biological crop of bilberry is 183.6 million kilograms and of cowberry 257.2 million kilograms, which makes 440.8 million kilograms combined. The average total amount of bilberry and cowberry gathered for domestic use is 25 million kilograms per year. In a good year, the average amount of bilberry and cowberry gathered commercially is 20 million kilograms. Thus, the amount of bilberry and cowberry gathered is about 10 percent of the total biological crop across the country.

The total crop of wild mushrooms is estimated at 1,000 million kilograms, with a rate of gathering of less than one percent. The crops fluctuate greatly from one year to the next, which means that the average amount also varies between 3–16 million kilograms per year. With a middling crop, the amount gathered is about 8 million kilograms, of which about 85–90 percent is gathered for domestic use and 10–15 percent for sale.

The number of hunters is about 300,000 and is on the increase. Hunting is governed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the hunting seasons of game species are determined annually on the basis of regional game surveys. The Finnish Wildlife Agency promotes sustainable game economy, supports the activity of game management associations, manages the implementation of game policy and discharges certain statutory administrative duties.

Hunting rights are linked to land ownership, and hunting is thus subject to permission. Within the Sámi homeland, the right of the Sámi to carry on their traditional livelihood of hunting is safeguarded on State lands. Hunting mostly occurs under the auspices of a hunting association. These lease the hunting rights on the lands of private forest owners, forming more extensive hunting areas by combining several small holdings. Regional game management associations monitor the activity of hunting associations and arrange training

for hunters. For State lands, citizens may buy hunting permits for small game or lease larger areas.

Finnish hunters do plenty of voluntary work for society in general, by conducting game surveys and providing assistance to authorities, among other things. Game management and the restoration of habitats closely connected to it not only serve the management of game populations, but also promote biological diversity.

Reindeer husbandry

Reindeer husbandry is an important element of the multiple use of forests in Northern Finland. The reindeer herding area is specified in the Reindeer Husbandry Act and covers 36 percent of Finland's total land area. The reindeer herding area includes the whole of Northern Finland.

Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*) is an animal that has developed and adapted specifically to the harsh Arctic conditions, the only one of its kind. Reindeer husbandry is the oldest livelihood in the Northern Finland that has kept its viability. It has provided income and opportunities for subsistence for centuries. Today, reindeer husbandry is the primary livelihood of about 1,000 people. The number of reindeer owners is about 4,400.

Reindeer husbandry is an active occupation, and reindeer can graze freely regardless of land ownership. Free grazing rights are guaranteed by law. The number of reindeer in Finland is over 200,000. In matters related to reindeer husbandry, reindeer owners are represented by reindeer herding cooperatives.

The Sámi – an indigenous people

The Sámi are an indigenous people recognised by the UN, the EU and Finland. On the basis of their languages, they are divided into the Inari, Skolt and Northern Sámi groups. The Constitution of Finland and other legislation define the land use rights of the Sámi, as well as their right to self-determination regarding their language and culture in the Sámi homeland in Northern Finland (comprising the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki, and the area of the Lapland reindeer herding cooperative in the northern parts of the Sodankylä municipality). Reindeer husbandry is part of not only the Sámi culture, but also other business life in Northern Finland.

As the manager of State forests, Metsähallitus must pay particular attention in its activity to the rights of the Sámi and must discuss with them all forest management operations in the Sámi homeland. The Sámi Parliament and the Skolt Council represent the Sámi in decision-making.

Of the area of the Sámi homeland, 90 percent is owned by the State. Of these, 72 percent consists of conservation and wilderness areas managed by the Parks & Wildlife Finland unit of Metsähallitus, and 13 percent of subsistence economy areas managed by Metsähallitus Property Development. In these areas no forestry is carried out. Forestry is allowed on 7

percent of the area. In addition, 7 percent of the total area consists of forestry area excluded from activity.

Ten percent of the area of the Sámi homeland is in private ownership. On these lands, forestry is carried on by forest collectives and private forest owners, both of whom include both Sámi and ethnic Finns as forest owners.

Employment in the forest sector

Forestry and forest industry in Finland employ directly about 65,000 people, of whom about two thirds are employed in forest industry. Forestry and related businesses employ about 21,000 people, of whom a significant number work in small forest-sector contracting and transport businesses. In addition, forest owners and their family members carry out forestry operations on their own holdings.

Organisations in the forest and environment sector

The highest forest authority is the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, whose task is to create the conditions for the sustainable and diversified use of natural resources and for ensuring the quality of goods derived from them. Metsähallitus and the Finnish Forest Centre are under the performance-based management of the Ministry. Metsähallitus manages, uses and protects the natural resources and other property on the State lands under its care.

The task of the Finnish Forest Centre is to monitor the implementation of the Forest Act and to promote the sustainable use and management of forests, the safeguarding of their biodiversity and other forest management activity.

The Ministry for the Environment is in charge of certain forest-related tasks. These include, among others, the preservation of biodiversity, the prevention of the spoiling of environment and of harmful changes to the atmosphere, as well as the performance-based management and funding of nature conservation areas.

Environmental protection, management of the cultural environment, protection of biodiversity and the use and management of water resources are the task of regional Centres of Economic Development, transport and the Environment, which are steered by the Ministry for the Environment in carrying out these tasks.

Forest research and forest inventories

Forests and forestry are actively researched at universities and research institutions with increasing diversification. The University of Helsinki and the University of Eastern Finland conduct solid research with a forest focus, and forests, and particularly forest ecology, are a topic of research in other universities as well. Natural Resources Institute Finland, under the performance-based management of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, is a central actor producing forest resource information.

Natural Resources Institute Finland carries out the regular National Forest Inventory (NFI), which was started in the 1920s by the then Finnish Forest Research Centre. The forest resource data acquired through the NFI are based on comprehensive field measurements.

Thanks to the field measurements, the NFI results are reliable for the whole of Finland and for each region of over 200,000 hectares, such as regional forest centres. A multi-source inventory based on satellite images was developed for smaller areas, starting in the late 1980s. Combining field measurements with satellite images and other numerical data allows the calculation of results for smaller areas than before, such as municipalities or other small areas.

The results of the National Forest Inventory are in extensive use:

- As basis for national and international decisions in forest policy
- As baseline data in planning regional and national forest management
- To support investment decisions in forest industry
- In assessing sustainability of forestry and in forest certification
- In assessing changes in carbon storage and greenhouse gas emissions
- As research data

Especially since the 1990s, strong investments have been made in researching forest biodiversity and forest species in several extensive research programmes and separate projects. In addition to Natural Resources Institute Finland and the universities, the Finnish Environment Institute, governed by the Ministry for the Environment, is an important actor generating environmental data also on forests. Thanks to researchers with a wide range of interests and diversified research programmes, knowledge about the range of species in Finnish forests, its development trends and about forest ecology in a broader sense is of a high quality even in an international comparison.

The importance of forests in adapting to and curbing climate change by means of carbon sinks is a central topic of current research. In particular, the role of peatland forests in the carbon cycle has been a focus of interest. The impact of peatland forestry on water bodies has also received a great deal of attention.

1. Scope

1.1 This document provides requirements for sustainable forest management on a certified area that are applicable to PEFC forest management certification in Finland.

1.2 The requirements in this standard can be implemented and forest management certification conducted at the level of an individual forest owner / manager, a certification group or a regional certification group.

NOTE 1: Requirements for (regional) group certification are included in PEFC FI 1001.

1.3 Conformity with the requirements of this document is mandatory for all actors who are involved in the PEFC certification (see PEFC FI 1001).

1.4 The term “shall” is used throughout this standard to indicate those provisions that are mandatory. The term “should” is used to indicate those provisions which, although not mandatory, are expected to be adopted and implemented. The term “may” used throughout this standard indicates permission expressed by this standard whereas “can” refers to the ability of a user of this standard or to a possibility open to the user.

2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For both dated and undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendment) applies.

- PEFC FI 1000 (Forest Certification vocabulary)
- PEFC FI 1001 (Group forest management certification – Requirements)
- PEFC ST 2002 (Chain of Custody)

3. Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in PEFC FI 1000 and the following apply.

Definitions that are specific for individual requirements of sustainable forest management are defined under the individual requirements of this document.

Certified area

An area of forestry land and other forested lands covered by forest management certificate.

NOTE 1: Forestry land includes forest land (i.e. land with a high potential of annual increment of growing stock), poorly productive forest land (i.e. scrubland), unproductive land (i.e. nearly treeless forestry lands) and other forestry land (i.e.

forest vehicle roads and other forestry maintenance areas). Individual categories of forestry land are defined by the Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE).

NOTE 2: Other forested lands cover e.g. Christmas tree plantations on agricultural land.

NOTE 3: In the (regional) group certification context, the certified area is the sum of areas of forest estates of the participating forest owners / managers that are covered by a (regional) group forest management certificate.

NOTE 4: The holder of the forest management certificate maintains the data concerning the certified area. Certification covers the whole forest area of each forest estate.

Certification group

A group of participants represented by the group entity for the purposes of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification. A binding written agreement shall be established between a participant and the group entity.

NOTE 1: The term “certification group” is equivalent to the term “regional certification group” used in PEFC FI 1001

Forest owner / manager

An individual or an organisation that has the registered property rights over a forest area and other similar bodies which have a right to make decisions regarding forest management.

Group forest certification

Certification of the certification group under one group forest management certificate.

NOTE 1: Regional group forest certification is one way of implementing group forest certification.

4. Context and application of the standard

4.1 The object of forest certification shall be the management and use of the forests and other forested lands covered by certification. The certification shall concern the holdings declared by a forest owner to forest certification in their entirety. The certified area may include forest, scrub, waste and other forestry land and other forested lands.

4.2 The certification granted to a forest owner may concern one or several holdings of the same owner.

4.3 Forest management certification can be applied at the level of an individual forest owner/manager (**foc**) or at the level of a certification group (**gc**) / regional certification group (**rc**). In case of the (regional) group forest management certification, some requirements of this standard shall be implemented by the (regional) group entity at the (regional) group level.

4.4 The certificate holder shall retain information on the certified area

- 4.5** The coverage of the certificate shall be expressed by the area of forests (forest and scrub land) and other forested areas.
- 4.6** The certificate holder shall furnish PEFC Finland with the following for publication:
- a) without delay, notification of the issuing of the certificate, of eventual changes in its validity and the eventual revoking of the certificate
 - b) contact information of the person who responds to inquiries concerning the certificate and to eventual complaints
 - c) annually updated information on the certified area,
 - d) an annual report on the findings of external auditing, including deviations recorded due to non-compliance with the certification requirements.
- 4.7** The requirements of this standard shall apply to all forestry actors whose actions have an effect on meeting the standard requirements within the area covered by the certificate.
- 4.8** Forest certification may be implemented as certification granted to an individual forest owner (*foc*), other group certification (*gc*) or regional group certification (*rc*).
- 4.9** Forest owners/managers (and those applying for group certification or regional group certification and organizations participating in group certification) shall commit themselves to procuring the services affected by the requirements of this standard from businesses that are registered by PEFC Finland.
- 4.10** Only the forest owner / manager that is covered by a PEFC-recognised forest management certificate can make a PEFC claim that the product originates in the certified area.
- NOTE 1: Any other actors, regardless of their possible participation in the forest management certification, can make a PEFC claim on the certified origin of the product only on the basis of a valid chain of custody certificate issued against PEFC ST 2002.
- 4.11** In communication of the origin of the products in the certified area to customers with a PEFC Chain of Custody certificate the forest owner / manager shall use a formal claim "100% PEFC certified" when communicating the origin of products in the certified area. The communication included in delivery documentation associated with the PEFC certified material shall comply with PEFC ST 2002".
- 4.12** If the forest owner / manager supplies products from an area other than the certified area, only products from the certified area are sold with the claim "100% PEFC-certified
- 4.13** The certificate holder shall determine:
- a) affected stakeholders essential for sustainable forestry who are directly impacted, and
 - b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders regarding forest management and use.

5. Leadership

5.1 The organisation shall provide a commitment:

- a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;
- b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system

5.2 This commitment shall be publicly available

5.3 The responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and parties responsible shall be assigned.

6. Planning

6.1 The legality of a felling operation shall be shown and environmental aspects clarified by means of a forest use declaration

6.1.1 In order to meet the statutory obligations and the criteria related to forest certification in connection with fellings, a forest use declaration shall be made concerning the area to be felled; in cases where a forest use declaration is not legally required and has not been made, a specific environmental report¹⁾ shall be made. The forest use declaration may also be used as an environmental report when the Forest Act does not stipulate a forest use declaration.

The felling agreement shall specify the party responsible for making the environmental report in cases where the Forest Act does not require a forest use declaration, or where an environmental report drawn up in connection with a land use plan is not used as environmental report.

The criterion does not apply to fellings for household use.

Indicators

A forest use declaration or a separate environmental report has been made concerning the felling.

