

Most of the Nordic forest is certified

Almost 80% of the total forest area in the Nordic and Baltic states is now certified.

The table shows the extent of certified forests in early 2006.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the most important certification provider in Sweden and the Baltic States, while the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) is the main provider in Finland, Norway and Denmark.

Almost all of the forests in Norway and Finland are certified according to PEFC standards, while about half of the forests in Sweden and the Baltic countries are certified according to FSC standards.

Both the FSC and PEFC are international, non-profit organizations. The FSC was established as a members' association in 1993 to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forest. The

PEFC was founded in 1999, and is an umbrella organization for national certification schemes. At present, 21 national schemes and 186 million hectares of forest have been certified, and another 11 schemes are undergoing the PEFC approval process.

The certified forest area in the Nordic and Baltic countries has increased since 2002, when 12.2 million hectares were certified according to FSC and 32.7 million hectares according to PEFC (see News & Views 5 2002).

More information: See webpages: www.fsc.org and www.pefc.org

Country	Forest area (1,000 hectares) certified according to		Total forest area (1,000 hectares)*
	FSC	PEFC	
Sweden	10 422	6 649	27 528
Norway	5	9 232	9 387
Finland	9	22 367	22 500
Denmark	1	14	500
Estonia	1 064	-	2 284
Lithuania	1 055	-	2 099
Latvia	1 686	38	2 941
Total	14 242	38 299	67 239

Increasing the amount of dead wood is one of the objectives in certified forests.



Photo: Skogforsk, Sweden

*According to Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005

Shortcuts

Swedish Forest Agency – the new government authority for Swedish forests

The Swedish National Board of Forestry and the ten Regional Forestry Boards no longer exist. They have been combined since January 2006, under the common name *Skogsstyrelsen*, the Swedish Forest Agency.

The aim is to provide a more uniform and efficient service for everyone who is interested in forest issues. Everyone will

receive the same level of help and advice from us, and it will be easy to consult the Swedish Forest Agency, no matter whether you live in the north or the south of the country, according to Göran Enander, Director General of the new Swedish Forest Agency.

Read more: www.skogsstyrelsen.se

Norway to boost bio-energy research

A new 4-year bio-energy programme will improve knowledge related to bio-energy in Norway. The programme, led by Anders Lunnan at Skogforsk in Norway, will study logistic and economic aspects of bio-energy utilization in the forest sector. The quality of the fuel is an-

other focus of the programme. Briquets, pellets and chips will be used to produce heat, gas or liquid fuel. Their quality and efficiency will be studied in the programme.

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EFORWOOD kicks off

When EFORWOOD had its first meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, in November 2005, the European Community took its first steps towards integrating the European forest-based sector and fostering its sustainable development.

Skogforsk, the Forestry Research Institute of Sweden, is coordinating the EFORWOOD project and hosted the event, which attracted representatives from 38 research institutes, universities, European forest industry confederations and international organisations based in 21 countries.

The principal aim of the EFORWOOD project is to develop a decision support tool that will be used for evaluating and developing the contribution of the European forest-based sector to sustainable development, from economic, environmental and social perspectives. The project is described in News and Views no. 3, 2005.

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Read more:

www.eforwood.com



Representatives from the organisations participating in EFORWOOD met in Gustavianum, a building with long research traditions, erected in 1620 in Uppsala to be the main building of Scandinavia's oldest university. Photo: Nils Jerling

Shortcuts

Denmark aims to reduce regeneration costs

It should be possible to cut the cost of plantings by 20%, according to the Culture Commission, a Danish group of experts that has been working since 2000. Palle Madsen is one of the leading forces in the Commission:

– We have identified a range of planting and sowing options, but our challenge is to convince the foresters to use the new methods, he says. For example, we have shown that containerized seedlings could be profitably, but the forestry sector is very conservative and prefers larger, more expensive, bare-rooted seedlings, he says.

Source: *Nyt Skov & Landskab* No. 1, 2006.

More info: www.sl.kvl.dk



The containerized seedlings could reduce regeneration costs, but Danish foresters are reluctant. Photo: Odarna

GFIS – the forest information exchange center

- Looking for a photo of *Adelges nordmanniana*?
- Want a map of the forest cover in Mexico?
- Searching for the date of the next meeting with your IUFRO subgroup?
- Looking for new jobs to apply for?

Now you have a fair chance of finding what you are looking for. The Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) facilitates access to all sorts of forest information.

The target groups for the GFIS include governments, researchers, forest managers, NGOs, community groups and the public at large.

