

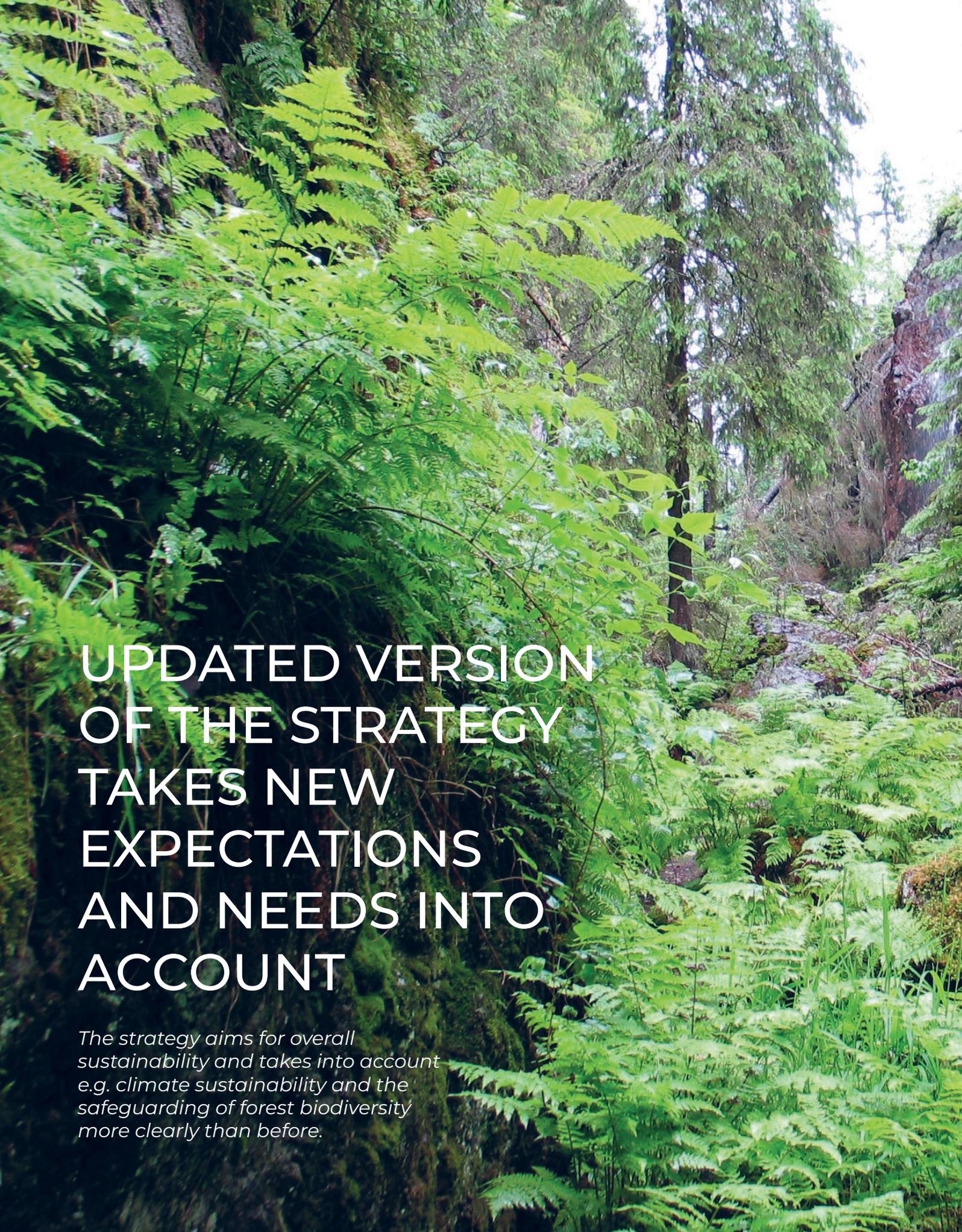


NATIONAL
FOREST STRATEGY
OF FINLAND
2025

AIMS FOR
GROWTH OF
OVERALL WELFARE



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland



UPDATED VERSION OF THE STRATEGY TAKES NEW EXPECTATIONS AND NEEDS INTO ACCOUNT

The strategy aims for overall sustainability and takes into account e.g. climate sustainability and the safeguarding of forest biodiversity more clearly than before.



