



Annual Report 2007

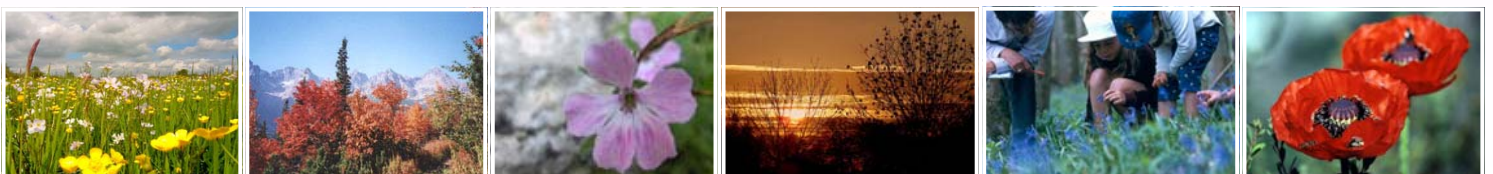
Planta Europa is a network of organisations working together for plant conservation in Europe, through the implementation of the European Strategy for Plant Conservation. The Network has 74 member organisations in 35 European countries and its vision is:
a world in which wild plants are valued – now and for the future.

2007 was another busy and challenging year for Planta Europa. The groundbreaking Planta Europa and Council of Europe *European Plant Conservation Strategy* came to the end of its six year term in 2007. A thorough review of its implementation, laid the foundations for the development of a second Strategy at the 5th Planta Europa Conference in Romania in September. This new document sets out a targeted programme for plant conservation in Europe that will direct the work of Planta Europa until 2014.

A few faces changed in the Secretariat during 2007, two interns from Spain sponsored by the EU Leonardo Da Vinci programme, helped significantly with the day-to-day working of the Secretariat, and we are delighted that this collaboration will continue in 2008. Some constitutional change is on the horizon; a new company Planta Europa Ltd was formed in 2007, and the Steering Committee will now work to integrate the existing constitution into this legally independent entity.

In 2008 the Secretariat looks forward to working with the Network on promotion and implementation of the new Strategy, engaging with the development of European agricultural and invasive species policy and using the Strategy to influence the vision for post 2010 biodiversity policy in Europe.

Elizabeth Radford, Head of the Planta Europa Secretariat



Planta Europa Highlights 2007

V Planta Europa Conference (Romania) – Partnerships

In September the Planta Europa Conference took place in the gracious city of Cluj Napoca, Romania, hosted by the Association of Botanical Gardens of Romania and the University. The dual aims were the celebration of plant conservation partnerships and the development of a new European Strategy for Plant Conservation, to direct the work of the Network up to 2014. Delegates from more than 30 countries participated in the meeting including a significant number of representatives from new Member organisations, further expanding the knowledge base of the Network.

The conference proved to be another unforgettable event where participants worked hard to embed emerging challenges for wild plants in Europe into the targets of the new strategy; specifically climate change, cross sector partnerships, continued agricultural change and threats from invasive species. The continued imperative to improve and create conservation partnerships with the farming and forestry sectors and to increase our awareness raising efforts was underlined.

Wake Up Call: voting for favourite wild plants

The pan-European campaign for raising public awareness about plant conservation – the *Wake Up Call* - gained momentum in 2007. The Planta Europa website became truly multilingual as Members from 12 countries (Ukraine, Luxembourg, Germany, France, Latvia, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Austria, Spain, Italy and the Czech Republic) uploaded campaign information translated into their national language. Photographs and information of a selection of species representing each country are now live, and in 2008 the public can vote for their favourite wild plant at http://www.plantaeuropa.org/pe-raising_awareness-wuc.htm.

Skill share for wild plants

Representatives from Important Plant Area teams in Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia (FYR) and Montenegro attended the first European training programme for wild plant conservation run by two member organisations: Plantlife International (UK) and Floron (The Netherlands). The programme was designed to build capacity for plant conservation through hands on experience and two-way exchange of expertise. Topics included organisational management, development of conservation projects, fundraising and field visits to conservation projects.

Important Plant Areas (IPAs)

The IPA database was launched online at the beginning of the year, giving public access to data for sites across Central Europe (<http://www.plantlifeipa.org/reports.asp>). AGRB Romania published a full inventory of Romanian IPAs in 2007 and 158 IPAs were recognised in the UK. On the ground conservation projects began on IPAs in Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro.

