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**SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

Fourteenth meeting

Nairobi, 10-21 May 2010

Items 3.3 of the provisional agenda\*

**GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION - REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
FOR AFRICA**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the report of the regional workshop for the Africa on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, held at Durban Botanic Garden, South Africa, from 3 to 4 November 2009.
2. This workshop was organized by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) to provide input into the process of developing a consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) for the period 2011-2020.
3. The document is circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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\* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/1.



**Global Strategy for Plant Conservation  
Regional workshop for Africa  
Durban Botanic Garden, South Africa  
November 3-4, 2009**

**Workshop report**



Supported by the Boeing Company





## **Introduction**

This regional workshop for Africa was one of a series of meetings organized by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), with the support of the Boeing Company, to provide input into the process of developing a revised Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) for the period 2011-2020. The recommendations of the workshops will be synthesized and provided to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for consideration during the development of a final draft revised GSPC. The revised GSPC document will be presented to the CBD's Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its next meeting in May 2010.

This is a shortened version of the full report. The full report, including the annexes referred to in this document, is available on the website of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation ([www.plants2010.org](http://www.plants2010.org)).

## **Background**

The GSPC, which includes 16 outcome-oriented targets to be achieved by 2010, was adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD in 2002. In the years since then considerable progress has been made in achieving at least some of the targets. Moreover, the GSPC has provided a model for target setting at the global level within the CBD and has achieved notable success in stimulating the engagement of the botanical and plant conservation communities in the work of the CBD.

At their 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2008, the Parties to the CBD decided to consider the further development and implementation of the Strategy beyond 2010, including an update of the current targets. In response to this request, an on-line consultation on the future of the GSPC was held in early 2009 and the inputs received were discussed during a Liaison Group meeting, which was organized by the CBD Secretariat and the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation in May 2009. This meeting resulted in the development of a draft GSPC for the period 2011-2020. This document was made available on-line for peer review and further discussions are being held at a series of regional meetings organized by BGCI (Europe, Americas and Africa). This report records the discussions held during the African regional workshop.

## **Participants**

The meeting included 8 invited participants representing 6 countries: Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania. The support of IUCN for the participation of the representative from Madagascar is gratefully acknowledged. A full participants list is provided in Annex 1



## Workshop Day 1

The first day of the workshop included participant introductions and a general discussion about GSPC implementation in Africa. Presentations were provided on the national GSPC responses developed by the Seychelles and South Africa.

### Participant introductions

- Ghana – Alex Asase, University of Ghana. Although there are no national GSPC projects in Ghana, Dr Asase is involved in a number of projects that address GSPC targets. Of particular relevance are: Target 1 - through a biodiversity informatics project which aims to develop a working list of plants in Ghana; Targets 12 and 13 – through medicinal plant conservation projects and Target 15 – University-level teaching in plant science.
- Kenya – Patrick Muthoka, National Museums of Kenya. Dr Muthoka is the Kenyan Coordinator for the Millennium Seedbank Project of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The focus of his work is mainly on Target 8, seed storage and the development of propagation protocols, but institutionally, the National Museums are also involved in implementing Targets 1, 2, 10, 13 and 14.
- Madagascar – Sylvie Andriambololona, Coordinator of Research Unit, Missouri Botanic Garden (MBG) Madagascar Programme. There is no national plant conservation strategy in Madagascar yet, but the MBG programme aims to raise awareness of the GSPC amongst relevant national policy and decision makers. MBG and other partners are supporting work that contributes to several targets in Madagascar, including Target 1 – developing a catalogue of vascular plants; Target 2 – developing a Red List of endemic plants; Target 5 – identifying important areas for plant diversity; Target 9 – conservation of crop wild relatives; Targets 12 and 13 – a checklist of medicinal and nutritional plants of Madagascar.
- Seychelles – Walter Mangroo, Division of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources & Transport. The Seychelles has developed a national strategy for plant conservation – for further details see below. The National Botanic Gardens particularly focuses on the implementation of Target 8 – conserving endemic species and Target 14 – education and public awareness.
- South Africa – Karin van der Walt and Erich van Wyk, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). Dr van Wyk is the South African Coordinator the Millennium Seedbank Project of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Ms van der Walt is responsible for SANBI's threatened plants project. Both have a particular involvement in the implementation of Target 8 in South Africa. Further



details of the South African response to the GSPC are provided below.

