

**Thematic workshop 1.  
Important Plant Areas (identification and selection).**

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**POSTER:**

**Attempts to introduce fungi into nature conservation activities**

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Habitat conservation provides protection for all existing organisms at the site in question. However, in nature conservation activities fungi are generally overlooked although considering them could contribute to more powerful protection acts. Therefore the proposed initiatives of the *European Plant Conservation Strategy* including also fungi, is pushing mycologists to influence particularly to *Target 1.2, red-listing*, and *Target 1.4, identification of Important Plant Areas (IPA)*. Reserves designated specifically for fungal conservation are very rare in Europe. Three different efforts to consider fungi in nature conservation acts are presented. In Finland the IPA procedure has been initiated focusing on search for unprotected areas rich in rare or threatened fungal species. In Estonia the new Nature Conservation Act will lead to protection of all sites inhabited by fungi with the highest threat category status. In Italy an attempt has been made to support future conservation of fungi in some Natura 2000 sites.