

Stora Enso (Finland)

Stora Enso, Kanavaranta 1, 00160 Helsinki, Finland

CEO – Jukka Härmälä

With joint direction in Finland and Sweden, Stora Enso also has an international office in the UK.

Company activity

Stora Enso operates in more than 40 countries. Today it is one of the top paper and board producers worldwide, with a turnover of Euros 13.5 billion in 2001. The company is a world leader in integrated forest products, producing magazine papers, newsprint, fine papers, packaging boards and wood products. Its customers are publishers, printing houses and merchants as well as packaging, joinery and construction industries worldwide.¹

Location of damage	Kainuu, North Ostrobothnia and Lapland regions in some of Finland's last ancient forests ^{2,3}
Type of incident	Purchasing of timber from endangered ancient forest – timber which is logged in violation of European Union regulations within the Natura 2000 protected areas network. ⁴
Type of damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Irreversible destruction of some of Europe's few remaining ancient forests* Habitat destruction of endangered and threatened species such as the flying squirrel and the red-flanked bluetail* Erosion of reindeer pastures which are crucial to the livelihoods and cultural survival of the indigenous Saami and other Finnish people who herd reindeer in these forests
Range of damage	<p>Only 5 percent of all Finnish forest land is estimated to be ancient forest – and only half of this has been protected. The remaining 500,000 hectares are subject to intensive logging, with an annual loss of ancient forest estimated between 10,000 and 20,000 hectares per year.⁵</p> <p>The going destruction of Finland's ancient forests will result in the decline of many forest dependent species. It is estimated that 62 forest species face extinction, and a further 1000 are feared to be at risk of vanishing.⁶ For example, the Three-toed woodpecker (<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>) and the Flying squirrel (<i>Pteromys volans</i>) are facing dramatic changes in their habitats. Many species are dependent on dead wood, which has decreased by nearly 90 percent in managed forests.</p>

Who is responsible?

The state-owned Forest and Parks Service are actively logging the forest, but as the FPS's single largest buyer (buying between 40 and 50% of the FPS timber) Stora Enso are guilty of buying timber logged in contravention of European environmental law (Natura 2000) and

are at least partly responsible for driving ancient forest destruction in Europe's last ancient forests.

Legal and/or public action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Finnish environmental NGOs have sent several requests to the EU commission regarding the violations of Natura 2000* Finnish and international environmental NGOs have protested for several years against the FPS cutting of Finland's ancient forests and fully informed Stora Enso of their involvement through their purchasing activities
Subsequent behaviour of company	The company has not proved willing to engage in discussions over its purchasing policies and the fate of Finland's remaining ancient forests
Current status (the	The company remains the largest customer of the FPS government owned forestry enterprise responsible for logging Finland's last ancient forests), and continues to source some of its raw materials for pulp, magazine and fine paper from ancient forest. ⁷

Final Greenpeace statement

As one of the world's wealthiest nations, Finland has no economic necessity to log its last fragments of ancient forest. Nevertheless the government-owned FPS/Metsähallitus does just that, and as this body's largest single customer buying from the ancient forest regions of Kainuu, North Ostrobothnia and Lapland, Stora Enso is knowingly responsible for driving this destruction.

Notes

1 - www.storaenso.com

2 - Ancient forests are defined here as the world's remaining forests which are shaped largely by natural events and are little impacted by human activities. Finland's remaining fragments of ancient forest are generally referred to as 'old-growth' forest.

3 - Despite years of protest and controversy, Finland's state-owned Forest and Parks Service (FPS or Metsähallitus) has continued to log in several of Finland's last remnants of ancient forest – which make up only 5 percent of the country's remaining forests. Stora Enso is the FPS's largest customer, purchasing more than 40 % of their total harvest each year, with timber from the ancient forests of Kainuu, Lapland and north Ostrobothnia going to Stora Enso mills in Kemi and Oulu.

Aksenov et al (2000) 'Last of the last – the ancient forests of boreal Europe.' Taiga Rescue Network 2000. Calculations based on figures from www.storaenso.com and www.metsa.fi. See also Stora Enso (1999) Stora Enso EMS Environmental Report.

4 - The European Union classified all remaining ancient forests as 'prioritised habitats' which should not be logged. The European Union's network of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) is called Natura 2000. See: Directive on the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) (Habitats Directive, 1992)

<http://www.ecnc.nl/doc/europe/legislat/conveu.html>

5 - Greenpeace estimate, 2002, based on field research and investigations in the region

6 - Sources: Finnish Red Data Book 2000 and estimations by Finnish scientists (prof. Ilkka Hanski, 1999)

7 - Greenpeace and Finnish Nature League (2001) 'Anything goes?' Report on PEFC certified Finnish forestry