



sahateollisuus

FINNISH SAWMILLS ENVIRONMENTAL FORESTRY PROGRAMME



Finnish Sawmills Environmental Forestry Programme

When engaging in timber trade with one of our member companies, you can increase the biodiversity of your forest by implementing the measures of the Finnish Sawmills Environmental Forestry Programme. Let's take care of the well-being of your forest together – now and in the future.

The environmental forestry programme proposes six nature management measures that complement the requirements of the Finnish Forest Act and forest certification schemes:

- 1 Preserve game thickets**
- 2 Favour mixed forest stands**
- 3 Protect peatland borders**
- 4 Preserve decaying wood**
- 5 Make artificial stumps**
- 6 Spare low-producing sites**

As a forest owner, you benefit from measures to increase biodiversity:

- A healthier forest that is more resistant to destruction
- Improved conditions for wood production
- A habitat where mushrooms, berries and game species thrive
- The forest landscape remains beautiful, and the forest's recreational value grows



1

Game thickets provide shelter and food for animals

- Two to five small (0.5–2 ares; 1 are = 100 m²) thickets that are important for game animals can be left per hectare
- The most important tree species for game thickets is spruce. Good places for thickets are, e.g., groups of retention trees, water-course buffer zones and rocky or wet terrain
- The ideal time for preserving game thickets is in connection with preliminary clearing and sapling stand management
- The objective is a controlled yet untended forest – eliminating unnecessary and time-consuming clearing of undergrowth
- A good gaming forest brings joy to hunters and wildlife observers



2

Mixed forest stands bring more life and health to the forest

- To encourage a mixed forest, individuals of all original tree species are retained during felling
- A diverse forest stand brings more life and health to the forest – and is a joy to behold
- Preserving individual goat willow, aspen, alder and hardwood trees is an easy way to maintain a wide range of trees species in the forest
- Mixed spruce and pine forests also increase the forest's biodiversity
- Mixed forests are less susceptible to damage
- A mix of broadleaf species in a spruce stand improves the trees' growth



3

Peatland borders help protect unique habitats

- Peatland border zones provide shelter and food for mammals, birds and insects
- Border zones of varying widths are left entirely outside felling operations or they are processed by carefully removing individual trees
- The aim is to preserve the zone's diverse species and the variation in the stand's size and density
- The border zones hold and clean water and contribute to a more varied landscape
- Border zones are not cleared, and the surface is not broken by moving machinery or soil preparation



4

Decaying wood gives threatened forest species a better chance of survival

- Increasing decaying wood in a forest is the single most important action that promotes biodiversity
- During harvesting, efforts are made to leave decaying wood intact, and decaying wood on the ground is not cleared away
- Hard decaying wood is also spared during the harvesting of energy wood
- Species that live in decaying wood help control pests
- Decaying wood is an important carbon and nutrient reserve that also benefits new generations of trees



5

Artificial stumps help woodpeckers, tits, bracket fungi and beetles

- Artificial stumps are a quick, easy and cost-effective way of increasing the amount of decaying wood in forest-stand harvesting
- Artificial stumps are high stumps that are left in the forest during harvesting, whereby trees are cut at a height of two to five metres and the stump is left standing
- The stumps are primarily created from curved or otherwise defective trees
- Two to five stumps are left per hectare, along with living retention trees
- Dead trees attract woodpeckers, tits, bracket fungi and beetles to the forest



6

Sparing low-producing sites from felling creates richer habitats

- Low-producing sites that deviate from their surrounding environment are important for many rare species
- For sites where harvesting and regeneration are difficult or the forest is otherwise low-producing, the approach is simple: these areas are bypassed during harvesting
- Game thickets and retention trees can also be concentrated on or near these sites
- Sparse and low-producing peatlands should be left to return to a natural state after harvesting

Safeguarding forest biodiversity through nature management

By implementing the measures of the Finnish Sawmills Environmental Forestry Programme, forest owners can increase the biodiversity of their forests during the wood trade process.

The measures aim to maintain and improve habitats that are important to forest species.

Together with forest owners, forestry professionals contribute every day to maintaining good living conditions for forest species and clean waters.

In the Finnish Sawmills Environmental Forestry Programme:

- nature management is implemented alongside forest management work
- the measures are selected during the wood trade process according to the forest owner's objectives
- the measures are cost-effective, thanks to good planning and implementation
- forest owners can also decide on other measures to secure the biodiversity of their forests

Find out more:

www.sahateollisuus.com/metsaymparistohjelma
www.metsanhoitosuosituset.fi

