



An introduction to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

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Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

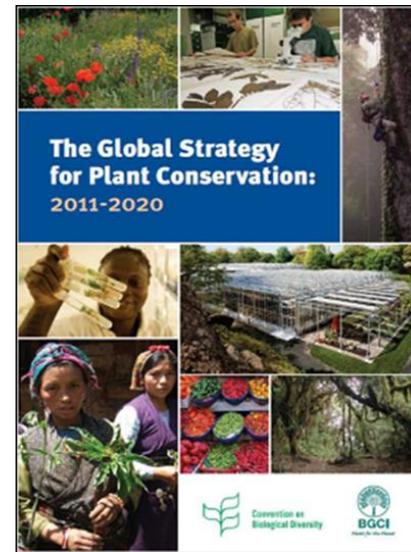
Adopted unanimously by the 187 governments
at the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological
Diversity (COP) - The Hague, Netherlands, **19th April, 2002**

- 16 out-come oriented targets (updated in 2010)
- First ever biodiversity targets adopted at the international level.
 - A pilot in target setting for the CBD

GSPC: Without plants there is no life. The functioning of the planet, and our survival, depends upon plants. The Strategy seeks to halt the continuing loss of plant diversity

Scope of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (2011-2020)

- Understanding and documenting plant diversity
- Conserving plant diversity
- Using plant diversity sustainably
- Promoting education & awareness about plant diversity
- Capacity building for plant diversity



Supporting structures:

Coordinating mechanisms:

- International Liaison Group meetings
- National focal points
- Global Partnership for Plant Conservation
- The CBD Secretariat



The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

- Launched at CBD COP7, February, 2004, Malaysia
- >60 institutions as members



Plants 2020

Supporting the implementation of the
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

- GSPC toolkit
- Launched 2012
- Tools and resources to support implementation of each target
- 6 UN languages

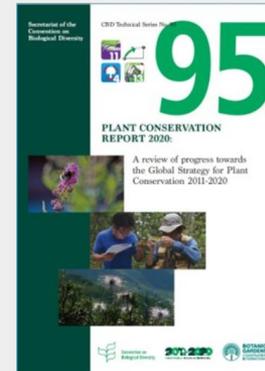
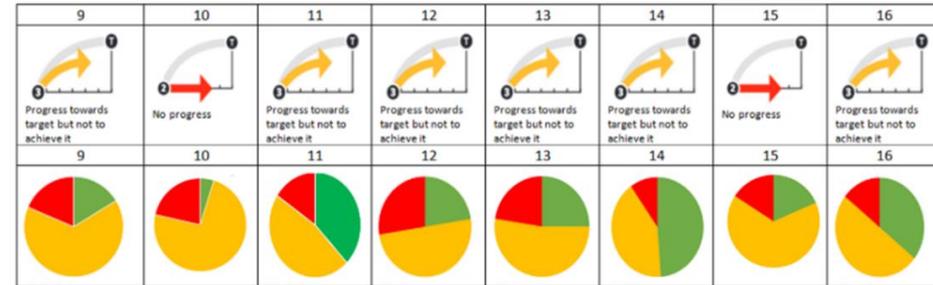
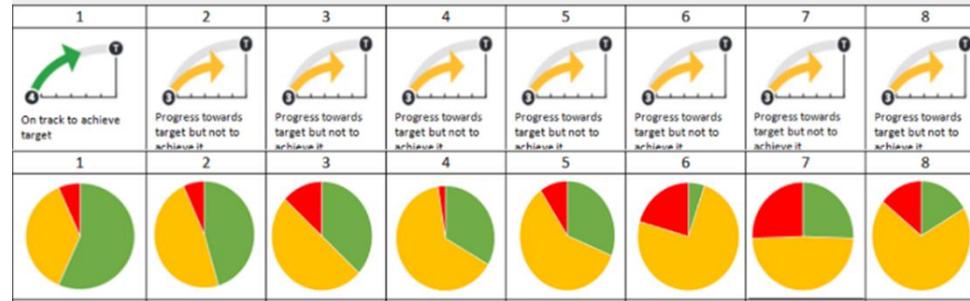
The achievements of the GSPC

