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LIAISON GROUP ON THE GLOBAL STRATEGY
FOR PLANT CONSERVATION
Third meeting*
Dublin, 26-28 May 2009

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP ON THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. Mr. Matthew Jebb of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Glasnevin, welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of Ireland. He said that the history of Ireland was interwoven with plants and that today's society had strong roots in the agriculture-based past which made people recognize the importance of plant conservation. Ireland had enjoyed fast economic growth over the recent decades which had allowed the country to substantially increase its official development assistance (ODA), with over 0.5% of GDP spent in ODA. It had also allowed the country to support activities related to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and of the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation (GPPC), including by hosting four meetings at the National Botanic Gardens. Ireland's interest in supporting the GSPC had also enabled the country to support the production and dissemination in languages of the Plant Conservation Report. The English version of the report had just been finalized.

2. Mr. Robert Höft, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), welcomed participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf. He said that the meeting came at a critical time when serious questions were being asked about the implementation of the Convention and progress towards the achievement of major targets ahead of 2010. He reported that both the ongoing consultations on the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the online questionnaire on the GSPC had demonstrated the need for the Convention to find ways to address drivers of biodiversity loss beyond the Convention's mandate. They had also shown the need to substantially strengthen support to countries to facilitate implementation of provisions under the Convention. He acknowledged the contributions from the Government of Spain, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, which had enabled the participation of developing country experts in the current meeting, and the National Botanic Gardens for hosting it.

3. Mr. Peter Wyse Jackson, Chairman of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and Director of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Glasnevin, welcomed participants and referred to the long history of the gardens and its efforts in plant conservation and public awareness. He said the over the past few years the Gardens' popularity had grown and the Gardens' had tried to respond to the demand. The National Botanic Gardens of Ireland currently received over 600,000 visitors each year. He said he was

* Organized jointly by the CBD Secretariat and Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

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pleased to be able to host this meeting of the GSPC Liaison Group, which was the fourth GSPC meeting hosted by the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland with the support from the Office of Public Works of Ireland under which the Gardens fell. He reminded participants that the GPPC now had 36 member organizations. For the current meeting, the in-depth review prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its twelfth meeting and the Plant Conservation Report, as well as the electronic survey, could serve as a good basis for moving forward, thereby capitalizing on the strengths and address the weaknesses in the implementation of the Strategy. He referred to the Plant Conservation Report as an important outreach tool for the GSPC, thanked everyone involved in its preparation and acknowledged Ireland's Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for its financial contribution which had enabled the production of the report. He announced that a dinner for all participants on the first evening was hosted by the Irish Museums Trust.

4. The meeting was attended by representatives from 13 Governments and 13 organizations representing the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

5. It was agreed that the meeting would be co-chaired by Matthew Jebb as representative of the host country, and Brian J. Huntley as representative of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC).

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

6. The meeting considered the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/LG/GSPC/3/1) and agreed to rearrange the order of the three sub-items under agenda item 3 and start with item 3.2 of the provisional agenda, followed by the original items 3.1 and 3.3, which would be considered together. The meeting also agreed to combine the two sub-items under item 4 of the provisional agenda.

2.2. Organization of work

7. The meeting agreed to work mainly in plenary while establishing working groups as necessary to make the best use of the available expertise.

ITEM 3. PROPOSALS FOR A CONSOLIDATED UPDATE OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE PLANT CONSERVATION

3.1. The update of the Global Strategy and the review of the Strategic Plan of the Convention

8. The representative of the Convention Secretariat introduced the process and status of the updating of the Convention's Strategic Plan and the implications for the process for updating the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. He explained that the various components of the Strategic Plan and assessment framework (the 2010 target; the 4 goals and 19 objectives of the Strategic Plan and associated process indicators; the 11 goals and 21 targets with outcome-oriented headline indicators linked to the 2010 target; and related reporting mechanisms) had been agreed gradually over a period of several years and were not fully coherent. The ongoing consultation process consisted of an online forum, submissions in response to a notification and workshops and meetings in various formats and for different stakeholders. They tended to focus on specific aspects of the Strategic Plan and were therefore complementary. The inputs to the process were being compiled and analysed and a note by the Executive Secretary on the status of discussions would be issued in June 2009 and updated towards the end of the year.

9. The presentation reviewed the guidance for the updating of the Strategic Plan contained in decision IX/9. It highlighted that there was a significant degree of convergence in the contributions from various partners *vis-à-vis* the new Strategic Plan:

(a) The process in updating the Strategic Plan needs to engage a wider range of stakeholders and build wide ownership;

(b) There needs to be greater coherence between the components of the new Strategic Plan;

(c) The new Strategic Plan needs to enable/support national implementation;

(d) The new Strategic Plan needs to have a strong scientific basis;

(e) The new Strategic Plan needs to promote the ecosystem approach, for example by suggesting more systematic use of planning tools such as Strategic Environmental Assessment;

(f) The new Strategic Plan needs to find ways to ensure that drivers of biodiversity loss, including those beyond the direct mandate of the Convention can be addressed;

(g) The new Strategic Plan needs to enable a response to global challenges;

(h) The new Strategic Plan needs to focus on practical implementation;

(i) There appears to be a preference for a timeframe of ten years for the new Strategic Plan (2010 to 2020) with 2015 as a milestone for review alongside the review of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

10. The process for developing proposals for an updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation went in parallel to the Strategic Plan process and would feed into it, while also getting informed by it. In particular, the key outcomes from the GSPC Liaison Group meeting should be made available for forthcoming regional consultations on the Strategic Plan. At the same time, there should be flexibility in the updating of the GSPC to ensure its compatibility with the analyses on the new Strategic Plan and elements of its development.

11. Participants discussed the need to formally link the GSPC to the new Strategic Plan while at the same time retaining its own identity and focus. They reaffirmed that the GSPC should be seen as a tool to support implementation of the Strategic Plan, particularly at national and regional level, but it should not evolve into a programme of work. It should facilitate the preparation of national GSPC strategies as requested in decision IX/3.

12. It was felt that that the process on the further development of the resource mobilization strategy and the negotiations of an International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing as well as the discussions in the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions were very relevant to the GSPC.

3.2. Outcomes of the online stakeholder consultation on the further development and update of the Strategy beyond 2010 and elements for proposals for a consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

13. Under these agenda items, the CBD Secretariat presented the outcomes of the online consultation (UNEP/CBD/LG-GSPC/3/2 and 3). The online consultation addressed all the components of the GSPC with the aspiration to better understand the outcomes, change and impact of the Strategy in order to provide the basis for deliberations by the Liaison Group Meeting. This consultation was presented in two sections: Section A comprised of general questions, targeting all stakeholders, with a view to define the basis for a framework for further development and update of the Strategy.

14. Section A addressed: (i) the effectiveness and relevance of the Strategy; (ii) effectiveness of the Strategy in responding to its objectives; (iii) the effectiveness of the Strategy in responding to the 3 objectives of the CBD; (iv) relevance of the Strategy in responding to pertinent issues as well as an opportunity for respondents to provide any additional information.

15. Section B of the online consultation targeted technical experts who have been involved in the implementation of the current Strategy, with an aim to garner more insight on proposals for the update/review and/or further development of the existing sixteen outcome targets.

16. A total of 166 respondents provided inputs to the consultation with nearly 50% of respondents completing both surveys. About one quarter of respondents represented Governments while another quarter were affiliated with non-governmental organizations. Other contributors included representatives from intergovernmental organizations, indigenous and local communities, private sector and media.

17. The online consultation revealed a preference for a time frame of 10 years for the new phase of the GSPC, with a long term vision to provide the context at global, regional and national level, medium term goals that are high level and unlikely to change with time as well as short term objectives (targets) that define immediate priorities for implementation by different stakeholders.

18. While it was recognized that the five current sub-objectives were robust enough to support the development of national and regional targets, in considering the update of the GSPC beyond 2010, it is important to make provision for gaps in the current framework including the following: sustainable use to improve conservation and provide incentives at local level, new challenges related to climate change such as promoting old growth forest and extending forest cover, marine species, demand and marketing trade chains, measures to promote and enable links between sustainable use and human well-being, links to Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Article 8(j), and diversity of lower plants.

19. Further, while the Strategy had been effective in providing a framework for implementation at the global, regional and international level, supporting the ecosystem approach, and employing *in situ* conservation as the primary approach for conservation and supporting national inventories; it was less effective in applying the provisions on ABS and implementing Article 8j; facilitating effective mainstreaming at national level; engagement with local indigenous and local communities in some instances during implementation of some targets and provision of specific guidance to address the issues related to ABS, Article 8j and the application of the ecosystem approach.

20. The in-depth review on the implementation of the GSPC had indicated that notable progress had been achieved with respect to targets 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15 and 16 and limited progress for targets 2, 4, 6, 10 and 12; there were gaps in achieving targets 3 and 7. Section B of the online consultation targeted technical experts who have been involved in the implementation of the Strategy, with the aim to garner more insight on proposals for the update/review and/or further development of the existing sixteen outcome targets.

