

Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland METSO 2008–2025

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METSO Programme

- Main goal is to halt the ongoing decline in forest species and habitats and establish favourable trends in forest biodiversity
- The focus is on private forests
- Landowners can voluntarily offer their forests to permanent or fixed-term conservation
- Full monetary compensation
- The site selection criteria define which habitats are accepted for conservation
- Municipal and State-owned lands are also involved
- Coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Most concrete actions:

- To increase the network of protected areas with 96 000 ha (Min.Env.): **82%** achieved by 2020
- To safeguard biodiversity on 82 000 hectares of forest habitats in commercially managed forests with environmental forestry subsidy agreements and nature management projects (Min.Agr.For.): **63%** achieved by 2020

METSO Programme 2008–2025

- Budget on average 30 million € / year
- Implemented by regional environmental and forest authorities
 - Permanent protection
 - Temporary protection (10-20 years)
 - Nature management in forest habitats

METSO options: Permanent protection

- Privately owned protection area (ownership remains)
 - Compensation based on value of timber
 - On average 2020: size 9 ha, ca. 6 900 €/ha
- Purchase by the State
 - Price based on the value of timber and value of the land
 - On average 2020: size 9 ha, ca. 5 800 €/ha
- Land exchange



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METSO options: Temporary conservation

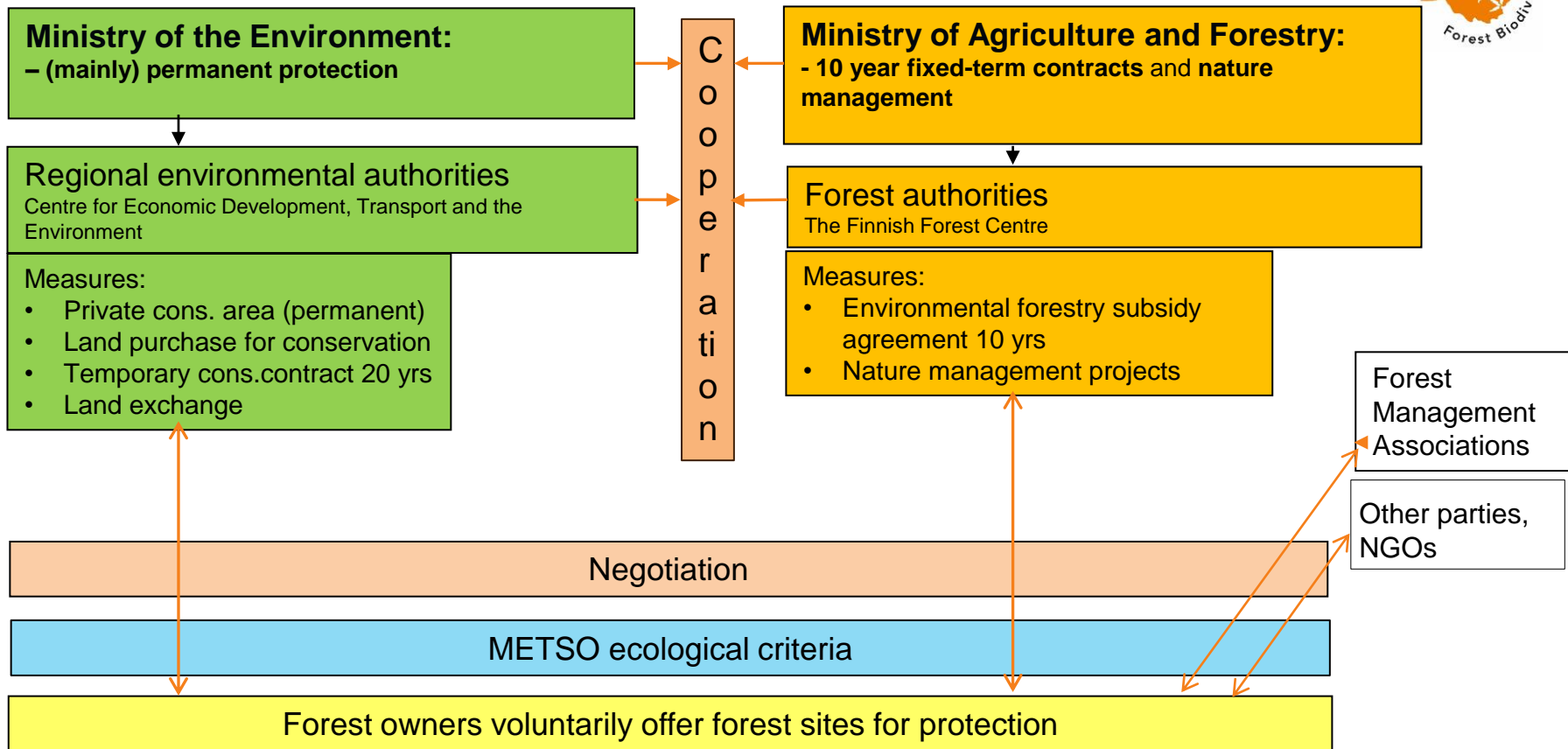
- Environmental forestry subsidy agreement, 10 years
 - Payment mostly based on value of timber
 - On average 2020: size 2,7 ha, ca. 2 100 €/ha
- Temporary nature reserve, 20 years
 - Compensation based on financial losses incurred
 - On average 2020: size 10 ha, ca. 2 900 €/ha

METSO options: Nature management projects

- Includes measures to maintain, increase or restore valuable natural features in the forest habitats
- Often projects with several forest owners and forest holdings
- Forest owners benefit by having ecologically valuable features on their land managed by experts, without costs



METSO-process



Research, communication, monitoring

- Research, development projects, monitoring
- Communication, training
- Metsonpolku – internet site www.metsonpolku.fi/en-US

Experiences

- **Strong support** to the voluntary program from landowners, NGOs, forest companies, authorities, and general public
- **Increased collaboration** between forestry and environmental authorities and other parties
- Protected METSO sites have generally **high biodiversity value**
- Increased **knowledge** on biodiversity



Thank you!

