



Evaluation of the research programme Tandem Forest Values



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The evaluation of Tandem Forest Values aims to facilitate the assessment of the value of the programme and to provide advice on the design of similar initiatives

Purpose part I

Help determine the value of continued research cooperation between Sweden and Finland in the forestry sector

Clear support for continuing the bilateral commitment in the forestry sector

Both funding bodies and beneficiaries see added value in this type of research programme

- TFV complements other initiatives
- TFV is an effective way to develop knowledge about forests in the region
- TFV support stronger relationships between researchers and universities in Sweden and Finland

Purpose part II


Advise on the design of research initiatives with the aim of long-term cooperation between universities and other research environments in Sweden and Finland in the forestry sector

12 recommendations for future calls for applications and programmes

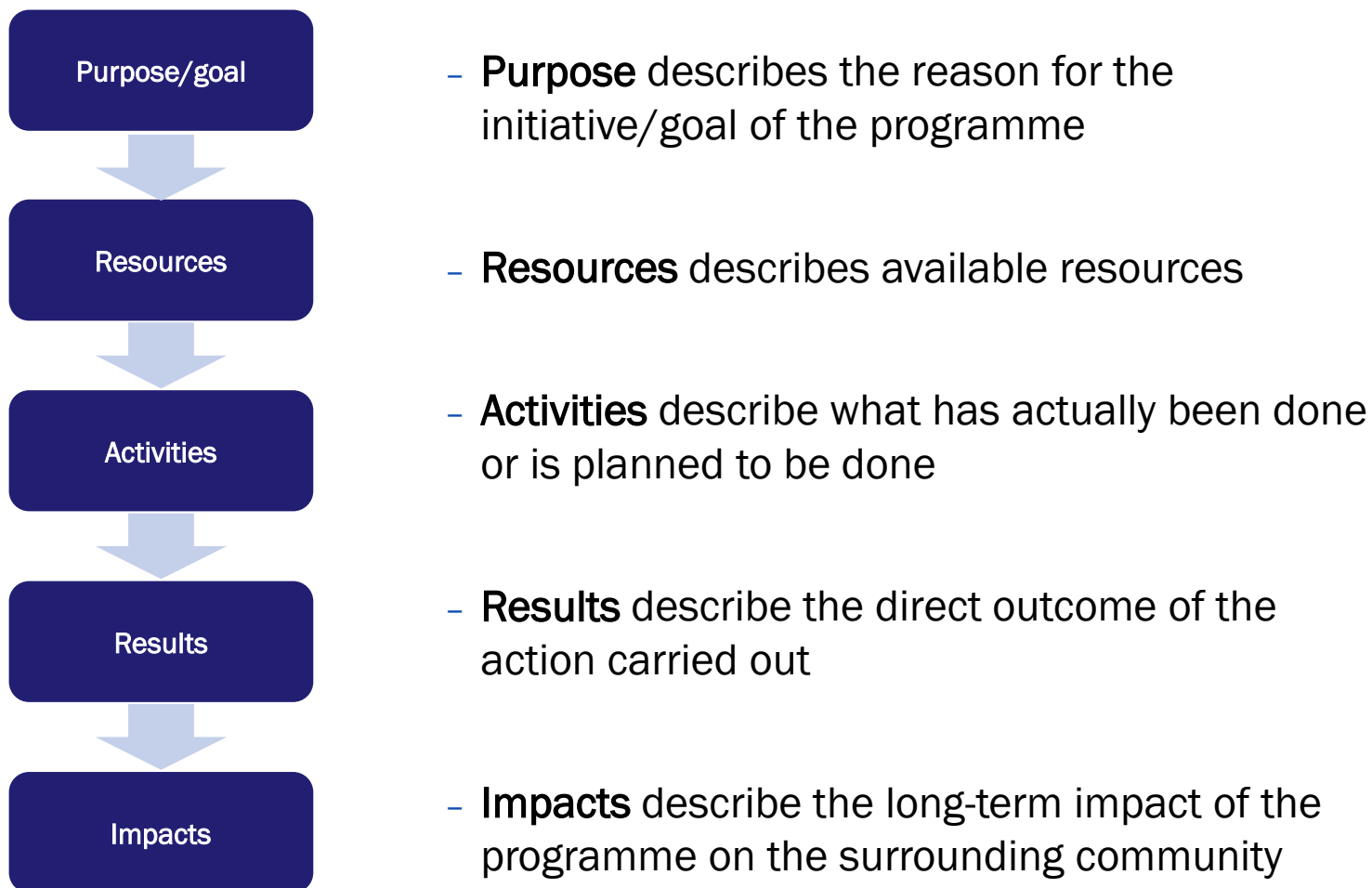
A number of lessons have been learned in relation to the design of this type of research initiative. These lessons constitute the basis for the twelve recommendations put forward by the evaluators.



