

Council of Europe Resolution on the Conservation of Rare and Threatened Plants in Europe *

The Committee of Ministers:

Referring to Resolutions No. 2 of the European Ministerial Conferences on the Environment (Vienna 1973, Brussels 1976) and on the protection of wildlife;

Having regard to the list of rare, threatened, and endemic plants in Europe commissioned by the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

Recalling that Man and all [other] animals are dependent for their survival on the plant kingdom;

Recognizing that plants (species, subspecies, varieties, etc.) form a genetic resource of immeasurable value to mankind and that the economic potential of the plant kingdom is as yet only partly realized;

Recognizing the scientific, educational, recreational, aesthetic, cultural, and ethical, value of plants to mankind;

Noting that the list includes some 1,400 species as rare and/or threatened in Europe, of which more than 100 are in imminent danger of extinction, and that the figure of 1,400 represents approximately one-tenth of the total European flora;

Realizing that when once a species becomes extinct, it cannot [normally] be recreated by Man, and hence that it is of the utmost importance to ensure the conservation of as many species as possible for the economic, scientific, and cultural, benefit of mankind;

Recommends that the governments of member States of the Council of Europe be guided in their policy in this matter by the principles set out below:

1. Ensure adequate legal protection for all plants identified as endangered in the above-mentioned list, with provision for licences to be issued for approved collection purposes;
2. Provide minimum legal protection for all plants against depredations not yet covered by law;
3. Institute or complete national surveys of plants that are rare or threatened within their boundaries for appropriate dissemination and publication. Such surveys should:
 - (a) include plants that are rare or threatened only in particular countries and therefore not included in the list;
 - (b) identify the principal threats to the plants so listed;
 - (c) specify the action needed to ensure their survival;
4. Establish nature reserves and designate areas in which vegetation and flora are protected by law, and stimulate the setting up of nature reserves by private bodies, with the long-term aim of ensuring that all species on the list can be found in such areas, and in so doing contribute to the establishment of the European network of biogenetic reserves which was the subject of Resolution (76)17;
5. Incorporate safeguards in future planning strategies to protect all species on the list, as the major threat to many plants is created by changing patterns of land-use;
6. Stimulate, undertake, and coordinate through competent organizations, multidisciplinary research at national or international level, with particular emphasis on bringing together information on plants found in more than one country with a view to:
 - (a) extending and improving knowledge about the flora of those areas in Europe that are still insufficiently known botanically, so as to be able to make constructive proposals for conservation and planning purposes;
 - (b) promoting studies on the habitat, autecology, and population biology, of each plant on the list, to provide the information needed from which integrated conservation management plans can be formulated;
 - (c) promoting studies on the dynamics and ecology of the vegetation types in which the plants on the list occur;
7. Give appropriate support to scientifically-based botanical gardens, so that they have the facilities which they need to propagate and grow the plants on the list, to distribute propagating material to other institutions, and where appropriate to reintroduce plants to the wild, with the aim of reducing the pressure on wild plant populations and at the same time drawing attention to the aesthetic, cultural, and scientific, importance of these plants;
8. Ratify for their States, if they have not already done so, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, opened for signature in Washington on 3 March 1973;
9. Acknowledge that the plant kingdom is a dynamic system and needs to be monitored at stated intervals, so that the list can be revised regularly;
10. Prepare and disseminate codes of conduct on rare and threatened plants;
11. Disseminate general information on the need to protect plants and on the protective measures set out in the European Committee's list.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
Palais de l'Europe
67006 Strasbourg
France.

* Edited in accordance with the set style of *Environmental Conservation*. — Ed.

Concern for Thailand's Khao Yai National Park

The World Wildlife Fund has urged H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand not to permit the construction of a road which it is believed would cause some degradation of the Khao Yai National Park about 120 kilometres north-east of Bangkok. In a letter to the King, WWF President John H. Loudon noted that the proposal was to construct a road to link the Nakon Nayok–Aranyaprathet highway north of Prachinburi with the existing road in the Khao Yai Park. He agreed that the first part of a road leading to a dam-site on the edge of the Park might well be necessary: 'However, we feel that the connection of this section of the road with the existing road in the Park itself would gravely affect the integrity of this magnificent area and could lead

to its degradation. We believe that construction should not be permitted in the Park'.

Khao Yai is the largest National Park in Thailand, covering 2,165 square kilometres. It is one of the most important areas for conservation of Tiger and Elephant, and also of one of the world's rarest primates, the White-handed Gibbon (*Hylobates* sp.). The World Wildlife Fund has been providing vehicles, radios, and funds, for protection of Khao Yai.

PETER F. R. JACKSON, *Director of Information, World Wildlife Fund*
1110 Morges
Switzerland.