

Nature interpretation in Finland

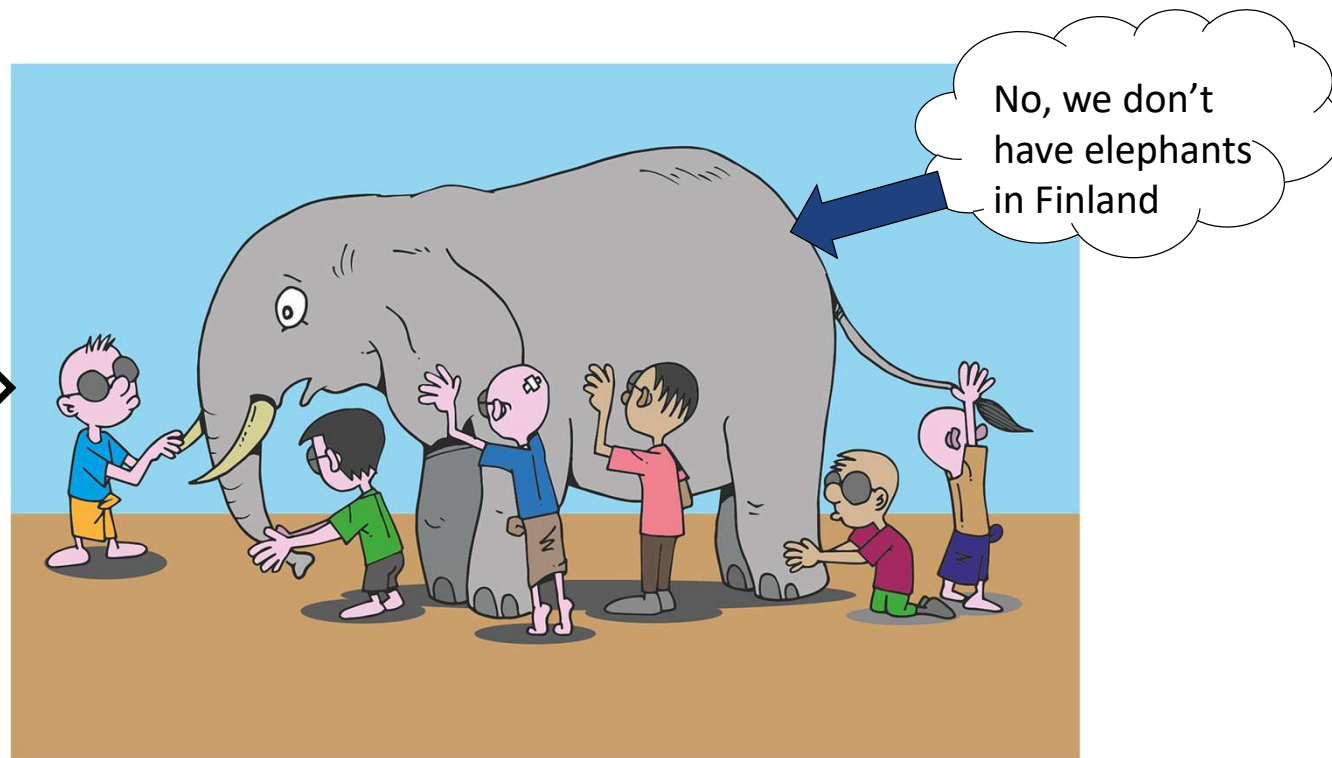


There are so many of us in the field of Nature Interpretation...



The field of Nature Interpretation is diverse in Finland

Our team trying to form a common understanding of what Nature Interpretation is in Finland



Nature- and environment-related studies in the Finnish education system



Universities (Faculty of Science, Faculty of biological and environmental sciences, Faculty of agriculture and forestry etc.)



Universities of applied sciences (Adventure pedagogy etc.)



Further vocational qualifications and specialist vocational qualifications (Environmental educators etc.)



Vocational education and training (VET)



Liberal adult education (Folk high schools etc.)