21. For each target, one of the four options was to be chosen by the respondents, i.e., (a) maintain target as is, (b) maintain target but put in place measures to enhance implementation, (c) update/review target and (d) create new target.

22. In general, it was noted that there was need to define the targets better, improve clarity and reduce ambiguity in targets, ensure that all targets are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound), define baselines for monitoring, and define milestones, indicators and sub targets where needed beyond 2010. It was noted that targets 3, 13,14, 15 and 16 are enabling targets, open ended and difficult to measure and monitor (more aspirational than measurable). The potential impact of climate change creates: urgency to achieve some targets (e.g., targets 2, 7, 9 and 10); justification for investment

in the some targets at national and regional level (e.g., targets 8, 9 and13); and the basis for reviewing some target thresholds upwards (e.g., targets 4, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15).

23. With regard to the update and/review of targets, the online consultation supported maintaining targets 1, 11, 14 and 16; improve measures for implementation of targets 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 15 while targets 4 and 10 needed further review and update. Overall, there was no support for establishment of new targets.

24. In general, the following were the key messages from the online consultation:

(a) The GSPC should be kept simple and focused;

(b) Efforts should focus on pursuing the current five objectives of the GSPC with appropriate review to capture emerging issues and define short, medium and long term goals;

(c) New and additional targets may be created to address gaps identified in updating the objectives of the Strategy;

(d) The implementation process should effectively engage all key stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, business and media;

(e) Effort should be intensified to address challenges of research and knowledge gaps, limited resources, tools and capacities;

(f) The current targets should not be changed substantially as they have already been mainstreamed and adopted at national, regional and global levels;

(g) The GSPC may: differentiate types of targets, i.e. enabling targets *vs.* outcome targets; include learning targets related to generation of new knowledge; ensure action targets are SMART to enable monitoring and evaluation and assess impact of the Strategy in the medium and long term;

(h) There is a need to provide mechanisms that facilitate the incorporation of indigenous and local knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies associated with plant diversity;

(i) There is a need to link the implementation of the GSPC Targets to benefits accrued at local level by local communities, and to incorporate more priorities and needs of such communities;

(j) While the Strategy may be developed for a 10-year period, a review should be made in 2015, in tandem with the review of the Millennium Development Goals.

25. The discussion following the presentation recommended the development of a long-term vision before looking at the revision and updating of individual targets, to make links to ecosystem services and follow the processes on the further development of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and the negotiations of an International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing as well as the discussions in the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. The implications of the global strategy for national actions was also discussed.

26. In a subsequent session the following brief initial observations were made regarding each Target of the GSPC:

(a) Target 1: The focus is on higher plants but algae, lichens and fungi play critical roles in ecosystem functioning and these should be included. There are many initiatives underway which contribute to the achievement of this Target but which are not necessarily a response to the GSPC;

(b) Target 2: This Target is seen as the core of the GSPC but it needs some revision;

(c) Target 3: The Target is cross-cutting, it can be used to address emerging issues, and it should be formulated in such a way to be SMART;

(d) Target 4: The Target uses non-technical terms but is difficult to define. It implies a trans-national assessment and its achievement relies on such concepts as connectivity and adaptation to climate change;

(e) Target 5: The threshold should be reviewed, also in light of differing situations in different countries;

(f) Target 6: This Target is critical for mainstreaming plant conservation in production landscapes but progress is difficult to measure;

(g) Target 7: This Target becomes less achievable if lower plants are included. It depends on progress on Target 2 to determine the conservation status of plants and currently the assessment is very incomplete for plants. Climate change impacts may drive the conservation status of many plants towards a status of greater threat;

(h) Target 8: The benchmark of 60% might be inadequate and specific efforts to support implementation in parts of the world with limited capacities are required. A number instead of a percentage could be used. The aspect of recovery and restoration programmes receives little attention and the term 'restoration' relates to habitats and it might be more appropriate to use the term 'reintroduction';

(i) Target 9: It would be useful to refer explicitly to wild crop relatives, local varieties, neglected crops, medicinal plants and non-timber forest products, possibly by creating sub-targets;

(j) Target 10: The Target should focus on the phenomenon of plant invasion to focus on strategic, preventive, legislative measures and needs reformulation;

(k) Target 11: The Target does not address national trade but has the advantage of being directly aligned with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

(l) Target 12: The Target is vague and requires focus, which could be achieved by distinguishing individual sectors. It might lend itself to defining sector-based sub-targets;

(m) Target 13: Indigenous knowledge is referred to in several Targets but there is no developed methodology to assess progress. Yet, these Targets (6, 9, 12, 13) are most closely linked to the MDG agenda;

(n) Target 14: Targets 14 to 16 are supporting and progress is difficult to measure. On the other hand, significant successes have been achieved including in informal education. Additional efforts are required to secure media involvement and messaging to policy makers;

(o) Target 15: There are no baseline data to track progress and the situation is vastly different between countries. An aggregate global mean might hide real trends. It could be useful to focus on the sustainability of structures required to attract trainees;

(p) Target 16: There were concerns about the sustainability of donor-funded project-oriented networks as well as the capacity to capture successful and sustainable local network initiatives.

27. More generally, it was noted that some cross-cutting issues, such as the impacts of climate change, needed to be captured and that the discussions should feed into the development of toolkits (discussed under item 4 below). These observations were taken up in five working groups considering the implications of these observations as well as additional information from the online consultations as follows:

(a) WG 1: Sections A, B, D and E of the GSPC, led by David Galbraith;

(b) WG 2: Targets 1, 2, 7 and 8 of Section C, led by John Donaldson;

(c) WG 3: Targets 3, 14, 15 and 15 of Section C, led by Matthew Jebb;

(d) WG 4: Targets 4, 5, 6 and 10 of Section C, led by Elizabeth Radford; and

(e) WG 5: Targets 9, 11, 12, and 13 of Section C, led by Michael Kiehn.

28. The working groups reported back to plenary which further discussed options for each component of an updated GSPC. The draft proposal from the discussions is contained in Annex II to this report. It should be noted, however, that this represents a preliminary step towards a consolidated proposal that would be presented to SBSTTA-14. The group agreed on the following steps to complete the proposal:

(a) After approval by the Co-chairs, the draft report including the annex with the draft proposal for an annotated agenda will be circulated to all participants with the request to (i) make any necessary corrections on the procedural report; and (ii) send any additional inputs and thoughts on the sections prepared by the five working groups to the working group leaders who will consolidate their sections focusing particularly on the observations made in the session on 28 May 2009 (target date for completion of this step: 12 June 2009);

(b) The meeting report, including the annex, will then be made available on the CBD website in the form of an unedited advance draft to enable regional consultations taking place in the framework both of the GSPC update and the update of the Strategic Plan of the Convention to refer to it. It will be noted that additional editorial review of the draft updated GSPC as well as flexibility to enable adjustments in the light of proposals emerging on the new Strategic Plan are warranted;

(c) The leaders of the five working groups, together with the Co-chairs and any other interested participants in the Liaison Group meeting will work together electronically to streamline and the draft updated GSPC and to ensure its internal logic and coherence in the spirit of the observations made during the Liaison Group meeting. This editorial review will be conducted in a transparent fashion and the product will be circulated to participants of the Liaison Group meeting for their approval (target date for completion of this step: 31 July 2009);

(d) The draft updated GSPC will be posted for peer-review by CBD, SBSTTA and GSPC focal points as well as other stakeholders and indigenous and local communities. To make this peer-review effective a period of three months is allocated for this step (early August to end of October 2009);

(e) The CBD Secretariat will lead the completion of the draft updated GSPC for presentation to SBSTTA-14 on the basis of peer-review comments, additional inputs from regional consultations and in line with the emerging new Strategic Plan of the Convention. In supporting documentation the peer-review comments will be documented (the deadline for documentation for SBSTTA-14 is February 2010).

ITEM 4. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF A GSPC TOOLKIT AND REGIONAL TOOLS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

29. The meeting discussed the draft outline of the proposals prepared by the Executive Secretary and contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/12 and agreed that the toolkit should be designed to support countries in the implementation of the GSPC, in develop national or regional GSPC strategies, and in linking these to other relevant plans and strategies.

30. With this understanding the meeting made modifications to the original proposal, noting that given that the primary audience of the toolkit is the CBD and GSPC focal points, and other stakeholders when developing the toolkit. The modified proposal is contained in Annex III to this report.

