



Traditional Land Use, Tourism and Conservation of Biodiversity in Arctic Protected Areas in Finland

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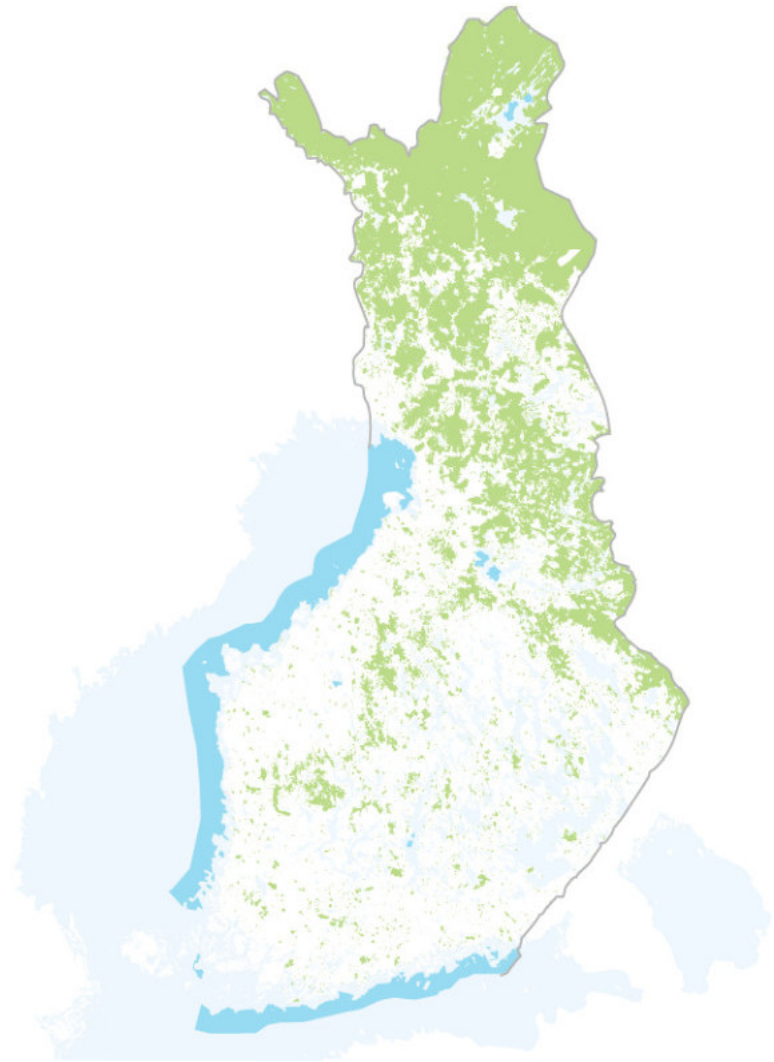
METSÄHALLITUS



What is Metsähallitus?

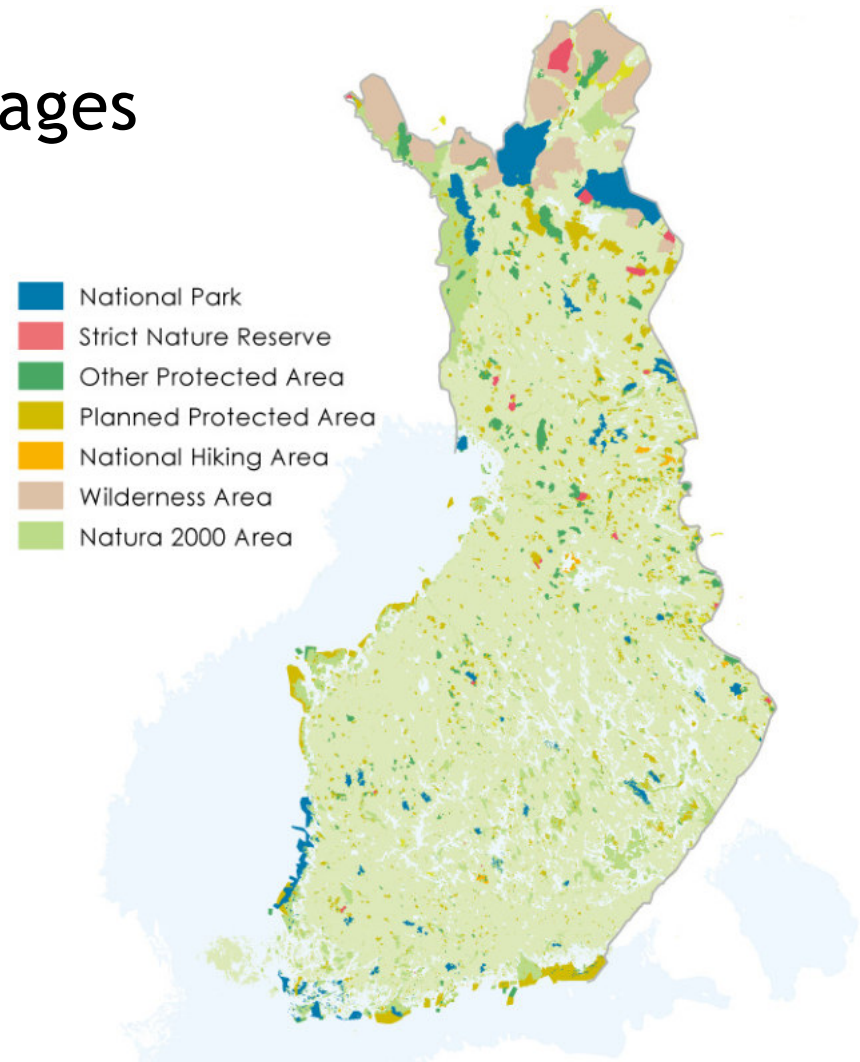
A state enterprise governing all state-owned lands and waters.

