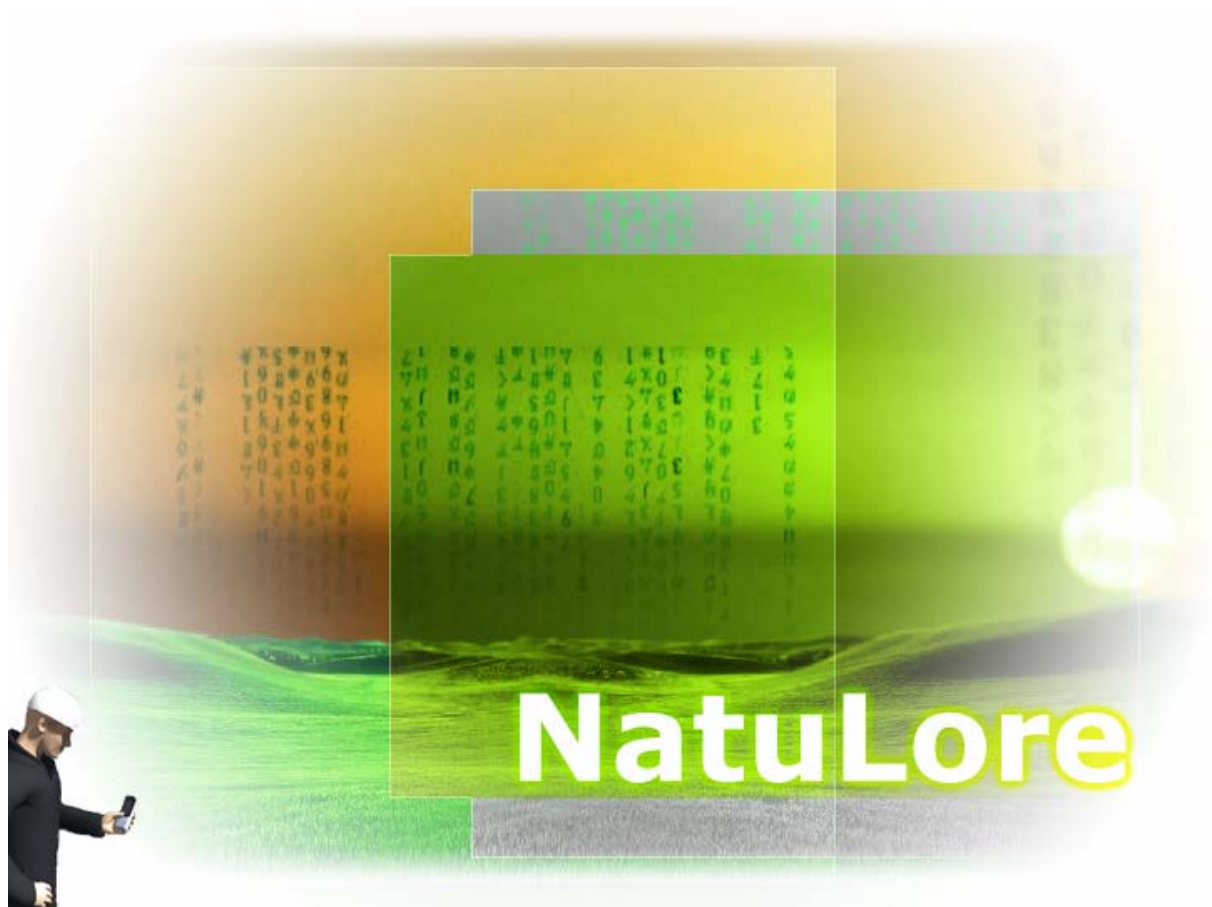FACULTY OF INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
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NatuLore - System for Collaborative Publishing and Sharing of Contextual Information for Protecting Environment

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Abstract

We must become the change we want to see in the world.

---Mahatma Gandhi

In the world as it is today, there are many environmental problems. In fact, they are all directly or indirectly caused by people. We think that the main reason is that people have very limited or no knowledge of their surroundings, and do not realize consequences of their actions in the context of nature. We believe that when everyone gets to know the nature better, there might be a chance that he will eventually come to admire it and will strive to help to protect it. We attempt to educate people, teach them about their surrounding flora and fauna and how to preserve it for future generations.

In accordance with the idea that "only the one who knows the nature can effectively preserve and protect it" we have designed a system called **NatuLore** that provides a real-time online collaboratively edited encyclopedia containing multimedia and text information linked to the context of information mainly represented by the geographical location and time.

There is no doubt that the most valuable factor in the world of today is information. Our system has a capability to enhance environment providing information available anywhere while protecting it indirectly at the same time.

NatuLore also offers users an easy way of notifying competent people (e.g. park administrator or mayor), who can take care of any potential problems they might come across. Moreover, our system provides statistics useful for environmentalists to visualize the traffic in park or in the nature as a whole.

We believe that occasional factual description of the ever changing nature is insufficient. The best way to make the encyclopedia living alive is to give the possibility of managing the articles related to particular location to people, who live in or move around the specific area. Our project provides all of this in a very convenient manner. While moving, people get notifications about interesting landmarks and beauties of nature in their vicinity. It also offers versioning dimension by archiving all content modifications together with a timestamp. This gives additional value to the system and helps people to willingly learn about their surroundings.

Due to the nature of the system and the fact that some people do not have honest intentions and existence of a phenomenon known in information providing as vandalism, we have devised several mechanisms, which are able to deal with this and protect valuable information base contained within the **NatuLore** system from devaluation.

What we consider to be the best possible solution to ensure the protection of nature is one such that gets everyone involved. In the perfect world, there would be no need for any solution at all, because everyone would be aware of the potential negative impact of his acts against the nature. This is the goal of the **NatuLore** project.