Primary and old-growth forests

Current status of implementation in Estonia

Merit Otsus, Taimo Aasma (Ministry of Climate)

EU Forest Strategy 2030
Workshop on the implementation of the European Commission's forest guidelines in the Boreal Region
Helsinki (Finland), 27-28 January 2025

Process at EU level

- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, 20.5.2020

- New EU Forest Strategy for 2030, 14.7.2021

- EU guidelines on primary and old-growth forests, 20.3.2023

Process in Estonia

- Coordination: Ministry of Climate

- Consultations on data, indicators, approach:

  Universities (Tartu University, University of Life Sciences), since 2023

  State Forest Center, state forests, since 2024

- Information share with **Estonian Private Forest Union, Environmental NGO-s (EKO)**

- Consultations on financing schemes for conservation in private forests

Overview of existing data and definitions

- Comparable approach and method:

- Forest key habitats

- Habitats Directive Annex I forest habitats

- Reporting under (FAO FRA)

- NFI (categories of naturalness)

- Report „**Luonnontilaiset metsät ja vanhat metsät Suomessa**", Syrjänen et al 2024. (Analysis of the OGF-features)

Main data sources

1) Inventories of
- Forest key habitats
- HD Annex I forests

2) **Estonian Forest Register (EFR), features of forest stands (*eraldis):*
- tree species composition (Indicator 1);
- dead wood (Indicator 2) – standing dead trees, laying dead wood (m3/ha);
- age of trees (Indicator 3);
- origin of forest (Indicator 4);
- diverse structure (Indicator 5) - unstable quality of data

3) Remote sensing data: e.g. standing dead trees (Indicator 3)

Current work:

- thresholds and descriptions of OGF indicators
- mapping (EFR) and identifying the fieldwork need
- exclude from preliminary map forests affected by logging

Additional aspects to consider:
- size of OGF area

- effect (time, intensity) of human impact: logging, drainage, recreation

- fresh intense natural disturbances

- historical forest map