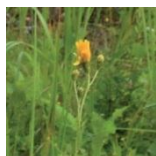


## The management of endangered traditional biotopes and the preservation of the traditional rural landscape, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation



The project aims to manage endangered traditional biotopes and preserve the traditional rural landscape. This landscape is among the most diverse and the most threatened in Finland, taking into account that 28% of the endangered species of these threatened ecosystems live there. A large number of volunteers, about 500 people, have been involved in the project, producing a wide landscape diversity in three years. The landscapes include semi-natural dry or mesic grasslands and also Baltic coast zones. Traditional methods are used in these zones such as: reaping, harvesting hay, clearing trees and creating pastures for livestock. The outcome has been very positive: many of the endangered species have spread into these new rural areas and the aesthetic appeal of the rural landscape has been improved. Beyond the objective of protecting the areas, the project also played a vital role in terms of informing and educating the public about the importance and the value of traditional landscapes and their management. Volunteers have helped those involved to become more aware of their own ability to improve the quality of landscapes and has led to an increased respect for their environment.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project, considering it a fine example of the regeneration of a living traditional landscape, rich in biological diversity, and implemented with the greatest respect for the environment and landscape values.

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-Finland.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-Finland.pdf)