

# Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland METSO 2008–2025

Workshop on Public and Private Payments for forest  
Ecosystem Services (PES)  
31 March 2022

Terhi Koskela  
Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

# METSO Programme 2008-2025

- Main goal is to halt the ongoing decline in forest species and habitats and establish favourable trends in forest biodiversity
- The focus is on private forests
- Landowners can voluntarily offer their forests to permanent or fixed-term conservation
- Full monetary compensation
- The ecological site selection criteria define which habitats are accepted for conservation
- Municipal and State-owned lands are also involved
- Coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



# METSO Programme Elements

Includes 14 actions

- To improve conservation area network, especially in southern part of the country
- To enhance biodiversity in commercially managed forests
- To promote collaboration between forest- and environment sectors, landowners and other stakeholders
- To improve the knowledge base on forest biodiversity, increase communication and education

Most concrete actions

- Goal: To increase the network of protected areas with 96 000 ha (Min.Env.)  
→**88% achieved by 2021**
- Goal: To safeguard biodiversity on 82 000 hectares of forest habitats in commercially managed forests with environmental forestry subsidy agreements and nature management projects (Min.Agr.For.)  
→**68% achieved by 2021**



# METSO Programme 2008–2025

- Budget on average 30 million € / year
- Implemented by regional environmental and forest authorities
  - Permanent protection
  - Temporary protection (10-20 years)
  - Nature management in forest habitats

METSO options: Permanent protection

- Privately owned protection area (ownership remains)
  - Compensation based on value of timber
- Purchase by the State
  - Price based on the value of timber and value of the land
- Land exchange



## METSO options: Temporary conservation

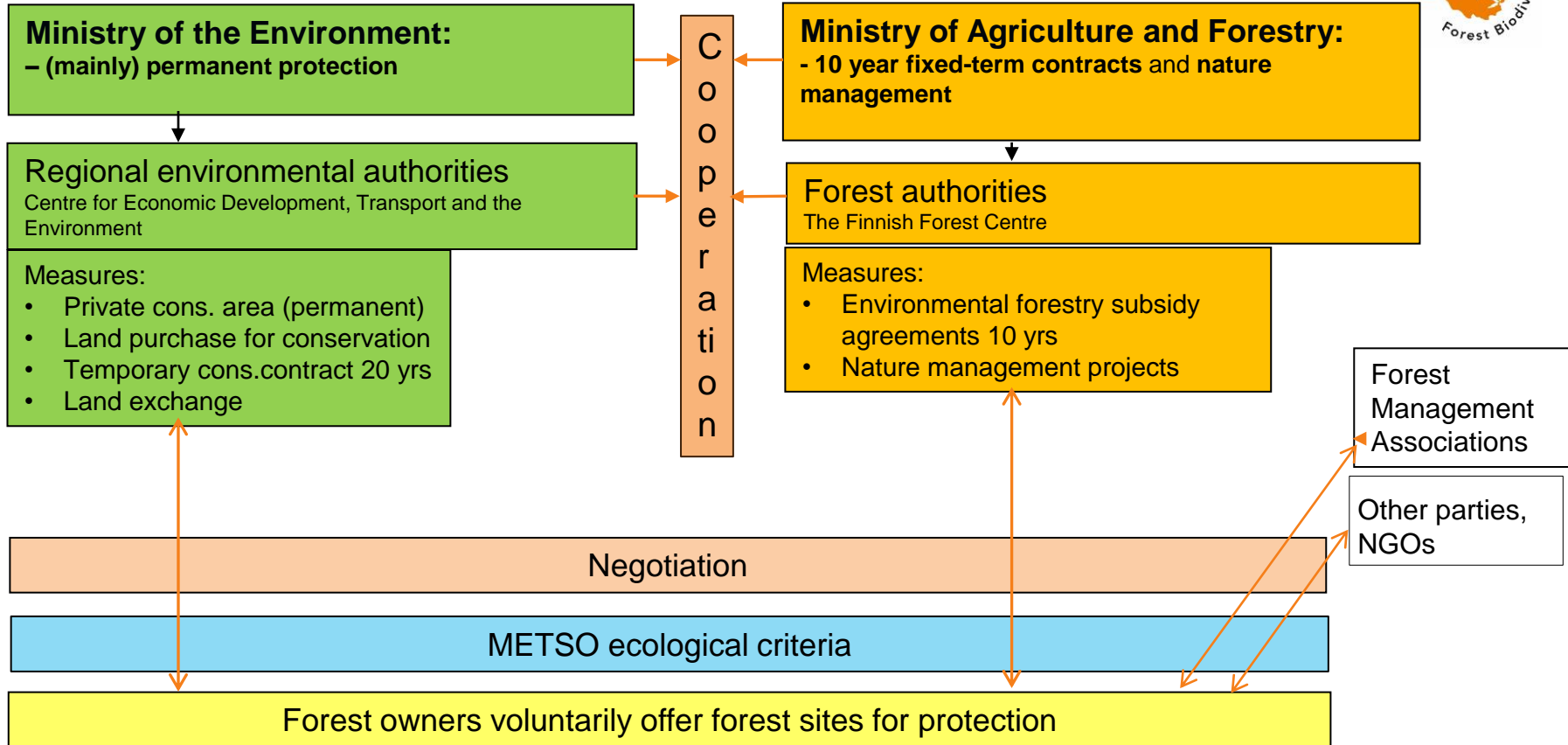
- Environmental forestry subsidy agreement, 10 years
  - Compensation mostly based on value of timber
- Temporary nature reserve, 20 years
  - Compensation based on financial losses incurred

## METSO options: Nature management projects

- Includes measures to maintain, increase or restore valuable natural features in forest habitats
- Project often involves several forest owners and forest holdings
- Forest owner benefits by having ecologically valuable features on their land managed by experts



# METSO process



## Research, communication, monitoring

- Research, development projects, monitoring
- Communication, training
- Metsonpolku – internet site [www.metsonpolku.fi/en-US](http://www.metsonpolku.fi/en-US)

## Experiences

- Increased collaboration between forest- and environmental authorities and other parties
- Strong support to the voluntary program from landowners, NGOs, forest companies, authorities, and general public
- Large variety of measures to safeguard forest biodiversity
- METSO sites have generally high biodiversity value
- Increased knowledge on biodiversity
- METSO has become a widely accepted positive “brand” in Finland with a good reputation among forest owners and stakeholders



©Terhi Koskela

# Thank you!

