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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Planta Europa Conference

Kraków, 23-27 May 2011

**PLANTA EUROPA KRAKÓW DECLARATION 2011
ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILD PLANTS IN EUROPE:
ACTIONS FOR WILD PLANTS**

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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In 2001, the Standing Committee adopted Recommendation No. 87 (2001) on the Planta Europa / Council of Europe European Strategy for Plant Conservation (appendix 1 to this document). The Strategy was updated in 2007 at a Planta Europa Conference in Romania and new targets set for the period 2008-2014 (see Recommendation No. 138 (2008) in appendix 2 to this document). The Sixth Planta Europa Conference on the Conservation of wild plants was held in Krakow on 23-27 May 2011.

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the “Planta Europa Kraków Declaration 2011” enclosed and thank Planta Europa for their efforts and guidance on plant conservation in Europe and its positive partnership with the Convention.



PLANTA EUROPA KRAKÓW DECLARATION 2011

The participants of the sixth Planta Europa Conference on the conservation of wild plants held in Kraków, 23-27 May 2011 with the theme "Actions for Wild Plants":

Acknowledge the ongoing progress with the implementation of "A sustainable Future for Europe: the European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008 – 2014 (ESPC), developed by the Planta Europa network in Romania in 2007. Particularly with those targets addressing check-listing, conservation assessment, important Plant Areas conservation, *ex-situ* conservation of plant species, the conservation of plant genetic diversity, management of invasive alien species and awareness raising for plant conservation.

Reiterate the importance of the ESPC as a regional contribution to the updated CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020, endorsed by CBD-COP 10 in Nagoya, and welcome this updated Global Strategy which remains an invaluable global framework for plant conservation.

Welcome the endorsement by CBD-COP 10 of targets for the whole CBD strategic plan, and underline the contribution that activities carried out for both the European and global strategies for plant conservation make to the implementation of these "Nagoya targets".

Welcome and support the European Union Communication "Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020" and support its objective to implement true "sustainable development" in Europe, without losing biodiversity.

Highlight the ongoing commitment of the Council of Europe to the ESPC – noting its recent contribution to combating invasive alien species and the production of a code of conduct for horticultural trade.

However, noting the lack of progress with ESPC targets aimed at conserving plant diversity in production lands (target 6), through the sustainable use (target 12) and the lack of significant progress in capacity for plant conservation in Europe (target 15), as well as acknowledging the increasing contemporary threats to the diversity of wild plants, fungi and vegetation, the participants of the 6th Planta Europa conference consider more concerted efforts are needed to:

1. Strengthen the activities that support the implementation of a functioning ecological network for Europe. With core areas based on sites within Natura 2000, Emerald, Important Plant Areas and national ecological networks linked together through natural corridors in a green infrastructure. This will require preservation and enhancement of existing corridors and restoration of corridors in more fragmented European landscapes.

2. Conserve plant diversity in agricultural production lands and to urgently respond to the increasingly rapid changes in land use patterns across Europe, through land use intensification and abandonment of traditional forms of land use, coupled with landscape fragmentation; which continue to threaten plant diversity across Europe. Specifically!

- Increasing support for activities that **maintain the habitat diversity associated with high nature value farmland throughout Europe (hay meadow, alpine pastures, wood pastures, grazed forest, etc)**, that have resulted from a diversity of land management practices.
- Increasing the focus on **conserving historical landscape shaped by traditional management** (e.g. extensively managed orchards, vineyards, olive groves and associated old cultivars), as important elements of the diversity of European culture that supports significant plant diversity.
- **Preventing further afforestation of Eastern European steppic vegetation** – one of the richest grassland habitats in Europe.
- Increasing pressure on European governments and institutions, in particular on the European Parliament, to undertake **fundamental reform of the Common Agricultural Policy** in 2013, to ensure that a significant portion of resources are diverted to those agri-environment schemes using farming practices that benefit biodiversity; under the principle of “public money for public good”.

3. Improve management of protected and exploited forests to ensure the maintenance of the plant and fungus diversity that indicates high conservation value. Particularly to maintain the continuity of old growth trees and dead wood within forests, crucial to the survival of fungal and bryophyte communities.

In this context Planta Europa promotes the inclusion of these principles in the preparation of the legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, for which negotiations are to be decided upon in June 2011 in Oslo, at the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, 2011 being the United Nations International Year of Forests.

4. Continue to help develop and promote a pan-European Invasive Alien Species policy, establishing approaches that prevent, control and monitor biological invasions that are detrimental to native plant diversity, including the introduction of biofuel species that are potentially invasive into natural habitats. In this context Plant Europa promotes the current opportunity to influence the “dedicated EU legislative instrument” on invasive species.

