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THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION IN MEETING THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET, THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY THE MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In adopting the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9), the Conference of Parties invited relevant international and regional organizations to endorse the strategy and to contribute to its implementation, including to adopt these targets, in order to promote a common effort towards halting the loss of plant diversity. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties stressed the potential role of the strategy in contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development; 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 to implement the strategy.

2. Further, in Decision VII/30, the Conference of Parties decided to establish, goals and sub- targets for each of the focal areas for the 2010 global biodiversity target agreed in decision VI/26 to help assess progress towards the target, and promote coherence among the programmes of work of the Convention.

3. In decision VII/32, the seventh Conference of the Parties invited Parties to promote the integration of the relevant Millennium Development Goals into the implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention, noting that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular goal 1 (Combating poverty and hunger), goal 6 (Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases), and goal 7 (Ensuring environmental sustainability) are dependent on the effective conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The meeting also noted the linkage between biodiversity, food and nutrition and the need to enhance sustainable use of biodiversity to combat hunger and malnutrition,

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and thereby contribute to target 2 of goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (To halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger).

4. At the eighth Conference of the Parties, the meeting, noting that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment found that the degradation of ecosystem services could significantly increase during the first half of this century, and is a barrier to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and that, at the same time, many of the actions being undertaken to promote economic development and reduce hunger and poverty could contribute to the loss of biodiversity, *emphasized* that the Millennium Development Goals, the 2010 target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss, and other internationally agreed targets related to biodiversity, environmental sustainability and development need to be pursued in an integrated manner. The meeting then decided to consider the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in the implementation and the future review of the programmes of work and cross-cutting issues under the Convention.

II. ROLE OF THE STRATEGY IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET

5. The Strategy was considered as a pilot approach for the use of outcome-oriented targets under the Convention (decision VI/9) and was used as a template for developing sub-targets for the goals of the biodiversity 2010 target of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, adopted by decision VI/26. Similarly, using lessons learnt from the target-setting exercise for the Strategy, a small number of targets that are easy to convey, have been developed for other programmes of work of the Convention.

6. The targets of the Strategy which are to be implemented in a flexible framework, may also provide a useful pilot for assessing progress towards the achievement of the 2010 target provide, especially in response to decisions VI/9 and VII/10, in which 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.

7. The findings of the in depth review may also contribute useful baseline information and experiences beneficial to the review of the 2010 biodiversity target. In this regard, the relationship between the targets of the Strategy and the goals of the 2010 biodiversity target are elaborated in the table below.

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GSPC TARGETS, THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET
AND MDGs.**

GSPC TARGET	GOAL OF 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	GOAL AND SUB-TARGETS SUB-TARGETS OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	MDG TARGETS AND INDICATORS
TARGET 1 A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora;	Goal 2 Promote the conservation of species diversity.	Target 2.1 Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups	Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability <i>Target 9...reverse the loss of environmental resources</i>
TARGET 2 A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels;	Goal 2 Promote the conservation of species diversity	Target 2.2. Status of threatened species improved.	Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability <i>Target 9...reverse the loss of environmental resources</i>
TARGET 3 Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience;	Cross cutting	Cross cutting	
TARGET 4 At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved;	<i>Protect the components of biodiversity</i> Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes	Target 1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability. <i>Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources</i> Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. Forested land as percentage of land area (FAO) 26. Ratio of Area Protected to Maintain Biological Diversity to Surface Area (UNEP)
TARGET 5 Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured;	<i>Protect the components of biodiversity</i> Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes	Target 1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected Goal 5.1 Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased.	Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability. <i>Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources</i> Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. Forested land as percentage of land area (FAO) 26. Ratio of Area Protected to

