

Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO

Location

Country: Finland
Scale: regional
Region: Southern Finland

Compensated /improved ecosystem services

Habitat services

Management

The Forest Biodiversity Programme METSO (2008-2025) aims to halt the ongoing decline in the biodiversity of forest habitats and species, and establish stable favourable trends in Southern Finland's forest ecosystems. It is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and different stakeholders.

The voluntary METSO Programme offers compensation to landowners so they can protect their forests, either permanently or under fixed-term agreements. The METSO Programme also includes nature management projects that do not generate expenses for landowners.

There are ten forested habitats being preserved under the METSO Programme. The sites are selected according to their ecological structure and their value for biodiversity. Regional forest and environmental authorities decide whether the subject is suitable for the programme. If the area is suitable for the METSO Programme, negotiations begin with landowners about conservation measures. The landowner makes the final decision after receiving a compensation offer.

Forest owners get full financial compensation equivalent to the value of timber at the protected site. With permanent protection, the private forest owner's income from the site is tax free. Additionally, protected sites can be used for nature-based tourism and recreation. For forest companies, METSO offers tools for sustainable forestry and provides a green image that is also attractive to customers abroad.

Stakeholders

Service providers:

- Private forests landowners

Beneficiaries of services:

Knowledge providers:

- Finnish Environment Institute SYKE plays role in development and monitoring of the programme, provides expertise on aspects of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and nature management applied in METSO

Donors – funding agencies or sponsors:

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Timeline

Establishment year: 2008
Time horizon: medium term (2008-2025)
Status of PES: active

Availability of economic data

Funding for the METSO programme varies between 30–40 million euros per year

References / Source of information

METSO Programme website: <https://metsonpolku.fi/en-US>

www.syke.fi/metso/en

<https://mmm.fi/en/forests/biodiversity-and-protection/metso-programme>