Exploration and Mining in Finland's Protected Areas, the Sami Homeland and the Reindeer Herding Area

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Guide
This guide describes the conditions for exploration in Finland’s protected areas. It is intended for exploration and mining companies, and for permit and supervisory authorities.

The guide also describes the most important matters to be considered when carrying out exploration and mining in the Sami Homeland and the reindeer herding area in northern Finland.

The ecological values of the areas and the legal basis for their protection determine what measures can be carried out in each area.

The guide is in two parts. The first chapters sum up the legal basis for exploration, describe the different types of protected area, and the principles and procedures for exploration in protected areas and the Sami Homeland. The appendices give a detailed description of the protected areas and the exploration and mining process. They also give instructions on how to apply for claim rights and survey permits in protected areas. The purpose is to provide the prime target groups (Finnish and foreign exploration and mining companies, and the permit and supervisory authorities) with all the necessary facts.
Foreword

There have been substantial changes in exploration and mining operations in Finland in recent years, while at the same time the operating environment for the sector is also quite different from what it was only a few years ago. Nowadays, exploration and mining are mostly in the hands of international companies, exploration is on an increasingly short-term basis, and metal prices dictate what minerals are sought. The fact that there is more emphasis on environmental protection and conservation has also influenced the way the sector operates, so that mining companies must now take the principle of sustainable development into account in their business. Growing demand for raw materials, recent increases in metal prices, a favourable operating environment, and a high ore potential have made Finland increasingly attractive to international companies. However, international competition for the attention of exploration and mining companies remains tough.

Finland’s network of protected areas has expanded substantially in recent decades. Most of Finland’s protected areas are part of the EU-initiated Natura 2000 network. Protected areas cover large tracts of land, particularly in northern parts of the country, which in terms of their geology and when compared with the rest of Europe, have an exceptionally high ore potential. As new laws have been passed and as exploration activities have expanded, it has become necessary to create a clearer framework for exploration and mining in Finland and pay more attention to the way the operations are carried out. With this in mind, the Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment have prepared a guide clarifying the permit and other procedures connected with exploration in protected areas. The project steering group consisted of Markus Alapassi and Pekka Salminen from the Ministry of the Environment, Krister Söderholm and Sari Rapinoja from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Marketta Rosti and Heikki Ravela from Metsähallitus, Ykä Karjalainen from the Lapland Regional Environment Centre, and Hannu Idman and Pekka Nurmi from the Geological Survey of Finland. Practical project implementation was the responsibility of a Geological Survey of Finland working group with Päivi Heikkinen (Mining life cycle), Kristina Lehtinen (Protected areas), Markku Tiainen (Exploration) and Antti Kahra (Working group coordination) as members.

The purpose of the guide is to provide information about the conditions for exploration in protected areas. It is intended for companies engaged in exploration and mining, and for permit and supervisory authorities.

The publication provides general guidelines on how mining and environmental legislation is applied to mining and exploration operations in Finland. By providing a framework for minimizing conflict between conservation and ore extraction, it also helps to promote sustainable mining operations.
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1 Introduction

There has been mining in Finland for hundreds of years and the sector is still a major provider of employment. In 2004, its direct employment impact was in the region of 2,400 person-workyears. However, the sector becomes vastly more significant when consideration is also given to its indirect effects. A number of industries, such as steel and paper production are heavily dependent on raw materials and processed products supplied by the mining industry, and a large proportion of these comes from Finnish mines. There is also a sizable mining-equipment industry in Finland, while mining also needs an extensive service sector to keep it operational. The Finnish mining industry provided direct employment for about 8,000 people in 2004 and it is particularly important in eastern and northern parts of the country, which are also Finland’s most problematic areas in terms of unemployment. At the same time, however, they are among areas with the highest ore potential in the EU.

This guide is about exploration and mining in protected areas in Finland. Gold washing (gold panning) is outside the scope of the publication. In this guide, protected areas mean nature reserves, wilderness reserves and Natura 2000 sites that have been set up for protecting biodiversity and for preserving Finland’s natural and cultural heritage. The main purpose of protected areas is to preserve indigenous Finnish species and natural habitats so that they can be stopped from becoming rarer and threatened. Protected areas also ensure the preservation of typical Finnish natural landscapes and cultural environments shaped by traditional industries, and help to secure the future of indigenous occupations. Protected areas are also important for nature lovers and popular as recreational and ecotourism destinations.

Protected areas form a network at regional, national and international level. Most of Finland’s protected areas are part of the EU-initiated Natura 2000 network, the purpose of which is to ensure biodiversity in the Union Member States. Some 97 per cent of Finland’s Natura 2000 sites are protected under national legislation and protection decisions.

The guide also details the most important exploration and mining procedures in the reindeer herding area and the Sami Homeland in northern Finland. When operations are carried out in these areas, consideration must be given to the right of the indigenous Sami people to maintain and develop their own culture.

The ecological values of the areas and the legal basis for their protection determine what kind of activities are permitted. The guide mainly concerns itself with the following issues:
The guide is in two parts. The first part gives a brief description of the legislative basis for exploration, different types of protected area and the principles and procedures for exploration in protected areas and the Sami Homeland. The appendices give more detailed information about the protected areas and the process of exploration and mining. They also contain instructions on how to apply for claim rights and survey permits in protected areas. The purpose is to provide the prime target groups, exploration and mining companies and permit and supervisory authorities, with all the necessary facts.

For reasons of clarity, the most important terms are **bolded**.

Keeping the guide up-to-date is the responsibility of the Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry. For the correct version, please go to the Ministry website, at www.ktm.fi/. All printed versions are unofficial and no specific procedures have been laid down for distributing or destroying them.
2 Legislation Governing Exploration and Mining in Finland

2.1 Mining act

The concept ‘extractable minerals’ and the conditions for exploring and exploiting them are laid down in the Mining Act (503/1965) and the Mining Decree (663/1965). The definition covers metallic ores, and industrial minerals and stones. Extractable minerals are listed in a table in appendix 2. The Finnish Mining Act, introduced in 1965, has been amended several times and most of the changes were made in the 1990s. A Mining Decree and three Ministry of Trade and Industry decisions have been issued under the Act.

The growing importance of fundamental rights and ecological and environmental values have also influenced legislative work and the manner in which land use is steered. They have also helped to change the way the provisions of the Mining Act are applied. The role of the Mining Act as a powerful legislative instrument steering exploration and mining has changed, particularly during the last decade, and other laws now influence the way it is applied and interpreted. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is currently working on a revision of the Mining Act. The working group set up by the Ministry in 2005 to update the provisions of the Act has already produced and commissioned a number of studies clarifying the relationship between the Mining Act and other pieces of legislation.

2.2 Rights granted under the Finnish mining legislation

Under section 1 of the Mining Act, extractable minerals may be sought, claimed and exploited by any natural person domiciled in the European Economic Area (EEA), any Finnish corporation or foundation, or any foreign corporation or foundation that has been established under the legislation of a country belonging to the EEA. Section 3 of the Act contains provisions on what is called ‘prospecting right’ under which geological observations and measurements and small-scale sampling aimed at finding extractable minerals may be carried out on somebody else’s land. Prospecting does not require any special permit or the consent of the landowner or the party possessing the site. The observations and measurements must not result in any damage to the area.

Prospecting is, however, not permitted in the following areas, unless an appropriate permit has been granted:
• protected areas (permit granted by the authority administering the area is always required; see chapter 4.3)
• claims and mining districts already registered (permit granted by the claim holder or possessor of the mining district is required)
• yards of residential buildings, plots, gardens and parks (landowner’s permission required)
• cultivated areas, if it is clear that the prospecting will result in damage (landowner’s permission required)
• traffic routes and thoroughfares in public use, if it is clear that the prospecting will cause inconvenience to traffic (Permission of the area administrator required).

Under the Mining Act, the explorer may be granted the following mineral rights so that the deposit can be surveyed and exploited:

• reservation (claim reservation)
• claim
• concession.

The rights are granted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry on application. A decision made under the Mining Act must, however, be in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act (see chapter 4).

**Reservation (claim reservation)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Reservation</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Gives the explorer priority over other claim applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Does not give surveying rights (landowner’s permission required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Field surveys in a protected area require a permit granted by the authority or agency administering the area.</td>
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By making a reservation for an area, the explorer can obtain priority over other potential claim applicants though for surveying a landowner’s permission is required. The reservation may cover a maximum of nine square kilometres and it may be in effect for a maximum of one year from the submission of the reservation notice. The boundaries of the area must be clearly marked in the reservation notice, which, together with its appendices, must be submitted to the local register office (section 7 of the Mining Act). The register office will forward the notice to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which will make the decision
on the matter. The Ministry decision may be appealed against to the Supreme Administrative Court.

If there are several reservation notices for the same area, priority will be given to the notice received first.

**Claim (claim right)**

<table>
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<th><strong>Claim</strong></th>
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<td>• Gives the holder the sole right to survey <strong>the deposit</strong></td>
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<td>• Gives the holder the sole right to apply for a concession in the area covered by the claim (claim district) and to exploiting the deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Is required before an application for the establishment of a mining district but does not automatically mean that the application for the mining district will be approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Does not, however, entitle the holder to launch activities prohibited under the Nature Conservation Act, unless an exception is granted.</td>
</tr>
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In order to secure its rights over the deposit, as laid down in the Mining Act, the explorer must apply for a claim right for the area in question. The application is usually submitted after a regional survey has been carried out and when the exploration process has reached a stage at which targeted field surveys are required. The claim right gives the holder the sole right to survey extractable mineral deposits in the area.

The claim application must be submitted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and provisions on the information to be included in the application are contained in section 8 of the Mining Act and section 6 of the Mining Decree. If the application is in compliance with the Mining Act and meets all other legal requirements and there are no other obstacles, the Ministry must grant the applicant **a prospecting licence** for the area. The Ministry decision may be appealed against to the Supreme Administrative Court. Surveying of the area may only be launched when the decision is final.

The prospecting licence gives the holder a claim right for the area (claim district) for a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years. An extension may be granted for a maximum of three years. The claim district may not be larger than 100 hectares. However, the same applicant has the right to apply for and be granted several adjacent claim districts because there are no limits to their number. Instructions on how to prepare a claim application, and any obstacles to granting a claim are detailed in appendix 4.
The amount of compensation payable to the landowner and the Government on the basis of the size of the claim district is laid down in the Mining Decree (see appendix 4). The compensation paid by the claimant does not depend on the amount of activities in the claim district and does not cover the damage resulting from the activities. The claimant must provide the landowner with full compensation for any damage it has caused, while the landowner may request the claimant to provide security for the compensation of any damage in the claim district (section 15 of the Mining Act).

The claimant may relinquish the claim in full or in part and may also transfer it to another eligible operator. The claim right may also be used as a pledge. Notification of the transfer or the pledge must be submitted within 60 days of the act to the Ministry of Trade and Industry so that it can be entered in the mining register (section 54 of the Mining Act).

Mining district and concession

If the claimant can show that the claim district contains sufficient amounts of extractable mineral resources in such a form that they are probably commercially exploitable, the claimant has a right to apply for the establishment of a mining district so that it can take possession of the area and start mining operations. It should be noted, however, that if the intention is to launch activities in a protected area that under the decision establishing the reserve are not even allowed under a special permit, the decision in question must be amended or abolished. At the same time, it should also be noted that mining operations may only start when all the necessary permits, such as environmental permits, have been granted (see chapter 4).

The application for the establishment of a mining district must be made in writing to the Ministry of Trade and Industry when the claim is still in effect. The mining district must form a coherent area and, in terms of size and shape, must be in accordance with the reasonable requirements for its use. At least part of the mining district must be located in the claim district already in the possession of the applicant. Areas necessary for the exploitation of the deposit, such as industrial, storage, waste and residential areas, can be included in the mining district. The areas for transport equipment, power lines, water pipes and sewers may also be included though they may also be defined as auxiliary areas located outside the mining district.
If the intention is to extract uranium or thorium, the application must be submitted to the Government (for more information, see chapter 2.7).

Provisions on the appendices to the application for a mining district are contained in section 23 of the Mining Act. The appendices required include details of the survey work and its results on the basis of which it can be concluded that a mine would be commercially feasible, a detailed map of the mining district, and a plan for the use of the mining district and the auxiliary areas.

If the application meets the requirements laid down in the Mining Act and elsewhere in the law, the Ministry of Trade and Industry must, by law, issue an order on the establishment of the mining district. The mining district survey shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Real Estate Formation Act, and after the survey has been completed, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will issue the applicant with a mining certificate as a proof of the concession and of the entry in the mining register.

The concession holder may use all extractable minerals discovered in the mining district. The holder may also make use of other rock and soil materials found in the area provided that they are necessary for mining and processing operations. The concession does not, however, give the holder the ownership of the land unless it has purchased the area. The Mining Act only gives the concession holder the right to use the area, and the site will revert to the ownership of the landowner after the mining operations have ceased.

A concession may be pledged, transferred or leased to another party meeting the requirements of the Mining Act. The Ministry of Trade and Industry must be notified of the transfer within 60 days of the act so that it can be entered in the mining register (section 54 of the Mining Act).

