

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

Strategic matters

COOPERATION WITH THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

1. This document has been submitted by the representative for Oceania (Mr. Damian Wrigley) at the request of the Chair (Ms. Flore Koumba Pambo).*
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.22 to 19.23 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*, as follows:

Directed to the Plants Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat

19.22 *The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with the Secretariat:*

- a) *taking into account the relevant outcomes under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) regarding the post-2020 future of the GSPC, consider the need to revise Resolution Conf. 16.5 on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;*
- b) *if considered appropriate, draft a revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5 with a view to ensure that a two-way collaboration between both Conventions is reflected; and*
- c) *present its recommendations to the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Standing Committee, in coordination with the Plants Committee and the Secretariat

19.23 *The Standing Committee shall consider any report prepared in response to Decision 19.22, and in coordination with the Plants Committee and the Secretariat, convey its recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Outcomes of CBD COP15

3. At its 15th meeting (CBD COP15; Montreal, December 2022), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted Decision CBD/COP/DEC/15/13 on *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations*, providing an avenue for the continuation of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* through to 2030.
4. Paragraph 12 Decision CBD/COP/DEC/15/13 invites the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation, with the support of the Secretariat, to “*prepare a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework aligned with the final version of*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

the framework, other relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, as well as previous experiences with the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as described in the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the 2020 Plant Conservation report, to be considered by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice following the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties”.

5. Target 5 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provides a defined link to the work of CITES by committing Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to “*Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities*”.
6. In early 2023, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation worked with National Focal Points and relevant stakeholders to review and refine a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation. These refined actions are scheduled to be presented to the 25th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice for consideration and adoption as an updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
7. At the time of writing, the draft revised Global Strategy for Plant Conservation incorporates consideration for unsustainable plant harvest by stipulating “*At least a [50%/40%] reduction in the number of plant species threatened by unsustainable levels of harvesting*”.
8. The continued cooperation between CITES and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation will provide for better coordination between relevant nations, stakeholders and the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation to support a reduction in the levels of unsustainable harvest of wild flora.

Proposed approach for the implementation of Decision 19.22

9. Any updates on CBD processes that might take place from the time of writing will be reported through an addendum to the present document ahead of PC26.
10. Paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 19.22 call for considering the need for revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.5 on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; which for ease of reference is included as an Annex to the present document.
11. Based on the outcomes of CBD COP15 reported in the present document, as well as any updates to be made available via an addendum, the Plants Committee might wish to initiate consideration of any possible revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.5.

Recommendations

12. The Plants Committee is invited to:
 - a) consider the present document and any addendum that might be made available ahead of PC26;
 - b) in accordance with paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 19.22, consider drafting a revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5 (see Annex);
 - c) prepare recommendations for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting (SC77).

Conf. 16.5

Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention of Biological Diversity*, and the *Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of CITES and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*, signed on March 1996, as well as its amendment, signed in 2000 and 2001;

RECALLING that, in 2002, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted, through Decision VI/9, the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* (GSPC), including outcome-oriented global targets for 2010;

NOTING that, since its 13th meeting (Geneva, August 2003), the Plants Committee has recognized that CITES contributes to many of the Targets of the GSPC;

NOTING further that the Secretariat of the CBD recognizes in the 2009 *Plant Conservation Report* that Target 11 of the GSPC (*No species of wild flora endangered by international trade*) forms the core business of CITES activities related to flora;

RECALLING Decision 15.19 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), which directs the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to collaborate with processes established to develop the GSPC beyond 2010, as it relates to CITES activities;

WELCOMING Decision X/17 of the 10th meeting of Conference of the Parties to the CBD (Japan, 2010), which adopted the consolidated update of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020* (GSPC);

