

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Thirteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 August 2003

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation**

The CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) was agreed by the parties to the CBD in The Hague in April 2002. The strategy provides a framework for policy formulation and a basis for monitoring progress in plant conservation. The Strategy contains 16 ambitious targets (grouped under 5 themes) to be achieved by the year 2010 (in order to synchronize the Strategy with the CBD's Strategic Plan). Responsibility for achieving the targets is principally a national responsibility (national targets developed within this framework may vary from country to country according to national priorities and capacities taking into account differences in plant diversity), but there is provision for international coordination through a CBD liaison group composed of interested parties and organisations. The intention is for each target to have a lead coordinating agency to promote and monitor global implementation.

It has been recommended that the lead coordinating agency for target 11 (see below) be the CITES, as this target was explicitly tied to the CITES Strategic Plan. This is an opportunity to further develop synergies between the goals of the CBD and CITES. Issues to be considered may include:

- the extent to which CITES has and will contribute to target 11;
- the use of elements of the Plants Committee work programme as a contribution to the implementation of target 11;
- the development of indicators to show progress;
- and a mechanism for liaison between the Plants Committee and the CBD GSPC liaison committee.

**(A) Understanding and documenting plant diversity:**

- (1) A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora;
- (2) A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels;
- (3) Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience;

**(B) Conserving plant diversity:**

- (4) At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved;
- (5) Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured;
- (6) At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity;
- (7) 60 per cent of the world's threatened species conserved *in situ*;

(8) 60 per cent of threatened plant species in accessible *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes;

(9) 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socioeconomically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained;

(10) Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems;

**(C) Using plant diversity sustainably:**

**(11) No species of wild flora endangered by international trade;**

**Technical rationale:** the proposed formulation of the target is more precise since it focuses on those species that are actually threatened by international trade. So formulated, the target is attainable and is complementary to target 12. Species of wild flora endangered by international trade include but are not limited to species listed on appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The target is consistent with the main purpose of the CITES Strategic Plan (to 2005): "No species of wild flora subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade".

**(12) 30 per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed;**

(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;

**(D) Promoting education and awareness about plant diversity:**

(14) The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public –awareness programmes;

**(E) Building capacity for the conservation of plant diversity:**

(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;

(16) Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.