2.3 Nature conservation act and special provisions for protected areas

The Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996), the Nature Conservation Decree (160/1997) and the decisions establishing protected areas provide special legal protection for nature reserves. The Act on Wilderness Reserves applies to wilderness reserves. The provisions on the surveying and use of extractable minerals contained in these acts have priority over similar provision in the Mining Act. Provisions on the relationship between exploration and mining operations and nature conservation are also contained in section 71(2) of the Mining Act under which authorities must, when granting mineral rights or when making other official decisions under the Mining Act, observe the section’s provisions.
Protection provisions laid down in sections 13 and 16 of the Nature Conservation Act limit land use in national parks, strict nature reserves and, as applicable, in other protected areas. Under these provisions, any action altering the natural surroundings, such as the extraction of soil and extractable minerals or any action that damages soil or bedrock are prohibited in the areas in question. Traditional gold washing (gold panning) is permitted in some national parks.

Provisions on the assessment of the prerequisites for exploration and mining operations in Natura 2000 sites are contained in sections 65 and 66 of the Nature Conservation Act.

Under the Decree on certain mire conservation areas established on Government land (852/1988), measures necessary for geological research and exploration are permitted in mire conservation areas provided that a Ministry of the Environment permit has been granted.

### 2.4 Act on wilderness reserves

The northernmost parts of Finland are covered by wilderness reserves, as laid down in the Act on Wilderness Reserves (62/1991). Exploration is permitted in these areas but establishing a mining district, as laid down in the Mining Act, requires a Government permit (section 6 of the Act on Wilderness Reserves).

Management and use of wilderness reserves must be in accordance with an approved management and utilization plan. Wilderness reserves are administered and managed by Metsähallitus.

### 2.5 Act on environmental impact assessment procedure

The aim of the Act is to promote environmental impact assessment and to ensure that it is taken into account in planning and decision-making in a consistent manner and at the same time to increase the information available to the public and its opportunities to participate.

Environmental impact assessment is carried out in order to examine and assess the environmental effects of certain projects and to consult authorities and those whose living conditions and interests may be affected by the project. Those responsible for the project must draw up an assessment report detailing the project and its impact and presenting the alternatives. The report must also contain a comprehensive evaluation of the impact the project and any alternatives might have on:
a) human health, living conditions and well-being
b) soil, water, atmosphere, climate, vegetation, other organic species, and biodiversity
c) urban structure, buildings, landscape, cityscape and cultural heritage
d) utilization of natural resources.

Under the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (468/1994) and in accordance with the project list contained in the Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (268/1999), the assessment procedure applies to the following mining projects (section 4 (1) of the Act and section 6 of the Decree):

- extraction, dressing and processing of metal ores and other extractable minerals, if the total amount of the resource extracted is at least 550,000 tonnes/year, or quarries larger than 25 hectares
- asbestos extraction or installations for the processing and transformation of asbestos or products containing asbestos
- extraction, enrichment and processing of uranium, except for trial extraction, pilot enrichment and other similar processing.

Under section 4(2) of the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure, the procedure may also, in individual cases, be applied to other mining projects if they are likely to result in significant adverse environmental effects similar to those generated by the projects listed in the Decree.

2.6 Environmental protection act

Under section 28 of the Environmental Protection Act (86/2000), a permit acquired in advance (environmental permit) is required for activities that pose a threat of environmental pollution.

Mining and mechanical excavation of gold, and mineral concentration require an environmental permit (section 28(1) of the Environmental Protection Act and section 1(1)(7a) of the Environmental Protection Decree). Extensive pilot mining may also require an environmental permit.

2.7 Off-road traffic act

Under section 4(1) of the Off-Road Traffic Act (1710/1995), a permit granted by the landowner is always required for off-road use of cross-country vehicles.
2.8 Land use and building act

The guidance provisions of the Land Use and Building Act and the planning situation in the area must also be considered when claims are granted and mining districts established. Under section 3 of the Act, land use objectives and plans that are in accordance with the Act must be taken into account, as laid down separately, when planning and deciding on the use of the environment on the basis of other legislation.

Under a Government decision on national land use objectives issued on November 30, 2000, authorities must give consideration to the objectives stated in the decision. The objectives are part of a land use planning system in which a regional land use plan provides the general guidelines, followed by a local master plan and a local detailed plan.

Local master plan and local detailed plan

A local master plan is a general land use plan adopted by a municipality or several municipalities and approved by the Ministry of the Environment. A local detailed plan is a more detailed municipality-approved building regulation/order based on the local master plan.

The local master plan is used by the authorities as a basis for land use planning and for drawing up local detailed plans. Under section 58(2) of the Land Use and Building Act, functions hindering the use designated for other areas in the local detailed plan may not be located in the plan area. A claim or a mining district may not, without special reasons, be established in an area covered by a local detailed plan, or a legally valid local master plan if the municipality is against it for reasonable land use grounds (sections 6(1) and 22(3) of the Mining Act). When establishing a mining district, consideration must also be given to needs of land use planning (section 22 of the Mining Act).

2.9 Radiation act and nuclear energy act

The purpose of the Radiation Act (592/1991) is to prevent and limit health hazards and any other detrimental effects of radiation. The Act also applies to exploration and mining if the activities cause or may cause exposure to radiation that is detrimental to human health. The Act states that anybody using soil, rock or other materials for commercial purposes must determine the radiation exposure resulting from the activities should such exposure be suspected. The report must be submitted to the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, which will issue the necessary orders for limiting the radiation exposure.

The Nuclear Energy Act (990/1987) applies to mining and enrichment activities aimed at producing uranium or thorium, and the permit required under the Act is needed for commercial operations. The Act states that an application for extracting uranium or thorium must be submitted to the Government. The Act does not, however, apply to the searching and surveying carried out prior to mining operations.
3 Protected areas and the Natura 2000 network

Finland has different types of protected area established for different purposes. Nature reserves, wilderness reserves and national hiking areas come under the definition of protected areas established by legislation and other special areas. Finland’s network of protected areas has expanded, particularly since the 1970s and the Government has also issued a number resolutions on conservation programmes covering different habitats. Each programme gives the selection criteria used, describes the areas, gives their location and size, lists the protection objectives, and describes the envisaged protection measures.

The protected areas form an extensive network of different habitats and landscapes. The areas established by the Finnish government and government authorities are divided as follows (The division is on the basis of protection criteria and objectives):

- national parks
- strict nature reserves
- other conservation areas
  - mires
  - bird wetlands
  - shores
  - herb-rich woodlands
  - old-growth forests
- privately owned nature reserves
- wilderness reserves

Most of the protected sites listed above belong to the EU-initiated Natura 2000 network and account for 97 % of area of the Finnish Natura network. The Natura 2000 sites cover about 15 % of Finland and they are divided into two groups: Sites of Community Importance (SCI) set up on the basis of the Union Habitat Directive, and Special Protection Areas (SPA) that are based on the EU Bird Directive. Finland has a total of 1,751 SCI sites and 467 SPA areas, covering a total of 4.8 million and 3.1 million hectares, respectively. SCI sites and SPA areas are partially overlapping.

Under Finnish law, Regional Environment Centres are responsible for the management of the privately owned nature reserves, while the responsibility for Government-owned areas lies with the authority administering the areas (in most cases, Metsähallitus). These authorities play a central role in the assessment of the environmental effects of exploration carried out in protected areas, granting of field survey permits and the supervision of the areas. Implementation and monitoring of the protection objectives for the Natura 2000 network is mainly in the hands of Regional Environment Centres.
The acts and decrees under which protected areas are established contain provisions on the degree of protection in them, the authorities/agencies administering the areas and the authorities issuing special permits for them.

Regional distribution of different types of protected area and the Natura 2000 network is illustrated in maps 1 and 2. The protected areas are described in more detail in appendix 1. For detailed information on the boundaries and protection criteria for individual sites, contact the Regional Environment Centres and/or the authorities administering the areas.
Map 1. Nature reserves and wilderness reserves in Finland
Map 2. Natura 2000 sites in Finland
4 Exploration and Mining in Protected Areas

4.1 General requirements

Some of Finland’s protected areas are located in regions that are interesting in terms of exploration. Particularly in northern parts of the country, large tracts of land are protected under the Nature Conservation Act, or have been made into wilderness reserves and other Natura 2000 sites.

When operations are carried out in these areas, the guiding principle is that the ecological values on the basis of which the areas are protected or included in the Natura 2000 network may not be significantly weakened. Mining in the areas must be considered on a case-by-case basis. The degree of protection in the area, its ecological values and the impact the planned operations would have on the environment must be examined. The impact of the operations must be assessed during each stage of the process – from exploration to the establishment of the mine – whenever a new phase also involves substantial operational changes.

Exploration may be carried out with the permission of the authority or agency administering the protected area, provided that the operations are not in conflict with the purpose of the protected area or significantly affect its ecological values. If the exploration is likely to have significant adverse effects on the ecological values of the area and/or is in contravention of the decision establishing the reserve, and under the decision it is not possible to grant any special permits, no exploration permit may be granted unless the decision establishing the reserve is amended or abolished.

During the exploration stage, the operator must produce a written report of the need to carry out a Natura assessment, as laid down in the Nature Conservation Act (Natura report submitted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry during the submission of the claim application) and, if necessary, submit the assessment (see chapters 4.2.1 and 4.2.2). The impact assessment may also be carried as part of the assessment required under the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure. The latter procedure is usually relevant when the exploration has already reached a stage at which it is reasonable to submit an application for a mining district.

It is very important for the operator to be in close contact with the Regional Environment Centre and the authority administering the area from the start of the exploration process. The authorities in question will provide detailed information about the protection of the area and its protection criteria, which the operator needs when producing the Natura report.
for the Ministry of Trade and Industry (see chapter 4.2.1) or when preparing the Natura assessment (see chapter 4.2.2).

The Ministry of Trade and Industry may only grant the claim right and give its consent to the establishment of the mining district if the assessment made and the opinions given show that there is unlikely to be any substantial adverse effects on the ecological values of the area.

If it concludes that the mining project will have substantial adverse effects on the ecological values of the area, the Ministry of Trade and Industry must refer the matter to the Government. The Government may, in plenary session, decide on whether for imperative reasons of overriding public interest and in the absence of any alternatives the project may nevertheless be allowed to proceed. Submitting the matter to the Government is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment. The Government can only make an affirmative decision if the application for the mining district is otherwise in accordance with the law. In other words, the application must be complete and, should this not be the case, it will be rejected or returned to the applicant so that the missing information can be added. The Government does not, as a rule, examine whether the mining project is in accordance with the law, as this must be decided by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the body responsible for mining matters in Finland. The Government decision may be solely on the basis of public interest. The Habitat Directive mentions social and economic considerations (such as promotion of employment) as grounds for granting exceptions. If there is a danger that priority species or priority natural habitats provided protection by the Natura 2000 programme might be affected, an opinion of the EU Commission must also be requested.

If the Government makes an affirmative decision, compensation must be provided for the adverse ecological effects. Expanding the protected area, enhancing the habitat type or proposing the inclusion of a new nature reserve in the network of protected sites are among the options.

The Government decision may be appealed against to the Supreme Administrative Court.

### 4.2 Reports required for a Natura 2000 site

#### 4.2.1 Examining the need for a Natura assessment (Natura report)

If the claim district is located in a Natura 2000 area or if it is located so close to a Natura site that the operations are likely to have adverse effects on the Natura area, the operator must prepare a report on the planned measures and their effects and examine whether a Natura assessment and requests for opinions, as laid down in section 65(1–2) of the Nature Conservation Act, are needed. When drawing up the report, the operator should be in con-
tact with the Regional Environment Centre and, if necessary, with the authority administering the area so that the boundaries and the ecological values of the protected area can be determined and in order to get other necessary help from the authorities. The report must be carefully prepared and in accordance with the relevant instructions (appendix 4). The report must be appended to the claim application.

If on the basis of the Natura report drawn up by the operator, it is clear that there may be substantial adverse effects on the ecological values of the area or if the report is not sufficiently comprehensive, the Ministry of Trade and Industry must request an assessment procedure and ask for opinions, as referred to in the Nature Conservation Act (Natura assessment).

4.2.2 Natura assessment

Under section 65 of the Nature Conservation Act, the applicant must conduct an appropriate assessment of the impact the planned measures would have on the ecological values in the area if the measures, either individually or in combination with other projects and plans, are likely to have significant adverse effects on them. The same applies to applications for areas outside the Natura 2000 network, if the planned operations are likely to have significant adverse effects on the Natura site. The applicant must describe in sufficient detail, the geological research and exploration methods to be used, the ecological values of the claim district and the effects the measures would have on them. The use of measures that might prevent or alleviate the adverse effects must also be examined. The Ministry of Trade and Industry must be in a position to establish that the assessment referred to in the Nature Conservation Act has been produced and request opinions on the assessment from the Regional Environment Centre and the area administrator.

In their opinions, the Regional Environment Centre and the area administrator must give their views of the validity of the Natura assessment, in other words, whether detailed and adequate consideration has been given to the ecological values of the site, and present their conclusions about the impact of the planned measures on its ecological values.

If, on the basis of the assessment procedure and the opinions given, it is clear that the operations would have significant adverse effects on the ecological values of the site, the Ministry of Trade and Industry may not, under section 66(1) of the Nature Conservation Act, grant a claim right or make an affirmative decision on the mining district survey. The Ministry can, however, grant the permit or approve the plan if the Government has, in plenary session, decided that, because of imperative reasons of overriding public interest and in the absence of alternatives, the project must be implemented (see chapter 4.1). If there is a danger that priority species or priority natural habitats might be affected, the Government must also request an opinion from the EU Commission. The Government decision may be appealed against to the Supreme Administrative Court. When the Government decision
comes into force, the Ministry of the Environment must take immediate action so that compensation can be made for the adverse ecological effects.

