



**European Approaches
to Inter-Generational
Lifelong Learning**

**WWF Finland's Work Camps for
Volunteers**

FINLAND
Case Study Identity Card
2007



Education and Culture

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EAGLE CASE STUDY

FINLAND

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TABLE OF CONTENT

| | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| 1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 3 |
| 2 | GENERAL DESCRIPTION | 4 |
| 3 | DESCRIPTION OF COLLABORATING GROUPS | 5 |
| 4 | DESCRIPTION OF INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING PRACTICES | 6 |

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

The aim of World Wildlife Fund Finland's volunteer's camps is to conserve and manage traditional rural biotopes rapidly disappearing. Traditional rural biotopes are among the richest natural habitats in Finland, in terms of the diversity of their flora and fauna. But many of these traditional rural biotopes are under threat, and their disappearance represents a serious problem with regard to biodiversity. Some 22% (338) of the characteristic species of traditional rural biotopes are classified as threatened in Finland.

The participants learn how to manage and conserve traditional rural biotopes. When working in conservation and management of the traditional biotopes, the participants also learn a lot about rare and valuable biotopes and their importance for threatened species.

In the camps the participants, the nature friends of different age, work and stay together in primitive conditions in the middle of the wild. The jobs at a camp can be following: mowing, raking, clearing root stocks and building duck boards, fences and shingle roofs. Normally the length of a camp is nine days, including the days for travelling to and from the camp site. One day is spent for making excursions in nature and culture attractions nearby.

The organizers of the camp provide a camp leader, supervision of work, cook, field kitchen and all necessary tools. The accommodation is in tent. Conditions are quite primitive and there are no facilities at the camp. In most camps the tent sauna is constructed.



2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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| <i>Title</i> | World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Finland's Work Camps for Volunteers |
| <i>Country/ Countries of origin</i> | Finland |
| <i>Duration:</i> | Starting Year: 1977 End Year: open ended |
| <i>Status</i> | Running |
| <i>Managing institution</i> | Voluntary/social sector/foundations |
| <i>Contact details</i> | Institution: World Wildlife Fund Street: Lintulahdenkatu 10 Town: Helsinki Post Code: 00500 Phone: + 358 (0)9 7740 100 Fax: + 358 (0)9 7740 2139 E-Mail: info@wwf.fi URL: http://www.wwf.fi |
| <i>Funding</i> | Private <u>Comments:</u> Canon Oy, Ingman Oy and Metso Oyj are funding the environmental education programme of the WWF Finland. |
| <i>Partnership arrange- ment/organis- ational form</i> | Top-down programme/project |
| <i>Scale</i> | Local |



3 DESCRIPTION OF COLLABORATING GROUPS

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|---|---|
| <i>Collaborating Group I</i> | Camp leader from WWF |
| <i>Total number of Collaborating Group I</i> | 1 |
| <i>Age group(s) of Collaborating Group I</i> | Variable depending on the local host and camp leader, but normally from the middle ages. |
| <i>Collaborating Group II</i> | Nature friends between 18 to 73 years of age <u>Comments:</u> Top physical condition is not required but some endurance is needed. |
| <i>Total number of Collaborating Group II</i> | Variable, depending on interest |
| <i>Age group(s) of Collaborating Group II</i> | Minimum Age: 18 Maximum Age: No age limit |

4 DESCRIPTION OF INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING PRACTICES

The practice description of intergenerational learning practices serves a twofold purpose: i) a qualitative practice description of the case and ii) a quantitative assessment of additional case descriptors.

Description of Learning Arrangement & Learning Practice

The aim of these volunteers' camps is to conserve and manage traditional rural biotopes rapidly disappearing. Traditional rural biotopes include various types of meadowland, moorland, wooded pastures, and areas of woodland cleared for shifting cultivation. Due to drastic changes in farming practices, traditional rural biotopes have been disappearing so rapidly that their numbers are thought to have declined by more than 99% over the last century. An inventory of cultural landscapes carried out across Finland during the period 1992-1998 recorded a total of 3,694 valuable traditional rural biotopes, with a total area of around 19,000 hectares, of which only about half is currently managed.

Traditional rural biotopes are among the richest natural habitats in Finland, in terms of the diversity of their flora and fauna. But many of these traditional rural biotopes are under threat, and their disappearance represents a serious problem with regard to biodiversity. Some 22% (338) of the characteristic species of traditional rural biotopes are classified as threatened in Finland.

Every summer volunteers work hard in five or six camps. When working in conservation and management of the traditional biotopes, the participants learn a lot about rare and valuable biotopes and their importance for threatened species. Normally the length of a camp is nine days, including the days for traveling to and from the campsite. One day is spent for making excursions in nature and culture attractions nearby.

The jobs at a camp can be following: mowing, raking, clearing root stocks and building duck boards, fences and shingle roofs.

The daily schedule for a normal camp day is as following :

- 7.00 Wake up call
- 7.30 Breakfast
- 8.00-10.00 Work
- 10.00-10.15 Coffee break
- 10.15-12.00 Work
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-15.00 Work
- 15.00-15.15 Coffee break
- 15.15-17.00 Work
- 17.00-18.00 Dinner
- 18.0 Free evening program: hiking, fishing, sauna, sitting by the campfire, swimming etc.

The organizers of the camp will provide a camp leader, supervision of work, cook, field kitchen and all necessary tools. The accommodation can be either in one's own tent or in WWF's army-type platoon tent. Conditions are quite primitive and there are no facilities at the camp. In most camps the tent sauna is constructed. Participants pay and organize their trips to the vicinity of the campsite and back. WWF will cover the costs for food and transportation during the camp.

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| <i>Location of the learning activity</i> | Informal settings i.e. social setting in a camp in the wilderness |
| <i>Learning activities (related to policy objectives)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment & environmental protection ▪ Travel, excursions & leisure time |
| <i>Fields of Learning</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual competence development (for private and professional purposes) ▪ Societal/economic exchange and consultancy ▪ Development and continuity of societal values |
| <i>Knowledge & Learning Exchange/Flow between the target group(s)</i> | Balanced and/or bi-directional |
| <i>Interactions between the target group(s)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ one-to-many ▪ many-to-many |
| <i>Categories of the learning activity</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-formal ▪ Informal |
| <i>OECD/DeSeCo Competences addressed by the CS</i> | <p>2 = Competence Category 2: Interacting in Heterogeneous Groups</p> <p>2.1 = The ability to relate well to others</p> <p>2.2 = The ability to cooperate</p> <p>3 = Competence Category 3: Acting Autonomously</p> <p>3.1 = The ability to act within the big picture</p> |
| <i>EC Key Competences addressed by the CS</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpersonal and civic competences |
| <i>Success factors and barriers of the CS</i> <i>Results of the CS</i> | <p>The specific output of the camps is to get a planned management or conservation activity done in different types of nature conservation areas in cooperation with e.g. Metsähallitus (formerly Forest and Park Service), Forest Research Institute, local Environment Institutes and private landowners.</p> <p>The activities are not linked to any formal accreditation.</p> <p>The participants benefit from their learning experience e.g. in the following ways: higher self-esteem, skills development, social cohesion, personal development/fulfilment, and active citizenship.</p> |