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## Storm damages in the Nordic countries and impacts on markets

On the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of December, windstorm “Dagmar” (or “Hannu” and “Tapani” in Finland), hit the Nordic countries with Hurricane-strength winds cutting powerlines, causing landslides, damaging buildings, shutting roads and delaying train traffic. Hundreds of thousands of households were left without electricity, some still without power on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. The storm swept from the Faroe Islands to Norway’s west coast north of Bergen and proceeded across the country further east towards Sweden and Finland.

Skogsstyrelsen - the Swedish Forest Agency - has estimated that the storm damages in Swedish forests equal to 4-5 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood. The worst damages took place in the counties of Gävleborg, Jämtland and Västernorrland. It is estimated that about 25% of normal annual harvesting volumes have been felled by the storm. The damages are noticeable in selected regions, but do not even closely equal to the damages caused by the storms Gudrun (January 2005) and Per (January 2007).

Suomen metsäkeskus – the Finnish Forestry Centre – estimates that in Finland, the storm felled and damaged about 3,5 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood. The worst damages were caused by the storm “Tapani” on the 26th of December in the south-western parts of Finland. The damages are generally scattered but substantial in some selected communities. On the 27th, the storm “Hannu” caused smaller damages mainly in the eastern part of the country.

The damages have been concentrated around edges of mature forests, recently thinned forests, lakes shores and mother tree areas. The main species suffered by the storm is pine. The majority of the damaged trees can only be used as pulp or energy wood. Due to the scattered nature of the damages, harvesting will be costly, take time and all damaged trees will hardly be harvested. Thus there is a risk of further damages later on, caused by insect infestation.

The forest damages seem to remain relatively small compared to other damages.

Some forest companies have announced, that they will reschedule their harvesting plans and focus on the damaged areas in the near future by postponing harvesting operations in non-damaged areas.

In Finland, the weather conditions have been extremely challenging for harvesting. There is basically no frost on the ground in Southern Finland and we got the first centimeters of snow last week. Lack of frost, combined with the relatively small damaged volume of wood and scattered nature of the damages will hardly bring any excess volumes of cheap wood to the market.

Thus the storm impacts on the sawn timber markets will be limited, if any.

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