

Beyond Forest Certificates

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5.2.2026

What is MTK?

- MTK is an advocacy organisation of farmers, forest owners and rural entrepreneurs (~260.000 members) founded in 1917.
- We improve economic and social well-being of our members.
- We promote sustainable and economic use of rural resources.
- We combine lobbying and forest owners' services (1000 experts in our local and regional forest management associations).
- MTK operates in Finland and in Brussels.

Central Union Of Agricultural Producers And Forest Owners

260 000 members

Farmers

Rural
Entrepreneurs

Forest Owners

Regional Farmers
Unions (14)

Local farmers
associations (309)

Forest Management
Associations FMA (52)

Fur Breeder's
Association

ProAgria advisory
centres

Joint Forest
Association

Hippory – The national
central organization of
equestrian sports and
horse breeding.



Forest management associations carries out

65 %

On the management
of young private
forests

65 %

Timber sales
Plans

36 %

Timber sales
as a power of
attorney

55%

About the forest
fertilisation projects

30%

About new forest
road projects

45 000 ha

Forest
regeneration/year

MTK's Role in PEFC Certification

Supports forest owners' participation

- MTK emphasizes that forest owners can join PEFC certification easily and cost-effectively through local Forest Management Associations (FMAs), without committing to a single timber buyer.

Ensures proper implementation of PEFC requirements

- MTK, together with FMAs, works to ensure that PEFC standards are correctly followed in practical forestry operations, supporting sustainable and responsible forest management.

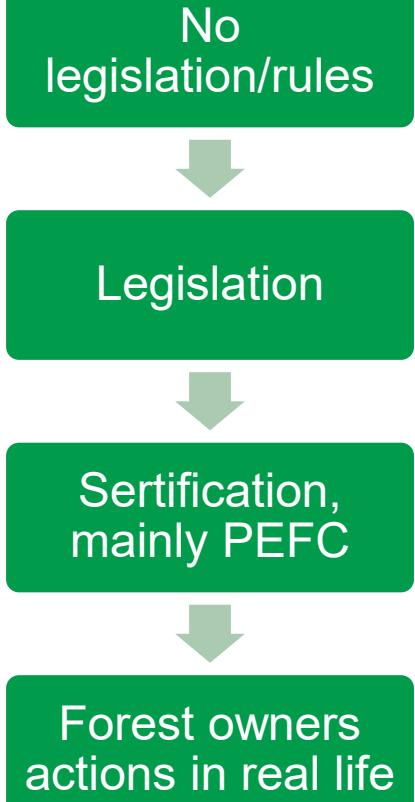
Promotes and safeguards regional PEFC group certification

- MTK supports regional group certification structures that offer forest owners an affordable and administratively simple way to be covered by PEFC certification.

Strengthens awareness and trust in certification

- Through communication and expert guidance, MTK helps forest owners understand PEFC requirements and their benefits, reinforcing confidence in certified sustainable forestry.

Hierarchy



OF FINNISH FORESTS ARE OWNED
BY PRIVATE PERSONS

Private persons' forests produce 80 %
of the industrial wood demand.



IN FINLAND, THERE ARE

620 000

PRIVATE FOREST OWNERS

Every ninth Finn owns forest.



NINE OUT OF TEN
FOREST OWNERS ARE
GOAL-ORIENTED

ONLY ONE IN TEN FOREST OWNERS
IS A FULL-TIME AGRICULTURAL OR
FORESTRY ENTREPRENEUR



THE AVERAGE SIZE OF
A FOREST HOLDING IS

30 ha

MEASURED IN
FORESTRY LAND



MORE THAN ONE-THIRD
OF FOREST OWNERS
WOULD NOT SELL THEIR
FOREST PROPERTY TO
ANYONE OUTSIDE THE
FAMILY AT ANY PRICE



EVEN-AGED FORESTRY IS THE
PRIMARY CULTIVATION
METHOD, BUT 17 % ARE
CONSIDERING TRYING
CONTINUOUS COVER
FORESTRY



TWO OUT OF THREE FOREST OWNERS
ARE SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT
EXTENT OF EVERYMAN'S RIGHTS



The project has been funded by Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation.

Sources: Natural Resources Institute Finland, PTT, Statistics Finland, Metätöönistäjä 2020

The complete list of references: www.ptt.fi/julkaisut/metsi/

Beyond Certification: Future Expectations

- Increasing regulatory pressure from EU (biodiversity, climate policies).
- Higher expectations for transparency, traceability & carbon accounting.
- Certification evolving as a minimum standard—markets expect more.