Definitions

¹⁾ An environmental report includes an assessment of the effects of the operation on the preservation of the characteristic features of the following:

- conservation areas (point **8.10**)
- forest habitats of special importance (point **8.11**)
- habitats of threatened species (point **8.12**)
- archaeological sites (point **8.20**)
- sites of game preservation, recreation, or other such purpose, set up either by the forest owner's decision or in connection with land use planning

In areas covered by a local master plan, local detailed plan and local detailed shore plan, the environmental report drawn up in connection with the planning is sufficient for meeting the requirement in this criterion.

6.2 The management and use of forests shall be based on the use of up-to-date data on nature and forest resources

6.2.1 To support decision-making, the forest owner shall have at its disposal up-to-date information²⁾ on its holding, as regards forest resources, nature and archaeological sites, as well as an estimate of the felling potential and forest management needs.

(rc) Regional forest planning shall be used to promote the sustainable management and use of forests.

Indicators

(rc) A plan³⁾ describing the condition and use of forests has been drawn up for the region.

For defining the goals of forestry and for planning and implementing forestry operations, the forest owner has at its disposal stand-level data on forest resources and on the measures required in the certified area⁴⁾.

The forest owner has information about the potential for the sustainable use of non-wood forest products⁵⁾ on its holding, other than those gathered on the basis of everyman's rights, when such products are utilized commercially. The requirement applies to commercial gathering by the forest owner and to gathering based on an agreement.

Definitions

²⁾ Data includes:

- stand-level data on growing stock and soil
- stand-level need for forestry operations
- felling potential
- Natura 2000 sites
- forest habitats of special importance defined under **8.11**
- known habitats of threatened species defined under **8.12**
- nature management and environmental subsidy sites funded by the state and permanently protected sites
- archaeological sites in the Ancient Relics Register, for which reliable location data exists.

The accuracy of this information shall be verified every ten years at a minimum.

³⁾ As an example, a regional forest programme is considered an adequate plan.

⁴⁾ The forest resource data and the proposals for measures entered in the metsään.fi system on a holding are considered to meet the requirements.

⁵⁾ Natural products refer to wild or semi-cultivated forest berries and mushrooms, wild plants, mosses and lichens and special natural products such as sap, chaga (*Inonotus obliquus*), resin and spruce sprouts.

6.2.2 A summary of the forestry carried on in forests covered by the certificate and of related plan (excluding confidential, holding-related and personal data) shall be available to the public.

6.3 Statutory requirements shall be complied with

6.3.1 The management and use of forests shall comply with current forest, environmental and labour legislation, as well as related international agreements ratified by Finland. In the province of Åland, however, legislation and official decisions related to Åland shall be observed, to the extent that they are part of Åland's autonomous jurisdiction.

NOTE 1: Essential legislation applicable to forest management is described in Annex 2.

Indicators

Court decisions and official decisions⁶⁾ which find that the activity of a forest owner/manager or forest organization⁷⁾ within a certified area during the validity of the certificate has been in contravention to forest, environmental or labour legislation.

Definitions

⁶⁾ In an appealable decision, a court or a competent authority has found that a forest owner/manager or a forest organization has failed to comply with forest, environmental or labour legislation or related international agreements ratified by Finland.

⁷⁾ Forest organization refers to the Finnish Forest Centre, forest management associations, forest industry companies, Metsähallitus and other organizations committed to forest certification.

6.4 Best practices shall be observed when procuring forestry services

6.4.1 Employers and contract awarders²⁷⁾ shall have paid their taxes and payments related to social security and employment pensions. They shall require that their subcontractors and companies providing temporary agency workers to them shall pay their taxes and payments related to social security and employment pensions, and that they comply with labour and social legislation, collective labour agreements²³⁾ and legislation on the use of foreign labour.

Forest organizations⁷⁾ shall observe good procurement practices when purchasing forestry operations⁸⁾.

Indicators

The purchaser establishes the following⁹⁾:

- a) The purchaser checks the reports required by the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out (1233/2006), always before making an agreement and, depending on the mode of procurement, at least once a year. The obligation to establish matters required by the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out exists when the value of the contract entity exceeds the value¹⁰⁾ set in the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out or the use of temporary agency workers exceeds 10 working days.
- b) In its tender, the tenderer shows that it meets the obligations mentioned in the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out, unless the information is already available to the purchaser or accessible in a database free of charge. If the purchaser has checked the tenderer's meeting the obligations on the basis of the tender, this is considered to meet the requirements of point a), provided that the information, certificates and

reports checked are no more than three months old at the time of making the agreement¹¹⁾.

- c) The purchaser holds documentary proof of having made the checks required by the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out.

Best practices:

- d) The contract awarder has a written tendering procedure which it follows in procurement. The participants of tendering negotiations or tendering competitions are informed about the tendering procedure in advance.
- e) In service procurement, the purchaser shall be prepared for an eventual change of service provider with a sufficient¹²⁾ transition period.
- f) Contracts of a value exceeding the threshold set in the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out are made in writing and archived.
- g) The contract awarder keeps a record of subcontractors from which it has purchased forestry contracting services during the past two years.
- h) Contract awarders notify their subcontractors about known significant interruptions or restrictions in the subcontractor's activity, sufficiently early before the beginning of such.
- i) Agreements¹¹⁾ are not concluded with a service provider whose debts are being restructured or who has applied for debt restructuring, unless certificates and reports furnished by the service provider show that it is capable of meeting the obligations required by the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out.

Terms of agreement:

- j) Agreements on subcontracting or temporary agency work contain the terms mentioned below for the whole length of the subcontracting chain:
 - I. The agreement specifies the collective agreement(s) applicable to the work or task contracted.
 - II. During the life of the agreement, the subcontractor or company providing temporary agency workers presents a report on meeting its obligations to Purchaser, in line with the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out.
 - III. The agreement includes the right to terminate or cancel the agreement if either party fails to furnish an appropriate report on meeting its obligations or if, according to the report, it has failed to meet essential obligations and has not rectified the matter without delay.

Definitions

- ⁸⁾ Forestry operations are considered to include the harvesting of trees and other tasks linked to it, silvicultural operations and forest improvement work.
- ⁹⁾ The documentation that the purchaser is entitled to is as follows:
 - report of the company being entered in the Prepayment Register in accordance with the Prepayment Act (1118/1996), in the Employer Register and in the Value Added Tax Register in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act (1501/1993)
 - extract from the Trade Register
 - certificate of tax paid, or of tax debt with a report of the existence of a tax debt payment plan

- certificates of employment pension insurance and of pension insurance premiums paid, or a report of the existence of a payment plan on outstanding pension insurance premiums
- specification of the collective labour agreement applied for the work, or a description of other essential terms of work.

¹⁰⁾ EUR 9,000 in 2020

¹¹⁾ At the request for tender and agreement stages, the procurement units of the state, municipalities and parishes, as well as other procurement units envisaged in Section 5 of the Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts (1397/2016), comply with the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out (1233/2006) and the Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts in effect at the time in question.

¹²⁾ Sufficient period of transition refers to the period between reaching a negotiation result or determining the results of tendering competitions and the start of the service agreed on. This means that procurement negotiations and tendering competitions shall be organized so as to leave sufficient time for adapting the activity and resources between the closing of negotiations or tendering competitions and the implementing of work defined in the agreement. In contracts spanning more than a year, a sufficient period is considered to be about 2 to 4 months, and in agreements spanning up to one year, about 1 to 2 months before the expiry of the agreement. During the transition period, contracted work continues normally. The periods indicated cannot be considered absolute, since situations vary.

6.5 The preconditions of Sámi culture and traditional Sámi livelihoods shall be safeguarded within the Sámi homeland in line with the Sámi definition of sustainable development

6.5.1 Within the Sámi homeland, areas and natural resources under state administration shall be managed and used so as to safeguard the preconditions for carrying on the traditional Sámi livelihoods and the Sámi culture¹³⁾.

Indicators

The implementation of international law, Article 8(j)¹⁴⁾ of the Biodiversity Convention and the rights of the Sámi listed in the Constitution of Finland, as well as the participation in the preparation and decision-making on matters of the Sámi Parliament and, in the Skolt area, of the Skolt Council are monitored in connection of the use of state forests.

The measures and need for cooperation required by traditional reindeer husbandry as part of the Sámi culture are defined in an agreement on the cooperation procedures and harmonization of reindeer husbandry and the activity of Metsähallitus, concluded between the reindeer herding cooperatives active in the Sámi homeland, the Sámi Parliament, the Skolt Council and Metsähallitus.

The cooperation complies with the following: the above agreement as of its coming into force, the sections dealing with the harmonization of forestry and Sámi culture in Metsähallitus' natural resource plans, as well as Chapter 5 (Promoting non-discrimination in activity concerning the Sámi and the Sámi homeland) in Metsähallitus' Equality and Non-Discrimination Plan¹⁵⁾.

Definitions

- ¹³⁾ The Sámi homeland refers to the areas of the Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki municipalities and the area of the Lapland Reindeer Herding Cooperative in the Sodankylä municipality (Act on the Sámi Parliament [974/1995], Section 4). The Skolt area refers to the area defined in Section 2 of the Act on the Skolt (253/1995). Traditional Sámi livelihoods are reindeer husbandry, fishing, hunting, gathering and Sámi handicrafts, as well as their modern forms (Government Proposal 309/1993, initiated). In addition to traditional Sámi livelihoods, the concept of Sámi culture encompasses, among other things, the Sámi languages, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, cultural expression and interaction with nature. This criterion applies to the state lands within the Sámi homeland.
- ¹⁴⁾ Article 8(j) of the Biodiversity Convention: *"In conformity to the national legislation respects, protects and maintains such knowledge, inventions and practices of indigenous people and local communities that in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are part of significant traditional ways of living. It also promotes and widens the application of such knowledge, inventions and practices in cooperation with the societies referred to, as well as encourages the fair distribution of benefits gained from them."*
- ¹⁵⁾ With each reindeer herding cooperative, Metsähallitus complies with the agreement to which the cooperative is a party. If a reindeer herding cooperative resigns from all agreements, Metsähallitus complies with the provisions in the Reindeer Husbandry Act, Metsähallitus' Environmental Guide, the natural resource plans and the Equality and Non-Discrimination Plan.

6.6 Conditions for a safe and high-quality performance of work shall be safeguarded

6.6.1 Conditions for a safe and high-quality performance of work shall be created for contractors and employees, as well as a work environment promoting well-being at work and non-discrimination.

Indicators

The employer and the contract awardee²⁷⁾ have in place a procedure to ensure that the work to be carried out shall not jeopardize the safety and health of contractors/employees.

The contractors/employees have at their disposal general occupational safety guidelines.

In its activity, the employer recognizes and takes into account risk factors and hazards caused by the work, work conditions and working hours¹⁶⁾ and the stress caused by travel. If the above factors cannot be completely eliminated, measures to bring the risk down to a manageable level are implemented.

The employer has organized statutory occupational health care¹⁷⁾.

The employer regularly, at least every year, organizes activity to maintain work ability, adapted to the local conditions.

Employers regularly employing a minimum¹⁸⁾ of 30 persons, shall each year, in collaboration with employee representatives, draw up an equality plan, particularly addressing pay schedules and other employment conditions, in line with statutory requirements¹⁹⁾.

The above indicators may be considered to be met if they are dealt with in the organization's action plan on occupational safety or in its human resources and training plan.

The contractors/employees have been informed of factors or terrain areas which may jeopardize occupational safety during work or on site.

Instructions related to the work are given in a language understood by the contractors/employees²⁰⁾.

When needed in matters related to work, the employees have access to a person who speaks and understands a common language and can act as interpreter.

The contractors/employees have at their disposal general instructions needed for the work.

The contractors/employees have received site-specific working instructions and maps showing the site boundaries and requirements on quality, environment, occupational safety and the like²¹⁾. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the purchaser⁴⁹⁾ makes sure that ambiguous boundaries of operations or the site and natural sites of special importance that are difficult to discern are marked in the terrain.

Definitions

¹⁶⁾ Identifying risk factors and hazards caused by working hours is based on the Occupational Safety and Health Act (738/2002, Section 10).

¹⁷⁾ Occupational Health Care Act (1383/2001)

¹⁸⁾ Number of persons employed on 31 December

¹⁹⁾ Act on Equality between Women and Men (609/1986)

²⁰⁾ In case the employer or contract awarder is a public body as defined in Section 3 of the Language Act (423/2003), the Language Act shall also be observed, as well as the Sámi Language Act (1086/2003) in the Sámi Homeland.

²¹⁾ Other requirement refers to, for example, the removal of canopy biomass from recreation trails on which there exists an agreement between the landowner and the party maintaining the trail.

6.7 Employer obligations shall be complied with

6.7.1 Employers and contract awarders²⁷⁾ shall comply with labour and social legislation²²⁾, collective agreements²³⁾ and legislation on the use of foreign labour.

Employers and contract awarders shall provide employee representatives at each workplace with the information required by the Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out²⁴⁾.