5. Promote the importance of public participation in plant conservation through strengthening the engagement of citizens for e.g. supporting volunteer groups that monitor and act to safeguard wild plant species and their habitats, promoted during the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

6. Redouble efforts to develop plant conservation teaching methods as used in Inquiry Based Scientific Education schemes that will have lasting impact on educators and learners alike, promoting a sense of stewardship, public participation and caring for plants in younger generations.

7. Increase investment in capacity for plant conservation. Specifically through establishing **on-line access to botanical and mycological data with common standards; maintaining taxonomic capacity and developing field skills in active management of wild plants and fungi.** This includes enabling pan-European participation in initiatives such as the INSPIRE directive for developing standards, EDIT, PESI and Catalogue of Life (taxonomy and systematics programmes).

8. Strengthen co-operation between conservation stakeholders in all expert groups (flora, fungi and fauna) and across national borders – especially when those borders run across the same biogeographical regions.

In addition to the increased attention required for specific targets of the ESPC, the participants at the sixth Planta Europa conference also note the need to urgently address:

The lack of awareness of adaptive management regimes crucial in all areas that are important for plant diversity, to help combat climate change as a threat to habitat integrity and diversity.

The increasing threats to plant diversity from unsustainable development linked to tourism and recreation in protected areas, particularly in mountain, lake and coastal habitats, that disregard proper planning processes.

The serious socio-economic and political challenge presented by the potential introduction of GMOs into the European countryside, a potential major biodiversity risk with irreparable consequences.

The need to develop the values-concerned message for conserving our wild plant and fungal resources: we have to conserve them not only for the benefits in terms of the ecological value they bring to humans, but also in terms of their benefit to human spiritual well-being and the moral responsibility we humans have for the nature.

Finally the participants of the sixth Planta Europa conference sincerely thank the W. Saafer Institute of Botany in Kraków, Polish Academy of Sciences for hosting the sixth Planta Europa conference.

Adopted by Planta Europa
Kraków, Poland, 26th May 2011

Appendix 1

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 87 (2001) adopted on 30 November 2001 on the European Plant Conservation Strategy

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the convention,

Having regard to the aims of the convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 5, paragraph 1, of the convention requires that Contracting Parties take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild flora species specified in Appendix I;

Referring to its Recommendation No. 30 (1991) on conservation of species in Appendix I to the convention;

Referring to its Recommendation No. 40 (1993) on the elaboration of conservation or recovery plans for species in Appendix I to the convention;

Having regard to Article 4 of the convention, to Resolution No. 1 (1989) on the provisions relating to the conservation of habitats, and to Recommendation No. 16 (1989) of the Standing Committee on areas of special conservation interest;

Desirous that Contracting Parties promote more conservation action on species listed in Appendix I to the convention and on endangered natural habitats;

Referring to the joint Council of Europe and Planta Europa European Plant Conservation Strategy;

Recognising that the European Plant Conservation Strategy is a valuable contribution to the Global Strategy on Plant Conservation discussed in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

Formulate and implement, or reinforce, as appropriate, national plant conservation strategies or have them incorporated as an integral part of national biodiversity conservation strategies; take note, in that context, of the European Plant Conservation Strategy as presented to the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Appendix 2



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 138 (2008) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 27 November 2008, on the European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling that Article 3 of the convention requires Parties to take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4.1 of the convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild flora species listed in Appendix I;

Referring to its Recommendation No. 30 (1991) on the conservation of species in Appendix 1 of the Convention;

Referring to its Recommendation No. 40 (1993) on the elaboration of conservation or recovery plans for species in Appendix I of the Convention;

Referring to its Recommendation No. 87 (2001) on the European Plant Conservation Strategy, recognised as a valuable contribution to the Global Strategy on Plant Conservation adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

Noting that integrated ecosystem management and habitat protection have great advantages for the preservation of biodiversity and should go hand in hand with species protection efforts;

Recalling Decision V/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on the Ecosystem Approach, adopted in 2000, and including the 12 principles of the Ecosystem Approach;

Recalling the 2003 Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity, which includes the commitment to 'halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010', as adopted by Environment Ministers and Heads of delegation from 51 countries in the Pan-European region;

Recalling the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its finding that "unprecedented increased efforts" are needed to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target at national, regional and global levels;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Recalling CBD COP Decision IX/3 on the 'Global strategy for plant conservation' and, in particular, paragraphs 1(b), 2 and 8;

Referring to the joint Planta Europa/Council of Europe "European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014: A sustainable future for Europe" [document T-PVS/Inf (2008) 14];

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

- develop and implement, or reinforce, as appropriate, national plant conservation strategies, or have them incorporated in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- take note, in that context, of the 'European Strategy on Plant Conservation 2008-2014: A sustainable future for Europe'.