31. Regarding timelines, while there was need to review the outline to take into consideration the proposals for the update of the Strategy beyond 2010; given that the request for the toolkit by the Parties was made at COP 7 and its unavailability may have constrained national and regional implementation of the current Strategy, it was noted a simple version of the toolkit, initially as an online version available in English should be made available before 2010. This version will aim to define the potential user needs and identify some of gaps, ambiguities and inconsistencies in the targets that may be addressed in the toolkit to enhance national and regional implementation of the Strategy. However, this toolkit may be improved and subject to availability of resources, print copy and interactive versions developed and availed in all the UN languages, with the aim of having the toolkit ready by 2012.

32. In order to ensure that the toolkit meets the needs of the users appropriately, it was recommended that Parties, CBD and GSPC focal points should be consulted to identify the key needs and priorities in developing the toolkit since the relevance and utility of the toolkit would be enhanced by provision of short, clear and pertinent responses to a list of potentially frequently asked questions. This information would also be useful in identifying the critical elements required by Parties so that an adequate and relevant checklist is eventually produced to effectively assist in developing their national strategies, targets and responses as well as integrating the targets. A request should be made to those countries which have been able to develop national strategies, and /or national targets and integrate them into their national strategies, to provide their experiences, share challenges and how they dealt with the constraints. Information will also be obtained from national reports.

33. The group noted that while funding had been a constraint in developing the toolkit, members of the Partnership and relevant organisations were well placed to provide preliminary information in relation to various targets for compilation. In the interim, BGCI being the secretariat of the GPPC, through the www.plants2010.org website was well placed to compile the information under the various targets.

34. The core elements should be:

(a) A clear and concise overview of the GSPC;

(b) How to implement the GSPC at the national level;

(c) Ways and means for developing national targets and incorporating them into national strategies, plans and programmes;

(d) How to monitor and report on the progress in implementation;

(e) Linkages to other national, regional and international programmes; and

(f) Linkages to other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular biodiversity-related conventions.

35. The meeting emphasized that the toolkit should be seen as a “toolbox,” thus an assortment of resources from which different tools can be selected for use as appropriate at various levels by various stakeholders, rather than a single prescriptive list of steps to be undertaken. In addition, there should be secondary features to assist in-country practitioners in developing national and regional responses to the GSPC and specific targets, given that many of the background documents of the GSPC are large and inaccessible.

36. Further, it was emphasized that the toolkit should be practical, applicable, easy to use and relevant. Lessons could be learned from previous experiences in the development of toolkits within the Convention. The draft proposal for the elements of the toolkit was reviewed and is contained in Annex III to this report. Tasks to be completed include:

(a) Development of a set of targets pages on the Plants2010 website;

(b) Inclusion of information on ways and means to develop national targets, with links to National Strategy pages, particularly reports on the methods employed in developing them, by writing to the key authors. This would include both developing national plant conservation strategies and incorporating GSPC targets into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;

(c) Mobilizing resources (particularly regional workshops) and ways and means of progressing networking;

(d) Monitoring and reporting on progress at the national and region al level on the GSPC.

37. The meeting then considered ways and means to consolidate regional tools for exchange of information and to facilitate capacity-building, technology transfer, and financial support programmes to assist developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, including those with high levels of biodiversity and that are centres of origin, to effectively implement or to achieve enhanced implementation of the GSPC.

38. In considering this item, the group noted that it may take a lot of investment to develop regional tools to address the whole Strategy, there are many possibilities to provide tools for information exchange and capacity building focused on specific targets or groups of targets. The European Strategy for Plant Conservation provided a good model for regional response and implementation of the Strategy as it provided opportunities to share experiences, information, build capacity and address common priorities and challenges.

39. The development of national and regional strategies may be catalytic in stimulating action at regional level and mobilizing resources to establish tools for information exchange and capacity building. However, the toolkit would provide a useful basis for capacity building at regional level and provide a basis for creation of such tools.

40. Additional tools such as training materials including Powerpoint presentations on the targets of the Strategy may also be developed and made widely accessible for teaching at tertiary level and capacity building at regional and national level.

41. The meeting also agreed that all available avenues should be used for mobilizing resources to assist the Executive Secretary and the Partnership to organize regional workshops and consultations on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Cost-effective ways should thereby be explored, such as including the GSPC implementation as an agenda item in regional meetings on other related aspects of implementation of the Convention (e.g. NBSAPs, protected areas etc.)

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

42. Participants were invited to raise any other matters relevant to the implementation and update of the GSPC for consideration.

43. The representative from the Global Diversity Foundation felt that additional efforts are needed to promote participation of representatives from indigenous and local communities in completing the updated GSPC. He said his organization would be willing to facilitate this.

44. The meeting also discussed the consequences of the location of the seconded GSPC programme officer outside the CBD Secretariat. Observations were made that this situations made it more difficult to synergize support to the GSPC implementation with other areas of CBD implementation; it made it harder to secure voluntary resources for GSPC activities; it tended to give low priority to GSPC activities requiring services in the Secretariat, such as the preparation and translation of documents; and it slowed down communication with key partners such as the CITES Secretariat and its Plants Committee. The meeting urged the Secretariat to actively pursue the identification of means to provide long-term support for the GSPC at par with that for other programmes and activities under the Convention.

45. The meeting re-emphasized the usefulness of the Plant Conservation Report but noticed the absence of a publication date, recommended citation and ISBN number. It recommended that stickers be pasted into the reports as they are being distributed.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

46. The meeting agreed that the report should be completed as soon as possible and circulated among participants for approval. Its early finalization would enable other processes to build on the agreed elements.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

47. The meeting reiterated its appreciation for the preparatory work and support from Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the CBD Secretariat, in particular the seconded GSPC programme officer. The meeting also thanked the Government of Ireland for its interest in and support to GSPC activities, including in particular the support to the production and dissemination of the Plant Conservation Report, and the National Botanic Gardens and its staff for the exceptional hospitality. Participants expressed their gratitude to the Co-chairs for guiding what was thought to be a successful and productive meeting. The closed at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 28 May 2009.

Annex I

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LIAISON GROUP ON THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION
Third meeting[2]

Dublin, 26-28 May 2009

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Annex II

PROPOSED UPDATED GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION[3]

I. VISION

Without plants, there is no life. The functioning of the planet, and our survival, depends upon plants. The Strategy seeks to halt the continuing loss of plant diversity.

1. Our vision is of a positive, sustainable future where human activities celebrate and support the diversity of plant life (including the endurance of plant genetic diversity, survival of plant species and communities and their associated habitats and ecological associations), and where in turn the diversity of plants support and improve our livelihoods and well-being.

2. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is a catalyst for working together at all levels - local, national, regional and global - to understand, conserve and use sustainably the world's immense wealth of plant diversity whilst promoting awareness and building the necessary capacities for its implementation.

3. If all efforts are made to fully implement this Strategy:

(a) Societies around the world can continue to rely upon plants for ecosystem services, including food, medicines, clean water, climate amelioration [or control], and rich, productive landscapes;

(b) Humanity can fully utilize the potential of plants to mitigate climate change and the role of plant diversity in maintaining the resilience of ecosystems and their capacity to adapt to threats from climate change;

(c) No species of plants will be at risk of extinction because of human activities, and the genetic diversity of plants will be safeguarded;

(d) The rich evolutionary legacy of plant diversity will be used sustainably and benefits arising are shared equitably to solve pressing problems, support livelihoods and improve human well-being, as the ultimate source of our foods, many medicines, timber, fibre and other materials, and as the structure and underpinnings of habitats for, and as ecological partners of, animals and other organisms;

(e) The knowledge and practices of all local human communities that depend on plant diversity will be secure and recognized as valuable living traditions and ways of life;

(f) People everywhere will be aware of the urgency and understand that plants support their lives and many livelihoods, and that everyone has a role to play in plant conservation.

II. OBJECTIVES

4. The Strategy consists of the following five objectives:

(a) Objective I: Plant diversity is sufficiently understood and documented to enable a sustainable future;

(b) Objective II: Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved;

3 The version contained in this document is the result of the third meeting of the Liaison Group on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The Liaison Group noted a need for further work on this document as detailed in para. 26 of the report of the meeting above. This version should therefore be considered as work in progress.

(c) Objective III: Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner;

(d) Objective IV: Education and awareness about plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on earth is promoted;

(e) Objective V: The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed.

III. RATIONALE

5. Plants are universally recognized as a vital part of the world's biological diversity and an essential resource for the planet. In addition to the cultivated plant species used for food, timber and fibres, many thousands of wild plants have great economic and cultural importance and potential, providing food, medicine, fuel, clothing and shelter for billions of people throughout the world. The combined contribution of wild and cultivated plants to the world's economy has not been estimated but is immense. Furthermore, the potential contribution of plants to future economic activity is enormous. The diversity of plant life is perhaps the greatest source of natural capital at humanity's disposal. Plants play a key role in maintaining the planet's basic environmental balance and ecosystem stability and provide an irreplaceable component of the habitats for the world's animal life. At present, a complete inventory of the plants of the world has not been assembled, but it is estimated that the total number of vascular plant species may be of the order of 400,000.

