



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.  
Limited

UNEP/CBD/LG/GSPC/2/3  
17 Octobre 2006

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

### LIAISON GROUP MEETING OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION\*

Second meeting

Dublin, 23-25 October 2006

Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda\*\*

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE GSPC IN MEETING THE 2010 TARGET, MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF 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. The Conference of the Parties emphasized that the targets should be viewed as a flexible framework within which national and/or regional targets may be developed, according to national priorities and capacities, and taking into account differences in plant diversity between countries. Further, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and Governments to develop national and/or regional targets, and, as appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

2. 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 and invited Parties, other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations to provide adequate and timely support to the implementation of the strategy, especially by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition.

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

3. 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, a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, adopted

---

\* Organized jointly by the CBD and Global Partnership for Plant Conservation.

\*\* UNEP/CBD/LG/GSPC/02/01.

by decision VI/26. Similarly, using lessons learnt from the target-setting exercise for the Strategy, a small number of targets that are simple to understand, have been developed for other programmes of work of the Convention.

4. Using the framework of the Strategy as a guideline, in decision VII/30 regarding the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the following focal areas were selected for the target setting exercise across the Convention: (a) reducing the rate of loss of the components of biodiversity, including (i) biomes, habitats and ecosystems; (ii) species and populations; and (iii) genetic diversity; (b) promoting sustainable use of biodiversity; (c) addressing the major threats to biodiversity, including those arising from invasive alien species, climate change, pollution, and habitat change; (d) maintaining ecosystem integrity, and the provision of goods and services provided by biodiversity in ecosystems, in support of human well-being; (e) Protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices; (f) ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources; and (g) mobilizing financial and technical resources, especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, for implementing the Convention and the Strategic Plan;

5. The GSPC provides a useful pilot for assessing progress towards the achievement of the 2010 target at national level. In turn, the review of the progress in implementation of the strategy will contribute useful baseline information and experiences beneficial to the review of the 2010 biodiversity target. Some of the GSPC targets relevant to the sub targets of the 2010 target are highlighted in the table below.

6. However, 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). 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 deliberations under agenda item 4.1 (Report of the Gran Canaria Meeting on 'Climate Change and Plant Conservation' organized by the members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation) may present some useful options (see <http://www.bgci.org/conservation/gcdccpc/> and <http://www.bgci.org/conservation/climatechange/>).

**GSPC TARGETS RELEVANT TO THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET**

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>SUB TARGETS OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET</b>	<b>RELEVANT GSPC TARGETS</b>
<b>Protect the components of biodiversity</b>		
<b><i>Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes</i></b>	Target 1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.  Target 1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected	<b>Target 4</b>  <b>Target 4</b>
<b><i>Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity</i></b>	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.	<b>Target 7, 8, 9</b>  <b>Target 7, 8, 11</b>
<b><i>Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity</i></b>	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.	<b>Target 9</b>
<b>Promote sustainable use</b>		
<b><i>Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption.</i></b>	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  Target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade	<b>Target 6, 12</b>     <b>Target 11</b>
<b>Address threats to biodiversity</b>		
<b><i>Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land-use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.</i></b>	Target 5.1: Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased	<b>Target 4, 5, 10</b>
<b><i>Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species</i></b>	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.	    <b>Target 10</b>

<b>Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution</b>	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	
Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being		
<b>Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods</b>	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	<b>Target 5</b>  <b>Target 13</b>
Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices		
<b>Goal 9 Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities</b>	Target 9s.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	<b>Target 9, 13</b>  <b>Target 9,13</b>
Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources		
<b>Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources</b>	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	<b>Target 9</b>  <b>Target 9, 12, 13</b>
<b>Focal Area: Ensure provision of adequate resources</b>		
<b>Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention</b>	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	<b>Target 15, 16</b>  <b>Target 3, 15, 16</b>

### III. ROLE OF STRATEGY IN ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

7. Decision VI/9 stresses potential role of the Strategy in contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The seventh Conference of Parties further recognized the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the focus of global efforts to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women, and that the Millennium Development Goals agenda provides the framework for the entire United Nations system to work coherently toward these common ends. The Conference of the Parties welcomed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in particular its recognition of the critical and essential role played by biodiversity in sustainable development, poverty eradication, human well-being and the livelihood and cultural integrity of people.

8. The Conference of the Parties noted 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 and noted the linkage between biodiversity, food and nutrition and the need to enhance sustainable use of biodiversity to combat hunger and malnutrition, 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).

9. Countries are tailoring the MDGs to national circumstances, building them into national development strategies and policies, and incorporating them in budgets and sectoral priorities. These goals are also 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.

10. For example, for most developing countries, target 12 and 13 provide a strategic link between national implementation of the GSPC and the national MDG implementation processes. Regarding sustainable use, it has been shown that the vast majority of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) will continue to be collected from the wild due to various factors including the high costs of domestication and cultivation, given that cultivation is not necessarily the most beneficial production system for some MAP species. 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.

11. However, there is limited value adding and processing of most MAP products in most developing countries while 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.

12. There are various national, regional and international projects and initiatives on this theme. A relevant example is The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) project entitled "International Standard1 for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)"( <http://www.floraweb.de/proxy/floraweb/map-pro/>), which is seeking to develop a Standard (Target 6, 12, 13). The ISSC-MAP covers social and economic factors, but clearly 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

---

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

and product quality. The aim is to provide useful guidance for community based initiatives in medicinal plants especially linked to regional and international trade.

13. Another example is the BioTrade Initiative <sup>2/</sup> of UNCTAD (<http://www.biotrade.org/Intro/bti.htm>) which provides a useful model for refining and transforming MAP products. Since 2003 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. National BioTrade programmes promote trade and investment in products and services derived from native or indigenous biodiversity. These programmes seek to strengthen institutional capacity in order to develop supportive policy frameworks for biotrade; and provide concrete technical assistance to biotrade initiatives and other economic actors.

14. Thus, 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.

#### **IV. THE ROLE OF THE STRATEGY IN ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF THE MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT**

15. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) project 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/](http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/)).

16. 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. The targets of the Strategy articulated appropriately at national, regional and global level aim to address these challenges.

17. 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 values.

18. Other alarming finding include an indication that an estimated 852 million people were undernourished in 2000–02, up 37 million from the period 1997–99, per capita food production has declined in sub-Saharan Africa half the urban population in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean suffers from one or more diseases associated with inadequate water and sanitation and desertification affects the livelihoods of millions of people, including a large portion of the poor in drylands.

---

<sup>2/</sup> 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.

19. Indeed, the implementation of the Strategy has to take into consideration these findings and options sought to mitigate or reverse these trends. The findings of the MA further provide a justification for enhanced investment in biodiversity conservation, not only for ecosystem benefits, but also for livelihood and economic benefits.

20. There is need therefore to take into consideration these MA findings when prioritising action at national, regional and global level, given that progress made in achieving the various targets of the GSPC will potential 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). 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**

21. 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.

22. 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.

-----