New expectations and needs challenge the forest sector as a whole to reform and, at the same time, offer new opportunities for increasing the total welfare gained from forests.

The ongoing changes to the operating environment will permanently increase demand for sustainably produced forest-based products and services. The solutions provided by forests will promote society's transition from the use of fossil materials and energy to renewable materials and energy.

The completely new projects added to the Forest Strategy apply to

- climate sustainable forestry,
- international forest policy and influencing EU policies as well as
- new products made from wood.

Projects that are emphasised as cross-cutting in the strategy include

- digitalisation and
- increasing interaction.

More projects than before now also include

- the diversification of forest management methods,
- the safeguarding of biodiversity,
- water protection and
- the diversification of business.

REINFORCING THE OVERALL SUSTAINABILITY OF FOREST-BASED BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

- Economic sustainability will be reinforced by ensuring the competitiveness and reform of forest-based business and activities, the profitability of forestry and the good growth potential and health of forests.
- Ecological sustainability will be reinforced by safeguarding the forest biodiversity and the factors that influence the ecosystem function. Climate change mitigation and adaptation are part of ecological sustainability.
- Social sustainability is reinforced by ensuring employment, well-being at work and up-to-date competence as well as by guaranteeing the diverse use of forests for recreational and welfare purposes.
- Cultural sustainability necessitates that cultural continuity is not interrupted, and the customs, practices and relationships related to the use of forests are passed on to the next generations in an appropriate form.

Operating environment undergoing a transformation

The current long-term changes in the global economy, population growth, the climate, ecosystems, technologies and social structures will change both the global and national operating environment for forest-based business and activities in many ways. For example, digitalisation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, Asia's growing significance, safeguarding sustainability and responsibility are emphasised in the operating environment.

Steps will be taken to respond to increasing scar-

city of natural resources, climate change and a decline in biodiversity by aiming for bioeconomy, a low-carbon society, resource efficiency and recycling. Responding to new challenges will also require the balanced promotion of all aspects of sustainability and cutting the use of non-renewable natural resources.

Objectives related to sustainable development will influence the forest sector's development both in the short and long term. These are reflected in Finland's forest sector, for example, through the export of forest industry products, forest use as well as international policies that are related to and affect forests.



Figure: Key global megatrends that affect the forest sector. Source: Natural Resources Institute Finland



THE WELFARE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS PRODUCED BY FORESTS WILL ALSO BE EMPHASISED IN THE FUTURE'S BIOECONOMY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY. THESE ARE LINKED, FOR EXAMPLE, TO THE RECREATIONAL USE AND OTHER MULTI-USE OF FORESTS, CARBON BINDING AS WELL AS SAFEGUARDING THE FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND REDUCING IMPACTS IN WATER SYSTEMS.





VISION AND GOALS OF THE STRATEGY

In the same way as with the original strategy the vision and goals of the updated strategy are based on the Government Report on Forest Policy published in 2014.



THE STRATEGY STATES THAT IN ADDITION TO FORESTRY AND THE WOOD-PROCESSING INDUSTRY, FOREST-BASED BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES ALSO COMPRISES THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND SERVICES BASED ON OTHER FOREST PRODUCTS AS WELL AS TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE PRODUCTS AS WELL AS PUBLIC GOODS.



The forest strategy's vision and goals form a triangle the centre of which comprises growing welfare that the vision aspires for, while its corners represent the interlinked strategic objectives.

The attainment of the objectives derived from the strategy's goals is measured with indirect impact indicators specifically set for them and a qualitative evaluation. The attainment of goals will require that implemented forest policy is sufficiently long term and predictive and that sufficient resources can be provided for the needed measures.

The National Forest Strategy describes the priorities and measures for the development of forest-based business and activities, which the Government will focus on as part of the sector's joint development.

The strategy's vision "**Sustainable forest management is a source of growing welfare**" highlights the diverse welfare derived from forests and the point that forests provide solutions to people's and society's needs. The strategic goals on the other hand form a whole where the growing welfare set as the target is viewed from three mutually complementary perspectives.

