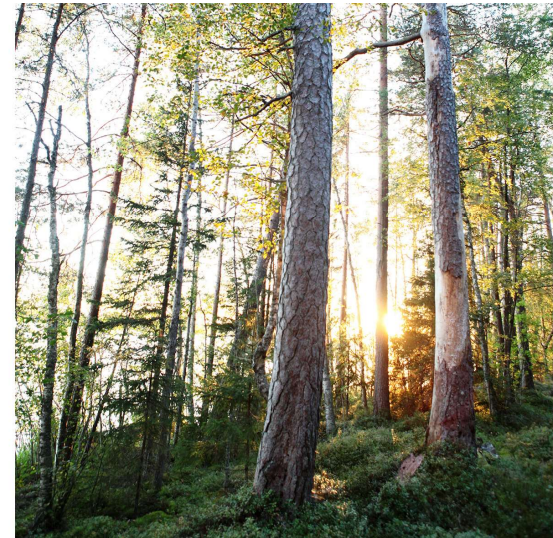


REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD IN FINLAND

Prepared for the Trial Phase of an Open-Ended Forum on Review of Implementation at SBI3



17 SEPTEMBER 2020

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A REVIEW BASED ON

Impact Assessment of the Implementation of National Strategy and Action
plan for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity in Finland
(2012–2020)

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Background – biodiversity policy in Finland

TIMELINE

- 1995 Group of experts on the actions needed to implement the CBD in Finland
-
- 1997 The first Action Plan from 1997–2005
- ⋮
- 2005 **Evaluation of the Finnish National Action Plan for Biodiversity (1997–2005)**
-
- 2007 The second Action Plan from 2006 to 2016
- ⋮
- 2012 Government resolution on the Strategy 2012–2020 and Action Plan 2013–2020
-
- 2015 Mid-term review of the NBSAP + results online at biodiversity.fi
- ⋮
- 2020 **Impact assessment of the NBSAP (2012–2020)**



Background – biodiversity policy in Finland

BROAD-BASED NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

SINCE 1996

Ministry of the Environment

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Education and Culture

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Finnish Museum of Natural History

Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd

Finnish National Agency for Education

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

Finnish Wildlife Agency

Natural Resources Institute Finland

Finnish Environment Institute

Sámi Parliament

Academy of Finland

Association of Finnish Municipalities

City of Helsinki

Finnish Forest Industries

Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries RT

Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners

Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

Allianssi (national youth council of Finland)

i. Actions that have been taken to implement the Convention and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including legislative action

5 Goals & 20 National targets – in line with the Strategic Plan & Aichi Targets

105 National actions covering 24 themes:

1. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION
2. FINANCING
3. LEGISLATION
4. PLANNING AND LAND USE
5. PROTECTED AREAS
6. THREATENED HABITATS AND SPECIES
7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
8. RECREATION AND TOURISM
9. RESEARCH AND MONITORING
10. FORESTS
11. MIRES AND WETLANDS
12. AGRICULTURAL HABITATS
13. SUBSTITUTE HABITATS
14. GEOFORMATIONS
15. INLAND WATERS
16. BALTIC SEA AND THE COAST
17. FISH STOCKS
18. GAME ANIMALS
19. URBAN AREAS
20. RESTORATION AND NATURE MANAGEMENT
21. SAMI PEOPLE AND NORTHERN AREAS
22. GENETIC DIVERSITY
23. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES
24. MONITORING

<https://www.biodiversity.fi/actionplan/>

i. Actions that have been taken to implement the Convention and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including legislative action

Laws revised or drafted in recent years:

Environmental Protection Act, 2014

Act on Managing the Risk Caused by Alien Species, 2015

Temporary Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry, 2015

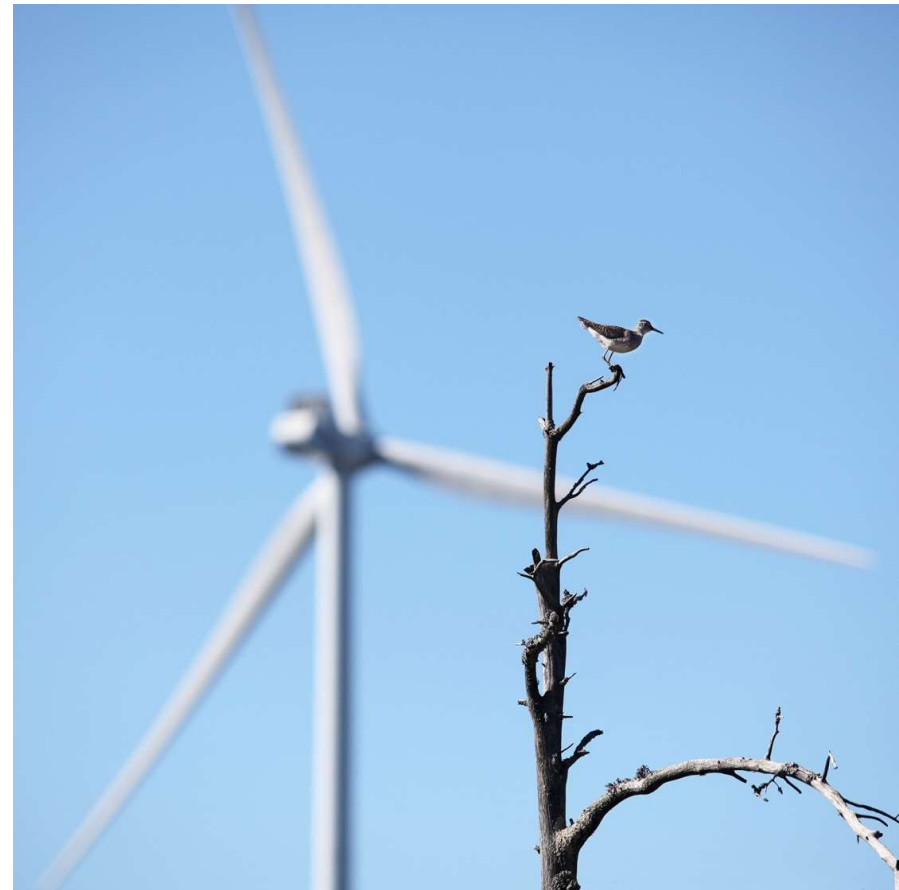
Fishing Act, 2015

Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure, 2017

Laws in process of revision:

Nature Conservation Act

Land Use and Building Act



Question 2: Outcomes of these actions and progress made

Question 3: Technical and financial resources provided or received from multiple sources for implementation

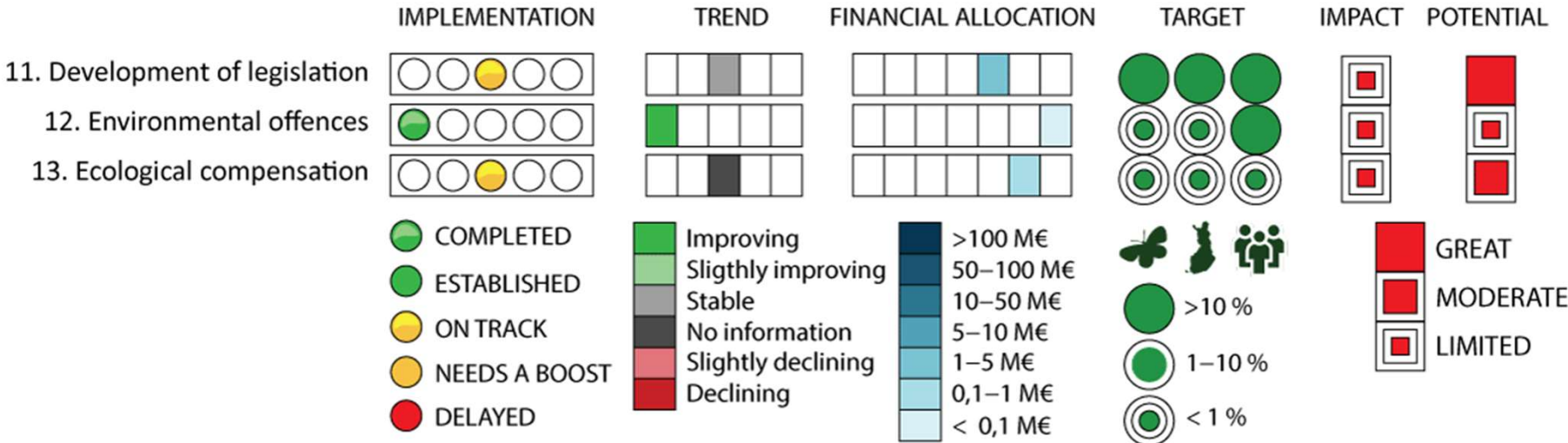
MAIN QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the state, trend and rate of change of biodiversity in Finland?
- 2) What are the drivers and pressures impacting biodiversity in Finland, and how can they be changed?
- 3) How well has the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy succeeded with the National Action Plan 2013–2020?
- 4) How has the NBSAP been implemented with the division of responsibilities among ministries?
- 5) How well do the crosscutting measures such as mainstreaming, communication and financial steering function as cornerstones of the NBSAP?
- 6) What role do the private and third sectors, as well as production and consumption, play in the implementation of the NBSAP?
- 7) Has the Finnish NBSAP fulfilled its role as the central means of implementing the CBD nationally?