- South Africa – Dian Spear, University of Stellenbosch, Centre for Invasion Biology. Dr Spear is particularly interested in the implementation of Target 10 and is involved in the development of indicators for the invasive species programme of the CBD.
- Tanzania – Wilson Marandu, Bioversity International. The work of Bioversity International focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In this respect, they contribute to all targets of the GSPC, but have a particular interest in Targets 6, 9, 12 and 13.

### **Status of implementation of the GSPC in the Seychelles**

#### **Walter Mangroo**

The Seychelles has a very long geological history, with the islands being part of the original Gondwanaland. The archipelago has been declared a biological hotspot and the Government has set aside 45% as protected areas. In response to the GSPC, a Seychelles National Strategy for Plant Conservation was developed in 2004. This includes 16 targets with 44 sub-targets with specific outcomes to be achieved by 2010. Since then a number of activities have been undertaken, including:

- New research activities on native species as part of a new research strategy;
- Various workshops and training events;
- New publications;
- Species reintroductions (*Impatiens gordonii*);
- Habitat restoration and the encouragement of the commercial sector to use native species in landscaping;
- Education and awareness raising – school engagement;
- New policies put in place;
- New NGOs established.

A copy of the full presentation is provided in Annex 2.

### **South Africa's response to the GSPC**

#### **Christopher K. Willis & Erich Van Wyk, SANBI.**

South Africa has 19,581 indigenous plant species of which 11,700 are endemic. It has the richest temperate flora in the world, with the Cape Floristic Region, Succulent Karoo and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany areas all classified as international biodiversity 'hotspots'. In response to the GSPC, South Africa has reviewed each of the GSPC targets and provided an



overview of current national progress towards each target and identified priority actions for the future.

This presentation provided an overview, target by target, of the status of implementation of the GSPC in South Africa. It also provided an overview of the key legislation and political frameworks covering plant conservation in South Africa and details of priority actions identified within the National Biodiversity Framework for the period 2008-2013.

In summarizing South Africa's experience in responding to the GSPC in South Africa, the following points were highlighted:

- SANBI is the lead institution. It is a member of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and is involved in international GSPC meetings/workshops;
- GSPC targets should be integrated into existing national biodiversity programmes/frameworks;
- A GSPC national focal point is required for coordination/reporting /monitoring & evaluation;
- Lead institutions/agencies are needed for specific targets
- Challenging but realistic targets for the national situation should be identified;
- Clarification and sourcing of funding is required for implementation;
- Regional cooperation (e.g. transfrontier conservation areas) is needed in order to develop integrated management and tourism plans.

A copy of the full presentation is provided in Annex 3.

## **Workshop Day 2**

### **Introduction to the GSPC – including review process and updating targets**

**Stella Simiyu, BGCI/SCBD GSPC Programme Officer.**

This presentation provided an overview of the process for the development of a revised GSPC including:

- Outcomes of the in-depth review of the GSPC carried out in 2007-8;
- The results of the initial on-line consultation on the revision of the GSPC, carried out in April 2009 and the key messages resulting from this consultation;
- The development of a revised draft GSPC during the GSPC Liaison Group meeting in May 2009



- Process for finalizing the revised GSPC, including the in-puts from the regional workshops
- Linkages between the GSPC and the development of a new strategic plan for the CBD

A copy of the full presentation is provided in Annex 4.

### **Group discussion**

Following the presentations outlined above, a general discussion was held and the following points were noted:

- Uncertainty regarding of the impacts of climate change mean that there is an added urgency to ensure the conservation of plant diversity *ex situ*. This should be highlighted in the revised GSPC text – especially in paragraph 41.
- It is important to ensure that there is harmony between the GSPC targets and other targets and indicators being developed within the framework of the CBD.
- Global targets can be adapted at the national level in accordance with the local situation and priorities.
- The revised GSPC should address the drivers of biodiversity loss.

