

Symposium on the Conservation of Medicinal Plants in Europe. 22-23 June 1998, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, United Kingdom.

This international symposium on the conservation of medicinal plants that are in trade in Europe is organized by TRAFFIC Europe in collaboration with the IUCN/SSC MPSG and WWF. The symposium will offer opportunities to disseminate the results of a number of recent medicinal plant trade surveys. The main goal of the symposium will be to channel attention to establishing long-term conservation strategies for wild medicinal plant species in trade. Contact: TRAFFIC Europe; tel: ++32/2/3438258, fax: ++32/2/3432565, e-mail: traffic_europe@compuserve.com.

9th Asian Symposium on Medicinal Plants, Spices and Other Natural Products. 24-28 September 1998, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Main topics of this ASOMP meeting are: (a) chemistry, (b) biological studies, (c) ethnobotany and biodiversity, (d) biochemistry and biotechnology, and (e) product development and commercialization. At the end of the conference an open forum on ethnobotany and community rights will be held. Contact: Secretariat of ASOMPS IX, Institute of Natural Products Chemistry, National Centre for Natural Science and Technology, Nghiado, Tuliem, Hanoi, Vietnam; tel: ++84/4/836-0830, -3375, fax: ++84/4/8345390, 8531615.

5th International Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress. 14-18 September 1998, Kirstenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa.

Contact: Brian J. Huntley, National Botanical Institute, Private Bag X7, Claremont 7735, South Africa; tel: ++27/21/762-1166, fax: ++27/21/761-4687, e-mail: bgci98@nbict.nbi.ac.za.

16th International Botanical Congress. 1-7 August 1999, Saint Louis, USA.

XVI IBC consists of invited oral presentations (plenary sessions, keynote symposia, general symposia) and contributed poster sessions. The scientific program will be subdivided in following sections: (a) Botanical Diversity - Systematics and Evolution, (b) Ecology, Environment, and Conservation, (c) Structure, Development, and Cellular Biology, (d) Genetics and Genomics, (e) Physiology and Biochemistry, and (f) Human Uses of Plants - Economic Botany and Biotechnology. Contact: Secretary General, XVI IBC c/o Missouri Botanical Garden, PO Box 299, Saint Louis, MO 63611-0229, USA; fax: ++1/314/577-9589, e-mail: ibc16@mobot.org.

African Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ANIUMAP)
Founded at Abuja, Nigeria

Max Kasperek

An *International Workshop on the Cultivation, Processing and Conservation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants* was held at Abuja, Nigeria, 18-20 March, 1997. Delegates from Kenya, Ghana, Sierra-Leone, Congo-Brazzaville, Malawi and Zambia attended the workshop. The workshop was organized by the *National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRID)*, Abuja, in cooperation with the *United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)*. Max Kasperek attended the workshop upon invitation of NIPRID on behalf of the MPSG.

The workshop recognized the need to develop linkages and collaborations between research institutes, universities and the private sector in order to optimize the facilities in the various centres. To achieve this goal, it was agreed that a network called *African Network for the Industrial Utilization of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ANIUMAP)* be set up with NIPRID as the headquarters. ANIUMAP will co-ordinate dissemination of information on medicinal and aromatic plants to other focal centres in African countries, training of personnel in R&D, industrial utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants, clinical trials, commercial production and rational use of phytomedicine. Focal points to co-ordinate the activities of the network on national level will be set up in each country.

The workshop recognized the important role particularly of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and CITES as instruments for the conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Emphasis should be given to the sustainable utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants, and to the establishment of protected areas. Workshop participants encouraged in their final communique national governments to establish a system of protected areas comprising 25% of each local government area.

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