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## WHAT WAS YOUR BEST CEPA INTERVENTION IN THIS TRIENNIUM?

**Sari AIRAS**

CEPA Government Focal Point, Finland



### Your Position/Role and Country:

Senior advisor at Metsähallitus-CEPA Government Focal Point, Finland

### Title of your CEPA activity/product

Environmental Art workshop for school at Liminganlahti Bay Ramsar Site

### Other collaborators – please identify other organizations that assisted you or were your partners

University of Lapland, Two elementary schools of Liminka, Association of Friends of Liminganlahti Bay, Village community of Rantakylä

### Key stakeholder group(s) targeted by your product/activity (e.g. decision-makers, teachers, families, journalists etc.)

Pupils and their parents, local people, neighbours of Liminganlahti Bay, local tourism enterprises, journalists

### When did this event take place/when was your product launched?

23rd September, 2011

## What was your key message?

Significance of Liminganlahti Bay, Beauty of the Birds of Liminganlahti

Sari AIRAS

CEPA Government Focal Point, Finland

## Brief description of your product/ activity / material you used

From willow to birds, an Environmental Art family day at Liminganlahti Bay. Students of the University of Lapland organized a workshop for two local schools and local people at Liminganlahti Bay on one cloudy Saturday. The schoolchildren had planned the wicker sculptures of birds earlier and materials had been collected from the area. During the day 100 children and their parents and other local people created two large and four smaller wicker art pieces near the Liminganlahti visitor centre and along the path to the bird watching tower. There were journalists interviewing the kids and parents. The Friends of Liminganlahti Association guided people at the bird tower and the Village community served coffee and pancakes to visitors.

## What was your intended outcome from this product/activity? (e.g. change in behaviour of target group; volunteer help with a wetland project; newspaper article)

That teachers and schools would see the possibilities of the area for their school work as a source of art, knowledge and recreation. And that the local people would learn to appreciate the area as a valuable wetland area and a beautiful place for recreation.

## What kind of impact did this activity/product have on the target audience?

All the co-operation partners will continue to work with us. Schools are willing to continue to have this kind of workshops in the future as well. Pupils are proud of their art work. Parents enjoyed the co-operation with kids and that they got to know other parents. University students got practice in their field of studies and they wrote a report of the project. The project itself had visual results of how to strengthen the reputation of Liminganlahti Bay as a fantastic wetland/ bird area of the region.

## Is there a follow-up activity/product planned, if yes briefly describe

Yes, next workshop a WWD activity will be organized as at Liminganlahti this year.

## Why do you identify this as your best CEPA intervention? What makes it stand out?

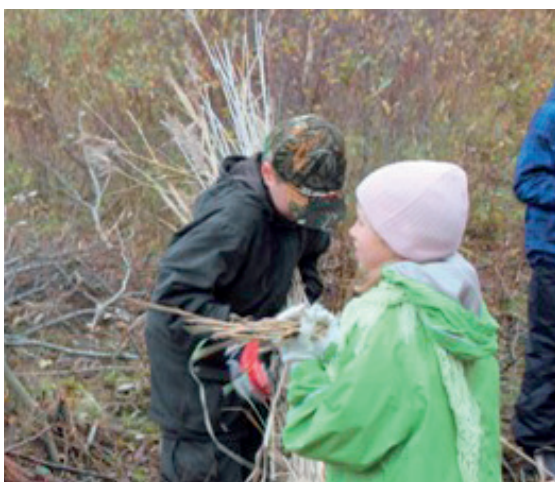
The joy of the children after the work was done. They wanted to come to see their willow birds later too. With this workshop we succeeded in having many locals visit the site for the first time although they live right next door.

## What was the source of your funding?

EU regional development fund (part of a large project called "Birds as the top attraction of the Nature tourism in the Oulu region")



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CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)