6. Of urgent concern is the fact that many plant species, communities, and their ecological partnerships, including the many relationships between plant species and human communities and cultures, are in danger of extinction, threatened by such human-induced factors as climate change, habitat transformation, over-exploitation, alien invasive species, and pollution, inter alia. . The disappearance of such vital and large amounts of biodiversity sets one of the greatest challenges for the world community: to halt the destruction of the plant diversity that is so essential to meeting the present and future needs of humankind. If this loss is not stemmed, countless opportunities to develop new solutions to pressing economic, environmental, medicinal and industrial problems will also be lost.

7. Furthermore, plant diversity is of special concern to indigenous and local communities, and these communities have a vital role to play in addressing the loss of plant diversity. They are the owners and stewards of unique bio-cultural diversity, intellectual knowledge and management practices. The goal of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is to address the challenges posed by threats to plant diversity. While the overall purpose of the Strategy is conservation, sustainable use of plant diversity and benefit-sharing are equally important to its purpose.

8. The rationale for a strategy focusing on plants has three aspects:

(a) Plants are primary producers and provide habitat infrastructure for many ecosystems;

(b) Setting meaningful targets is feasible since scientific understanding of at least higher plants, though incomplete, is better than for most other groups of organisms;

(c) A recognition that intact forest ecosystems play a major role in climate amelioration and provide a first line of defence against climate change.

IV. SCOPE

9. The Strategy and its 16 targets are intended to provide a framework for policy makers and public opinion and catalyse the reforms necessary to achieve plant conservation. Clear, stable, long-term targets that are adopted by the international community can help shape expectations and create the conditions in

which all actors, whether Governments, the private sector, or civil society, have the confidence to develop solutions to address threats to plant diversity. At the same time, they can provide guidance for setting national plant conservation targets, taking into account the global targets. For the targets to be widely understood and appealing to public opinion, they need to be kept fairly simple and straightforward. They should be understood in a commonsensical rather than a literal way. In order that the number of targets be kept manageable, they need to focus on a set of activities that are strategic, rather than aiming to be comprehensive. The targets have been reviewed, and appropriately revised, based upon the evidence of the successes and shortfalls in the targets adopted through decision VI/9.

10. The Strategy provides a framework to harmonize among existing initiatives aimed at plant conservation, to identify gaps where new initiatives are required, and to promote mobilization of the necessary resources.

11. The Strategy is a tool to enhance the ecosystem approach to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and focus on the vital role of plants in the structure and functioning of ecological systems and assure provision of the goods and services such systems provide.

12. The Strategy also acts as a means to implement the Strategic Plan of the Convention and supports and facilitates national action on the thematic programmes of work of the Convention.

13. Accordingly, the Strategy addresses the Plant Kingdom with main focus on higher plants, and other well-described groups such as Bryophytes and Pteridophytes. The setting of measurable targets for this set of taxa is more credible than for many lower plant groups. This does not imply that these groups do not have important ecological functions, nor that they are not threatened. However, effective action will be best achieved by focusing, in an initial phase at least, on achievable outcomes for known taxa. Parties may choose on a national basis to include other taxa including algae, lichens and fungi. The strategy considers plants in the terrestrial, inland water and marine environments.

14. The Strategy applies to plant genetic diversity, plant species and communities and their associated habitats and ecosystems.

V. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

15. The Strategy provides a framework for actions at global, regional, national and local levels. A global dimension to the Strategy is important because it can:

(a) Facilitate the development of a global consensus of key objectives, targets and actions;

(b) Strengthen possibility of implementing necessary transnational actions (such as some recovery programmes);

(c) Optimize availability and usefulness of information;

(d) Be used to focus research on key generic issues (such as conservation methods);

(e) Allow the identification of appropriate standards for plant conservation;

(f) Mobilize support for globally significant actions (globally threatened species; "centres of plant diversity" and "hot spots"); and

(g) Allow for collaboration between national, regional and international entities.

16. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation:

(a) Applies the ecosystem approach adopted under the Convention, recognizing the interaction of plants and plant communities, with other components of ecosystems, at all scales, and their role in ecosystem functions and processes. The ecosystem approach also implies, inter alia, intersectoral cooperation, decentralization of management to the lowest level appropriate, equitable distribution of benefits, and the use of adaptive management policies that can deal with uncertainties and are modified in the light of experience and changing conditions;

(b) Applies the Convention provisions on access and benefit-sharing, drawing as appropriate on the Bonn Guidelines for access and benefit-sharing, with a view to ensuring a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, and consistent with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

(c) Builds upon the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, and contribute to the implementation of Article 8(j) of the Convention;

(d) Employs *in situ* conservation measures as the primary approach for conservation, complementing them where necessary with ex situ measures. The Strategy provides an opportunity to explore linkages between in situ and ex situ conservation, including in restoration programmes;

(e) Adopts a multidisciplinary approach that takes into account scientific, social and economic issues;

(f) Strengthens initiatives on national inventories;

(g) Makes use of communication tools existing now, and in the future, to disseminate and make freely available, information, tools, advice and guidance to assist in sharing, networking and promotion of all targets of the Strategy;

(h) Integrates with relevant activities under existing initiatives.

VI. TARGETS

17. Under the five objectives, sixteen outcome-oriented targets have been developed which the Strategy seeks to achieve by 2020. For each target, a technical rationale includes where possible a long-term target, the rationale for benchmarks, and milestones where appropriate.

Objective I: Plant diversity is sufficiently understood and documented to enable a sustainable future

Target 1: A widely accessible list of known plant species

18. *Terms and technical rationale:* A widely accessible list of known plant species is a fundamental requirement for plant conservation. Using the 2010 list as a basis, an improved peer-reviewed list is considered to be attainable by 2020. Enhancements should include more complete synonymy and geographic distributions to country level drawing on national floras and checklists [and compilations] and international initiatives. (Where possible links to descriptions and conservation status should be an aspiration.) Further work on national and regional floras is also necessary to lay the basis for the longer term aim of developing a complete World Flora, including local and vernacular names. Capacity-building in taxonomy, as outlined in the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), will be critically important to achieving this longer-term objective.

19. *Progress:* Globally, good progress has been made, and at current rate of progress, the previous target could be around 85% complete by 2010, with a possibility of partial coverage for the remaining 15% by the end of 2010.

20. *Justification for changes:* (Note: Justifications for changes from decision VI/9 are for illustration and it is assumed that these will be deleted in final Strategy text.) The word 'working' has been removed from the target to reflect the greater degree of confidence envisaged for the 2020 product. The original target will be met by the end of 2010 or shortly thereafter, and the new rationale proposes taking the target a step further, The latter half of the old target 'as a step towards a complete world flora' was removed because the term "world flora" was not thought to be well understood by the general public. The reference to the GTI is intended to address/pre-empt comments from Parties to the effect that capacity is lacking to deliver on this Target and to highlight the role of the GTI in this respect.

Target 2: *An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species to guide conservation action at national, regional, and international levels*

21. *Terms and technical rationale:* The conservation status of many plant species has been assessed either through country-level processes and/or through international initiatives. These assessments have been conducted either using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria or other systems. Since most countries have assessed their plant species, a compilation of these evidence-based assessments will provide a useful overview of existing conservation status information, and a starting point to guide conservation action. Dissemination could be through an internet portal allowing access to all existing assessments for each species. A full assessment of all known plant species to a consistent international standard is the longer term aim to facilitate conservation action. The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria provide a robust framework for this endeavor enabling comparison of threat across a variety of spatial and temporal scales. Although it is not realistic to assess all species by this method by 2020, assessments for a representative sample of plant species (The Sampled Red List Index - SRLI) will provide a global overview and a baseline against which trends can be tracked. A working list of evidence-based conservation assessments is the only feasible approach commensurate with the urgency of assessing species in order not to hamper progress with targets 7 and 8.

22. *Progress:* The proportion of plants assessed globally by IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria has only reached *ca.* 10%. Many more plant species have been assessed at national or regional level using a variety of systems but an overview is lacking of the total species numbers thus addressed (see http://www.regionalredlist.com/site.aspx). Major constraints to achievement of this target include lack of funding for field work, data compilation and assessment activities leading to incomplete and scattered outputs. IUCN has developed a new tool, RapidList, which allows preliminary assessment of species. The Sampled Red List Index project aims to select approximately 1,200 species for each of bryophytes, ferns and their allies, gymnosperms, monocots and dicots and conduct a preliminary, GIS-based conservation assessment for each of these. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) A working list of all available evidence-based conservation assessments for plants by 2012, to be maintained as an online resource and developed to include all plant species by 2020;

(b) A published interim threatened species list, an output from (a) above, from which other GSPC targets can be measured by 2015;

(c) An assessment of the threat status of a globally representative sample of plant species by 2015;

(d) National and/or regional Red Lists developed or updated to assist in obtaining an overview of threat levels at a global level.