Indicators

The employer knows the obligations concerning its activity included in collective agreements, employment contracts, labour and social legislation and, where applicable, legislation on the use of foreign labour, and the employer has in place a procedure to ensure compliance with the legislation in effect.

Employers conclude employment contracts in writing and archive them.

The recording of actual hours worked of employees covered by the Working Time Act is arranged and remuneration based on hours worked, pay supplements and overtime is paid in the manner set out in the Working Time Act or collective agreements²⁵⁾.

Statements are requested from employee organizations on infringements in the area against collective agreements and the legislation mentioned above.

At the start of work, the employer or purchaser⁴⁹⁾ ensures that a foreign operator or employee carrying out the work as a contractual partner has been informed of their rights and obligations with regard to working in Finland²⁶⁾.

Definitions

²²⁾ Legislation refers to Finnish legislation.

²³⁾ Collective agreements refer to collective labour agreements in force in Finland.

²⁴⁾ Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out (1233/2006)

²⁵⁾ According to Section 32 of the Working Time Act (872/2019), the employer shall record the hours worked and the remuneration paid per each employee. Section 2 of the Working Time Act lists groups to which the Act does not apply. With a collective agreement or a local agreement it is possible to agree on derogations from provisions related to working hours, within the limits specified in Sections 34–36 of the Working Time Act.

²⁶⁾ The requirement may be met, for example, by giving or making known to the worker the guide "Work in Finland" at www.te-palvelut.fi. The foreign language versions available are: Swedish, English, Estonian, Spanish and Polish.

7. Support

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 The certificate holder shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.

7.2 The competence of employees shall be ensured

7.2.1 The sufficient professional and vocational skills of employees shall be ensured.

Indicators

The employer and contract awarder²⁷⁾ have proof of having ensured that those carrying out the work have sufficient skills for each task allocated to them.

The employer has proof of having ensured the maintenance of professional and vocational competence²⁸⁾ and of developing them as necessary during the employment relationship.

Definitions

²⁷⁾ Depending on the case, employer and contract awarder refer to an employer registered in the Employer Register, the manager of a tree harvesting site or the subcontract awarder. Information on employers registered in the Employer Register is available from the Business Information System (YTJ).

²⁸⁾ Professional and vocational competence may be acquired through either professional and vocational education or work experience.

7.3 The quality of forestry operations shall be ensured

7.3.1 Actors²⁹⁾ offering forest services to forest owners shall employ quality monitoring³⁰⁾ to manage quality of work in work related to forest regeneration and tending of young stands³¹⁾.

Indicators

(*rc + gc*) Actors offering silvicultural operations use quality monitoring for quality assurance in forestry work.

Agreements between forest owners and providers of forest services include the requirement that the provider shall use quality monitoring to ensure quality of work.

Definitions

²⁹⁾ Actors refer to businesses offering forest services to forest owners, such as forest management associations, forest companies and forest services entrepreneurs.

³⁰⁾ Quality monitoring of work refers to a documented procedure to show the quality of work carried out in comparison to the requirements set. Quality monitoring may be done by the party carrying out the work or by a third party.

³¹⁾ Silvicultural operations include the following: soil preparation, sowing, planting, and early tending and thinning of young stands.

7.4 The know-how of forest owners shall be comprehensively furthered

7.4.1 The number of persons participating annually in further training or in personal or group guidance for forest owners in group certification shall be no less than 20% of the number of forest owners in the region³²⁾.

The criterion shall only apply to regional group certification.

Indicators

Statistics kept in the region by the Finnish Forest Centre, forest management associations, forest industry companies and establishments of forestry education, as well as by organizations committed to forest certification, on training and education events organized by them for forest owners in the region and on personal³³⁾ and group guidance³⁴⁾. The statistics shall show the number of participants in training and extension³⁵⁾.

Topics discussed in training may include, among others, financially profitable timber production and harvesting, forest ecology and nature management in commercial forests, methods of silviculture, forestry on mires, hydrology and climate issues and forests, multiple use of forests, natural products, game management, forest-related cultural heritage, self-employed silvicultural operations, everyman's rights and PEFC forest certification.

Definitions

³²⁾ The number of forest owners is calculated on the basis of the number of forest owners participating in group certification.

³³⁾ Personal guidance includes, among others, field visits with a forest professional, other corresponding visits to a holding, on-line consultation, planning forestry operations with a professional, guidance by a professional on carrying out forestry operations and on utilizing other forest products.

³⁴⁾ Group guidance refers to courses, on-line courses, forest excursions and forestry work demonstrations arranged for forest owners by the parties listed in the indicator.

³⁵⁾ Participants in training/extension are considered to include forest owners and other persons who participate in managing forest matters on the holding.

7.5 Communication

7.5.1 The certificate holder shall manage the communication and consultation required by the certification with local communities and other stakeholders.

7.6 Complaints resolution

7.6.1 The certificate holder shall establish a complaints and appeal resolution mechanism dealing with complaints and appeals relating to the implementation of sustainable forest management (PEFC FI 1002).

The certificate holder shall provide accessible contact point for the complaints and appeals.

Having received a complaint concerning the certificate, the holder shall:

- a) acknowledge the received complaint/appeal to the complainant/appellant;
- b) gather and verify all necessary information, validate and impartially evaluate the complaint/appeal and make decision on the complaint/appeal;
- c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint/appeal and the complaint/appeal handling process to the complainant/appellant and concerned parties;
- d) ensure appropriate corrective and preventive action.

7.7 Documented information

7.7.1 Certificate holder's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.

7.7.2 The documented information shall be relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.

8. Operation

8.1 The tree stock in a forest shall be maintained as a carbon sink

8.1.1 (rc) The drain on growing stock³⁶⁾ shall not exceed the increment during the five-year period preceding the audit³⁷⁾. The drain on growing stock during the five-year period may exceed increment owing to a natural disaster or in order to prevent a natural disaster. The criterion shall be applied when the area certified is at least 700,000 ha.

(gc + foc) The quantity and quality of forest resources shall be safeguarded by ensuring forest regeneration in connection with regeneration fellings.

Indicators

(rc) The drain on growing stock for the five-year period is compared with the growth calculated for the area on the basis of the National Forest Inventory³⁸⁾.

(gc + foc) Court decisions and official decisions⁶⁾ which find that the forest owner/manager has neglected the obligation to regenerate the forest.

Definitions

³⁶⁾ The drain on growing stock includes removals, the stemwood remaining in the forest as residue, and naturally died wood left unused in the forest (natural drain).

The drain on growing stock is calculated on the basis of statistics by Natural Resources Institute Finland.

³⁷⁾ During the corresponding period more carbon is bound in the trees (stemwood) than is removed by stemwood harvesting. During a given period, the trees in a forest will remain a carbon sink when tree growth exceeds the drain on growing stock.

³⁸⁾ National Forest Inventory carried out by Natural Resources Institute Finland

8.2 Energy wood shall be harvested sustainably

8.2.1 When removing canopy biomass and stumps from felling sites, the methods used shall take into account the wood production capacity and biodiversity of the felling site and aspects related to water protection. Other requirements in the standard shall also be observed when harvesting energy wood.

Biomass to be left on regeneration felling sites:

- about 30% of canopy biomass³⁹⁾, as evenly as possible
- retention stumps⁴⁰⁾, at least 25/ha, on clay and silt soils at least 50/ha
- in addition, all stumps remaining from previous fellings and stumps less than 15 cm in diameter

All conifer stumps may be harvested on sites infested by *Heterobasidion*.

In harvesting energy wood, the following criteria shall be used in site selection:

- a) sites suitable for canopy biomass removal from regeneration sites:
 - barren forest heaths and more fertile mineral soils and corresponding peatlands
- b) sites suitable for stump removal from regeneration sites:
 - barren forest heaths and more fertile mineral soils and corresponding peatlands
 - if the regeneration site contains *Heterobasidion annosum*: all moorland sites, excluding nutrient-poor heathland forests
- c) sites suitable for harvesting whole trees in intermediate fellings:
 - barren forest heaths and more fertile mineral soils and corresponding peatlands. However, if the share of spruce of stem count before thinning exceeds 75%, whole trees shall not be harvested.
- d) in spruce stands with a boron deficiency, canopy biomass or whole trees may be removed, if the nutrient balance in the stand is ensured with boron fertilization.

The requirements of sparing biomass shall not apply to lands with a local master or a local detailed plan where the Forest Act is not applied.

Indicators

The harvesting of energy wood on the site is considered to meet the criterion when the share of sites estimated as excellent or good in relation to the above evaluation criteria (selection of sites harvested, minimum volume of biomass left on regeneration sites) of the area harvested is at least 90%, according to monitoring results⁴¹⁾.

Definitions

³⁹⁾ Canopy biomass consists of tree crowns, branches, needles and leaves. The purchaser²¹⁾ has in place guidelines for implementing the requirement on leaving canopy biomass.

⁴⁰⁾ Retention stumps consist of stumps left in the most recent felling with a minimum diameter of 15 cm.

⁴¹⁾ Monitoring may consist of self-monitoring by the certificate holder or the operator or, for example, of the monitoring of nature management quality implemented by the Finnish Forest Centre.

8.3 Non-wood forest products shall be utilized sustainably

8.3.1 The utilization of non-wood forest products⁵⁾ shall take into account the vitality of species in the area, product safety, the sustainability of forestry, and local communities. Gathering shall not jeopardize habitats important for biodiversity⁴²⁾, and protected or threatened plant species⁴³⁾ shall not be gathered.

(rc) The planning of forest management and use shall promote in a diversified way the products and services provided by forests.

Indicators

Actors carrying on the commercial utilization of non-wood forest products have in place guidelines appropriate for the sustainable utilization of natural products, based on best practices assembled jointly by actors in the sector⁴⁴⁾.

(rc) The utilization of non-wood forest products is dealt with in the plan on the condition and use of forests³⁾ drawn up for the region.

Definitions

⁴²⁾ Habitats refer to habitats specified under points **8.10** and **8.11**.

⁴³⁾ Protected, threatened and endangered plant species refer to species listed in the Government Decree on Nature Conservation and its annexes (160/1997), in the Red List of Finnish Species 2019 and in the CITES Convention (44-45/1976).

⁴⁴⁾ Best practices related to the sustainable utilization of non-wood forest products refer to the general and species-specific guidelines presented in the following publications:

- Seija Niemi, 2012: Opas luonnonkasvien ja erikoisluonnontuotteiden kestävään talteenottoon. Lapin ammattikorkeakoulu
- Simo Moisio (toim.), 2016: Luonnonyrttiopas. Hyvän käytännön ohjeet luonnonyrttialalle. Opetushallitus
- Heli Pirinen (toim.), 2018: Luonnontuoteopas. Opetushallitus
- Seija Niemi & Marjut Turtiainen, 2019. Luonnontuotteista metsänomistajille. Lapin AMK:n julkaisuja.

8.4 Sites of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services shall be safeguarded during the clearing of forests and afforestation

8.4.1 The standard requires that the clearing of forests for other types of land use

- shall be carried out in such a way that the implementing of legally valid land use plans and zoning plans approved through procedures stipulated in the Land Use and Building Act shall not be jeopardized:
- shall not jeopardize sites of special importance for biodiversity defined under points **8.10**, **8.11** and **8.16**. An exception to this prohibition may be granted if the change is based on a permit from authorities and an approved land use plan.
- shall not jeopardize the preservation of archaeological sites defined under point 8.21.

The clearing of forests for other land use shall only affect a maximum of 5% of the forest area covered by the certificate during the validity of the certificate.

On afforestation and the establishment of tree plantations, the standard requires that

- this shall be implemented in such a way that the implementing of legally valid land use plans and zoning plans approved through procedures stipulated in the Land Use and Building Act shall not be jeopardized.
- on national landscape management sites established by the Ministry for the Environment and regional landscape management sites established by the ELY centres, the operation shall comply with the management and use plan of each site.
- on sites included in the Natura 2000 network, the operation shall be implemented so as not to jeopardize the conservation values on the basis of which the site is protected.
- the preservation of archaeological sites defined under criterion 30 shall not be jeopardized.

As regards sites outside forests mentioned in the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996):

- habitat types under Section 29, which a nature conservation authority has defined in a decision according to Section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act and of which it has notified the landowner;
- occurrences of strictly protected species under Section 47, which a nature conservation authority has defined and notified the site owner about;
- breeding sites and resting places of species under Section 49 of the Nature Conservation Act and Annex 5 of the Government Decree on Nature Conservation

shall not be afforested or taken into use as tree plantations

Traditional biotopes of special national and regional importance, recognized in the national inventory of traditional biotopes, which the landowner has been notified about, shall not be afforested or taken into use as tree plantations.

Peatlands in their natural state shall not be afforested or taken into use as tree plantations.

8.5 Tree health shall be looked after

8.5.1 The spreading of *Heterobasidion parviporum* and *Heterobasidion annosum* shall be prevented during harvesting. Methods of controlling *Heterobasidion* shall be safe for users and the environment⁴⁵⁾.