- Recognising the special importance of plants
- First ever international outcome-orientated targets for biodiversity conservation
- A model for what followed (e.g. the Aichi Targets).
- Botanical community's leadership
- Important in providing a unified strategy for the botanical community – a shared set of principles and objectives.
- Implementation as part of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans / National Plant Conservation Strategies
- GSPC has helped to broaden the base of plant conservation activities worldwide



Review of progress to 2020

- BGCI/GPPC requested by CBD Secretariat to review progress
- Carried out during 2019
- Based on information from:
 - 6th National Reports to the CBD
 - Survey of GPPC members
 - Published reports
 - Grey literature
- Published by CBD Secretariat as Plant Conservation Report 2020



Progress at the European level

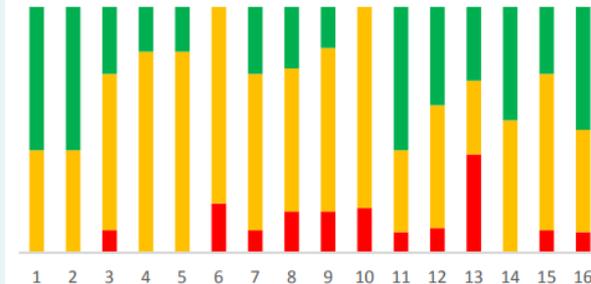


Report published by Planta Europa and Plantlife

- 20,000-30,000 vascular plant species in Europe (depending on boundaries)
- Key threats – habitat loss, invasive alien species, climate change, inadequate policies...
- 2 European Plant Conservation Strategies produced: 2002-2007 and 2008-2014
- Review of progress completed in 2020
- Progress variable across European countries, but collectively targets were not met
- E.g. European regional plant Red List not completed (groups covered include trees, CWRs, medicinal plants, known threatened species, bryophytes) results showed that >20% of assessed species are under threat.



Box 1.2 Progress towards GSPC Targets 1-16



Target 1: An online flora of all known plants



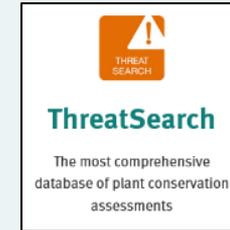
- World Flora Online Consortium established in 2012 led by Missouri Botanical Garden
- Consortium now has 41 partners worldwide
- A web-based open-access compendium:
www.worldfloraonline.org



Target 2: An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation



- IUCN Red List – 58,300 assessments (<16% of species)
- ThreatSearch launched by BGCI in 2017
- >300,000 plant conservation assessments, representing >180,000 taxa
- Global assessments available for >90,000 species
- 1 in 3 assessed plants threatened at some level
- www.bgci.org/threat_search.php
- **Global Tree Assessment** - Global Tree Portal
 - information on 60,000 tree species
 - Distribution, conservation status
 - Conservation actions

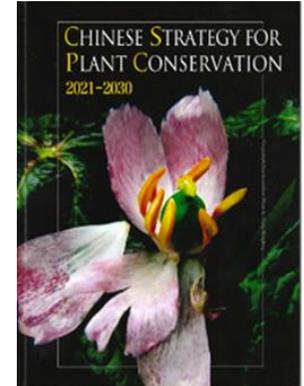


Species Search



- Post-2020 GSPC was proposed by GSPC Liaison Group meeting in South Africa in 2018
- Support from at the World Forum on Plant Conservation in China, 2019
- Stakeholder consultations 2019 – 2021
- Support from Parties during informal SBSTTA sessions in 2021 (South Africa, Mexico, Madagascar, France...)
- Draft submitted to CBD Secretariat for SBSTTA 24 (March 2022)
- Agreement that the post-2020 GSPC should take the form of a set of Actions to support implementation of the GBF
- COP15 Decisions 15/5 and 15/13 invited the GPPC to:

“prepare a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to be considered by a meeting of SBSTTA following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.”