23. *Justification for changes:* The use of the term 'evidence-based' is intended to make clear that the assessments should be based on data which is verifiable, making the assessment potentially refutable and not just a guess. A variety of evidence-based approaches are acceptable as practical steps towards meeting the final target of full assessments of all species under IUCN criteria, so that they are comparable at a global level. Until full IUCN assessments are available an interim working list based on all available evidence is needed. This should be a single point of reference (internet portal) where all threat status information for a single species can be found... If multiple assessments exist for one species, all should be shown. . This will address the existing information gap, which will otherwise hamper progress with Targets 7 and 8

Target 3: Development and effective sharing of advice and guidance for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience

24. *Terms and technical rationale:* Conservation biology research, and methodologies and practical techniques for conservation are fundamental to the conservation of plant diversity and the sustainable use of its components. These can be applied through the development and effective dissemination of relevant models and protocols for applying best practice, based on the results of existing and new research and practical experience of management. 'Protocols' in this sense, can be understood as practical guidance on how to conduct plant conservation and sustainable use activities in particular settings. Key areas where the development of models with protocols is required include: the integration of in situ and ex situ conservation; maintenance of threatened plants within ecosystems; applying the ecosystem approach; balancing sustainable use with conservation; and methodologies for setting conservation priorities; and methodologies for monitoring conservation and sustainable use activities.

25. *Progress:* The Plant Conservation Report notes that it is critical that a means of dissemination of these protocols, including the Toolkit, is developed. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) The establishment of a web-based compilation of resources by 2015 (national, regional and international);

(b) Toolkit to support implementation of the Strategy available by 2012.

26. *Justification for changes:* There is no mention of sharing or making information accessible in the original target wording; there was also a lack of clarity in the target text, creating confusion. The revised wording includes the aspect of effective sharing, and replaces models and protocols with advice and guidance. The target text would be made more comprehensive with this change, and able to stand on its own.

Objective II: Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved

Target 4: Ecosystem services secured through effective management of at least 10% of major ecological regions

27. *Terms and technical rationale:* The long term goal is to have robust and healthy ecosystems, with the world benefiting from their ecosystem services. Ecological regions are understood to mean large areas of land or water that contain a geographically distinct assemblage of natural communities, that share a large majority of their species, ecological dynamics and environmental conditions, and interact ecologically in ways that are critical for their long-term persistence. Various approaches are available for use in the identification of ecological regions, based on major vegetation types (e.g. tundra, mangrove, temperate coastal forest). Effective management means that the area is managed to ensure the persistence of the vegetation, and associated biotic and abiotic components.. To this end, we need to secure ecosystem services through the conservation and restoration of a considerable proportion of the plant-

based ecological regions, including marine areas. There is a need to identify those regions most critically threatened. About 10% of the land surface is currently covered by protected areas. In general, forests and mountain areas are well represented in protected areas, while natural grasslands (such as prairies) and coastal and estuarine ecosystems, including mangroves, are poorly represented. The target would imply: (i) increasing the representation of different ecological regions in ecological networks, and (ii) increasing the integrity and effective management of ecological networks. Since some ecological regions will include protected areas covering more than 10% of their area, the qualifier "at least" is used. In some cases, ecosystems restoration and rehabilitation may be necessary. Various approaches are available for use in the identification of ecological regions, based on major vegetation types. REDD (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation), ecological networks, corridors, peace parks are potential means for reaching this target. Indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs), include sacred forests, wetlands, and landscapes, village lakes, catchment forests, river and coastal stretches and marine areas. ICCAs can be natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values, ecological services and cultural values, voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities, both sedentary and mobile, through customary laws or other effective means. ICCAs have been recognised as legitimate conservation sites by the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, and they deserve support and, as appropriate, inclusion in national and international systems.

28. *Progress:* The risks posed by climate change increase the importance of effective conservation and management of ecological regions. A review of the potential impact of climate change on existing protected area networks is needed. Currently there is uncertainty as to how the 10% level of this target relates to the conservation of either species-rich hotspots or areas of high threat or endemism, as these are not always correlated. However as the conservation species-rich hotspots and areas of high threat or endemism, is a key component of target 5, this target aims not only to ensure the increased representation of all ecological regions (and the species within them that are yet to be fully documented) in protected areas, but also to ensure that large tracts of important intact vegetation – crucial to under pinning ecosystem services – are effectively managed and thus sustained for the future.The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Establish which of the existing global or regional ecological region classifications are suitable for use at the national or regional scale (may differ around the world) ;

(b) Identify the co-incidence of protected areas and these ecological regions in order to identify most critical regions increase as appropriate;

(c) Develop guidance on the management of critical vegetation types;

(d) Trial the implementation of management guidance through the ecosystem approach.

29. *Justification for changes:* This target has been suggested by the online consultation as requiring modification. It was felt that the target was difficult to define at national level for action and also it was limiting to just link to protected areas when the conservation of ecological regions have an important link to building ecological networks and providing ecosystem services.. There is need however to link to sustainable use and human well-being as well provide guidance on implementation of the target at national and regional level. In the terms and technical rationale, the importance of ecological networks has been stressed. There is general confusion regarding how this target relates to Target 5 and the new rationale seeks to clarify this. The core of this target is about the conservation of ecosystems, whether they are diverse or not. There is a need to ensure that ecosystems are healthy and functional and to maintain ecosystem services through the conservation of critical ecological regions.

Target 5: *Protection of at least 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured with effective management for conserving plant diversity in place*

30. *Terms and technical rationale:* In the longer term the protection of all important areas for plant diversity –should be assured, including enlarging or connecting the area, as appropriate or possible, to combat threats, especially associated with climate change. The most important areas for plant diversity would be identified according to a set of criteria including endemism, species richness, and/or uniqueness of habitats, including relict ecosystems, also taking into account the provision of ecosystem services. These areas are identified primarily at local and national levels. Protection can be assured through effective conservation measures, including, but not limited to, protected areas. The key will be ensuring appropriate management measures are taken to maintain and enhance the plant diversity. It is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of threats to consider in designing effective management, as these will vary in different regions. There should be consideration of threats due to climate change, as well as linkage the development of ecological networks under target 4 and to consideration of invasive alien species under target 10. Effective management measures for plants should documented in the management plans developed using the ecosystem approach.

31. *Progress:* To date more than 35 countries have taken steps to identify important areas for plant diversity and at least 17 have ongoing programmes that are addressing conservation issues as well as documenting sites. Some important areas for plant diversity fall within officially protected areas (in Europe this is approximately 66%) though this figure varies considerably between countries. The percentage of important areas for plant diversity protected does not necessarily mean the site is maintained in good condition. The view that the impact of climate change may make this target (and by definition the conservation of highly diverse areas ineffective), is not substantiated. Well managed protected areas will contain the largest, most resilient populations of species and numerous microhabitats for these species to survive within; they provide staging posts for migration and a reservoir of genes for evolution; they will therefore be the core of any landscape scale conservation schemes to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Evaluation of protected areas against important areas for plant diversity by 2012;

(b) Identify threats to plants and plant habitats on IPAs

(c) Address issues raised by milestone (a) and (b) by 2013;

(d) Measures specifically geared toward plant conservation incorporated into existing management plans by 2015;

(e) Management plans developed through the ecosystem approach with the involvement of local stakeholders on at least five IPAs (without existing management) per country by 2015.

32. *Justification for changes:* The rewording has been suggested as a next stage in addressing the long-term target, to improve measurability, and to address emerging threats. The changes are linked to the updated work programme on Protected Areas. Progress has been made in identifying areas and in mapping these against protected areas; however, management frequently fails to take into account the needs of plant diversity, and the threats to it.

Target 6: *At least 30 per cent of production lands in each sector managed sustainably for plants and consistent with the conservation of plant diversity*

33. *Terms and technical rationale:* The ultimate goal is for all production lands to be managed sustainably, with agrobiodiversity conserved, without impacts on plant diversity or areas important for

plant diversity. For the purpose of the target, production lands refer to lands where the primary purpose is agriculture (including horticulture), grazing, or wood production. Consistent with conservation of plant diversity implies that a number of objectives are integrated into the management of such production lands: Conservation of plant diversity which is an integral part of the production system itself (i.e., crop, pasture or tree species and genetic diversity); Protection of other plant species in the production landscape that are unique, threatened, or of particular socio-economic value; Use of management practices that avoid significant adverse impacts on plant diversity in surrounding ecosystems, for example by avoiding excessive release of agro-chemicals and preventing unsustainable soil erosion. Increasingly, integrated production methods are being applied in agriculture, including integrated pest management, conservation agriculture, and on-farm management of plant genetic resources. Similarly, sustainable forest management practices are being more broadly applied. Against this background, and with the above understanding of the terms used, the target is considered feasible. Higher targets are appropriate for natural or semi-natural forests and grasslands. The management of production lands in a sustainable way is key as it will lead to actions that will have as a consequence the conservation of plant diversity. This includes the use of management practices that avoid adverse impacts on plant diversity in the production areas and in the surrounding ecosystems. The development of the biofuel production is an issue of particular concern, and management of production areas used for these purpose should take measures to avoid exerting pressure on the conservation of plant diversity. The sectors to be considered under this target include, *inter alia* croplands, pasture, forestry, including harvesting of non-timber forest products, and aquaculture.

