

# Finnish forest legislation

BirdLife Forest Task Force

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# Basic forest facts about Finland

- Forests cover 70% of country (21 mill.ha)
- Annual logging 50-55 mill. m<sup>3</sup>, some 100 000ha of clearcuts
- 4,5% of forests strictly protected, most of them in northernmost Finland (Lapland)
- Forestry economically very significant, big international corporations
- 95% of forests PEFCified

# National Forest Programme 2010

- Increasing the logging volume and value of export of forest industry products
- But forest sector employees decreasing
- State subsidies c.220 mill.€/year (inc. tax breaks)
- Environmental assessment ignored
- NFP conservation programme only small-scale experimental projects, effects marginal

# Forest Act

- Was renewed in 1996 at same time as Nature conservation Act (also in Sweden)
- No obligation to manage forests, but owners made members of local forestry associations
- No limitations to clearcut size
- After clearcutting forest must be renewed
- Key biotopes to be saved, but size <0,5 hectares --> proven mostly useless

# Illegal logging?

- No large-scale illegal logging (OGF crime ?)
- Implementation of Forest Act varies widely in different Forest Centres
- Violations of key biotopes often ignored
- State subsidies used for inappropriate purposes
- Imports (>15 mill.m<sup>3</sup>) from Russia