

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.*

Background

2. At its 17th meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.53 and 17.54 on *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)*, as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.53 *The Secretariat shall send the updated version of the report on CITES contribution to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) 2011-2020 to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in order for it to be considered at CBD's 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13-CBD, Cancun, México; December 2016) as CITES contribution to the implementation of GSPC 2011-2020.*

17.54 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *publish and maintain updated on its website the summary of the Periodic Review proposals submitted to Conference of the Parties for amendments to Appendices I and II, taxa selected for Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II, and Review of Significant Trade in specimens of App. II species, including relevant updates derived from PC22 and CoP17;*
- b) *request the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to include in its website an interactive version of the online flora, currently available at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/pc/22/E-PC22-07-02-Annex5-Rev2.xlsx>, in such a way that CITES Parties can maintain it up to date, and thus have a clear idea on CITES contribution to the implementation of Target 1 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).*

Implementation of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54

3. The Plants Committee discussed the implementation of the GSPC Decisions at its 23rd and 24th meetings through documents [PC23 Doc. 14](#) and [PC24 Doc. 12](#), submitted by the Secretariat. The latter provides a summary of progress achieved by the Secretariat in its implementation of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54 up to May 2018, highlighting the following:

* *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.*

- a) In compliance with Decision 17.53, the Secretariat shared the updated report of CITES contribution to the GSPC with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in May 2018, and requested it to be disseminated at 14th meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP14; Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 10-22 November 2018), and in other relevant CBD fora. On 12 June 2018, the Executive Secretary of CBD thanked and acknowledged this updated assessment by CITES, informed on relevant meetings within CBD related to the GSPC, and highlighted the ongoing work within the World Flora Online, as well as the Threat Search database. Based on the progress described, Decision 17.53 can be considered as fully implemented.
 - b) Though there is recognition of the contributions of CITES to the GSPC, there is a need to better map and understand how CBD programmes and crosscutting issues can be of assistance to CITES in the implementation of its flora-related activities. As a first approach to address this, the Secretariat developed an information document ([PC24 Inf. 6](#)) that could represent a basis for further steps to ensure balanced collaboration between CITES and CBD with regard to GSPC relevant targets.
 - c) In the same way as CITES, CBD is in the process of updating its Strategic Vision for post 2020 period. This will likely result in a reformulation as to how GSPC will be reflected in CBD's new Strategic Plan. Therefore, it is likely that Resolution 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity* will need to be revised at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. At its 24th meeting (PC24, Geneva, July 2018), the Plants Committee noted the progress achieved in the implementation of Decision 17.53 and 17.54 and the analysis on the potential contribution of the CBD to CITES-flora activities included in information document PC24 Inf. 6. Furthermore, the Plants Committee agreed to submit draft decisions on GSPC included in paragraph 12 of document PC24 Doc. 12, in addition to two others agreed in plenary, for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting.
 5. At its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018), the Standing Committee considered document [SC70 Doc. 20](#) submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee. The document provided an overview on progress in the implementation of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54, and recommended the adoption of the draft decisions agreed by PC24. Furthermore, while introducing the document, the Chair of the Plants Committee proposed to amend the draft decisions in the Annex of document SC70 Doc. 20 to keep the mandate for cooperation with the GSPC mainly with the Plants Committee.
 6. The Standing Committee noted progress in the implementation of Decision 17.53 and 17.54 and requested the Plants Committee to present for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting the deletion of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54, and the adoption of the draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to the present document (see document [SC70 Sum. 7](#)).