Question 2: Outcomes of these actions and progress made

Question 3: Technical and financial resources provided or received from multiple sources for implementation

An example of how the 105 action were reviewed, LEGISLATION

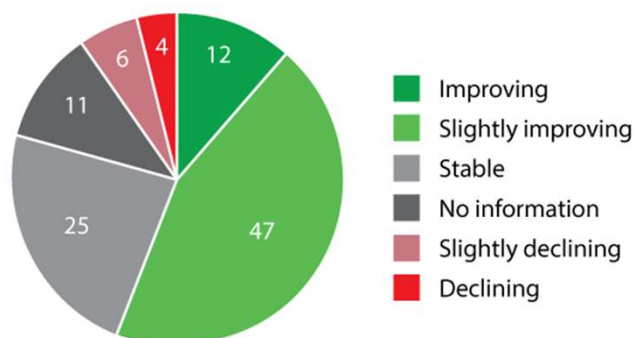


Question 2: Outcomes of these actions and progress made

Question 3: Technical and financial resources provided or received from multiple sources for implementation

TREND

(of the development
aspired by the actions)

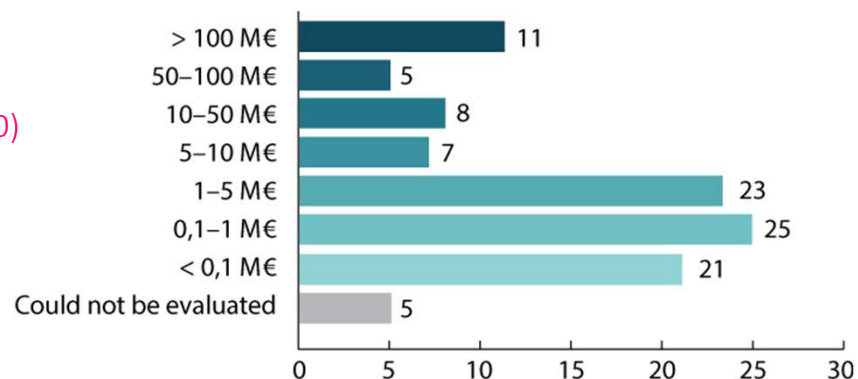


- Just over half of the actions (56%) have resulted in a positive trend in terms of the development they have sought after. In future, we should make sure this proportion is higher.
- The most pronounced improving trends were often observed in actions with a low level of ambition. Only in the case of a small number of actions the positive trend was observed in connection with a relatively strong impact on biodiversity. These actions relate to communication and the production of new inventory type of information.
- A slightly improving trend was observed in the case of many actions which had been partially implemented, which implementation started late in the NBSAP period or which dealt with new ways of operation. These include several actions which, with enough investment in the future, could yield in notable results.
- The actions with a stable trend were often characterised by the fact that they had been implemented as a part of the work that authorities have to carry out in any case. There were no clear extra investments in them. In future, all actions should aim at a clear improvement of the status quo.
- The declining trend of actions related to development cooperation was due to cutbacks in the general funding of development cooperation. Financing is no straightforward guarantee of any action (cf. action 1 on communication where considerable results have been reached thanks to close cooperation of several actors, despite scant resources). However, the implementation of no actions can cope with a pronounced cutback in funding.

