

Finnish Forest Certification Council
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"BEHIND THE LOGO" REPORT ON THE FFCS FOREST CERTIFICATION SYSTEM NOT CREDIBLE

FERN, an international environmental organisation for NGOs, has published in its "Behind the logo" series a report on the FFCS (Finnish Forest Certification System) system applied in Finland. The information given in this report is based on that supplied by Nature League (Luontoliitto), which includes opinions but very little actual fact. Nature League has consistently supplied misleading information on e.g. the preparation of a forest management standard, the opportunities enjoyed by eNGOs to influence the implementation of the system, and commitment by forest owners to the FFCS requirements. As a supplier of the information contained in the report, Nature League is not impartial, because it continues to have an openly negative attitude towards the FFCS system.

Need for impartial research reports

As a basis for discussion on forest certification and for developing systems, independent research reports are needed in which forest certification is examined using uniform criteria and factual material. FERN's report does not meet the basic requirements for a credible research report. The Finnish Forest Certification Council had an opportunity to comment on the report before its publication. Based on the Council's comments, some of the factual errors have been corrected, but the report has been published with a critical slant.

Direct channel also available for the viewpoints of eNGOs

The task of the Finnish Forest Certification Council's working group on the development of forest certification in Finland (WGD) is to determine the development requirements for the FFCS system. The WGD provides a natural forum where environmental organisations can present their views as well. Despite repeated invitations to do so by the Finnish Forest Certification Council, which represents different forest owner groups, people engaged in forestry, other social stakeholders, and the forest industry, the eNGOs have steadfastly declined to participate in the activities of the WGD.