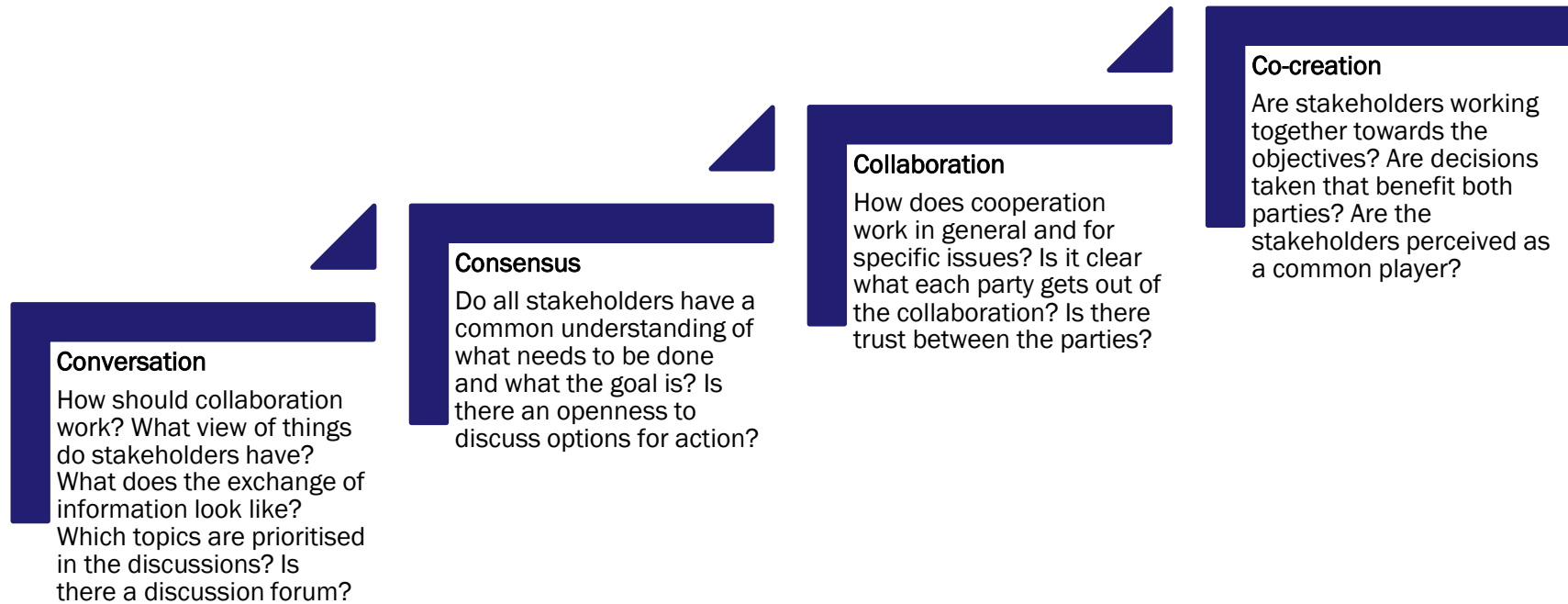
Innehåll

- 
- **Method for data collection and analysis**
 - Analysis of the program logic
 - Strengths and challenges of the programme
 - Recommendations for future calls for applications and programmes
 - Final remarks