- Draft Actions related to GBF targets for 2030 prepared and reviewed by GPPC in early 2023
- Submitted to CBD Secretariat and provided to CBD Parties for peer review – June/July 2023
- All comments incorporated and Action Framework to be presented at SBSTTA 25
- Plant-related actions taken together represent the third phase of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation [2023-2030]
- Actions support the implementation of all GBF targets except 17 and 18 (where no particular plant conservation action is required, except to support its achievement.)

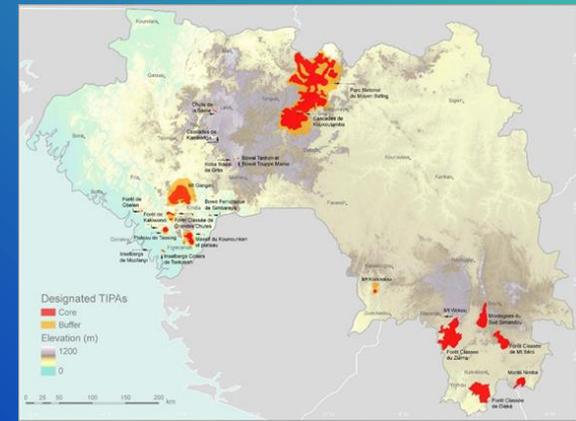
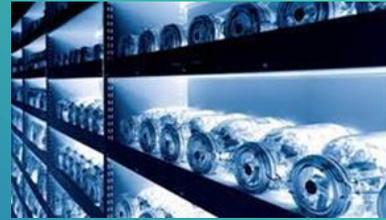
Follows structure of the GBF

- High levels goals covering:
 - Ecosystem conservation
 - Species conservation
 - Genetic diversity conservation
 - Benefits from biodiversity
- 21 actions aligned to biodiversity targets



Targets on reducing threats:

- Plant diversity included in spatial planning
- Restoring degraded ecosystems must incorporate native species
- Protecting important areas for plant diversity
- Conserving threatened species *in situ* and *ex situ*
- Sustainable trade
- Controlling invasive species
- Reducing anthropogenic threats
- Carbon sequestration using appropriate diverse native species



Meeting people's needs:

- Plant diversity available to support nutrition, health and livelihoods
- Sustainable land use supporting wild plant diversity
- Conserving genetic resources
- Urban green space
- Access and benefit sharing
- Well being



Challenges of the GSPC



Lack of reporting
and data
management

Sharing plant
material for *ex situ*
conservation

Scientific
contribution of key
players needs to be
strengthened

There is a need to
strengthen
government policy
and commitment

Funding remains a
major constraint

Supporting capacity
building programs

Further involvement
of local
communities

Enhance gender
equality

Adapt to new
challenges by
enhancing research

Some challenges at European level

- Emerging threats to plants: invasive pests and diseases (Ash dieback, Xyllela, Emerald Ash borer...); Climate change, fires etc; pollinator declines; demand for wood (renewable energy);
- Lack of regional-level data on threatened species (identification, location, trans-boundary approaches...)
- Need to ensure ecosystem approaches to conservation do not over-look needs at species level
- Sectoral integration (e.g. ensuring ecological requirements of plants are well integrated into agri-environmental policy)
- Plant blindness and citizen science
- Resourcing and capacity (lack of sharing beyond Europe)



Local children collect medicinal plants Hypericum alpestre and Thymus kotschyanus - Anna Asatryan

Way forward

- Ensure support for GSPC by Parties at SBSTTA-25 & COP16
- Develop/update national and regional actions or targets related to plant conservation and incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including NBSAPs, and align the implementation of the GSPC with national and regional efforts to implement the GBF
- Identify champions to lead actions and provide support.



Thank you for your attention!

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