



Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Halting the Loss of Plant Diversity

Adopted in 2002, the ultimate and long-term objective of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) is to halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity. It also considers issues of sustainable use and benefit-sharing, and aims to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

The first such strategy to be developed under the CBD, the GSPC provided a pilot exercise for the development and use of outcome targets under its Strategic Plan. Plants were chosen as the focus of this exercise because scientific understanding of this group—though incomplete and best for the higher plants—is better than for most other kinds of life, allowing for the setting of meaningful targets. The Strategy includes 16 outcome-oriented global targets set for 2010, and provides a framework to facilitate harmony between existing initiatives aimed at plant conservation, to identify gaps where new initiatives are required, and to promote mobilization of the necessary resources.

Why it is important:

- Plants are a vital part of the world's biological diversity and an essential resource for the planet.
- In addition to the small number of crop plants used for basic food and fibres, thousands of wild plants have great economic and cultural importance and potential, providing food, medicine, fuel, clothing and shelter for vast numbers of people worldwide.
- Plants play a key role in maintaining the planet's basic environmental balance and ecosystem stability, and provide an important component of the habitats for the world's animal life.
- Estimates suggest that the total number of plants in the world may be approximately 300,000 species. Many of these are in danger of extinction, threatened by habitat transformation, over-exploitation, alien invasive species, pollution and climate change.

What the CBD is doing:

To further advance implementation of the Strategy the CBD established, at its seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7), a **flexible coordination mechanism**, that serves to facilitate and promote implementation, and monitoring, of the Strategy at all levels (national, regional and global).

The mechanism currently comprises four elements: meetings of the liaison groups, national GSPC focal point, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation - an initiative supported by a wide range of international and national agencies and organizations active in plant conservation and the CBD Secretariat, including the Programme Officer supported by Botanic Gardens Conservation International.



At its twelfth meeting the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-12) carried out an in depth review of the GSPC. Further, the meeting requested that the Executive Secretary develop, in cooperation with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and relevant organizations, and taking into account contributions from Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, publish a “Plant Conservation Report” that could provide inputs to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and serve as a communication and awareness-raising tool on the implementation of the Strategy. The Plant Conservation Report has been compiled and is available in electronic format for COP 9.

The COP will consider the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as an issue for in-depth review.

For more information:

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: <https://www.cbd.int/gspc>

The Plant Conservation Report: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/reports/gspc-report-draft-en.pdf>

COP Decisions: <https://www.cbd.int/gspc/decisions.shtml>

Flexible Coordination Mechanism: <https://www.cbd.int/gspc/coordination.shtml>

Global Partnership for Plant Conservation: <http://www.plants2010.org>



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Convention on Biological Diversity

