

Finnish Forest Certification Council

Press release
2.5.2003

Revision of Forest Certification Standard in Its Final Stretch

The Working Group on Forest Certification Standards has submitted Finnish Forest Certification Council its presentation for the standard to be used in forest certification at the regional forestry centre level. According to the presentation submitted by the Working Group, the standard would consist of a description of the circumstances applying to forestry in Finland, a description of the legislation pertaining to forestry and of ways of action supplementing the set of criteria, and of the twenty-eight criteria required of the forest management.

The Working Group continues to put the finishing touches to the revised standard. The objective is for the standard in its entirety to be ready by the end of next September. The finishing work applies to the description of the state of Finnish forestry practices and of forest certification covered by the standard as part of Finnish forest management. In addition to the criteria related to the forest centre level, the Working Group will also review the criteria drawn up for local forest management association and forest owner levels. All the key organisations and interest groups in the forest fields had been invited to the Working Group, which has representatives from twenty-three organisations.

The draft approved by the Working Group on 16.4.2003 aims to present the criteria text in as unambiguous a format as possible so that applicants for forest certification and auditors of certification bodies will have converging view as to the requirements set for the forest management. The Working Group will address with the criterion concerning the retaining of the characteristics of valuable habitats once again if the METSO action plan related to retaining of biodiversity in the forests of Southern Finland yields new relevant information by the end of September. The main legislative obligations have been compiled to form a separate criterion. The now completed draft of the standard is on view on the Internet on the standardisation group's website, <http://www.ffcs-finland.org/tyoryhma2002/> (in Finnish).

The Finnish Forest Certification Council, which has a duty to develop the FFCS (Finnish Forest Certification System), will for its part check that the other documents related to forest certification comply with the contents of the revised standard. Also, documents telling about the participation of forest owners and other actors in forestry in regional group certification will be developed further.

For more information, please contact:

Finnish Forest Certification Council

Jari Parviainen, tel. +358 10 2113010, jari.parviainen@metla.fi

Auvo Kaivola, tel. +358 9 29041426, auvo.kaivola@ffcs-finland.org