GFIS' strength is that its information is provided by its partners, and the user has direct access to the original information. You can either search for specific information, or browse through categories such as meetings, job vacancies, species data etc.

The partners generate their own information using a standard format. GFIS is administered by IUFRO in Vienna in collaboration with FAO, CIFOR and CAB International. A range of other partners also provide information. The Nordic countries are represented by METLA, KVL and EFI.

Read more: www.gfis.net

Forest sector does not fully exploit new IT and communication technologies

The forest sector does not realize all the benefits from the “digital revolution”.

A study by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) concludes that the forest sector could make better use of information and communication technology (ICT) to increase its productivity and viability.

Greater exploitation of E-commerce, more use of modern ICT in logistics and marketing operations, and the development of new products combining ICT and wood fibres, or lumber products with computer chips, could provide new opportunities for the forest industry.

However, the new technology also poses challenges to the forest sector. In the OECD, future trends are likely to favour electronic media at the expense of printed newspapers. In fact, newsprint consumption has already

declined in many OECD countries. Furthermore, the consumption of office and magazine paper has declined in the USA since the mid-1990's, mainly because the paper previously used for forms and stationery has been replaced by digital media.

An overall conclusion of the study is

that the forest sector needs to implement new strategies in the face of ICT development worldwide.

The report can be downloaded from IIASA: http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/FOR/iufro/iufro_WS18.pdf



Photo: Skogforsk, Sweden

Root rot can be measured in standing trees

The incidence of root rot in standing trees can be estimated thanks to a new instrument.

How many of the trees are infected with root rot? 30%? Perhaps as many as 75%? If you don't know, it will not only be difficult to assess the value of the stand, but also to decide the most appropriate time for final felling.

To date, the only way to determine whether trees are sound or infected has been to take core samples – which is not realistic in commercial forestry.

Thanks to a new instrument, the Rotfinder, which has been developed in collaboration with Skogforsk, the incidence of root rot in standing trees can now be estimated. The Rotfinder detects root rot by measuring the electrical conductivity of the wood. The

readings are classified on a scale of 0–10, where “0” indicates sound wood and “10” heavily decayed wood. The instrument has been tested in four stands in different parts of the country. The results show that it is able to differentiate well between sound trees and trees infected by root rot.

Source: Skogforsk, Sweden, Resultat nr 17, 2005.

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Photo: Skogforsk, Sweden

Nordic forest inventory compiled

More than 80 years ago the Nordic countries established the first national forest inventories in the world. The similarity in their forest conditions and forest strategies led to close cooperation between the Nordic countries from the inception of these inventories. More formal cooperation, sponsored by SNS, started in 1979, since

when regular meetings have been held every 2–3 years.

The eleventh such meeting was held in Norway in September 2004. The proceedings were published as NIJOS-report 09/05, and can be downloaded from www.nijos.se.

The presentations provide comprehensive documentation of the current

status of the Nordic forest inventories and management planning. Topics covered by the report are:

- Laser scanning
- National forest inventory
- Inventory with remote sensing
- Models for forest planning.

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Photo: Skogforsk, Sweden

Shortcuts

Denmark puts a price on outdoor activities

Who will benefit from commercial outdoor activities in the forest? Instead of sharpening the conflict between forest owners and “intruders”, Danish forest owners have learnt to benefit economically from outdoor, recreational activities.

The Danish Forest and Nature Agency (*Skov og Naturstyrelsen*) asks its districts to publish pricelists for renting out forests for commercial activities. So far, only two

districts have done so. Here are some examples:

- Daytime commercial activities: 1,000 DKR/day + 20 DKR per participant
- Commercial activities including overnight programs: 1,000 DKR/day + 30 DKR per person.
- Teambuilding activities in the forest: 19 DKR/hour and participant.

Source: *Skoven No. 2, 2006*.

Illegal logging costs Russia over US\$200 million

Of all the timber harvested in North-Western Russia, 10–15 % may have been extracted by illegal logging, causing 5–10% reductions in prices in both Russia and EU timber markets.

These figures are qualified estimates from a recent study by the EFI. The reductions in market prices due to illegal logging causes financial losses to Russian authorities and legal operators in the range of 200–270 million USD per year.

The illegal logging could be reduced in various ways, according to the EFI, such as introducing licensing schemes allowing Customs agencies to distinguish between legal and illegal imports, and exclude the latter. However, boosting law enforcement measures within Russia would probably be the most effective strategy.

Source: *EFI News 3.2005*, www.efi.fi

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www.nordicforestresearch.org

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