

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR EUROPE: THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION 2008-2014

FORWARD

Plant conservation has made great progress in Europe since the first European Plant Conservation Strategy. I congratulate all involved in the Planta Europa network on these successes.

I warmly welcome the new strategy and hope that it will be even more successful. There are many threats to securing the protection of our plant diversity. There is still serious fragmentation of habitats as a result of ill considered economic activity and land use operations. There is the continuing challenge of climate change. Ensuring greater connectivity between habitats and taking landscape scale approaches are just two of the ways to adapt to these changes and lessen their most damaging effects.

It is essential to take a strategic approach and have clearly defined targets to measure progress. That is what the new strategy does. But it is not a dry document to be filed away. The ingredients of success are demonstrating action on the ground, influencing policy, raising awareness of threats, grasping opportunities, and ensuring that plant conservation is underpinned by sound science. Now is the time for all partners to renew their commitment and take action for plants throughout Europe!

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