

UICN

Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza



Centro de Cooperación del Mediterráneo

2004

*Progress with Identification of
Important Plant Areas in Europe*

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Donantes:



From Policy to Implementation

CBD – Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Target 2 : A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species at national regional and international level. (IUCN)

Target 5 : Protection of 50% of the most important areas for plant diversity assured by 2010 (Plantlife/IUCN)

IPAs

Red List assessments



complementary tools



From Policy to Implementation

Policy framework exists

- Convention on biological diversity (Global Plant Conservation Strategy)
- World Summit on sustainable development
- EC commitment to 2010 targets

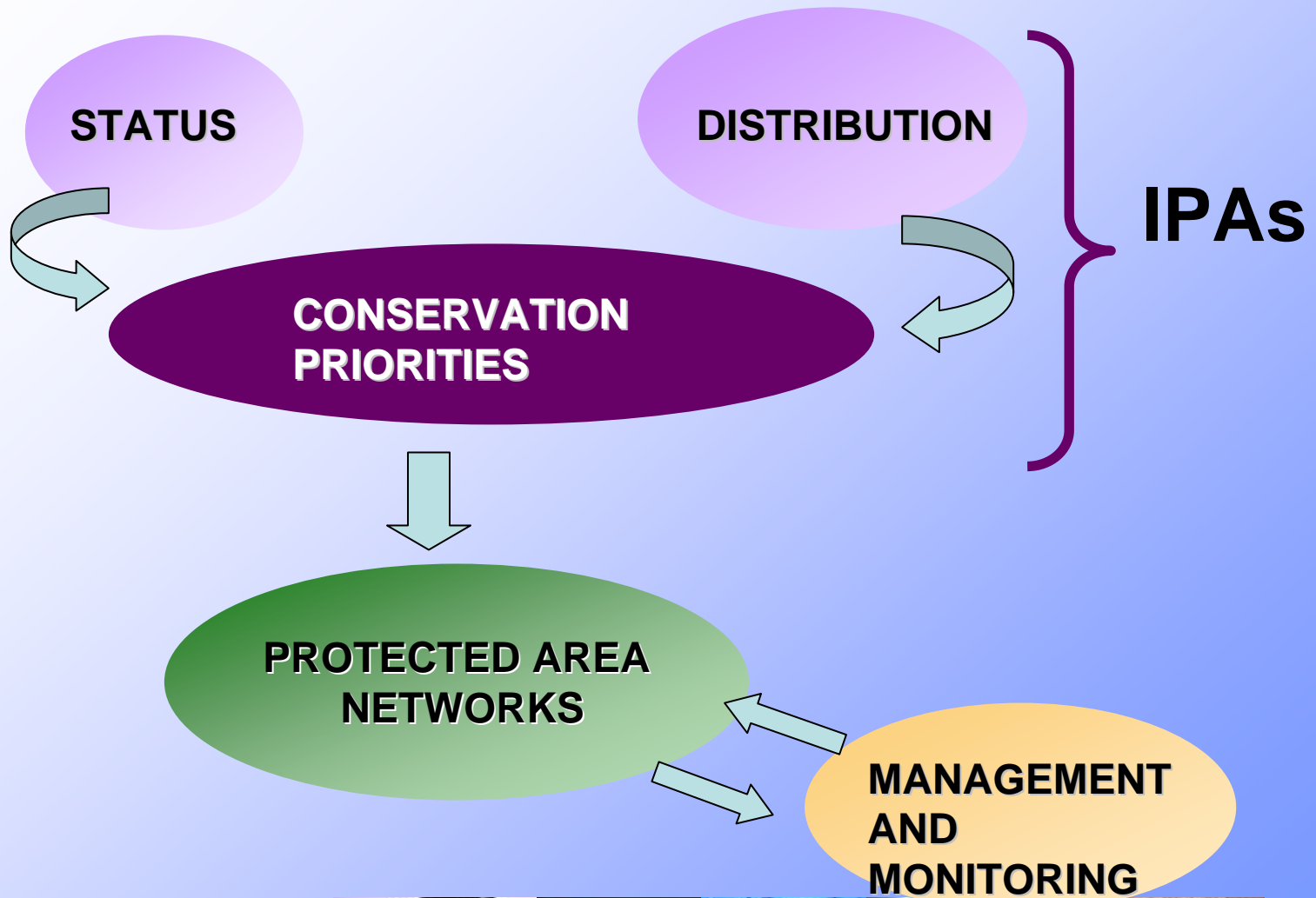
How to reach agreed targets ?

