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LIAISON GROUP MEETING ON THE GLOBAL
STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION
Cartagena, Colombia, 11-12 October 2002

**REPORT ON THE LIAISON GROUP MEETING ON THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR
PLANT CONSERVATION**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its sixth meeting, adopted decision VI/9 on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, including outcome-oriented global targets for 2010 (UNEP/CBD/GSPC/2/2).
2. The Conference of the Parties will consider at its seventh meeting, tentatively to be held in March 2004, the progress made in the implementation and further development of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
3. More specifically, COP requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), *inter alia*, to develop ways and means, within the Convention's thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work, for promoting implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and for monitoring and assessing progress; and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (paragraph 10).
4. Moreover, further work is required to develop and implement the Strategy, as described in annex I to decision VI/9. Thus,
 - (a) 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 (paragraph 17);
 - (b) Regional components of the Strategy might be developed, perhaps using a biogeographical approach (paragraph 18);

(c) In addition to the Parties to the Convention, the design, development and implementation of the strategy should involve a range of actors, including: international initiatives, conservation and research organizations, communities and major groups including indigenous and local communities, governments and the private sector (paragraph 19); and

(d) In order to promote implementation of the strategy and facilitate cooperation between these initiatives, consideration might be given to the establishment of a flexible coordination mechanism (paragraph 20).

5. In response to these provisions of decision VI/9, the Executive Secretary invited a group of experts (hereafter called “the Group”) whose selection was determined by the Secretariat on the basis of their expertise and previous involvement in the development of the Strategy; as an informal liaison group to provide additional guidance on the implementation and monitoring of the strategy.

6. The liaison group meeting was organized in collaboration with the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and supported by HSBC, through its “Investing in Nature” partnership.

7. The meeting was held in the Jardín Botánico “Guillermo Pineres”, Cartagena, Colombia, on 11 and 12 October 2002, back-to-back with the Latin American Botanical Congress (13-18 October) and the Plant Conservation Committee meeting of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) (9-10 October).

8. The objective of the liaison group meeting was to initiate preparations for a programme of workshops and other meetings to be held prior to the ninth meeting of the SBSTTA (14-18 November 2003) the results of which will be presented for consideration by the COP at its seventh meeting. During the liaison group meeting, the Group gave due consideration to (a) the clarification of the scope of targets and the development of sub-targets and milestones for each target, (b) the development of national targets and regional components, (c) the development and identification of baseline data and indicators to monitor the progress towards achieving the targets by 2010, (d) the need for the establishment of a flexible coordination mechanism, and (e) preparations for future liaison group meetings and workshops for the further development of the Strategy.

9. The recommendations and conclusions of the liaison group meeting on the global strategy for plant conservation of the Convention of Biological Diversity are contained in Annex I; the list of participants is provided in Annex II.

ITEM. 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

10. The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, 11 October 2002.

11. The participants were welcomed to the meeting by Mr. Carlos Fonseca, Director of the Jardín Botánico “Guillermo Pineres”, Cartagena, Colombia.

12. Dr. Cristian Samper, also made a few welcoming remarks to the group especially noting that it was a privilege for the first meeting after the adoption of the Strategy to be held in Colombia, given that Colombia had already made good progress at national level in addressing plant conservation issues.

13. Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, Secretary General, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, noted the request from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to BGCI to assist in the organisation of the meeting, also welcomed the participants and recalled the mandate of the Group from

the Conference of the Parties. He also reviewed the background of the Strategy and the goals, objectives and expected outputs of the Group.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. *Election of officers*

14. The Group elected the Chair, Ms. Stella Simiyu (Kenya) and the Rapporteur, Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson (BGCI).

2.2. *Self-Introduction by the participants*

15. The Group members were invited to introduce themselves.

2.3 *Adoption of the agenda*

16. The provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/LG-GSPC/1/1) was presented to the Group for consideration. The Group adopted the agenda without any amendments.

2.4. *Organization of work*

17. The Group agreed to work in three working groups in order to consider the development of a framework and provide guidance for i) the further development of sub-targets, milestones and indicators for each targets, ii) monitoring progress in the implementation of the strategy, as well as iii) development of a baseline data for monitoring progress towards the targets. The group findings would be further elaborated and agreed in plenary along with the other substantive issues.

