



Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen  
 Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique  
 Vautiersstraat 29 B - 1000 Brussel | rue Vautier 29 B - 1000 Bruxelles  
 ☎: +32 (2) 627 42 11 | Fax: +32 (2) 627 41 13  
 www.natuurwetenschappen.net | www.sciencesnaturelles.net

Réf. CBD/JVG/dc/2001.144

Brussels, 4 July 2001

UNEP/CBD
19537
JUL 04 2001
ACTION: <u>DC</u>
FILE
INFO: <u>1A, 2A</u>

Mr. Hamdallah ZEDAN  
 Executive Secretary CBD

Fax: 00-1-514-288 65 88

Dear Mr Zedan,

Enclosed please find a Belgian contribution to your notification of 22 January 2001 on a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (2001-01-23/02 - Letter from the Executive Secretary to all National Focal Points inviting Parties to provide feedback and relevant information regarding the possible establishment of a global strategy for plant conservation).

Please excuse us for this late answer. We are aware that the deadline of 1 May 2001 for submitting our views is well exceeded. We hope however that these comments from our national experts will still be useful for the establishment of your strategy on plant conservation.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Franklin  
 CBD-National Focal Point Belgium.

Jackie Van Goethem  
 CBD-National Focal Point Belgium.

## **Comments and views related to the possible establishment of a global strategy for plant conservation**

As required by the CSWCN, our laboratory (Laboratoire d'Ecologie des Prairies, Université catholique de Louvain, UCL) is presenting in this document comments and views for the possible establishment of a global strategy for plant conservation at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

These are the points we would like to see reflected in the above mentioned strategy:

- In agriculture, research is needed to evaluate gains/losses (economic, social, biological) of improving plant diversity use: what is positive (inputs reduction, decrease of pest and disease risk, ...) and/or negative (yield loss, nutritive value loss,...).
- Synergies of plant diversity conservation and agriculture must be promoted through existing programmes (i.e. agri-environmental schemes in the EU) or the creation of new notes.
- Importance of ecotypes. Not only species should be kept, but also their regional variability.
- Plant utility. Many traditional uses of plants are being lost. Their recuperation and promotion (within the limits of sustainability) will ensure that certain plant populations (and their associated ecosystems) will not disappear.
- Involvement of local people in the conservation of plant diversity. Support local programmes such as seed exchange amongst farmers (this practice is already in use in Latin-American countries, but every day more difficult to keep due to external commercial pressures).
- Promote creative use (sustainable) of plant diversity. For example promotion of gardening enterprises that use autochthonous species in their projects and promotion of local seed producers.
- Support research on local species dynamics (best germination conditions, dormancy mechanisms,...), necessary for their conservation and sustainable use.

Belgian National Focal Point