



Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management in Finland – individual forest management methods for the wellbeing of nature and people

18 December 2023



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland

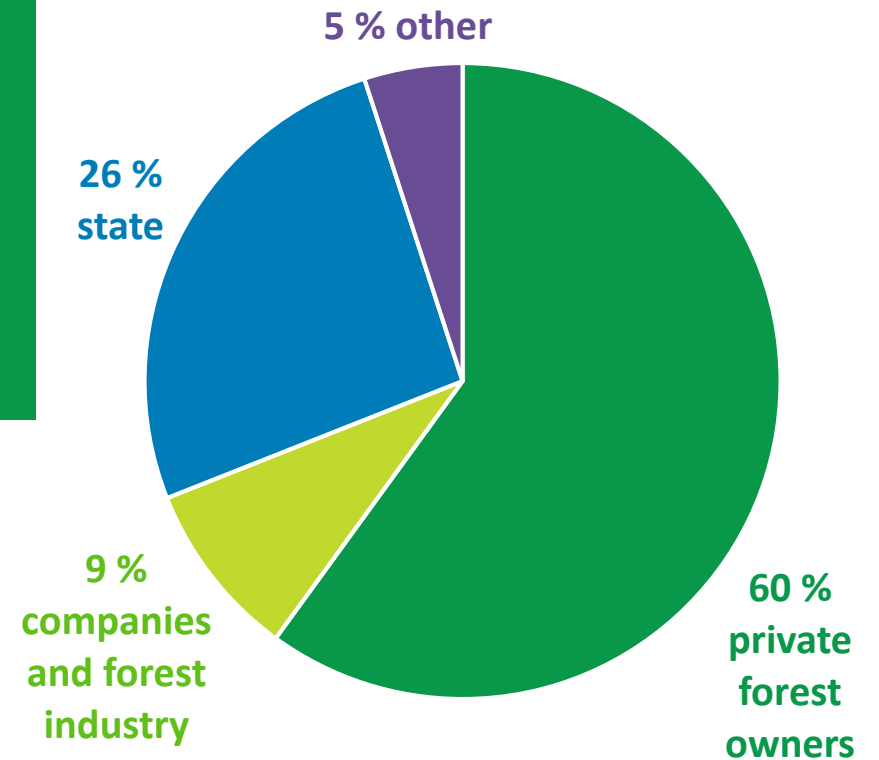
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Finland's forests

Forest area:
20 M ha
>75 % of land area

In Finnish forest management, the structure of the forest, the characteristics of the soil as well as the goals of the forest owner are taken into consideration.

Forest ownership



Source: Natural Resources Institute Finland

The story behind the Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management



Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management offer alternatives for forest management and information on their effects.

Different elements of sustainability are taken into consideration: **economy, nature, recreational use** of forests and **climate change mitigation and adaptation**.

The Best Practices reflect **long-term research** and societal values among the key stakeholders as well as the main targets set by the Finnish national forest policy.

The Best Practices are **provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry** as a service for Finnish forestry.