- 1) Finland is a competitive operating environment for forest-based business.
- 2) Forest-based business and activities and their structures are renewed and diversified.
- 3) Forests are in active, economically, ecologically, socially and culturally sustainable and diverse use.

THE AIM IS INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS

The key competitiveness factors of forest-based business and activities include know-how in the sector, sustainability, the availability of wood and competitive factors of production, a well-functioning infrastructure, and advanced technologies.

The role of the public sector is to create a competitive operating environment for forest-based business. Pursued policies must promote innovations, entrepreneurship, investments, the growth of business and the creation of new jobs, resource-efficiency and the sector's renewal related to the use of forests, wood and other forest-based raw materials, as well as overall sustainability which is the premise for bioeconomy in its entirety and the verification of sustainability.

Forest management that is correctly timed and promotes nature values increases the growth of trees and the profitability of forestry, prevents the spread of forest damage and safeguards forest biodiversity and other environmental benefits. When forest growth is increased, there is enough raw materials for industry's needs and to replace fossil materials at the same time as forests remain carbon sinks.

A road network that is in good condition and effective data connections will facilitate diverse forest-based business as well as promote the recreational use of forests and the effective prevention of forest fires. The conditions for healthy competition and the functionality of the wood and forest-service markets must also be guaranteed, and market disruptions must be prevented.

Finland has committed to the objectives in numerous international agreements and processes and actively works to attain the agreed upon objectives. Substance priorities in international and EU forest affairs include the bioeconomy, climate change and bioenergy, legality and good administration as well as biodiversity and ecosystem services.







New products and services

The Finnish wood processing industry has grown significantly in recent years with new investments and, at the same time, it has become integrated with the energy and chemical industries. Nature tourism and other forest-based services as well as demand for natural products have also grown.

Traditional products produced by forest industry are still of key importance economically. New wood-based products, that will increase the value added of the entire sector, are also constantly being developed and produced along-side traditional products. High value added products can be developed for example from fibre and pulp products, such as textiles and biocomposites, and by utilising wood biomass and its composites for such things as the manufacture of chemicals and biofuels. New industrial production and service networks increase resource efficiency and facilitate a platform for a

growing number of small and medium-sized enterprises.

An increasing amount of whole service solutions are being linked to wood processing products, and, for example, in health and welfare services there are opportunities for completely new types of business based on forests. The entire natural products sector's business can be increased not only in traditional primary production but also in the food, biotechnology, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries. This development potential for new innovative forest-based products and services must also be recognised in public decision making.

Creating the prerequisites for investments in wood processing industry will also support the production of wood-based energy, which is typically produced as part of processing. Active forestry will bring wood chips also suitable for energy use to the market.

FINLAND IS A COMPETITIVE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT FOR FOREST-BASED BUSINESS

OBJECTIVES RELATED TO THE RENEWAL OF ENTERPRISES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ENTERPRISES

- Political decisions and legislation will improve the conditions for renewal and growth for enterprises and business in the forest sector.
- Value added will grow and resources will be used efficiently.
- The production of domestic wood-based energy will increase. Wood-based raw materials will replace fossil-based raw materials and energy.
- Diverse forest-based business including services and the natural products sector are growing.

INDICATORS

- The growth of value added and revenue in the forest industry, part of chemical industry included in the bioeconomy, forestry, natural products sector and nature tourism.
- Share of wood-based energy of total energy consumption, use of solid wood fuels for energy.

OBJECTIVES RELATED TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RAW MATERIALS

- Forest resources will be abundant and healthy with good growth potential and respond to the growing needs of the bioeconomy.
- Wood and forest service markets will be balanced and competitive. There will be functioning markets for business based on ecosystem services other than wood production.
- Service capacity, efficiency and functioning of transport routes and communications will improve.

INDICATORS

- Annual increment in the growing stock (in 2025, 110 million cubic metres in commercial forests and 115 million cubic metres in total).
- Annual harvesting volumes (in 2025 total roundwood removal 80 million cubic metres).
- Investments in the use of wood raw materials as well as in nature tourism and recreation exceed depreciations.

