

## New Planta Europa Member

### Nomad Research and International Aid, France

*The NGO Nomad RSI, based in France, works mainly in the field of sustainable use of wild plant resources, with a focus on medicinal plants in Asia. Nomad RSI joined the Planta Europa network in July 2005. Fanny Jamet explains what the work of this network partner is about.*



Traditional healer (*amchi*) © Nomad RSI

Nomad Recherche et Soutien International (Nomad Research and International Aid) is a France-based NGO created in 1997. The organisation is dedicated to high-quality research and targeted action relating to health, health traditions and traditional medical resources in the South.

#### Key areas of work are

- Revitalisation and development of traditional health systems
- Negotiation of medical pluralism
- Environmental awareness and protection (biodiversity and pharmacopoeia)
- Multi-disciplinary research into medical traditions and medicinal plants

We believe that traditional medicine systems continue to hold enormous potential for the health and well being of indigenous and disadvantaged communities, and equally that they are a valuable and meaningful component of the societies who utilise them. Our mission is to work closely with local partner organizations in conducting research-based interventions that support and develop these skills and resources, thus contributing towards effective, sustainable and appropriate solutions to the health problems faced by the target populations.

Nomad RSI actively supports the sustainable use of local natural resources and the conservation of the environment. Of particular concern is the protection of the natural resources utilised in traditional medicine and the right of indigenous communities continued and sustainable use of their heritage.

Our organisation works with local partner in Ladakh (India) and in Cambodia. It furthermore coordinates an interdisciplinary research project on *Artemisa annua*, which is an anti-malarial plant.



*To contact the Nomad RSI team, visit their website ([www.nomadrsi.org](http://www.nomadrsi.org) French, and English), or ask the secretariat for a contact address.*

## New Planta Europa Member FloraCretica, Greece

*FloraCretica is based on the south-eastern European island of Crete, Greece. Julia Feise from FloraCretica explains what activities are at the heart of their NGO.*

*FloraCretica* has developed rapidly from very small beginnings some two years ago. When my husband, Tom, and I moved to Crete, it was our intention to open a restaurant in the small traditional village of Pano Elounda. However, as a botanical artist I was concerned at the rapid development of tourist accommodation along the coast and in rural mountain villages. It was because of this concern over the threat to endemic flora and its habitats, that we decided to make a website, in which we would feature the rich and varied flowers of the island. By this means we hoped to introduce tourists to conservation. We quickly realised that it was important to feature endemic and endangered species – we invested in a new digital camera and now spend many months touring the island photographing and recording these plants and their habitats. Plans for a restaurant were abandoned, as *FloraCretica* grew rapidly and demands on our time became more insistent.

To our surprise and amazement, we began to receive emails, enquiries and encouragement from around the world.

*FloraCretica* has now applied for Charitable Trust status and we are in the process of forming a nucleus of Founding Members who will become the officers



*Crocus oreocreticus* © FloraCretica