

The Finnish Nature League FNL



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The Finnish Nature League

- National nature and environmental organisation for children and young people (no physical age limit – only mental ☺)
- Youth organisation of The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)
- Established in 1943
- 7000 members
- Member of Taiga Rescue Network

FNL does...

1. Environmental education for children and youth
 - nature clubs (220 all over the country)
 - nature camps (about 30 annually)
 - courses, trips and other activities

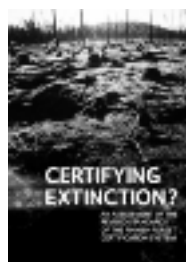


FNL does...

2. Environmental policy work
 - Forest group
 - Wolf group (also other predatory animals)
 - Energy and climate issues
 - Environmental sustainable consumption
 - The Baltic Sea
 - Development co-operation and fair trade

FNL publishes...

- Sieppo, magazine for child members
- Nuorten Luonto, magazine for non-child members
- books and brochures



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FNL is funded by:

- individual members (membership fee 16 €/year)
- the Finnish ministries of education and environment
- project money from various sources
- companies and communities (no strings attached)



- Luonto-Liiton metsäryhmä = The FNL Forest Group
- in English www.luontoliitto.fi/forest
- in Finnish www.luontoliitto.fi/metsa



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The FNL Forest Group

- fearlessly fighting for the forests since 1993
- active mainly in Finland, but also in Russia & tropics



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The FNL Forest Group

- forest inventories → protection proposals
- lobbying, media work, "paper work"



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The FNL Forest Group

- organises courses and trips and other educational stuff



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- demonstrations and direct action

Forests in Finland

- Forest cover 22 mill. hectares (total area 33,4 mill. ha)
- Most of the forests in very intensive forestry use
- Forest ownership: private 2/3, state 1/4
- Total of 4,1 % of forest area strictly protected (2003), most of which in northernmost Finland
- Less than 5 % of OGF left



The share of protected forests per forest vegetation zone

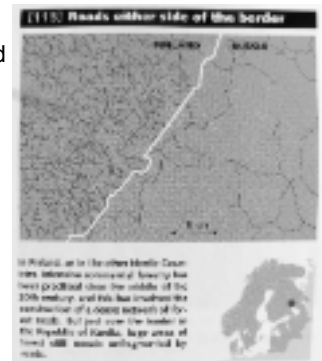
Source: Palaako elävä metsä?

Other "forest" ENGOs in Finland

- Finnish Association for Nature Conservation FANC
- Greenpeace
- BirdLife
- Natur och Miljö
- Friends of the Earth
- WWF

The history of Finnish forests

- Near inhabited areas forests have been used for centuries
- After the WW2 forestry and logging roads spread everywhere in Finland
 - Heavy modern commercial forestry started to change Finnish forests dramatically



The history of Finnish forests

- First concern about saving the forest nature and first protection proposals in the 1880's
- First National parks founded in 1938
- The real FOREST and forest biodiversity protection debate started in the late 1980's
 - forest demonstrations 1988-93, huge publicity and public debate

- the importance of OGF in maintaining biodiversity realised



The history of Finnish forests

- Official Northern Finland OGF inventories 1993-95, FNL activists in a major role
 - OGF protection programme 1996: 60000 ha protected = political decision, many most valuable forest still left outside



The history of Finnish forests

- Some smaller protection programmes and protection decisions every now and then (including Natura 2000 additions)
- A lot of voluntary forest inventories by ENGO activists, lot of loggings, demonstrations, bad forest planning and bad publicity
- "Dialogue process" with Metsähallitus, FANC and WWF about OGF:s in Northern Finland 2003-05. Some 35000 ha more forest protected (about half of the most valuable)



The history of Finnish forests

- From the late 1990's the protection of southern forests has been a big issue: authorities reluctant to do anything, forest demonstrations...
- 2007: Decision on forest protection programme for Southern Finland. Clear need stated, forest sector and the politicians try to avoid, postpone and deny the issue.



Homework: Essential Finnish

- **"Kirveenkoskematon aarniometsä"**
= an old-growth forest which has never been logged
- **"Suojelu kannattaa aina"**
= Protection is always the right thing to do
- **"Kyttä on natsisika"**
= I love you
(well, not an exact translation...)