

PLANTA EUROPA

CRETE DECLARATION 2014

The participants of the 7th Planta Europa Conference on the Conservation of European wild plants and fungi held in Kolympari, Chania, Crete (Greece), 21-25 May 2014 with the theme "Plants for People, People for Plants":

Know that the functioning of Planet Earth, and our survival, depends upon plants; that wild plants are essential to life and human well-being;

Acknowledge that wild plants (algae, bryophytes and vascular plants) and fungi play a key role in providing ecosystem services; maintaining the planet's environmental balance and ecosystem stability e.g. cleaning air and water;

Aware that the conservation of natural habitats is a vital component of the protection and conservation of wild flora;

Note that the European plants are amongst the most threatened wild species in the world;

Note the tremendous species diversity of fungi, their crucial place within many biological interactions, and their underpinning of several ecosystem services;

Recall the importance of the European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014 (ESPC), developed by the Planta Europa network in collaboration with the Council of Europe in Romania in 2007; as a regional contribution to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) 2011-2020 of the Convention of Biological Diversity, endorsed by CBD-COP 10 in Nagoya;

Emphasize the close relationship of the GSPC targets to the Aichi targets of the CBD strategic plan and thus the important role of the GSPC and the ESPC in contributing to the delivery of CBD Strategic plan (2010);

Recall the need to continue the implementation of the recommendations of the Krakow Declaration 2011, adopted by the participants of the 6th Planta Europa Conference in Krakow;

Acknowledge the ongoing progress with the implementation of both the European and Global Strategies for Plant Conservation detailed in review carried out by Plantlife and BGCI in 2014; especially the progress with documenting the extent of and threats to plant diversity, development of innovative methodologies for plant conservation, and high quality education and awareness raising activities;

Welcome the participation of representatives of conservation organisations in Algeria, Armenia, Canada, Kazakhstan and Pakistan in the Planta Europa conference;

Acknowledge the efforts Armenia and Kazakhstan to implement the GSPC through new Important Plant Areas initiatives;

Welcome the following decision that contribute to European and global plant conservation

Decision XI/26 on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP11), Hyderabad (India), October 2012;

The EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, adopted by the European Commission in May 2011, and the Conclusion on the implementation of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, adopted by the European Parliament in April 2012;

Recommendation no 159 (2013) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (Council of Europe), adopted on 30 November 2012, on the effective implementation of guidance for parties on biodiversity and climate change;

Recommendation no 168 (2013) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (Council of Europe), adopted on 6 December 2013, on the European Charter of Fungi – gathering and biodiversity;

Recommendation no 167 (2013) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (Council of Europe), adopted on 6 December 2013, on the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and Invasive Alien Species.

The conference:

1. **Reaffirms** Planta Europa's commitment to the implementation of the GSPC and which remains an invaluable global framework for plant conservation;
2. **Decides to extend** the current ESPC 2008-2014 at least until the next Planta Europa conference;
3. **Redoubles our efforts** to deliver and promote the GSPC at national level alongside the EPSC;
4. **Requests** national, regional and international authorities, conservation organisations, private companies and citizens in the field of nature, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, health, planning, trade in plant products, spatial planning, and environmental issues to:
 - collaborate with all relevant actors involved in plant conservation activities in implementing relevant (inter)national agreements on plant conservation and in helping disseminate good practices;
 - promote education and awareness on the need to protect the wild plants and fungi in Europe, and to conserve their habitats;
 - provide, as appropriate, the Planta Europa Network with information about the progress towards the implementation of the targets of the European Strategy for Plant Conservation;
5. **Encourages** its members and partners to develop additional multi-country cross sector partnerships, in those areas of the European and global plant strategies where implementation needs improvement – particular activities that improve the conservation status of plant and fungi species and important sites and the sustainable use production lands;
6. **Encourages** members and partners to explore the possibilities of engaging citizens in scientific and conservation activities that safeguard wild plants and their habitats (*e.g. protest against chemical waste in the sea of Crete and climate change awareness*).

The conference participants express their gratitude to the “green” Patriarch, His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew of Constantinople, the Spiritual Mentor of the Orthodox Academy of Crete, for His inspiration in the care of the biodiversity and to the Institute of Theology and Ecology of the Orthodox Academy of Crete for hosting the 7th Planta Europa Conference.

Done in Kolympari, Crete (Greece), 24th May 2014