ITEM 3: SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

18. The meeting addressed four substantive issues as presented on the agenda, reflecting the objectives of the meeting as outlined in paragraph 8 above.

ITEM 3.1 DEVELOPMENT OF SUB-TARGETS, MILESTONES AND INDICATORS FOR EACH OF THE 16 TARGETS INCLUDED IN THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION AS WELL AS A BASELINE DATA FOR MONITORING

19. The meeting considered the need for a series of stakeholder consultations on each target and a programme of activities to review the above issues prior to SBSTTA 9 (10-14 November, 2003). They proposed that an effective way to organise such consultations would be to identify possible lead organisations/institutions to help promote or guide the achievement of each target at international level. They further considered the need for major partner organisations to assist in the achievement of each target at international level. The potential roles of lead organisations/institutions and major partners were also considered and outlined in annex II to this report.

20. The meeting agreed that the focus of sub-targets should be geographic, rather than temporal and further proposed that target 14 (education and awareness), 15 (capacity building and resources) and 16 (networks) should be considered as cross-cutting targets related to the achievement of all the other targets.

21. It was agreed that each working group should consider the following issues:

- (a) Clarification of the scope of each target;
- (b) Available baseline data or the need for such baseline data; and
- (c) Sub-targets, milestones and relevant indicators.

22. The Chair's proposal on the composition of each working group was adopted and working groups were invited to nominate their own rapporteurs. The report of these working groups is presented in Annex II.

ITEM 43.2 REGIONAL COMPONENTS OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

23. Dr. Jane Smart (Planta Europa) provided an update on the European Strategy for Plant Conservation (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/22). She noted that this European Strategy includes regional targets to be achieved by 2007, but which may be adapted to harmonise with the 2010 targets of the Global Strategy (GSPC). She also pointed out that the achievement of targets was being supported by the work of designated lead organisations, which helped to facilitate and monitor progress at a regional level. Nevertheless the aim was to ensure that the European Strategy's targets were being implemented at national levels. The Chair noted that the European Strategy had been developed following extensive stakeholder consultations held in the form of a major conference* and several workshops; she also noted the need to look at the implementation of the strategy in each national context and the importance of linking its implementation to all relevant conventions. She provided information on the resources needed to host strategic planning workshops for the development of regional strategies, and suggested that the hire of an independent professional facilitator can be worthwhile.

24. Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson outlined a recent initiative taken to develop a regional strategy for the conservation of plants from the Arabian region, following a meeting organised by IUCN-The World Conservation Union in Kuwait in September 2002. He also pointed out that consideration was being given to the development of a strategy for the conservation of plants in the Caribbean region, perhaps based on the broadening of an existing Caribbean botanic gardens action plan, but involving other relevant stakeholders. The importance of ensuring sufficient stakeholder involvement in the development of such regional strategies was emphasised. The Group also noted that discussions were ongoing towards the development of regional strategies in Africa, Latin America, Australia and Indonesia.

25. The Group recommended that seed funding should be sought to support the development of regional strategies in several parts of the world, including the organisation of a number of regional scoping meetings, with the relevant involvement of the CBD Secretariat and other organisations. Such scoping meetings may also help to foster leadership for the development of regional strategies in several parts of the world.

26. The Group considered whether the basis of regional strategies should be biogeographical or political and proposed that such decisions should be based on a combination of pragmatic considerations, such as relationships within a region, as well as on an analysis of needs and priorities in each region. It was suggested that the implementation of a nested approach to the regional strategy development might be appropriate in some regions, and include related sub-regional and national strategies based on existing frameworks and initiatives.

* 3rd Planta Europa conference for the conservation of wild plants, Pruhonice, The Czech Republic, 23-28 June, 2001

27. The Group proposed that a gap analysis should be undertaken in the form of a paper outlining the needs and opportunities for the development of regional plant conservation strategies, outlining gaps, existing projects and initiatives. The Group suggested that such a paper should undertake an analysis of approaches taken into consideration the development of regional strategies and containing draft guidelines for their development and mechanisms for ensuring appropriate stakeholder involvement. This paper should also analyse the issues relating to biogeographical, floristic and biopolitical approaches. The Group suggested that such an analysis should be completed prior to SBSTTA 9.

