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Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda*

THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION A REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS IN THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision VI/9, the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties decided to review, at its eighth and tenth meetings, the progress made in reaching the global targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and provide additional guidance in light of those reviews, including, as necessary, refinement of the targets. Also, the meeting requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to take the targets of the Strategy into consideration in its periodic reviews of the thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work; and develop ways and means, within these programmes, for promoting the implementation of the Strategy, and for monitoring and assessing progress; and to report to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. In addition, the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties emphasized the need for capacity building, particularly in developing countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, in order to enable them implement the strategy. Further in Paragraph 7, the Parties, other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations were invited to provide adequate and timely support to the implementation of the strategy, especially by developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states among them, and Parties with economies in transition.

3. In Decisions VI/9 and VII/10, Parties were invited to promote and facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy at national level, including the identification of national targets and their integration in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and activities.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/.

4. The seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties encouraged Parties to nominate national focal points for the Strategy, or designate from among existing focal points, in order to: (a) promote and facilitate implementation and monitoring of the Strategy at national level, including the identification of national targets and their integration in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and sectoral and cross-sectoral plans programmes and activities; (b) promote the participation of national stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy at national level; and (c) facilitate communication between national stakeholders and the Secretariat and Global Partnership for Plant Conservation.

5. Further, the meeting decided to integrate the targets of the Strategy into all the thematic and relevant cross-cutting programmes of work of the Convention and decided to integrate the targets of the Strategy into the reporting framework for the third national reports; while reflecting the fact that the targets are a flexible framework within which national and/or regional targets may be developed, in line with decision VI/9.

6. In decision VII/25, the COP endorsed the format of the third national reports which included an elaborate section on the progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. In particular, parties were requested to provide information for each target (<http://www.cbd.int/reports/analyzer.aspx>), indicating: whether a national target has been set; whether the global or national target has been incorporated into the relevant plans, programmes and strategies; the current status; measures taken to achieve target indicating activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target; progress made towards the target specifying indicators used to monitor progress towards the target; constraints to achieving progress towards the target and any other relevant information.

7. In line with the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Convention up to 2010, the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties decided to undertake an in depth review of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation at its ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties to be held in 2008 (Decision VII/31).

II. A REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION

National Focal Points

8. The Executive Secretary posted a notification for the nomination of national focal points for the strategy, on 30 April 2004, while a second request for nominations was posted on 1st December 2006, given the limited response to the initial notification. Parties were requested to respond to the notification by 31 July 2004 and 15th February 2007, respectively. To date 54 nominations have been received from 51 Parties, namely Argentina, Austria, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, (see <http://www.cbd.int/world/map.aspx> and <http://www.cbd.int/doc/lists/nfp-cbd-GSPC.pdf>).

9. Some of the national focal points have been instrumental in facilitating national implementation by bringing together various stakeholders already engaged in implementing various facets of the Strategy in national workshops to establish the national status and deliberate on national responses. In other

cases, they have ensured full participation at the Liaison Group Meetings of the Strategy as well as regional and international meetings related to the Strategy including the 1st meeting of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation that was held in October, 2005 in Dublin, Ireland. <http://www.botanicgardens.ie/gspc/gppc/dbnpresent/summary.htm>

National and Regional Strategies

10. While there was a slow response to the development of national and/or regional Strategies by the Parties, there is a growing momentum and various models have adopted according to national priorities and capacities and taking into account differences in plant diversity (Decision VI/9 paragraph 3). In many instances, the global targets were viewed as a flexible framework from which national targets were developed while in other cases, the global targets were adopted and incorporated into the national context. In these processes, the stakeholders were cognizant of the relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans, though efforts to integrate them were minimal given the complex procedures required to do so.

11. The Government of Seychelles held a National Strategy for Plant Conservation Workshop (16-17 March, 2004) with technical support from Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the CBD secretariat. Through a SWOT analysis of the five objectives of the Strategy, the workshop developed sixteen national outcome targets for Seychelles, closely aligned to the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (<http://www.geobot.umnw.ethz.ch/staff/Kueffer/PCANewsletter2SEND.pdf>).

12. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland developed a national response to the GSPC through a national consultative process. A review of the current status in line the global targets was undertaken to provide a baseline for defining national priorities and a gap analysis (<http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/plantlife-saving-species-global-strategy-PDCC2006.html>). The UK's Plant Conservation Strategy, 'The Plant Diversity Challenge' was officially launched by the UK Minister of Environment at the seventh Conference of Parties of the CBD at a side event chaired by the Secretariat.

13. For the Republic of Ireland, a stakeholder Meeting was held at the National Botanic Gardens in September 2005 to discuss the establishment and development of a National Strategy for Plant Conservation in Ireland as a national response to the Strategy. Through a further national consultation process, Ireland's National Strategy for Plant Conservation was developed which comprises a set of 16 targets modelled on the GSPC to bring about better comprehension and conservation of native plants and fungi (<http://www.botanicgardens.ie/gspc/gspc.htm>).

14. Rather than develop a national strategy through a consultative process, South African published the 'South African response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation' (<http://www.sanbi.org/biodiversity/1strategyplantcons.htm>), which, though not comprehensive, aims to provide a status report on the in the national implementation of the Strategy. The publication outlines the scope, achievements and challenges and opportunities for each target, in the national context and provides a summary of actions that have to be taken to achieve the targets by 2010.

15. With support from Botanic Gardens Conservation International, working with a consultant, a national workshop on the 'Development of a National Strategy for Plants' was held at Lancetilla Botanic Garden, Tela, Honduras from 29 August to 1 September 2006. The meeting deliberated on the potential for development of a national Strategy through a consultative process and has set in place preliminary modalities.

16. In Spain, an International Symposium: Towards a Spanish Strategy for Plant Conservation was held from 27 -29 November 2006, in Cordoba, Spain. The Symposium was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Cordoba Botanic Gardens and University of Cordoba, with the support of the Ramon Areces Foundation. The meeting brought key national partners involved in policy, conservation, research, education, networking and public awareness to review the current status of the implementation of the GSPC in Spain, identify gaps and outline a policy process to integrate the targets of the GSPC into the Spanish NBSAP. A key challenge was that most environmental conservation initiatives in Spain are implemented at the autonomous regional level, whilst the central government focuses mainly on policy development, and hence potential for disparity in level of implementation between the various regions.

17. The meeting also noted that climate change, alien invasive species and habitat change will continue to be the main drivers of loss of plant diversity and hence a strategic response was needed. While Climate change had not been a key consideration in developing the GSPC, the Spanish Response would consider it seriously in developing the policy response. The GSPC Focal Point for Spain is in the process of finalising further consultations before submission of consolidated report to the Ministry of Environment for the formal review and launch of Spanish Strategy for Plant Conservation.

18. In China, a high level national workshop on 'The Global Leadership for Plant Conservation' supported by the UK Government through the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Implementation Fund of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) as well as Botanic Gardens Conservation International, through the HSBC "Partnership for Plants" programme of the Investing in Nature Partnership was held in Beijing, 7-10 November 2006. The meeting brought together representatives of the government agencies in China involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, together with representatives from the UK Government, international NGOs and the CBD Secretariat to highlight progress already underway in China to meet the 16 targets of the GSPC by 2010; share experiences of the UK model of GSPC implementation and promote a China response to GSPC. It was recognised that China had already made significant progress towards meeting some of the targets of the GSPC but it was important to develop a national action plan for the Strategy to integrate and unify existing plant conservation efforts. The strategy will provide an important platform to unify, coordinate and make best use of resources within the country and demonstrate leadership regionally and globally.

19. A draft action plan already developed by the State Forestry Agency is to be used as the zero draft in this process. A national consultation process has been initiated with a proposed tri partite focal point structure, hence three representatives from the State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA); State Forestry Agency (SFA) and the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS). This will reflect the political and technical strengths in Chinese biodiversity conservation agencies with a strong focus on plants and strengthen collaboration between the three key organizations with responsibility for CBD implementation, national biodiversity conservation and the botanical community.