Recommendations

7. Bearing in mind the progress achieved by the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54, the Conference of the Parties is invited to:
 - a) adopt the draft decisions on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) as outlined in Annex 1 to the present document; and
 - b) agree to delete Decisions 17.53 and 17.54.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat supports the continued cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and welcomes the draft decisions proposed by the Plants Committee in Annex 1. Considerations on budget implications have been included by the Secretariat in Annex 3 to the present document.
- B. The Secretariat notes that draft Decision 18.AA recommends document CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1) as a basis for updating a report on the contribution of CITES to the GSPC. On the other hand, the analysis developed

by the Secretariat and available in information document PC24 Inf. 6 provides a view as to how CBD can contribute to CITES activities related to flora species included in the Appendices. The Secretariat suggests that, to highlight the complementarity between the Convention and the Strategy, a two-way collaboration mandate be reflected in the proposed draft decisions on the GSPC (see Annex 2, revisions to decision 18.AA and 18.BB).

- C. The Secretariat further notes that the proposed draft decisions are also relevant to the recommendations that the Standing Committee has submitted to the Conference of the Parties through documents CoP18 Doc. 10 on *CITES Strategic Vision Post 2020* and CoP18 Doc. 15.1 on *Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions*. In order to ensure that the reporting of the collaboration between CITES and the GSPC is consistent with this broader strategic and collaborative framework, the Secretariat proposes the inclusion of an additional decision directed to the Standing Committee (see Annex 2, new draft decision 18.CC).
- D. Considering the above, the Secretariat proposes amendments to the draft decisions on GSPC by the Plants Committee. These amendments are reflected in Annex 2 to the document.
- E. The Secretariat therefore recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the amended draft decisions on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in Annex 2 to the document; and delete Decisions 17.53 and 17.54.

Draft decisions on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Directed to the Secretariat

18.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) publish and maintain updated on its website the summary of the Periodic Review proposals submitted to Conference of the Parties for amendments to Appendices I and II, taxa selected for Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II, and Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species, with relevant updates derived from the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants Committee and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) in collaboration with the Plants Committee, update the report on the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) [CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1)], to take account of the outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and provide it to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for further consideration by the CBD at the 15th meeting of its Conference of the Parties;
- c) consult the Secretariat of CBD concerning the post-2020 future of the GSPC, and collaborate with the Plants Committee in drafting any required revision of Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020*; and
- d) report on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) to c) to the Plants Committee, and the Standing Committee as appropriate, and submit recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.BB The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider the updated report on the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the GSPC at its 25th meeting; and
- b) in collaboration with the Secretariat and if required, draft a revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5, taking into account the discussions under CBD regarding the post-2020 future of the GSPC, and present its recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**Draft decisions on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, as amended by the Secretariat
(New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~)**

Directed to the Secretariat

18.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) publish and maintain updated on its website the summary of the Periodic Review proposals submitted to Conference of the Parties for amendments to Appendices I and II, taxa selected for Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II, and Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species, with relevant updates derived from the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants Committee and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) in collaboration with the Plants Committee, update the report on the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) [CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1)], ~~to take taking into account of the analysis contained in information document PC24 Inf. 6, as well as the relevant~~ outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and provide it to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for further consideration by the CBD at the 15th meeting of its Conference of the Parties;
- c) consult the Secretariat of CBD concerning the post-2020 future of the GSPC, and collaborate with the Plants Committee in drafting any required revision of Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020*; and
- d) report on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) to c) to the Plants Committee, ~~and the Standing Committee as appropriate, and submit recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.~~

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.BB The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider the Secretariat's updated report as per Decision 18.AA above on the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the GSPC at its 25th meeting; and
- b) in collaboration with the Secretariat and if ~~required~~ considered appropriate, draft a revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5, taking into account the discussions under CBD regarding the post-2020 future of the GSPC, with a view to ensure that a two-way collaboration between both Conventions is reflected; and
- c) present its recommendations to the Standing Committee or the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.CC The Standing Committee shall consider any report prepared in response to Decision 18.BB, and in coordination with the Plants Committee, convey its recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The authors of this document propose the following tentative budget and source of funding.

There will be workload implications for the Secretariat, the Plants Committee, and possibly the Standing Committee from the adoption of the draft decisions proposed by the Plants Committee, but it is expected that these can be delivered using existing resources.