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BIODIVERSITY & HEALTH

An International Symposium
FOCUSING RESEARCH TO POLICY

25-28 October 2003
Conference Centre
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Throughout the developing countries, people depend on traditional healers and their knowledge of natural medicines for primary health care. In the developed countries, many commercial pharmaceuticals are based on natural medicines derived from plants, fungi and animals.

Although there is extensive literature in the scientific journals on many medicinal plants, traditional healers are aware of a wider range of useful biodiversity and its biological activity.

The unprecedented extinction rate of species coupled with the continuing loss of traditional knowledge through social, environmental, political and economic disruption is a serious threat to these natural medicines and the future health of humanity.

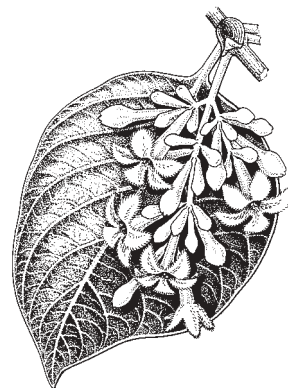
Coordinated policies for conservation, regulation and management, and rigorous research to enhance and sustain global medicines from natural sources are needed.

Strategies to effect fair and respectful intercultural support and cooperation with traditional societies, as well as for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are essential for the preservation of natural medicines and the sharing of benefits derived from them.



TROPICAL
CONSERVANCY
Working To Conserve World
Biodiversity & Environment

Tropical Conservancy
94 Four Seasons Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
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Cinchona pubescens Vahl - Alkaloids from species of *Cinchona* (Quinine) have been the most effective drug against malaria. Quinine was discovered thanks to Indigenous knowledge.

The Symposium is an initiative of
Tropical Conservancy

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Maurice F. Strong, *Honorary Editor*

U.N. Under-Secretary-General, Secretary-General of the 1992 World Summit

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