34. *Progress:* Target 6 was noted to be difficult to measure effect. There is need for clarity of baselines, performance indicators and definition of terms such as 'effectively conserved' and 'production lands'. There was a recommendation to increase the threshold from 30% to 50% given the increasing challenge of land degradation and climate change and also develop sector specific sub targets but due to difficulties in monitoring progress the 30% threshold was maintained. The target links to the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations Forum on Forests has agreed to a goal "Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and the area of sustainably managed forests and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests." The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Establish links between the GSPC and the programmes of work on agricultural and forest biodiversity;

(b) Different sectors should develop specific targets;

(c) Development and promotion of guidance that shows how management systems that are consistent with the conservation of plant diversity can be achieved (for each sector)

(d) Testing the guidance referred to under (c) above in at least 2 sites in each sector and in each region.

35. *Reasons for change:* To achieve more effective implementation, more sectors need to be engaged; the addition of the word 'sustainably' is added to try to show the connections that are needed. As an extra ambition for the target to 2020, the words 'in each sector' have been added, to show that all sectors must have at least the benchmark percentage, not an average across them. The management of production lands in a sustainable way is key as it will lead to actions that will have as a consequence the conservation of plant diversity.

Target 7: At least 60% of threatened species conserved in situ

36. *Terms and technical rationale.* The target should be seen as a step towards the effective *in situ* conservation of all threatened species. Conserved *in situ* is here understood to mean that biologically viable populations of these species occur in at least one protected area or the species is effectively

managed outside the protected area network, e.g. as part of a management plan. Effective conservation needs to consider (i) the genetic diversity of the species and (ii) climate change, for example by determining whether the protected area network includes corridors, altitudinal gradients, or the presence of multiple habitats to facilitate species movement. The target should also be interpreted to allow for significant habitat and ecological restoration to enable its achievement. In this regard, guidelines in the toolkit should provide adequate guidance on restoration and species recovery. The development of internationally agreed guidelines for assisted migration of species impacted by climate change will be an urgent requirement of the toolkit. Many endemic species are by definition vulnerable, and should be treated as a priority, a sub-target of ensuring all endemics are found in at least one conservation area, or are covered by species plans needs to be sought.

37. *Progress:* Many protected areas, especially in developing countries, do not have well-articulated management objectives of any kind – let alone specific ones relating to protecting species. It will be important to move from conserving 60% *in situ* to the conservation of 100%. Therefore the actions underpinning this target will remain essential beyond 2020, as the current target is only a milestone towards the objective of halting the loss of biodiversity. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Develop the means to measure if threatened species are conserved in protected area systems that take into consideration climate change (e.g. reserves that have multiple habitat types, or altitudinal gradients) using a representative sample;

(b) A monitoring system that allows a baseline to be established so that progress towards achievement can be monitored (related to inventories of protected areas);

(c) Development of management plans for protected areas or for specific species of plants;

(d) 100% of single-country endemic species found in protected areas or covered by species management plans.

38. *Justification for change:* The target percentage is unchanged because of the growing realization of the additional threat of climate change, however, the qualifier “at least” is added to the target to emphasize that the target is seen as an interim step towards a higher target. The removal of the emphasis on the “worlds” threatened species is to emphasize the relevance of the target to national, regional, and international levels.

Target 8: At least 60% of threatened plant species in ex situ collections, and at least 10% in recovery and restoration programmes

39. *Terms and technical rationale: The ex situ collections should be accessible and should preferably be in the country of origin.* This target moves towards achieving a comprehensive programme of ex situ conservation that complements in situ conservation through the development of genetically representative collections and measures to strengthen responses to the impacts of climate change. Currently, over 15,000 threatened species are maintained in living collections (botanic gardens, seed banks, and tissue culture collections). Progress has been made up to the 2010 target to conserve 60% of all plant species, with the development of greater capacity, resources and programmes, which could be built on to achieve the 2020 target. Further research, technology development and transfer, especially for species with recalcitrant seeds will be needed to achieve the extended target. Within the first part of this target it is suggested that priority be given to developing genetically representative collections of the most critically threatened species, for which a target of 90% should be attained. It is estimated that currently about 5% of threatened species are included in recovery and restoration programmes. Efficient focusing of resources and monitoring of progress towards target 8 is dependent on delivery of target 2. Assessments of a representative sample of plant species could provide a basis for initial estimation of baseline and progress

towards this target. Toolkits under this target need to include protocols for genetic management of ex situ collections, and reintroductions.

40. *Progress:* Significant progress has been made by some regions and countries, but countries with high biodiversity still face the greatest challenges. In the absence of an updated global list of threatened species (targets 1 and 2), and with different lists in use, it is difficult to measure this target. The BGCI Plant Search database has already proved very useful in this regard and has the potential to be even more effective once Target 2 outputs are available. Further definition of priority taxa is needed, such as narrow endemics, sub specific taxa, critically endangered species and taxa with known or potential future use. Mere presence of species in ex situ collections should not be seen as the outcome but rather genetically representative collections. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) *Ex situ* collections of all critically endangered species should be genetically representative of the species;

(b) A meta-database of living plant collections producing regular reports of the percentage of threatened species in accessible ex situ collections;

(c) Establishment of a monitoring system for species included in recovery programmes.

41. *Justification for change.* The long-term target must be to ensure that all threatened plant species are in accessible ex situ collections, in recognition of the increasing urgency of such measures as part of the response to the impacts of climate change. The secondary target for recovery programmes will also need to be adjusted upwards partly for the same reasons but also recognizing the significant advances that have been made in recovery techniques, technology, and resources. The phrase referring to "preferably in the country of origin" has been retained because it is the preferred option but it should be interpreted to include conservation measures undertaken in another country on behalf of the relevant authorities (e.g. seed banks). Genetically representative collections of the most endangered species need to be established as a priority.

Target 9: 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained

42. *Terms and technical rationale:* Theory and practice demonstrate that, with an appropriate strategy, 70% of the genetic diversity of a crop can be contained in a relatively small sample (generally, less than one thousand accessions). For any one species, therefore, the target is readily attainable. By 2010, it is likely that the target will be reached for the majority of major crops, so increasing focus can be placed on other socio-economically important species, including those of local importance.For some 200-300 crops, it is expected that 70% of genetic diversity is already conserved ex situ in gene banks. Genetic diversity is also conserved through on farm management. By working with local communities, associated indigenous and local knowledge can also be maintained. Combining genebank, on farm, and other in situ approaches, the target could be reached for all crops in production, as well as major forage and tree species Other major socio-economically important species, such as medicinal plants, could be selected on a case-by-case basis, according to national priorities. Through the combined actions of countries, some 2,000 or 3,000 species could be covered in all. Especially in the light of biodiversity and climate change, it is now particularly important to emphasize other socio-economically valuable plants, including medicinal plants, non-timber forest products, local land races, wild relatives of crops, and neglected and underutilized plant resources. Priority species can be selected on a case-by-case basis at the local, national, and regional level.

43. *Progress:* The Global Crop Diversity Trust has been established to ensure the conservation and availability of crop diversity for food security worldwide. Maintenance of associated indigenous and local knowledge presents a particularly significant challenge and to date there is a lack of tested methodologies

and limited assessments of indigenous and local knowledge associated with plant genetic diversity. There is need to focus more on socio-economically important species as these address the needs of indigenous and local communities. There is need to define the link between this target to target 13 more clearly; provide some priority lists as a baseline. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Develop, in consultation with Indigenous and Local Communities, priority lists of socio-economically important, underutilized species or little-known crops;

(b) Get increased buy-in and ownership of this target from global agencies such as FAO, Global Crop Diversity Trust and Bioversity, which already have programmes which parallel this target and target 12.

Target 10: Effective management plans in place to address biological invasions for 50% of important areas for plant diversity that are invaded

44. *Terms and technical rationale:* This target would be considered as a first step towards developing management plans for all types of major biological invasions that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems. There is no agreed reliable estimate of the number of alien species that threaten indigenous plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems to such an extent that they may be considered as "major". The target relates to "biological invasions" and is established in relation to sites that are important for plants. NB that the alien species could be plants, animals or micro-organisms and the management plans should be designed (using the ecosystem approach) to redress damage done to plants and/or their communities and to restore ecosystem functions, goods and services.