During harvesting, damage to the remaining trees and terrain which would deteriorate the growing conditions shall be avoided.

In storing timber, insect damage shall be prevented.

Action to prevent damage by game animals shall be taken.

Indicators

In controlling *Heterobasidion* and storing timber, the Forest Damages Prevention Act (1087/2013) is complied with. The competent authority has not issued a decision giving notice of a conditional fine or enforced compliance in line with Section 24 of the Act, nor judgments in line with Section 25, related to violations against the provisions of the Forest Damages Prevention Act.

The maximum average share of trees damaged during intermediate felling is 5% of the remaining trees with growing potential. In regeneration fellings on mineral soils⁴⁶⁾, the maximum average share of skidding track rut caused by forest machinery is 5% of the track length. The percentages of track ruts and damaged trees are calculated annually as a moving average of the results of inspections of harvesting traces over the preceding five years.^{47), 48)}

The purchaser⁴⁹⁾ has in place recommendations for the pre-harvest clearing of undergrowth that hinders the harvesting and increases the risk of tree damage. Forest organizations⁷⁾ and hunting organizations⁵⁰⁾ cooperate to prevent damage by game animals.

Definitions

- ⁴⁵⁾ Methods safe for users and the environment are the treatment of conifer stumps with a solution of either *Phlebiopsis gigantea* or urea.
- ⁴⁶⁾ Harvesting sites are classified as being on either mineral or peat soils. A growing site is classified as mineral soil if the thickness of the peat layer is less than 30 cm.
- ⁴⁷⁾ Intermediate felling, damaged tree, tree with growing potential and track depression and other terminology used in measuring harvesting traces are defined in the Forest Act (1092/1996) and the Government Decree on the Sustainable Management and Use of Forests (1308/2013). The method of inspecting harvesting traces is comparable to the guidelines for terrain inspections maintained by the Finnish Forest Centre.
- ⁴⁸⁾ Inspections of harvesting traces generate separate percentages of tree damage and track depressions for the intermediate fellings of even- and uneven-aged forests. The percentages of tree damage and track depressions referred to in the criterion are calculated annually as the average of fellings of even- and uneven-aged forests in the certified area, weighted with the total surface areas.
- ⁴⁹⁾ Purchaser refers to a natural or legal person who, as the purchaser of contracted serviced and commissioner of the work, concludes the work contract and to whom the result is handed over.
- ⁵⁰⁾ Hunting organizations refer to game management associations, the Finnish Wildlife Agency and the Finnish Hunters' Association.

8.6 Tending of young stands shall be timely

8.6.1 (rc + gc) A minimum of 60% of the annual need for young stand tending⁵¹⁾ in the certified area shall be completed annually.

(foc) A minimum of 60% of the requirement for young stand tending⁵²⁾ in the owner's forests for the 5-year period shall be completed.

Indicators

(rc) The volumes of work in tending young stands⁵³⁾ in the statistics kept by Natural Resources Institute Finland are compared with, for example, the requirement for tending young stands⁵¹⁾ estimated for a corresponding area in the National Forest Inventory (NFI).

(gc + foc) The volumes of work in tending young stands⁵³⁾ are monitored annually, and the outcome is compared with measures proposed⁵²⁾ on the basis of forest resource data.

(foc) The outcome is estimated as a moving average over five years.

Definitions

- ⁵¹⁾ In regional group certification, the need for tending young stands refers to the proposed area of young stand tending estimated for the area in, for example, NFI and valid at the beginning of the certification period (young stands requiring tending during the following 5-year period).

⁵²⁾ The need for tending young stands includes the forest compartments which are marked for tending in the forest resource data (to be implemented during the next 5-year period).

⁵³⁾ The tending of young stands includes the following tasks: Early pre-commercial thinning and pre-commercial thinning of young stands.

8.7 Tree species native to Finland shall be used in forest regeneration

8.7.1 Tree species⁵⁴⁾ native to Finland shall be used in forest regeneration, except in special cases⁵⁵⁾.

Indicators

An annual summary is drawn up of the total area regenerated with species not native to Finland.

Definitions

⁵⁴⁾ *Larix sibirica* is considered a species native to Finland.

⁵⁵⁾ Special cases include, for example, the establishing of parks and urban forests, the cultivation of Christmas trees and production of conifer greenery, stands and trees planted for landscape management or for the maintenance of a cultural landscape, and the cultivation of hybrid aspen.

8.8 No waste or litter shall be left in forests as a result of forestry operations

8.8.1 In connection with forestry operations, no plastic or metal waste or hazardous waste⁵⁶⁾ shall be left in forests.

Indicators

Litter or waste from forestry operations is not found in site inspections.

(rc) The general guidelines of forest organizations⁷⁾ and organizations managing the gathering of non-wood forest products include instructions on the appropriate handling of waste.

Definitions

⁵⁶⁾ Hazardous waste refers to waste grades identified in Annex 4 of the Government Decree on Waste (179/2012).

8.9 Plant protection products shall be used responsibly

8.9.1 Only approved⁵⁷⁾ plant protection products shall be used in forest management and harvesting.

On regeneration sites and young stands, broadleaf shoots shall not be treated with chemical foliage sprays, except for the purpose of controlling the fungal disease spread through aspen shoots in young stands of Scots pine.

Chemical plant protection products shall not be used on habitats of special importance referred to under point **8.11**.

Plant protection products shall only be used if indispensable. Such cases may include the following: control of ground vegetation which hampers seedlings on regeneration sites, control of the large pine weevil, prevention of damage by Cervidae, prevention of introduced species, and treatment of softwood timber storages in forests or their immediate vicinity to prevent the spread of insect damage.

The use of plant protection products to prevent the spread of *Heterobasidion* shall be permitted on stumps in areas other than the habitats of special importance referred to under point **8.11**.

Indicators

(rc) Recommendations for the use of plant protection products during forest management operations is included in the work instructions and recommendations of forest organizations⁷⁾, and their use is documented.

The forest owner has at its disposal the instructions for use of the plant protection products used.

Information needed when gathering organic products⁵⁸⁾ on the use of fertilizers and plant protection products is available, as regards public information⁵⁹⁾, through authorities and where needed for holdings that have concluded an agreement on complying with guidelines of organic production with the forest owner or its authorized representative.

Definitions

⁵⁷⁾ Plant protection products entering the market are approved and registered by the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes). The biodegradability of the products is assessed in connection with the approval, and only products with an acceptable degree of biodegradability are available on the market. Approved plant protection products are listed in the Tukes Plant Protection Product Register.

⁵⁸⁾ Necessary information refers to the location data of sites where the use of fertilizers and soil improvement agents not mentioned in Annex 1 of EEC Regulation 889/2008 and the use of pesticides mentioned in Annex 2 may have occurred. As regards forestry operations, this refers to the location data of sites where forest fertilizers or pesticides have been used. For private forests, the information is provided by the forest owner or a party authorized by them, or the Finnish Forest Centre; for other forests, by the forest owner/manager or other actor approved by the unit responsible for the control of gathering organic products at the Finnish Food Authority.

⁵⁹⁾ Public information refers to location data of remedial fertilization sites in private forests funded by the state on the basis of the Act on the Funding of Sustainable Forestry (34/2015). Here, authorities refer to, for example, the Finnish Forest Centre and the ELY centres or actors authorized by these.

8.10 The conservation values of protected areas shall be safeguarded

8.10.1 The conservation values of protected areas⁶⁰⁾ or sites in the Natura 2000 network shall not be deteriorated by forestry measures.

Indicators

(rc) The location data of conservation areas and sites in the Natura 2000 network is known to the forest authority, the forest organizations active in the region and other actors committed to forest certification.

The location data of conservation areas and sites in the Natura 2000 network in a forest owner's forest is known to the forest owner.

Regional environmental authorities have not discovered deterioration of conservation values caused on conservation areas by forestry operations on or outside conservation areas.

Regional environmental authorities have not discovered deterioration of conservation values due to forestry operations on Natura 2000 sites. Forestry operations on Natura 2000 sites are subject to the Act under which the site was established. In

addition, the use and management plan jointly drawn up by the environmental authority and the landowner, or a corresponding document, is complied with.

Definitions

⁶⁰⁾ The conservation areas referred to in the criterion consist of nature conservation areas established on the basis of the Nature Conservation Act.

8.11 The characteristic features of habitats of special importance shall be preserved

8.11.1 Operations of forest management and use shall be planned and implemented as follows:

- a) Habitat types protected under Section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996), which have been defined in accordance with Section 30 in a decision by a nature conservation authority and which the land owner or manager has been notified of, shall not be altered so as to jeopardize the preservation of their characteristic features on the site in question.
- b) Measures to manage and use habitats in their natural state or semi-natural state and clearly discernible from their environment and of special importance, as defined in Section 10 of the Forest Act (1093/1996), shall be carried out so as to preserve and reinforce the characteristic features of the habitats. Additionally, measures permitted by the forest authority on the basis of Section 11 of the Forest Act shall be allowed on such sites.
- c) Jeopardizing the natural state of aquatic habitat types⁶¹⁾ referred to in Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Water Act (587/2011) shall be prohibited, excluding cases where the competent authority has granted an exception in line with Paragraph 2.
- d) In addition, the operations shall conserve the characteristic features of the biodiversity of habitats of special conservation value listed below. The principal characteristic features of the habitats shall be in their natural state or resembling natural state, clearly discernible in the terrain and identifiable.

The habitats of special conservation value, the principal characteristic features to be conserved and the methods of conservation under point d) are:

1. Kettle holes and sunny eskers with naturally absent or sparse tree cover

The minimum depth of kettle holes referred to in the criterion is 10 m, and their bottom has a clearly recognizable, cellar-like microclimate. The most important characteristic feature to be conserved is the clearly identifiable vegetation created by the microclimate, which shall be conserved by limiting the felling to the top section of the kettle walls. The sunny eskers with naturally absent or sparse tree cover referred to in the criterion are situated on esker slopes facing south-east, south, south-west and west. The principal characteristic feature to be conserved is the heat-seeking range of species, which shall be conserved by excluding the site from afforestation.

2. Undrained hardwood-spruce swamp

The habitats referred to in the criterion include undrained⁶²⁾ swamps not defined as habitats of special importance under Section 10 of the Forest Act and whose tree stock resembles natural state and has an uneven age structure or in which the minimum volume of deadwood is 20 m³/ha. On sites less than 0.5 ha in size the minimum volume of deadwood is 10 m³. The principal characteristic features to be conserved in swamps are the aged tree stock, the deadwood and the high level of groundwater, which shall be

maintained by abstaining from draining. Intermediate fellings and removing individual trees shall be allowed, provided that the principal characteristic features of the swamp are conserved.

3. Undrained eutrophic fens and grassy sedge fens

The characteristic features to be conserved on undrained eutrophic fens and grassy sedge fens are the alternation of flark and hummock formations and the high nutrient content of the peat. These shall be maintained by not draining eutrophic fens and grassy sedge fens and excluding them from forestry operations.

4. Broadleaf-dominated herb-rich forests

The principal characteristic feature to be conserved in herb-rich forests past the sapling stage, referred to in the criterion, is the broadleaf-dominated⁶³⁾ stock consisting of several species. In intermediate fellings the dominance of broadleaves shall be maintained and trees valuable for biodiversity shall be spared.

5. Old-growth forests

Old-growth forest refers to forests meeting the following requirements:

- I. The age of the dominant tree stock is over 160 years in Southern Finland and over 200 years⁶⁴⁾ in Northern Finland.
- II. The tree stock is uneven-aged or consists of several canopy layers and species, or of a spruce stand at a late succession stage.
- III. Selection felling, intermediate felling or opening up of the stands have not been carried out in 60 years. Previous selection or intermediate fellings or opening up operations have not changed the natural structural characteristics of the forest, and the maximum number of stumps left in fellings is 20/ha.
- IV. The tree stock includes aged broadleaves and also standing and fallen deadwood and barkless standing trees, the combined minimum volume of which is 15% in Southern Finland and 20% in Northern Finland.

The characteristic features of the site shall be conserved by excluding the stand from forestry operations.

6. Alluvial forests and flood meadows in their natural state

Alluvial forests and flood meadows referred to in the criterion are characterized by an annual cycle of flooding. The most important special characteristic of alluvial forests on mineral soils and flood meadows on peatlands, created by the natural flooding of the sea, lakes, rivers and brooks and the variation of surface water levels is the natural variation in the level of surface waters, which shall be conserved by leaving the sites undrained. Intermediate or shelterwood fellings may be carried out or individual trees removed, while preserving existing deadwood.

If the surface area of the habitats of special importance specified in this point **8.11.1** exceeds 5% of the forest and scrub land owned by the forest owner and covered by the certification, the share above this limit of the sites under d), excluding old-growth forests under 5, may be excluded from the restrictions listed above.

