

## **Working Group on Forest Certification Standards**

Press release

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### **REVISION OF FOREST CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER WAY**

The Working Group on Forest Certification Standards has been established to revise requirements concerning forest management and use in the Finnish Forest Certification System. The working group's task is to ensure that forest management criteria as well as the guidelines for interpreting criteria and collecting information are up to date. Twenty-three organizations are participating in this work. The working group named Dr Liisa Saarenmaa of the University of Helsinki chairman and Mr. Hannu Niemelä of the Forestry Development Centre Tapio secretary.

The working group will deal with the ecological, social and economic dimensions of sustainable forestry. Its work will be based on practical experience gained in applying standards, new research data related to forest certification and new information produced in international silviculture and environmental processes.

The Finnish Forest Certification Council invited representatives of all the key organizations and interest groups in the forest field. In its work the Working Group on Forest Certification Standards is independent from the Finnish Forest Certification Council, which is responsible to develop the Finnish Forest Certification System.

The working group has an executive committee. Also a subgroup was established under the executive committee to deal with special issues concerning northern Finland. It includes members representing the Reindeer Herders' Association, the Sámi Parliament and the Finnish Forest and Park Service (Metsähallitus). The executive committee can also ask for statements from experts and expand the working group's expertise in other ways if necessary.

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Information concerning organizations participating in the working group as well as their representatives and deputy representatives is posted at [www.ffcs-finland.org/eng/esittely/ajankohtaista\\_e.htm](http://www.ffcs-finland.org/eng/esittely/ajankohtaista_e.htm)

The standards now in use are posted at [www.ffcs-finland.org/eng/esittely/standardit/standardit2\\_e.htm](http://www.ffcs-finland.org/eng/esittely/standardit/standardit2_e.htm)