OBJECTIVES RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL FOREST POLICY AND EU POLICIES

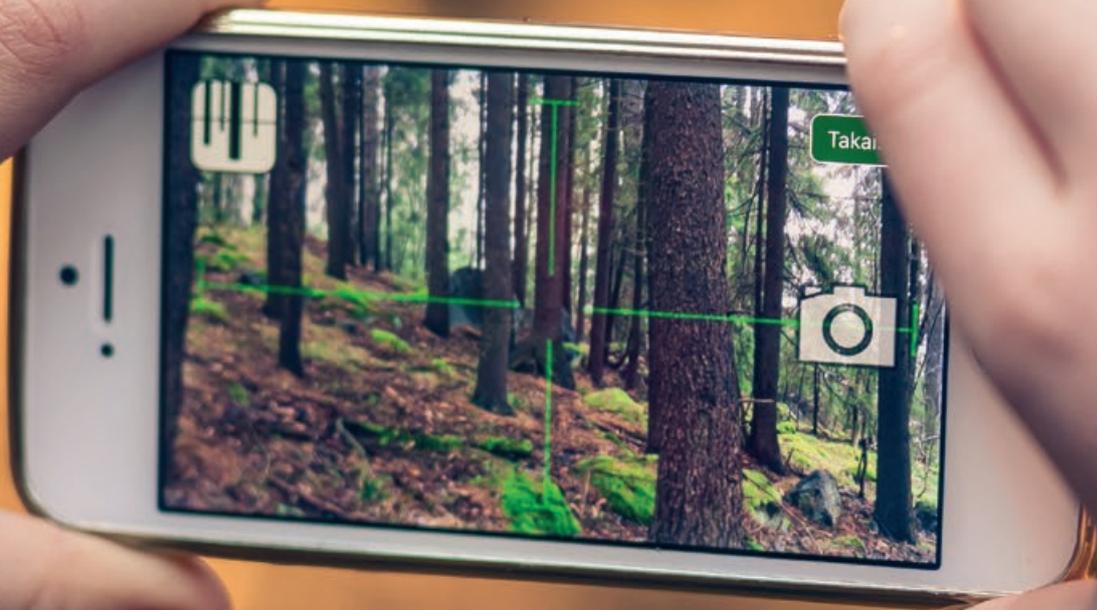
- The role of forests, sustainable forest management and forest-based bioeconomy will be reinforced so that the objectives in Agenda 2030 can be attained.
- The roles of coordination, forest expertise and the forest sector's position as solution providers will be strengthened.
- The international business opportunities of forest-based business and activities will be strengthened.

INDICATORS

- The attainment of objectives is assessed qualitatively.

KNOW-HOW AND GOOD ADMINISTRATION AS THE BASIS FOR RENEWAL

Finland's digital geographical information repositories and the services based on these provided by administration and companies are one of the key competitiveness factors of forest-based business and activities.



The growth of forest-based business and activities and increasing know-how requirements in this sector will require the development of education at all levels of the education system. To ensure that the entire sector's competence remains at the level required by the transformation, cooperation between research, business life and the education sector will be further increased. Research activities will emphasise societal impressiveness.

Compatibility between education or training and working life will be strengthened and an effort will be made to expand know-how, so it crosses traditional sectoral boundaries. The well-being at work of those who already work in forest-based business and activities and currentness of their competence will be ensured.

Forest administration will be more customer-oriented and flexible. Cooperation between administrative sectors will be increased and decision-making will take into consideration the trade-offs and genuine synergies of various objectives. Land and area use planning will support diverse business opportunities, and the requirements for practicing Sámi culture and their traditional livelihoods will be taken into account in the Sámi Homeland.

New geographical information-based tools will help in the resource-efficient management of forests, safeguarding biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, improving the accessibility of forests and promoting the natural products sector, nature tourism and welfare services. Accurate and up-to-date information on forests will facilitate the better than before verification of sustainability.