Indicators

Preserving habitats of special importance during forestry operations:

- a) Court decisions on cases where the preservation of the characteristic features of sites in line with Section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act has been jeopardized.
- b) Court decisions on cases where the characteristic features of habitats of special importance as defined in Section 10 of the Forest Act have not been preserved.
- c) Court decisions on cases where the natural state of aquatic habitat types in their natural state in line with Chapter 2, Section 11 of the Water Act (587/2011) has been jeopardized.

Under points a), b) and c), the characteristic features have not been preserved in the manner envisaged in the criterion if the Nature Conservation, Water or Forest Acts have been violated against through intentional or negligent action.

The habitats of special importance for nature conservation described under point d) have been preserved or almost preserved as shown by monitoring results⁴¹⁾.

"Almost preserved" means that the principal characteristic features which are to be preserved on habitats listed under point d) have been preserved across more than 90% of the total surface area of the sites.

Definitions

- ⁶¹⁾ Jeopardizing the natural state of a natural-state coastal lagoon (flada) of more than 10 ha in size, a lake created by land uplift (kluuvijärvi) or a spring, or of a streamlet or a pond or lake of a maximum size of 1 ha outside the province of Lapland is prohibited.
- ⁶²⁾ Mires referred to in the criterion consist of undrained spruce mires and drained spruce mires where the draining is no longer effective.
- ⁶³⁾ A herb-rich forest is broadleaf-dominated when the share of broadleaves out of the stand volume is over 50%.
- ⁶⁴⁾ Northern Finland includes the areas covered by the regional units of Kainuu, Northern Ostrobothnia and Lapland of the Finnish Forest Centre; Southern Finland includes the areas covered by the Centre's other regional units.

8.12 The known habitats of threatened species shall be safeguarded

8.12.1 During forestry operations, the following shall be safeguarded:

- a) known habitats of strictly protected⁶⁵⁾ species which have been defined by the local ELY centre and which it has notified the site owner and/or manager about;
- b) breeding sites and resting places of animal species mentioned in Annex IV (a) of the Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna⁶⁶⁾;
- c) known habitats of other threatened species⁶⁵⁾ in accordance with the operation model Protecting Threatened Species in Forestry⁶⁷⁾.

Indicators

(rc) Forest organizations⁷⁾ have adopted the operation model⁶⁷⁾ jointly drawn up by the forest and environmental administrations on the use of occurrence data of threatened species.

Habitats of strictly protected species which the ELY centre has defined and which it has notified the site landowner or manager about in line with Section 47 of the Nature Conservation Act, and an instruction or recommendation⁶⁸⁾ of whose treatment has been handed to the site owner/manager.

Breeding sites and resting places of species listed in Section 49 of the Nature Conservation Act and in Annex 5 of the Government Decree on Nature Conservation.

Habitats of other threatened species that the forest owner has been notified about in line with the operation model Protecting Threatened Species in Forestry.

Definitions

⁶⁵⁾ The list of strictly protected species and other threatened species is found in Annex 4 of the Government Decree amending the Government Decree on Nature Conservation (913/2005).

⁶⁶⁾ The animal species found in Finland and listed in Annex IV(a) of the Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna are listed in Annex 5 of the Government Decree on Nature Conservation.

⁶⁷⁾ Operation model refers to the operation model Protecting Threatened Species in Forestry, drawn up and updated jointly by actors in the forest and environmental sectors.

⁶⁸⁾ A site-specific treatment guideline, which the regional environmental authority has issued to the site owner and/or manager.

8.13 The biodiversity of forest species shall be promoted with prescribed burning

8.13.1 The habitats of species dependent on forest fires and fire-damaged wood shall be maintained and increased through prescribed burning as part of forest and nature management.

The criterion shall not be applied in the province of Åland or if the total area of certified forestry land is below 200,000 ha.

Indicators

The minimum annual number of prescribed burnings⁶⁹⁾ in the area is 1 burning/year/200,000 ha⁷⁰⁾.

If weather conditions in the area have been exceptionally unfavourable for prescribed burning, this is taken into account when assessing the implementation of prescribed burning.

Definitions

⁶⁹⁾ The number of prescribed burnings includes restoration burning on conservation areas, burning of sunny eskers and retention tree groups, burning of regeneration sites, slash-and-burn operations and forest fires over 2 ha in extent. On forest fire sites, a minimum of 20 stems/ha of carbonised and burnt wood is left according to point **8.14**, whenever it is available on site.

⁷⁰⁾ The number of hectares is determined according to the area of certified forestry land.

8.14 In forestry operations, living retention trees and deadwood shall be left and a variety of tree species and thickets shall be spared

8.14.1 To safeguard the biodiversity of forest nature, both live retention trees⁷¹⁾ and dead trees⁷²⁾ shall be permanently left on site in intermediate and regeneration fellings and in harvesting energy wood.

Biodiversity and forest species shall be safeguarded by retaining a mix of species and thickets.

Indicators

The average minimum number of retention trees left permanently in fellings is 10/ha and the minimum average number of dead trees is 10/ha. A tree freshly damaged in a forest disaster may be included as follows: the combined minimum number of damaged, live and dead trees to be retained shall be 20/ha. Retention trees may be grouped within a stand marked for felling, which may consist of several separate compartments⁷³⁾. If a marked stand does not contain enough deadwood, a minimum of 2–5 high stumps⁷⁴⁾ per ha shall be left, especially of broadleaves. To safeguard a diversity of species and the living conditions of game, at all stages of forestry thickets⁷⁵⁾ and a mix of tree species⁷⁶⁾ is spared when they occur naturally in the compartment and a mix of species does not jeopardize the growth of the species cultivated.

Definitions

⁷¹⁾ Retention trees are live trees of species native to Finland.

Trees to be left as retention trees include:

- all nesting trees of birds of prey
- all large junipers
- all old trees with fire wounds
- stout individuals of previous generations
- trees of an unusual shape
- valuable broadleaves
- large aspens
- tree-size goat willows, bird cherries and rowans
- black alders
- trees with hollows
- trees on which capercaillie are known to feed

In the absence of the above, the retention trees selected shall be useful for biodiversity, have a minimum diameter of 15 cm at chest height, and have a good potential to develop into old trees.

It is recommended that retention trees are primarily left in groups and in the immediate vicinity of habitats of special importance listed under **8.11**, on buffer zones left on the edges of open mires mentioned in **8.16** and on the buffer zones of waterways and small bodies of water referred to in **8.17**. Trees left on buffer zones referred to in **8.16** and **8.17** are calculated as retention trees when they meet the diameter required for retention trees.

The soil surface under groups of retention trees is not broken and the undergrowth is not cleared.

Because of safety risks, retention trees are not left in the immediate vicinity of important structures, such as traffic lanes or electricity and telecommunications lines, or on archaeological sites.

⁷²⁾ Dead wood refers to barkless trees and other standing dead trees of a minimum thickness of 20 cm at chest height, and high stumps and fallen trees. Decayed wood does not refer to barkless trees left standing for commercial purposes, or to dead conifers if not harvesting them would violate the Forest Damages Prevention Act (1087/2013).

⁷³⁾ Stand marked for felling refers to a forest area owned by one forest owner and defined or marked for harvesting, which may consist of several separate compartments to be harvested in different ways and at different times.

- ⁷⁴⁾ High stumps are the lower parts of tree stems cut off at a height of 2 to 5 m. In regeneration fellings, high stumps are made of trees with a minimum diameter of 15 cm at chest height.
- ⁷⁵⁾ Thickets are small-scale groups of trees that provide shelter for various species. Thickets should contain a mix of tree species, include spruce and have a minimum size of 10 m². Retention tree groups also form thickets when their undergrowth is not cleared.
- ⁷⁶⁾ Mix of tree species means that in addition to the main tree species, the stand contains one or more other species, with a preference for broadleaves.

8.15 Genetically modified forest reproductive material shall not be used

8.15.1 Forest cultivation shall not use genetically modified forest reproductive material or other forest reproductive material not approved for use by the competent authority⁷⁷⁾.

Indicators

According to information held by the authority controlling the compliance with the Act on Trade in Forest Reproductive Material (241/2002), genetically modified forest reproductive material has not been used in forest cultivation.

Definitions

⁷⁷⁾ The authority responsible in Finland for controlling the trade in forest reproductive material and for approving forest reproductive material is the Finnish Food Agency.

8.16 The biodiversity and ecosystem services of peatlands shall be maintained

8.16.1 The conservation of mires in their natural state shall be safeguarded. In managing peatland forests, water protection shall be ensured and climate-friendly practices promoted.

Indicators

First-time ditching⁷⁹⁾ is not undertaken on mires with a hydrology in its natural state or resembling natural state⁷⁸⁾.

Mires with a hydrology in its natural state or resembling natural state are not taken into use for the cultivation of energy wood.

Ditch maintenance is only carried out in areas where ditching has clearly improved tree growth⁸⁰⁾. Drained mires with a low timber production are left for spontaneous restoration.

Ditch maintenance plans include a water protection plan⁸¹⁾, and the water protection measures in it have been appropriately implemented. A notification in line with the Water Act has been submitted to the ELY centre on ditch maintenance and ditch mounding projects which are other than minor and when water is led to water bodies downstream.

On the edges of open mires and mires left for spontaneous restoration, a buffer zone with a minimum width of 10 m and clearly distinguishable ecotones is left. On the buffer zone, only selection felling is allowed, as well as the digging of a ditch for the purpose of restoring water to mires which are protected or otherwise in their natural state, but which have become less moist due to ditching. No soil preparation is carried out on the zone and the bush layer is spared. The retention trees of a stand marked for cutting may be grouped on the buffer zone.

Actors have in place guidelines, appropriate for the management of peatland forests, on appropriate soil preparation, ditching and felling methods. The guidelines are based on up-to-date information and take into account the climate impact of operations on mires.

Definitions

- ⁷⁸⁾ The hydrology of a mire is in its natural state or resembling natural state when the ecosystem accumulates peat and no changes to natural hydrology due to human activity or other significant traces of human activity are present. A growing site is defined as mire when the terrain is covered by a peat layer or a minimum of 75% of the surface vegetation consists of paludine species.
- ⁷⁹⁾ First-time ditching does not refer to the making of an isolated main drainage ditch to mires in their natural state for an indispensable reason related to ditching. Unbroken sections inside a ditch maintenance site may be ditched if appropriate for regulating the hydrology of the ditching site and this does not significantly jeopardize the biodiversity of peatland and forest nature on the ditch maintenance site. The criterion does not restrict hydrological organization possibly required by the Forest Act or ditching envisaged in the Act on Promoting Land Consolidation (24/1981).
- ⁸⁰⁾ Ditch maintenance shall be economically appropriate, bearing in mind the nutrient level and temperature sum of the growth site and the volume of trees on the site. Peatlands with a low timber production are not considered appropriate ditch maintenance sites; this refers to sites where the annual increment of stemwood is below 1 m³/ha and which are not covered by the regeneration obligation in Section 5a of the Forest Act.
- ⁸¹⁾ Water protection plans shall include the following, among other things:
- Impact of ditch maintenance measures on groundwater and surface water tables
 - Observing habitats of special importance mentioned under point **8.11**
 - Eventual risk of soil erosion due to ditch maintenance
 - Gradients and leading water away from the ditch maintenance site
 - Water conservation measures and their dimensioning

8.17 Operations in the vicinity of water bodies, including small ones, shall take into account water protection and nature management

8.17.1 A buffer zone shall be left along water bodies⁸²⁾ and around springs⁸²⁾ to retain solids and nutrients and to safeguard shade and biodiversity; the layering of undergrowth shall be preserved on the zone. The minimum average width of the buffer zone shall be 10 m, the absolute minimum being 5 m. Only selection fellings shall be carried out on the buffer zone, retaining a diversity of trees of different sizes and favouring broadleaves.

The following shall not be carried out on buffer zones:

- soil preparation
- fertilization
- stump removal
- clearing of vegetation in shrub layer⁸³⁾
- chemical pest control using plant protection products⁸⁴⁾.

For ditch-like, straightened and cleared brooks with a channel width of less than 2 m, the minimum buffer zone width shall be 5 m. Stemwood may be removed from these

buffer zones. These exceptions shall not apply to water courses with a salmonid population⁸⁵⁾ native to Finland. Other requirements for the buffer zoned as listed above shall be applied.

Leaving canopy biomass on the buffer zone shall be avoided. Trees that have fallen into the channel naturally shall not be removed⁸⁶⁾.

In the vicinity of streamlets⁶¹⁾, the requirements of point **8.11** shall be observed.

Structures for crossing the channel shall be so implemented that the channel is not significantly altered and depressions allowing a flow of water in the direction of the channel shall not be allowed to form.

If hydrological arrangements in line with the Water Act require the clearing of a brook no longer in its natural state, as well as moving about on the buffer zone, the requirements concerning the buffer zone may be disregarded where necessary in the area to be cleared.