The program logic evaluation model was used to map and analyse the different building blocks of Tandem Forest Values



The "collaboration ladder" model was used to assess the degree of collaboration between the beneficiaries of Tandem Forest Values



Data collection methods and questions

Document studies including:

- Beneficiaries' applications
- TFV I's interim reports
- Material from the calls for applications
- Information on KSLA's website


Interviews with:

- Beneficiaries from universities and research environments
- All funding bodies
- Representatives from the preparatory groups

A total of 29 interviews were conducted. The interviews were conducted via video calls in Teams and were semi-structured with pre-formulated main questions.



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Program logic for the first call: Tandem Forest Values I

Resources

- Announced funds: SEK 24 million
- Coordinator: KSLA
- Funding bodies
 - Formas
 - Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation
 - The Kempe Foundations
 - Swedish Forest Industries
 - KSLA
- Preparatory group

Activities

From the funding bodies' perspective:

- Call for applications
- Preparatory group established
- Administration and coordination (including payments)

From the preparatory group's perspective:

- Preparatory group meetings
- Assessment criteria are compiled and assessments made

From the beneficiaries' perspective:

- Administration and coordination of the call
- Cooperation between universities/research environments
- Interim and final report
- Research

Results

- Increased scientific exchange
- Optimised use of research environments
- 12 implemented post-doctoral positions
- Published research results
- Increased knowledge exchange between academia and industry

Program logic for the second call: Tandem Forest Values II

Resources

- Announced funds: SEK 40 million
- Coordinator: KSLA
- Funding bodies
 - Formas
 - The Wallenberg Foundation
 - The Kempe Foundations
 - Ministry of the Environment
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
 - Academy of Finland
- Preparatory group

Activities

From the funding bodies' perspective:

- Call for applications
- Preparatory group established
- Administration and coordination (including payments)

From the preparatory group's perspective:

- Preparatory group meetings
- Assessment criteria are compiled and assessments made

From the beneficiaries' perspective:

- Administration and coordination of the call
- Universities and research environments cooperate in the project
- Reporting to financiers
- Research

Results

- Increased scientific exchange
- Optimised use of research environments
- 9 research projects
- Published research results
- Increased knowledge exchange between academia and industry



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The evaluation indicate several strengths of the programme, of which three are particularly accentuated by the respondents

**Common vision for
the programme**

**Effective cooperation
at all levels**

**Focused research
programme and
cooperation with industry
help to strengthen
the region's
competitiveness**

The evaluation also identifies some challenges with the programme, of which three are considered particularly relevant for the development of the programme

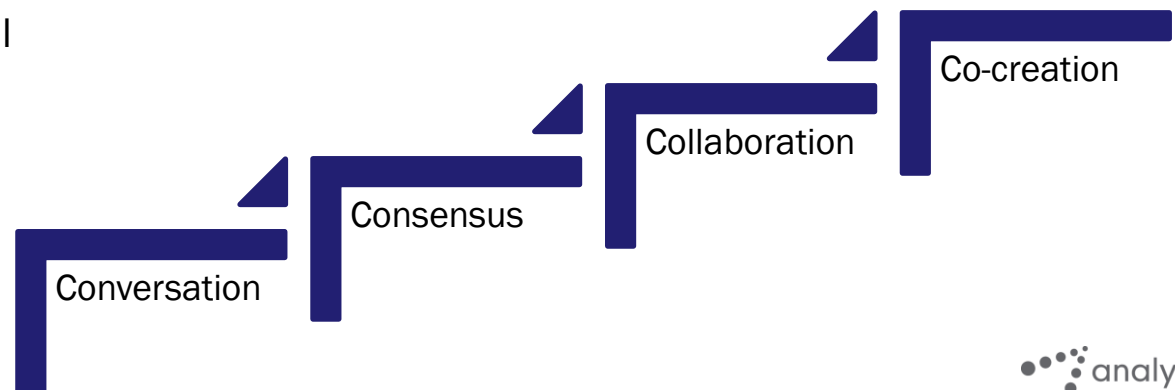
Heterogeneous group of
funding bodies

Practical aspects of
moving researchers
between countries

The programme's
framework for filling
post-doctoral positions

Tandem Forest Values has enhanced the level of collaboration between beneficiaries