### 4.3 Granting of survey permits

In addition to a claim right granted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the operator also needs survey permits for carrying out field surveys in a protected area. An opinion issued by the Regional Environment Centre on the need for a Natura assessment must be appended to the survey permit application. The survey permit application must be submitted to the area administrator as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of protected area</th>
<th>Authority granting the survey permit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National parks</td>
<td>Metsähallitus (Finnish Forest Research Institute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment (for 18 parks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strict nature reserves</td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other nature reserves</td>
<td>Metsähallitus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment (mire conservation areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privately owned nature reserves</td>
<td>Regional Environment Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness reserves</td>
<td>Metsähallitus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The decision granting a survey permit for a protected area may be appealed against. The permit will only come into effect after the expiry of the 30-day appeal period and after the appeals have been considered. Instructions for a survey permit application are contained in appendix 5.

### 4.4 Flowcharts

The flowcharts below describe the processing of applications for claims and mining districts in Natura 2000 sites and areas close to them. The charts describe the different process stages and the parties involved. The procedure described also applies to protected areas outside the Natura 2000 network, in which case consideration must also be given to protection provisions laid down for the sites. Likewise, if the area is a nature reserve or a wilderness reserve, the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act and the Act on Wilderness Reserves will apply.
Chart 1. Claim application process for a Natura 2000 site or an area adjacent to it
1 **Preparing a claim application**

Preparing the application is the responsibility of the claim applicant (see appendix 4). The applicant must examine the degree of protection in the area and append a Natura report to the application (chapter 4.2.1). In the report, the applicant must examine the need for a Natura assessment referred to in section 65 of the Nature Conservation Act, in other words, the applicant must determine whether the planned measures can be carried out without any substantial adverse effects on the ecological values of the area.

2 **Contacting the environmental authorities**

When preparing the application, the applicant must contact the Regional Environment Centre and, if necessary, the authority administering the area and the municipality in question as early as possible (duty of authorities to provide advice). The municipality can provide information about the planning situation of the area.

3 **Ministry of Trade and Industry**

The Ministry of Trade and Industry will review the application and the appended Natura report. The Ministry may request the applicant to include additional information in the application and/or the Natura report.

If, on the basis of the report compiled by the applicant, it is clear that significant adverse effects on the ecological values of the area cannot be ruled out, the Ministry will request the applicant to carry out the Natura assessment referred to in the Nature Conservation Act (see chapter 4.2.2).

4 **Natura assessment**

The applicant must draw up a plan and project assessment referred to in section 65 of the Nature Conservation Act. In the document, the applicant must provide a sufficiently detailed and extensive review of the effects of the planned measures on the ecological values of the protected area. The applicant must also be in contact with the Regional Environment Centre and the authority administering the area.

5 **Hearings**

The applicant must submit the Natura assessment to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which in turn will request opinions on the assessment from the municipality in question, the Regional Environment Centre and the authority administering the area. In their opinions, the bodies will assess the validity of the Natura assessment and present their conclusions on the effects of the planned measures on the ecological values of the area. In order to ensure that all parties involved can have a say in the matter, as required under the Administrative Procedure Act, the Ministry of Trade and Industry must initiate hearings,
which will be conducted as regular service or, if the matter affects a large number of people, as service by public notice.

6 Government consideration

If, on the basis of the opinions received, it is clear that the planned operations will have significant adverse effects on the protected ecological values of the area, the claim application will be referred to the Government. The Government will decide whether the project will be allowed to proceed even if it is likely to have significant adverse effects on the ecological values of the area (see chapters 4.1 and 4.2.2). If necessary, an opinion of the EU Commission will be requested.

7 Ministry of Trade and Industry decision

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is the body deciding on the granting of the claim right. In the case of an affirmative decision (claim right granted), the claimant will be issued with a prospecting licence and the Regional Environment Centre, area administrator and other parties involved will be notified of the decision. The decision may come with conditions and orders that guide and limit the claim right.

8 Entry into force and appeal

The applicant will receive a prospecting licence or, alternatively, the application will be rejected. The decision may be appealed against to the Supreme Administrative Court and the appeal may only be lodged if the decision is against the law. The applicant may only start activities in the claim district after a final decision has been issued.

9 Contacts with the authority administering the area and the Regional Environment Centre

In matters connected with the survey permit and for receiving official advice, the applicant must be in contact with the area administrator and, if necessary, the Regional Environment Centre.
Chart 2. Applying for the establishment of a mining district in a Natura 2000 site or an area close to it.
1 Preparing a mining district application

The applicant must examine the effects of the planned measures on the ecological values of the area. The applicant must examine the need for a procedure laid down in the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (see chapter 2.2.3), the need for other environmental reports, and other operating prerequisites before submitting the application and, if necessary, produce the reports before submitting the application. The Natura assessment (chapter 4.2.2) can be produced as part of the impact assessment carried out in accordance with the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure.

2 Contacting environmental authorities

When preparing the application, the applicant must contact the Regional Environment Centre and, if necessary, the authority administering the area and the municipality in question as early as possible (duty of authorities to provide advice).

3 Assessing the ecological effects

The Ministry of Trade and Industry will, on the basis of the application, assess whether the applicant has produced an appropriate assessment of the ecological effects of the planned measures (Natura assessment, procedure laid down in the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure, and other reports).

4 Hearings

The Ministry of Trade and Industry will request opinions on the mining district application, the Natura assessment and any other environmental reports produced by the applicant from the municipality in question and the Regional Environment Centre. In order to ensure that all parties involved can have a say in the matter, as required under the Administrative Procedure Act, the Ministry of Trade and Industry must launch hearings, which will be conducted as regular service or, if the matter affects a large number of people, as service by public notice.

6 Government consideration

If the planned mining district and the operations envisaged for it are likely to have significant adverse effects on the ecological values of the area, the application must be considered by a Government plenary session (see chapters 4.1 and 4.2.2).

7 Decision on establishing the mining district

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is the body deciding on the establishment of the mining district. The Ministry will make its decision after it has been concluded that there will not be any significant adverse effects on the ecological values of the site or after the Gov-
The Ministry of Trade and Industry will issue the applicant with a mining certificate.

9 Environmental and other necessary permits

The mining certificate holder must acquire the necessary environmental and other permits.
5 Exploration in the Sami Homeland and the Reindeer Herding Area

5.1 The Sami people

Under the Finnish Constitution, the indigenous Sami people have the right to maintain and develop their own culture. The Sami people have language and cultural autonomy in their Homeland and for managing this autonomy they elect the Sami Parliament from among themselves. The Sami Homeland covers the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki and the area of the Lapland reindeer herding cooperative located in the municipality of Sodankylä. The main task of the Sami Parliament is to manage the cultural autonomy, which includes reindeer herding, hunting and fishing, three traditional sources of livelihood.

As reindeer herding is an important part of the Sami culture and traditional rights, exploration may not cause any substantial adverse effects on it or any other Sami rights. Section 9 of the Act on the Sami Parliament (974/1995) states that authorities must negotiate with the body before any far-reaching and important measures and decisions that concern the Sami Homeland. The Act specifically mentions claims concerning extractable minerals and the establishment of mining districts (section 9(1)(3) of the Act):

“Obligation to negotiate
Authorities shall negotiate with the Sami Parliament on all far-reaching and important measures which may directly and in a specific way affect the status of the Sami as an indigenous people and which concern the following matters in the Sami Homeland:

—

3) permit applications aimed at extractable mineral claims and the establishment of mining districts.”

The obligation to negotiate quoted above applies to the Ministry of Trade and Industry but a company engaged in exploration in the Sami Homeland should also consult the Sami Parliament and the reindeer herding cooperatives affected and examine the effects of the planned operations on reindeer herding and the Sami culture. The Ministry of Trade and Industry will launch negotiations with the parties involved after it has received all claim application documents (including the Natura assessment).

Skolt Area

The aim of the Skolt Act (253/1995) is to improve the living conditions and livelihood of the Skolt people living in the Skolt Area and to maintain and promote the Skolt culture. In activities carried out in accordance with this Act, particular attention must be paid to sus-
tainable use of natural resources, preservation of traditional living environments and other environmental considerations.

Under section 44, paragraph 1, and section 56(1) of the Skolt Act, the Ministry of Trade and Industry must, if necessary, consult the Skolt village meetings and the Skolt Councils when exploration is planned in the Skolt Area. In practice, the matter becomes relevant when a claim application is submitted.

5.2 Applying for a claim in the Sami homeland

Chart 3. Processing of claim application in the Sami Homeland. If the envisaged claim district covers protected areas, the procedure described in chart 1 also applies.
1 Before submitting the claim application, the applicant should contact the Sami Parliament, the reindeer herding cooperatives, Metsähallitus, the Regional Environment Centre, and (in the Skolt Area) the Skolt representatives.

2 The Ministry of Trade and Industry will send a copy of the application to the Sami Parliament, the Sami reindeer herding cooperatives and, if necessary, to the Skolt Councils. Consultations, as required under the Act on the Sami Parliament, may also have to be held.

3 The Ministry must check the application to ensure that sufficient consideration is given to the statutory requirements concerning reindeer herding and the preservation of the Sami culture.

4 The Ministry of Trade and Industry may give the applicant more time to complete the application.

5 The Ministry of Trade and Industry will consult the organizations involved.

6 The Ministry of Trade and Industry will examine the opinions and request the applicant to submit a response. If necessary, the Ministry shall, on the basis of the opinions, determine the operating conditions for the claim district.

7 Consideration of the claim will continue in accordance with chart 1. The Sami Parliament and other parties involved will be notified when the decision is made.

5.3 Considering reindeer herding when carrying out exploration

The reindeer herding area covers the Province of Lapland (excluding the cities of Kemi and Tornio, and the municipality of Keminmaa) and the following areas in the Province of Oulu: the municipalities of Hyrynsalmi, Kuivaniemi, Kuusamo, Pudasjärvi, Suomussalmi, Taivalkoski and Yli-Ii, and the parts of the municipalities of Puolanka, Utajärvi and Ylikiiminki that are located to the north of the Kiiminkijoki river and the main road between Puolanka and Hyrynsalmi. The reindeer herding area has been divided into 56 reindeer herding cooperatives, which have pastures covering 114,000 km² (33 % of the area of Finland).

Under section 53 of the Reindeer Husbandry Act (848/1990), when measures concerning Government-owned land that will have a substantial effect on the practice of reindeer herding are planned, the Government authorities must consult the representatives of the reindeer herding cooperatives affected. When exploration and mining is carried out, the obligation applies to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
The Reindeer Herders’ Association acts as a link between reindeer herding cooperatives. It does not act as their representative but supplies the members with information and functions as a channel of communication.

Exploration may not cause any unnecessary disturbance to reindeer herding, and when operations are carried out in the Sami Homeland, the reindeer herding cooperatives affected must be contacted. Government-owned land located in the reindeer herding area laid down in section 2(2) of the Reindeer Husbandry Act may not be used in a manner that causes substantial damage to reindeer herding. Special consideration must be given to the calving and rutting seasons.

When operations are carried out in the Sami Homeland, both the Sami Parliament and the reindeer herding cooperatives affected must be consulted. Elsewhere in the reindeer herding area, the reindeer herding cooperatives affected should be consulted.
Appendix 1

Conservation programmes and protected areas in Finland

1 Conservation programmes

Since 1978, the Finnish government has made a number of resolutions on the establishment of new national parks and strict nature reserves and on the setting up of conservation programmes covering different habitats. The conservation programmes, seven in number, give the protection objectives for the areas, their most important ecological features, and the way the areas should be protected. According to Government decisions on the funding of conservation programmes made in 1996 and 2005, all seven programmes should be implemented by the year 2009.

No conservation programmes complying with the provisions of section 7 of the Nature Conservation Act have yet been drawn up. This is partly because after Finland had joined the EU, the Union started preparing a pan-European Nature 2000 network that will be implemented in Finland in accordance with chapter 10 of the Nature Conservation Act.

Most of the Government-approved conservation programmes are implemented by purchasing privately owned land and by establishing nature reserves on them by law or by decree. Some areas are also put under protection on the landowner’s application and made into privately owned nature reserves by decision of a Regional Environment Centre. The situation regarding the implementation of the programmes changes every year and the table below shows the situation at the start of 2006. Most of the Government-owned areas included in the programmes are administered by Metsähallitus.
Table 1. Protected areas on January 1, 2006 (in hectares), (www.environment.fi)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation programme</th>
<th>Already established</th>
<th>Not yet established</th>
<th>Total area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Areas protected by law</td>
<td>Privately owned areas</td>
<td>Government-owned land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National parks</td>
<td>797 000</td>
<td>85 000</td>
<td>8 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strict nature reserves</td>
<td>151 000</td>
<td>2 600</td>
<td>13 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mire conservation programme</td>
<td>442 400</td>
<td>11 500</td>
<td>39 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird wetland conservation programme</td>
<td>21 700</td>
<td>67 600</td>
<td>15 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herb-rich woodland conservation programme</td>
<td>1 250</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old-growth forest conservation programme</td>
<td>10 200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other nature reserves</td>
<td>39 800</td>
<td>27 000</td>
<td>66 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other privately owned nature reserves</td>
<td>28 400</td>
<td></td>
<td>28 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water areas in private ownership</td>
<td>56 000</td>
<td></td>
<td>56 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness reserves</td>
<td>1 379 000</td>
<td>110 000</td>
<td>1 489 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Natura 2000 sites</td>
<td>6 300</td>
<td>58 300</td>
<td>26 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2 820 650</td>
<td>236 310</td>
<td>168 800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1978 the Government approved a resolution on a programme for expanding Finland’s network of national parks and strict nature reserves. New areas were added to the programme in 1980, 1985 and 1988.