Major repairs to forest roads and the building of a new forest road shall be implemented so as to allow the unhindered movement of migratory fish and other aquatic animals and to ensure water protection.

On regeneration sites where water is led into a main drainage ditch, appropriate water conservation measures shall be taken.

Indicators

The buffer zone in the area of operations⁸⁷⁾ is considered to be conserved in the manner required by the criterion when monitoring⁴¹⁾ shows that over 90% of the zone length, soil surface has not been broken and some of the vegetation cover and layers have been preserved.

Structures crossing a channel have not caused significant changes in channel structure and depressions allowing a flow of water in the direction of the channel have not been allowed to form.

In connection with major repairs to forest roads and building new forest roads, culverts and bridges are installed without creating hindrances in the waterways for the movement of migratory fish and other aquatic animals.

Appropriate water conservation measures have been taken on regeneration sites where water is led into a main drainage ditch.

Definitions

⁸²⁾ Water bodies are taken to include seas, lakes, ponds and brooks. Brooks also include small channels with a year-round water flow and the possibility for fish to travel. To identify brooks, the Ranta10 data and the data on salmonid populations may be used.

⁸³⁾ For reasons related to landscape management, recreational use or nature management, the shrub layer or small-sized trees along water bodies may be cleared.

⁸⁴⁾ Plant protection products refer to plant protection products as defined in the Plant Protection Products Act (1563/2011) and Regulation of the European Parliament and the Commission (EC) Nr. 1107/2009.

⁸⁵⁾ To identify the sites, the data on salmonid populations may be used.

⁸⁶⁾ Tree stems may be removed if they cause obstacles to the recreational use or nature management of the water body or a risk of flooding.

⁸⁷⁾ Area of operations refers to an entity or an area defined on a map which consists of one or more compartments and on which a similar type of felling or other forestry measures are carried out, substantially covering the whole area.

8.18 During forestry operations, the quality of ground water shall be safeguarded

8.18.1 In ground water catchment areas⁸⁸⁾ important (Class 1, Class 1E) and suitable (Class 2, Class 2E) for water supply, chemical plant protection products or fertilizers shall not be used⁸⁹⁾ and stumps shall not be removed. Ash fertilization of peatlands shall be allowed if it does not jeopardize the quality of groundwater⁹⁰⁾. In Class E groundwater catchment areas fertilization shall be allowed if it does not jeopardize a surface or land ecosystem dependent on groundwater and serving as the basis of the E classification. Chemical plant protection products shall not be used on Class E groundwater catchment areas.

Indicators

- (*rc*) Forest organizations⁷⁾ have at their disposal or have access to the location data of classified groundwater catchment areas.
- (*rc*) Restrictions on the use of pesticides and fertilizers are taken into account in the work guidelines and recommendations of forest organizations⁷⁾. Monitoring⁴¹⁾ has not found stump removal sites in groundwater catchment areas important (Class 1, Class 1E) and suitable (Class 2, Class 2E) for water supply.
- (*gc + foc*) Forest owner has access to location data of classified groundwater catchment areas.
- (*gc + foc*) The restrictions on using pesticides and fertilizers have been observed in their use. Stump removal sites have not been found in groundwater catchment areas important (Class 1, Class 1E) and suitable (Class 2, Class 2E) for water supply. Chemical plant protection products have not been used on Class E groundwater catchment areas.

Definitions

- ⁸⁸⁾ The groundwater catchment area classes are 1, 1E, 2, 2E and E. The groundwater catchment areas in Finland are classified according to their suitability for water supply and the need for protection as follows: areas important for water supply (Class 1) and areas suitable for other water supply use (Class 2). Class E is reserved for groundwater catchment areas on whose groundwater an important surface water or land ecosystem in its natural state or resembling natural state and protected by other legislation is dependent.
- ⁸⁹⁾ The use of plant protection products does not include the planting in groundwater catchment areas of seedlings treated at nurseries with products against the pine weevil, or the use of products for biological stump treatment, provided that the guidelines and restrictions given in the Plant Protection Product Register of the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes⁵⁷⁾) are observed in their use.
- ⁹⁰⁾ The use of ash fertilizers containing added boron in groundwater catchment areas is prohibited.

8.19 Everyman's rights shall be safeguarded and the passability of recreation trails shall be ensured

8.19.1 Free moving in and access to forests and gathering nature products in them shall be enabled within the limits allowed by everyman's rights⁹¹⁾.

The passability of recreation trails shall be maintained to ensure the multiple use of forests.

Indicators

Significant restrictions to the use of everyman's rights are not detected.

Recreational trails established in a recreational trail procedure based on the Outdoor Recreation Act (606/1973) or by a separate agreement with the landowner and duly signposted are excluded from soil preparation and stump removal. No canopy biomass is left on the trails. Permanent structures made for the trails are retained during forestry operations. The passability of trails is considered to be maintained in the manner envisaged in the criterion when monitoring⁴¹⁾ shows that the share of preserved trail ground is over 90% of its length within the area of operation and the trail has not been blocked to make it impassable, or an alternative trail has been provided.

Definitions

⁹¹⁾ Among others, everyman's rights include the following:

- travelling on foot, on skis, by bike, or the like
- temporary camping on land owned by another
- gathering of forest berries, mushrooms and certain other natural products
- collecting dry twigs and cones and nuts fallen onto the ground

Everyman's rights do not allow the following:

- making a fire
- damaging trees or shrubs
- damaging young stands or cultivated areas
- driving a motor vehicle in the terrain
- gathering protected plants, mosses or lichens
- setting up feeding places for game
- leaving litter in the environment

The possibility to use everyman's rights and restrictions to them depend on the dominant use of the land in question.

Additional information on everyman's rights is found in the guidebook "Everyman's rights – Legislation and practice" (Finnish environment series 30/2012) prepared by the Ministry of the Environment.

8.20 Archaeological sites shall be preserved

8.20.1 Operations of forest management and use shall be so planned and implemented as to meet the requirements of the Antiquities Act (295/1963). The excavation, covering, altering, damaging, removing of or other intervention with archaeological sites⁹²⁾ as listed in the Antiquities Act shall be prohibited without a permission granted on the basis of legislation.

Indicators

Court decisions finding that an offence against the Antiquities Act, as defined in Section 1 (2) of the Act, has been committed.

Definitions

⁹²⁾ Information on the location of archaeological sites is available through the web portal Kulttuuriympäristön palveluikkuna [Cultural Environment Service Window] at www.kyppi.fi, maintained by the Finnish Heritage Agency.

8.21 The operating conditions of reindeer husbandry shall be safeguarded

8.21.1 In state forests managed by Metsähallitus within the reindeer husbandry area, forestry operations and reindeer husbandry shall be harmonized through local cooperation, so that the conditions for carrying on reindeer husbandry shall be safeguarded in forestry operations comprehensively and in the long term.

Indicators

To reach this goal, Metsähallitus cooperates with the representatives of the relevant herding cooperatives when carrying out operations that may have a substantial impact on reindeer husbandry. Essential operations and the need for cooperation are jointly defined in such a way that the goal can be reached. The cooperation observes the agreement⁹³⁾ jointly signed by Metsähallitus and the Reindeer Herders' Association on 4 April 2013, as well as the sections on the harmonization of forestry and reindeer husbandry in Metsähallitus' Natural Resources Plan.

Definitions

⁹³⁾ The certification criterion refers to the agreements valid at a given time. The criterion applies to state lands in the reindeer husbandry area outside the Sámi homeland. With each reindeer herding cooperative, Metsähallitus complies with the agreement to which the cooperative is party. Should a reindeer herding cooperative resign from all agreements, Metsähallitus complies with the Reindeer Husbandry Act, the Metsähallitus Environmental Guide and the Natural Resources Plan.

8.22 The forest know-how and interaction with nature of children and adolescents shall be promoted

8.22.1 The region shall have in place an up-to-date action programme to promote the forest know-how of children and adolescents and to develop their interaction with nature.

This criterion shall only apply to regional group certification (*rc*).

Indicators

Forest sector actors⁹⁴⁾ in the region, together with parties responsible for forest sector youth work and for forest and nature sector education, revise jointly the action programme within one year of the date of the certificate revision. In implementing the programme, active cooperation with other interested local bodies is also sought.

The action programme includes plans for the following:

- a) improving children and adolescents' know-how on forest ecosystems, forest management, the diversified use of forests and forestry, and strengthening their interaction with nature;
- b) arranging forest visits in cooperation with day care centres, schools and bodies arranging leisure activities;
- c) organizing opportunities for practical training and learning on the job for adolescents wishing to study or already studying for occupations in the forest and nature sectors, and improving the employment opportunities of adolescents.

The action programmes contain defined goals, the reaching of which is monitored annually.

Parties committed to forest certification and other parties involved in drafting the action programme compile information on their activity and submit it to the certificate holder.

Definitions

⁹⁴⁾ The forest sector actors referred to in the criterion include, among others, the Finnish Forest Centre, Metsähallitus, forest management associations, timber procurement organizations and entrepreneur and employee organizations.

9. Performance evaluation

9.1 Monitoring, measuring, analysis and evaluation

9.1.1 The monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.

9.1.2 The health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.

9.1.3 Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.

9.1.4 The working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.

9.2 Internal audit

9.2.1 Objectives

The certificate holder shall have an internal audit programme at planned intervals to provide information on whether the management system

- a) conforms to
 - the organisation's requirements for its management system
 - the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard
- b) is effectively implemented and maintained.

9.2.2 Organization

The certificate holder shall

- a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;
- b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;
- c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;
- d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;
- e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.

9.3 Management review

9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include

- a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;
- b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;
- c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in:
 - nonconformities and corrective actions;
 - monitoring and measurement results;
 - audit results;
- d) opportunities for continual improvement.

9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.

9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.

10. Improvement

10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action

10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:

- a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:
 - i. take action to control and correct it;
 - ii. deal with the consequences;
- b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:
 - i. reviewing the nonconformity;
 - ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;
 - iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;
- c) implement any action needed;
- d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;
- e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.

10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.

10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:

- a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;
- b) the results of any corrective action.

10.2 Continuous improvement

10.2.1 The suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.

Annex 1. Application of criteria on Christmas tree and conifer greenery plantations

Standard PEFC ST 1003:2018, which contains the international PEFC criteria for forest management, allows the application of the criteria on tree plantations in compliance with Annex 1 of the PEFC ST 1003:2018 standard. For Finland's national standard, it has been found necessary to issue separate guidelines for application on Christmas tree plantations. On Christmas tree plantations, the requirements of the Finnish national standard shall be applied, bearing in mind the exceptions described in this Annex.

Standard point	Interpretation for Christmas tree and conifer greenery plantations
<p>6.1. The legality of a felling operation shall be shown and environmental aspects clarified by means of a forest use declaration.</p>	<p>6.1 shall not apply to fellings on Christmas tree or conifer greenery plantations. Environmental aspects shall be clarified at the point when Christmas tree plantations are planned and established.</p>
<p>8.10. The conservation values of conservation areas shall be safeguarded, 8.11 The characteristic features of habitats of special importance shall be preserved and 8.12. The known habitats of threatened species shall be safeguarded.</p>	<p>When establishing a Christmas tree or conifer greenery plantation it shall be ensured that the area does not contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - habitat types defined in Section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act, which a nature conservation authority has defined in its decision and which it has notified the landowner about in line with Section 30 of the Act, - occurrences of strictly protected species under Section 47, which a nature conservation authority has defined and notified the site owner about - breeding sites and resting places of species under Section 49 of the Nature Conservation Act and Annex 5 of the Government Decree on Nature Conservation - traditional biotopes of special national and regional importance, recognized in the national inventory of traditional biotopes, which the landowner has been notified about - conservation areas or Natura 2000 sites
<p>8.14. In forestry operations, living retention trees and deadwood shall be left and mixed stands and thickets shall be spared.</p>	<p>8.14 shall not apply to Christmas tree and conifer greenery plantations. Environmental aspects shall be viewed from a broader perspective across the entire forest holding. Potential retention trees excluded from the business activity and in the immediate vicinity of the Christmas tree plantation shall be identified when establishing the Christmas tree plantation. Management operations on the Christmas tree plantation shall not harm retention tree groups.</p>
<p>8.7. Tree species native to Finland shall be used in forest regeneration.</p>	<p>8.7 mentions that the criterion does not apply to special cases, which include, among others, the establishing of parks and urban forests, the cultivation of Christmas trees and production of conifer greenery, stands and trees planted for landscape management or for the maintenance of a cultural landscape, and the cultivation of hybrid aspen.</p>
<p>8.9. Plant protection products shall be used responsibly.</p>	<p>On Christmas tree and conifer greenery plantations, plant protection products approved by the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency may be used to control surface vegetation and other damage in indispensable cases. The plant protection products shall be used responsibly and records shall be kept of their use. Persons involved with plant protection products shall possess a valid certificate of the Comprehensive Plant Protection Examination.</p>

Annex 2. Legislation essential for Finnish forestry

The Annex describes the principal legislation affecting Finnish forestry and the statutory obligations of forest owners and other actors. Special attention is paid on legislation which takes into account the requirements set by the international PEFC standard (PEFC ST 1003:2010). The Annex is provided for information purposes only.

