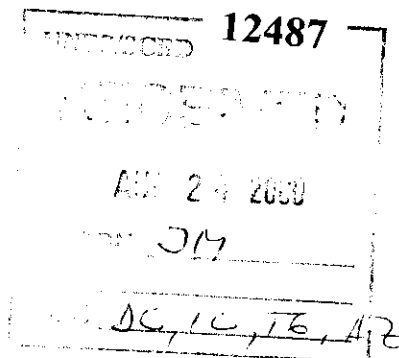


PLANTA EUROPA



Mr H Zedan
The Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre
Montreal
Quebec
Canada H2Y 1N9

17 August 2000



Dear Mr Zedan,

Re: UNEP/CBD/COP/5/L.9/Rev 1: Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

I am writing in connection with the above decision taken at the 5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nairobi, 15-26 May 2000, concerning a Global strategy for Plant Conservation.

The decision of the COP is to '*consider, at its sixth meeting, the establishment of a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*', and asks the Executive Secretary to '*liaise with relevant organisations*' '*in order to gather information on existing international initiatives*'.

As Executive Director of Planta Europa, I am writing to inform you of the plant conservation work being carried out in Europe by Planta Europa. Planta Europa is a network of organisations, both governmental and non-governmental working for plant conservation in Europe.

Having begun its existence as an informal network following conferences held in Hyeres, France (1995), and Uppsala, Sweden, (1998) the Planta Europa Network has now been constituted formally as the European programme of Plantlife International, a subsidiary of the UK based charity Plantlife. Copies of the proceedings of these two conferences are enclosed.

The work of Planta Europa:

Planta Europa's mission is to conserve the plants of Europe, both higher and lower, and their habitats. To date it has worked principally on the identification of Important Plant Areas (IPAs) in Europe, a project which complements the Important Bird Areas programme, spearheaded by BirdLife International. This initiative is also a priority of the IUCN-SSC Plants programme (see below). Such work is essential to underpin the implementation of the Habitats and Species Directive in Europe (the Emerald Network in states who are not members of the EU), and other international conventions. Guidelines for the selection of IPAs will shortly be published.

Planta Europa is itself actively developing a Plant Conservation Strategy for Europe, in close association with the Council of Europe, with whom we have a close working relationship. This is to be debated and refined at the next Planta Europa Conference.

Planta Europa Plantlife 21 Elizabeth Street London SW1W 9RP U.K.
Telephone: 00 44 20 7808 0100 Fax: 00 44 20 7730 8377

ANDREW KAM

Planta Europa is the lead agency for the implementation of the FFI Global Trees Campaign in Europe, which currently involves working to establish the conservation status of Europe's most threatened tree species in the wild.

Other projects include the establishment of 'microreserves' (a concept initiated by the Generalitat Valenciana, in Spain) to protect rare and endemic plant species *in situ*, and casework on threatened plant areas of international (Europe-wide) significance.

The next Planta Europa conference is to be held in Pruhonice, Czech Republic, 23-28 June 2001, and will be hosted by the Czech Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection.

Other work is described in the resolutions from the Uppsala conference (enclosed).

The IUCN-SSC Plants Programme

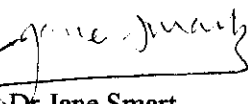
The COP decision also refers to the Plant Conservation Programme of the Species Survival Commission of World Conservation Union. As a member of the SSC's Plant Conservation Committee (and as an author of that programme; and co-sponsor of the Symposium at the XVth Botanical Congress to launch it), I would ask you to note that the work of the IUCN-SSC in Europe is increasingly integrated with and co-ordinated by Planta Europa. Indeed a draft memorandum of understanding, which reflects this close co-operation, will shortly be finalised. The priority for the partnership is assisting with the production of the much needed European Red List.

Planta Europa also works closely with the European Regional Office of IUCN.

I understand that you will be passing on this information to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to assist them in making the appropriate recommendations to the COP, for consideration the sixth meeting of the COP.

Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance, or if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jane Smart
Executive Director, Planta Europa
Member of the IUCN-SSC Plant Conservation Committee

Cc David Arnold-Foster, Chief Executive, English Nature
Jan Cerovsky, President, Planta Europa, Czech Agency for Nature Conservation
Eladio Fernandez-Galiano, Council of Europe
David Given, Chair, IUCN-SSC Plant Conservation Committee
Jan Plesnik, Chair-elect, SBSTTA
Cristian Samper, Chair, SBSTTA
Richard Sandbrook, Chair of IUCN Programme Committee
Simon Stuart, Head of Species Programme, IUCN
Hugh Syngé, compiler of European Plant Conservation Strategy
Jonathan Tillson, Biodiversity Convention and Darwin Initiative (Section leader EPINT)
Peter Wyse-Jackson, BGCI

Encs. Proceedings of Planta Europa Conferences held in Hyeres, France (1995), and Uppsala, Sweden (1998); resolutions from the Uppsala conference

PLANTA EUROPA



Adopted by the Second Planta Europa Conference Uppsala, Sweden, 13 June 1998

Resolutions

1. Taking forward the work of the planta Europa network

AWARE that many tasks still need to be taken forward for effective plant conservation in Europe;

RECOGNIZING the benefits of taking full advantage of new and developing opportunities for plant conservation;

APPRECIATING the valuable work carried out by international conservation organizations and institutions such as IUCN - The World Conservation Union, the World Wide Fund for Nature, TRAFFIC, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the International Association of Botanic Gardens, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, and Fauna and Flora International, on plant and habitat conservation and recognizing the value of closer integration of their work with the Planta Europa network;

APPRECIATING the significant progress of the Planta Europa network since its foundation at Hyères in 1995;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second European conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. COMMEND the Steering Committee for its effective nurturing of the Planta Europa network and thank the organizations that have provided the Secretariat, namely Plantlife, the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic, and the Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranéen de Porquerolles, France;
2. URGE the Steering Committee to clarify and formalize the system of membership and method of functioning of the network;
3. REQUEST the Steering Committee to further consider and prioritize the potential tasks proposed at Hyères;
4. URGE members of the Planta Europa network to maintain an active involvement in the network, and to support the Steering Committee in its vital work;
5. ENCOURAGE members of the Planta Europa network to recognize their shared responsibility for taking forward the objectives of Planta Europa by developing their own and joint initiatives;
6. RECOMMEND the continued and further development of close co-operation between the Planta Europa network and all relevant international partner conservation organizations and institutions;
7. ENCOURAGE the closer integration of existing initiatives that contribute to plant conservation avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring the most effective use of resources.

2. Important plant areas of Europe

RECALLING that the first Planta Europa conference proposed the identification of Important Plant Areas (IPAs) as a key project for the Planta Europa network;

RECOGNIZING the important steps taken by Plantlife, the nominated lead agency, to take the project forward;

APPRECIATING the financial support of many agencies in advancing this work, including the Council of Europe, BirdLife International, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Natural Heritage, the UK Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre;

APPRECIATING the efforts made at a national level to identify the IPAs of several countries, including Belarus, the Czech Republic, Greece, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and the UK;

ACKNOWLEDGING the publication of the list of important bryophyte sites in Europe;

ACKNOWLEDGING the important work being undertaken under the CORINE Biotope Programme, including its work in Central and Eastern Europe funded by PHARE;

NOTING the progress made in the development of selection criteria and the need for further work in refining these for practical application;

RECOGNIZING that this approach is complementary to existing European conservation initiatives, especially the work to implement Natura 2000, but is also essential to underpin these initiatives, thus ensuring a focus on plant conservation;

RECOGNIZING also the value of the IPA programme as an element to implement the Emerald Network and the Natura 2000 process in accession countries to the European Union;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. RESOLVE that the function of the European IPA programme is to conserve maximum plant diversity, by identifying and conserving a network of areas critical for the long-term viability of naturally occurring plants and their habitats across their geographical range;
2. DEFINE an IPA in Europe as a natural or semi-natural site exhibiting exceptional botanical richness and/or supporting an outstanding assemblage of rare, threatened and/or endemic plant species and/or vegetation of high botanic value;
3. AGREE that the three principles for IPA selection criteria are based on: a) globally and European threatened species; b) exceptional botanical richness; and c) habitat types of global or European importance;
4. SUPPORT the inclusion of data on cryptogams in the selection of IPAs;
5. REAFFIRM the urgent need to develop and implement the European IPA programme;
6. PROMOTE the programme as the priority both for wild plant conservation and the Planta Europa network;
7. URGE the Planta Europa Steering Committee to devote significant effort to the development of the programme;
8. CALL FOR stronger links and, where appropriate, integration with the implementation of existing international agreements and programmes, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Ramsar Convention; the Bern Convention (the Emerald Network); the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular Action Themes 1 and 11; the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC); the IUCN *Parks for Life* Programme; and appropriate national and international strategies and programmes;
9. CALL FOR financial support from, *inter alia*, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, UNEP, the Council for Europe, the European Union, other relevant international agencies and organizations including IUCN and WWF, and national governments.