- In Western Europe (complete Natura 2000)
- In « Accession countries »
- In Eastern Europe



From knowledge to action

eg. IUCN
RED LIST



IPAs inspired by IBAs

Characteristics of Important Bird Areas:

- Places of international significance for conservation at the global, regional or subregional level identified nationally
- Practical tools for conservation
- Chosen using standardised and simple criteria applied with common sense
- large enough to support self-sustaining populations of their target spp
- part of a wider, integrated approach to conservation that embraces sites, species and landscapes

The IBA programme has four stages: Preparation; Identification; Developing a Strategy; Implementation and Monitoring

IBAs have been used for 23 years as a tool for bird conservation



IPAs inspired by IBAs - 2

Current IBA statistics in Europe:

- **In 2000 BirdLife International published the second pan-European IBA inventory covering 3619 sites in 51 countries**
- **40% of European IBAs have international protection**
- **54% of European IBAs are SPAs (Special Protected Areas)**
- **From 1988 to 1999 the percentage of IBAs protected as Ramsar sites rose from 22% to 29% and the percentage of IBAs protected as SPAs rose from 30% to 54%**

Resources required : there are 20 full time, 10 part time, and 7 volunteer IBA coordinators



Plantlife/ Planta Europa/ IUCN partnership

Contributions through complementary tools

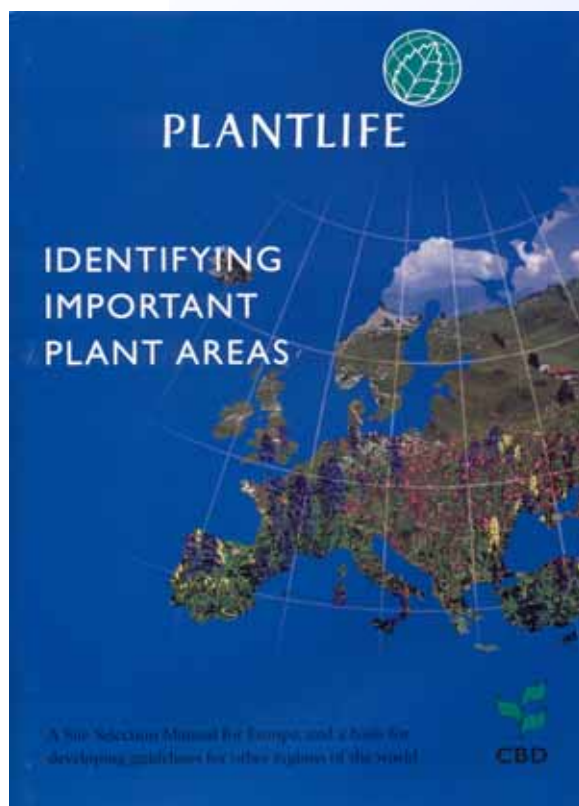
- *reinvigorated IUCN Red List for Europe*
- *Important Plant Areas process*

IUCN provides an umbrella (UN observer, CBD partner, State and NGO membership)

Joint projects for implementing the global plant conservation strategy (eg GEF in Turkey, Morocco, Madagascar, Cameroon, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Columbia, Costa Rica, Russia)



IPA criteria and progress



1992 – 2002; Experts from Europe and beyond developed the criteria for designation of IPAs in Europe

Available in French, Spanish, Russian, English, Slovak, Romanian, Polish, Slovenian & Czech



IPA criteria and progress - 2

With support from Netherlands govt, 15 European countries have identified, or are starting to identify, IPAs in Europe: Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Russia, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Moldova, Ukraine

IPAs have some overlap with Natura 2000 but are more comprehensive (eg incorporation of lower plants and fungi not covered in existing legislation)

Approximately 100 countries worldwide have expressed interest with regional workshops in southern Africa and Asia



Challenges for the thematic workshop

The process of identification of IPAs has begun :

- **Criteria are in place**
- **Data are available**
- **Strategic partnerships are in place or being developed**
- **Funding is being raised**

How do we build momentum towards their implementation ?



Challenges for the thematic workshop

Identification

- **Completing the identification of IPAs throughout Europe (including those missed by Natura 2000)**
- **Building IPA capacity – identification**
- **Communication and awareness of threats to IPAs**

Protection

- **How to convert maps to action ?**
- **What incentives are there for IPA conservation ?**
- **Are new legal tools needed ?**
- **What shape should concerted campaigns take ?**
- **What are the international coordination needs ?**
- **Funding opportunities ?**