The full Finnish and Swedish versions of the Acts described are accessible free of charge at www.finlex.fi, an online database of up-to-date legislative information owned by the Finnish Ministry of Justice. Where only an English name is given for an Act in this Annex, a full English translation is also found in the database.

Act	Content description
<p>Forest Act (1093/1996)</p>	<p>The purpose of the Act is to promote an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable forest management and use of forests while assuring that the forests produce sustainably a good output and maintaining their biological diversity (Section 1). A land owner shall submit to the Finnish Forestry Centre a forest use declaration concerning the intention to carry out felling in a specified area, as well as methods of felling and regeneration, and the treatment of any habitats of special importance in the area (Section 14). The Act also specifies the responsibilities of the parties who carry out and plan the felling (Section 7). During harvesting and related operations, and for its own part, the party that carries out the felling shall ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act. The party that makes the plan for marking the stand for felling shall be responsible for producing a plan in compliance with the Act.</p> <p>The Act prohibits deforestation. A forest owner shall regenerate the forest after regeneration felling (Sections 5, 5a). The regeneration obligation shall also apply to forestry land which has been declared for other use if the use has not been changed within four years from the end of felling or other activity (Section 3). Clearing forest for other use may require permission according to the Land Use and Building Act, the Environmental Protection Act or the Water Act. The Forest Act shall be applied until the decision to grant the permission becomes effective.</p> <p>The Act requires forests to be managed and used so as to safeguard the general conditions for the preservation of habitats important for forest biodiversity (Section 10). Moreover, protection forests shall be managed and used with particular care, ensuring that no measures cause a retreat of the timberline (Section 12). To preserve forest for the protection of settlements or cultivated areas on islands or shores along the coast or in inland waters that are highly exposed to the wind or on high slopes or steep bluffs or to prevent landslides, more severe restrictions on forest use may be imposed (Section 13).</p> <p>The Act delegates the Finnish Forestry Centre the task of preparing a regional forest programme in collaboration with representatives of the forest sector and other stakeholders and of monitoring its</p>

	<p>implementation (Section 26). The programme shall be revised when needed. The programme shall contain the general objectives for sustainable forest management and use, objectives to be set for operations referred to in the legislation on the financing of sustainable forestry and for financing them, as well as the general objectives to be set for the development of forestry in the region. The programme shall not include information that can be identified as referring to a specific forest holding.</p> <p>The regional forest programme shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the state of the forests, forestry and wood use, and of the need for developing them and the development objectives - objectives of appropriate forest measures - a description of the biodiversity of the forests, including conservation areas - a description of livelihoods relying on forestry and forests, their impact on employment and of the need and opportunities for developing them - an assessment of the economic, environmental and other impacts of implementing the programme.
Real Estate Register Act (392/1985)	National Land Survey of Finland is responsible for maintaining the Land Information System, which contains the basic data of real estate units and indirect information about owners (Section 1).
Code of Real Estate (540/1995)	The Act defines the grounds for the acquisition of real estate and the registration of ownership.
Act on the Placing on the Market of Timber and Timber Products (897/2013)	The Act implements the principles of the EU Timber Regulation (EU No. 995/2010) and EU legislation based on it. The Timber Regulation requires actors to employ due diligence for ensuring the legality of timber and timber products.
Land Use and Building Act (132/1999)	<p>Land use shall be steered by statutory land use planning (Section 1). Plans shall be prepared in interaction with all persons and bodies whose circumstances or interests may be substantially affected by them (Section 5). When drawing up a plan, the environmental impact of implementing the plan and the options under scrutiny shall be examined to the necessary extent; this shall include the socio-economic, social, cultural and other impacts.</p> <p>The planning procedure shall be organized in such a way that the landowners in the area and those whose living, working or other conditions the plan may substantially affect, as well as the authorities and corporations whose sphere of activity the planning involves, shall have the opportunity to participate in preparing the plan.</p> <p>Measures that alter the landscape, such as felling trees, are subject to permission in areas specified in the Act (Section 128). A permit for landscape work is required, for example, when carrying out work in areas with a local detailed plan and, in some cases, in areas with a local master plan.</p>

	<p>The Act requires that land use objectives adopted by the Government shall be taken into account and their implementation shall be promoted in regional and municipal land use planning and the activity of government authorities (Section 24).</p> <p>The purpose of land use objectives is to curb emissions from settlements and transport, safeguard biodiversity and the values of cultural environments, as well as improve the regeneration potential of businesses. They are also a means of adapting to the consequences of climate change and extreme weather conditions. National land use objectives are part of the land use system stipulated in the Land Use and Building Act.</p>
Private Roads Act (560/2018)	<p>The Act requires that the right of way shall be established as appropriately as possible, in such a way that the purpose of the road shall be achieved as advantageously as possible and that the road or its use shall not cause unnecessary harm to the environment or a greater harm or nuisance to any one than is necessary (Section 4). The Act specifically protects Natura 2000 sites and their natural values (Section 21).</p> <p>The Act requires that the road shall be maintained in a condition appropriate for the traffic demand, also taking into account road safety. In addition to this Act, road maintenance shall also take into account the relevant provisions of the Nature Conservation Act, the Water Act, the Antiquities Act, Chapter 3 of the Forest Act, the Environmental Protection Act and other legislation (Section 24).</p>
Forest Damages Prevention Act (1087/2013)	<p>The purpose of the Act is to maintain the good health of forests and to prevent forest damage (Section 1). Among other things, the Act imposes an obligation on the landowner to remove damaged trees from the forest (Section 6) and on the actor felling trees to control <i>Heterobasidion</i> during fellings in the summer season (Section 8a). In the event of forest damage of exceptional extent or of a risk of the spreading or occurrence of an extensive forest damage, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry may, in order to prevent the spreading or occurrence of forest damage, order the land owners in the risk zone to remove the necessary number of trees from the forest or to undertake other necessary action (Section 9).</p> <p>Natural Resources Institute Finland, assisted by the Finnish Forest Centre, is tasked with monitoring and anticipating the occurrence and spreading of plant diseases and pests causing forest damage, as well as with studying the cause–effect relationships of damage and its financial significance (Section 12). Natural Research Institute Finland shall submit an annual report of the findings of the monitoring to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.</p>
Act on Plant Protection Products (1563/2011)	<p>The purpose of the Act is to ensure the appropriate and sustainable use of plant protection products and reduce the risks caused by their use (Section 1). The Act requires that plant protection products shall be used appropriately according to need and in compliance with the instructions for use. In the professional use of plant protection products, the general principles of integrated pest control shall also be observed (Section 6).</p> <p>The Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes) shall ensure that</p>

	<p>professional users, distributors and advisors have access to training on the appropriate and safe use of handling and using plant protection products (Section 8). Plant protection products shall only be spread with equipment that is appropriate for the purpose, in good condition and safe (Section 12). In professional activity, plant protection products shall only be used by persons who have passed the Plant Protection Examination (Section 17).</p> <p>The Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency shall approve and register the plant protection products entering the market, and shall oversee legislation related to them (Section 5). The list of approved products does not include products with a WHO classification 1A or 1B.</p>
Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council	In the European Union, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants restricting the use of POP compounds is enforced through the POP Regulation (2019/1021). The Regulation is enforceable as law in all EU Member States. Compliance with the prohibitions and restrictions on the manufacturing and placing on the market of substances mentioned in Articles 3 and 4 of the POP Regulation is monitored by the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency. The ELY centres and municipal environmental protection authorities monitor the prohibitions and restrictions of the use of POP compounds.
Act on Trade in Forest Reproductive Material (241/2002) Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on Trade in Forest Reproductive Material (1055/2002)	<p>The Decree requires that seedlings marketed for forest cultivation shall be healthy, viable and suitable for forest cultivation (Section 8 of the Decree).</p> <p>If the use of forest reproductive material is found to have or there is reasonable cause to suspect that it may have adverse effects on forestry, the environment, genetic resources or biological diversity due to its phenotypic or genetic characteristics, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry may prohibit the marketing of the material concerned to the end user (Section 26 of the Act).</p>
Fertilizer Product Act (539/2006)	The objective of the Act is that fertilizer products placed on the Finnish market shall be safe, of good quality and suitable for plant production (Section 1). A fertilizer product may not contain harmful substances, products or organisms in such quantities that its use in accordance with the instructions for use may cause any danger to human or animal health or safety, plant health or the environment (Section 5).
Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996)	The purpose of the Act is to maintain biological diversity, conserve the beauty and scenic values of nature, promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the natural environment, promote awareness and general interest in nature and promote scientific research (Section 1). The Act protects certain forest habitat types (Section 29) and important occurrences of species under strict protection (Section 47). The Act prohibits the deliberate killing, capture and disturbance of (Section 39) and the trade in (Section 45) protected species.
Water Act (587/2011)	The Act regulates comprehensively different uses of water resources and its purpose is to ensure the good condition of water resources (Section 1). Water resource management projects which may cause changes in the state, depth, water level or flow, shore, or aquatic environment of a water body or the quality or quantity of groundwater require a permit from the

	competent authority (Chapter 3, Section 2). The construction of a bridge or a transport device over a public or main channel always requires a permit (Chapter 3, Section 3). The Act prohibits the endangering of the natural state of certain aquatic habitat types (Chapter 3, Section 11).
Environmental Protection Act (527/2014)	The Act regulates environmental pollution and the related obligations and provisions. The Act requires that operators shall have knowledge of the environmental impacts and risks of their operations, and of the management of these impacts and risks and ways to reduce adverse impacts (Section 6). The Act obliges operators to organise their operations in such a way that environmental pollution can be prevented in advance and limited (Section 7). The Act requires a permit to be obtained for activities that pose a risk of environmental pollution (Section 27). Among other things, the Act prohibits the polluting of groundwater (Section 17) and soil contamination (Section 16).
Antiquities Act (295/1963)	Archaeological sites representing earlier settlement and history of Finland are protected by the Act (Section 1). The protection of the sites is monitored by the National Board of Antiquities (Section 3).
Hunting Act (615/1993)	The Act applies to hunting and the capturing and killing of unprotected animals, as well as to game management, compensations for damage caused by game animals and keeping dogs (Section 1). The right to engage in hunting and make decisions on hunting shall belong to the owner of an area (Section 6). The Act requires that hunting shall be practised in accordance with the principles of sustainable use, and the continued reproduction of game animal populations shall be safeguarded through game management (Section 20). A hunting licence shall be obtained for the hunting of cervids from the Finnish Wildlife Agency (Section 26). Decisions on the use of the hunting right and game management in State-owned areas shall be made by the authority that governs the area concerned (Section 44).
Wildlife and Game Administration Act (158/2011)	The Act specifies the responsibilities of the Finnish Wildlife Agency and the forest management associations in promoting sustainable game husbandry and hunting (Section 1). Regional Wildlife Councils are set up in connection with the Finnish Wildlife Agency. They shall promote open and interactive stakeholder cooperation in game husbandry and carry on activity designed to promote the harmonization of different interests. In addition, the Regional Wildlife Councils shall participate in preparing national management plans to steer the management of game populations.
Rescue Act (379/2011)	The purpose of the Act is to improve the safety of people and reduce the number of accidents (Section 1). The Act imposes a duty of care when dealing with fire and prohibits making an open fire on someone else's land without the landowner's permission (Section 6). Prescribed burning on forest land shall always be carried out with particular care under the supervision of forestry professionals familiar with the practices of prescribed burning (Section 7). The party carrying out prescribed burning shall notify the rescue department of the prescribed burning in advance (Section 8).
Occupational Safety and Health Act (738/2002)	The purpose of the Act is to improve the working environment and working conditions, which includes the ensuring and maintenance of the working capacity of employees, as well as to prevent accidents at work

	and occupational diseases (Section 1). The Act requires that hazards caused by the work shall be identified and risks assessed (Section 10) and that employees shall be orientated to the work (Section 14).
Act on Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement and Cooperation on Occupational Safety and Health at Workplaces (44/2006)	The purpose of the Act is to safeguard compliance with provisions on occupational safety and health, and to improve the working environment and working conditions with the help of monitoring carried out by occupational safety and health authorities and cooperation between an employer and employees (Section 1). The employer shall draw up an occupational safety and health policy (Occupational Safety and Health Act, Section 9).
Act on Co-operation within Undertakings (334/2007)	The Act promotes the interactive co-operation procedures between an undertaking and its personnel, which are based on a timely and sufficient provision of information to the personnel on the state of the undertaking and its plans. The purpose of the Act is the consensus-based development of an undertaking's operations and of the employees' opportunities to exert an influence on decisions made within the undertaking (Section 1). The Act shall apply to undertakings regularly employing a minimum of 20 persons (Section 2).
Act on the Contractor's Obligations and Liability when Work is Contracted Out (1233/2006)	The purpose of the Act is to curb grey economy, and it strives to promote equal competition between enterprises and to ensure observance of the terms of employment (Section 1). The Act shall apply to all work carried out in Finland regardless of sector, and to both Finnish and foreign enterprises when using external labour (Section 2). The Act obliges the purchasing party to ensure that the other contracting party has fulfilled its legal obligations as a contracting party and an employer (Section 5).
Employment Contracts Act (55/2001)	The Act is fundamental to working life, and it is applied on practically all employment relationships regardless of the type of work. The Act applies to contracts between an employer and employee (<i>employment contracts</i>) under which the employee agrees to perform work for the employer under the employer's direction and supervision in return for pay or remuneration (Section 1).
Working Time Act (872/2019)	The Act shall apply to all work performed under an employment contract or within a public-service relationship. Work carried out by a person under 18 years of age shall also be subject to the Young Workers Act (998/1993). Working time shall include the time spent working and the time an employee is obliged to be present at a place of work at the employer's disposal (Section 3). Section 38 stipulates that only an employee whose primary duty is to manage and supervise the work of other employees or who has concluded an agreement on flexiwork may agree on the payment of the remuneration for additional work and overtime and the Sunday work increments as a separate monthly remuneration.
Outdoor Recreation Act (606/1973)	The purpose of the Act is, among others, to set out the practices concerning the establishment of official outdoor recreation routes (Section 2) and State wilderness recreation areas (Section 16). A wilderness recreation area may be established on State land of major public importance for outdoor recreation purposes. Any other use of the area shall be arranged so as to take adequate account of the needs of outdoor recreation activities (Section 16).