20. In Philippines, the Framework for Philippine Plant Conservation Strategy and Action Plan was developed under the auspices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which created the Philippine Plant Conservation Committee in January 2003. The Committee was co chaired by the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau and the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity. The Framework, which contains ten Strategic Activity Areas, integrates the strategies, plans and recommendations provided in the NBSAP, the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities, the GSPC and the Global Taxonomy Initiative and focuses on the needs to address gaps in plant conservation at a national level.

21. Its' mission is to halt the current loss of plant diversity to ensure its perpetual existence essential to meet the present and future needs of the Filipino people and the global community. It has two

objectives, first to provide a framework to enhance the existing initiatives aimed at plant conservation, identify gaps where new initiatives are required and promote the mobilization of the necessary resources, and second, to provide mechanisms to enhance species and ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity and focus on the vital role of plants in the structure and functioning of ecological systems and assure their provision of goods and services.

22. At a regional level, the Arabian Specialist Group has held two regional meetings to explore the potential for an Arabian Regional Plant Conservation Strategy (2004 and 2005). A draft regional Strategy with proposed targets has been developed and is under review and consultation.

23. In addition, a one day workshop was held back to back with the Latin American Botanical Congress on 24th July 2006 to review potential opportunities for regional and/or national responses to the Strategy. The workshop focused on increasing collaboration and developing partnerships at national and regional levels in Latin America for GSPC implementation as well as practical steps in the development of National / Regional Plant Conservation Strategies and targets in Latin America (<http://www.botanica-alb.org/>).

24. The European Plant Conservation Strategy (<http://www.plantlife.org.uk/international/plantlife-policies-strategies-epcs.html>) which was developed in 2001 by Planta Europa and the Council of Europe provides a framework for wild-plant conservation in Europe. The participatory development of a regional strategy alongside the global targets has helped significantly in focusing the attention of all key players on what measures, support and activities are needed in the wider plant conservation community.

25. Initially 42 targets for plant conservation in Europe, to be achieved by 2007, were developed, but these were harmonised with the targets of the GSPC during its mid term review in 2004. The mid term review indicated that over 50% of the regional targets have been achieved and the focus now is to fast track the implementation of the rest of the targets at the Strategy comes to the its final review due in 2007 (www.plantaeuropa.org).

26. With support from the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) through its WSSD Implementation Fund, the Caribbean Regional Workshop on the GSPC was jointly organised by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the CBD Secretariat/ Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The main focus of the workshop was to increase the understanding and implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in the Region by sharing local and international experiences especially from the UK and the Seychelles which had already developed national Strategies.

27. The Workshop brought together seventeen delegates from eleven island states (Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago), and was facilitated by Seychelles, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK; Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the UK and the Secretariat. The outcomes of the workshop include a regional informal network to facilitate the national and regional implementation of the GSPC, as well as project development for priority targets.

28. Other initiatives which have developed targets based on the GSPC include the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens(http://www.bgci.org/worldwide/bg_targets/), the African Botanic Gardens Network (<http://www.bgci.org/africa/bulletin/>), the North American Botanic Gardens Strategy for Plant Conservation (<http://www.azh.org/Conservation/NorthAmericanBotanicGardenStrategy2006.pdf>), the Canadian Botanical Conservation Network (<http://www.rbg.ca/cbcn/en/>), Australian Network for Plant