- The majority of beneficiaries consider that they have climbed at least two rungs up the collaboration ladder
- At the time of the first contact, conversations were held and, in most cases, consensus was developed during the writing of the project application. In the course of the projects, cooperation has in several cases developed into collaboration or co-creation.
- The corona pandemic has caused difficulties in achieving co-creation as face-to-face meetings have not been possible.
- Some respondents argue that complete co-creation is difficult to achieve even within the same university and that it is even more challenging to achieve in bilateral cooperation as there are both geographical barriers and cultural differences to deal with.





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1. Maintain bilateral cooperation

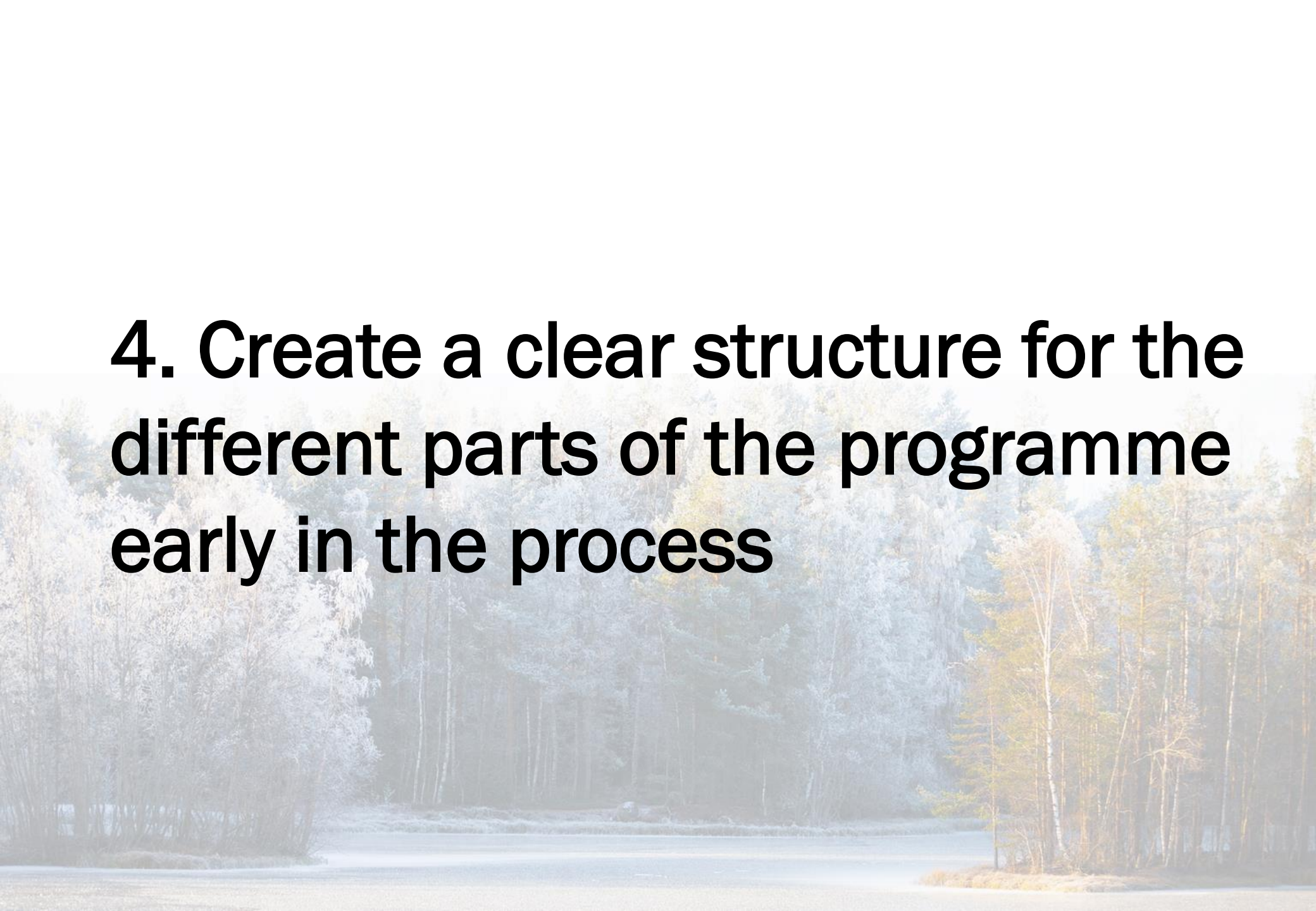
A serene winter landscape featuring a frozen lake in the foreground, surrounded by a dense forest of snow-covered trees. The scene is captured in a soft, hazy light, suggesting a quiet morning or late afternoon. The trees are mostly evergreens and deciduous trees with bare branches, all heavily laden with snow. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and quiet.