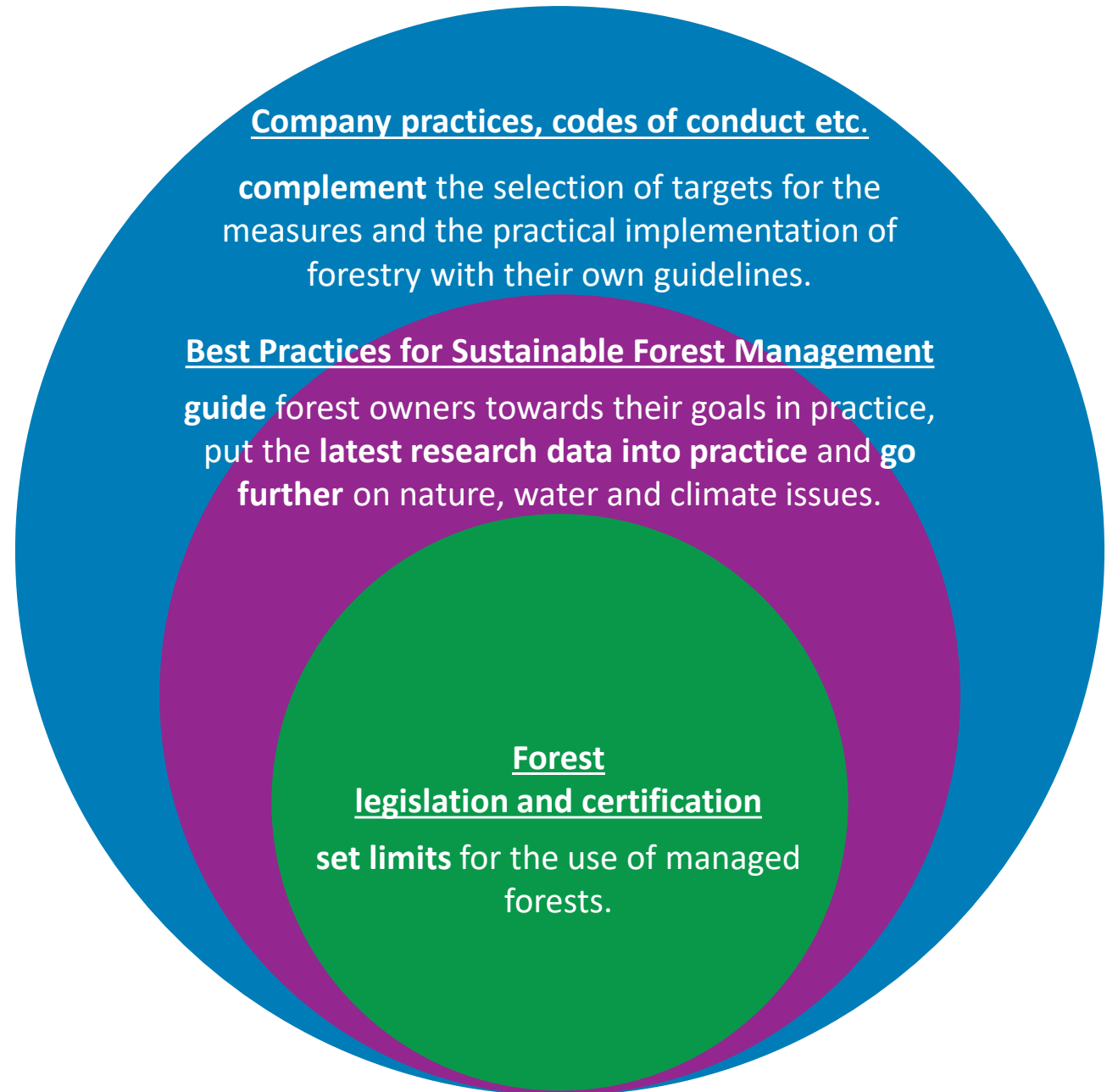
The compilation process

Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management are developed in a multi-stakeholder process coordinated by Tapio Ltd., where the actors represent forest, environment and climate sectors.

The first Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management were composed in 1989. Since then, the Best Practices have undergone extensive updates.

The work is overseen by a high-level management group and steered by a group representing the different interests of forests and forest management. The Best Practices are **constantly open for updates and feedback.**

Best Practices in relation with laws, certificates and other practices





Application of the Best Practices

Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management are broadly used by **forestry professionals, forest owners and forestry students.**

The Best Practices are **freely available** in Finnish and in Swedish.

The Best Practices are also **available through an interface (API)** for organizations that wish to include parts of them in their own services or websites.

Different forests and forest owners need individual solutions



>600 000 forest owners



Present | Near future | Future generations



Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management take forest owners' diverse values into account.



Climate smart forest management



CARBON IN PRODUCTS
Grow high-quality wood

CARBON IN THE FOREST
Store carbon in soil and trees

BALANCE
Economy, nature, recreation, climate

Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management offer alternative climate smart forestry recommendations for forest owners.



Nature management

Nature management is a generic term for activities that are carried out in parallel with timber production in commercial forests. Nature management provides conditions for forest species diversity, clean water and other ecosystem services.

Some nature management measures in the Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management:

Taking valuable habitats into account

Preservation of deadwood

Retention tree groups

Favouring mixed forest

Preservation of trees of biodiversity or landscape value

Protection zones for small waters

Favouring pollinators

Avoiding bird nests

Game management



If game management is of particular importance to the forest owner, it can be taken into account in forest management planning.