FOREST-BASED BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES AND THEIR STRUCTURES ARE RENEWED AND DIVERSIFIED

OBJECTIVES RELATED TO KNOW-HOW

- R&D activities and structures financed with public funding support, in an appropriate manner, the sustainability of forest-related bioeconomy, the development of business, the commercialisation of products and services, demonstration projects and anticipating changes in the markets and other changes in the operating environment.
- Cooperation between education and training and working life will be reinforced.
- The number of people completing education at different levels will correspond to the forest sector's needs relating to recruitment and know-how.
- Research activities will correspond with bioeconomy's needs.
- The competence of the staff will be up-to-date and occupational welfare improves.

INDICATORS

- The amount of public R&D funding will grow, and its quality will meet with its need.
- The number and share of primary applicants will grow.
- The number of graduates and their employment rate one year after graduation will meet with the sector's needs.

OBJECTIVES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

- Administration, its cooperation and services will support the competitiveness of the field and respond to customer needs.
- Forest-related information and statistics will be open, comprehensive and up-to-date, which will support their broad utilisation.
- The administration's permit procedures will be quick and flexible, and they will support the implementation of investment projects and maintain a high standard of environmental protection.
- Planning and zoning support the opportunities for forestry and diverse business.

INDICATORS

- Customer satisfaction in the services provided by the Finnish Forest Centre, Natural Resources Institute Finland and Metsähallitus will improve.
- Geographical information will be passed on according to the needs of administration and business.

FORESTS ARE USED ACTIVELY, SUSTAINABLY AND DIVERSELY

The reconciliation of different types of objectives related to forests will make increased welfare derived from forests possible.

Forestry that is active, resource efficient and sustainable creates the foundation for the development of the forest bioeconomy. As the majority of Finland's forests are privately owned, it is important to encourage forest owners to manage their property and to make active decisions based on their own objectives.

Increasing the activeness of forest management will require a service range that will serve the diverse needs of forest owners, new operating models for forest management and the versatile utilisation of geographical information. The promotion of earning opportunities unrelated to wood production will require the development and introduction of approaches that will make it easier to balance supply and demand, such as agreements between forest owners and tourism entrepreneurs.

Active decisions concerning management and use of forests increase forest owners' opportunities to engage in gainful activities and create demand for companies that provide services to forest owners. Active forest management and investments in wood production and nature management that are in line with forest owners' objectives safeguard the forests' growth potential and biodiversity.

The simultaneous development of forest-based business and activities and implementation of the objectives set for climate policy emphasises the need

for increasing forest growth. High-quality regeneration of forests, the use of genetically improved regeneration stock, the tending of seedling stands, well-timed thinning, as well as peatland forest management and promoting good nutrient balance will facilitate an increase in forest growth.

The conditions for active and business-like forestry can be supported, for example, by developing taxation and improving the ownership and holding structure of forests. The forestry incentive scheme must support the forest policy objectives laid down in the National Forest Strategy.

Strengthening of biodiversity, water protection and climate sustainability

Strengthening of biodiversity is a key part of sustainable forest management. As the amount of wood raw material used grows, the effectiveness of the safeguarding and reconciliation of biodiversity and other ecosystem services with wood production must be increased. Nature management in commercial forests must be mainstreamed and included as part of routine forest management practices.

More extensive measures than at present are needed for the protection of forest biodiversity, in particular, in the southern parts of the country. In addition to increasing the land area of protected areas we need



FORESTS ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY A PLACE AND A RESOURCE, A SOURCE OF INCOME AND WELFARE, A VALUABLE PART OF NATURE AND A SIGNIFICANT NATURAL RESOURCE. FORESTS EVOKE INTEREST, OPINIONS, DISCUSSION AND EMOTIONS. FOR THIS REASON, DECISION MAKING CONCERNING FORESTS REQUIRES LISTENING, UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT FOR DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS TO FORESTS AND THE SKILL TO RECONCILE DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES.



to improve their quality. Biodiversity policy forms the framework for decisions concerning conservation and restoration.

Water protection in forestry has been developed continuously, but the combined effect of an increase to the area in which activities cause environmental loading and climate change mean that there is an increased need for its more effective implementation.

