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Good practice

Regional forest program (RFP)

Matti Virkkunen, Business manager, Finnish Forest Centre



**Metsäkeskus
Forest Centre**



KESKI-SUOMEN LIITTO
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CENTRAL FINLAND

14 DECEMBER 2023 | Interreg Europe online workshop on 'Boosting forest ecosystems'

The Finnish Forest Centre

The Finnish Forest Centre collects and shares information on Finnish forests. We advise private forest owners on silviculture, sustainable use of forests and nature conservation.

The Finnish Forest Centre monitors compliance with forest laws.

We promote forest-related livelihoods, their diversity and profitability.

The Finnish Forest Centre is directed and funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland.



Good practice: Regional forest program

Finnish forest center, together with the regional forest councils, is responsible for creating a strategic forest program for the region.

The objectives of the regional forest programs arise from the regions' own development needs and the objectives of the national forest strategy.

The programs combine economic, ecological, social, and cultural objectives.

The legislative basis for these are on Law on Finnish Forest Centre (418/2011).



1155 km

RFP areas (14)

Regional forest councils – implementing and monitoring the RFP's

Regional forest councils are created based on the quadropoly-helix approach; research, public sector, business and civil society are present in them.

The forest councils draw up regional forest program as well as monitor and promote their implementation in co-operation with other actors in the region.

The forest councils outline the allocation of funding for the promotion of sustainable forestry in their area.

The forest councils maintain the visibility and effectiveness of forestry and take initiatives to develop forest-related industries.

The members of the forest councils represent the actors of the forest sector, public administration, non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders.

The Forest Act (1093/1996),:

*“Metsäkeskus draws up a **regional forest programme** for its operating area and monitors its implementation. The programme shall be reviewed if necessary. When drawing up the programme, the Forest Centre must **cooperate with representatives of the forest sector and other necessary parties.**”*

The Finnish Forest Centre Act (418/2011):

The task of the **Regional Forestry Council** shall be: ... *to draw up and adopt a regional forest programme and to monitor and promote the implementation of the programme;*



Regional forest program 2021-25

Main objective is the diverse and sustainable use of forests.

1. Growing and vigorous forests

ACTION: The area of managed young seedling tendings increases

ACTION: Availability of required workforce in managed

2. Increased biodiversity and water protection

ACTION: water protection measures are increased (policy change)

ACTION: Forest management is diversified by means of nature conservation

ACTION: Available funding for nature conservation is fully utilized

3. Climate-sustainable forests

ACTION: The management of peatland forests is diversified (policy change)

ACTION: The timely establishment new seedling stands is ensured

4. Infra supporting versatile use of forests

ACTION: Forest road network is receiving required management (challenge)

ACTION: Forest data and new possibilities emerged through digitalization are utilized

5. RDI in wood-based products

ACTION: Wood based construction is increased (challenge)

ACTION: Added value of wood and new wood-based innovations are being fostered

6. Nature-based possibilities from forests

ACTION: The recreational use of forests is increased

ACTION: The collection, utilization od processing of natural products is increased

- THE GOALS WERE SET FOR THE PERIOD OF 2021 – 2025

- THE ACTIONS WERE UPDATED 09/2023.

- THE UPDATE WAS EXECUTED BY THE REGIONAL FOREST COUNCIL OF CENTRAL FINLAND

- THE FORMULATION OF THE NEW REGIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME OF CENTRAL FINLAND FOR 2025 -2029 WILL BE INITIATED IN 2024

Regional forest program 2021-25

goals & impacts 1/2

- The outcome of the implementation of the RFP's is reported to the regional forest council in 4 council meetings annually. The key performance indicators include (example):
 - Number of research projects in execution (9)
 - Number of activation campaigns ongoing (1)
 - Volume of dead wood in forests (increasing)
 - Area of young seedlings in active management (has been on a slow decline (high number of active applications for funding in process))
- Project volume +3 meur in Central Finland
- The RFP of Central Finland is the key forest management background paper on sustainable forestry for the roadmap of carbon neutral Central-Finland

Regional funded projects: 1760k€*

Regional projects in application phase: 547k€*

Regional projects in planning phase: 200k€

National projects and campaigns targeted to Central-Finland (10%): 564k€

Total: +3 meur (coordination 4 months annually)

*including the financing to other project consortium members

Regional forest program 2021-25

goals & impacts 2/2

1. Growing and vigorous forests, projects

“Increasing the know-how and on peatland forestry” (funded)

“New solutions for ash fertilization in peatland forests” (funded)

“Artificial intelligence and machine learning for new solutions for reducing elk feeding on young pin seedling stands” (proposal)

2. Increased biodiversity and water protection, projects

Water conservation action for Northern Central-Finland (planning)

Implementation of 1-2- water protection projects and 2-3 biodiversity-projects (e.g. EU Life) annually.

Active campaigning and promotion for voluntary conservation funding from the state (METSO-program).

3. Climate-sustainable forests, projects

Climate sustainable forestry in Central ,Finland (ongoing)

Support for educating the key forest stakeholders to adapt to the effects of climate change (ongoing, national)

4. Infra supporting versatile use of forests, projects

Roads, bridges and wood storage terminal site survey (national, ongoing)

5. RDI in wood-based products, projects

Developing the industrial wood construction industry in Central Finland (ongoing)

6. Nature-based possibilities from forests, projects

Developing the supply chains of forest based natural products in Central Finland (ongoing)

Indicator	Actualized level 2016 - 2021	Target level 2021-2025
Area of first thinnings, ha/a	14000	22 000
Continuous cover forestry, ha/a	700	1500
Tending of seedlings, ha/a	5700	10 000
Elk density elk/ha	2,3-3	2,5
Improvement of forest roads, km/a	260	330
Forest fertilization, ha/a	1800	3000

Indicator	Actualized level 2016 - 2021	Target level 2021-2025
Funding for private forest conservation €/ha	246 000	500 000
Volume of deadwood in the forests m3/ha	3,9	5
Area increment of private conservation areas, ha/period	2196	6 291
Volume of coarse wood left on final felling areas no/ha	12,3	26,9
Quality of water conservation in soil scarification (%-of sites with rating "good")	82	90

Thank you!

matti.virkkunen (@) metsäkeskus.fi

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