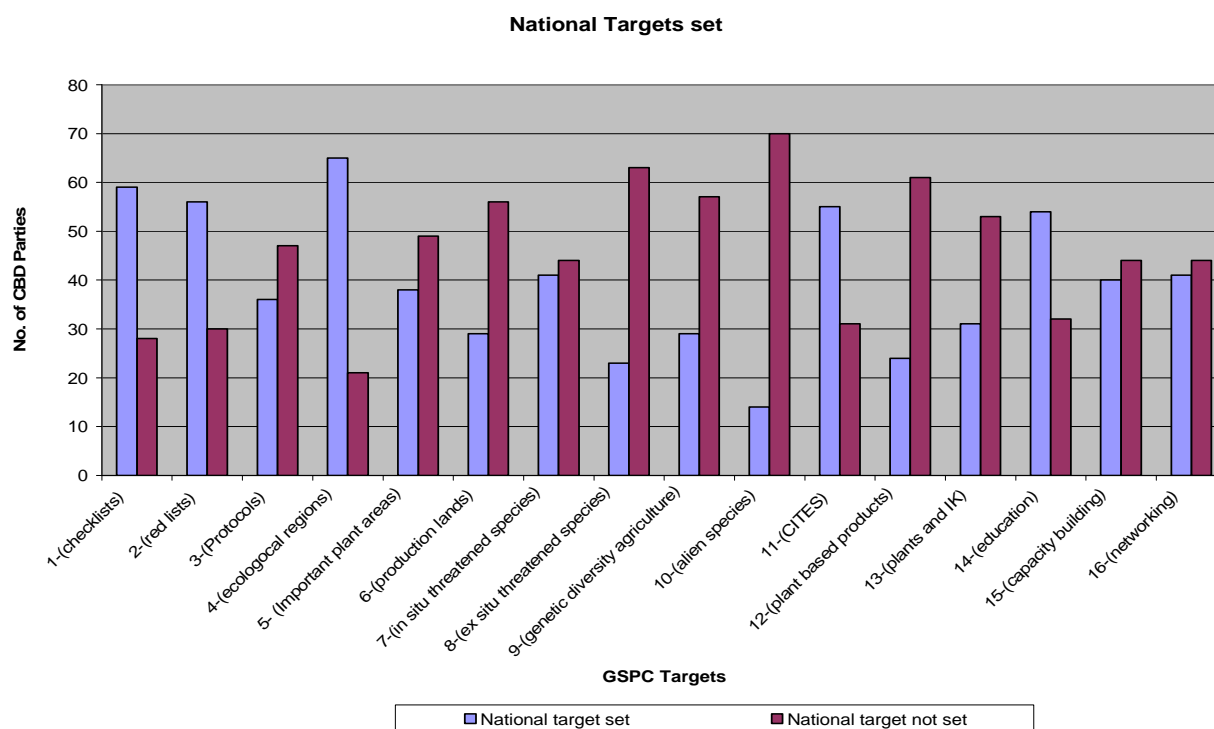
Conservation (<http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/>), and the Centre for Plant Conservation (USA) (<http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/>) amongst others.