Question 2: Outcomes of these actions and progress made

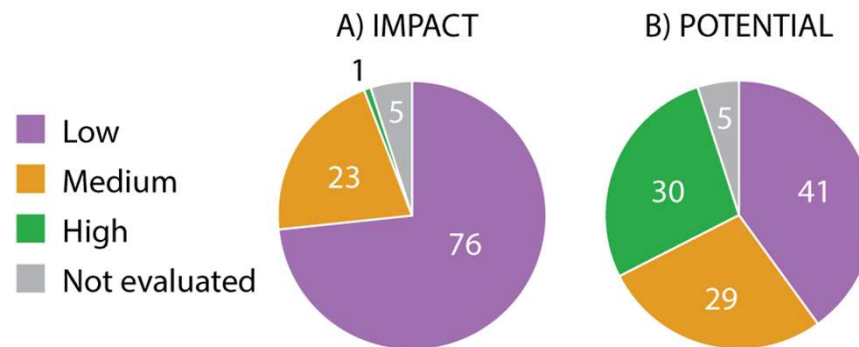
Question 3: Technical and financial resources provided or received from multiple sources for implementation

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION
(for the implementation
of the actions 2012–2020)



- The allocation of financial resources to the implementation of actions is crucial and reveals a great deal about what is really being focused on, and what not so.
- There are some actions in the NBSAP which have received a great deal of investment, but where the main focus is some other than biodiversity (e.g. National Forest Strategy, agri-environmental subsidies and predator compensation). In these cases, we should be able to better pinpoint the investment in promoting biodiversity.
- There were five actions which had simultaneously a high level of financial allocation, moderate impact and great potential. These dealt with criteria of EU programmes, the METSO Forest Biodiversity Programme, nature management in state-owned commercial forests, the management of high nature value farmland areas and the Baltic Sea Action Plan. In these cases, resources have been successfully invested in actions had have and can yield considerable results.
- There are also actions in the case of which small financial investments by the state have yielded in marked positive development and/or have great potential to do so in future. Examples include communication, education, cooperation with the business sector and legislation.

Question 4: Any need for adjustments of the current NBSAP (implementation mechanisms in place, targets and action plan, other)



- One action had a high impact on biodiversity during the NBSAP period and 23 (22%) had a medium impact. Correspondingly, 30 actions (29%) had a high future potential and a similar share had a medium potential. More than half of the actions can thus yield notable results if their implementation is stepped up.
- The potential of 41 actions (39%) was evaluated to be low. These actions should not feature as independent actions in the next NBSAP, yet they can act as components of future actions. This holds true especially for action focusing on information. In the case of biodiversity conservation, information is almost always a necessary component of influential action, but it is not a goal in itself.

>> IN THE NEXT NBSAP, ACTIONS NEED TO BE SMART, FEWER, HAVE CONCRETE OUTCOMES AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY INDICATORS ON IMPLEMENTATION, TRENDS AND RESOURCES

Question 5: Unresolved challenges in implementation

”In this decade, Finland has the first realistic chance to reverse the trend of biodiversity. Many new means of improving the state of nature have been developed over the past 25 years. Halting the loss of biodiversity requires a strong commitment from the whole society and an ecological transition that permeates all of its functions. Now is time to implement.”

Ecological transition (*transformational change, systemic change, green transition* etc.) = taking biodiversity into account in all decision making, turning from increasing or continuing pressures to a net positive impact on nature.

By far, the largest unresolved challenges are commitment, resources and accountability.

>> Recently, there has been increasing political and economic interest in the safeguarding of biodiversity

The review has received considerable attention in the media and it's main results have been presented to a number of politicians.

"Nature is the basis of all life"
Editorial in the largest newspaper
in Finland (17 May 2020)

PÄÄKIRJOITUS

HS 17. toukokuuta 2020



Luonto on kaiken elämän perusta

Hitaasti etenevään katastrofiin on vaikeampi reagoida kuin äkilliseen onnettomuuteen. Ihminen alkaa ratkoa ongelmia yleensä vasta sitten, kun hän huomaa niiden vaikutukset omassa elämässään. Tämä voi olla yksi syy siihen, että luonnon monimuotoisuuden heikentämiseen on reagoitu niin hitaasti.

