

95% of Finnish forests have been certified according to the Pan-European Forest Certification scheme PEFC. Several Finnish forestry companies have been assigned the right to use the PEFC logo in their products and the first PEFC-labelled products for the market were shipped from Finland to the Netherlands on November 22 2000. The Finnish certification council has claimed that PEFC-labelled Finnish certification "indicates impartially and reliably that Finland's forests and forest ecosystems are being sustainably managed". Yet, PEFC is not supported by any environmental organisation.

Anything Goes?

A Report on PEFC Certified Finnish Forestry

Greenpeace Nordic and the Finnish Nature League studied PEFC-certified forestry in Finland in the autumn of 2000 and the beginning of year 2001. The report *Anything goes?* published in January 2001 examines the ecological reliability of the PEFC certificate through concrete examples documented by the organisations. The report presents over 50 cases of ecologically detrimental logging or logging plans in valuable forest areas. It also presents several cases in which possibilities to herd reindeer have been harmed by logging or the rights of the indigenous Sámi people have not been respected in forestry operations. It is evident that logging of forests of high conservation value continues to be an everyday practice of Finnish PEFC certified forestry. Conflicts between forestry and reindeer herding remain unsolved. The vague ecological and social criteria of the PEFC have not made a change towards more sustainable forestry.



A three-toed woodpecker looking out of its nest hollow while a forest machine is working on the background. The habitat of this threatened bird was clearcut by the state enterprise Forest and Park Service in a PEFC-certified region in southern Finland in the summer of 2000. Case study PM-3 in *Anything goes?* – report. 3,6% of productive forest land in Finland is protected. Populations of forest species are declining all over the country. According to most recent studies by environmental authorities and researchers, the number and total area of protected areas is insufficient to preserve the biodiversity of Finnish forests.

Finland's share of the world's paper and board exports is almost 15 %. The most important market area is the EU, absorbing about two thirds of the exports of Finnish forest industry. The most important single export countries include Germany, the UK, France, Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands.

"...many of the definitions related to valuable biotopes and habitats are subject to differing interpretations and there are no possibilities for non-forestry parties to assess or verify the classifications made by the forestry sector."

"...the system falls short in the rather simplified assessment sheet that the forestry sector uses to assess their own performance retrospectively...The monitoring system is a closed system of the forestry sector built up under conditions of forestry. Possibilities for subjective interpretation are so severe that according to our understanding the system does not meet the requirements of impartial reliability."

– researchers of Regional Environmental Centres in their statement on the guidelines of the Finnish certification system in 1998



Rare forests of high conservation value such as old-growth forests are still being logged in Finland. In northern Finland forestry is in conflict with reindeer herding and the rights of the indigenous Sámi people.

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Less than 5% of Finnish forests are old-growth. About half of them have been protected. This PEFC certified clearcut was made by the state enterprise Forest and Park Service in an old-growth forest hosting several endangered and threatened species in the autumn of 2000. Case study K-12 in Anything goes? – report.

THE REPORT will be published on January 29, 2001 by the Finnish Nature League and Greenpeace Nordic. 28 pages + 12 pages of appendices, over 50 photographs.

The report can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF-file from the web-site www.pefcwatch.org. Printed copies can be ordered from the authors.

VIDEO A brief video news release containing 10 minutes of footage from the case study areas is available. For more information, please see the web site.

PHOTOGRAPHS For media use, high-resolution photographs are available upon request. Some photos can be downloaded direct from the web-site.

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