GSPC TARGET	GOAL OF 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	GOAL AND SUB-TARGETS SUB-TARGETS OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	MDG TARGETS AND INDICATORS
	Address threats to biodiversity Goal 5 Pressures form habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use reduced		Maintain Biological Diversity to Surface Area (UNEP) Also,
TARGET 6 At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity;	Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods	Target 8.1 Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods	Target 2: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger Target 8: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources Target 10: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
TARGET 7 60 per cent of the world's threatened species conserved in situ;	<i>Protect the components of biodiversity</i> Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity	Target 2.1: Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups Target 2.2: Status of threatened species improved.	Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
TARGET 8 60 per cent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>ex situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes;	<i>Protect the components of biodiversity</i> Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity	Target 2.1: Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups Target 2.2: Status of threatened species improved.	Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

GSPC TARGET	GOAL OF 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	GOAL AND SUB-TARGETS SUB-TARGETS OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	MDG TARGETS AND INDICATORS
TARGET 9 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained;	<i>Protect the components of biodiversity</i> Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	Target 3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained. Target 10.1: All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements. Target 10.2: Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources	Target 2: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger Target 8: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
TARGET 10 Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems;	Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species	Target 6.1: Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled. Target 6.2: Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
TARGET 11 No species of wild flora endangered by international trade;	Promote sustainable use Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption.	Target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade	Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

GSPC TARGET	GOAL OF 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	GOAL AND SUB-TARGETS OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	MDG TARGETS AND INDICATORS
TARGET 12 30 per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed;	Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption. Goal 5 Pressures form habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use reduced	Target 4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and Production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity Target 4.2 Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced Goal 5.1 Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased	Target 2: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger Target 8: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources Target 12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally
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;	Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices Goal 9 Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities	Target 8.1: Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained. Target 8.2: biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained Target 9.1 Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices Target 9.2: Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing	Target 2: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger Target 8: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources Target 12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
TARGET 14 The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes;	Cross Cutting	Cross Cutting	

GSPC TARGET	GOAL OF 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	GOAL AND SUB-TARGETS SUB-TARGETS OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET	MDG TARGETS AND INDICATORS
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;	<i>Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention</i>	Target 11.1: New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20. Target 11.2: Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph	Target 13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC countries and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction Target 14. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications
TARGET 16 Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	<i>Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention</i>	Target 11.1: New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20. Target 11.2: Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph	Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development
GAP	<i>Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution</i>	Target 7.1: Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change Target 7.2: Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity	

8. It is noteworthy that there are gaps in relation to sub-target 4.2 (Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced) and the sub-targets under goal 7 (Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution).

9. Given that Climate Change is likely to have negative impacts on habitats and ecosystems and therefore compromise in certain instances the conservation, social and economic gains made through national implementation of the targets of the GSPC, the Report of the Gran Canaria Meeting on 'Climate Change and Plant Conservation' organized by Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the

members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation may also present some useful options (see <http://www.bgci.org/conservation/gcdccpc/> and <http://www.bgci.org/conservation/climatechange/>).

10. While the impact of Climate Change upon the scope and achievement of the GSPC targets has not yet been clearly elaborated in the context of the Convention, in attempting to ‘future proof’ the benefits gained by achieving these targets, it is clear that some may require more detailed consideration than others. For example, Targets 1, 3, 11 & 16 are unlikely to be affected by Climate Change other than via indirect factors. Targets 4, 5, 6, 7 & 13 on the other hand involve some degree of landscape management, and the appreciation that change is inevitable will be an important principle particularly in local strategies. A summary of some possible considerations is highlighted below by target.