The aim of the mire conservation programme (1979 and 1981) is to preserve a representative number of mires of different types in various parts of Finland. About 600 sites are included and they have a total area of 629,000 hectares.

Nearly all mires important for nature conservation and mire biology that were in their natural state when the programme was launched are included.

The aim of the herb-rich woodland conservation programme (1988) is to protect herb-rich forests of different types in different herb-rich vegetation zones in Finland and to provide protection for the animal and plant species occurring in them. About 436 sites are included and they have a total area of 6,600 hectares. Most of the sites are located in southern Finland. Some of the herb-rich forest types are also among the habitats of special importance referred to in the Forest Act and habitats protected under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act.
The bird wetland conservation programme (1982) covers a total of 74,700 hectares. Most of the approximately 287 sites included in the programme are shallow and eutrophic water areas that are important for birds as breeding grounds and for resting during migration.

The aim of the shore conservation programme (1990) is to protect shoreline sections and different types of natural sites in lake and sea areas in them. The programme covers a total of about 146,000 hectares and 29 of the sites listed are in sea areas and 98 in lake areas. The 8,000 km of shoreline included in the programme cover four per cent of Finland’s seashores and five per cent of its lakeshores.

The old-growth forest conservation programme has been drawn up with the aim of preserving old-growth forests, their ecological values, and organic species occurring in them. The Government has issued three resolutions on protecting old-growth forests (in 1993, 1995 and 1996), and the programme covers about 350,000 hectares most of which are located in northern and eastern parts of Finland.

The aim of the esker conservation programme (1984) is to preserve the most important geological, geomorphological and landscape characteristics of esker areas in Finland. The programme covers about 96,000 hectares and most of the 159 esker sites listed are located in southern Finland.
2  Protected areas

National parks and strict nature reserves of at least 1,000 hectares located on Government land are established by law, and the purpose for which they are set up and the degree of protection for them are also based on legal provisions. The establishment of other protected areas is by decree. National parks must have plans which provide the authorities administering the areas with guidelines on how to manage and utilize them. Similar management and utilization plans may also be drawn up for other protected areas.

The main objective in establishing protected areas is to ensure that the sites remain in their natural state and that their ecological values are preserved. Sometimes protected areas need special management plans and measures for restoring habitats in them. Protected areas are also important for nature lovers and popular as recreational and ecotourism destinations.

Under a decision establishing a nature reserve or the by-laws applying to the area, movements, camping, landing or keeping of vessels or other vehicles at the site may be prohibited or subject to restrictions. Under section 18 of the Nature Conservation Act, prohibitions or restrictions may only be introduced if they are necessary for the conservation of flora and fauna in the area.

Access to protected areas is usually on the basis of everyman’s rights. However, in certain areas access is restricted for protection reasons at breeding times, for example. Use of motor vehicles in nature reserves is prohibited though the authority or agency administering the area may grant a special permit for such use under the Off-Road Traffic Act.

Nature reserves located on Government land are administered and managed by Metsähallitus, the Finnish Forest Research Institute, the University of Helsinki and the Agrifood Research Finland. Information on protected areas is supplied by the area administrators and Regional Environment Centres.

2.1  National parks and strict nature reserves

At the start of 2006, Finland had 35 national parks covering an area of about 817,000 hectares. The national parks have been established for preserving Finland’s most important natural sites and they are also open to public as recreational and ecotourism sites. Finland’s national parks are important both domestically and internationally and in them visitors can admire the beauty of Finnish nature, while within their boundaries there are also important cultural sights and monuments. Of Finland’s 35 national parks, 34 are administered by Metsähallitus and one by the Finnish Forest Research Institute.
Strict nature reserves have been established primarily for conservation and scientific research. They have stricter protection provisions than national parks and are mostly closed to the public. Permits may, however, be granted for research and study visits and some of the areas have marked paths that are open to public. Finland’s 19 strict nature reserves cover about 153,000 hectares, and 17 of them are administered by Metsähallitus and two by the Finnish Forest Research Institute.

### 2.2 Other nature reserves

The term ‘Other Government-owned nature reserves’ refers to areas that have been established as part of Government-approved conservation programmes. The most important of them are summarized below.

A total of 173 mire conservation areas have already been established as part of the Government-approved mire conservation programme. The areas, mostly fens and bogs, cover a total of 453,000 hectares. There are also mires in national parks, wilderness reserves and other nature reserves. A total of 53 herb-rich woodland conservation areas have been set up under the herb-rich woodland conservation programme, while the 92 old-growth forest conservation areas already established cover a total area of 10,000 hectares. At the same time the number of bird wetland conservation areas is increasing rapidly. The bird sanctuaries are established on the basis of decisions by Regional Environment Centres.

There have been delays in the establishment of nature reserves which are set up by law. At the start of 2006, there were a total of 1,200 Government-owned sites waiting for nature reserve status. In 2006, the Ministry of the Environment and Metsähallitus launched a legislative project aimed at speeding up the process of establishing nature reserves.

Under the Nature Conservation Act, nature reserves may also be established on privately owned land. The establishment decision is made by a Regional Environment Centre. At the moment, there are more that 3,500 nature reserves on private land in Finland (see map and chart). They are particularly numerous in southern parts of the country even though they cover a much smaller area than Government-owned sites. The largest privately owned nature reserves on land areas are of up to several thousand hectares.

### 2.3 Wilderness reserves

In 1991 a total of 12 wilderness reserves were established in Lapland under the Act on Wilderness Reserves (62/1991). They cover some 1.5 million hectares and are not nature reserves in the traditional sense. They have been set up to preserve the wilderness character of the areas, to safeguard the future of the Sami culture and indigenous occupations,
and to ensure that the ecological resources of the areas can be widely used. All wilderness reserves are administered and managed by Metsähallitus.

### 2.4 Natura 2000 network

Most of Finland’s Natura 2000 sites (97 per cent) are areas already protected by Finnish law and other provisions, areas that are listed in national conservation programmes, or areas that have been put under some other type of protection. Finland’s Natura network covers about 4.9 million hectares of which three quarters or about 3.6 million hectares are on land.

Finland’s Natura network includes 1,715 SCI sites that must be notified under the Habitat Directive, covering some 4.8 million hectares (14 per cent of the area of Finland). There are also 467 SPA areas that must be notified under the Bird Directive, covering some 3.1 million hectares or nine per cent of the area of Finland. SCI and SPA areas are partially overlapping.

The EU Commission has already given its final approval to most of Finland’s SCI proposals. The Commission made its decision on the list of sites for the alpine biogeographical region on December 22, 2003 and on the boreal-region sites on January 13, 2005. The decisions cover 1,632 sites, with a total area of about 4.6 million hectares.

The lists are not final. They do not include the 39 sites on which appeals are pending and on which the Member States have thus not been able to make decisions. Moreover, the protection of a number of habitats and species will be made more effective by adding new sites to the list.

### 2.5 Other conservation programmes and areas important for conservation

Finland has a total of seven national hiking areas established under the Outdoor Recreation Act. They are intended for hiking and other recreational use. The areas have marked walking and skiing paths, nature trails and camping sites, and in most of them hunting and fishing is permitted. All hiking areas are administered by Metsähallitus and are included in the Natura 2000 network.

**Landscape conservation areas** are preserved and maintained on account of their outstanding natural beauty, important cultural sights, historical significance or other special landscape considerations. Provisions on the establishment of such areas are laid down in section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act and so far only one landscape conservation area has been set up.
In 1995, an expert group at the Ministry of the Environment listed 156 landscape conservation areas that, under a Government resolution, were considered of national importance. The areas cover a total of 730,000 hectares and most of them are located in the agricultural regions of southern and western Finland.

**Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA)**

In 1994, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) designated a total of 62 coastal areas, most of which were already under some degree of protection, as Baltic Sea Protected Areas. In 1998, a total of 24 sites were added to the network. All national parks in Finnish sea areas and the Kvarken and Rauma archipelagos are included in the network. Most of the Finnish BSPA areas are administered by Metsähallitus.

Finland signed the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1975. The Convention obliges the signatory countries to promote the protection of internationally important wetlands and water birds by establishing wetland reserves. A total of 138 countries have signed the Convention.

Finland has a total of 49 Ramsar sites, covering 785,780 hectares. The sites, eleven of which are administered by Metsähallitus, have been selected to give a representative sample of the mires, lakes, bays, and archipelago areas that are important to water birds. Finland’s Ramsar sites are all included in the Natura 2000 network, and the protection objectives laid down in the Ramsar Convention are implemented as part of the Natura arrangements. Ramsar sites are also listed in Finland’s national conservation programmes, such as mire conservation, bird wetland conservation and shore conservation programmes.

Finland has two biosphere reserves, the North Karelia biosphere reserve (established in 1992), and the Archipelago Sea biosphere reserve (established in 1994). Both sites are partially administered by Metsähallitus. The reserves are part of UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere programme (MAB) and they serve as models for sustainable development, combining sustainable use and the protection of habitats.

In its meeting in Lithuania on July 12, 2006, the World Heritage Committee approved the inclusion of the Kvarken archipelago in the World Heritage List. The Kvarken archipelago is Finland’s first natural heritage site; before its inclusion, Finland already had six cultural heritage sites on the List.
Appendix 2

Exploration and exploration methods

Exploration

The purpose of exploration is to locate commercially exploitable resources in the Earth’s crust. Exploration is a long-term evaluation process that may take decades and requires both scientific and economic input. In addition to bedrock resources, economic and environmental considerations and social factors also have an impact on the process. This guide only examines the scientific aspects of exploration. In exploration, the structure and composition of bedrock and soil are examined in great detail. The resulting information can also be extensively used in land use planning and environmental management.

The exploration process starts with the selection of the survey site and the analysis of the existing survey material (regional survey). More detailed information is collected from the locations with the highest ore potential on a case-by-case basis using geological mapping, geophysical measurements and geochemical research (targeted surveys). If bedrock formations estimated to contain commercially exploitable amounts of ore minerals are located, the exploration will continue as a deposit survey.

Ideally, these four survey stages are of equal importance but in practice, this is not always the case. In areas with little previous exploration or when the aim is to find totally new ore minerals, site surveys are important during the first stages of the process. In better-known areas, exploration can be started with targeted surveys or with deposit surveys. Fluctuations in raw-material prices and the introduction of new exploration methods often prompt mining companies to re-explore sites already surveyed. In most cases, the exploration process comes to an end before a deposit survey.

Survey process

Exploration can be divided as follows:

1. area selection
2. regional survey
3. targeted survey
4. deposit survey.
1 Area selection

The exploration process usually starts with the evaluation of the existing information. Available survey material and mapping data are combined using up-to-date survey methods. Archived samples are also reanalysed. The aim is to locate promising sites for more detailed examination. In Finland, explorers are able to rely on GTK-compiled maps covering the whole country and thus there is usually no need for any extensive field surveys at this stage.

2 Regional surveys

The purpose of the regional survey is to locate ore-potential bedrock formations and structures at the selected site. This stage, too, can to a large extent be carried out using existing maps and the samples kept at GTK’s National Drill Core Register. Field work is usually carried out for identifying formations and structures interpreted on the basis of existing data and new ideas.

The following maps are used during site surveys: bedrock and soil maps to scale 1:100,000, aerogeophysical low-altitude data with line spacing at 200 metres, regional till geochemical data (one sample/4 km²), satellite images and digital elevation models. For certain areas, explorers can also make use of regional gravity measurements carried out by GTK and the Finnish Geodetic Institute (1–8 observations/km²). The existing material can be examined and most of it accessed via the GTK Internet service.

In areas with no previous exploration, new information must be collected, and the interpretations based on existing data must also be verified with field surveys. Geophysical measurements are carried out as airborne or ground surveys, while field surveys are mostly carried out on foot but also by car and snowmobile. Till geochemical sampling takes place with a percussion drill installed on a light tracked platform. Geological surveys are made by driving on forest roads and, when off road, on foot or using light off-road vehicles.

Movements by motor vehicles should be on existing tracks so that no new traces are left on the ground. A permit granted by the landowner or the area administrator is required for field surveys carried out with mechanical equipment. Making geological mapping observations on foot comes under everyman’s rights though here, too, restrictions covering yards, agricultural land, protected sites and ancient monuments must be taken into account.

Reservations, as laid down in the Mining Act are often made for sites specified during site surveys so that targeted surveys can be carried out.
3 Targeted surveys

The purpose of targeted surveys is to determine which sections of the ore-potential formations or structures are of interest before denser samples are taken and drilling carried out.

