

# LIFE-Nature and threatened plant species.

Examples from "N-Europe "

..... Food for Thought .....

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# LIFE-Nature and threatened plant species.

- LIFE-Nature for plants in “N – Europe”.
- Has LIFE-Nature been a success?
- How visible has been LIFE-Nature for plant conservation?
- Why so few plant LIFE-Nature projects?
- The future of LIFE and Euro's for plant conservation?



# LIFE-Nature for Plants in "N-Europe"



# LIFE-Nature for Plants in “N-Europe”

*Angelica palustris* in Hungary (1.30 M€)

*Jurinea cyanoides* in Germany (0.60 M€)

*Cypripedium calceolus* & *Saxifraga hirculus* in Finland (1.90 M€)

*Myositis rehsteineri* in Austria (2.04 M€) and Germany (2.01 M€)

*Oenanthe conioides* in Germany (5.08 M€)

*Few projects*

*Restoration more expensive than protection*



# Has LIFE-Nature been a success?

- Less than 20 plant projects of the ca 850 projects
- More plant-related projects in Mediterranean and Macaronean Region
- This is far less than species on birds and vertebrates (mostly mammals)

*20 plant projects for 480 species in Annex II of FFH*

*Over 200 bird projects for 194 species in Annex 1 of BD*



# LIFE-Nature projects in 3 countries , a cmparison

	LIFE-projects	Habitat	Plants	Birds	Vertebrates	Invertebrates
Spain	180	72	7	140	55	5
Austria	29	24	1	1	3	0
Finland	43	31	1	7	3	1



# Has LIFE-Nature been visible?

**Locally / regionally: good visibility through brochures, press conferences, manuals, slides,**

**At EU-level: poor visibility. No comprehensive reporting on LIFE-Nature plant life projects**

**One on-site article in Natura 2000 Newsletter,**

**A report of a workshop in Valencia in 2001**

*.... Hence, few incentives towards botanists to apply for LIFE-Nature projects.*

*Make LIFE more visible!*



# Why so few plant LIFE-Nature projects?

## Problems with the species

- Is **480 species not enough** to choose from?
- **Low profile** of plant species?
- Is the annex II of FFH **Directive not “scientifically”** based? (IUCN criteria, ...)
- Are **some species** in Annex II (locally) **not threatened** .... Hence no need to be protected
- **Species not eligible for funding**: national red-listed / legally protected species, not included in Annex I?
- Better protection achieved through **“Habitat Type” conservation projects**? So, why not better promote plant conservation measures in these actions?



# Why so few plant LIFE-Nature projects?

## Problems with applicants?

- Are **botanists less interested?**
- Is there no appropriate **forum to network?**
- **role for Planta Europa?**



# Why so few plant LIFE-Nature projects?

## Is information lacking?

- Is **research needed** before acting?
- **Do we not need how to protect** individual species? How to re-introduce species? Ex-situ / in-situ problems?
- Do we need at which **moment to intervene**? Lacking updated information on populations
- Do we need how to **integrate species- and habitat type-conservation**?



# Why so few plant LIFE-Nature projects?

## Is there something wrong with the LIFE-application forms?

- **Costs:** does LIFE-Nature require applicants to submit expensive projects and can plants be conserved with less expensive projects? Problem of pooling species in one project difficult?
- Is **applying too time consuming?**
- Is the **structure** “Preparatory Actions”, “land purchase”, “non-recurring measures”, ..... **not appropriate** for plant projects? E.g. no sufficient space for research
- **Project time:** long-term (> 5yrs) or short projects (< 2 yrs)?
- Other **EU-programmes are better?** Interreg, Agri-env funds, etc more appropriate to launch plant conservation projects?



# Why so few plant LIFE-Nature projects?

EU-rapport on co-financing Natura 2000

LIFE III + will end in 2006

No decision yet on after 2006