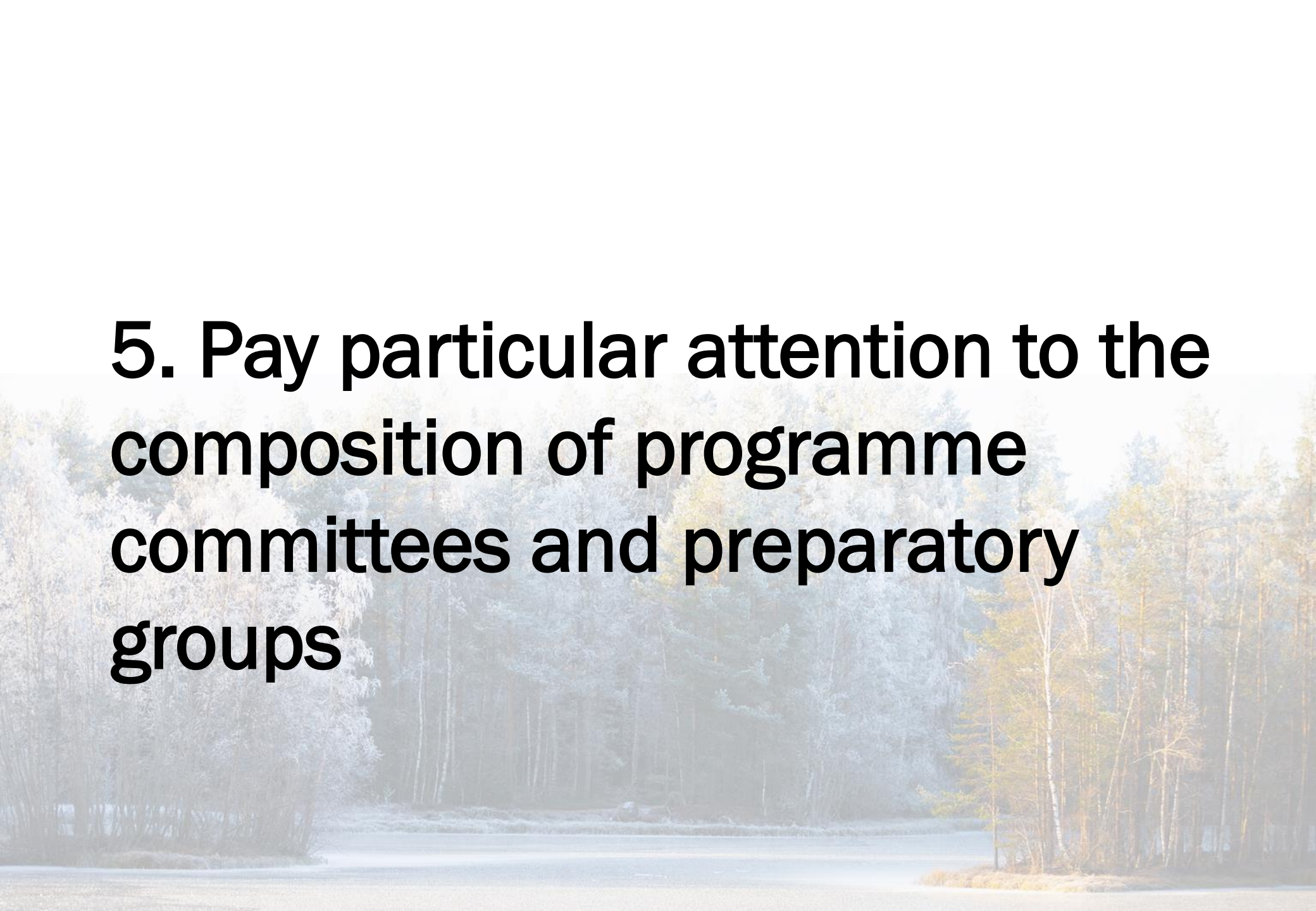
2. Appoint a coordinator who takes overall responsibility and is perceived as a neutral party



