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THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POST-2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION AS A COMPONENT OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, an information document on the development of a post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as a component of the global biodiversity framework prepared by the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation.
2. The information is provided in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POST-2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION AS A COMPONENT OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

This paper and an [associated submission](#) to the CBD Secretariat presents an outline of a potential Post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, which, through a set of supporting actions and measurable outcomes specifically for plants would directly contribute to the attainment of the goals, milestones and targets of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The outline of the draft Strategy was prepared, reviewed and updated by the members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) and other experts as part of broad international stakeholder consultations conducted during 2019 - 2021 and further revised in line with the targets of the draft Global Biodiversity Framework during 2021.

I. Background

1. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), with its 16 outcome-oriented targets was first adopted by the Parties to the CBD in 2002. The GSPC targets thus became the first outcome-oriented biodiversity targets adopted by the international community and provided a model and pilot in target-setting for the CBD. In agreeing to the development of a specific strategy for plant conservation in the framework of the CBD, Parties acknowledged and recognised the special importance of plants as the basis of all life on earth and in providing the building blocks of all terrestrial ecosystems.
2. In 2010, with the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the GSPC targets were updated and renewed, with a decision that implementation of the GSPC should be pursued as part of the broader framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
3. The development of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation followed a broad-based stakeholder approach involving CBD Parties and many representatives of the botanical and conservation communities. In bringing together the wider stakeholder community, the GSPC has helped to broaden the base of plant conservation activities worldwide and has built consensus around the key issues and priorities. The targets have provided clear, stable, long-term goals that have been adopted at all levels and by a wide range of stakeholders.
4. Wide engagement has been a key element for successful implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and has resulted in the development of a broad-based, multi-stakeholder, united community, committed to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity into the future. It has also engaged thousands of plant conservationists in the CBD process, engaging their efforts often at community levels and aligning their actions with priorities at national levels.
5. A review of progress in the implementation of the 2020 GSPC targets was carried out in 2020 and published by the CBD Secretariat in the Plant Conservation Report 2020,¹ and the main findings were incorporated into the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.²

II. Benefits of a continuing GSPC

a. National action

6. A number of countries, including some of the world's most biodiverse countries, have developed national plant conservation strategies / responses which align with the GSPC. Between them these countries include over 50% of the world's plant diversity. The development of such strategies has been shown to provide an important mechanism to bring together the wide range of stakeholders involved in plant conservation at the national level. In the case of some countries, (e.g. Mexico and China), national plant conservation strategies and targets extend beyond 2020. A continued GSPC

¹ A review of progress towards the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 (CBD Technical Series No. 95) <https://www.cbd.int/gbo5/plant-conservation-report-2020>

² www.cbd.int/gbo5 (pages 124-130)

would provide an essential ‘home’ for these strategies, linking them at the international level and promoting a continued focus on plants in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

b. Maintaining momentum

7. Significant progress has been made up to 2020 on the achievement of the objectives and targets of the 2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, not least due to its success in mobilising the plant conservation and botanical community at local, national and international levels. However much remains to be done. There is grave concern that without a continued specific focus on plant conservation in the post-2020 period, much vital plant diversity may be lost. A continued GSPC, with specific actions for plant conservation will ensure that the momentum achieved to date, can be sustained over the coming decade and that the plant conservation community at all relevant national and international levels can collectively contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

III. Contributing to the post-2020 biodiversity framework

8. The GSPC 2020 targets were imperfectly aligned with the Aichi targets, and for this reason, implementation and reporting on progress towards the GSPC targets was, in some countries seen as separate to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. It is therefore proposed that a post-2020 GSPC will be clearly nested within the post-2020 biodiversity framework, through a set of supporting actions specifically for plant conservation which would directly contribute to the attainment of the goals, milestones and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Identifying specific supporting actions for plant conservation will serve to highlight specific focal areas for the plant conservation community and has the potential to bring a wealth of expertise, data and resources into efforts to implement the biodiversity agenda.

