

News from the Finnish Nature League 27 February 2006

CAMPAIGNING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE FORESTS IN THE SOUTHERN FINLAND

The Finnish Nature League, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Greenpeace, Birdlife Finland, Friends of the Earth Finland and The Finnish Society for Nature and Environment (FSNE) organized a campaign for increasing the number of the conservation area of the forest in Southern Finland.

Only 2 % of the forest in the Southern Finland and partly in Northern Finland are protected. In the south the number is even lower, only 1 % of the forest area. By ecological studies these numbers are too low to maintain the biodiversity in Finnish forests. Six Finnish environmental organizations decided to make a campaign to increase the number of the conservation areas of the forests. Until the year 2010 the number of conserved forest areas in Southern Finland and parts of the forests in Northern Finland should be increased to 5 % and for more longer run to 10 %.

People could participate in the campaign by signing the appeal for the conservation. Over 100 000 people signed the appeal for the forest conservation during the campaign. Most of the campaign work was made by volunteers, who gathered signatures in the streets and various events. People could also participate by the internet. The appeal was given to the Parliament of Finland in September 2005. Actions for the conservation of the Forests in Southern Finland are continuing.

On February 2006, the Finnish Nature League opened a new website with the group of other Finnish environmental organizations, participating to the campaign. This website gives information about the need and possibilities for the conservation of the forests in Southern Finland. In the website there are 17 forest areas presented for the conservation. These areas are considered especially important for conservation because of their ecological values or recreational use.

During their history, Finnish environmental organizations have had crucial impact for many decisions for saving valuable nature areas, for example the old growth forest areas for conservation in Finland.

The Finnish Nature League is an environmental organization for children and young people. The goal of the organization is to influence the society in a way that leads to the protection of natures' diversity and respect for its inherent value.

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