3. Taxonomy and plant conservation

RECOGNIZING the crucial importance of taxonomy for conservation policy and action;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the necessity for taxonomists to address and promote biodiversity issues;

CONCERNED with the prevailing lack of resources for taxonomy, resulting in a shortage of trained taxonomists, inadequately curated collections and under-utilization of information contained in biological collections;

CONCERNED also with the general lack of appreciation for taxonomy among policy-makers, managers and educators, as well as the failure of many taxonomists to orient their work towards biodiversity issues;

FURTHER CONCERNED that many previous taxonomy initiatives, resolutions and action plans have failed to improve the situation;

TAKING NOTE OF the Articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Decision IV/1 of the 4th Conference of Parties (COP) (Bratislava, 1998) to further its Global Taxonomy Initiative;

ALSO TAKING NOTE OF the Darwin Declaration, being the basis for COP Decision IV/1, describing and suggesting action to remove impediments to taxonomic work;

RECOGNIZING the need to revise and further develop the work done under *Flora Europaea*;

ACKNOWLEDGING a range of current initiatives in favour of taxonomy;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. URGE increased support for taxonomic training and work;
2. WELCOME the emphasis on taxonomy in the CBD and in particular:
 - a) Support the CBD Global Taxonomy Initiative, urging it to build on existing initiatives, organizations and knowledge;
 - b) Recommend the CBD Executive Secretary take urgent action to implement the COP IV/1 Decision, including the appointment of a Taxonomy Program Officer and the establishment of a database of botanical experts;
 - c) Recommend that the Parties of CBD adopt a work programme based on regional workshops to address regional, national and local needs and options on taxonomy;
3. PROPOSE that members of the Planta Europa network contribute towards a regional workshop to examine the taxonomic needs and to set priorities for taxonomic work at a European level;
4. URGE funding agencies to recognize and support basic taxonomy orientated to the needs of conservation;
5. RECOMMEND taxonomy be considered as a key biodiversity issue for the implementation of the 5th Research and Technology Development framework of the European Union;
6. CALL FOR studies of school curricula in biology and proposals on how to modify them to stimulate an increased interest in plants and our dependence on them;
7. CALL FOR reforms in university-level biology, to increase possibilities for the teaching of practical expertise in taxonomy as part of studies in whole-plant biology;
8. RECOMMEND the creation of a pan-European list of stable names of species for legal purposes, and welcome initiatives such as the Euro+Med Plant Base as a contribution to this process.

4. The conservation of cryptogams

CONSIDERING the ecological importance of cryptogams, as shown:

- a) in the fungi by mycorrhizal symbionts, decomposers of litter and wood, in the lichens by primary colonization of bare substrates, and in the mosses and liverworts by their water-retention capacity, and
- b) by the great species diversity in cryptogams, comprising mosses (c. 1200 species in Europe), liverworts (c. 500 species in Europe), lichens (c. 2500 species in Europe), fungi (c. 30,000 species in Europe) and algae;

NOTING the decline and threatened status of many species in Europe, as shown by:

- a) the European bryophyte Red Data Book, which lists c. 25% of the flora as threatened;
- b) the list of threatened lichens in the European Union;
- c) the national Red Lists of macrofungi, which include a total of c. 3000 species threatened in at least one country;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. ENCOURAGE the botanical community to make increased efforts to raise

awareness among scientists, land managers, politicians and conservationists of the importance of cryptogams, by means of education and publicity;

2. ENCOURAGE nature conservation organizations to employ cryptogamic botanists to facilitate the conservation of cryptogams;
3. URGE the compilation of national checklists of cryptogamic taxa and their amalgamation into a European checklist, with an indication of the distribution of each species; and the publication of Red Lists and the production of popular publications to promote conservation and raise the status of cryptogams;
4. RECOMMEND that the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and the European Commission consider the inclusion on Appendix 1 of the Bern Convention and Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive, of selected threatened fungi (including lichenized fungi), in particular species
 - a) that are distinctive,
 - b) that represent specific habitats,
 - c) that occur in communities with many other threatened cryptogams, and
 - d) that are representative of sites rich in cryptogams;
5. FURTHER RECOMMEND that the European Union consider the need for including on Annex V of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) the larger fungi and lichens that are commercially harvested on a large scale, and of strengthening the wording of the accompanying Article 14, and to assist this process RECOMMEND that a project be undertaken to determine the influence of mushroom harvesting in Europe, both on the long-term sustainability of these fungi and the secondary effects on their habitats;
6. SUGGEST that conservation agencies make special efforts to promote the effective conservation of habitats in which cryptogams form a significant component, such as semi-natural grasslands, bogs, sand dunes, saxicolous and epiphytic communities, and forests on oligotrophic soils;
7. COMMEND the use of cryptogams as indicator species for the identification of ancient habitats that are of special importance for rare and threatened species, such as ancient grasslands, old-growth forests and pasture woodland;
8. RECOMMEND the development of an *ex-situ* strategy for the conservation of cryptogams in Europe and its integration into conservation programmes.

