

Conservation Status Improvement Pledge Preparations in Finland

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Finland's biodiversity pledge preparations

- Finland's pledge preparations started last year with a nomination of a broad-based high level steering group and a working group that both met several times in 2022.
- Steering group members were representatives of for example different ministries, nature conservation NGOs, forestry stakeholders and Sámi Parliament, from 28 different organisations in total.
- Working group consisted of public officials, experts and stakeholder representatives, 20 people in total. The working group met 14 times last year.
- Expert groups prepared extensive material for the working group about the current state of Finland's habitats and species and an estimate of for which species/habitats conservation status/trend could be improved by 2030 if all possible measures were taken.



Finland's biodiversity pledge preparations

- At the end of 2022 the steering group came into the conclusion that a political decision needs to be made about the content of the pledges.
- Finland's pledge preparations were delayed due to our parliamentary elections in the beginning of 2023.
- Ministry of the Environment has continued the technical preparation of pledges (filling measures in excel sheets) with the help of SYKE (Finnish Environment Institute) and Metsähallitus. We have been regularly discussing the classification of species and habitats in the pledge with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- Stakeholders have been met twice this year.
- Political negotiations about the content of the pledges are ongoing in the new government.
- Government resolution about the content of the pledges will be made in early 2024.



Big Issues

- Conflicting interests over land use e.g. forestry, wind power / potential costs to industries
- Conflicting EU policies (e.g. agriculture; grazing)
- Difficult to change current practices in e.g. agriculture, forestry (for example improving the state of bird populations requires changes in wide areas)
- Fear of promising too much
- Lack of secured funding (can we promise something if we are not sure we will have funding for the implementation?)
 - Just halting the deterioration of certain habitats requires a lot of resources





Small Issues

- Getting the needed information for commission's excel sheets requires a lot of expert work; expert work hours were in short supply
- Excel sheets ask very detailed information; the level of detail that excel sheets ask for often does not exist



Iteration of Finland's pledge for habitats

Phase 1

- Habitats that could be improved by 2030 with unlimited resources (Finland has 61 habitats in unfavourable status, 24 could be improved by 2030 if everything is done)

Phase 2

- Habitats that can be improved with current resources by 2030
- Habitats that should be improved by 2030 because of their high biodiversity value even if all the resources are not currently available

Phase 3

- Habitats that Government agrees to improve in the pledge by 2030



Criteria used in preparing the conservation improvement target for habitats

- Species-rich habitats preferred to have real biodiversity effects
- Realism and cost effectiveness (low hanging fruits and habitats with small area included) taken into account
- Including habitats that are protected via the conservation area pledge
- Including habitats in different ecosystems



Thank you!

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