The workshop participants proceeded to discuss in detail the individual targets and provided comments on the proposed revisions to these targets for the 2011-2020 period. Discussions were focused around the following criteria for each target:

- Clarity
- Scope
- SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound)
- Milestones and indicators
- Linked initiatives and resources
- Gaps

The results of the discussions are presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Comments on the 16 proposed new GSPC targets**

Target	Clarity and Scope	Milestones and indicators	Rationale	Comments / gaps
1. A widely accessible list of known plant species	Target is clear. The scope focuses on a global list, but attention should also be given to producing national lists, including information on species distribution.	The following milestones are suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Xx% of global list available by xx</li> <li>•No. of countries with accessible national lists xx% complete</li> </ul>	Suggest to include only local names and not vernacular names. Suggest to link to Target 15 and GTI with regard to capacity needs.	Various African initiatives are in place that contribute to this target – e.g. the African checklist produced by SABONET/SANBI; African Plant Database in collaboration with Geneva Botanic Garden; the flora of Zimbabwe; Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa (AETFAT). Should lower plants be addressed?
2. An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species to guide conservation action at national, regional, and international levels	The Target is clear. Regarding scope – is there a need to go beyond species level? In some important crops, it might be important to include sub-species.	Milestone (a) Greater explanation is required of the term 'evidence-based' Milestone (c) what does 'representative sample' mean?		Should both wild and cultivated species be included? All assessments made at national level from various mechanisms should be reported for the milestone.
3. Development and effective sharing of advice and guidance for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience	The new version of this Target is an improvement. However is 'advice and guidance' sufficient? Should 'practical technical experience' also be included'. Add 'to support national implementation' in the Target.	Suggested milestone could be: Availability of xx resources per target at national level by xx Milestones (a) and (b) should be reversed	At the national level, there should be a focus on developing a central database with protocols etc – as in the CBD Clearing House mechanism.	International cooperation is important and an element of 'lessons learnt' should be included in the toolkit. E.g. as 'best practice examples'.



**Table 1 – contd...**

Target	Clarity and scope	Milestones and indicators	Rationale	Comments/gaps
4. Ecosystem services secured through effective management of at least 10% of major ecological regions	The term 'vegetation type' is more easily understood than 'ecosystem type'. The word 'each' should be inserted before 'major'.	Milestone (b) change the word 'identify' to 'establish' Milestone (c) is inconsistent in wording as 'vegetation type' is used. A suggested timeframe is: milestones (a) and (b) by 2012; (c) by 2013 and (d) by 2017. Change the text of (d) to 'Trials will have taken place	Link to the programme of work on marine and coastal areas..	
5. Protection of at least 50 % of the most important areas for plant diversity assured with effective management for conserving plant diversity in place		Time frame: milestone (b) 2013; (c) initiated by 2013. Suggest to introduce a new milestone on a review of the impacts of climate change on IPAs and ecosystems (also link to T4).		
6. At least 30 % of production lands in each sector managed sustainably for plants and consistent with the conservation of plant diversity	The term 'sector' is not clear. Suggest change to: 'At least 30 % of lands in each production sector..'	Milestone (a) – at national level by 2011. Milestone (b) - sub-targets developed by 2013 Milestones (c) and (d) - 'development' by 2014; 'testing' by 2016 and 'promotion' by 2018		There is a need to consult with FAP regarding this target and the proposed milestones. Linkages should be made with the Crop Diversity Trust
7. At least 60% of threatened species conserved <i>in situ</i>	Milestone (d) – is it possible / necessary to conserve 1005 of endemic species. Perhaps the focus should be on all threatened endemic species.	Timeframe: Milestone (a) This is a mapping exercise and should be completed by 2012; (b) not clear what is meant by 'monitoring system' suggest 2013; (c) management plans – 2015; (d) <i>threatened</i> endemic plants – 2018.	Ensure explicit linkages are made with habitat management agencies.	This target should mention the need to conserve pollinators and other co-dependant species in order to ensure species survival in the wild.

