

2.68 Conservation of plants in Europe

RECOGNIZING the fundamental importance of plants for the maintenance of all life on the planet;

CONCERNED that over 2,000 species of plants are rare or threatened in Europe and that the number is increasing despite strenuous efforts to conserve them;

KNOWING that threats from intensive agriculture, economic development, habitat loss, and tourism continue to threaten the flora of Europe, including both higher and lower plant species;

NOTING the particular relevance for plant conservation in Europe of the *Gran Canaria Declaration on the Need for a Global Programme for Plant Conservation*;

AWARE of the decision by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to consider the establishment of a global strategy for plant conservation at the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (The Hague, 2002);

FURTHER NOTING the fact that the Planta Europa Network has been formally constituted as the programme of Plantlife International, and has a significant role in the promotion and facilitation of plant conservation work throughout Europe; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the partnership between the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) European Plant Specialist Group and the Planta Europa Network to coordinate and integrate their activities;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. COMMENDS the IUCN/SSC for its work in developing the Plant Conservation Programme;
2. WELCOMES the continuing development of the Planta Europa Network as a major means of implementing the SSC Plant Conservation Programme in Europe and the new level of cooperation being developed between Planta Europa and the IUCN/SSC European Plant Specialist Group;
3. CALLS for the rapid implementation of the priorities in that programme for plant diversity conservation including the identification of 'Important Plant Areas' at appropriate regional and national scales;
4. RECALLS the importance of legal provisions for the conservation of plants in Europe including the 'Bern' Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats, the European Union Habitats and Species Directive and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
5. ENDORSES the promotion by Planta Europa of the Spanish 'Microreserve' project throughout Europe as a potentially significant mechanism for the conservation of endemic and other rare and threatened plant species;

6. WELCOMES the Euro+Med PlantBase initiative and its aim of providing an electronic information system for the plants of Europe and the Mediterranean region and urges members of the Union to cooperate with it and support it;
7. CALLS ON European members and relevant SSC Specialist Groups to engage in a new initiative between the Council of Europe and Planta Europa to develop a detailed action-oriented Plant Conservation Strategy for Europe;
8. REQUESTS the Director General to provide support from the IUCN Secretariat to:
 - (a) promote the project to identify Important Plant Areas in Europe through the work of the Species Survival Commission and the IUCN European Regional Programme in particular;
 - (b) help facilitate the raising of funds, especially for the Important Plant Areas project and the European Red List; and
 - (c) continue to provide support for the work of Planta Europa and to coordinate IUCN's own plant conservation activities with the work of Planta Europa.

This Resolution was adopted by consensus. State and Agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this Motion and took no national government position on the Resolution as adopted, for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process (see p. 76).