ITEM 3.3. CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FLEXIBLE COORDINATION MECHANISM TO PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION AND FACILITATE COOPERATION

28. The Group had been invited to consider the need for the establishment of a flexible coordination mechanism (paragraph 20 of Annex I to Decision VI/9), its development and what would be the scope and activities of this mechanism, and specifically, to consider (a) the needs and mechanisms for the provision of advice and assistance to national governments and other bodies to help in the setting of targets at various levels and the inclusion of these targets in relevant strategies; and (b) the needs and mechanisms for interactions and collaboration between governments and other relevant bodies and the CBD for the implementation of the Global Strategy and in the review of progress towards the targets.

29. The Group recognised the importance and urgency of having a coordination mechanism for the Global Strategy. Further, they acknowledged the value of having a programme officer in the CBD Secretariat to support exclusively the Global Strategy and noted the offer made by BGCI to second a staff member to the Secretariat for this purpose for a period of two years.

30. Various potential options for a flexible coordination mechanism were reviewed, which could include the establishment of a Global Liaison Group convened by and to advise the Executive Secretary which would meet regularly. It was suggested that the composition of such a liaison group could be based on expertise, insuring representation from Parties as well as from relevant international organisations including those mentioned in decision VI/9 adopting the Strategy. The Group agreed that the mechanism should be kept flexible in order to involve relevant expertise to consider particular issues as they arise. Such a liaison group could also provide a forum for key or lead organisations to report on progress being made in the achievement of the targets adopted at international level. The Group suggested that the Executive Secretary might also wish to consider the establishment of regional liaison groups, which could advise on issues related to those particular regions. Communications and awareness raising about the Strategy at all levels could also be an important component of the work of the Global Liaison Group.

31. The Group proposed that Liaison Group(s) established as part of a flexible coordination mechanism could facilitate and support the preparation of regular up-date and progress reports, which could subsequently be reviewed for their scientific and technical, content during SBSTTA meetings and provide further input for documentation for the COP. The importance of using the CBD clearing-house mechanism (CHM) as a means for involving Parties in a flexible coordination mechanism was stressed. The clearing-house mechanism is also of importance to facilitate and foster synergies between national level implementation of the Strategy and activities undertaken at global level.

32. The need for financial support from the secretariat for such a framework was highlighted, especially to support meetings and enable the preparation of regular reports. Nevertheless the Group considered that the coordination mechanism should be streamlined and non-bureaucratic.

33. A further component of the proposed flexible coordination mechanism was the designation of contact points by the Parties for the Strategy, which might in time, become formalised as national focal points.

34. The Group agreed that, if requested by the Executive Secretary, it would: prepare an informal paper on this issue of coordination and suggest draft terms of reference for such a liaison group; review the potential roles of a staff (or Programme Officer) of the CBD Secretariat in supporting a flexible coordination mechanism; and, consider linkages between the clearing-house mechanism and the flexible coordination mechanism for the Strategy.

**ITEM 3.4. PREPARATION OF FURTHER LIAISON GROUP
MEETING/WORKSHOPS FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION PRIOR TO
THE NINTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE.**

35. The Group agreed on the need for a programme of meetings and workshops to be held prior to the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The Group recommended that the Executive Secretary invite a number of identified lead organisations (proposed in Annex II) to facilitate and support the holding of stakeholder consultations which would review the development of sub-targets, milestones and indicators for each of the 16 targets included in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, as well as would elaborate baseline data available and necessary for monitoring. It was suggested that such consultations should be completed no later than July 2003 and be followed by a further Global Liaison Group meeting probably in September 2003. Terms of reference for stakeholder consultations would be needed but they would be supported by much of the existing documentation on the Strategy and by the report of this meeting.

36. The purpose of a Global Liaison Group meeting in September 2003 would be to consider the reports of each of the stakeholder consultations and finalise recommendations for the further implementation of the Strategy and to report to the Executive Secretary. This meeting could also give consideration to issues which were not addressed by the present meeting, including:

(a) The need for assessments and the potential role of the Strategy in contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development (paragraph 5 of Decision VI/9);

(b) The preparation of a proposal for the further development of ways and means, within the Convention's thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work, for promoting implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and for monitoring and assessing progress (paragraph 10(b) of Decision VI/9);

(c) Needs and opportunities for awareness raising initiatives to highlight the importance of the Strategy; and

(d) Progress made in reaching the global targets, and provision of additional guidance in light of those reviews, including, as necessary, refinement of the targets.

