



METSÄHALLITUS

Strict protection in Finland

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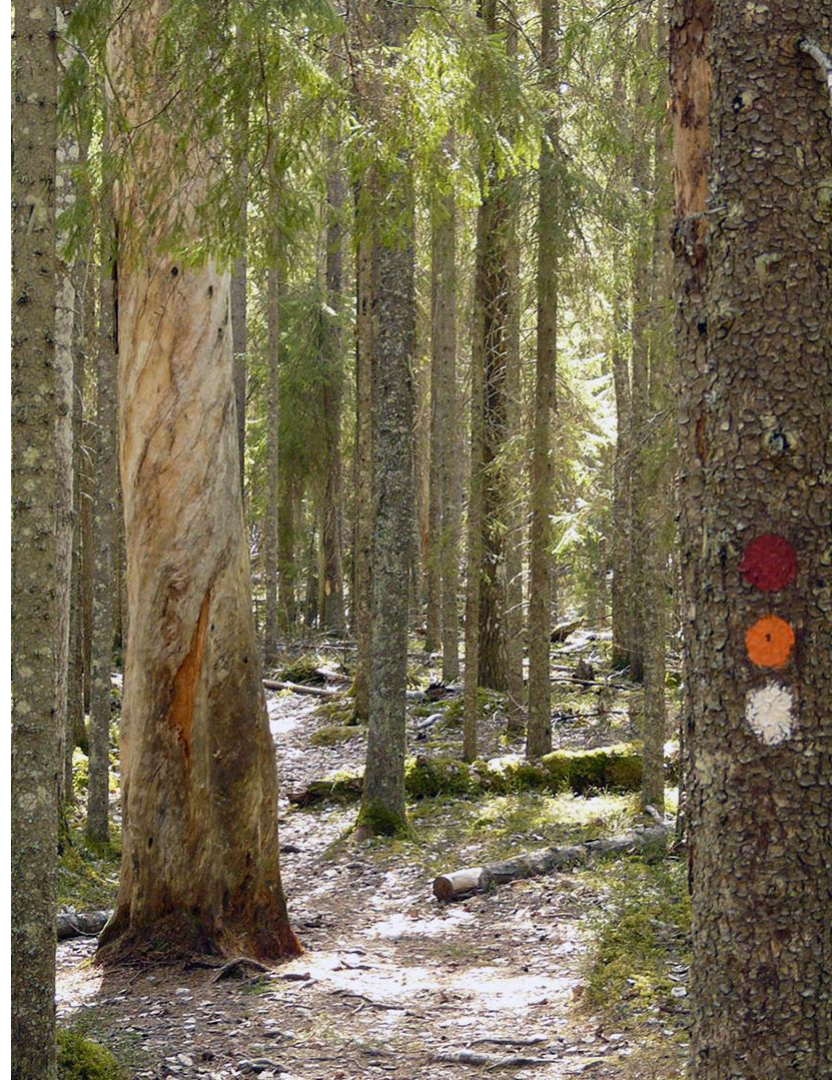


Strictly protected areas as reported by Finland

- FI01 Nature Reserve (Category IA)
- FI02 National Park (Category II)
- FI03 State Nature Reserve (Category IV)
- FI95 Seal Protection Area
- FI96 Old-Growth Forest Protection Area
- FI98 Mire Protection Area
- FI97 Grove Protection Area
- FI13 State Forest Protected by Metsähallitus' Decision
- FI92 Temporary Protection
- FI93 Habitat of a Specially Protected Species
- FI94 Protected Habitat Type
- FI11 Wilderness Area (Wilderness act, Natura 2000)
- FI16 Private Nature Reserve (Category IV), except for IUCN protection category V

Everyone's Right: public access allows non-intrusive activities

- **Walking and Hiking:** You can walk, ski, or cycle freely in nature, including forests, fields, and frozen lakes, as long as you do not disturb the landowners or damage the environment.
- **Temporary Camping:** You are allowed to set up a tent for a short period in areas where camping is not specifically restricted.
- **Berry and Mushroom Picking:** You can collect wild berries, mushrooms, and some plants, as long as they are not protected species.
- **Fishing:** Rod fishing and ice fishing are permitted without a license. Other types of fishing, like net fishing or trolling, require a permit.
- **Swimming and Boating:** You can swim and use boats on lakes, rivers, and the sea.
- **Nature Observation:** Birdwatching and other forms of wildlife observation are allowed, provided it does not disturb the animals or violate any specific regulations.