45. *Progress:* The 2010 target has already been met in that there are over 100 management plans in place, but these do not lend themselves to national or regional implementation, and an overhaul of the target is necessary to address the phenomenon rather than specified species. There is an urgent need to recognize that climate change will enhance the spread and impact of invasive alien species. Hence, future work on this target should ensure that there is adequate preparedness and that management plans should include options for adaptation to climate change. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Identify priority lists of biological invasions affecting important for areas for areas for plant diversity;

(b) Develop lists of potential invasive species for given ecosystems/localities as a toolkit for management plans;

(c) Establish global principles for developing management plans to recognize organisms, address biological invasions, and including considerations for restoration;

(d) Agree on general principles to identify and describe areas important for plants (in this context).

46. *Justification for change:* The original target did not lend itself to national or regional implementation, and the emphasis has been changed accordingly. The target should address biological invasions which are brought about by combinations of alien species (of plants, animals or micro-organisms) and the reactions of ecosystems or habitats – rather than by species dubbed "invasive" which are not always invasive when introduced to new localities, ecosystems of habitats. Hence the removal of the term "alien species" (interpreted as "invasive species") and its replacement by the phenomena of "biological invasions". This requires that target ecosystems/habitats are defined, in this case as "important areas for plants".

Objective III. Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner

Target 11: No species of wild flora endangered by international trade

47. *Terms and technical rationale:* The target focuses on those species that are actually threatened by international trade. It is attainable and complementary to target 12. Species of wild flora endangered by international trade include but are not limited to species listed on appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The target is consistent with the main purpose of the CITES Strategic Plan: "No species of wild flora subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade".

48. *Progress:* The GSPC welcomes the new Decision formulated by the CITES Plants Committee that it will collaborate with the Strategy. The fact that the CITES Plants Committee is interested in interacting with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the context of the GSPC, is evidence of engagement and satisfaction with the target as it stands (see UNEP/CBD/LG-GSPC/3/INF/2). The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Collaborate with the CITES Plants Committee to ensure linkages between the two Conventions are complimentary and supportive;

(b) Improve implementation through strengthening linkages between national GSPC focal points and CITES focal points.

Target 12: A continuous increase in the percentage of plant-based products derived from naturally occurring sources that are sustainably managed, based on progressive inventory and assessment

49. *Terms and technical rationale:* This target is consistent with the long term goal of achieving sustainable management of all plant resources. Plant-based products include food products, timber, paper and other wood-based products, other fibre products, and ornamental, medicinal and other plants for direct use, including non-timber forest products, local land races, wild relatives of crops, and neglected and underutilised plant resources. Sources that are sustainably managed are understood to include (i) Natural or semi-natural ecosystems that are sustainably managed (by avoiding overharvesting of products, or damage to other components of the ecosystem), excepting that commercial extraction of resources from some primary forests and near-pristine ecosystems of important conservation value might be excluded: and (ii) Sustainably managed, plantation forests and agricultural lands. In both cases, sustainable management should be understood to integrate social and environmental considerations, such as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and the participation of indigenous and local communities. Indicators for progress might include (i) direct measures e.g.: products meeting relevant verified standards (such as for organic food, certified timber, and intermediate standards that codify good practices for sustainable agriculture and forestry); and (ii) indirect measures e.g.: products from sources considered to be sustainable, or near sustainable, on the basis of farming system analyses, taking into account the adoption of integrated production methods. Assessment of progress will be assisted by the development of criteria and indicators of sustainable agricultural and forest management. Certified organic foods and timber currently account for about 2% of production globally. For several product categories, examples exist of 10–20% of products meeting intermediate standards. Against this baseline, the target is considered to be attainable. It would be applied to each category of plant-based products, understanding that for some categories it will be more difficult to reach and more difficult to monitor progress. Implementation would require a combination of product-specific and sector-wide approaches, consistent with the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity.

50. *Progress:* The previous figure of 30% for this target was perceived as arbitrary and in need of review, better refinement, definition of terms, and if possible development of sub targets. Terms to be clarified include 'plant based products' and 'effective'. There is need to integrate this target better with

target 6 and the programme of work on sustainable use. There is need to develop sub targets at sectoral level and strengthen linkages with the private sector and consumers. This target probably requires intercessional work and the gathering of data to identify gaps and issues, before a realistic target can be set. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Collaborate with FAO and Bioversity to inventory plant-based products (and identify the species from which they are derived) by 2015;

(b) Assess or certify the sustainability of a diversity of plant-based products, according to explicit criteria, in order to develop a realistic figure for this target by 2015;

(c) Collaborate with CITES authorities regarding CITES listed species.

51. *Justification for change.* The rationale of target 11 states that it is complementary to target 12. This, however, is incongruent, because 100% of the internationally traded plants and plant products are covered by target 11, but only 30% of the domestically traded ones are contemplated in target 12. In addition, the current wording is in contradiction to objective 2 of the CBD, which states that all plant resources shall be used sustainably. The rewording reflects the need to first inventory plant-based products (and identify the species from which they are derived) and to assess or certify their sustainability according to explicit criteria, before a specific numeric target can be proposed. This parallels the decision that advances in the inventory of all plants (target 1) and assessment of their conservation status (target 2) are necessary before setting targets for their in situ and ex situ conservation. To set a target before engaging in inventory and assessment of plant-based products – which is arguably less well organized and advanced than inventory and conservation status of plants in general – would be artificial and arbitrary.

Target 13: The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge innovations and practices, that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted

52. *Terms and technical rationale:* Plant diversity underpins livelihoods, food security and health care. This target is consistent with one of the widely agreed international development targets, namely to "ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources are effectively reversed at both global and national levels by 2015". It is recommended feasible to halt the decline by 2010 and subsequently to reverse the decline. Relevant plant resources and methods to address their decline are largely site specific and thus implementation must be locally driven. The scope of the target is understood to encompass plant resources and associated ethnobotanical knowledge. Measures to address the decline in associated indigenous and local knowledge should be implemented consistent with the Convention's programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions. As it stands, this is an enabling target, but indicators measurable in the mid- and long-term should be identified and participation of stakeholders improved and broadened. Specific indicators being formulated by ILO (on traditional occupations, some of which related to plants and plant-derived materials) and UNESCO (culture and language loss) could be assessed for possible inclusion.

53. *Progress:* This target cannot be accurately quantified. It was proposed in 2006 that several sub-targets should be developed, taking an ecosystem-by-ecosystem approach (e.g. for agriculture, forest resources and pasture resources), but there has been no progress in this respect and no milestones have been declined. The consultation noted that this target was unsatisfactory, being vague and difficult to measure and is not SMART. This target is a strategic link to the MDG framework, can be included in national sustainable development policies and links well to sustainable livelihood initiatives. However, there is need for guidance for practical implementation at national level and definition of sub targets for different priorities. This target provides a basis to address ABS and article 8j related priorities within the Strategy, and in line with the ABS negotatiations, the thresholds may be need to be increased. The consultation recommended that indigenous and local communities be involved in the review and update of this target. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Develop stakeholder consultations regarding the appropriateness of the wording on Indigenous and Local Communities in the GSPC and development of possible sub-targets;

(b) Encourage Parties to incorporate this target into national sustainable development policies or sustainable livelihood initiatives, where possible taking an ecosystem approach.

54. *Justification for change.* Whilst no change in the target wording has been made, it is recognised that the inclusion of specific references to knowledge, practices and innovations of indigenous peoples and local communities in the GSPC has great merit. It ties the Strategy to Article 8j and 10c of the CBD, and relates it to the Malawi Principles for the ecosystem approach and the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. The Malawi Principles, adopted in 1998, advocate an ecosystem wide approach and recommend the decentralisation of management to the lowest appropriate levels, including by communities. The Addis Principles and Guidelines, adopted in 2004, advocate state recognition that use and knowledge of resources lead to sustainable management, particularly by local people. The milestones reflect opinions from the Plant Conservation Report and online consultation.

Objective IV: Education and awareness about plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on earth is promoted

Target 14: The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes

55. *Terms and technical rationale:* Communication, education and the raising of public awareness about the importance of plant diversity are crucial for the achievement of all the targets of the strategy. The concept of plants underpinning the functioning biosphere needs to be widely understood by all sectors of society. This target is understood to refer to both informal and formal education at all levels, including primary, secondary and tertiary education. Key target audiences include not only children and other students, but also policy-makers and the public in general. Consideration should be given to developing specific indicators to monitor progress towards achievement of the overall target. It may be helpful to develop materials [indicators] for specific target audiences. Given the strategic importance of education about plant conservation, this issue should be included not only in environmental curricula, but should also be included in broader areas of mainstream education policy. A key message is the fact that climate change is a biological and socio-economic issue as well as a meteorological phenomenon.

