

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



Twentieth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Dublin (Ireland), 22-30 March 2012

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION OF THE CONVENTION  
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (DECISION 15.19)  
REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been submitted by the Vice-chair (Mr Benítez), in collaboration with the Mexican Scientific Authority .

Background

2. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doha, 2010) adopted [Decision 15.19](#) on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as follows:

*The Plants Committee shall collaborate with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with any processes established to develop the Strategy beyond 2010, provided it is related to CITES, as well as on other issues related to flora species included in the CITES Appendices, and the Secretariat shall communicate the contributions of CITES in the context of its Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD Secretariat.*

3. During the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC19; Geneva, 2011), the Vice-Chair (Mr. Benítez) introduced document [PC19 Doc. 8.4](#), which recommended that the Plants Committee: analyze and adopt the revised list of activities and products and their potential contribution to the objectives and targets of the *Consolidated update of the GSPC 2011-2020* (PC19 Doc. 8.4, Annex 1), as well as the updated version of the objectives, mechanisms and methodologies to facilitate cooperation between CITES and the GSPC 2011-2020 (PC19 Doc. 8.4, Annex 2); and to prepare a draft Resolution on CITES and the GSPC.
4. The Plants Committee at PC19 agreed to adopt the list of CITES activities in Annex 1 of document PC19 Doc. 8.4, and bearing in mind that CITES Decisions are intended to provide specific short-term time bound instructions, whereas the aim of Resolutions is to guide the interpretation and implementation of the Convention on a longer-term basis, established an intersessional working group to draft a resolution incorporating PC19 Doc. 8.4 Annex 2, for consideration at PC20.
5. The intersessional working group, chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Plants Committee, comprises the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rivera), the alternate representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), and observers from Austria, Brazil, Chile, the Republic of Korea, the United States, IUCN and TRAFFIC International.
6. The fourth meeting of the Liaison Group on the GSPC of the CBD (St. Louis, Missouri, USA; August 2011), focused on the implementation of the updated strategy, making specific reference to CITES in the implementation of Targets 2, 11 and 12. The meeting resulted in a series of key recommendations regarding, *inter alia*: the promotion of the effective implementation of the GSPC; training, capacity building,

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\* *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.*

and awareness-raising issues; and the development of technical rationales, milestones and indicators. Key recommendations included a mid-term review of progress toward the Targets in 2015, as well as development of an online version of the GSPC toolkit. Additionally, during the meeting, the relationship between the 16 GSPC Targets and the 20 [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) was identified. The full report of the meeting can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/pc/gspclg-04/official/gspclg-04-02-en.pdf>.

#### Recommendation to the Plants Committee

7. The Plants Committee is invited to consider the following draft resolution, and to consider whether it wishes to submit it for consideration at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16; 2013).

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION CONF. 16.XX

##### 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, including outcome-oriented global Targets for 2010.

NOTING that since its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting (Geneva, 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 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Conference of the Parties to the CBD (Japan, 2010), which adopted the Consolidated [updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020](#) (GSPC); and

RECOGNIZING the significant role that CITES can play in the achievement of the objectives and targets of the GSPC.

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

INVITES Parties to:

- a) take note of the potential contribution of CITES to the objectives and targets of the *Updated 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.

DIRECTS the Secretariat to:

- c) encourage the exchange of information related to the GSPC and other plant conservation and sustainable use initiatives, by:
  - i) 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; and;
  - ii) collaborating with CBD Secretariat to streamline reporting on relevant CITES activities related to the GSPC Targets.
  - iii) including the GSPC in any work plans developed under the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of CBD; and
  - iv) inviting a CBD representative to participate as an observer at Plants Committee meetings that address GSPC.

DIRECTS the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to:

- d) promote CITES collaboration with CBD on the implementation of the GSPC by:
  - i) representing CITES 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
  - ii) providing contributions for CBD documents regarding the implementation of the GSPC.

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 <sup>1</sup>	CITES' 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"> <li>- CITES Appendices.</li> <li>- Supporting statements for proposals to amend the Appendices.</li> </ul>
	3. Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NDFs.</li> <li>- Periodic Review results.</li> <li>- Review of Significant Trade results.</li> </ul>
(II) Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved	4. At least 15 per cent 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 per cent 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.	
	6. At least 75 per cent of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
	7. At least 75 per cent of known threatened plant species conserved <i>in-situ</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusion of species/populations in CITES Appendices.</li> <li>- Identification of the location/habitat of Appendix I species.</li> </ul>
	8. At least 75 per cent 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"> <li>- Efforts by CITES Parties to ensure sustainable use of CITES-listed species: NDFs and national quotas.</li> <li>- Implementation of <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 13.9 on Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes.</a></li> <li>- CITES Certificate of Scientific Exchange</li> </ul>
	9. 70 per cent 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 <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14) on Trade in alien invasive species.</a>

<sup>1</sup> As taken from the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020.

GSPC's Objective	GSPC's Target <sup>1</sup>	CITES' potential contribution
(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"> <li>- NDFs, national quotas, Review of Significant Trade, and Periodic Review of the Appendices.</li> <li>- Annotations to the Appendixes enable regulation of certain target commodities.</li> </ul>
	13. Indigenous and local knowledge innovations and practices associated with plant resources, maintained or increased, as appropriate, to support customary use, sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NDFs.</li> <li>- Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on <i>Traditional medicines</i>.</li> <li>- CITES Standing Committee working group on CITES and Livelihoods.</li> </ul>
(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 programs.	CITES tools, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training courses, workshops results and technical reports.</li> <li>- CITES Virtual College</li> <li>- CITES website</li> <li>- CITES Identification Manual and Web pages.</li> </ul>
(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"> <li>- Training materials, including PowerPoint presentations and CD-ROMs.</li> <li>- Capacity-building work of the Secretariat.</li> </ul>
	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"> <li>- CITES Parties and Plants Committee.</li> <li>- Regional Directories.</li> </ul>