



Integrating knowledge  
about, through and for biodiversity  
to promote sustainable development



**Biodiversity research, education and learning** are important. In order to be able to conserve and manage ecosystems, we need to describe their species. We depend totally on other organisms and their ecosystems, in particular their free services: the production of oxygen, food, renewable energy and raw materials, the cleaning of water, etc. How do we get individuals, communities, nations and humankind to value biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable development? Providing biodiversity education is important.

**NatureGate® R&D and Business program** is a social innovation which continually integrates the cumulative knowledge generated by biologists, photographers, learning researchers, ICT researchers, green entrepreneurs and ordinary citizens. The first NatureGate® server will be opened in May 2007 in Finland supported by grants from the University of Helsinki. The next server will be opened in Sweden. The year 2007 is the 300th birthday of Carl von Linné, one of the greatest biologists and the first to develop a scientifically based system of classification. In Finland and Sweden botany and other branches of biology have been very popular since Linné's time.

**The NatureGate® service will be free for users.** For their research and education, users will have access to excellent photographs and the latest information on all local flowering plants. The system includes patented, easy-to-use software for species identification. Later on, the NatureGate® system will cover other groups of organisms, butterflies being the second application. NatureGate® databases may be supplemented in a number of ways to tailor them to the needs of individual users. For example: users can upload their own digital photographs to the server; modern ICT allows users to attach geographic positions to photographs and by doing so biologists and researchers get updated knowledge on biodiversity that can be used in education and research to benefit the whole of humankind.

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