5. European policies and plant conservation

CONSIDERING the role which Planta Europa as a network can play in providing the scientific information to support a strategic vision, coordination and policy focus for the conservation of wild plants in accordance with the concept of sustainable development as articulated in Agenda 21;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the ongoing 'Environment for Europe' process;

RECOGNIZING the vital contribution that the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the Bern Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements have made to raising the profile of biodiversity conservation issues among decision-makers in Europe;

RECOGNIZING that further scientific information is still needed to underpin the selection of ecosystems, habitats and species as priorities for conservation through existing and developing policy frameworks, especially in the countries acceding to the European Union but also in the present Member States;

CONSIDERING that plant conservation is a key component of biodiversity strategies and action plans within different sectoral policies, particularly agriculture, rural development and land use planning, as well as forestry, tourism and recreation;

CONSIDERING that the different approaches to biodiversity conservation complement each other and that it is important to recognize and foster the synergy between:

- protected areas of various sizes, with development of adequate management programmes;
- micro-reserves;
- *in-situ* and *ex-situ* species conservation programmes;
- ecological corridors and stepping stones;
- conservation in the wider environment outside protected areas;
- awareness-raising initiatives for engaging the community at all levels;
- integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies;

RECOGNIZING how conservation can be a valuable tool in forging a common European identity and how Planta Europa partners can have a crucial role in this process;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. SUPPORT and PROMOTE the concept of Important Plant Areas as an important element to implement the Emerald Network and the Natura 2000 process in the European Union accession countries;
2. URGE continued and strengthened support for LIFE Nature (III) in view of the exceptional and irreplaceable role this instrument has played for conservation, especially in educational and experimental fields;
3. URGE national authorities to make the best use of other EU instruments such as agri-environment measures, Structural Funds, Cohesion Funds and EU funds for other countries including PHARE and TACIS;
4. URGE candidate EU countries and the EU to pay due attention to biodiversity in the enlargement process;
5. AGREE, as resources allow, to help in:
 - a) Monitoring and evaluating the benefits and damage to biodiversity from programmes implemented under existing instruments;
 - b) Sharing information and guidance on organizations, funding structures and other support mechanisms and sources;
 - c) Improving links with national focal points for relevant international and European programmes and initiatives (such as National Focal Points and National Reference Centres of the European Environment Agency, National Focal Points within the Convention of Biological Diversity, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere National Committees);
 - d) Contributing to the discussion and development of conservation policy including the integration of biodiversity into sectoral policy in Central and Eastern Europe and in the countries of the former Soviet Union;
 - e) Contributing through botanical representatives in the Committees of Experts and through other appropriate fora to implement the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, in particular to integrate Important Plant Areas into the Pan European Ecological Network;
 - f) Collating examples of positive experiences across different sectors and partnership approaches for feedback to policy-makers;
 - g) Collaborating on the development of a rural policy action plan to include:
 - i) Identification of conservation priorities for farmed landscapes;
 - ii) Design of conservation prescriptions;
 - iii) Raising of public awareness;
 - iv) Monitoring and evaluating the benefits to biodiversity from existing programmes.

6. The identification of threatened species

RECOGNIZING that the IUCN Red Lists of Threatened Species are the main sources of scientifically-based information regarding the global status of species;

CONGRATULATING the work undertaken so far by a network of botanists, working closely with the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of IUCN - the World Conservation Union and with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC);

RECOGNIZING that the IUCN Red List categories (1994) are a major step forward towards objective classification of species threatened with extinction;

REALIZING that some criteria and definitions of this system are difficult to use or interpret in a consistent manner for certain groups of plants;

AWARE that a Criteria Working Group is currently planning to review the IUCN Criteria as mandated by the first World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996);

AWARE that a Regional Assessment Working Group, with the aim of developing guidelines for using the IUCN Red List criteria at regional and national levels, is currently being formed;

