LATVIANATURE

EU LIFE Programme project "Optimising the Governance and Management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia"

(LIFE19 IPE/LV/000010 LIFE-IP LatViaNature)

Giving Voice to Nature Linda Uzule, Ieva Saleniece, Inga Pikšena, Anda Zakenfelde LIFE-IP LatViaNature, Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia **Personal Letters from Plant Species listed** in the EU Habitats Directive

This initiative personifies 8 unique EU Habitats Directive's* plant species through personalized letters, distributed both - digitally and as pages in a pocket-size notebook. Within 8 months, the letters have reached a significant audience in Latvia, with social media impressions reaching 55,000 and a total of 40,000 accounts.



Included species are:

Cypripedium calceolus, Pulsatilla patens, Saussurea esthonica, Liparis loeselii, Najas tenuissima, Thesium ebracteatum, Linaria loeselii, Ligularia sibirica

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora



I come from an exclusive species, family and have chosen Lastvia and Estonia as my only home. The truth is, you can meet me in Estonia more often than in Latvia, so my name comes from there. My beauty was first noticed in Lastvia in 1844. For a while, you thought that I had left my home of Latvia, even writing my name as an extinct species in the Red Data Book. However, that was a mistake. I wasn't extinct at all. I was just too good at playing hide and seek with you. My rebirth happened in 1991, when botanist Uvis Suško managed to (find) me again and I was able to regain my rightful place in the wide family of Latvian plants. I enjoy the forest meadows in Lastvia which are wet and calcareous, and I do plan to stay here. But what I need is you to help me. Tidy up my home - cut the bushes, mow, and gather grass. You do this for me, I will grace you with my presence.



By giving these plants a "voice," the letters transform abstract concepts of biodiversity and conservation into tangible and relatable narratives.

Respectfully, Estonian Saw-wort

This approach not only educates the public about the importance of protecting these species, but also inspires a sense of stewardship and responsibility.



"My greatest concern relates to the future of the lakes of Latvia because my home can be polluted quickly, but purification processes could take decades. What you can do for me is to protect your lakes. Keep them clean, so that even in the hundreds of years to come Latvia could be proud of being the home for such an ancient plant species as me!"

Sincerely yours, **Finest Naiad**



to read letters from the plant species

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