3. Formulate a clear common vision for the programme early in the process

A misty forest landscape with a body of water in the foreground. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting autumn or winter. The water is calm and reflects the light. The overall atmosphere is serene and quiet.


4. Create a clear structure for the different parts of the programme early in the process



5. Pay particular attention to the composition of programme committees and preparatory groups



**6. Focus on research projects
rather than funding individual
post-doctoral positions**

A misty forest landscape with a body of water in the foreground. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting autumn or winter. The text is overlaid on the image.

7. Establish a clear interface with the forestry industry and other societal stakeholders in the forest sector

A serene winter landscape featuring a frozen lake in the foreground, surrounded by a dense forest of trees covered in snow. The scene is peaceful and quiet, with a soft, diffused light. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

8. Extend the project duration beyond two years

A serene winter landscape featuring a frozen lake in the foreground, surrounded by a dense forest of trees covered in snow. The scene is peaceful and quiet, with a soft, hazy atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**9. Pay attention to both
quantitative and qualitative
values**

10. Facilitate the application process

A scenic view of a forest with a body of water in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing the text '10. Facilitate the application process'. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees, some with yellow and orange foliage, suggesting an autumn setting. The water in the foreground is calm and reflects the surrounding environment.



11. Expand and facilitate interaction within the programme



12. Organise learning seminars to facilitate the dissemination of best practice

Purpose part II


Advise on the design of research initiatives with the aim of long-term cooperation between universities and other research environments in Sweden and Finland in the forestry sector

Recommendations for future calls for applications and programmes

1. Maintain bilateral cooperation
2. Appoint a coordinator who takes overall responsibility and is perceived as a neutral party
3. Formulate a clear common vision for the programme early in the process
4. Create a clear structure for the different parts of the programme early in the process
5. Pay particular attention to the composition of programme committees and preparatory groups
6. Focus on research projects rather than funding individual post-doctoral positions
7. Establish a clear interface with the forestry industry and other societal stakeholders in the forest sector
8. Extend the project duration beyond two years
9. Pay attention to both quantitative and qualitative values
10. Facilitate the application process
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Final remarks: Tandem Forest Values delivers effective outcomes in relation to expected results and the identified vision

- The overall assessment of the evaluators:
 - the programme is delivering well in relation to the expected results and the identified vision
 - the bilateral approach has several advantages and there is great value in continued research cooperation between Sweden and Finland in the forestry sector
- Regarding the design of future research initiatives, the evaluators propose to build on the good foundations laid by TFV I and II and to consider the recommendations made for the development of the programme
- The impacts that the programme intends to create in the long term are difficult to measure at present, but the evaluators deem that the results already in place clearly indicate that the programme supports the desire to strengthen and develop bilateral research cooperation in a sustainable way.

"The programme has been a door opener"

"TFV is connecting Swedish and Finnish actors in ways that have not existed before"

"I'm very positive about the quick and simple process"

"This type of funding is needed and appreciated"

Thank you for listening!

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