RECOGNIZING the significant role that CITES can play in the achievement of the objectives and targets of the GSPC, and the effect upon CITES if the GSPC is successfully implemented;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. INVITES Parties to:
 - a) take note of the potential contribution of CITES to the objectives and targets of the consolidated update of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020* through the activities and products listed in the Annex to the present Resolution;
 - b) promote and enhance collaboration between their GSPC focal point and their CITES Authorities, through:
 - i) the involvement of CITES authorities in the development and implementation of the GSPC national strategies, particularly activities related to CITES-listed species; and
 - ii) the inclusion of CITES-GSPC-related activities in CBD National Reports;
2. DIRECTS the Secretariat to encourage the exchange of information related to the GSPC and other plant conservation and sustainable use initiatives, by:
 - a) promoting awareness of ongoing CITES activities that contribute to the achievement of GSPC Targets, by communicating information among CITES bodies and Parties on the operations and outcomes of CITES processes, such as the Review of Significant Trade, Periodic Review of the Appendices, proposals to amend the CITES Appendices, and formulation of Non-detriment Findings (NDFs), among others;

- b) collaborating with the CBD Secretariat to streamline reporting on relevant CITES activities related to the GSPC Targets;
 - c) including the GSPC in any work plans developed under the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of CBD; and
 - d) inviting a CBD representative to participate as an observer at Plants Committee meetings that address GSPC;
3. DIRECTS the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to promote CITES collaboration with CBD on the implementation of the GSPC by:
- a) representing the CITES Plants Committee at meetings of CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and other GSPC meetings subject to the availability of external funding; and
 - b) providing contributions for CBD documents regarding the implementation of the GSPC.

Annex List of potential CITES activities and products and their contribution to the objectives and targets of the updated *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020*

GSPC's Objective	GSPC's Target ¹	CITES's potential contribution
(I) Plant diversity is well understood, documented and recognized	1. An online flora of all known plants.	CITES checklists available online.
	2. An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CITES Appendices. – Supporting statements for proposals to amend the Appendices. – NDFs. – Periodic Review results. – Review of Significant Trade results.
	3. Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared.	
(II) Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved	4. At least 15 % of each ecological region or vegetation type secured through effective management and/or restoration.	Not directly applicable as CITES works at species level.
	5. At least 75 % of the most important areas for plant diversity of each ecological region protected with effective management in place for conserving plants and their genetic diversity.	

¹ As taken from the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020.

GSPC's Objective	GSPC's Target ¹	CITES's potential contribution
	6. At least 75 % of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
	7. At least 75 % of known threatened plant species conserved <i>in situ</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inclusion of species/populations in CITES Appendices.
	8. At least 75 % of threatened plant species in <i>ex situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20 % available for recovery and restoration programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identification of the location/habitat of Appendix-I species. – Efforts by CITES Parties to ensure sustainable use of CITES-listed species: NDFs and national quotas. – Implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.9 on <i>Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes</i>. – CITES Certificate of Scientific Exchange.
	9. 70 % of the genetic diversity of crops including their wild relatives and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, while respecting, preserving and maintaining associated indigenous and local knowledge.	Not directly applicable.
	10. Effective management plans in place to prevent new biological invasions and to manage important areas for plant diversity that are invaded.	Not directly applicable. Nevertheless, CITES Parties have recognized the link between trade and alien invasive species in Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Trade in alien invasive species</i> .
(III) Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner	11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	All CITES activities contribute directly to this Target, and CITES is recognized as having a leadership role in implementing this Target.
	12. All wild-harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NDFs, national quotas, Review of Significant Trade, and Periodic Review of the Appendices. – Annotations to the Appendices enable regulation of certain target commodities.
	13. Indigenous and local knowledge innovations and practices associated with plant resources, maintained or increased, as appropriate, to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NDFs. – Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Traditional medicines</i>.

GSPC's Objective	GSPC's Target ¹	CITES's potential contribution
	support customary use, sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CITES Standing Committee Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods.
(IV) Education and awareness about plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on earth is promoted	14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes.	CITES tools, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training courses, workshops results and technical reports. – CITES Virtual College. – CITES website. – CITES Identification Manual and Web pages.
(V) The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed	15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training materials, including PowerPoint presentations and CD-ROMs. – Capacity-building work of the Secretariat.
	16. Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CITES Parties and Plants Committee. – Regional Directories.