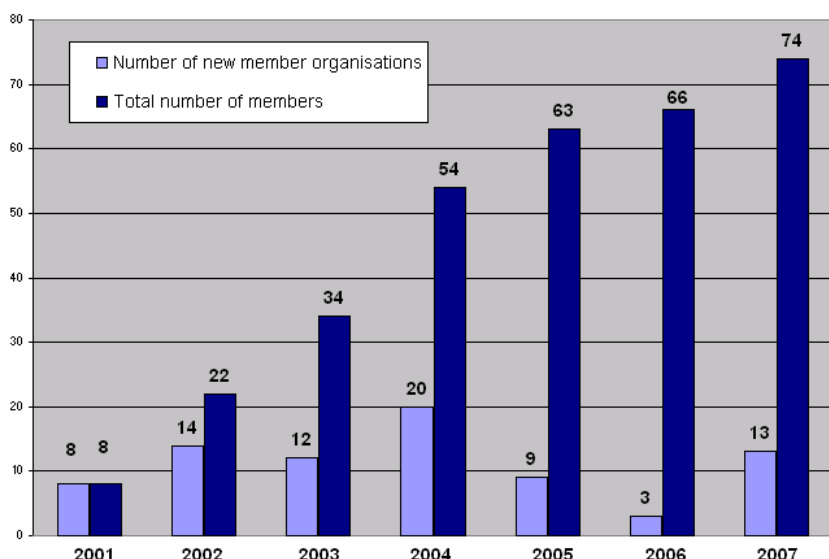


Network governance

New President and Steering Committee

Prof. Dr. Anca Sarbu succeeded Dr. Torleif Ingelog as Network President, we thank Torleif for 12 years of commitment to Planta Europa. Five new Steering Committee members were elected in September. The full committee for the period to the next conference is: Antoni Aguilera (South/West), Aulikki Alanen (North), Lucas Andrianos (South/Islands) Mora Aronsson (North), Francois Boillot (West), Handrij Hartel (Central), Oleg Maslovsky (East), Eleni Maloupa (South East) Zbigniew Mirek (Central) Claudia Perini (South/Fungi) Elizabeth Radford (Secretariat representative) Jan-Willem Sneep (Chair) Lars Söderström (North/Lower Plants).

Planta Europa membership (2001 - 2007)



Membership update

13 new members joined the Planta Europa network in 2007. At the end of year the Network membership comprised **74** government and non governmental organisations from **35** of the 45 European countries. Whilst membership numbers are increasing, searching for potential members in the remaining 10 countries (including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Malta and Serbia), is an objective for 2008.

Planta Europa Income and Expenditure for 2007

Overall the income and expenditure for Planta Europa have been greater in 2007 than 2006, due to activities associated with the fifth Planta Europa conference in Romania. We are grateful for the support of the major donors: the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality for the Netherlands, Artdatabanken and the Council of Europe, without whom this event could not have taken place.

Secretariat expenditure (excluding the conference) has reduced by over 50% in 2007; in line with the efforts to ensure that Planta Europa expenditure is commensurate with income. The annual deficits present in previous years have been removed.

Full time coordination for Planta Europa has only been possible in 2007 due to the tremendous contribution of volunteers; specifically two interns from Spain who were able to work for the Secretariat through sponsorship by the EU Leonardo Da Vinci programme. In 2008 the Planta Europa secretariat will be part time, with the assistance of another 'Leonardo intern' expected for at least part of 2008.

Continues overleaf

Planta Europa Income and Expenditure for 2007 (Euros ¹)			
	2007 In kind	2007 Cash	2006 Cash
INCOME			
Secretariat			
Membership subscriptions		13,538	10,174
Grants and trusts		27,913	13,047
Volunteer: Intern	12,854		
Travel: Steering Committee ²	9,500		
		Secretariat income	23,221
Conference			
Registration fees		32,165	
Council of Europe (Bem Experts)		10,052	
Min. of Agric., Nature & Food Quality, NL		29,301	
Artdatabanken, SLU		14,000	
Other		13,717	
Volunteer facilitators and workshop coordinators ³	122,500		
		Conference income	-
Total Planta Europa income	144,854	140,686	23,221
EXPENDITURE			
Secretariat			
Salary with overheads		23,155	64,743
Travel and subsistence		1,661	4,175
ESPC review: writing, production, SBSTTA promotion		10,471	5,625
Miscellaneous: Bank, legal, recruitment, web		692	5,257
DEBTORS Outstanding subscriptions written off		2,874	
		Secretariat expenditure	79,800
Conference			
Conference costs in Romania		77,615	
Secretariat preparation and participation		4,931	
Grants for participants		16,361	
		Conference expenditure	-
Total Planta Europa expenditure	-	137,760	79,800
Carry Forward 2008 - restricted funds Strategy		2,926	
1. Annual average Euro exchange rate has been used to convert from GBP to EUR when the specific rate was unavailable: 1 GBP = 1.46 EUR			
2. 19 people travel and subsistence to meetings @ 500€ per meeting			
3. 14 facilitators total 35 days @ min. rate €250 per day			

After the conference, the other major expenditure in 2007 was the review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy (2001-2007). We are very grateful for the Council of Europe's continued involvement with and support of this process. Steering Committee members and their organisations, continue to support their own participation in meetings. Without this commitment the Network could not function.

Future outlook - 2008



Spring: The New European Strategy for Plant Conservation (ESPC) will be launched at CBD – COP9 in Bonn as the continuing European contribution to the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), the global framework for plant conservation.

Summer: An on-line European Information Platform will be developed on the Planta Europa website. Information on ESPC targets and case studies will be presented, and organisations encouraged to contribute information on the activities they are undertaking that contribute to the Strategy's implementation. This platform is aimed at promoting wider interaction among plant conservationists in Europe, and highlighting successes and progress with the new Strategy to existing and new audiences.

2008: Public voting in the Wake Up Call campaign. Participant member organisations will work to actively promote the project in their countries through the media, together with producing educational materials to involve students and the general public. The public will vote on their favourite flowers in each country and the final results will be announced at the end of July.

Please take a moment to vote at
http://www.plantaeuropa.org/pe-raising_awareness-wuc.htm

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