Forests also play an important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Paris Agreement and the EU 2030 climate and energy framework form the overall framework in which forests will be linked more closely than previously to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Climate change mitigation and preparation for the impacts of climate change are supported with diverse management and use of forests. As climate conditions change the growth of forests will accelerate, but, at the same time, the risk of forest fires and other forest damage will also grow.

Cultural continuity of forests should not be interrupted

Forests must be examined more from the perspective of cultural sustainability. The cultural continuity of forests should not be interrupted, and forest use must also be socially sustainable.

The recognition and valuing of differing relationships to forests will improve the possibility for con-

structive and pluralistic dialogue. A relationship to forests is built starting from childhood. Children and young people are important to all actors involved in forest-based business and activities, as they are the sector's future employees, forest owners, decision makers and consumers.

From the perspective of an increase in health and welfare impacts provided by forests and the formation of a relationship to forests, the accessibility of forests is of utmost importance at all ages. Local forests, Everyman's Rights, good hiking trail networks and active communication on all available opportunities will play a key role in the accessibility of forests.



HEALTHY, ABUNDANT AND BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE FORESTS ARE A PRECONDITION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND THE GROWING AND DIVERSE USE OF FORESTS.

FORESTS ARE IN ACTIVE, ECONOMICALLY, ECOLOGICALLY, SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY SUSTAINABLE AND DIVERSE USE

OBJECTIVES LINKED TO THE PROFITABILITY OF FORESTRY

- Active and business-like forestry will increase, the size of holdings will grow, and forest ownership and property structure will support the active utilisation of forests.
- Forestry's incentives scheme is appropriate and activates forest owners.
- Opportunities of forest owners to engage in gainful activities increase through commercialisation of ecosystem services.

INDICATORS

- In 2025, 70% of all forests will comprise private forest holdings that are over 50 hectares in size and jointly-owned forests.
- The age of the owner at generation change will decrease.
- Investment yields of wood production from private forests will increase.
- At least 140,000 hectares of seedling stands will be tended each year and the management of young stands will be carried out according to the recommendation determined in the National Forest Inventory (NFI).

OBJECTIVES RELATED TO FOREST NATURE AND THE DIVERSE USE OF FORESTS

- The decline of forest biodiversity will be halted by 2020 and a favourable status of forest biodiversity will have been secured by 2050.
- Impacts to waters caused by forestry will have been minimised by using the best available practices.
- Increasingly diverse sustainable forest management will support climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- The recreational use and health-promoting impacts of forests will increase, and forests will be accessible to all.
- The use of forests, the forest environment and forest culture valued more than previously.

INDICATORS

- Measured as genuine changes of categories, changes have been positive for two times as many forest species as compared to negative changes.
- Average volume of decayed wood on forest land in Southern Finland in 2025 5 cubic metres/hectare and in Northern Finland 10–11 cubic metres/hectare.
- The implementation of the METSO Programme in 2008–2025 in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's administrative branch will be 82,000 hectares and in the Ministry of the Environment's administrative branch 96,000 hectares.
- Sediment discharges from drain network maintenance will decrease.
- Carbon sinks are at the forests reference level (carbon sink by trees and soil -27.88 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-eq.), the carbon sink for wood products -6.89 million tonnes).
- Visitor numbers at national parks and hiking areas and the number of days spent hunting, fishing, trekking and snow-mobiling in the wilderness on state-owned lands will grow and customer satisfaction will remain the same or improve.
- The number of times engaging in outdoor recreation locally in the national inventory of recreational use of nature (LVVI) will increase.
- The number of children and young people to take part in forest-themed events will grow.



FINANCING NEEDS WILL APPLY
ESPECIALLY TO RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, THE
FOREST BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME
FOR SOUTHERN FINLAND METSO,
AND THE MAINTENANCE OF DIVERSE
INFRASTRUCTURE.

STRATEGY TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN STRATEGIC PROJECT PORTFOLIO

It is important from the perspective of impact and the balanced attainment of objectives that all the Forest Strategy's projects are implemented.



A project portfolio has been constructed from the measures that are most important with regard to promoting the strategy’s objectives. The implementation of the portfolio will promote the growth of the welfare produced by forest-based business and activities and safeguard the different perspectives of sustainability in the best possible way. There are a total of ten strategic projects in the updated project portfolio.