Additional field surveys are an essential part of targeted surveys. They typically involve geophysical measurements on the ground (line spacing at 50–100 metres) and usually also the taking of geochemical bedrock or till samples by denser percussion drilling. In such surveys, a uniform grid (with point spacing at 100–250 metres) or profiles (with point spacing at 50 metres, for example) are used. Exploration drilling may already be carried out at this stage. Geological observations are made from all bedrock outcrops, and if necessary, bedrock areas of a few square metres are also stripped bare by removing the soil on top of them. After the examination is completed, the spots are usually covered, if this is considered necessary for vegetation or environmental reasons. Even if not treated in this manner, the bare spots usually grow over in a few years. In till and heavy metal surveys, pits of 2–5 metres are dug in carefully selected places using an excavator. After the samples have been collected and the observations made, the pits are covered.

Sampling by drilling is important in areas with few outcrops because making geological observations directly from bedrock would otherwise be difficult. Field sampling should be done with light tracked vehicles, and, if possible, movements should be on existing paths. If trees are standing particularly close to each other, it may be necessary to fell some of them. Sampling itself does not leave any substantial traces on the ground because the sampling holes will gradually grow over. If necessary, the holes can be filled as soon as the sampling has been carried out.

Landowners should always be notified of targeted surveys. A permit for mechanical surveys should also be requested and there should also be an agreement on compensation for any possible damage. Targeted surveys are often made with the landowner’s permission in an area covered by the claim reservation. However, by the time deposit surveys are needed it becomes necessary to narrow the search to a smaller area and for the operator to apply for a prospecting licence from the Ministry of Trade and Industry so that the work can continue.

4 Deposit surveys

In deposit surveys, the focus is on a specific site that is estimated to contain an exploitable ore deposit. The aim is to find out whether the quantity and quality of the deposit would justify commercial mining operations. By this stage the operator has usually established a claim to the site under the Mining Act, granting it exploration rights to the area.

The extent of deposit surveys is on a case-by-case basis. The deposit is first precisely located and evaluated by making geophysical measurements and by taking drill samples. If the results are promising, the quality of the mineral is determined by systematic drilling.
Sometimes pilot-scale quarrying and concentration is also necessary. The size of the pilot quarry is usually between a few metres and about 50 metres.

Deposit surveys may cause environmental changes locally, especially when large amounts of soil are removed and pilot quarrying is carried out. Drilling rarely causes any significant adverse environmental effects. Provisions on clearing the survey site are laid down in section 20 of the Mining Act. When operations are carried out in a protected area, the agreement on clearing the site must be concluded with the area administrator.

A claim, as laid down in the Mining Act, gives the claimant the right to the deposit and usually also the right to carry out the necessary surveys. Good exploration practice requires that the operator is in contact with the landowner and provides local residents with regular information about the surveys.

In order to minimize any negative effects, the claimant should examine the ecological values of the site in cooperation with the appropriate environmental authority before launching deposit surveys.

**Exploration methods**

Exploration comprises the mapping of geological formations and bedrock structures using maps, remote sensing, geophysical measurements, geological field observations and soil and bedrock samples. Geological surveys are based on field observations and the analysis of field samples. Geochemical surveys are based on the chemical analysis of soil and bedrock samples and geological interpretation of the results. The purpose of geophysical surveys is to measure physical properties of the Earth’s crust and to use them as a basis for geological interpretations. Geological surveys based on maps and remote sensing are half-way between geological and geophysical survey methods.

**Geological surveys**

Geological surveys start with an analysis and reinterpretation of existing data, information and samples. Depending on survey conditions and survey objectives, the early stages of geological field surveys involve the mapping of bedrock outcrops, search of rocks, and taking of bedrock and till samples. When the exact boundaries of the survey site are known, the emphasis will shift to drilling, which helps to produce a three-dimensional model of the deposit.

Outcrop mapping is carried out by making observations of exposed bedrock. Sometimes, the soil covering the bedrock must be removed. An bare spot of about one square metre is sufficient for determining the mineral, while in locations with highly interesting structures approximately three square metres of soil is usually removed. If the spot is covered by peat, the cover can be put back after the work is done. The most interesting outcrops are of-
ten washed and kept bare for the duration of the survey. Samples for laboratory research are taken from the outcrops using hammers or portable minidrills. The drilling samples are in the form of rock ‘plugs’ with a length of 10–20 cm. Samples with a length of 5 cm and a depth of 5–7 cm may also be cut from bedrock surface using a diamond disc.

In the tracing of rocks, the aim is to find ore indicators from visible rocks and outcrops. Samples are taken from interesting spots, using hammers or minidrills. Searching for rocks is particularly popular among amateur prospectors who supply samples to professionals for assessment.

**Geochemical surveys**

In Finland, the most important geochemical survey methods are till geochemistry and lithogeochemistry. Taking of till samples is by a percussion drill mounted on a light tracked vehicle. A drill bit with a diameter of 56 mm is driven to the desired depth or into the surface bedrock and the sample is lifted and taken to a laboratory for examination. If a sample is taken from surface bedrock covered by a layer of till, water or pressurized air is used to keep the sampling spot clean. Both processes generate similar environmental effects. The sampling hole will remain as a permanent mark in the bedrock but other traces, such as those generated by equipment movements, will disappear within a year.

In lithogeochemistry, bedrock samples are analysed and interpreted. Samples are taken from outcrops, from under the soil by percussion drill or by drilling holes deep into the bedrock.

The most important source of environmental effects in sampling is the transport of the equipment to the sampling site. If the vegetation is thin, the traces left by the tracked vehicles will usually disappear within a year. In areas with thick vegetation or soft ground, the traces will disappear more slowly and the vehicle paths must therefore be chosen with care. Particularly in areas with springs, the drilling of holes may cause pressurized ground water to surge, resulting in new springs, unless the holes are blocked immediately after sampling. In other areas with watery soil, sampling must also be planned carefully and consideration given to protected ecological values.

**Diamond drilling**

Core samples are taken from bedrock by diamond drilling. The samples may be up to several hundred metres long. First a tube with a diameter of 10–20 cm is sunk into the soil following which a hole with a diameter of 46–115 mm is drilled through the tube into the bedrock. It is often necessary to mark the hole with a protective tube so that it can be used for additional geophysical surveys. Otherwise, the hole is filled immediately after the work is finished or left to grow over.
The washing water used in drilling is taken from the nearby streams and is allowed to enter the soil through a precipitation tank after the process.

The most important environmental consideration is the weight of the sampling equipment used. The lightest tracked vehicles have the same surface impact as the equipment used for taking till samples. Heavy drilling equipment mounted on wheels must be used with more care. In addition to the traces left by the drilling machines, consideration must also be given to movements between the drilling site and the supply site. In protected areas supply routes must be chosen with particular care and the transport movements minimized. Frequent movements may damage surface roots of trees.

Apart from the protective tube left on top of the hole, drilling has roughly the same impact as till sampling.

**Survey paths and ditches**

Excavators are used in till surveys in which the aim is to study the soil stratification history of the site, heavy minerals contained in the till and the occurrence of ore-containing rocks in the till. In areas with only a thin layer of soil, excavators are also used for uncovering bedrock. Pits made for till surveys can be filled as soon as the work is complete, so that no permanent traces are left on the ground. Bare bedrock spots can also be covered after the surveying is complete.

**Pilot quarrying**

Though rarely done, pilot quarrying is necessary for determining whether the mineral in question is suitable for concentration.

Drilling-based surveys and assessments must be completed before pilot quarrying is carried out and the conclusion must be that the deposit has exploitation potential. There must also be a rough estimate of the size of the deposit. If pilot quarrying shows that the deposit can be commercially exploited, the necessary planning work and feasibility calculations are launched. The work also involves assessments and reports on a broad range of environmental effects.

**Geophysical methods**

Geophysical surveying refers to the use of geophysical methods for measuring the physical properties of the Earth’s crust, such as the magnetic field, gravity, electrical conductivity and radioactive radiation emitted by bedrock, and geological interpretation of the observations. Geophysical measurements rarely require any sampling and they do not leave any traces on the ground, except for those resulting from the movements of the research staff. Nowadays, positioning is made using the GPS method, which means that no visible lines are needed.
Geophysical measurements can be carried out as airborne surveys, on the ground or using drillholes. Except for powerful seismic explosions, the measurements do not leave any visible traces on the surface or result in any environmental changes. Seismic methods have been used for determining the thickness of the soil layer and the integrity of the bedrock but nowadays the work can be done by ground-penetrating radar and gravity measurements.

**Airborne geophysics**

Geophysical measurements covering large tracts of land are carried out as airborne measurements, using equipment installed in aeroplanes or helicopters. Almost all parts of Finland have been measured using aerogeophysical low-altitude surveying. However, sometimes exploration requires data measured with a denser line spacing. Typically, such measurements are carried out with magnetic, electronic and radiation methods. The measurements must be timed in accordance with the regulations and guidelines issued by Finavia, which give consideration to the most important breeding grounds of birds, fur farming and the calving times of reindeer. Noise is the only adverse environmental impact generated by the measurements.

**Ground geophysics**

Geophysical measurements carried out on the ground comprise magnetic, electronic and gravity measurements. Sometimes, in targeted surveys, use is also made of ground-penetrating radars. In magnetic, gravity and radiation measurements, the focus is on the Earth’s magnetic field, gravity and radiation. In electronic measurements, the focus is on natural source fields, or artificially generated source fields. Geophysical field measurements are illustrated below.
Photo 1. During an airborne geophysical survey the flight altitude could be 30–60 m.

Photo 2. Geophysical measurements carried out on the ground compromise magnetic, electronic and gravity measurements.

Photo 3. A snow cover is protecting the underlying soil during the drilling.
Field positioning is nowadays done with GPS equipment and no longer requires lining. When measurements are carried out on the ground, the work is done on foot or (in winter) by snowmobile. The measurement site is usually accessed by cross-country vehicle using existing roads or paths. When mechanized vehicles are used, restrictions governing off-road use of motor vehicles must be adhered to.

Hole measurements are carried out from the drillholes in connection with drilling or at a later stage. They do not generate any adverse environmental effects.

Table 1. Extractable minerals listed in section 2 of the Finnish Mining Act (503/1965)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extractable minerals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Li, Rb, Cs, Be, Mg, Sr, Ra, B, Al, Sc, Y, lanthanides, Ac, Th, U and other actinides, Ge, Sn, Pb, As, Sb, Bi, S, Se, Te, Cu, Ag, Au, Zn, Cd, Hg, Ga, In, Tl, Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, W, Mn, Re, Fe, Co, Ni, Pt and other metals of the platinum group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Graphite, diamond, corundum, quartz, bauxite, olivine, cyanite, andalusite, sillimanite, granate, wollastonite, asbestos, talcum, pyrophyllite, muscovite, vermiculite, kaolin, feldspar, nepheline, leucite, scapolite, apatite, baryta, calcite, dolomite, magnesite, fluor spar and cryolite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Precious stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Marble and soapstone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3

Life cycle of a mine

A mining process and its life cycle can roughly be divided into three stages:

• exploration
• production
• mine closure.

Exploration starts with the selection of the site and a site survey, which are aimed at finding locations with ore-potential. The work is primarily with the help of existing material. Stages and methods of exploration are described in appendix 2.

After the site survey, the focus will shift to promising spots from which more detailed information on such matters as the exact location of the deposit is collected. The claim right granted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry allows the operator to carry out surveying of extractable minerals outside protected areas. A claim gives the operator priority over other potential claimants when applying for a concession, which it needs for exploiting the extractable mineral resources. The exploration stage may last several years, even decades and only when it is complete can plans be drawn up for mining operations.

Exploiting extractable mineral resources requires the establishment of a mining district, the permit for which is granted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. After this, additional drilling is carried out and feasibility calculations made on the basis of which the decision on setting up the mine and on launching operations will be made. The necessary permits, such as the building and environmental permits, must also be sought, while the operator must also submit a general mining plan to the Finnish Safety Technology Authority. This is because the establishment of the mining district and the concession covering the extractable minerals of the mining district do not give the holder an automatic right to launch extensive operations. Depending on the structure of the deposit, the minerals can be extracted by constructing a quarry and/or by carrying out underground mining. Preparations for underground mining during the setting up of the mine can take several years. This is because the deposit may lie so deep in bedrock that slanting tunnels, shafts, galleries and service spaces must be dug before production can start.

The duration of the production stage depends on such matters as the size of the deposit and market prices for the mineral. The mine may be closed after a few years or it may remain operational for several decades. Very often the research carried out during the production stage will cause estimates of the deposit size to be revised upwards. This also means that, if other operating prerequisites remain the same, the estimated closure date will be post-
poned from what was estimated at the start of the operations. Cyclical changes on the mar-
ket may also keep the mine temporarily closed for long periods.

The rundown of the mining operations will start after the deposit has been exhausted. The
process will involve the closure of the mine, the aftercare process, and the monitoring of
the post-aftercare situation. As part of the aftercare process, the site is landscaped and all
negative environmental effects minimized. Monitoring of the post-aftercare situation may
last for years, even decades. The life cycle of the mines operational in Finland in
1900–2005 is illustrated in figure 1.
Figure 1. Life cycle of Finnish mines 1900–2005 – the way they started, the duration of their operations and the minerals extracted.
Appendix 4

Instructions for submitting a claim application/
Ministry of Trade and Industry

Instructions for those applying for rights laid down in the mining act

The Mining Act (503/1965) and the Mining Decree (663/1965) supplementing the Act contain provisions on the minimum that must be included in applications for rights laid down in the Act and on what documents and information must be appended to the applications. The applicants must ensure that all the required documents and information are included as this makes it easier to process and reduces requests for additional information. Submitting the application and appendices in electronic form as well speeds up the procedure.

