



PLANTA EUROPA CONFERENCE
23-28 June 2001, Pruhonic, near Prague, Czech Republic

Developing a Plant Conservation Strategy for Europe

1. Overview

The third Planta Europa conference in June 2001 will focus on the development of a *Plant Conservation Strategy for Europe*. The aim is to produce a framework for plant conservation in Europe which will ultimately become part of a newly emerging Global Plant Conservation Strategy currently under discussion by SBSTTA.

The Strategy will be submitted to the November meeting of SBSTTA. Following this meeting further consultation with interested parties will be undertaken. It will then be published prior to its final submission to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), in the Netherlands (April 2002) at which the establishment of a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is to be debated.

2. Who is the Strategy for?

The Strategy will be pragmatic document for nature conservation practitioners both within the Planta Europa network and the wider family of conservation Networks active in Europe. Thus it will link to the work of IUCN-SSC (Plant Conservation Programme 2000-2005); the World Wide Fund for Nature (please see submission to SBSTTA by Alan Hamilton, Head of the International Plant Conservation Unit); BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International (International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation) and Fauna and Flora International, all of whom are participating in the conference.

Government participation comes through the Council of Europe's involvement in the funding and formulation of the Strategy, as well as active participation by many representatives of Government departments and agencies across Europe.

The Planta Europa conference will also be launching full membership of the Planta Europa Network who will be involved in the implementation of the Strategy.

3. The Strategy Document

It is intended that the *Plant Conservation Strategy for Europe* will facilitate the targeting of resources and ultimately lead to the delivery of more effective plant conservation in Europe.

At its core will be **realistic objectives and targets** that need to be implemented to ensure a healthy future for Europe's wild plants and their habitats. In the final document the objectives and targets to be implemented by the Network will be linked to recommendations to the governments of the Council of Europe, within the framework of the CBD. Endorsement of the published Strategy will be sought from all those organisations that participated at the Conference – i.e. Statutory Agencies, NGOs, Universities, botanical institutions and other organisations from across Europe.

The Strategy will cover a period of six years and will be developed and refined through a series of participatory workshops at the conference.

4. The Strategy Workshops

The Strategy workshops will be led by Dr Christoph Imboden, a strategic planning expert who has worked with many organisations including IUCN-SSC, Plantlife and WWF. He will be assisted by 10 experienced facilitators familiar with European plant conservation issues.

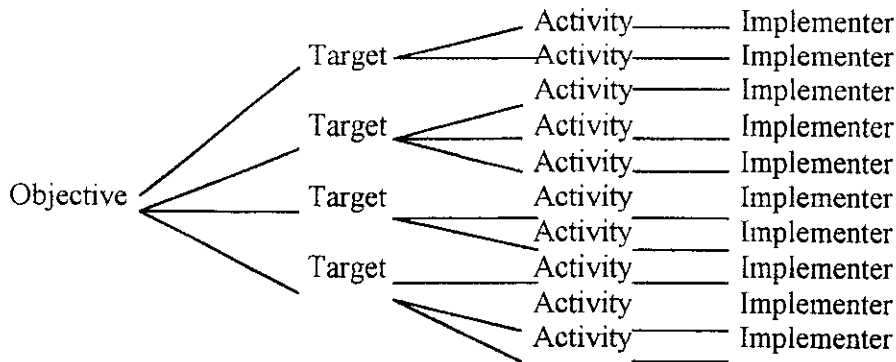
Delegates will choose to participate in one of 5 workshops, each of which will run for 2 days. The workshops will discuss the following themes:

- Species Research (information gathering)
- Species Action (on the ground)
- Plant Areas Research (information gathering)
- Plant Areas Action (action on the ground)

The fifth group will take an overview of the whole process looking at the framework of the Strategy and other areas the specialist groups might inadvertently miss out (they will be known as a 'rogue' group). (Refer to the flow chart on page 3.)

Within these workshops delegates will be asked to:

- Establish an **overall objective**
- Develop 6 year **targets** for the objective
- **Prioritise targets**
- Assign **activities** for some chosen targets
- **Identify implementers** who are able to carry out the activities.



All targets will be **SMART**: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timed.

There are some topics that will be relevant to the discussion in more than one workshop and cross-group workshops sessions will be arranged to allow for this.

5. Materials for delegates

Prior to the conference delegates will receive:

- a) A **background summary document** of wider contextual information
- b) A **paper by Christoph Imboden** preparing delegates for the Strategy process
- c) A short **Questionnaire** for delegates to answer and return to the Planta Europa Co-ordinator, Liz Radford, before the conference.

The Strategy will discuss the conservation of

WILD PLANTS and their HABITATS