The projects promote the competitiveness of the operational environment for forest-based business and the renewal of the sector’s structures as well as the sustainable and active management and use of forests. Development needs will be reassessed flexibly during the implementation of the projects, meaning that the projects can also be updated as required.

It is important from the perspective of impact and the balanced attainment of objectives that all the projects are implemented. In order for the projects to be able to respond to the challenge of reconciling objectives, specific consideration must be given during project steering, implementation and monitoring to cooperation between the projects.

The implementation of these projects will require political will, know-how and cooperation across sectoral boundaries and a new type of thinking within the sector. The implementation of certain strategic projects will require sufficient public funding.

MANAGING SUSTAINABILITY



Figure: The Updated National Forest Strategy includes 10 strategic projects.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS



FOREST DATA AND THE PLATFORM ECONOMY

The project, which is a cross-cutting project, aims to improve the availability and usability of forest, nature and environmental data and facilitate their integration with other data sources. High-quality and up-to-date spatial data promote the development and utilisation of digitalisation in tools and services provided by forest-based business and activities.

Responsibility: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance

Other actors: Finnish Forest Centre, Natural Resources Institute Finland, National Land Survey of Finland, Finnish Environment Institute, Metsähallitus, Tapio Ltd, actors



INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION IN FOREST-BASED BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES

The project, which is a cross-cutting project, aims to build trust and cooperation between various actors with pluralistic communication and interaction. People's understanding on sustainable forest management, forest-based products and services, as well as forest biodiversity and other environmental benefits forests provide will also improve as the project progresses. The forest cultural perspective will be included as part of the forest sector's interaction and discussion on forests.

Responsibility: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of the Environment

Other actors: Finnish Forest Association, Finnish Forest Centre, Natural Resources Institute Finland, Lusto – The Finnish Forest Museum, Finnish Wildlife Agency, schools and educational institutions, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Education and Culture, actors



RESOURCE-EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest management will be developed with the help of R&D activities, education and the new geographical information tools developed as part of the project, which will increase forest growth and strengthen carbon sinks. At the same time, sustainable harvesting potential will also increase. The project also takes biodiversity and water protection as well as their trade-offs and synergies with wood production into account. Measures that improve the structure of forest holdings and ownership will support the sustainable utilisation of forests. New incentive schemes support sustainable and resource-efficient forest and nature management.

Responsibility: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Justice

Other actors: Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finnish Forest Centre, National Land Survey of Finland, Tapio Ltd, Finnish Wildlife Agency, Metsähallitus, actors



NATURE MANAGEMENT IN COMMERCIAL FORESTS AND FOREST BIODIVERSITY

Nature management in commercial forests will be developed so it has greater impact and is a more fixed part of routine forest management and forest service entrepreneurship. An effort will be made to carry out nature management in connection with forestry operations. Spatial data and new applications will make it possible to better reconcile forest biodiversity, wood production and other ecosystem services. The genetic resources of forest trees will be ensured. The METSO Programme is being implemented and its resources will be seen to according to the objectives set for the programme.

Responsibility: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment

Other actors: Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finnish Environment Institute, Finnish Forest Centre, Tapio Ltd, Finnish Wildlife Agency, Metsähallitus, actors



CLIMATE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

The project aims to increase knowledge on the development of carbon storage and sequestration in forests as well as on the impacts of forests and forest management on climate change adaptation. New information will improve risk management by forestry and forest owners and create the foundation for the more effective consideration of the climate in management and use of forests.

Responsibility: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment

Other actors: Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finnish Environment Institute, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Tapio Ltd, Finnish Forest Centre, Metsähallitus, Finnish Wildlife Agency



FOREST ROADS AND THE ACCESSIBILITY OF FORESTS

The project will help improve the service level and usability of the road network, for example, by utilising spatial data. At the same time, it will improve the decision-making capability of road cooperatives and make it easier to contact shareholders in road cooperatives. The project also promotes the availability of reliable, fast and equal data connections throughout the country. Investments in infrastructure will promote the diverse utilisation of forests, the performance of rescue duties, recreational use and nature tourism, as well as other business in rural areas.