In addition to the Mining Act and the Mining Decree, the parties concerned must also adhere to all other relevant legislation (such as the Administrative Procedure Act, the Act on the Openness of Government Activities, the Nature Conservation Act, and the Environmental Protection Act). Under the Administrative Procedure Act, hearings must be conducted in connection with applications for claims and for the establishment of mining districts. Moreover, as laid down in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act, all parties concerned have the right of appeal over the decisions made during the process.

Decisions made on the applications are subject to a charge.

All documents (including the appendices) must be in Finland’s official languages (Finnish or Swedish), as laid down in the Language Act (423/2003). If there are documents in other languages, the applicant must have them translated by an authorized translator (see the Act on Authorized Translators 1148/1988).

Provisions on access to the application documents are contained in the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999). The applicant must mark all information contained in the application documents that in his view should be kept confidential and submit it on a separate appendix. The reasons for keeping the information confidential should also be given (for example, a business secret).

Please note that these instructions are not exhaustive and will be revised as necessary.
Submitting the application and the appendices in electronic form (Word or Excel) and the maps as MapInfo (*.tab) to the Finnish Mining Register (kaivosrekisteri@ktm.fi) helps to speed up the application procedure.

For more information about the procedure, please contact the Finnish Mining Register (kaivosrekisteri@ktm.fi).
Instructions for a reservation application

General

An eligible party has the right to reserve for himself priority for a potential deposit over other claim applicants by making a reservation notice (reservation application). The notice must be submitted to the local register office (www.maistraatti.fi), which will forward the document to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The reservation will be in effect for a maximum of one year from submission of the notice.

The reservation may cover a maximum of nine square kilometres and the area must be coherent, and if possible, square or rectangular in shape. One reservation notice can cover more than one area.

No reservation notice may be submitted for a site that is located less than one kilometre from an area for which somebody else has submitted a claim application or less than one kilometre from a claim district or a mining district belonging to another party. Furthermore, a reservation notice may only be submitted for a previously reserved area (grace-period area) when at least three years have elapsed from the expiry of the reservation. However, a new reservation notice may be submitted one year from the expiry of the previous reservation if the applicant has pressing reasons for a new reservation and is able to present the results of previous surveys and a plan for additional surveying.

A reservation application must contain the following:

• Name, profession and address of the applicant
• Geographical location of the area covered by the reservation notice (province, municipality)
• If the applicant is a foreigner/foreign company, the applicant’s agent in Finland and contact information for the agent.

Appendices required for a reservation application:

1 Map of the area covered by the reservation notice, which must be to a scale of 1:200,000 at least. For reasons of clarity, the applicant should submit two maps, one to the scale of 1:200,000 and the other in 1:50,000 or 1:20,000. The map sheet number (such as 3831 02) and at least three coordinate points or the corner coordinates for the envisaged area must be given (not required if the map is also submitted in MapInfo form). The MapInfo file should be sent to the Finnish Mining Register (kaivosrekisteri@ktm.fi).

2 An extract from the trade register that is no more than three months old. If, during the preceding 12 months, the applicant has already submitted an ex-
tract to the Finnish Mining Register in connection with another application, it is only necessary to submit a copy of the extract in question and the applicant’s assurance that the information concerning the applicant has remained unchanged. For foreign companies, a corresponding official document must be submitted. If the extract from the trade register is submitted as an electronically produced printout, the printout date must be evident from the copy.

3 For natural persons, a register extract concerning the person in question (such as an extract from the population register)

4 A valid document attesting to the right of the signatory to act in the name of the applicant (such as a power of attorney), if the signing right is not evident from the trade register extract

5 Reasons for making the reservation and, for a grace-period area, details of surveys already carried out and planned surveying.
Instructions for a claim application

General

A claim entitles the holder to carry out surveying on extractable minerals in a claim district (= an area covered by a prospecting licence). A claim may be granted for a period of 1–5 years.

A claim district must be a coherent area covering a maximum of one square kilometre. One claim application can cover more than one area.

The application must be submitted in writing to:

Ministry of Trade and Industry
Registry/mining matters
P.O. Box 32
00023 GOVERNMENT
Finland

A claim application must contain the following:

• Name, profession, domicile and address of the applicant
• If the applicant is a foreigner/foreign company, the applicant’s agent in Finland and contact information for the agent
• If available, name and contact information of a liaison who can provide local landowners with additional information about the surveying and its timetable
• Geographical location of the envisaged claim district (province, municipality, village, and pieces of real estate); for pieces of real estate, names and official register numbers must be given
• Size of the envisaged claim district and the area covered by each piece of real estate in it (to an accuracy of 0.1 hectares)
• Suggested name of the envisaged claim district
• Finnish Mining Register number of the reservation that gives the applicant the right to apply for the claim
• List of the extractable mineral deposits that, in the view of the applicant, occur in the area and the basis for the assumption
• Desired claim validity.
Appendices required for a claim application:

1 Map of the envisaged claim district (to a scale of 1:20,000 at least) containing the following information:
   • Boundaries of the envisaged claim district and of the pieces of real estate bordering it, and the register numbers of the pieces of real estate
   • Map sheet number (such as 3831 02) and at least three coordinate points or the corner coordinates for the envisaged claim district (not required if the map is also submitted in MapInfo form)
   • Sufficient information about the areas surrounding the envisaged claim district so that the claim impediments, referred to in section 6 of the Mining Act, can be assessed for the areas bordering the claim district.

2 Survey plan (details of the scope and type of the required surveys and reasons why they are necessary). The survey plan must include the following information:
   • Envisaged measures
   • Envisaged methods
   • Estimated scope and timetable of the envisaged measures (duration and seasonal distribution)
   • If the survey plan envisages drainage, pilot-scale quarrying, pilot-scale concentration or other measures that would be of greater impact than ordinary surveys, details of the measures must be given so that their impacts can be assessed
   • Any other information that local real estate owners may require.

3 If surveys are planned for special areas (such as Natura sites, other protected sites, wilderness reserves, the Sami Homeland, the reindeer herding area, groundwater areas, or areas with other activities), special consideration must be given in the survey plan to the impacts of the planned measures. In such cases, it may be necessary to provide additional information on the following:
   • For surveys planned in the Sami Homeland, impacts of the surveys on the special rights of the Sami people
   • Extent and thoroughness of the Natura assessment
   • Possible impacts of the surveys on business operations in the area
   • Protection grounds.

4 A certificate stating that there are no impediments to the claim, laid down in section 6(1)(3-9) of the Mining Act. The applicant must examine carefully all possible impediments and ensure that all information supplied is accurate. It is
therefore recommended that certificates supplied by local register offices be used. If the applicant submits a certificate signed by two persons possessing local knowledge, details of the extent of their knowledge, the basis for the information supplied by them, and a certificate proving that the two are not disqualified from supplying the information must be given.

5 An extract from the trade register that is no more than three months old. If, during the preceding 12 months, the applicant has already submitted an extract to the Finnish Mining Register in connection with another application, it is only necessary to submit a copy of the extract in question and the applicant’s assurance that the information on the applicant has remained unchanged. For foreign companies, a corresponding official document must be submitted. If the extract from the trade register is submitted as an electronically produced printout, the printout date must be evident from the copy.

6 For natural persons, a register extract concerning the person in question (such as an extract from the population register).

7 A valid document attesting to the right of the signatory to act in the name of the applicant (such as a power of attorney) if the signing right is not evident from the trade register extract.

8 Cadastral register extracts (or extract printouts) for pieces of real estate located in the envisaged claim district.

9 List of landowners with property in the envisaged claim district and their contact information.

10 A list of landowners with property bordering the envisaged claim district and their contact information. This information is only required if the applicant adheres to his right to use areas outside the claim district, as laid down in section 12 of the Mining Act.
Instructions for applying for claim extension

The claim holder has a right to seek an extension to his claim. The application must be submitted before the claim expires.

The application must be submitted in writing to:

Ministry of Trade and Industry
Registry/mining matters
P.O. Box 32
00023 GOVERNMENT
Finland

An application for a claim extension must contain the following:

- Name, profession, domicile and address of the applicant
- If the applicant is a foreigner/foreign company, the applicant’s agent in Finland and contact information for the agent
- If available, name and contact information of a liaison who can provide local landowners with additional information about the surveying and its timetable
- Finnish Mining Register number of the claim district
- Desired claim extension validity.

Appendices required for a claim extension application:

1. Details of the systematic surveying already carried out in the claim district and the reasons why the applicant has nevertheless failed to establish with sufficient certainty that the deposit resources can be exploited.

2. Details of the estimated scope and type of the additional surveys and reasons why they are necessary (a new survey plan), which must include the following:
   - Envisaged measures
   - Envisaged methods
   - Estimated scope and timetable of the envisaged measures (duration and seasonal distribution)
   - Parts of the original claim district to be used (unless the application covers the original claim district in its entirety).
   - If the survey plan envisages drainage, pilot-scale quarrying, pilot-scale concentration or other measures that would be of greater impact than or-
ordinary surveys, details of the measures must be given so that their impact can be assessed

• Consideration given to the special character of the area (Natura sites, other protected sites, wilderness reserves, the Sami Homeland, the reindeer herding area, groundwater supplies, or other activities carried out in the claim district);

• Any other information that local real estate owners may require.

3 If surveys are planned for special areas (such as Natura sites, other protected sites, wilderness reserves, the Sami Homeland, the reindeer herding area, groundwater areas, or areas with other activities), special consideration must be given in the survey plan to the impacts of the planned measures. In such cases, it may be necessary to provide additional information on the following:

• For surveys planned in the Sami Homeland, impacts of the surveys on the special rights of the Sami people

• Extent and thoroughness of the Natura assessment

• Possible impacts of the surveys on business operations in the area

• Protection grounds.

4 An extract from the trade register that is no more than three months old. If, during the preceding 12 months, the applicant has already submitted an extract to the Finnish Mining Register in connection with another application, it is only necessary to submit a copy of the extract in question and the applicant’s assurance that the information concerning the applicant has remained unchanged. For foreign companies, a corresponding official document must be submitted. If the extract from the trade register is submitted as an electronically produced printout, the printout date must be evident from the copy.

5 For natural persons, a register extract concerning the person in question (such as an extract from the population register).

6 A valid document attesting to the right of the signatory to act in the name of the applicant (such as a power of attorney) if the signing right is not evident from the trade register extract.

7 Cadastral register extracts (or extract printouts) for pieces of real estate located in the claim district.

8 List of landowners with property in the claim district and their contact information.

9 List of landowners with property bordering the claim district and their contact information.
Instructions for a mining district application

General

A concession holder has a right to exploit the extractable mineral deposits located in the mining district. The application for the establishment of a mining district must be submitted when the claim held by the applicant is still valid or in connection with the claim application.

A mining district must form a coherent area that, in terms of its size and shape, is in accordance with all practical requirements. Some of the mining district must be located in the claim district already in the possession of the applicant. Areas that are necessary for exploiting the deposit may be included in the mining district though such areas may also be located outside it (auxiliary areas). In terms of its size, the mining district must be in accordance with the reasonable requirements for a deposit of the type and extent concerned.

The application must be submitted in writing to:

Ministry of Trade and Industry
Registry/mining matters
P.O. Box 32
00023 GOVERNMENT
Finland

A mining district application must contain the following:

- Name, profession, domicile and address of the applicant
- If the applicant is a foreigner/foreign company, the applicant’s agent in Finland and contact information for the agent
- If available, name and contact information of a liaison who can provide local landowners with additional information
- Geographical location of the envisaged mining district (province, municipality, village, and pieces of real estate); for pieces of real estate, names and official register numbers must be given
- Size of the envisaged mining district and the area covered by each piece of real estate in it (to an accuracy of 0.1 hectares)
- Suggested name of the envisaged mining district.
Appendices required for a mining district application

1 A map (to a scale of 1:20,000 at least) containing the following information:
   - Location, boundaries and register numbers of the pieces of real estate affected
   - Location and boundaries of the claim district already in the possession of the applicant, the envisaged mining district and auxiliary areas
   - Map sheet number (such as 3831 02) and at least three coordinate points or the corner coordinates for the envisaged mining district (not required if the map is also submitted in MapInfo form).

2 Details of the surveying work and its results. It must be evident from the details that the deposit can probably be exploited.

3 An operational plan map showing the following:
   - Operating areas and auxiliary areas
   - Placement of the products and by-products generated by the operations, such as the soil removed, country rock, tailings and waste in the envisaged mining district and its auxiliary areas.

4 Section of the operational plan, which must contain detailed information on the following:
   - Factors that must be considered when a mining district is established and its size and shape determined, as laid down in section 22 of the Mining Act
   - Measures taken for ensuring that, in addition to mining needs, sufficient attention is also paid to safety in the surrounding areas and to the minimization of any negative impacts
   - Consideration given to the special character of the area (Natura sites, other protected sites, wilderness reserves, the Sami Homeland, the reindeer herding area, groundwater supplies, or other activities carried out in the envisaged mining district)
   - Timetable of the envisaged measures
   - Economic viability of the envisaged operations
   - Type of operations (quarrying, underground mining)
   - Basis for dimensioning and planning the extraction, and cross-sections
   - Location of roads, sewers and power lines and water-use plan
   - Other relevant matters.
5 For projects coming under the scope of application of the environmental impact assessment procedure, an assessment report, as laid down in the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (468/94). If the report contains information or presentations required elsewhere in these instructions, they should be submitted only once. The assessment report may, at the proposal of the applicant, be appended to the overall plan drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Trade and Industry decision on mining safety (921/75) and submitted for approval to the Safety Technology Authority. In such cases, it must be evident from the mining district application that it will not lead to preparatory mining activities that will have significant environmental impacts.