Luonto yksipuolistuu ja köyhtyy ihmisen toiminnan seurauksena ennennäkemättömällä tavalla. Ongelma on ollut olemassa jo puoli vuosisataa, ja se on tiedostettukin useita vuosikymmeniä. Siltä huolimatta sen korjaamiseksi ei ole tehty Suomessa tai muissakaan maissa riittävästi.

Suomen ympäristökeskus (Syke) ja Luonnonvarakeskus (Luke) päätyivät kuitenkin tuoreessa tutkimuksessaan siihen, että on olemassa hyvät edellytykset korjata asia seuraavien kymmenen vuoden aikana.

Hälyttäviä uutisia uhanalaisista lajeista, pölyttäjähöynteisten vähenemisestä tai selkärankaisten villieläinpopulaatioiden pienemisestä on kuultu jo pitkään. Monimuotoisuus ylläpitää lajin välistä tasapainoa luonnossa. Lajikato taas voi horjuttaa lajin välistä vuorovaikutusta, kuten saalistusta, jolloin jokin yksittäinen laji, kuten tuhohyönteinen, voi lisääntyä hallitsemattomasti. Samat ekologiset säännöt pätevät myös taudinaiheuttajiin.

Luonnon yksipuolistumisen taustalla on yksi yhteinen nimittäjä. Ihminen vie koko ajan enemmän elintilaa muilta lajeilta. Tähän vaikuttaa globaali maankäyttö niin kaupungeissa, maataloudessa kuin metsätaloudessakin. Jo kolmasosa maapallon ma-

Palaute: hs.paakirjoitus@hs.fi **Vieraskynät:** Palstalla julkaistaan asiantuntijakirjoituksia. Noin 4 300 r osoitteeseen hs.artikkelit@hs.fi. Toimitus editoi julkaistavat artikkelit. **Pääkirjoitustoimittajat:** Matti Anna-Liina Kauhanen, Paavo Rautio, Jaana Savolainen. Helsingin Sanomien periaatteita on osoitteissa

pinta-alasta on maatalouden käytössä, peltolina tai karjalaitumina. Luonnonvaraisten eläin- ja kasvilajien elintila kapenee.

Myc Suomessa maankäyttö on ratkaisevassa asemassa. Joitakin elinympäristöjä heikentäviä toimia, kuten soiden ojituksia ja vesistöihin kohdistuvaa kuormitusta, on viime vuosikymmeninä vähennetty.

Jatkossa pitäisi löytää myös keinot sovitaa Suomelle tärkeää metsätalousta yhteen sekä luonnon monimuotoisuuden että ilmastonmuutoksen torjunnan kanssa. Suurin osa Suomen uhanalaisista lajeista elää Etelä-Suomen metsissä. Lajien uhanalaisuudesta lähes kolmasosa selittävät metsäelinympäristön muutokset.

Tutkijoiden mukaan luonnon monimuotoisuuden turvaaminen ei ole monimutkaista eikä edes kallista. Se edellyttää kuitenkin sen ymmärtämistä, että ilman suhteellisen vakaita ilmastoa ja toimivia ekosysteemejä ihmisten hyvinvointi niin Suomessa kuin koko maailmassakin on uhattuna. Elinvoimainen luonto on kaiken elämän perusta.

Suomessa on ollut mittava, yli sadan toimenpiteen ohjelma luonnon monimuotoisuuden eli biodiversiteetin edistämiseksi. Osa toimista on tutki-

joiden mukaan edistynyt hyvin, osa taas heikommin. Todelliset edistysaskeleet edellyttävät jatkossa sitä, että biodiversiteetin turvaaminen otetaan huomioon kaikessa taloudellisessa toiminnassa. Luonnonsojeleja ei voi eristää omaksi saarekkeekseen, jossa korjataan elämäntapamme jatkuvasti tuottamia vahinkoja.

Ilmastonmuutos on havahduttanut niin kansalaiset kuin päätöksentekijätkin ymmärtämään, ettei ympäristöä vakavasti vahingoittavalla elämäntavalla ole tulevaisuutta. Samanlaista vahvistusta tarvitaan myös luonnon monimuotoisuuden turvaamiseksi. Ekologisesti kestävä ratkaisu rakentavat pohjaa talousjärjestelmälle, jolla on tulevaisuus myös sadan vuoden päästä. Suomella on niihin hyvät edellytykset.

Lajikato horjuttaa tasapainoa.

THANK YOU!

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