



# PLANTA • EUROPA



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## Annual Report 2006

Saving the wild plants of Europe, now and for the future

Planta Europa, the Network of plant conservation bodies in Europe, is unique in that it brings together experts from all sectors such as governments, conservationists and researchers to work jointly towards the common goal of saving plant diversity for future generations.

2006 proved to be another successful year for Planta Europa. With the 5th Planta Europa Conference due to be held in Romania this September, 2007 looks set to be an even more exciting year.

As the first *European Plant Conservation Strategy*, endorsed by 46 European governments, reaches its close, the conference will set the challenge of developing a new set of targets for plant conservation in Europe. At the upcoming conference, Planta Europa experts and partners will combine their expertise towards the creation of a new roadmap to conserve plant diversity in Europe for future generations.

I am looking forward to another year of effective cooperation for wild plants in Europe

*Jonathan Rudge, Executive Director*





## Planta Europa Highlights 2006

### The new Planta Europa website - a platform for communication

The Planta Europa website underwent a dramatic facelift at the end of last year. It is now extremely easy to navigate for our members and the wider public and is an effective platform for European plant conservation interaction. [www.plantaeuropa.org](http://www.plantaeuropa.org)

### Important Plant Areas

Identifying and protecting Europe's most important areas for wild plants remains a cornerstone of Planta Europa's activities. Exciting progress was made in 2006:

- Several national and one regional report were published following on from 2005's list of identified IPAs in Central and Eastern Europe.
- All of Belarus' IPAs have been put under legal protection.
- A new IPA project has started in Croatia, Bulgaria, Montenegro & Macedonia kindly supported by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the MAVA foundation.

### Making links: Planta Europa and the European Union

During *Green Week* in June 2006, Planta Europa presented its work to representatives of the European Institutions. Jan Plesnik, an advisor to the Planta Europa network, talked about the importance of "data, data, data" and suggested ways to combine monitoring, indicators and processes to improve environmental planning and impact assessments. The secretariat also went to Brussels in November to discuss with key NGOs and the European Commission how nature legislation in the EU can provide better support for plant diversity.

### Steering Committee in Romania (May) and Slovenia (November)

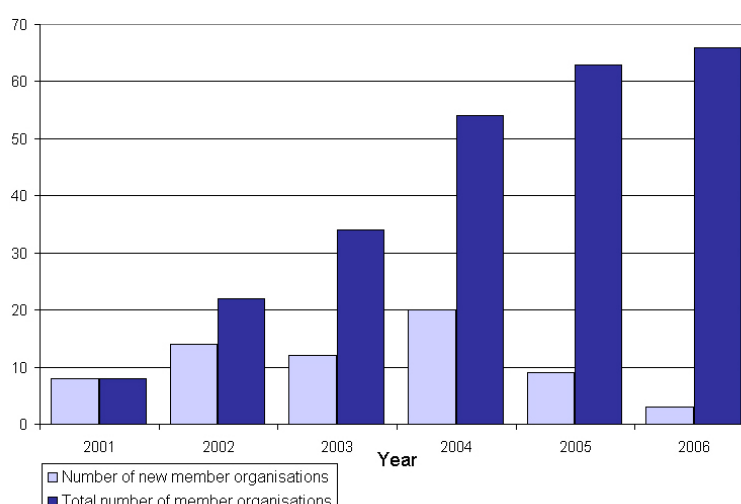
The Steering Committee met twice this year to prepare the upcoming Planta Europa Conference "Working Together for Plants". Other important issues discussed were the review of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and how a new European Plant Conservation Strategy could be developed in the year to come. Representatives of Planta Europa met with Romanian & Slovenian officials and discussed progress under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

### Membership development

Since establishing formal membership in 2001, Planta Europa has grown steadily in number.

Today, the Network has 64 members from 34 European countries and includes governmental, non-governmental and scientific organisations, all working towards the common goal of saving Europe's plant diversity for future generations.

Planta Europa Membership Development



## Planta Europa Income & Expenditure for 2006

Although not directly comparable, 2006 has recorded a significant fall (22%) in income from the average of the previous 3 years. This is largely a result of a reduced income from the Dutch Government BBI MATRA funding for Planta Europa activities within the new South East Europe IPA Programme.

Expenditure increased by over 10% in 2006, largely due to costs related to the redevelopment of the website and the preparation of the online EPCS review (supported by the Council of Europe).

Plantlife International's funding of the deficit rose from an average 55% in 2003-05 to 70% in 2006. This is a considerable increase of €18,000.

Notable is the significant amount of in kind contributions recorded for the first time. This is made up of volunteers working in the secretariat and steering committee members funding their own travel and subsistence. The value of this in kind contribution cannot be overestimated. Not reflected but also significant is that the network has 15 in kind member organisations in the Network with a value contribution of €1400.

### Planta Europa Income and Expenditure for 2006 (in Euro)

	2006		2003-05 (Average)
	In kind	Cash	
<b>Income</b>			
Membership		10,174	5,123
Dutch Government (MATRA)		8,864	26,216
Council of Europe		4,123	
Sundry		60	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>24,373</b>	<b>31,339</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salaries		64,743	65,045
Volunteer time	9,750		
Steering Committee	9,200	2,038	3,194
Travel & Subsistence		2,136	
EPCS review		5,625	
Website development		4,885	
Miscellaneous		372	580
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>18,950</b>	<b>79,800</b>	<b>68,819</b>
<b>Deficit<sup>iv</sup></b>		<b>55,427</b>	<b>37,480</b>

#### Notes:

- <sup>i</sup> Exclude 2004 conference related income and expenditure
- <sup>ii</sup> 130 days @ €75/day
- <sup>iii</sup> Travel & subsistence costs for participants, Hosting Costs
- <sup>iv</sup> Met by Plantlife International

## Future Outlook - Planta Europa in 2007

2007 is set to be an important and exciting year for Planta Europa. As we approach the Critical Target of 100 members, it is imperative that the network moves to a state of self-sustainability. This is particularly important for positioning ourselves politically, meeting our aspirations for supporting the delivery of the GSPC in Europe and ensuring development of Planta Europa beyond 2007.

The need to address climate change provides both a challenge and an opportunity to be at the forefront of debate and action in Europe. Planta Europa's IPA and Micro-reserve programmes will be important in delivering a regional response to the threats posed by climate change and Planta Europa must encourage and facilitate further development of these programmes, as well as continuing to explore other opportunities for pan European initiatives which link key issues, such as red listing, invasive species and monitoring.

The 5th Planta Europa Conference: *Working Together For Plants* is to be held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in September 2007 and will be an important opportunity to consider the issues above, as well as to set out the strategy for the network's development over the next 3 years. As the targets in the European Plant Conservation Strategy come to an end, the conference will also discuss a new roadmap for plant conservation in Europe.

Planta Europa has a key responsibility to *communicate* to policy makers and the wider public the importance of plant conservation in Europe. To begin our sustained communication programme, Planta Europa has launched its 'Wake Up Call For Wild Plant Conservation'. This is a dynamic communication tool to promote the need for better protection of Europe's wild plants to the public. National and local activities will give all citizens of Europe a great opportunity to learn about the threats facing Europe's wild plants and what can be done to save them from disappearing.

*We do hope you can contribute to the Wake Up Call and we look forward to seeing you in Romania in September.*



Planta Europa Secretariat - c/o Plantlife International  
14 Rolleston Street, Salisbury SP1 1DX, United Kingdom  
☎ +44 1722 342730 - ✉ [plantaeuropa@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:plantaeuropa@plantlife.org.uk) - Fax +44 1722 329035