6 A certificate stating that there are no impediments to the claim, laid down in section 6(1)(3-9) of the Mining Act. The applicant must carefully examine all possible impediments and ensure that all information supplied is accurate. It is, therefore, recommended that certificates supplied by local register offices be used. If the applicant submits a certificate signed by two persons possessing local knowledge, details of the extent of their knowledge, the basis for the information supplied by them, and a certificate proving that the two are not disqualified from supplying the information must be given.

7 An extract from the trade register that is no more than three months old. If, during the preceding 12 months, the applicant has already submitted the extract to the Finnish Mining Register in connection with another application, it is only necessary to submit a copy of the extract in question and the applicant’s assurance that the information concerning the applicant has remained unchanged. For foreign companies, a corresponding official document must be submitted. If the extract from the trade register is submitted as an electronically produced printout, the printout date must be evident from the copy.

8 For natural persons, a register extract on the person in question (such as an extract from the population register).

9 A valid document attesting to the right of the signatory to act in the name of the applicant (such as a power of attorney) if the signing right is not evident from the trade register extract.

10 Cadastral register extracts (or extract printouts) for the pieces of real estate located in the envisaged mining district.

11 List of landowners with property in the envisaged mining district and their contact information.

12 Names and addresses of other persons and corporations whose rights are affected by the establishment of the mining district.

13 Opinion of the municipality or proof that the municipality has been given an opportunity to give its opinion about the matter.
Appendix 5

Instructions for applying for a survey permit and an off-road traffic permit

Application for a survey permit

The application for a survey permit in a protected area must be submitted to the authority administering the area or the Ministry of the Environment, depending on what is laid down in the decision establishing the area. Survey permits for wilderness reserves are what are called land possessor’s permits and they are granted by Metsähallitus. An opinion of the Regional Environment Centre on whether the survey work will require a Natura assessment as laid down in section 65 of the Nature Conservation Act or whether the permit may be granted without an assessment must be appended to the application. The Regional Environment Centre will also provide information on the exact boundaries and ecological values of the protected area, which must be considered when preparing the permit application. The Centre also knows which permit authority should be contacted in the matter.

A decision on a permit granted for a protected area may be appealed against. The appeal may be lodged by the applicant, the municipality in question, and local and regional corporations that are registered and whose purpose is to promote nature conservation or environmental protection. The permit will only become effective after the expiry of the 30-day appeal period and after all appeals have been considered. The permit applicant may not take any of the measures referred to in the permit while the appeals are pending.

In permits granted for wilderness reserves, only the decision on off-road traffic may be appealed against. For this reason, the off-road-traffic decision is issued as an administrative decision.

Matters to be included in the application:

1. Contact information on the explorer
2. Area to be surveyed, as indicated on a map, and individual exploration spots
3. Survey period
4. Type of surveys (geophysical measurement, drilling, excavation, etc.)
5. Equipment to be used (measuring equipment, sampling equipment)
6. Estimated environmental effects (effects on the ground, will the work have an adverse impact on the ecological values because of which the area is included in the Natura 2000 programme)
7. Movements in the area (vehicles and routes to be used)
Off-road traffic, camping and making fires in connection with the surveying work

The type of vehicles and routes to be used and the time of the year in which the surveying is to take place must be detailed in the permit application. If the operations are to take place in a protected area and Metsähallitus acts as the permit authority, the off-road traffic permit will be included in the survey permit. Should the Ministry of the Environment act as the permit authority, a separate application for an off-road traffic permit must be submitted to Metsähallitus, as laid down in the Ministry permit. The off-road traffic permit for a wilderness reserve is always granted separately even though a separate application is not needed.

The off-road traffic permit is usually granted in the form proposed by the applicant if there will only be movements during snow cover and no trees need to be felled on the vehicle paths. Sometimes the proposed routes have to be changed because of species requiring special protection (plants, nests of large birds of prey).

The survey permit may also include provisions on camping and making fires. In some protected areas (such as strict nature reserves, herb-rich woodland conservation areas and old-growth forest conservation areas) camping is prohibited, whereas in other areas (mire conservation areas and wilderness reserves) there are no restrictions. If camping is permitted, making fires is also allowed. It is recommended to bring the firewood from outside the reserve though in some cases Metsähallitus may allow the fires to be made with fallen trees and branches lying on the spot.
Appendix 6

Organizations – their responsibilities and contact information for them

This appendix describes the organizations referred to in this guide and the way they relate to exploration and mining, and gives the contact information for them. You are advised to check the accuracy of the information on the organizations’ websites.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (www.ktm.fi)

The Ministry of Trade and Industry acts as Finland’s mining authority. It is responsible for the granting of claim reservations, claims and concessions and maintains the mining register. The Ministry is also responsible for a number of supervisory duties in connection with exploration and mining.

Contact:
Ministry of Trade and Industry
P.O. Box 32
00023 Government
Finland
(Visiting address: Ratakatu 3, Helsinki, Finland)
Tel. +358 9 1606 3579
Fax +358 9 1606 3705

For concession applications and other similar matters:
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Registry
P.O. Box 32
00023 Government
Finland
The Safety Technology Authority TUKES (www.tukes.fi)

The Safety Technology Authority is responsible for supervising the mines and quarries operating under Finnish mining legislation. Mining safety covers overall mining safety, supervision of lifting devices at mines, and the supervision of surface dams. TUKES is also responsible for seeing to it that mineral extraction is carried out with maximum efficiency. All Finnish mines in operation are inspected each year. TUKES comes under the administrative branch of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Contact:
Safety Technology Authority (TUKES)
P.O. Box 123
00181 Helsinki
Finland
(Visiting address: Lönnrotinkatu 37; Helsinki)
Tel. +358 10 6052 000
Fax +358 9 605 474
E-mail: kirjaamo@tukes.fi (for official correspondence only)

The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority STUK (www.stuk.fi)

STUK is the authority supervising nuclear energy and radiation safety in Finland. It also carries out research and provides expert services. Its mission is to protect humans, society at large, the environment and future generations from the harmful effects of radiation. STUK comes under the administrative branch of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

Contact:
Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)
P.O. Box 14
00881 Helsinki
Finland
Tel. +358 9 759 881
Fax +358 9 759 88500
The Ministry of the Environment (www.environment.fi)

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for preparing the environmental and housing matters considered by the Government and the Parliament. It also coordinates the strategic planning and operations in its administrative branch. Thirteen Regional Environment Centres, three Environmental Permit Authorities, the Finnish Environment Institute and the Housing Fund of Finland come under the Ministry’s administrative branch. The Ministry also steers Metsähallitus and the Finnish Forest Research Institute in matters concerning nature conservation and provides them with funding for conservation projects.

Contact:
Ministry of the Environment
P.O. Box 35
00023 Government
Finland
Visiting address: Kasarmikatu 25, Helsinki
Tel. +358 020 490 100

Ministry registry
(visiting address: Fabianinkatu 6a, Helsinki, Finland)
kirjaamo.ym@ymparisto.fi
Tel. +358 020 690 160
Fax: +358 9 1603 9320

Metsähallitus (www.metsahallitus.fi)

Metsähallitus is a state enterprise, which has supplying the Finnish forest industry with wood and the administration of the majority of Finland’s protected areas as its main tasks.

Contact:
Metsähallitus
P.O. Box 94
01301 Vantaa
Finland
(Visiting address: Vernissakatu 4, Vantaa)
Tel. +358 205 64 100
National customer service number: +358 205 64 120
E-mail: kirjaamo@metsa.fi (for official correspondence only)
The Finnish Forest Research Institute METLA (www.metla.fi)

The task of METLA is to carry out research enabling Finnish forests to be used and managed in an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable manner. It is also responsible for administering about 8,000 hectares of protected land in Finland (The Koli national park, the Malla and Vesijako strict nature reserves, the conservation areas for herb-rich woodland, mires and old-growth forests, and the Hytermä, Punkaharju and Saana nature reserves).

Contact:
Finnish Forest Research Institute
Unioninkatu 40 A
00170 Helsinki
Finland
Tel. +358 10 2111
Fax. +358 211 2101

The Regional Environment Centres (www.environment.fi)

The 13 Regional Environment Centres are part of Finland’s environmental administration and they function as the central environmental-management authorities in their areas. They are responsible for environmental protection, land use, building guidelines, nature conservation, management of cultural environment, and the management and use of water resources. Their most important statutory tasks are the production and provision of information and supervisory duties.

Uusimaa Regional Environment Centre
P.O. Box 36
00521 Helsinki
Finland
(Visiting address: Asemapääällikönkatu 14, Helsinki)
Tel. +358 20 490 101
Fax. +358 20 490 3200

Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre
P.O. Box 47
20801 Turku
Finland
(Visiting address: Itsenäisyydenaukio 2, Turku)
Tel. +358 2 525 3500
Fax. +358 2 525 3509
Häme Regional Environment Centre  
P.O. Box 131  
13101 Hämeenlinna  
Finland  
(Visiting address: Birger Jaarlin katu 13, Hämeenlinna)  
Tel. +358 20 490 103  
Fax +358 20 490 3820

Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre  
P.O. Box 297  
33101 Tampere  
Finland  
(Visiting address: Rautatienkatu 21 B, Tampere)  
Tel. +358 20 490 104  
Fax +358 20 490 4000

Southeast Finland Regional Environment Centre  
P.O. Box 1023  
45101 Kouvola  
Finland  
(Visiting address: Kauppamiehenkatu 4, Kouvola)  
Tel. +358 20 490 105  
Fax +358 20 490 4300

South Savo Regional Environment Centre  
Jääkärinkatu 14  
50100 Mikkeli  
Finland  
Tel. +358 20 490 106  
Fax +358 20 490 4509

North Savo Regional Environment Centre  
P.O. Box 1049  
70101 Kuopio  
Finland  
(Visiting address: Sepänkatu 2 B, Kuopio)  
Tel. +358 20 490 4777  
Fax +358 20 490 4777

North Karelia Regional Environment Centre  
P.O. Box 69  
80101 Joensuu  
Finland  
(Visiting address: Torikatu 36 A, Joensuu)  
Tel. +358 13 1411  
Fax +358 13 123 622
Central Finland Regional Environment Centre
P.O. Box 110
40101 Jyväskylä
Finland
(Visiting address: Ailakinkatu 17, Jyväskylä)
Tel. +358 20 490 110
Fax +358 20 490 5811

West Finland Regional Environment Centre
P.O. Box 262
65101 Vaasa
Finland
(Visiting address: Koulukatu 19, Vaasa)
Tel. +358 20 490 109
Fax +358 20 490 5251

North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre
P.O. Box 124
90101 Oulu
Finland
(Visiting address: Isokatu 9, Oulu)
Tel. +358 20 490 112
Fax +358 20 490 6305

Kainuu Regional Environment Centre
P.O. Box 115
87101 Kajaani
Finland
(Visiting address: Kalliokatu 4, Kajaani)
Tel. +358 20 490 112
Fax +358 20 490 6577

Lapland Regional Environment Centre
P.O. Box 8060
96101 Rovaniemi
Finland
(Visiting address: Hallituskatu 5, Rovaniemi)
Tel. +358 20 490 113
Fax +358 16 310 340
Environmental Permit Authorities

Eastern Finland Environmental Permit Authority
P.O. Box 69
70101 Kuopio
Finland
(Visiting address: Minna Canthin katu 64 B, Kuopio)
Tel. +358 020 690 180 (customer service); +358 020 490 120
Fax +358 020 490 4999

Western Finland Environmental Permit Authority
P.O. Box 115
00231 Helsinki
Finland
(Visiting address: Panimokatu 1, Helsinki)
Tel. +358 020 690 181 (customer service); +358 020 490 121
Fax +358 9 726 0233

Northern Finland Environmental Permit Authority
P.O. Box 113
90101 Oulu
Finland
(Visiting address: Isokatu 14, 6th floor, Oulu)
Tel. +358 020 690 182 (customer service); +358 020 490 122
Fax +358 020 490 6499
The Sami Parliament and the Skolt Councils  
(www.samediggi.fi)

The Sami people are an indigenous community living in the territories of four countries, Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. They have their own language, culture, way of living and identity. Estimates of their numbers vary between 40,000 and 70,000, and about 7,000 of them live in Finland.

Under the Finnish Constitution, the Sami people have a cultural autonomy in the Sami Homeland, which also covers their language. More detailed provisions on the implementation of the cultural autonomy of the Sami people are laid down in the Act on the Sami Parliament. The Sami Homeland covers the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki and the Lapland reindeer herding cooperative, which is located in the municipality of Sodankylä.