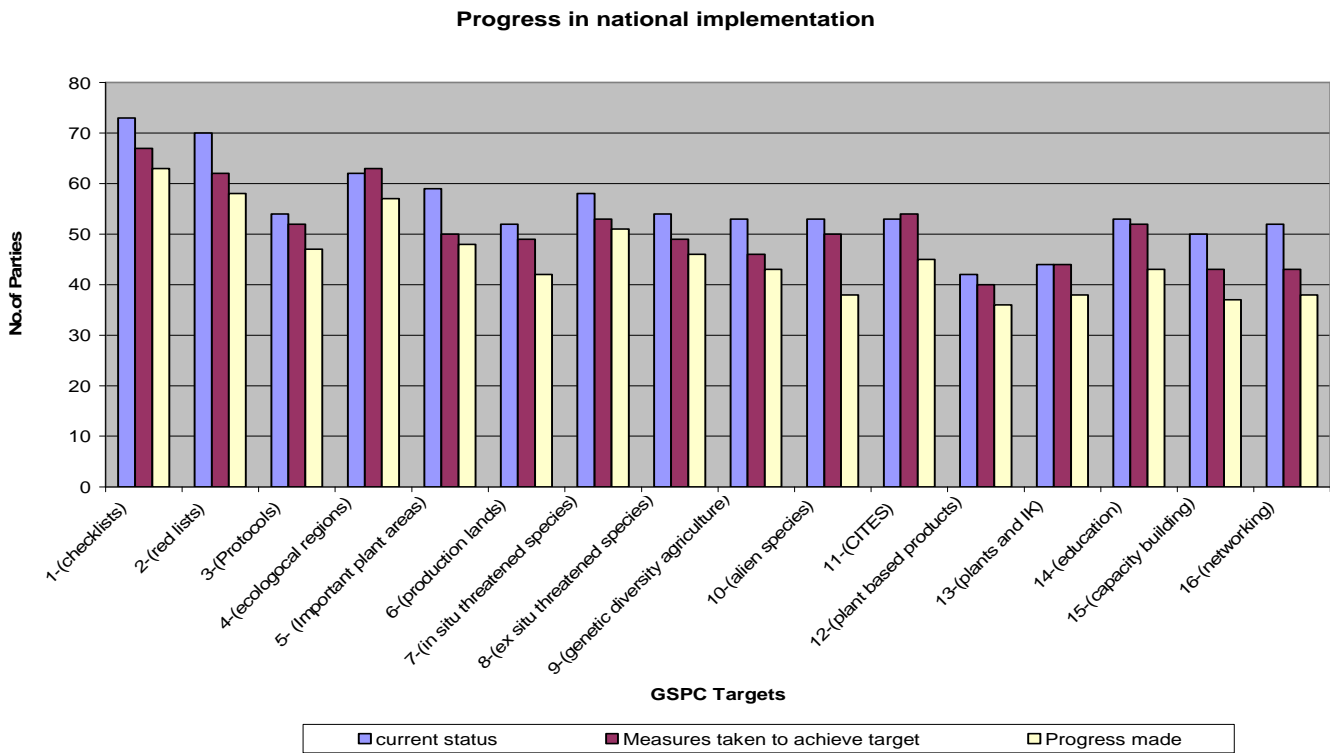
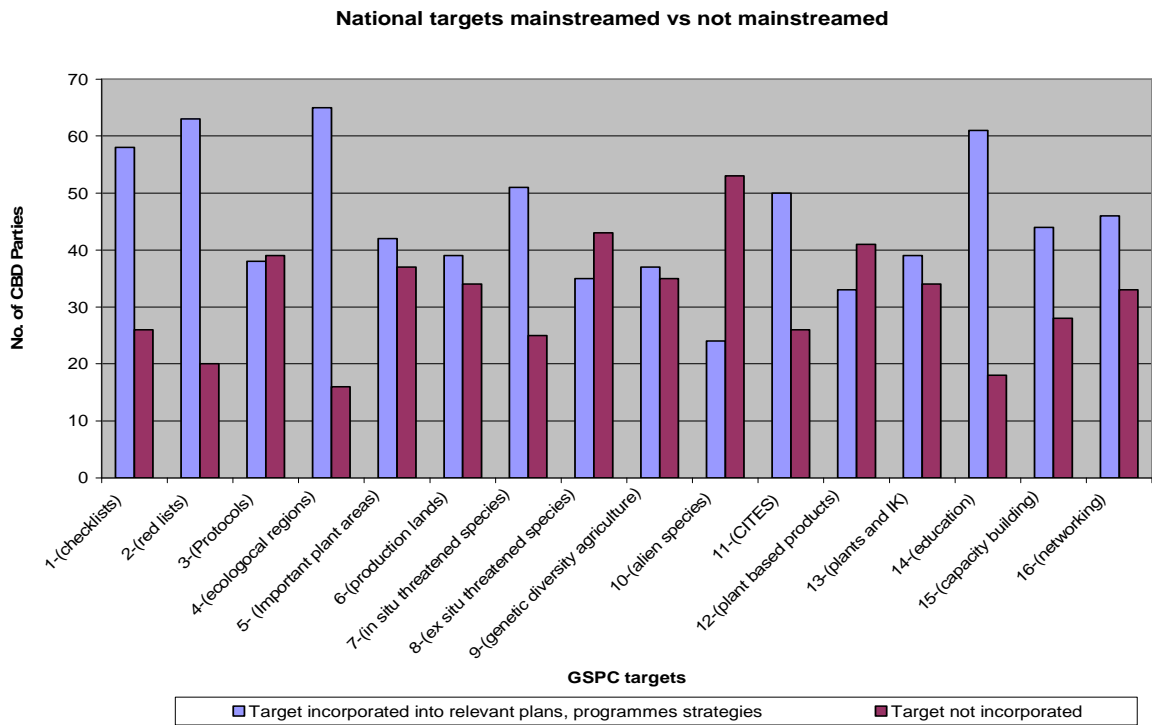
National Reports

