



STATEMENT BY

MR. AHMED DJOGLAF

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE WORLDWIDE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR PLANT
CONSERVATION (GPPC)**

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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



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COP 10 / MOP 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Chair of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and President of Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter Wyse Jackson, for his kind invitation to hold this important event here in St. Louis. I can think of no better venue, for the Missouri Botanical Garden has long been a world leader when it comes to biodiversity education, science, and conservation.

This leadership was on display during the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity when Missouri Botanical Garden, in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, announced the completion of The Plant List, a working list of all land plant species. Not only is The Plant List an invaluable contribution to human knowledge, its completion brings us substantially closer to achieving Target 1 of the 2011-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), which calls for an online flora of all known plants.

The Convention now needs the Missouri Botanical Garden and other members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation to continue their good work by building on the historic success of last year's Nagoya Biodiversity Summit. As you know, in decision X/17 the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and other partners to further develop the technical rationales, milestones and indicators for the updated GSPC, consistent with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Clearly, the pressures on biodiversity and the underlying causes of biodiversity loss affect plants as much as other components of biodiversity. The elements covered in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are therefore not detailed for the updated GSPC, but a close complementarity between the two strategies is essential for their effective implementation.

Needless to say, time is of the essence. A series of regional capacity-building workshops are currently taking place to help Parties translate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) before COP-11 in Hyderabad in 2012. Included in these revised NBSAPs must be national plant targets set in accordance with the updated GSPC. Any delay in this process will not bode well for the achievement of targets by 2020.

With this in mind, I ask you to turn to the task of supporting the implementation of the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 with the very same commitment you have shown in the past. This will require the urgent development of technical support tools and guidance materials that can be used by Parties in setting and monitoring plant conservation targets. Your discussions here should give direction as to which tools and guidance materials would be most helpful to Parties and other stakeholders in the implementation of the updated Strategy; on the basis of your guidance these will be developed for consideration by SBSTTA-16 in May 2012 and subsequently COP-11 in October. We have much work ahead of us, so let us together make sure this critical opening period of the 2011-2020 UN Decade on Biodiversity is effectively used.

Thank you for your kind attention.