

### Workshop 3

#### Poster

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### **Conservation of *Cypripedium calceolus* and *Saxifraga hirculus* in Northern Finland**

EU LIFE project 2000-2005

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The lady's slipper orchid and the marsh saxifrage are threatened plants whose numbers have declined steeply throughout Europe. This project aims to promote the conservation of these species both in Natura 2000 areas and in commercial forests in Northern Finland. Species inventories have been done on 973 populations in 109 Natura 2000 -areas. As many as 342 new populations were found and 18 of populations had gone extinct. The probable reasons for extinctions for saxifrage were ditching of growing site and for lady's slipper ditching and forestry. One population of lady's slipper was lost for natural reason. The hydrology of 18 sites was restored by filling up old ditches. Habitat management, like mowing or cutting down shadowing trees, has been done on 20 sites. Fifty monitoring sites have been established to observe the effects of management. Forest workers and private landowners have been trained to take these species into consideration in their forest management activities.