

FINSCAPES final seminar

24.10.2024

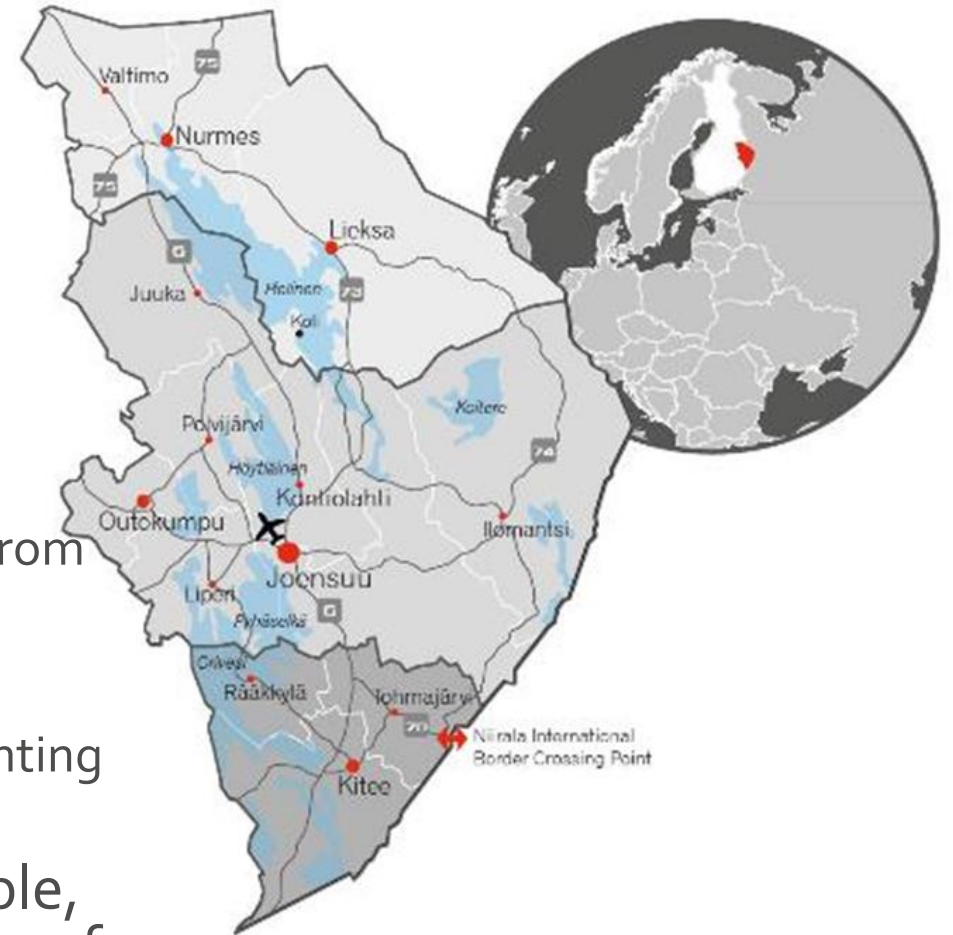
Forest and climate expert Sari Koivula



Regional Council of
NORTH KARELIA

North- Karelia

- › Area 21 585 km²
- › 13 municipalities
- › 163 000 inhabitants
- › Region is aiming for carbon neutrality in 2030
 - This means 80 % reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 from 2007 level
 - Support to carbon storages and sequestration
 - Forests and forest industry are important players in fighting against climate change
- › Biosphere area in Ilomantsi: supporting local people, business and stakeholders towards sustainable use of natural resources and business:
<https://kareliabiosphere.fi/en/>



Collaboration and expertise – knowledge based decision making

European Forest Institute – EFI HQ

Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

Finnish Forest Centre

University of Eastern Finland – UEF

Karelia University of Applied Sciences

Riveria Vocational Education & Training

Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)

Business development: Business Joensuu,
regional business development
organisations



North Karelia will be a forerunner in climate sustainability in 2030

1. We have a region full of life and well-being
2. We protect the diversity of nature
3. We have low-emission energy in a self-sufficient way
4. We support climate resilient construction and housing
5. We use natural resources sustainably and enabling business
6. We put expertise and research data to extensive use, we are a region that engages
7. We aim to 80 % reduction in emissions from 2007 (carbon neutral municipalities, 'Hinku'))

Forestry in North- Karelia

- We cut about 6,9 million m³ / year (NFI 2023) to e.g.
 - produce buildings
 - replace plastic
 - produce pulp for soft paper
 - create adding value goods (e.g. for health & food industry)
- We have
 - 90 % forests of our land cover (NFI 2022)
 - our forests grow 9,87 million m³ / year (average growth 6,1 m³/hectare/year) acting as carbon sinks (National Forest Inventory 2018-2022)
- Forests are the source of income and work, well-being and recreation
 - “Timber and everything else”
 - Berries, mushrooms and other non-wood goods
 - Fishing, hunting, hiking and other immaterial services
 - Eco-tourism
 - Maintaining ecosystem services



Why we are part of FINSCAPES?

- The need of reliable information for decision making and politicians
- The ambitious climate aim – can we reach it?
- Need to know about climate in the future and what it means for the region's livelihoods, nature, citizens and welfare – how can we prepare?
- The climate change mitigation and adaptation needs: using the information from this project especially to adaptation road map- what to expect and how can we justify the different actions needed?
- Huge importance of forestry and the crucial role of forests and carbon sequestration in climate change mitigation – how to secure the both also in changing climate?

How was it?



- The study group has done great work and informed us quite well
- It was interesting and nice that we were involved to the process from the very beginning – the features of the region were considered, and results are useful for us
- The prediction / estimate of the future climate is interesting, especially when considering what it means in practice
- The creation of the SSP-based narratives work was very challenging – how to keep the differences in mind, also there was a small gap in time between the workshops – difficult to remember the previous thoughts



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Thank you for your attention!



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