29. On 2nd August 2006, in preparation for the in depth review, the Executive Secretary notified Parties and Partners to submit additional information on the progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Additional information was received from six Parties (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Philippines, Thailand and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

30. Some summary statistics from the third reports are presented below. In general, since very few Parties have set national targets or adopted the global targets, the responses to the questions were not related to the targets but rather to the status of implementation of the main activity implied by the target.

31. While there was generally a good sample of responses to target 1, linked to the Global Taxonomy Initiative, not all targets had as many responses. Many of the responses were qualitative and not quantitative hence difficult to analyze and assess progress in implementation. There were very few responses to targets 6, 10, 12 and 13. In general, the range of responses for the questions related to setting national targets and incorporating these targets (mainstreaming) as well as progress in implementation are summarized in the three figures below.





Highlights from the responses to the third national report on the progress in implementation of the GSPC

32. In general, many Parties have noted progress in the implementation of the targets of the GSPC and indicate that they have incorporated the respective targets into the NBSAPs, forestry and agricultural sectoral plans. However, target setting at national level is limited.

33. Much progress has been achieved by countries where regional programmes and initiatives are in place, such as in Europe in the context of the European Strategy for Plant Conservation and regional initiatives such as Natura 2000 and the EU Habitats Directive. Other examples include the Southern African Countries (Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) that were part of the GEF funded Southern African Botanical Diversity Network (SABONET) project whose objectives closely matched in part the GSPC targets 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

34. However, there are national initiatives that led to the significant progress in achieving targets at national and global level. Examples include the completion of the Flora of China (target 1), the revised red list in UK, Ethiopia and Southern Africa and others (target 2); mapping and conservation of the Cape region in South Africa (target 4,5,7 and 8); Important Plant Areas Projects and Natura 2000 Projects in Europe (target 5); Community based conservation in Nepal and India (target 9), Community based certification Malaysia, Swaziland and Eastern Europe (target 12), the Plant Resources of South East Asia (PROSEA) and Plants of Tropical Africa (PROTA) and National Policies on Traditional and Alternative Medicine (Philippines and China); the proposed conservation for medicinal and herbal plants project (Jordan) as well as National inventories on traditional practices and use of biodiversity in Morocco (Target 13).

35. For all targets, the main constraints have been summarised as technical (lack of data, tools and technologies), financial (limited funding available), institutional (poor sectoral coordination and limited institutional capacity and capability) and regulatory (lack of appropriate supporting policies and legal framework). The limited awareness at national level on plant conservation needs has been highlighted a major setback in making progress towards setting national targets, implementing the GSPC and achieving the national, regional and global targets.

36. Various protocols, tools and technologies as well national experiences were highlighted in the reports. Examples include in vitro propagation (Algeria), recovery planning and threat abatement (Austria and Australia), important plant areas designation, (Belgium, Romania and Slovenia), ex situ and in situ conservation (Colombia, Chile, China, India Indonesia and Iran), forest tree breeding (Japan), GIS based conservation models and permanent ecological plots (Malawi), sustainable forest management models (Malaysia), sustainable use models in community forest and pro-poor leasehold forests (Nepal), Translocation of threatened species (Australia), Greening using native seed (Australia) Propagation and harvesting protocols (Chile), implementation of the ecosystem approach (Germany) and species action plans taking into consideration various national and international legislation and conventions (Hungary).

37. Others include primordial botanic gardens and grand forest parks (Indonesia), wild relatives projects and integrated management of cedar forests (Lebanon), medicinal and useful plants (Nepal), Conservation of threatened species (Philippines), Propagation and cultivation of South African threatened species (South Africa), special use forests (Viet Nam) and economic valuation of forests (Malaysia).