Everyone's Right: Restrictions and Responsibilities

- **No Disturbance or Damage:** Activities must not harm nature or infringe on the landowner's rights. For example, it is prohibited to leave litter, damage plants, or disturb wildlife.
- **Fires and Noise:** Open fires are not allowed without permission, except in designated campfire sites. Excessive noise should be avoided.
- **Hunting:** Hunting is not allowed under everyman's rights and requires proper licenses and adherence to regulations
- **In Protected areas** everyone's right is regulated based on Nature Act or other legislation.



Balancing Protection and use

- **General Accessibility:** Public access is typically allowed in most protected areas in Finland, emphasizing the importance of connecting people with nature. This access supports activities such as hiking, birdwatching, and nature observation, which are integral parts of Finnish culture and promote public appreciation for natural landscapes.
- **Guiding Principle:** Access is generally unrestricted unless there are specific regulations or conservation needs that require limitations to protect biodiversity. This ensures that human activities do not negatively impact sensitive habitats or species.
- **Regulated Activities**
 - **Marked Trails and Zones:** In certain protected areas, visitor access is channeled through designated trails or zones to reduce human impact on the environment.
 - **Permitted Recreational Activities:** Activities like camping, fishing, and boating may be allowed but are often subject to local rules to minimize disturbance to wildlife and preserve natural conditions.
 - **Educational and Research Activities:** Research and educational visits are encouraged when they align with conservation goals. These activities require permits if they involve restricted areas or more intrusive actions like sample collection.
- **Site-Specific Regulations:** Each protected area may have unique regulations tailored to its ecological characteristics and conservation priorities. For example, some areas may restrict access during breeding seasons or in particularly fragile ecosystems
- Also hunting is allowed by special permit when needed for oversized game population, danger to public or for hunting invasive species, when it is not in contradiction to the biodiversity goals of the PA.



Special Characteristics of Northern Finland

- Reindeer Herding: Recognized as essential for indigenous culture; allowed in most protected areas with regulations for Sámi and other local reindeer herders
- Hunting Rights: Residents of northern municipalities have specific rights to hunt small game on state lands without permits, contributing to subsistence
- Wilderness Reserves: Large areas designated under the Wilderness Act, supporting local subsistence activities while prohibiting infrastructure development and commercial resource extraction

Legislation and Conservation Objectives

- The updated Nature Conservation Act (2023) is key to managing and establishing national nature reserves and integrating EU Natura 2000 requirements
- Site-specific regulations and management plans ensure that permitted activities do not compromise conservation goals
- Finland's model supports biodiversity conservation while allowing traditional and non-industrial activities that align with conservation values.
- Recognizing the importance of indigenous rights and local practices ensures a balance between protection and sustainable use
- Key takeaways:
- **Strict protection should be context-specific, considering local socio-cultural and ecological factors.**
- **Lessons from Finland and Sweden highlight that careful management and traditional practices can coexist with stringent conservation efforts.**





Key takeaways

- **Strict protection should be context-specific, considering local socio-cultural and ecological factors.**
- **Lessons from Finland and Sweden highlight that careful management and traditional practices can coexist with stringent conservation efforts.**
- **We need 10% strict protection, but too strict protection lowers the acceptance for nature conservation and protection**

The logo consists of two stylized arrow shapes pointing towards each other, one green and one blue.

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