RECOGNIZING that:

- a) There is a need to detect and counteract species decline at an early stage and that this can be done more easily on a national than on a global scale;
- b) A great deal of expertise, commitments and resources is available mainly at national levels; and
- c) Most conservation activities, as well as most legislation, are at the national level;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second European conference on the conservation wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. ENDORSE the 1994 IUCN Red List criteria as the standard for assessing degree of threat;
2. RECOMMEND that all those involved in identifying threatened species work closely with the IUCN Criteria Working Group, by providing input into the review process and assisting on the development of guidelines for use with specific plant groups, and that those so involved at a national or regional level also provide input to the IUCN Regional Assessment Working Group to assist them develop guidelines for assessments at such levels;*
3. REQUEST that IUCN/SSC and WCMC work closely together to implement the IUCN Red List Programme, to ensure that plants, in particular European taxa, are evaluated with the new criteria, with special emphasis on the non-vascular groups not evaluated so far, including fungi and marine algal species;
4. RECOMMEND that the European Red List project developed by the Council of Europe and the SSC Specialist Groups work closely with the global IUCN Red List Programme to ensure that the work is compatible, mutually supportive and that duplication is avoided;
5. RECOMMEND that, in addition to collaborating on a European Red List, all those interested in identifying threatened species participate in and/or support the elaboration of national Red Lists for all European countries, using the new IUCN Red List criteria and the awaited guidelines for their regional application;
6. RECOMMEND that conservation information on plants needs to be increased, especially by:
 - a) Strengthening and capacitating networks to undertake this work;
 - b) Providing comprehensive documentation of the listed species;
 - c) Supporting the further development of *Atlas Florae Europaeae* that maps the distribution of plant species in Europe.

* Input into these Working Groups can be sent to the Working Group Chairs (for the Criteria and Guidelines, to Dr Georgina Mace, London Zoological Society, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY; g.mace@ucl.ac.uk; for the Regional Assessment Working Group, to Dr Ulf Gärdenfors, Swedish Threatened Species Unit, P.O. Box 7007, S-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden; Ulf.Gardenfors@dha.slu.se)

7. Forestry and its impact on flora

RECOGNIZING the growing threats to the remaining natural forests of Europe, and the urgent need for increasing the area and representativeness of all protected forests in Europe;

AWARE of the importance of emulating natural dynamics in forest management;

AWARE of the importance of adequate restoration of many European forests, in particular those threatened by invasive exotic species;

RECOGNIZING the importance of including the landscape perspective in the understanding of the influence of forests on biodiversity;

AWARE of the need to identify threatened tree species and other plant species that depend on Europe's forests for their survival;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of existing initiatives to further elaborate indicators for monitoring and assessing species and habitat diversity in forests;

WELCOMING the Pan-European "Work-Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems" (1997-2000), as well as other regional, European Union and international efforts to address forest biodiversity;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second European conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. RECOMMEND that all countries should protect natural forests, especially old-growth stands, and should put a moratorium on cutting such rare stands;
2. RECOMMEND that organizations responsible for forests in all countries should use landscape approaches for biodiversity conservation, such as gap analysis, in the evaluation and improvement of the network of forest protected areas, taking into account the work currently undertaken by WWF and WCMC;
3. RECOMMEND that all countries exchange knowledge on "close-to-nature" management methods which combine production with considerations of natural flora and forest habitats, and on restoration methods, and URGE the Planta Europa Steering Committee to assist this initiative;
4. RECOMMEND that all countries make efforts to increase knowledge of flora

and vegetational aspects of ecological landscape planning, including dispersal mechanisms (especially of possible invaders), fragmentation and ecotones;

5. RECOMMEND that all countries should consider protection of habitats important for biodiversity in their afforestation schemes, including those associated with the Kyoto Protocol of the Framework Convention on Climate Change;
6. RECOMMEND that forestry certification agencies further develop biodiversity aspects in national certification schemes;
7. RECOMMEND that FAO continues its effort to further integrate consideration of biodiversity in its Forest Resource Assessment, including in particular the threatened and endemic plant species occurring in forests;
8. ENCOURAGE members of the Planta Europa network to co-operate in the implementation of the Pan-European Work Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems.

