

## 2010 DECLARATION FROM CRETE ON PLANT BIODIVERSITY

### The Participants of the International Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wild Plant Diversity (CSUWPD) on Crete, 4-8 May 2010:

- *Thank* the Institute of Theology and Ecology at the Orthodox Academy of Crete for their invitation and hospitality;
- *Welcome* the initiative taken by the **Institute of Theology and Ecology at the Orthodox Academy of Crete** to organise this event in co-operation with **Planta Europa** and recognise it as valuable opportunity to establish collaborations among various organisations and initiatives involved in the conservation of wild plants;
- *Refer to:*
  - the decision by the General Assembly of the United Nations to declare 2010 International Year of Biodiversity;
  - the rate at which animal and plant species are becoming extinct and the pace at which ecosystems are being destroyed (IUCN). With each passing hour, three species are lost worldwide(WWF/IoZ/ZSL May 2008)
  - the undertaking given by states that have signed the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) to halt biodiversity loss by 2010;
  - the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979);
  - the European Landscape Convention;
  - Directive 92/43/EEC of the Council of the European Communities on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, as regards the protection of habitats;
  - the Decisions VI/9, VII/10 and IX/3 on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Conservation on Biological Diversity respectively at its Sixth meeting (The Hague, The Netherlands, 7-19 April 2002), at its Seventh meeting (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9-20 February 2004), and at its Ninth meeting (Bonn, Germany, 19-30 May 2008);
  - the European Plant Conservation Strategy (2001) and the European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014, developed by the Planta Europa Network and the Council of Europe;
  - Recommendation no. 87 (2001) on the European Plant Conservation Strategy, adopted by the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), on 30 November 2001;
  - Recommendation no. 138 (2008) on the European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-2014, adopted by the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), on 27 November 2008;
- *Declare that:*
  1. **Biodiversity loss imperils the future of planet earth and all life on it: Plants are among the basis for all life and without plant diversity, life on earth might cease;**
  2. **Biodiversity loss can be identified as an outcome of human irresponsibility and behaviour disorder, with its symptom, Referential Integrity Deficit, occurring when environmental action, based on privately claimed moral and ethical principles, shows no corresponding public behaviour.**
  3. **Effective communication among all stakeholders is the key factor in assuring the successful management of plant diversity conservation.**
  4. **Active participation of all people, particularly young people, in biodiversity conservation efforts should be encouraged and actively supported through education and awareness initiatives.**
  5. **Global networks of biodiversity reserves and important plant areas, supported by legislation, should be given top priority. They underpin the economic, social and cultural benefits of conservation, none of which should be undervalued;**
  6. **Research and the implementation of standards for sustainable harvesting and use of wild plant resources are vital to ensure their conservation;**
  7. **Best practices in conserving wild plant diversity must be built on to derive maximum value for money and to achieve the best return for plant diversity over the shortest period of time.**
- *Undertake* to promote this declaration;
- *Decide* to transmit this declaration to the SIXTH Conference of Planta Europa in, Krakow (Poland), 23-27 May 2011.