<p>Act on Metsähallitus (234/2016)*</p>	<p>Metsähallitus is a State enterprise steered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and whose operation is governed by this Act. The relevant steering tasks of the Ministry of the Environment are included in Section 9. The tasks of Metsähallitus as defined in the Act shall be to manage, use and protect natural resources and other property governed by it.</p> <p>Metsähallitus shall carry on business within the framework of its obligations to society laid down in the Act and manage public administration duties. In its operation, Metsähallitus shall observe business principles and the service targets set for it by the Finnish Parliament, as well as other operational objectives (Section 2).</p> <p>As an essential aspect of the sustainable management and use of natural resources, Metsähallitus shall, to a sufficient extent, take into account the protection and appropriate enhancement of biodiversity, together with the other goals set on the management, use and protection of forests, the sea and other natural resources. In addition, Metsähallitus shall take into account the requirements of the recreational use of nature and the furthering of employment (Section 6).</p> <p>To assist in decision-making on the use of State lands managed by Metsähallitus and with a view to taking into account the position of local residents and furthering the harmonization of activities, regional or district advisory boards shall be set up. For municipalities entirely located inside the Sámi homeland, municipal advisory boards shall be formed, with the task of discussing the management and use of land and water areas owned by the State and the natural resources related to them (Section 39).</p> <p>Within the Sámi homeland specified in the Act on the Sámi Parliament (974/1995), the management, use and protection of the natural resources managed by Metsähallitus shall be harmonized so as to safeguard the conditions for upholding the Sámi culture; within the reindeer herding area specified in the Reindeer Husbandry Act, this shall be done so as to meet the requirements of the Reindeer Husbandry Act (848/1990, Section 6.2).</p>
<p>Wilderness Act (62/1991)</p>	<p>Wilderness areas shall be established on State lands to conserve wild nature of these areas, to safeguard the Sámi culture and traditional livelihoods, as well as to develop conditions for the diversified use of nature in Northern Finland (Sections 1 and 3). The management and use of a wilderness area shall comply with a management and use plan drawn up by Metsähallitus and approved by the Ministry for the Environment. Forests in the wilderness areas shall be left in their natural state or managed with methods emulating natural processes (Section 7).</p>
<p>Act on the Sámi Parliament (974/1995)*, Constitution of Finland (731/1999)</p>	<p>The rights of the Sámi as an indigenous people in their homeland are safeguarded by a separate act. The Sámi shall have linguistic and cultural autonomy in the Sámi homeland as provided in this Act and in other legislation (Section 1). The Sámi homeland shall comprise the areas of the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki, as well as the area of the Lapland reindeer herding cooperative in the municipality of Sodankylä (Section 4).</p>

	<p>The Constitution of Finland guarantees the Sámi, as an indigenous people, the right to maintain and develop their own language and culture (Section 17). In their homeland, the Sámi shall have linguistic and cultural self-government, as provided by an Act (Section 121). The public authorities shall guarantee the observance of basic rights and liberties and human rights. (Section 22).</p>
<p>Reindeer Husbandry Act (848/1990)</p>	<p>The Act provides the framework for reindeer herding and reindeer husbandry. The Act defines the boundaries of the reindeer herding area and the area specifically intended for reindeer herding (Section 2). State-owned lands north of the boundary form an area specifically intended for reindeer herding. The land in this area shall not be used in a manner that may significantly hinder reindeer herding.</p> <p>Subject to the restrictions provided in this Act, reindeer herding may be practised in the reindeer herding area irrespective of land ownership or possession rights (Section 3). In timberline forests referred to in the Forest Act, reindeer grazing shall be practised with special care and in a manner that does not cause the timberline to recede (Section 3 a).</p> <p>Reindeer shall be prevented from entering agricultural land without the landowner's permission or from causing damage to sapling stands in forest regeneration areas or causing any other unnecessary damage to agriculture or forestry (Section 31).</p> <p>For extremely weighty reasons, a reindeer herding co-operative shall also fence sapling stands in forest regeneration sites located in areas owned by parties other than the State, a municipality or a parish (Section 32).</p> <p>The Act further requires logging to be carried out so that it does not cause damage to reindeer (Section 42).</p>
<p>Act on the Skolt (253/1995)*</p>	<p>The purpose of the Act is to enhance the living conditions and subsistence opportunities of the Skolt population and the Skolt area and to maintain and promote the Skolt culture (Section 1). The Act recognizes the ancient administrative body of the Skolt Sámi and their dealing with matters through the Skolt Council (Section 42).</p> <p>The Act grants the Skolts special rights related to land use (Section 9).</p>
<p>Criminal Code of Finland (39/1889)</p>	<p>The Criminal Code imposes punishments on theft, embezzlement, unauthorized use (Chapter 28, Sections 1 and 2), and criminal trespass, including the unauthorized use of land in the possession of another (Section 11).</p> <p>The Code prevents corruption by prohibiting and imposing a punishment on the acceptance and asking of a bribe (Chapter 40, Sections 1, 2 and 3).</p>
<p>Act on the Finnish Forest Centre (418/2011)</p>	<p>The tasks of the Finnish Forest Centre shall be to promote forestry and related livelihoods, to enforce forest legislation, and to manage tasks related to forest data (Section 1).</p> <p>Among others, the public administration tasks of the Centre include tasks related to the planning and study of sustainable forest management and use; promoting forest-related livelihoods, climate and energy goals; the</p>

	<p>preservation of forest biodiversity and other environmental protection in forestry; drawing up, monitoring and implementing the national forest programme and regional forest programmes; promoting national and regional cooperation in forestry; promoting forest-based livelihoods in cooperation with regional organizations; training, advisory activity and communication to promote forestry; enforcement of forestry-related legislation; and monitoring the state and development of forestry and forests (Section 8).</p>
<p>Act on the Forest Data System of the Finnish Forest Centre (419/2011)</p>	<p>The Forest Data System of the Finnish Forest Centre contains data on the ownership and possession of forest holdings of natural persons and on the forest resources of these. This data includes forest data concerning the tree stock, soil, growing site, location and geometry, surface area, restrictions of use, biodiversity and other special features of a compartment or other geographically limited forest area, as well as data on proposed or completed operations and other data necessary for discharging public administrative tasks (Section 4).</p> <p>The Act requires that forest resource data shall not contain substantial omissions, errors or misinterpretations. In addition, the forest resource data in the data system shall be updated at regular intervals (Section 7).</p>
<p>Act on the Organisation of River Basin Management and the Marine Strategy (1299/2004)</p>	<p>The general purpose of river basin management shall be to protect, improve and restore waters so that the status of surface waters and groundwater shall not deteriorate and shall be at least good. The purpose of this act shall be that, besides the quality of waters, river basin management shall take into account the sufficiency and sustainable use of waters, water services and their economic analysis, flood risk management, recreational use of waters, waterborne diseases, and protection of aquatic ecosystems and terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly connected to aquatic ecosystems (Section 1).</p> <p>The Act shall be implemented by determining the surface and groundwater bodies, whose state shall be monitored and which shall be classified at intervals of ten years. For all water bodies measures shall be defined to achieve the target states by the year 2017, and these shall be collected as action plans and water management plans and submitted for approval to the Council of State. The targets shall be binding for the State.</p>
<p>Non-Discrimination Act (1325/2014)</p>	<p>The purpose of the Act shall be to promote equality and prevent discrimination as well as to enhance the protection provided by law to those who have been discriminated against (Section 1). The Act requires the employer to assess the realisation of equality in the workplace and, taking into account the needs of the workplace, develop the working conditions as well as the methods used in the selection of personnel and in making decisions concerning the personnel (Section 7).</p>
<p>Constitution of Finland (731/1999)</p>	<p>The Constitution of Finland shall guarantee the inviolability of human dignity and the freedom and rights of the individual and promote justice in society. According to Section 22 of the Constitution, the public authorities shall guarantee the observance of basic rights and liberties and human rights.</p> <p>In connection with the reform of the Constitution in 1995, all human rights conventions that Finland was a party to at the time were made a</p>

	part of it. To some extent, the protection awarded by the Constitution is more comprehensive than that provided by international conventions on human rights.
Waste Act (626/2011)	Section 72 of the Act prevents littering. No waste or discarded machine, device, vehicle, vessel or other object may be abandoned in the environment, and no substance may be emitted in a manner which may cause unclean conditions, disfigurement of the landscape, a decline in amenities, risk of injury to humans or animals, or any other comparable hazard or harm.
Government Decree on the Sustainable Management and Use of Forests (1308/2013)	<p>The regional forest programme shall include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) description of the state of forests, forestry and wood use, and the needs and goals of developing them; 2) description of the biodiversity of the forests, bearing in mind the obligations of the Forest Act and the conservation areas established on the basis of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996) and areas under restricted forestry use; 3) objectives of activity envisaged in legislation on the financing of sustainable forestry; 4) description of livelihoods based on forestry and forests, their employment impact and the needs and potential of developing them; 5) assessment of the economic and environmental impact and other impact of implementing the programme. <p>When drawing up the programme, the Finnish Forest Centre shall cooperate with important forestry actors in the region, the regional councils, environmental authorities and other bodies necessary for drafting the programme, as well as with the Sámi Parliament in the Sámi homeland. Metsähallitus shall participate in drawing up the programme as far as it concerns areas managed by it. (Section 17).</p>
Forest Management Association Act (534/1998)	A Forest Management Association is an organisation of forest owners, whose purpose shall be to promote the profitability of forestry practised by the forest owners and the realisation of other objectives they have set for forestry activities, as well as the economically, ecologically and socially sustainable use and management of forests, and to watch over the interests of its members. It shall be the task of the Forest Owner Association to provide its members with services related to forest ownership and the carrying on of forestry (Section 1).
Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts (1397/2016)	<p>This Act seeks to enhance efficiency in the use of public funds, promote high quality, innovative and sustainable procurement, and safeguard equal opportunities for enterprises and other corporations in providing goods, services and public works contracts in competitive tendering for public procurement.</p> <p>Contracting entities shall endeavour to arrange their procurement operations so that procurement can be implemented with optimal economy, quality and orderliness, taking advantage of existing competitive conditions and allowing for environmental and social aspects (Section 2).</p>
Temporary Act on the Financing of	The purpose of the Act shall be to promote economically, ecologically and socially sustainable management and use of forests. The purpose of the aids referred to in the Act shall be to increase the growth of forests,

Sustainable Forestry (34/2015)	<p>maintain the road network for forestry purposes, secure the biodiversity of forests and promote the adaptation of forests to climate change (Section 1).</p> <p>Aid under this Act shall be granted to private landowners for early tending of seedling stands and management of young stands, remedial fertilization, peatland forest management, constructing and improving forest roads, environmental aid contracts and nature management projects.</p>
Act on Equality between Women and Men (609/1986)	<p>The purpose of the Act shall be to prevent discrimination based on gender, to promote equality between women and men, and thus to improve the status of women, particularly in working life. Furthermore, it shall be the purpose of the Act to prevent discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression (Section 1). The Act requires that every employer shall promote equality between women and men within working life in a purposeful and systematic manner (Section 6).</p>
<p>* The Act on Metsähallitus, the Act on the Sámi Parliament, the Act on the Skolts, point 8.21 and point 6.5 take into account some of the requirements of the ILO 169 Convention.</p>	