37. The Group also highlighted the need for a programme of regional meetings to support the development of regional strategies but stressed that financial mechanisms to facilitate these meetings would need to be elaborated.

38. It was recommended that the Executive Secretary invite CBD focal points to seek information on existing activities on the implementation of the Strategy and on national targets adopted or being implemented. A web page on the Strategy might be established for the clearing-house mechanism and a searchable database on existing initiatives created.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

39. Under this item, participants were invited to raise other issues relevant to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

40. Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, BGCI, noted plans for the publication of the Strategy and mentioned that a brochure on the Strategy would be published shortly by the CBD Secretariat, in association with BGCI and with support from the HSBC "Investing in Nature" initiative.

41. On recognising the critical need for financial resources if the targets of the Strategy are to be met, a wide-ranging discussion on funding needs for the implementation of the Strategy was held. It was noted that a huge amount of funding is already committed by Parties and individuals organisations and institutions to plant conservation already but that additional resources would be necessary to achieve many of the targets. The Group recommended that further consideration should be given to the ways and means of better coordinating and maximising the use of resources for the implementation of the Strategy and to identifying new and novel sources of support at various levels and from a variety of sectors.

42. The forthcoming World Parks Congress in September 2003 was mentioned as a valuable opportunity to promote the Strategy and, in particular, the achievement of targets 4, 5, 7 and 10. Participants commented that it would be useful if guidance could be given by the CBD Secretariat in relation to the possible use of the Convention logo in relation to initiatives being undertaken which support the implementation of the Strategy. The relevance and importance of the BirdLife International Protocol on Important Biodiversity Areas was specifically noted.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

43. The Group considered and adopted draft conclusions and recommendations as included in Annex I. The Group agreed that a draft report as prepared by the Rapporteur would be circulated to the participants for consideration before being submitted to the Executive Secretary.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

44. The Chair thanked the host, the organizers and the participants and closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, 12 October 2002.

*Annex 1***RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE LIAISON GROUP MEETING
ON THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION OF THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY****CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA, 11-12 OCTOBER, 2002****1. Clarification of the scope of activities of the 16 targets, development of sub-targets and milestones for each target and development of base-line data and a series of indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving the targets - follow up activities and the definition of lead and partner initiatives.**

The Group recommended the following:

- (a) A series of stakeholder meetings to be organized in order to consider the scope of activities of the 16 targets, development of sub-targets and milestones for each target and development of base-line data and a series of indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving the targets.
 - (i) The Group undertook a preliminary exercise in the identification of institutions that might be approached to seek their support to undertake lead or facilitating roles in the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the achievement of particular GSPC targets at the international level (Annex I).
 - (ii) It was suggested that Parties might also be invited to nominate institutions at regional or national levels that could assist in the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the achievement of particular GSPC targets relevant to their own region or country.
- (b) The possible roles and terms of reference of the proposed lead Institutions to be defined, which may include the following:
 - (i) Assume a sense of responsibility to help ensure that the target is achieved.
 - (ii) Facilitate stakeholder involvement and convene, support or organise relevant stakeholder consultations, ensuring adequate and appropriate involvement and representation at all levels - national, regional and international.
 - (iii) Undertake specific actions towards the achievement of the target.
 - (iv) Help in determining milestones, sub-targets and indicators to be used in monitoring the achievement of the target.
 - (v) Contribute to the development/determination of baseline data.
- (c) The implications of achieving the targets by applying the ecosystem approach to be specifically considered and addressed through stakeholder consultations.
- (d) Full use of the Clearing House Mechanism be made in the implementation/coordination/monitoring of the achievement of the targets.

2. Needs and opportunities for the development of national targets and regional components and, as appropriate, gap analysis.

(e) The Group recommended that a discussion paper be prepared by this Group, for submission to the Executive Secretary, on the needs and opportunities for the development of regional plant conservation strategies. The aim of this paper would be to explore all aspects of the implications, opportunities, needs, linkages of such strategies and to include examples of relevant experience at the national and regional levels. Issues that need to be addressed and considered by this paper would include the basis on which regional strategies are prepared, whether they will follow biogeographical, floristic or political divisions, or combinations of different approaches. Such a paper might be submitted to SBSTTA 9 as an Information Document.