Some measures in the Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management for favouring game:

Saving shrubs, junipers and undergrowth

Retaining shrubs at the edges of open areas

Avoiding clear cutting during bird nesting season

Game-oriented forest plans

Conservation of game culture sites



Broad
partnerships

Access to digital
services and API

Open informing

Community of
the service
developers

The drafting of
the Best Practices for
Sustainable Forest
Management is
an open process

Webinars

Key trainers'
network

Round Table
concept



Ministry of Agriculture
and Forestry of Finland



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland



NATURAL RESOURCES
INSTITUTE FINLAND



Suomen ympäristökeskus
Finlands miljöcentral
Finnish Environment Institute



ILMATIETEEN LAITOS
METEOROLOGISKA INSTITUTET
FINNISH METEOROLOGICAL INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND



JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ



Metsäkeskus
Forest Centre



SUOMEN
RIISTAKESKUS
FINLANDS VILTcentral



Centre for Economic Development,
Transport and the Environment



HAMK
Häme University
of Applied Sciences



METSÄHALLITUS



MTK



METSÄNHOITO-
YHDISTYSTEN PALVELU



Metsänomistajat
PÄIJÄT-HÄME



Etämetänomistajien Liitto ry



PKMO
Pääkaupunkiseudun
Metsänomistajat ry



WWF



Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation



Metsä



storaenso



UPM



Metsäteho



TORNATOR



Finnish Forest Industries



sahateollisuus



Finnish Energy



BIOENERGIA



KONEYRITTÄJÄT

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Partners for the Best Practices for
Sustainable Forest Management

The Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management are an important part of forestry professionals' daily work

2/3

of Finland's forestry professionals apply the Best Practices monthly

93 %

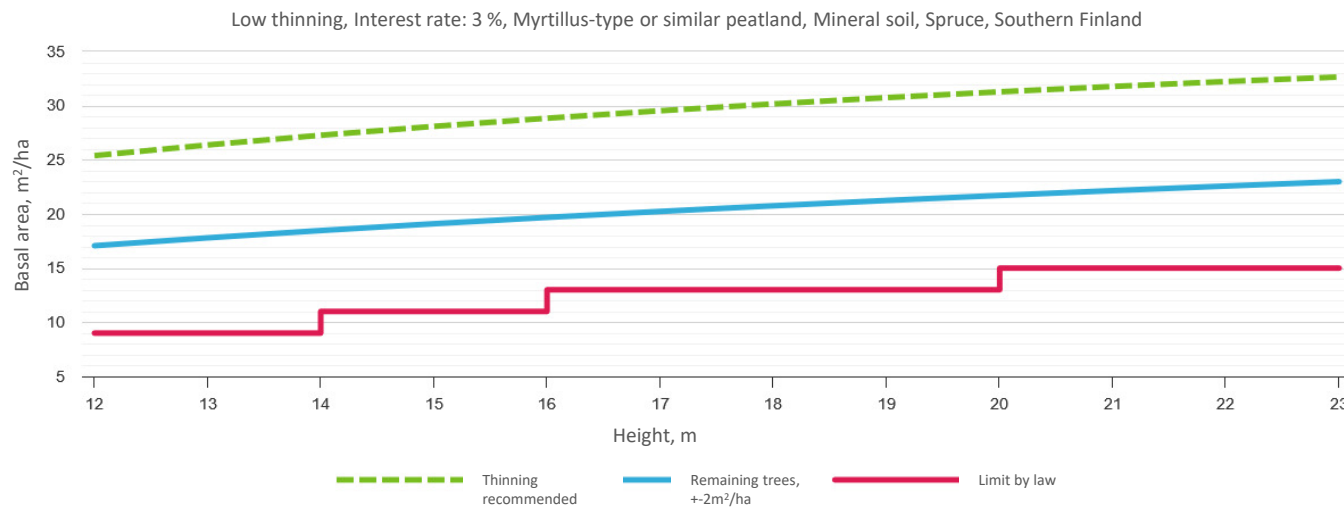
think that it is important or highly important for forestry experts to have access in the Best Practices

76 %

think that the Best Practices are a significant or a very significant part of Finnish forest management

Thinning schedules

The **thinning schedules** in the Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management describe the optimal time to carry out thinning in managed forest and how dense to leave the forest.



“With the new thinning schedules, forest owners can be offered a wider range of options, such as adjusting the profit target or emphasising carbon sequestration. This will bring advantages for forest owners who want to have more control over the development of their forests.”

Kalle Vanhatalo
Coordinator of the Best Practices for
Sustainable Forest Management
Tapio

Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management reflect Finland's forest policy

A common political will for forest management and the coordination of different political goals are an important part of the Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management in Finland.

The Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management are mentioned in [The National Forest Strategy 2035](#).



“Best Practices for Sustainable Forest Management are based on the newest research information and practical experience. They are a key part of the implementation of Finland's National Forest Strategy 2035 aiming at the overall sustainability of forestry.”

Erno Järvinen
Head of Forests and Bioenergy unit
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland



**METSÄNHOIDON
SUOSITUKSET**

[Link: Best Practices for Sustainable
Forest Management in Finland](#)



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