56. *Progress:* The publication of the GSPC brochure and its translation into 10 languages is a key achievement, allowing easy access to the text of the Strategy for policy makers. However there is still a lack of awareness of the GSPC at the policy level in many countries. Issues to be addressed include the over-emphasis on animals and neglect of plants in environmental education programmes, a need for increased teacher-training relative to plant diversity, a lack of opportunity to experience nature first hand and messages being lost under an overwhelming level of advertising in all media. The on-line consultation suggests that indigenous and local communities, the business sector and media were least aware of the Strategy. This is an enabling target and as such it is difficult to set milestones or measure successes. In the light of climate change, this target remains a priority. We need to refocus our communication strategy to address livelihoods, ecosystem products and services. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Develop key messages for a communication/marketing plan for the Strategy by 2015;

(b) Encourage Parties to incorporate plant conservation into national climate change, or other resource management documents or strategies.

57. *Justification for change:* Whilst no change in the target wording has been made, there is an urgent need to mainstream the Strategy and reach important sectors, including indigenous and local communities, the business sector, media and policy makers.

Objective V: The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed

Target 15: The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy

58. *Terms and technical rationale.* The achievement of the targets included in the Strategy will require very considerable capacity-building, particularly to address the need for conservation practitioners trained in a range of disciplines, with access to adequate facilities. In addition to training programmes, the achievement of this target will require long-term commitment to maintaining infrastructure. "Appropriate facilities" are understood to include adequate technological, institutional and financial resources. Capacity-building should be based on national needs assessments. It is likely that the number of trained people working in plant conservation world-wide will need to double. Given the current geographical disparity between biodiversity and expertise, this is likely to involve considerably more than a doubling of capacity in many developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition. Increased capacity should be understood to include not only in-service training, but also the training of additional staff and other stakeholders and decision makers, particularly at the community level.

59. *Progress.* This target remains fundamental for the achievement of the Strategy, overall there has been limited commitment and leadership from all sectors. While there is no global baseline from which progress can be measured, and despite relatively few countries having conducted needs assessments, several global programmes have nevertheless made considerable progress in increasing the number of trained people in plant conservation, particularly in developing countries. The target needs to be made more measurable, baselines defined and a coordination and monitoring framework recommended. The focus should not only be on numbers but also quality. National needs assessments may be an initial priority. Plant science needs to be bolstered in all related disciplines, especially at tertiary level education, so that various sectors such as forestry, horticulture, *inter alia* value the significance and importance of plant conservation. Where capacity and facilities already exist, knowledge transfer and succession must be secured. Accelerated and increased investment in target 15 is critical for the overall achievement of all the targets by 2020, but the lack of a lead agency for this target hampers progress. The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Institutions strengthened with appropriate resources to teach whole plant science;

(b) Secure the transfer of knowledge and skills related to plant conservation.

Target 16: Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels

60. *Terms and technical rationale:* Networks can enhance communication and provide a mechanism to exchange information, know-how and technology. Networks will provide an important component in the coordination of effort among many stakeholders for the achievement of all the targets of the strategy. They will also help to avoid duplication of effort and to optimize the efficient allocation of resources. Effective networks provide a means to develop common approaches to plant conservation problems, to share policies and priorities and to help disseminate the implementation of all such policies at different levels. They can also help to strengthen links between different sectors relevant to conservation, e.g. the botanical, environmental, agricultural, forest and educational sectors. Networks provide an essential link between on-the-ground conservation action and coordination, monitoring and policy development at all

levels. This target is understood to include the broadening of participation in existing networks, as well as the establishment, where necessary, of new networks.

61. *Progress.* At the global level the establishment of the GPPC has made a good start at bringing together the plant conservation community, however greater efforts are needed to engage the other sectors such as agriculture, industry, education, forestry, water management, Indigenous and Local Communities communication. There is still a lack of cross-sectoral networks, with limited institutional integration and a lack of mainstreaming. Where national responses have been prepared, this has helped provide a focus for networking amongst the stakeholders. Need for networks at all levels (Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and others). The following milestones could serve as steps towards the 2020 target:

(a) Structures and model information systems relevant to networks, as well as new technologies (electronic networks) for participation as part of the toolkit available through the target 3 portal available by 2015;

(b) Increased membership of the GPPC by members from other sectors, e.g. agriculture, industry, education, forestry, water management, Indigenous and Local Communities and communication by 2015.

VII. THE STRATEGY AS A FRAMEWORK

62. The Strategy is not intended to be a "programme of work" analogous to existing thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work under the Convention. It does not, therefore, contain detailed activities, expected outputs, etc. Rather, the Strategy provides a framework by means of setting outcome-orientated targets (these differ from the "process" targets used so far under the Convention). It is envisaged that the activities necessary to reach those targets could be developed within this framework. In many cases, activities are already under way, or envisaged in existing initiatives. These include:

(a) Activities aimed at plant conservation within national biodiversity strategies and action plans and relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. In this respect, Parties and Governments may wish to report on the incorporation of the Strategy in their national plans, programmes and policies;

(b) Relevant activities under the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including those relating to agricultural biodiversity, forest biological diversity, inland water biological diversity, marine and coastal biological diversity, and dry and sub-humid lands, as well as activities involving cross-cutting issues such as access and benefit-sharing, sustainable use, indicators, alien species, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and issues related to Article 8(j).

VIII. FURTHER WORK REQUIRED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY

63. Measures to implement the Strategy will need to be put in place at international, national, and subnational levels. This will include development of national targets and their incorporation into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans. National targets will vary from country to country according to differences in levels of plant diversity and national priorities. Multilateral and bilateral funding agencies should consider putting in place policies and procedures to ensure that their funding activities are supportive of and do not run counter to the strategy and its targets.

64. For each target, the scope of activities may need to be clarified and sub-targets, or milestones, developed. In order to monitor progress towards achieving the targets, baseline data and a series of indicators may need to be developed. This would draw upon relevant national and international data sets (such as national "red lists"), and make full use of the clearing-house mechanism.

65. Regional components of the Strategy might be developed, perhaps using a biogeographical approach.

66. In addition to the Parties to the Convention, the design, development and implementation of the strategy should involve a range of actors, including:

(a) International initiatives (e.g., international conventions, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, multilateral aid agencies);

(b) Conservation and research organizations (including protected-area management boards, botanic gardens, gene banks, universities, research institutes, non-governmental organizations and networks of non-governmental organizations);

(c) Communities and major groups (including indigenous and local communities, farmers, women, youth);

(d) Governments (central, regional, local authorities);

(e) The private sector.

67. In order to promote implementation of the strategy and facilitate cooperation between these initiatives, the Executive Secretary will collaborate with relevant stakeholders. To ensure full participation, the actors mentioned in paragraph 66 above should reflect not only United Nations geographical regions but also biogeographical regions. This collaboration will aim at avoiding duplication of effort, promote collaboration and synergies among existing initiatives, and facilitate analysis of the status, trends, and effectiveness of different measures on the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity. Consideration might also be given to the establishment of a flexible coordination mechanism.

Annex III

DRAFT OUTLINE FOR THE TOOLKIT ON GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION[4][5]

I. Purpose of the toolkit*:* To enable in-country practitioners to:

- develop national and/or regional targets
- implement the Strategy, elements of the Strategy or specific targets
- integrate the targets of the Strategy into their strategies, plans and programmes
- measure progress on the implementation of the Strategy

Target audience: Policy makers, researchers, institutions, NGOs, local communities

Content: Electronic version for website and DVD Version **(English Version initially)**

SECTION	PURPOSE	CONTENT
Section I: WHAT	Introduction and background information:	• The GSPC background, relevant CBD documents and related documents.
Section II: HOW – NATIONAL RESPONSES	Developing national and/or regional targets, strategies and responses:	• How to develop national/regional targets/strategies/responses: • Experiences from Parties that have already developed national Strategies and or/targets and integrated them into their national strategies and action plans. • Resources –links to selected websites • Checklist for integrating the strategy into national strategies, plans and programmes •
Section III: HOW-TARGETS	Implementing the targets of the GSPC at national and/or regional level:	• Target • Overview of target – a summary and linkages of target to other targets and POWs. • Clarification of terms and ambiguities (FAQs) • Tools and resources to adapt the target to the national level and implementing it • Relevant CBD documents • Case-studies • Links to related websites and other resources
Section IV: HOW-CROSS CUTTING TARGETS	Implementing cross-cutting targets:	• Target • Overview and linkages • Clarification of terms and ambiguities (FAQs) • Tools and resources • Case-studies • Links to websites and other resources
Section V:	BIBLIOGRAPHY	• Additional resources for implementing the

4 Justifications for changes from decision VI/9 are for illustration and it is assumed that these will be deleted in final Strategy text.

5 This outline builds on and further develops the template contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/12.

		strategy at national, regional and international level e.g. tools, protocols, databases, electronic libraries etc.
Section VI:	General FAQs	• Technical Support and Feedback
Section VII	Other Links	• Links to other international conventions • Links to relevant websites

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