

Workshop 2

Oral presentation

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Consolidating knowledge on plant species in need for urgent attention at European level

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Upon request from the Council of Europe in 2003, the 'Conservatoire Botanique National de Brest' (CBN) has prepared a preliminary assessment on a list of '50 Threatened species of the European Flora in need of urgent conservation measures', on the basis of available knowledge. As a follow-up to this, the CBN Brest, supported by the European Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity, has considerably further developed and refined the assessment. On the basis of the IUCN global Red list (1997) and a review of the most updated national red lists on plants as well as numerous individual contacts, about 600 European taxa have been assessed as EX, EW or CR at a world scale, according to IUCN criteria. Almost all the species are European endemics. The information is stored in a data base and includes for each taxa: geographical distribution of the species, IUCN conservation status assessed at European level, number of gardens where ex-situ conservation occurs, priority need for conservation, list of sites where the taxa is cultivated, status of the taxa in the Habitat Directive and the Bern Convention, existence or not of a recovery plan, threats to the species, general comments, references. Such an assessment will help identifying gaps in conservation plans, including ex-situ programmes. It contributes to targets 1.2 of the Global and the European strategies for Plant Conservation. It will also provide a basis for the further development of a European Red List of plants, based on IUCN criteria.

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