8 Agriculture and plant conservation

RECOGNIZING that because of Europe's long history of human settlement and the dominance of agriculture in land use, Europe's floral richness is highly dependent on the maintenance of farming systems sympathetic with the conservation of wild plants and their habitats;

NOTING that many European countries will only be able to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity by conserving species and habitats that depend on agricultural systems;

AWARE that rapid agricultural changes over the last century have caused simplification of farming ecosystems, intensification of production, decline in livestock numbers and the abandonment of land and traditional practices to the detriment of wild plants; and that many rare, declining or threatened species are associated with the remaining extensive agricultural systems which have low nutrient status and input;

RECOGNIZING the need for Planta Europa to win the support of farmers to achieve its mission;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second European conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. RESOLVE that members of the network should use their best efforts to promote sustainable agricultural processes and systems which support a rich and diverse native flora, preventing wherever possible invasion by alien species, in particular paying attention to the importance of the following:

a) Species-rich grasslands, which need protection from both intensification and abandonment, requiring the maintenance of traditional patterns of cutting and grazing and of appropriate water regimes;

b) Wild flowers of arable land which in many countries are now one of the most threatened elements of the flora, noting that some areas may contain a rich variety of these in the seed bank, even where herbicides have been used in the recent past;

c) Areas traditionally characterized by a high density of natural features and mosaic landscapes aware that in such areas attention will need to be paid to the quantity and quality of water bodies;

2. RESOLVE that Planta Europa members generate and demonstrate public approval for financial support to agriculture for the provision of environmental benefits, in particular those resulting in the maintenance of floristic richness.
3. SUPPORT the use of agri-environment measures to promote the conservation of these habitats, and encourage Ministries of Agriculture and Environment to use the identification of Important Plant Areas as a means of prioritization;
4. RESOLVE that members of the Planta Europa network should seek to ensure that schemes to promote the conservation of wild plants on agricultural land are based on ecologically researched prescriptions and are properly monitored and evaluated to determine their impact on biodiversity.

9. European union agricultural policy and plant conservation

RECOGNIZING the need to reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union (EU) in the light of EU enlargement, budgetary and environmental problems, and taking into consideration the potential environmental risks and benefits from the forthcoming World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement;

NOTING that the European Commission has itself identified the conservation and management of biodiversity and the environment as one of the objectives of its reform;

AWARE that the EU's Biodiversity Strategy and the full implementation of the Amsterdam Treaty requirements to integrate the environment into agricultural policy can only be achieved if a range of agri-environment measures are included in the CAP;

AWARE of the contribution that agriculture and multi-function rural communities have in protecting and conserving plant diversity both in the EU and other European countries;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second European conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. RECOMMENDS the EU Agriculture Ministers to:

a) Support the environmentally beneficial aspects of Agenda 2000 CAP reforms, especially:

i) Proposals to replace price support and production subsidies with direct acreage payments to farmers, these payments being subject to environmental conditions;

ii) The increased importance placed on agri-environment measures;

b) Support the development of an integrated rural policy, including policy for Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) and agri-environment policies, in which conservation and management of plant diversity is a central objective;

c) Provide more funds for agri-environment research;

2. RECOMMENDS Agriculture Ministers of both EU Member and Accession States to develop agri-environment pilot programmes and strategies which are targeted with regard to botanically important areas, so that these should be central to rural policy on accession.

10. Vote of thanks

APPRECIATING the warm and generous hospitality received in Uppsala;

VALUING the very efficient organization of the conference;

ENJOYING the special atmosphere of the "*locus classicus scientiae amabilis*" and

CONSIDERING that the second conference of Planta Europa is an important step in ensuring the fascinating diversity of Europe's wild plant life;

The participants of Planta Europa, the second European conference on the conservation of wild plants, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-14 June 1998:

1. THANK most warmly the Swedish Minister of Environment for her encouraging and challenging opening speech;

2. THANK very cordially the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) for hosting the conference and the Swedish Threatened Species Unit at SLU in collaboration with Plantlife, the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic and IUCN for their excellent work in organizing the conference;

3. ALSO THANK personally the staff of the many organizations who have provided the support without which the conference could not have been held;

4. ALSO THANK the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, WWF Sweden, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture and Nature Management and Fisheries and the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the Swedish Institute for their generous contributions and for all they have done to make the conference such a success;

5. ALSO THANK the many other sponsors and organizations who have provided the support without which the conference could not be held, namely AssiDomän AB, the Council of Europe, the Federation of Swedish Farmers, the Municipality of Uppsala, the Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (Sweden), Scottish Natural Heritage, STORA AB, the Swedish Biodiversity Centre and the Swedish Scientific Council on Biodiversity;

6. EXPRESS their warm appreciation to all those participants who have contributed to the successful work of the conference.