38. Also while a lot of activity is ongoing at national level linked to target 2, national target setting has not been indicted as a priority but rather linked to generic national biodiversity assessments. China,

Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand have initiated preliminary red listing programmes while various countries indicated having a national red list, though various criteria have been used including the IUCN criteria. Examples include Austria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden and United Kingdom. Indonesia has focused its red listing initiatives on CITES species while Nepal intends to start the process soon. Some parties have the lists online such as Mexico. The European Union is also supporting a regional initiative in the Mediterranean region, the EURO+MED Initiative.

39. With regard to targets 7, 8 and 9, the government of Armenia is conserving its 387 rare and endangered plants through the Protected Area system; Botswana has identified 43 red list taxa and has regulated harvesting of commercial valuable species while Ethiopia through the Forest Genetic Resources Conservation Project has initiated in situ conservation for five selected species. Latvia has established 61 micro reserves for threatened species; Lesotho has protected 21 populations of the spiral Aloe in situ with community involvement while Lithuania has established 33 botanical reserves.

40. Malaysia held its 1st national workshop to assess the plant conservation status of its flora in 2005 while Nepal is focusing on sustainable use as a means for ensuring in situ conservation of the threatened species. In South Africa, the threatened and endemic species have been used in determining the priority areas for conservation in the 2005 National Biodiversity Spatial Assessment while in Tajikistan, 126 threatened species are protected by law. While a preliminary red list assessment has been undertaken in Thailand, the UK is working through various agencies to ensure in situ conservation of threatened plant species.

41. While there is increased activity in the botanic gardens community in relation to target 8, very few countries have set national targets or adopted the global target. However, there are examples of regional initiatives such as the European Botanic Gardens Action Plan. China has over 300 botanic gardens with 25 medium term gene banks and there are various other national botanic gardens associations which are focusing on this target (e.g. South Africa, Romania, Thailand, Chile and UK). In general, there was a concern of limited physical, technical and financial resources to achieve this target (e.g. Botswana and Armenia)

42. Target 9 has been addressed by many countries through their national response to the FAO Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The target has been linked to national agricultural and forestry strategies and sectoral policies such as in Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroon though has not been relevant for some countries, such as Singapore. Various countries are seeking to broaden the mandates of their national plant genetic resource centres to include documentation of indigenous knowledge and practices such as Ethiopia, China, Ireland, Mexico, Nepal and Armenia amongst others.

43. Australia has various initiatives on alien invasive species mainly as a result of implementing the Programme of Work on Alien Invasive Species to which target 10 is linked, working closely with the Global Invasive Species Programme and the IUCN species survival commission. They have identified and developed rigorous management strategies for twenty invasive species of national significance and most of the data is available online. Belgium has developed four management plans, Chile put in place control mechanisms for 10 exotic species while Ireland has management plans for 10 species and Ghana a national programme for two species.

44. Many countries indicated ongoing activities on target 11 linked to the national implementation of the CITES Convention and seem to have adopted the global target.

45. Many Parties indicated active programmes on education and public awareness mainly linked to the NBSAPs, national environmental education programmes and policies and the CBD CEPA programme. However, it was apparent that a lot of these activities are mainly undertaken by the conservation, environmental and development NGOs.

46. Most of the capacity building initiatives are linked to the academic sector and many gaps and challenges were highlighted in relation to this target. Many networks were also highlighted but these were predominantly regional, e.g. the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, the Biodiversity Collections Access Service for Europe (BIOCASE), the Southern African Botanical Network (SABONET), Planta Europa, Plant Resources for Tropical Africa (PROTA), the SADC Biodiversity Support Programme, South East Asian Botanical Collection Information Network (SEABCIN), the Latin American Botanical Network and others. There were also regional and international networks for botanic gardens, plant genetic resources, protected areas, and plant conservation to which Parties or their stakeholders were affiliated. However, the national networks include the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Network, Irish Network for Plant Conservation, Indonesian National Biodiversity Information Network and Swedish Species Information Centre.