- **Target 2:** It is likely that the majority of presently threatened species will be adversely affected by Climate Change. A very small minority may be positively affected. One of the greatest changes may be on the number of presently not threatened taxa that may need to be re-assessed. Time frames for such re-assessments would undoubtedly overwhelm the present working practices.
- **Target 3:** Modelling of Climate Change and possible practical mitigating efforts are likely to increase the scale of Target 3, but not its overall scope.
- **Target 4:** Taking account of Climate Change increases the importance of viewing ecological regions in strictly non-geographic terms. However it is probable that many research reviews of vegetation analysis under various climatic scenarios at the continental or regional level are being, and/or will be undertaken to generate necessary and very valuable information for planning.
- **Target 5:** Protocols or methodologies for designating important areas for plant diversity will need take into account the possible consequences of Climate Change as a measure of the vulnerability the selected areas and their component taxa. Clearly some areas will be more seriously affected than others
- **Target 6:** Increasing pressure for intensive agricultural production given the impact of climate change on food security may become a challenge in some regions and compromise on measures already adopted, or planned for such regions to achieve this target.
- **Target 7:** The majority of protected areas sites are already fragmentary, and are likely to become more so as ecosystems become altered, but this may be compounded further by climate change. *In situ* conservation measures instituted in response to this taken may be rapidly overtaken by impacts of climatic change, and hence it may be prudent to complement such measures with *ex situ* conservation measures where feasible. Priority actions may include identification of associated species that may also be severely depleted or degraded while management strategies for these habitats and areas may have to be as flexible and pragmatic as possible.
- **Target 8:** *Ex situ* conservation measures may need to be better integrated with *in situ* measures in order to best maintain genetic diversity in relation to the evolutionary potential of both species and species assemblages. In order to provide the components for habitat restoration, and as a management tool for ecosystem recovery, a significant increase in *ex situ* active conservation collections may be necessary.
- **Target 9:** The urgency associated with this target will increase with the likely increase in droughts, reduced genetic diversity and compromised gene pools for many economic plant species. Rapidly evolving and changing agricultural systems as regional responses may be invaluable given that much of the anticipated continental scale shifts in climatic regimes.

- **Target 10:** The threat of invasive alien species, pests and diseases are likely to increase from the changes occasioned by Climate Change. It is probable that many currently non-invasive, or insignificant species will change status rapidly in the next few years. There will be an increased need for fast and accurate identification of these species, as well as rapid communication of emerging threats, and sharing of expertise at a regional and global level and development of appropriate management plans.
- **Target 12:** The sustainable management of natural harvests is likely to be negatively impacted for many species. The target, however, has always been modest, and market forces may drive this target in either direction very rapidly.
- **Target 13:** Local communities and indigenous people are likely to be most affected the impacts of climate change. For example, linking the implementation of this target to that of that of target 9, the rescue of knowledge associated with populations suffering displacement will be acute. Currently however there is no global methodology for rescuing these data before it is too late.
- **Target 14:** The impact of climate change will need to be incorporated into public awareness and education programmes. The increased profile of climate change issues by the general public creates new opportunities for articulating these issues effectively.
- **Target 15:** New skills and capacity building will be needed to tackle emerging issues associated with the impact of climate change.
- **Target 16:** Managing, migrating and recovering ecosystems will require the establishment of regional and sub-regional networks of a different nature to current networks.

III. ROLE OF STRATEGY IN ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

11. Decision VI/9 stressed potential role of the Strategy in contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Indeed, responses from the third national reports indicate that various countries have developed national responses and frameworks domesticating the global MDGs into national development strategies and policies, and incorporating them in budgets and sectoral priorities. These goals have also been integrated into assistance frameworks and programmes. However, while the MDGs are already serving as a development framework for many global and national initiatives, the opportunities for linkages with the national implementation of the GSPC have not been fully exploited.

12. The GSPC targets 6, 9, 10,12 and 13 provide a direct link between national implementation of the GSPC and the national MDG implementation processes. A good example to illustrate these linkages is the case of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) which continue to be collected from the wild due to various factors including the high costs of domestication and cultivation, given that many species may not yet be amenable to cultivation. Wild collection provides valuable income for rural households and may provide incentives for conservation and sustainable use of important habitats and can strengthen local economies. However, there is limited value adding and processing of most MAP products in most developing countries as most vendors sell their products in a raw or semi processed form. There is a critical need for proper processing, packaging and value addition technologies, observance of proper preservation and hygiene standards as well as clear labelling, which require simple, affordable and appropriate tools/technology that are often not available at local level. National and regional integrated initiatives to address Medicinal and Aromatic Plants therefore provide the opportunity to not only address GSPC targets but also MDG goals 1,6 and 7.

