

## Monday - April 16, 2007

11:30-13:00 **PLENARY SESSION (WSTCEC:4th Floor Auditorium)**

11:30-12:00 • **Toward a World Plant Data Base**

**Peter H. RAVEN**

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George Engelmann Professor of Botany at Washington University in St. Louis,, Missouri,  
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Modern information technology has given us the ability to collect, edit, and make available all of the information on plants that has been gathered through the years. A taxonomic framework for all plants can be constructed and agreed, with the data involved in its construction preserved in the system and subject to review for any purpose. Firm editorial arrangements will need to be established to improve the taxonomic framework continuously, with references to the reasons for the arrangements selected. All specimens, illustrations, annotations, and literature references can be made accessible within the system. As many specimens as desired can be imaged and these images made available on the Web. Rapid gains are being made in all of these areas and will be reviewed, with an emphasis on what is being done, and what it would be most useful to undertake for the future. Efforts to develop this valuable, comprehensive system are accelerating, and this meeting should afford an excellent opportunity to discuss next steps. For conservation purposes, as for any other uses to which information about plants might be put, the construction of a world plant data base clearly has fundamental importance.

12:00-12:30 • **A brief introduction to China's Strategy for Plant Conservation**

**Dr. JIA Jiansheng**

*Deputy Director-General, Department of Wildlife Conservation, State Forestry  
Administration, 18 Hepingli Dongjie, Beijing 100714 P. R. China*



For conserving plant diversity and implementing the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, the relevant agencies of the Chinese government have prepared the text of *China's Strategy for Plant Conservation* based on the 16 targets of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*. The presentation will give a brief introduction to *China's Strategy for Plant Conservation* including the aims and objectives, background and also the 16 targets in China. Each target has three aspects; the current status of plant conservation, problems and constraints that are faced, and the actions necessary in the near future. The implementation of *China's Strategy for Plant Conservation* will further strengthen the conservation of China's plant diversity and make a great contribution to the implementation of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*.

**12:30-13:00** • **CITES and its potential to guarantee sustainable trade in wild plants**

**Willem WIJNSTEKERS**

*CITES Secretary-General, CITES Secretariat, International Environment House, Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland*



This talk will be about CITES, its role in the international plant trade, and more specifically the timber trade. CITES has the potential to be a guarantee for sustainability – it is already for a limited number of species – and given the necessary resources, CITES can be the ultimate certification system for sustainably and legally traded wildlife. CITES finds itself in a very important phase of its existence and the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in June will be crucial for the role it will play in the years to come.