- business activities include a forestry company Metsähallitus Metsätalous Oy, seed production and selling of holiday plots and forest estates
- public administration duties and services are under Parks & Wildlife Finland -unit
- responsibility covers an area over 12 million hectares - one third of Finland's total area
- www.metsa.fi/web/en



Parks & Wildlife Finland manages our most pristine nature

- We manage all state-owned areas reserved for nature conservation and hiking:
 - 40 national parks
 - 19 strict nature reserves
 - 6 national hiking areas
 - 12 wilderness areas in Lapland
 - almost 3,000 other protected areas
 - and cultural heritage sites:
ca. 350 protected buildings,
ca. 2,000 ancient sites.



Leading the way in diverse bioeconomy

A unique combination of commercial operations and public administration

We manage, use and protect state-owned areas responsibly, in a way that maximizes their benefits to society as a whole.

We balance the needs and wishes of various stakeholders within environmental, financial, social and cultural sustainability.

We produce natural resources services for a diverse customer base





Traditional Land Use

Historical Finnish so-called "everyman's right" and legislation together - exceptionally equal and diverse opportunities to go and act outdoors

- Rights for local residents have been incorporated into a number of legislative acts
 - Hunting Act, Fisheries Act, Skolt Sámi Act, Reindeer Husbandry Act, Wilderness Act and into many of the acts establishing the nature reserves
- Fishing, hunting, reindeer herding, collecting wood, picking of berries, mushrooms and plants
 - Important when preparing new protected areas and land-use and management plans

Tourism and outdoor recreation

“Principles of Sustainable Tourism” by Parks & Wildlife Finland

- Human activities in protected areas are supported by facilities and services
- Being in nature enhances human well-being and health
- Sustainable nature tourism brings benefits to the local economy
- Tourism is increasing heavily - entrepreneur's activities are regulated
- 85% of the arctic area's (north from Arctic Circle) tourism accommodation capacity is in Finland





Protected and Wilderness Areas

The largest National Parks (NP) and other wide protected areas (PA) and 12 Wilderness areas (WA) are situated in Northern Finland

- They cover 30 % of the Finnish Lapland
- Finland has a special Wilderness Act “Erämaalaki” (1991)
 - aiming to protect natural landscape, preserve indigenous Sámi culture and promote traditional livelihoods
- Most of these areas are part of the European Union’s Natura 2000 network
- Most of the protected and all wilderness areas in Finland are situated on state-owned land and managed by Parks & Wildlife Finland

Conservation of Biodiversity

Preserving habitats in their natural state

- The management of protected areas aims to minimize impacts of human activities
- Planning land use, zoning and placing visitor infrastructure so that valuable natural areas remain intact
- Restricting access or other activities, directing use by permits, providing guidance, supervision, promoting research and monitoring
- Influencing land use outside protected areas





Land-use planning

Adaptive Management

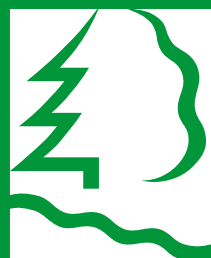
- Natural Resource Planning - tool for management of state-owned land
- Landscape ecological planning in forestry areas
- PAs management and operational plans by Parks & Wildlife Finland
- The planning processes are participatory
- In the Sámi homeland, Akwé: Kon planning process has been implemented since 2013, based on the Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Climate change

Challenges for the planning and management of protected areas - Adaptation

- Ensuring sufficiency of the protected area network
- Expanding networks - Ecological corridors, buffer zones to connect PAs
- Preventing harmful changes - eradicating invasive alien species, restoring habitats
- Attention to species and biotopes that are on the edges of their ranges
- Improving monitoring and indicators for sensitive species
- Reintroductions in extreme cases





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