13. There are various national, regional and international projects and initiatives on this theme. For example, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) supported the development of the International Standard¹ for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) (<http://www.floraweb.de/proxy/floraweb/map-pro/>)(Target 3, 6, 12, 13). The standard not only covers social and economic factors, but also focuses on ecological aspects, addressing two important aspects that are often ignored: the need for resource assessments and the question of annual sustained yields. It also seeks to build on existing principles, guidelines and standards for sustainable forest practices, organic production and good agricultural practices, fair trade and product quality. The aim is to provide useful guidance for community based initiatives in medicinal plants especially linked to regional and international trade.

14. Another example is the BioTrade Initiative² of UNCTAD (<http://www.biotrade.org/Intro/bti.htm>) which provides a useful model for refining and transforming Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (MAP) products. The BioTrade Initiative also hosts the BioTrade Facilitation Programme (BTFP) which focuses on enhancing sustainable bio-resources management, product development, value adding processing and marketing of biodiversity products. National BioTrade programmes promote trade and investment in products and services derived from native or indigenous biodiversity and seek to strengthen institutional capacity in order to develop supportive policy frameworks for biotrade as well as and provide concrete technical assistance to biotrade initiatives and other economic actors.

15. These examples illustrate clearly that various opportunities exist at national level for addressing poverty reduction (goal 1), the health crisis (goal 6) and environmental stability (goal 7) in the context of national implementation of the Strategy and could enhance the Strategy's relevance and options for mobilising additional resources at national and regional level.

16. The linkages between the GSPC targets, 2010 biodiversity target and MDGs is elaborated in the table below.

IV. THE ROLE OF THE STRATEGY IN ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY THE MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

17. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) noted that most direct drivers of degradation in ecosystem services remain constant or are growing in intensity in most ecosystems and that the degradation of ecosystem services could grow significantly worse during the first half of this century creating a barrier to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (www.millenniumassessment.org/en/).

^{1/} This standard will bridge the gap between already existing but mostly abstract guidelines and management plans developed for specific local conditions. Stakeholders involved will receive an easy-to-handle list of criteria, indicators and verifiers that will enable them to check the sustainability of plant material collected from the wild.

^{2/} Biotrade refers to those activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialisation of goods and services derived from native biodiversity under the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability. Since its launch in 1996, the BioTrade Initiative has been promoting sustainable biotrade in support of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

18. The assessment noted that approximately 60% (15 out of 24) of the ecosystem services evaluated are being degraded or used unsustainably. The degradation of ecosystem services often causes significant harm to human well-being and represents a loss of a natural asset or wealth of a country. The assessment also noted a continual decline in the status of provisioning services of the environment, especially wild foods, timber, cotton, wood-fuel, genetic resources, and medicine.

19. Further, the results indicated a decline in the regulating and cultural services of the environment related to air quality regulation, climate regulation, water and erosion regulation, water purification and waste treatment, disease and pest regulation, pollination, spiritual, religious and aesthetic value.

20. The MA clarified priorities and gaps that could form the basis for priority setting for the national implementation of the GSPC as the targets of the Strategy provide a suitable framework at national, regional and global level articulation of these challenges. Indeed, the findings of the MA further provide a justification for national implementation of the Strategy, not only for ecosystem benefits, but also for livelihood and economic benefits.

21. There is need therefore to take into consideration these MA findings given that progress made in achieving the various targets of the GSPC will potentially assist in securing the plant resources and thus provisioning services, especially with regard to target 1 and 2 (baseline studies); targets 4-7 (*in situ* conservation) and targets 8-9 (*ex situ* conservation) while a focus on targets 10-13 will allow communities and Parties to continue to derive benefits from plant diversity especially for food, medicines, fuel, fibre, wood and other uses.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

22. The GSPC and its sixteen outcome oriented targets provide a useful vehicle for addressing the 2010 biodiversity target, Millennium Development Goals and the challenges outlined by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

23. It is recommended that opportunities for strengthening linkages and relevance of the GSPC to these processes and initiatives at national, regional and international level are sought in order to enhance the positive impacts of achieving the targets of the Strategy.
