

The Landscape Projects of Hyyppä Valley, City of Kauhajoki, Hyyppä village association,

Finnish Forestry Centre/Public Services, Unit of South and Central Ostrobothnia



The authors of the projects have implemented major and long-term landscape maintenance. The base project, entitled “The Establishment of the Hyyppä Valley Landscape Conservation Area”, led to the following achievement: a Preservation Plan, including definitions of the special landscape features and values, and numerous illustrated instructions for preservation actions. Co-operation and several confidence-building measures were developed among the 1 200 landowners and villagers, the local municipality, regional and state authorities, specialist organisations, enterprises, international volunteers and local associations. 41.5 hectares of landscape maintenance operations have also been implemented and permanent action groups for landscape maintenance and a discussion forum for villagers, associations and authorities have been established. Finally, a Landscape Conservation Area in Hyyppä, founded by the Ministry of Environment in the autumn of 2009, has been given juridical status.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project. The actions developed in the Hyyppä Valley for landscape involve a wide variety of players. The public is treated on the same level as the public authorities and citizens are involved in the definition of objectives, implementation of activities and monitoring of the results achieved. The strong point of this achievement is the deep involvement in the activities of both volunteers and the national forestry department. The projects carried out have helped highlight the value of landscapes and to promote the social and aesthetic values of the communities concerned.