



UNEP/SCED

17902

MAY 07 2001

ACTION: JC

NO. 1A, 5A

## **Ministry of Environment and Social Development**

### **ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION DIVISION**

#### FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

to:	from:
Secretariat, Convention on Biological Diversity	Permanent Secretary, Environment & Social Development
organization:	date:
United Nations Environment Programme	5/4/2001
fax number:	total no. of pages including cover:
(1-514) 288.65.88	3
Phone number:	sender's reference number:
(1-514) 288.22.20	STTM/dc/ia
Re:	Your reference number:
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Call for Views from Parties- (Kiribati)	ESD 23/5

URGENT     FOR REVIEW     PLEASE COMMENT     PLEASE REPLY     PLEASE RECYCLE

Thank you for your notification letter, which was referenced to the above with regards to the above subject. I wish to acknowledge the good effort that have been input into the *Gran Canaria Declaration calling for a Global Program for Plant Conservation*. However, just a minor comment for your kind consideration and necessary action, should it seen fit by your good office.

PO. Box 234, Bikenibeu, Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati. Phone: (686) 28593 Fax: (686) 28334 E-mail: [mesd2@tskd.net.ki](mailto:mesd2@tskd.net.ki)

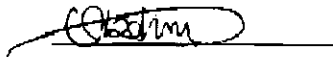
Referring to Decision V/10 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, paragraph 4 which begins with Taking note of the proposal contained in the Gran Canaria Declaration .....of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, I would be happy to comment that we do not have grudges against this whole paragraph. However, now that the Gran Canaria Declaration (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/32) would be noted in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Kiribati would be more comfortable if inserted somewhere, in **bullet point 4 under the Integrated ex situ and in situ conservation, special needs of small island states particularly those Pacific Island States with poor geographic setting.**

Kiribati may not be fertile, however we do have our own category of indigenous plant species that are of equally direct economic and medicinal important. Please consider also the fact that a particular species of plant, for instance a pandanus tree or screw pine, may not be of great importance to other bigger nations like New Zealand or volcanic islands such as Fiji or Tonga. However, for smaller coral nations like Kiribati, this is a particular species, which has great economic, cultural and pharmaceutical values to the people living therein. The species concerned is also under increasingly threat from over-exploitation by the native people.

The main elements of such a Strategy as laid out in the *Gran Canaria Declaration* are general and this could also undermine those species, which are of great significance to small island nations like Kiribati.

I hope the comments provided herein are helpful and constructive for your good work and I look forward to hearing from you soon with regard to these comments.

Thank you.



**Ms Nenenteiti Teariki**

**(Biodiversity & Conservation Officer for Permanent Secretary, Environment & Social Development).**