Vocational Qualification in Natural and Environmental Protection in Finland



Nature and Wilderness Guide



Nature Instructor



Natural Resources Producer



Nature and Environmental Advisor

LUONTOALAN AMMATTITUTKINTO, ERÄ- JA LUONTO-OPAS



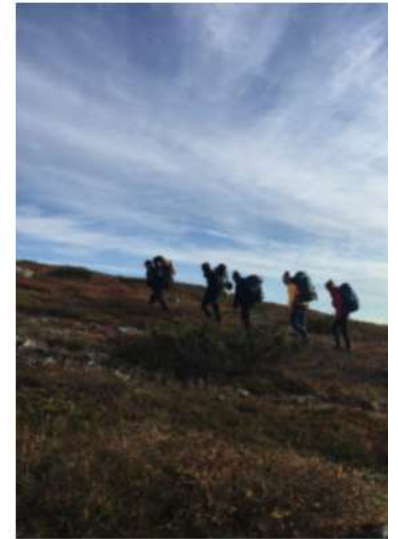
Photos from Kiljavan opisto and YSAO websites

Example from a University of Applied Sciences: Adventure and Outdoor Education, HUMAK UAS

- Adventure and Outdoor Education (Community Educator, Bachelor of Humanities, 210 ECTS)
- <https://www.humak.fi/en/bachelor-of-humanities-adventure-and-outdoor-education/>



**Seikkailukasvatus taso
1, 22 op -**



**Seikkailukasvatus
2, 20 op -**

Universities, examples

- University of Lapland: Sustainability and environmental education, arctic nature, for example **Sustainability and nature education-focused primary school teacher training**
- University of Helsinki: **Biodiversity.now** for example <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/degree-programmes/atmospheric-sciences-masters-programme/studying/pro-gramme-con-tents/courses-biosphere-atmosphere-cycles-study-track>
- University of Eastern Finland: <https://www.uef.fi/en/continuous-learning/biodiversitynow-a-spring-2024>
- Tampere University: **Environment in Pedagogy** (in Finnish)
- University of Jyväskylä: **Planetary well-being: [Planetary Well-being | University of Jyväskylä \(jyu.fi\)](https://www.jyu.fi/en/research/muuttolintujen-kevat), Citizen observation – Migration Birds Spring <https://www.jyu.fi/en/research/muuttolintujen-kevat>**
- University of Oulu: **Regional change and people in a changing environment**

Certified guides

- Continuous education for a specific destination, aimed for those who have previously acquired basic guide training
- For example, certified guides for Ylläs-Pallas National Park or Repovesi National Park
 - The training is organized by Lapland Vocational College / Kouvola Regional Vocational College
 - <https://www.luontoon.fi/pallas-yllastunturi/kansallispuisto-opaskoulutus>
 - <https://reposesikeskus.fi/en/reposesi-national-park-certified-guide/>
- Freelance guides at the Finnish Nature Center Haltia
- Requires completion of the Haltia guide course and successful guiding demonstration

Conservation areas and nature centers as learning environments

Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife, Finland

- Manages all of Finland's 41 national parks and other state-owned nature conservation areas
- Services for visitors: <https://www.nationalparks.fi/>
- Nature centers across Finland
- Produces e.g. exhibitions, nature trails, the Outdoors.fi website, guided tours
- Finnish Nature Center Haltia also operates a nature school



Networks at different levels / In-service training

National and regional level: short-term trainings

- The Finnish Association of Nature and Environment Schools (LYKE): target group schools, children, but also training for teachers, ULOS – UT – OUT Conference
 - Networks of various environmental education actors
 - Camp school networks
 - Adventure education network
 - “Forest learning path”, Finnish Forest Association
 - Ulko-opet ry (outdoor educators’ association)
 - Natural science museums and Science centers
 - Cultural heritage education
- **Finnish and Swedish language networks**
 - **Nature and environmental organizations**
 - **Training is conducted through collaboration between projects and actors.**



Other approaches

- Forest Mind
- Green Care
- Non-formal learning, well-being, nature as a working space (adults, companies...)
- Recreational activities (sports, scouting, 4H, The Finnish Nature Association Luontoliitto etc.)