Target	Clarity and scope	Milestones and indicators	Rationale	Comments/gaps
8. At least 60% of threatened plant species in <i>ex situ</i> collections, and at least 10% in recovery and restoration programmes	Suggest the term 'reintroduction' or 're-established in the wild' instead of 'recovery and restoration' as the target is focused at species level. Insert 'of these' after '10%'.	Milestone (b) should come first - timeframe 2011. Change 'living plant' to ' <i>ex situ</i> '; Milestone (a) 2016 and (c) 2012.	Para 41, line 11 should be revised	Should sub-species be included?  Make linkages with databases such as SINGER, GRIN and MSB. Recovery=reintroduction=reinforcement of populations in the wild
9. 70% of the genetic diversity of crops and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained		Milestone (a) – suggest change to: 'Collate existing knowledge and information on socio-economically important plant species from institutions and local and indigenous communities by 2012. Add milestones on: establishing an information collecting system for indigenous and local knowledge and collecting important materials for <i>ex situ</i> conservation by 2015.	Check p.11, line 19 – is 'one thousand accessions' correct?	Need to look at how ABS issues are addressed by this target Make links to Crops for the Future.
10. Effective management plans in place to address biological invasions for 50% of important areas for plants that are invaded		Milestone (d) should come first. Could change text to 'identify areas that are 'sensitive to invasion' Suggested revised milestones: (a) identify areas for controlling invasion – 2012; (b) identify invasive species – 2013; (c) establish databases of invasive species per ecosystem/locality – 2015; (d) develop guidance – 2016.	Make clear link to target 5 Use the terminology 'invasion pathways'. Islands and areas of high endemism are particularly important.	The focus of this target should be on areas that can be managed and on the prevention of invasion – i.e. put emphasis on areas that are least invaded? Guidelines are needed to help prioritise areas that should be managed – these can be provided by invasive species experts. As the concept of biological invasion is complex, agreement on its definition must be sought at national level for the indicators to be comparable.

<b>Target</b>	<b>Clarity and scope</b>	<b>Milestones and indicators</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Comments/gaps</b>
11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade	Is there a need to include national trade?	CITES plants committee should provide milestones		
12. A continuous increase in the percentage of plant-based products derived from naturally occurring sources that are sustainably managed, based on progressive inventory and assessment			Make greater linkages with target 6.	
13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge innovations and practices, that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted	It is not possible to 'halt' the loss of indigenous knowledge.			Make a link with CBD Article 8j. It is important to document what information is already available with a focus on plant resources.
14 The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes		Key messages should be developed by 2012 – for conserving plants, not for the strategy itself Change milestone (b) to 'encourage Parties to mainstream the GSPC'.		Difficult to measure Linkages to CBD CEPA programme and UNESCO.

Target	Clarity and scope	Milestones and indicators	Rationale	Comments/gaps
15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy	The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased in at least 70% of countries with resources requiring urgent action, based on national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy	Suggested milestones: (a) A data base of institutions with significant contribution to capacity building and public awareness with regard to plant conservation at national, regional and global levels compiled by 2012; (b) Needs assessments conducted at national and regional levels in at least 70% of countries covering the major groups of resources requiring urgent action by 2013; (c) At least xx regional programmes strengthened with appropriate resources to improve their focus on the GSPC targets and support to national programmes by 2016; (d) At least xx regional programmes offer additional hands-on training appropriate to implementation of GSPC targets by 2016; (e) At least 70% of countries covering the major groups of resources requiring urgent action have public awareness programmes publicizing the outcomes of GSPC targets by 2015.	Need to compile a list of institutions with significant contribution to capacity building and public awareness at national, regional and global levels with regard to plant conservation. Such a compilation should yield information on the current numbers of people trained per year, the level of training, the GSPC targets addressed, the potential for further expansion and linkage with specific national, regional and global programmes. The global institutions already contributing to this target could be tasked to collect the appropriate information (IUCN, Bioversity, FAO, UNESCO etc).	(a) Regional conservation networks (taxonomy, genetic resources, protected areas etc); (b) Thematic networks (GTI??) (c) Selected universities (d) Global institutions (IUCN, Bioversity, FAO, UNESCO etc)
16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels				