

Voluntary conservation measures in Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland

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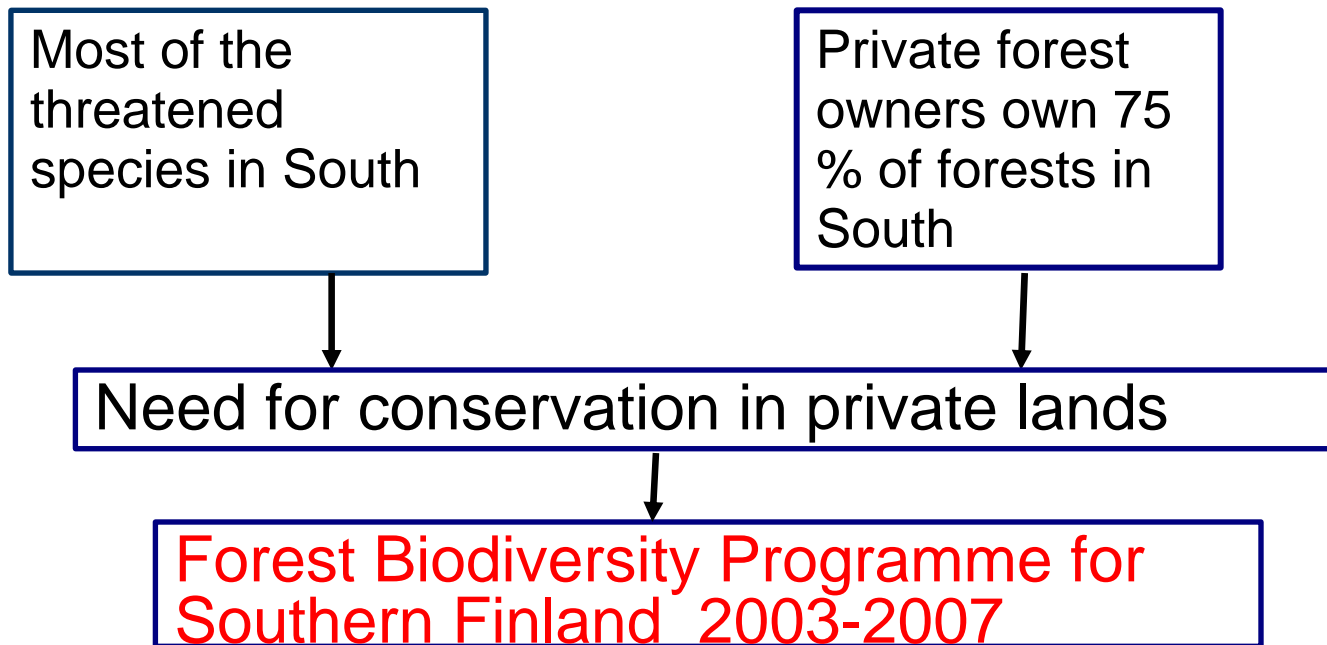
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Nature conservation in Finnish forests

2 % of forest protected in South, 16 % in North



Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland 2003-2007

Pilot projects of **voluntary conservation measures:**

- Nature values trading
 - Competitive tendering
 - Forest biodiversity cooperation networks
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- All the instruments are based on voluntary tenders by the forest-owners
 - Site selection based on the biological criteria

Nature values trading

- A landowner enters into an agreement to maintain or improve specified biodiversity values of the forest and in return receives a regular payment from the 'buyer' of these nature values (the State)
- Agreements between landowners and the Forestry Centre or Regional Environment Centre for a 10(-20)-year period
- The compensation includes both timber and biodiversity values, average 128 €/ ha / year
- 2003-2006 121 contracts for 1219 hectares, average size 9 hectares

Competitive tendering

- The environmental authorities invite landowners to submit tenders on areas to be protected and the price at which they are willing to offer their sites for protection
- Main focus on areas to be protected permanently or for a long time period
- Three pilot projects 2004-2005 coordinated by Regional Environment Centres
- 31 contracts for 250 hectares

Cooperation networks

- Projects used nature values trading and traditional conservation measures
- The objective was to create cooperation between landowners, authorities, local entrepreneurs and interest groups
- Four pilot projects 2004-2006 coordinated by Forestry Centres or Forest Management Associations
- 122 contracts for 510 hectares

