

**National Report to the Fourth Session of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests**

**Sweden**

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## **II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action**

### *social and cultural aspects of forests*

One high light in this field is the Life-Environment project "Urban Woods for People", which started in 2001. The aim is to stimulate and improve recreation for the general public in urban woodlands, and the project has been carried out in Sweden and France. Tools were developed for managers, planners, foresters, decision makers and others who confront problems in relation with urban forestry.

The results will be presented during an concluding conference for the Life Environment project Urban Woods for People in Stockholm, Sweden 24-27<sup>th</sup> of May 2004. The conference will be an integrated part with IUFRO's European Forum on Urban Forestry, established in 1998 to act as an annual meeting place for urban forestry policymakers, practitioners and scientists. Previous meetings of the Forum have provided urban foresters with the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on actual topics such as funding, education and partnerships. This, the 7th EFUF will move the stage to Stockholm, Sweden, a city with a rich urban forest heritage. The conference have two the mes "The Urban Woods - to be used by everyone" and "Working with Woods-developing tools for sound urban forestry", will be a great opportunity for those involved with urban forests to learn from each other about all aspects of urban forestry in Europe and from elsewhere.

### *traditional forest-related knowledge*

An interesting initiative is the model forest concept that will be developed in the north of Sweden involving the Saami people and their culture of reindeer husbandry as well as other local traditional related forestry knowledge. The model forest will cover 120 000 ha. In total 250 private landholders, forest companies including state-owned companies share interest in the area. Together with a magnitude of other stakeholders including the Saami people, hunters, nature conservationists etc. This model forest will be part of the Barents area network of model forests.

### *monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions*

A new and innovative inventory concept has been developed to complement the traditional sample plot system used in the swedish national inventory of forests. It is called the National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden (NILS). Instead of a grid of many small size sample plots this landscape monitoring consists of 5 km x 5 km squares. Some 700 are geographically distributed around Sweden. Besides filed measurements and observations, satellite and aerial images are used.

The first landscape squares were photographed during the summer of 2002 and interpreted during the following winter. Field work commenced during the summer of 2003. During the first

years, the NILS programme will be developed further to include methods for monitoring e.g. insects, meadows and pasturelands, alpine screes as well as parts of the Natura 2000 monitoring programme. The initiator of the programme is the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, which also provides funding. The programme has been developed primarily by staff from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and from Umeå University. Experts and representatives for the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the National Heritage Board, the National Board of Forestry, Statistics Sweden, the Swedish Biodiversity Centre, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Stockholm University, and County Administration Boards have provided support in the form of a reference group. Methods for aerial photo interpretation were developed in close cooperation with the department of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology at Stockholm University. Discussions have taken place with the National Heritage Board on matters concerning cultural heritage.

#### *criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management*

In 2001 parliament decided upon the environmental objectives which also covers forestry. The National Board of Forestry (NBF) is currently developing these forest sector objectives to the operative level. The forest sector objectives will include relevant parts of the environmental objectives and objectives covering economic and social factors plus some additional environmental objectives. The process is participatory and includes stakeholders from industry, forest owners, Saami-people, environmental and social NGOs, research organisations and other involved government agencies. Progress will be monitored using indicators. The objectives is planned to be adopted by early 2004.

### **III. Preparation of the Report**

The report has been prepared by the National Board of Forestry in Sweden. The aim has been to high light some initiatives that are relevant and of current interest to the international forestry community. The same reporting format is often used in Sweden, and is also believed to be relevant to the use of country reports within the UNFF process.