

Finnish Forest Certification Council



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Promoting Sustainable Forest Management –
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Repeated forest management audits form the cornerstone of FFCS certification

In Finland's FFCS (Finnish Forest Certification System) the parties issuing the certificates are independent certification companies from the international assessment sector. They ensure, by means of repeated audits, that the FFCS-compliant requirements of forest management are satisfied within the certified region.

In addition to the annually repeated monitoring audits, the certification companies may carry out supplementary audits. Det Norske Veritas – DNV Certification Oy/Ab on 13.-15.5.2002 in the Forestry Centre of Central Finland's region carried out a supplementary audit of this kind in respect of the FFCS system's Criterion no. 10, i.e. on the conservation of valuable biotopes in the managed forests. The target of this audit were the forest management activities of all the forest owners who had committed themselves to forest certification.

The results of the supplementary audit revealed that there is no serious deviation from the set requirements, so that the validity of the forest certificate within the Forestry Centre of Central Finland's area may continue. However, the results also indicated that it should be possible to improve the standard of activities from the perspective of the treatment of the key biotopes and buffer zones. Special attention should also be given to the forest owners' commitment. One important means of achieving these improvements is to further increase training and counselling in relation to the requirements of forest certification. As material for this, in Central Finland "A guide to the forest management of small water bodies", jointly produced by a variety of different stakeholders in the forest sector, has been made available in the spring of 2002.

2002 audits starting

The forest certificates based on the FFCS stipulations are valid for five years as long as the requirements set regarding the validity of the certificates are satisfied in the annual audits. A start will be made on the 2002 audits in the late May to early June period and they will be accomplished in all Forestry Centre regions by the end of the year. Forest management in Central Finland will next be under scrutiny in the annual audit to take place in the 2002 autumn.

Further information: Finnish Forest Certification Council

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