9. Plant-related actions that could be considered to support the achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework 2030 targets might include:

- The inclusion of plant species diversity considerations in spatial planning to support its conservation and restoration.
- Using native plant species in the restoration of degraded ecosystems, and the use of diverse native species in areas planted for carbon sequestration to help mitigate climate change.
- The effective protection of areas important for plant diversity.
- The assessment of all plant species for their extinction risk and conservation status.
- The conservation and management of all known threatened wild plant species in situ and ex situ, to include genetically diverse and viable populations.
- The reduction in the number of plant species threatened by unsustainable levels of harvesting.
- Measures implemented for the control and eradication of invasive species and biological invasions in areas important for plant diversity and measures in place to manage pathways to prevent new invasive species introductions and/or establishment.
- The conservation and management of socio-economically important wild plants in situ and ex situ, to support nutrition, health care, food security and livelihoods.
- The development of biodiversity-rich accessible green spaces in urban areas, as well as urban greening, biodiversity conservation programmes and community gardening initiatives in the world’s cities.
- Initiatives to support the efforts of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels, to conserve their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices for the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity, safeguarding and supporting customary and cultural use of these resources.

- The development and dissemination of comprehensive and authoritative global and national expertise, and online information systems, documentation and inventories, accessible in all countries, on floras and the status of known plant species and their natural habitats.
- New capacity building, resourcing, networking, institution building and public engagement initiatives to support plant conservation.

IV. Process in the development of the post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

10. In 2004, a Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) was created to support the worldwide implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and assist Parties in achieving the GSPC targets. It currently includes 63 organisations and institutions as members. Following a conference of the GPPC held in Cape Town, South Africa in August 2018, a Liaison Group meeting was convened by the SCBD. The Liaison Group requested the GPPC to prepare information on ‘options for integrating plant conservation into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework’¹. Following the meeting, the GPPC prepared a possible first draft of plant conservation objectives, including targets, for the period 2021 to 2030.²

11. The future of the GSPC in the post-2020 period was also considered and reviewed at further international conferences and consultations held in China. An international conference marking the 60th anniversary of the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yunnan, China was held on 3-5 January, 2019 on the theme of “Saving all the plants in a changing world”. A report on the conference and the ‘Xishuangbanna Declaration on Plant Conservation’ was prepared and endorsed by the 200 participants³. A further international conference on the GSPC was held in Dujiangyan City, Sichuan Province, China on 28-29 October 2019 as a ‘World Forum on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation’. It was convened by the China Wild Plant Conservation Association, in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and a range of international partners and attended by 260 participants. The meeting adopted the ‘Declaration from the World Forum on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), Dujiangyan’ endorsed by the participants⁴.

12. The draft post-2020 plant conservation targets were reviewed and updated by the members of the GPPC and other experts as part of a broad international stakeholder consultation conducted during 2019 and further revised in line with the targets of the draft Global Biodiversity Framework during 2020. A further submission was made by the GPPC to the CBD in response to the document ‘POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: DISCUSSION PAPER’ (CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/1, 25 January 2019) in relation to Preparations for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework⁵. A second international consultation was carried out in late 2020 involving the members of the GPPC and the targets further refined in line with the comments received.

13. Given the progress that has been made to date in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its associated processes, a draft post 2020 GSPC provides a possible approach to incorporating supportive and complimentary actions, outcomes and indicators related to plant conservation. Full details of the draft post-2020 GSPC are provided in an [associated document](#) submitted to the CBD Secretariat.

14. Taking into account the importance of plant conservation for the reaching the 2050 Vision for biodiversity as well as the important role that the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation has played in this respect, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/cb54/dbd6/b7dd584f9bd2deb654a5f4cb/gspclg-06-02-en.pdf>

² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/Post2020/postsbi/gppc.pdf>

³ http://english.xtbg.cas.cn/ns/es/201901/t20190107_203670.html

⁴ <https://www.bgci.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Declaration-from-the-World-Forum-on-GSPC-002.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/299A6E52-0C3A-DCBC-A111-60773465B5E3/attachments/208038/gppc.pdf>

consider how the actions outlined in the draft post-2020 GSPC could be further developed. For example, the SBSTTA may wish to request the GPPC, with the support of the Secretariat, to prepare a set of complimentary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the GBF. This work could take into account the final post-2020 global biodiversity framework, other relevant decisions adopted at COP-15 as well as previous experiences with the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as described in the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the 2020 Plant Conservation Report. These actions could then be presented to a meeting of SBSTTA following COP-15 for their further consideration.