Responsibility: Ministry of Transport and Communication, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment

Other actors: Finnish Forest Centre, Metsähallitus, municipalities, actors



NEW WOOD-BASED PRODUCTS

The project aims to develop new forest biomass-based solutions and to support their commercialisation. The project's activities focus, in particular, on the development of new high value added fibre and pulp products as well as on the use of wood in wood building and timber products. The new product opportunities of wood biomass and its components are also being investigated. Support for research and innovation activities will speed up the growth of the bioeconomy and circular economy.

Responsibility: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment

Other actors: Business Finland, the Academy of Finland, Natural Resources Institute Finland, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the sector's companies



NATURE TOURISM, NATURAL PRODUCTS SECTOR AND OTHER

The project improves operating conditions for nature tourism, forest-based health and welfare services and the natural products sector, for example by using new tools. New value chains and revenue models for forest owners will create new forest and nature-based business.

Responsibility: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of the Environment

Other actors: Metsähallitus, Finnish Forest Centre, Natural Resources Institute Finland, Ruralia Institute, Tapio Ltd, Finnish Wildlife Agency, companies, landowners



KNOW-HOW AND EDUCATION

The project promotes cooperation between research, business and education with the aim of improving know-how in spatial data, wood technology, nature management in commercial forests, water protection, peatland forest management, the forest road network, entrepreneurship. Also, the quality of machine driver training in the forest sector will be developed.

Responsibility: Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

Other actors: Finnish National Board of Education, education providers, Metsäkoulutus ry, Työtehoseura, companies and organisations in the sector, Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finnish Forest Centre, Business Finland, Academy of Finland, Metsähallitus, Lusto – The Finnish Forest Museum, Tapio Ltd



INTERNATIONAL FOREST POLICY AND INFLUENCING EU POLICIES

The project will implement initiatives that will apply to international forest policy and EU policies and will promote international business opportunities. At the same time, it will promote the attainment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in forest-based business and activities. The project also aims to safeguard operating conditions for forest-based business and activities and for sustainable forest management and to increase awareness on the importance of forest-based business and activities to climate and energy policy solutions.

Responsibility: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance

Other actors: Business Finland, Natural Resources Institute Finland, research institutes, organisations and companies, other countries, international organisations and processes

A serene landscape featuring a red cabin with a white window and door, situated on a rocky bank next to a pond. A white swan is captured in mid-flight over the water, creating a splash. The background is a dense forest of tall trees, and the scene is bathed in soft, natural light.

LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES

The reconciliation of objectives will be promoted by open and interactive cooperation, efficient planning and finding synergies.

The Updated National Forest Strategy will implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) that are related to forests. The updated strategy also has links to numerous other Government strategies and programmes. The most important of these are:

- The Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy
- The Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland METSO (www.metsonpolku.fi)
- Finland’s National Energy and Climate Strategy 2030
- Finland’s National Biodiversity Strategy
- Regional Forest Programmes

National forest policy is also closely linked to international forest policy and EU policies, which in turn have links, for example, to rural, climate, environmental conservation, development policy and many other programmes.

Global sustainable development goals and the objectives contained in international agreements influence our national actions. National objectives and actions in turn influence the formation of international objectives and agreements.

Particular attention should be paid to the coordination, interfaces and compatibility of the National Forest Strategy and other strategies and programmes.



THE NATIONAL FOREST STRATEGY
COLLATES AND RECONCILES ALL THE
POLICIES THAT APPLY TO FORESTS.





The Finnish National Forest Strategy, which was originally drawn up in 2015, was updated in spring 2018 at the initiative of the Forest Council. The update was drawn up in broad-based collaboration with stakeholders under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. It was approved by the National Forest Council in December 2018. The Finnish Government confirmed the updated strategy with a resolution on 21 February 2019.

Several ministries will participate in the implementation of the National Forest Strategy. The implementation and monitoring of the strategy will be coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Forest Council, the Forest Council working committee and various steering groups and networks will support the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the steering and monitoring of projects.

This publication describes the key content of the Updated National Forest Strategy. For more information on the National Forest Strategy, please see www.mmm.fi/nfs.