Opportunities for Forest Owners

- Value creation through biodiversity, recreation, carbon services.
- Certification's role in additional ecosystem service markets.
- Enhanced communication of sustainability performance

Huge sertification investments by forest owners, fair?

For example:

- Buffer zones (5-10 m)
- Grey conservation (?)
- Retention trees (10-20/ha)
- ...

Challenges Ahead

- Balancing timber production with biodiversity goals.
- Rising administrative burden for small forest owners.
- Need for better digital tools and data integration.

Sustainable forest management is developed and implemented through wide network

- MTK and the forest management associations are involved in key initiatives that develop Finnish forestry.
- Whether it's national or regional forest policy, the development of forest management guidelines, or nature conservation practices, they have extensive networks with researchers, policymakers, and financiers.
- The latest research is implemented in practice also thanks to the associations' own chain company, which helps drive all service development, including digital services.



How Forest Owners Exceed Market Expectations?

Certification provides the minimum credible standard. Forest owners exceed expectations when they add ecological ambition, economic transparency and long-term societal value beyond what is required.

Ecology

- Leaving more retention trees
- Enhancing buffer zones
- Adding voluntary conservation
- Communicating transparently
- Participating in carbon & biodiversity markets

Economy

- Increasing profitability by stronger market access :
- Opening new income streams through carbon/nature markets
- Long-term business stability attracts investment
- Value-added biodiversity actions enhance PR and market appeal
- service development fueling rural enterprise growth

Social

- Promoting fair and safe working conditions
- Engaging local communities proactively
- Facilitating transparent communication
- Respecting cultural and recreational values
- Supporting local livelihoods and rural development

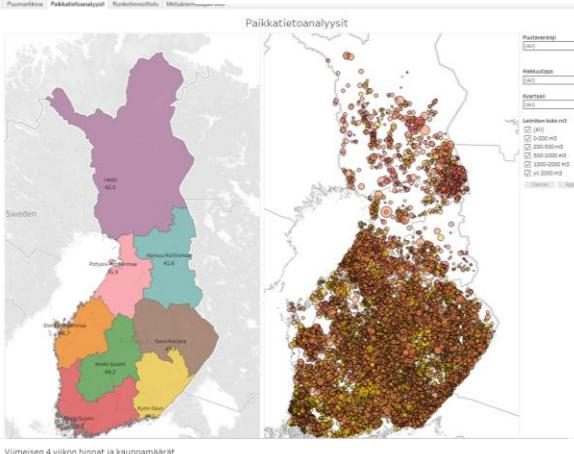
MTK's Existing Tools Are Usable When Developing tools beyond forest sertification for example Nature Credits

Our timber market information system is applicable also in nature credits.



Maaseudun edunvalvonta

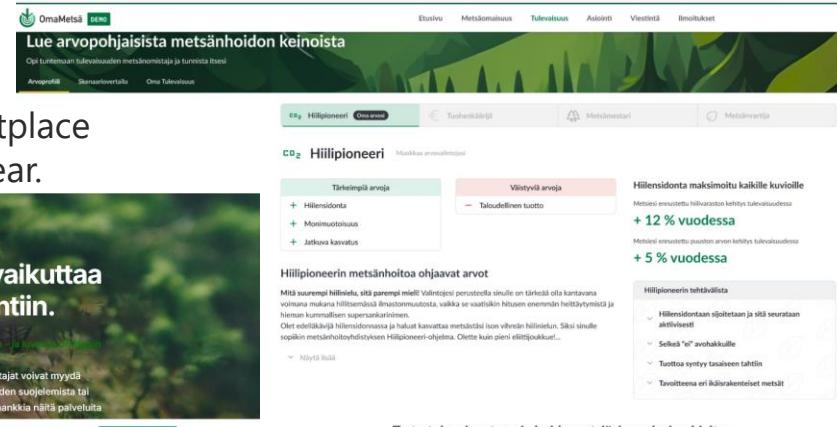
Muun muassa
Paikallisyhteisöt
Rakennustuotanto
Metsätaloustoiminta



Our Luontoarvot.fi marketplace takes its next steps this year.



We have the most used digital forest service (OmaMetsä) for forest owners – the only based on forest owners own needs, values and objectives.





Thank You!

