

From: Natasha Ali [<mailto:N.Ali@kew.org>]

Sent: November-03-11 11:47 AM

To: secretariat

Subject: Re: CBD Notification 2011-171 - Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: Liaison Group report and toolkit available for comments

For the attention of the Executive Secretary,

Please see below, comments on the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Liaison Group on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) (UNEP/CDB/LG-GSPC/4/2), and the draft toolkit for the GSPC – from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Comments on the Fourth Meeting of the Liaison Group of the GSPC Report

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Kew) welcomes the report as a useful resource to evaluate progress towards the GSPC, and a source of further information on implementation. The recommendations are key to the effective implementation of the Strategy.

The Liaison Group meeting was attended by Dr Colin Clubbe for Kew, also representing the United Kingdom.

In particular, the recommendation (para 21) that GSPC National Focal Points (NFPs) could compile information for others will be beneficial for progress, and could also serve as information in the toolkit. There is potential for the members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) to be more pro-active in assisting Parties without a GSPC NFP, by using existing links within the botanic garden community to nominate potential focal points.

This recommendation (para 21) could be combined with the recommendations for development of the Toolkit. Much of the content of the toolkit is expected to be compiled by botanical institutions, so that the information may not be exactly what is needed by decision makers, or it may not be presented in a useful way. Thus, it may be helpful for NFPs to provide a review of the toolkit content, to ensure that the toolkit is fit for purpose for national implementation.

Many of the activities seem to be driven by member organisations of the GPPC and the CBD Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP). Thus, progress and implementation may be constrained by a lack of human and financial resources. Kew suggests resourcing for these activities is further considered, to ensure that implementing bodies are adequately resourced to engage effectively.

Kew suggests an amendment to page 8. The paragraph that relates to Kew's Millennium Seed Bank project, currently included under Target 9, should be included under Target 8 rather than 9.

Another project that could be included under target 9, is a project by Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Project entitled "Adapting agriculture to climate change: collecting, Protecting and Preparing Crop Wild Relatives". This project aims to identify, collect and protect plants that are listed in Annex 1 to the

International Treaty on Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), with characteristics to adapt to the most important food crops to climate change.

There is no mention of the work of the industry sector in setting industry standards for the sustainable harvesting of products under Target 11. Kew suggest that such standards could be included in the Toolkit.

Kew would be keen to hear of the next steps in this process after the report has been reviewed by Parties. In particular, an update on the progress towards the recommendations, perhaps with identified institutions or persons to ensure that the recommendations are fulfilled. Kew would like to see a strategy to monitor progress towards individual projects that contribute to the targets – at a global level.

Comments on the GSPC Toolkit

The online structure fits the needs of users as identified by the survey.

The format is clear, concise and well set out.

The toolkit is very informative, but may become rather overloaded with text as institutions begin to provide data. Consideration should be made as how to manage and present this.

Tools and resources which are cross cutting may need to appear in different places on the site. For example, Kew could submit information about its Herbarium technique Course - which would naturally fall within T15. However, it may also be useful for progress towards T1.

The toolkit should contain links to activities under the Global Taxonomy Initiative.

I hope the comments are of use.

Kind regards,
Natasha Ali, for and on behalf of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Natasha Ali
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Surrey TW9 3AB
tel: +44 (0) 20 8332 5705
fax: +44(0)20 8332 5757
www.kew.org