



Non-wood forest products and services in Finnish forests

ForCoop Workshop, 9 March 2010
Abbaye de Sorèze, France

Pirita Soini, Expert in Forest Nature
Management, M. Sc. (Agr. & For.)
Regional Forestry Centre of Central Finland
pirita.soini@metsakeskus.fi

Background

Promotion of recreational and cultural use of forests (Focus area in National Forest Programme 2015)

- Everyman's right will be preserved
- Recreational use and hunting are considered in forest management
- Entrepreneurship based on nature tourism is promoted
- Livelihood is developed to process nature products
- Forest- and wood-based culture is supported and promoted
- Culture inheritance placed in state-owned forests mapped and evaluated by 2015 and collection has started in private forests

Everyman's right

The right to roam freely in the countryside, without needing to obtain permission, no matter who owns or occupies the land. Everyman's right does not, however, cover activities which damage the environment or disturb others.

- Roaming (motor vehicles, cultivated fields and plantations, people's home yards, nature reserves)
- Camping temporarily (campfire)
- Picking flowers, berries, mushrooms (protected species, mosses, lichens, parts of living trees)
- Fishing with a rod and line, ice fishing
- Boating



Services – Nature tourism

- Fastest growing sector in tourism worldwide
- Destinations:
 - Protected and hiking areas (North & East)
 - National parks: 1 943 500 visits in 2009
 - All state-owned recreational areas: 4 700 000 visits
 - Commercially managed forests (South)

Services – Nature tourism

- Activities:
 - Safaris (sledge, dog, reindeer), skiing treks
 - Paddling, fishing, trekking, hiking
 - Riding, bird-watching
- Figures:
 - ¼ of tourism in Finland
 - ¾ of demand from Finland, ¼ from abroad
 - Employment: 20 000 man-years (year 2002)
 - Increment value: 562 million €
vs. 2499 million € in forestry (year 2002)



Photo: Johanna Saarikoski

Services – Recreation

- Opportunity to recreation in hiking areas and natural parks: 18,5 €/person/year
- Imbalance between demand and supply
- Landscape values are connected with tourism
 - Signs of management
 - Visibility
 - Rotten trees, restoration?
- Pattern for contracts of natural and recreational values



Products

- Main NWFPs
 - Berries (56–67 % of Finns pick berries)
 - Mushrooms (38–45 %)
 - Herbs (17–20 %)
 - Game (6 % of Finns hunt)
- Domestic use and additional income
- Income is tax-free

Products

- Berries (airelle rouge, myrtille, mûre)
 - Total yield 300–620 million kg/year
 - Collected yield 6–10 % of the total (lingonberry and bilberry), 20 % (cloudberry)
 - Domestic use 75 %
 - Trade 25 %
 - 70–200 million €/year
- Mushrooms
 - Total yield 1000 million kg/year
 - 270 million kg/year to be picked
 - Collected yield 5–17 million kg/year
 - 20–100 million €/year

Example: in 2003, the yield of penny bun (Boletus edulis, cèpe de Bordeaux) was worth 600 €/ha. On average, the increment of wood in the same forest was worth 200 €/ha.

Products

- Game
 - 12 million kg of meat (year 2006)
 - Value of meat and fur 74 million € (year 2006)
- Herbs and special NWFPs
 - Up to 20 million €/year
 - Herbs 5,4 million € (year 2000)
 - Reindeer lichen (*Cladina*) 1,7 million € (year 2000)

Possibilities & Questions

- Plenty of unused potential
- Possibilities for sparsely populated countryside
- Increasing volume utilisation of NWFP vs. preserving natural values
- Attitude of forest owners
- Climate change

- By-products or main products?



Kiitos!