Office of the Sami Parliament  
P.O. Box 39  
99870 Inari  
Finland  
Visiting address: Saarikoskentie 4, 99870 Inari  
Tel. +358 16 665 011  
Fax +358 16 671 323

The Skolt Councils

The Skolt Councils in the Näätämö and Nellim-Keväjärvi areas are responsible for preparing matters for consideration by the Skolt village meetings and for implementing the decisions taken by them. The Skolt Councils also give opinions to the authorities on matters referred to in section 44(1)(1) of the Skolt Act when the matter is urgent and there is no time to convene a village meeting to consider the matter. Furthermore, the Skolt Councils give opinions on the following matters:

1. applications for reindeer, hunting and fishing lodges
2. land acquisition application;
3. permits concerning the transfer of Skolt property
4. usufructs
5. other similar matters with direct impact on the living conditions of the Skolts.

For addresses of the Skolt Councils, contact the Office of the Sami Parliament.
The Reindeer Herders’ Association and reindeer herding cooperatives (www.paliskunnat.fi)

The Reindeer Herders’ Association

The Finnish Reindeer Herders’ Association provides a link between the country’s reindeer herding cooperatives. Its annual general meeting convenes in early June. The task of the Association is to manage reindeer herding, promote the sector’s interest and research into it, and manage the sector’s relations with the rest of society at large. The Association does not represent reindeer herding cooperatives in legal matters.

Contact:
P.O. Box 8168
96101 Rovaniemi
Finland
(Visiting address: Koskikatu 33 A 1, Rovaniemi)
Tel. +358 16 331 6000
Fax +358 16 331 6060

Reindeer herding cooperatives

The Finnish reindeer herding area covers about 114,000 km2 (36 per cent of the land area of Finland) and is divided into 56 reindeer herding cooperatives. A reindeer herding cooperative is responsible for the reindeer of its shareholders in its area and must prevent them from causing damage and entering the areas of other reindeer herding cooperatives. Each reindeer herding cooperative has an independent administrative structure and a chair elected by a meeting of the cooperative’s shareholders.

The chair of a reindeer herding cooperative is in charge of the cooperative and represents its interests and the interests of its members. The chair must also see to it that the Reindeer Husbandry Act and Decree are adhered to and that the decisions made by the cooperative are put into effect.

For contact information on the individual reindeer herding cooperatives, go to the website of the Finnish Reindeer Herders’ Association (www.paliskunnat.fi).
The Geological Survey of Finland GTK (www.gtk.fi)

The Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) is Finland’s national geological research body and it comes under the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The GTK has offices in Espoo, Kuopio, Kokkola and Rovaniemi. The task of the GTK is to map and study the Earth’s crust using geological, geophysical and geochemical methods, and to produce information promoting sustainable use of natural resources, particularly in mining, construction, land use, environmental protection and nature conservation. The GTK is also responsible for maintaining the databases connected with its sector, and the availability and distribution of the data.

Espoo
P.O. Box 96
02151 Espoo
Finland
(Visiting address: Betonimiehenkuja 4, Espoo)
Tel. +358 20 550 11
Fax +358 20 550 12

Kokkola
P.O. Box 97
67101 Kokkola
Finland
(Visiting address: Vaasantie 6, Kokkola)

Kuopio
P.O. Box 1237
70211 Kuopio
Finland
(Visiting address: Neulaniemientie 5, Kuopio)
Tel. +358 20 550 11
Fax +358 20 550 13

Rovaniemi
P.O. Box 77
96101 Rovaniemi
Finland
(Visiting address: Lähteentie 2, Rovaniemi)
Tel. +358 20 550 11
Fax +358 20 550 14
The Supreme Administrative Court KHO (www.kho.fi)

P.O. Box 180
00131 Helsinki
Finland
(Visiting address: Unioninkatu 16, Helsinki)
Tel. +358 10 36 40200, +358 10 36 40233 (customer service)
Fax +358 10 36 40382
E-mail: korkein.hallinto-oikeus@om.fi

The Administrative Courts

Helsinki Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/helsinki))
P.O. Box 120
00521 Helsinki
Finland
(Visiting address: Ratapihantie 9, Helsinki)
Tel. +358 10 36 42000, +358 10 36 42069 (registry)
Fax. +358 10 36 42079
E-mail: helsinki.hao@om.fi

Hämeenlinna Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/hameelinna))
P.O. Box 640
13111 Hämeenlinna
Finland
(Visiting address: Raatihuoneenkatu 1, Hämeenlinna)
Tel. +358 10 36 42200
Fax +358 10 36 42269
E-mail: hameenlinna.hao@om.fi

Kouvola Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/kouvola)
P.O. Box 401
45101 Kouvola
Finland
(Visiting address: Kauppalankatu 43 C, Kouvola)
Tel. +358 10 36 42300
Fax +358 10 36 42350
E-mail: kouvola.hao@om.fi
Kuopio Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/kuopio)
P.O. Box 1744
70101 Kuopio
Finland
(Visiting address: Maaherrankatu 21, Kuopio)
Tel. +358 10 36 42500
Fax +358 10 36 42501
E-mail: kuopio.hao@om.fi

Kuopio Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/kuopio)
P.O. Box 1744
70101 Kuopio
Finland
(Visiting address: Sepänkatu 2, Kuopio)
Tel. +358 10 36 42500
E-mail: kuopio.hao@om.fi

Oulu Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/oulu)
P.O. Box 189
90101 Oulu
Finland
(Visiting address: Isokatu 4, Oulu)
Tel. +358 10 36 42800
Fax +358 10 36 42841
E-mail: oulu.hao@om.fi

Rovaniemi Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/rovaniemi)
P.O. Box 8112
96101 Rovaniemi
Finland
(Visiting address: Valtakatu 17, Rovaniemi)
Tel. +358 10 36 42900
Fax +358 10 36 42995
E-mail: rovaniemi.hao@om.fi

Turku Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/turku)
P.O. Box 32
20101 Turku
Finland
(Visiting address: Sairashuoneenkatu 2-4, Turku)
Tel. +358 10 36 42400
Fax +358 10 36 42414
E-mail: turku.hao@om.fi
Vaasa Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/vaasa)
P.O. Box 204
65101 Vaasa
Finland
(Visiting address: Korsholmanpuistikko 43, Vaasa)
Tel. +358 10 36 42611
Fax +358 10 36 42760
E-mail: vaasa.hao@om.fi

Åland Administrative Court (www.oikeus.fi/hao/aland)
P.O. Box 31
22101 Mariehamn
Finland
(Visiting address: Torggatan 16, Mariehamn)
Tel. +358 10 365 0265
Fax +358 10 365 0252
E-mail: aland.fd@om.fi
Appendix 7

Terms used in the guide

Claim
A claim gives the claim holder the right to the extractable minerals in the area covered by the claim and the right to carry out surveys in the area, as referred to in the Mining Act. The claim holder can carry out surveying in the area aimed at establishing the extent and type of the deposit. The surveying may only be carried out to the extent necessary. The claim holder may only use the extractable minerals extracted in the claim district for determining their usefulness and commercial potential. Any other use requires a permit granted by the landowner. In this process the operator can make use of analyses, pilot concentration, test smelting and other similar methods. The Ministry of Trade and Industry can grant a claim right for between one and five years, and it can be extended for a maximum of three years.

Concession
A concession is the right granted under the Mining Act to exploit extractable mineral resources.

Deposit
Part of the Earth’s crust in which substantial amounts of extractable minerals, referred to in the Mining Act, occur.

Ecological values
The ecological values refer to organic species and their habitats, and different biotopes and ecosystems on the basis of which an area is protected or included in the Natura 2000 network.

Environmental permit
According to Finland's environmental protection legislation, permits are needed for all activities involving the risk of pollution of the air and water or contaminating the soil. One important condition for permits is that emissions are limited to the levels obtainable by using Best Available Techniques (BAT).

Everyman’s rights
In the Nordic region, anybody can walk freely in forests and make use of the bounty of nature. Everyman’s rights also cover prospecting and small-scale sampling in areas outside protected areas.
**Exploration**
Exploration means geological, geophysical and geochemical research carried out by specialists and aimed at locating deposits containing extractable minerals. It also involves sampling by drilling, excavating and blasting aimed at determining the size and type of the deposit, and pilot concentration aimed at determining whether the deposit has commercial potential.

**Extractable mineral**
Elements, minerals and precious stones extractable from bedrock under the Mining Act (see appendix 2).

**Geological, geochemical and geophysical surveys and mapping**
Basic research focusing on the characteristics of the Earth’s crust. It is not directly connected with the search of ores or other geological raw materials. This type of surveying and mapping is allowed in most parts of Finland, though in protected areas and certain other areas permits are required.

**Mining certificate**
A document granted to the operator by the Ministry of Trade and Industry after the completion of the mining district survey. It provides a proof of the concession and of the entry in the mining register.

**Mining district**
A mining district is an area in which an operator has a right to exploit extractable mineral resources after receiving a concession for the site. Mining operations require a mining certificate granted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Establishment of the mining district means that the right to use the area is transferred from the landowner to the concession holder. A mining district may cover areas that are essential for exploiting the deposit.

**Mining industry**
Search and exploitation of extractable mineral resources, and supply of products and services for the purpose.

**Mining operations**
Operations connected with the exploitation of extractable mineral resources in the mining district.

**Natura assessment**
A detailed assessment of the effects of the planned measures on the ecological values of a Natura 2000 site (section 65 of the Nature Conservation Act).

**Natura report**
A report a claim applicant must submit to the Ministry of Trade and Industry if the application covers a Natura 2000 site or an area close to it. The claim applicant must detail the ef-
fects that the planned exploration would have on the ecological values on the basis of which the site has been included in the Natura 2000 network. If, on the basis of the report, it is clear that substantial adverse ecological effects cannot be ruled out, a detailed Natura assessment procedure, as referred to in the Nature Conservation Act, must be launched.

**Natura 2000 network**

Natura 2000 refers to an EU-wide network of nature reserves established by the individual Member States, the purpose of which is to protect rare biotopes, habitats, and areas important to birds. The Natura network covers the areas listed in the Nature Conservation Directive and the sites have been selected on the basis of the Habitat Directive and Bird Directive (SCI and SPA areas). In some Natura sites there are only minor conservation-related restrictions, which do not apply to the whole area or affect the ordinary activities in the area. The prime purpose of the Natura 2000 network is to promote the aims set out in EU Directives and all areas included are of EU-wide importance.

**Prospecting**

In the Mining Act the term refers to surveying based on visual observations and small-scale sampling, and searching for rocks by amateur prospectors (cf. exploration). Prospecting is covered by everyman's rights and is considered an activity that only in exceptional cases can have substantial adverse effects on the ecological values of the area. In some areas, there are restrictions on prospecting or it is prohibited altogether (for example, in the protected areas established under the Nature Conservation Act).

**Prospecting licence**

A document granted to the operator (explorer) by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which gives the operator the right to the extractable minerals in the claim district and a right to survey them.

**Protected area**

A nature reserve, an area set up under the Act on Wilderness Reserves, and an area included in the Natura 2000 programme.

**Reservation (claim reservation)**

The operator may, by making an advance reservation, secure priority over other claim applicants in an area with a maximum size of nine square kilometres. The operator must submit a written reservation notice to the local register office. The reservation does not have any impact on land use as it only serves as a register entry giving the holder a priority over other claim applicants. The reservation is in effect for a maximum of one year from the date on which the reservation notice was submitted to the register office.

**Sami Homeland**

The Sami Homeland covers the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki, and the Lapland reindeer herding cooperative located in the municipality of Sodankylä.
Abbreviations and Acronyms

BAT = Best Available Techniques
BSPA = Itämeren suojelualueet (Baltic Sea Protected Areas)
EEA = European Economic Area
EU = European Union
GPS = Global Position System
GTK = Geological Survey of Finland
MAB = Man and the Biosphere
Ramsar = Convention on Wetlands
Malminetsintä ja kaivostoiminta suojelualueilla sekä saamelaisten kotiseutualueella ja poronhoitoalueella; opas

Tiivistelmä


Oppaassa kuvataan myös malminetsintään ja kaivostoimintaan liittyvät keskeiset menettelytavat Pohjois-Suomessa sijaitsevalla saamelaisten kotiseutualueella ja poronhoitoalueella.

Alueiden suojeluarvot ja lainsäädännöllinen perusta vaikuttavat siihen millaiset toimenpiteet kullakin alueella ovat mahdollisia.


KTM:n yhteyshenkilö: Teknologiaosasto / Sari Rapinoja, puh. (09) 1606 3202
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25/2007 Julkisesti rahoitettujen sosiaali- ja terveyspalvelujen kaupallistaminen ja vienti osana suomalaisen hyvinvointiklusterin vienninedistämistä
26/2007 Alueellisen kuljetustuen vaikuttavuuden, toimivuuden ja kehittämistarpeiden arviointi
27/2007 Tuotepiittotainen velvoitevarastointityöryhmän raportti
28/2007 Malminetsintä ja kaivostoiminta suojelualueilla sekä saamelaisen kotiseutualueella ja poronhoitoalueella. Opas
29/2007 Prospektering och gruvverksamhet i skyddsområden samt i områden för samers hembygd och renkätsel. Guide
Exploration and Mining in Finland's Protected Areas, the Sami Homeland and the Reindeer Herding Area

This guide describes the conditions for exploration in Finland’s protected areas. It is intended for exploration and mining companies, and for permit and supervisory authorities.

The guide also describes the most important matters to be considered when carrying out exploration and mining in the Sami Homeland and the reindeer herding area in northern Finland.