Capacity Building

47. In response to these decisions the secretariat has been involved in the planning and implementation of capacity building initiatives to support the implementation of the strategy. For example, the Secretariat, in collaboration with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK and Makerere University, Uganda, secured support to host the African regional expert course in plant conservation strategies. The course was held in Uganda from 10 – 23 November 2004. The course brought together experts from 16 African countries, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Two other participants from Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal were not able to attend due to logistical constraints. The British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership supported full participant costs while Kenya Airways supported the travel costs in part.

48. The course received in-kind support from the members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, thus the Botanic Gardens Conservation International in partnership with HSBC 'Investing in Nature', World Agroforestry Centre, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Flora and Fauna International, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Plantlife International and Plant Talk. It provided a basis for cascading capacity at regional level on the sixteen outcome targets of the strategy and how these can be developed into regional/or national strategies. A short brainstorming workshop was also held on developing a regional strategy and potential regional support from the IUCN Eastern African Regional Office.

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

49. The Strategy has provided a useful framework to bring together institutions and initiatives to meet common objectives. Various agencies at national level are already working towards the respective targets, and where possible, they are incorporating actions towards achieving targets into existing work programmes. Numerous protocols, tools and technologies for plant conservation and sustainable use have been developed and are in use at various levels, with local, national and regional relevance. However, most of these are not widely available. The experiences and skills gained, best practices and lessons learnt through projects and initiatives aimed at achieving the various targets of the strategy need to be shared and disseminated to enhance effective use of often limited resources for plant conservation. As such, in order to further enhance national implementation, further documentation and dissemination of case studies may provide useful guidance and resources for Parties and facilitate in future, the in depth review process.

50. There are various challenges in strengthening national level implementation and developing national and/ or regional strategies as appropriate. Since some of the Parties that have already made efforts to put in place a national response to the Strategy and given the growing awareness on the role of the Strategy and its contribution to meeting the 2010 biodiversity target, there exist a variety of models and approaches that Parties could build on to enhance their national implementation. It is evident that there are many opportunities and good will to facilitate national implementation given the increased awareness of the Strategy by the various stakeholders and partners, including the private sector, botanical community and plant conservation sector at national and regional level.

51. The integration of the targets of the Strategy into national plans, programmes and strategies including the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans remains a continuing challenge as cited in the third national reports. Parties may be encouraged to consider the integration of the targets of the Strategy during the revision of the national policies, plans, programmes and strategies such as the NBSAPs, such as recommended by the eighth meeting of the Conference of Parties. Meanwhile, Parties may wish to consider prioritising actions and targets based on national priorities and capacities and depending on the levels of plant diversity, as a national response.

52. A national assessment on the progress made towards achieving the targets of the Strategy through stakeholder consultations will provide useful data at a national for global consolidation. However but may be also very useful in identifying gaps in plant conservation and sustainable use as a basis for resource mobilisation, given the contribution of the Strategy in meeting the 2010 biodiversity target, the MDGs and responding to other national agendas such as poverty reduction strategies and the challenge of climate change.

53. Where feasible, nomination of and support to the national focal points of the GSPC by the Parties will go along way in strengthening national implementation. Further workshops on the Strategy for national focal points which may be organized in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties, SBSTTA and regional meetings as well as National workshops to promote the full engagement of all relevant stakeholders at national level, and other capacity building activities at national level are recommended.

54. There are various advantages for developing regional responses to the Strategy. Regional strategies may provide a useful scale for addressing some of the targets given the potential for linkages to regional policies and institutional frameworks. In addition, regional meetings, held in appropriate

languages, could help promote understanding and therefore response to and implementation of the Strategy. In some instances, it is more feasible and beneficial to mobilise resources at a regional level.

55. Overall, there is need for additional capacity building and resource mobilisation initiatives to assist the Parties to enhance national implementation. This is critical in addressing the key constraints elucidated in the third national reports, especially the technical, financial, institutional, and regulatory challenges. Further investment in targets 14, 15 and 16 on public awareness, capacity building and networking at national investment may provide a useful mechanism to address these issues and is recommended.
