

IAPT—STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction. — IAPT was founded in 1950 as a not-for-profit organisation for the purposes of publication of a periodical (*Taxon*) dealing with activities of the association and with objects of general importance for plant taxonomy, the publication of books and indices of utility for plant taxonomists (*Regnum Vegetabile*), the establishment and maintenance of committees for specific taxonomic and nomenclatural purposes, and the organization of international symposia on problems of plant systematics. Plants are taken in the broad sense as the organisms traditionally studied in botany, including fungi, algae, as well as green plants. The history of the association is detailed in *Taxon* 31: 415–420; 37: 791–800; 47: 3–35.)

IAPT is the only international organization dedicated to furthering goals of plant systematics worldwide, and it has many important roles and responsibilities. Resources must be focused on understanding and conserving phytodiversity, furthering conceptual advances in plant systematics, aiding practical and innovative approaches to naming of plants, helping to educate the next generation of professional plant systematists, and informing the general public about the importance of plants and their relationships.

The structure of IAPT reflects its international membership and responsibilities. The association has a central office, housed presently in the Institute of Botany of the University of Vienna, Austria. The IAPT has two financial arms: IAPT-Europe, incorporated in Switzerland and centred in Geneva, and IAPT-U.S.A., centred in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Regulatory documents are the Constitution of IAPT (over the entire organization), the Constitution of IAPT-Europe, and the Bylaws of IAPT-U.S.A.

Vision. — Botanical systematics, in the broadest sense, understood and valued by society.

Mission. — To promote all aspects of botanical systematics and its significance to the understanding and value of biodiversity.

Goals. — Provide top quality resources for the advancement of botanical systematics (Our Expertise). Be recognized as the pre-eminent international authority on botanical systematics and nomenclature (Our Influence). Provide professional service to IAPT members and support to its employees (Our People). Be a financially sustainable organization (Our Finances).

Objectives. — Demonstrate improvement in our publications, conferences, and bursaries through achieving higher annual targets in quality and quantity (Our Expertise). Increased public, as well as scientific, awareness of, and support for, our work; increased active involvement at national and international levels and forg-

ing of effective strategic alliances (Our Influence). Increased consultation with members and staff to meet their needs (Our People). An increased and diversified membership; matching expenses with income; maintenance and enhancement of a successful investment portfolio (Our Finances).

Strategies. — Means to achieve our objectives:

Our Expertise

- Publishing two international journals dealing with plant taxonomy in the broad sense [*Taxon*—an international journal of plant taxonomy, phylogeny and evolution (including nomenclatural proposals for the Nomenclature Section of the IUBS); *Regnum Vegetabile*—a series of monographs in plant systematics covering all aspects of the discipline (including the *ICBN*)].
- Stimulating publication of high quality research articles in plant systematics through the pages of *Taxon*.
- Helping support nomenclatural activities worldwide, with the goal of achieving uniformity and stability in application of plant names.
- Awarding grants for field work, visits to herbaria, libraries, or laboratories to stimulate research (for Ph.D. students and young investigators, with emphasis on developing countries).
- Supporting symposia (often by joint sponsorship) on significant topics in plant systematics in different regions of the world.
- Development of additional programmes, such as support for workshops, literature dissemination, lectureships, fellowships, etc.
- Development of specific programmes, such as sending of lecturers to institutions in developing countries, translation projects of useful texts, grants program for staff to attend workshops and conferences, etc.

Our Influence

- Maintenance of standing committees to execute programmes; expand representation on committees.
- Provision of support for important issues regarding biodiversity.
- Preparation of briefing documents to other organizations and governments.
- Maintenance of a website.

Our People

- Monitoring of Members' needs by regular surveys and questionnaires.
- Quality Management of our employed staff and volunteers.

Our Finances

- Maintain assets of Reserve Fund against inflation and expenses.
- Use Reserve Fund for IAPT objectives, especially those of lasting effect.