Data

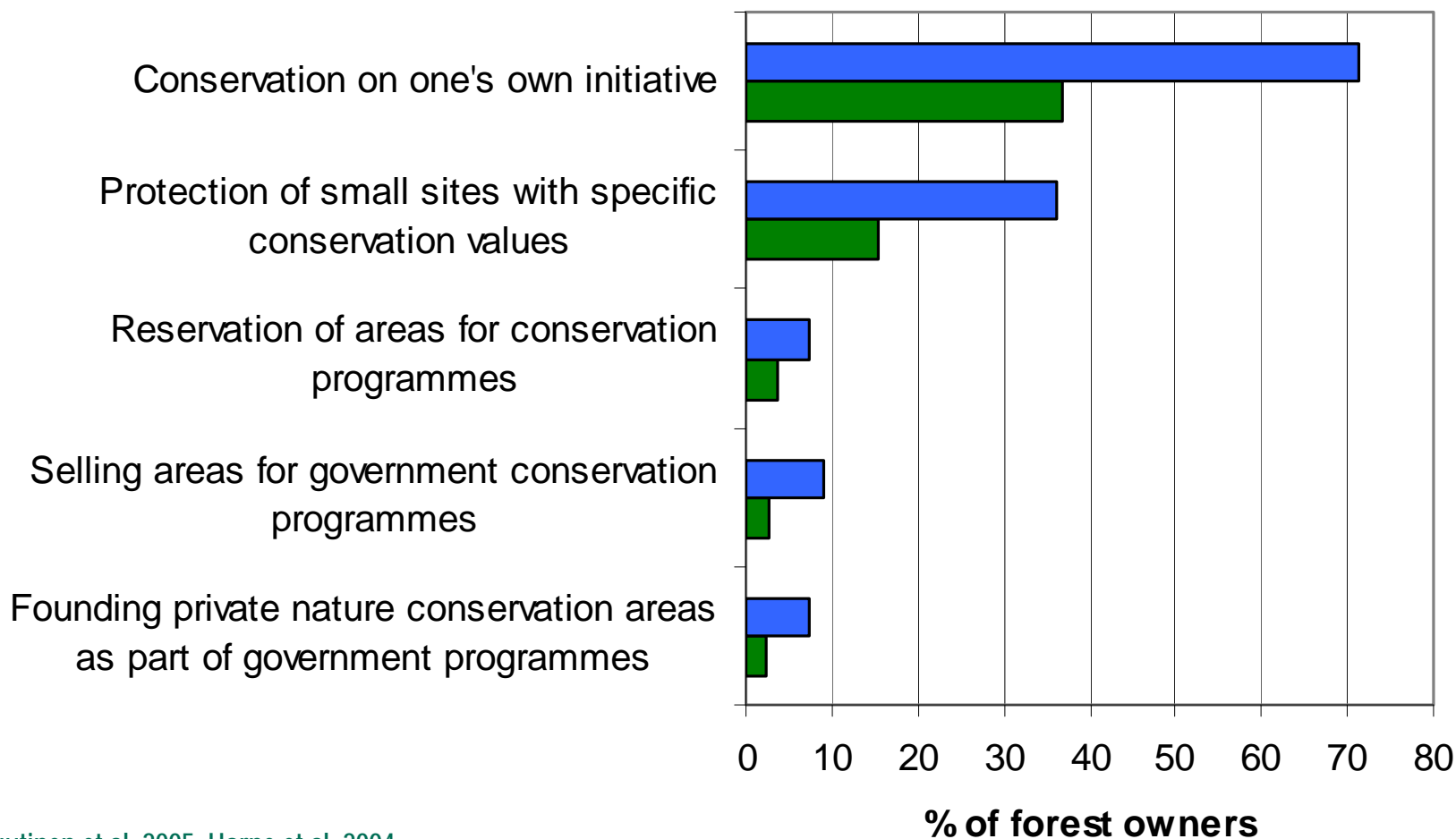
- Semi-structured interviews
- Monitoring questionnaire
- Postal surveys

Results: characteristics

	Nature values trading survey*	Nation-wide survey**	
		South-West (n=104)	Whole country (n=1241)
Mean size of forest holding (ha)	133	26	42
Mean total area (ha)	163	44	55
Mean age (years)	57	58	58
Timber selling (%)	71	62	73
Forest management plan (%)	54	54	59

*Juutinen et al. 2005, ** Horne et al. 2004

Results: conservation on own initiative



Juutinen et al. 2005, Horne et al. 2004

■ Nation-wide survey ■ Nature values trading survey

Results

Acceptability

Important to the acceptability of conservation contract...

- voluntariness
- property rights and sovereignty in decision making

...crucial for entering into the contract

- compensation

Results

Initiator of the contract

- Landowner's own initiative was most often regarded as the best way to start up a conservation project

In practise...

- Forest owners need advice from forestry professionals to recognize nature values in their forests
- Both forest owner and authorities should be able to be the initiator

Results

Role of authorities

- Both Forestry Centre and Regional Environment Centre appropriate contracting parties
- Forest Management Associations role important
- Voluntary conservation measures in forest management planning
- Cooperation between forestry and environmental authorities important

Results

Site selection

- Regional aspects ↔ nationwide criteria
- Potential sites
- Social criteria

Contract terms

- Fixed term ↔ permanent contracts
- Flexibility and simplicity

Conclusions

- Forest owners who have offered sites into nature values trading contract are owners of large forest holding, active in forestry, well educated, forestry professionals and urban
- Voluntary measures have gained widespread acceptance
 - voluntariness, property rights, compensation
- Forest owners need advise in using the new conservation measures → education and training of forestry professionals
- Close collaboration between forestry and environmental organisations is necessary

Conclusions

- The criteria used to select sites and regional objectives should be developed
- Both temporary and permanent schemes of voluntary conservation should be further developed and targeted
- Building up co-operation networks and new cultures of voluntary action takes up time and resources



Kuva: Erkki Oksanen, Metla

Thank you!