(f) The Group stressed the need for regional workshops to be held to consider needs, opportunities and key issues in the development of plant conservation strategies before SBSTTA 9. These regional workshops should also address relevant linkages with other conventions of relevance to each region as well as including a wide range of stakeholder participation.

3. Consider the needs for the establishment of a flexible coordination mechanism at the global level and, if appropriate at the regional and national level, its development and the scope of its activities of this mechanism.

The Group agreed that:

(a) There is a need for a flexible coordination mechanism to be established for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, that would be supported by a Program Officer at the CBD Secretariat, a global liaison group as well as a series of regional liaison groups.

The Group recommended that:

(a) The establishment of a Global Liaison Group is important to advise the Executive Secretary on implementation of the Strategy and on its coordination and monitoring.

(b) Such a Global Liaison Group should form a key component of a coordination mechanism for the Strategy.

(c) This Global Liaison Group could be composed of representatives of lead institutions but that it would also need to ensure that it contains an appropriate flexible regional balance.

(d) The establishment of a system of national contact points for the Strategy, probably leading to the designation of official focal points, to enhance the implementation of the Strategy at national levels.

(e) The development of flexible regional coordination mechanisms should also be considered, including the holding of regional meetings as appropriate.

(f) The importance of linking the Coordination Mechanism(s) with the Clearing House Mechanism is recognised.

(g) Funding will be required to facilitate and support the successful implementation of the Coordination Mechanism(s) and a variety of sources for such funding should be explored.

(h) The appointment a Program Officer exclusively for the Strategy in the CBD Secretariat is recognised as an essential and urgent step required for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the Strategy and the generous offer by BGCI to support this new post for two years is welcomed.

4. Prepare a proposal for the preparation of further work to be considered prior to the 9th meeting of SBSTTA

The Group recommended the:

(a) Preparation of a report from this meeting outlining discussions and consensus on issues relating to baseline data, sub-targets, indicators and milestones, including areas where wider consultations with other organisations will be necessary, to be agreed by the Group and submitted to the Executive Secretary.

- (b) Publication of the text of the Strategy as a widely distributed and accessible document to:
- (i) Help communicate the components of the Strategy to a wider audience;
 - (ii) Support awareness raising; and
 - (iii) Encourage the engagement of organisations and individuals at all levels in the implementation of the Strategy.

The Group proposed that:

(a) A review of linkages between the work of the proposed Global Liaison Group and the GSPC in general be undertaken.

(b) The preparation of a detailed work programme for the proposed Global Liaison Group to be prepared by the Executive Secretary for this meeting.

(c) The activities of invited Lead Institutions be coordinated and scheduled over coming months, particularly up to and including SBSTTA 9.

(d) In possible, a deadline of the end of June 2003 should be set for the completion of a series of workshop/stakeholder consultations. Funding issues need to be addressed to ensure that workshops/stakeholder consultations can be held.

For SBSTTA 9, the proposed workplan could include the following:

(a) Organising a side event or series of side events at SBSTTA 9 to showcase progress on the achievement of the Strategy and best practice tools and training methodologies.

(b) Including the Strategy as a reporting item.

(c) Preparing one or more Information Documents.

(d) Highlighting the focus of reporting on issues concerning milestones and baselines

(e) Seeking an opportunity for a presentation to be included, outlining progress and other issues in relation to the implementation of the Strategy.

The aim of this presentation and other SBSTTA activities would be to inform the Parties of progress in the implementation of the GSPC and perhaps to showcase some early results and achievements.

The Group suggested that:

(a) Consideration should be given to the preparation of illustrated publication(s) that highlight issues relating to the Strategy.

(b) A web page for the GSPC be developed as part of the CHM, including on-line directories and links with relevant institutions.

(c) The Executive Secretary send out communication to CBD focal points on GSPC implementation at the national level.

(d) It would be useful for the initiatives being implemented by a range organisations in support of the GSPC to be able to include the CBD logo on relevant products and therefore it would be helpful if the Executive Secretary could provide clear guidance on the circumstances when this might be possible.

Annex II

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