

A strategy for plant conservation as part of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Briefing for Parties to the CBD COP15
Montreal, December 2022



The Global Partnership
for Plant Conservation



Wild plants are at the heart of biodiversity, essential for the functioning of the planet and vitally important to support human livelihoods. From 2002-2020, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and its plant conservation targets guided CBD Parties and the wider conservation community towards many significant achievements. COP15 offers a crucial opportunity to secure continued global action for plants as part of an ambitious and effective post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

We are asking Parties to support COP15 Draft Decision on plant conservation action as part of the Monitoring Framework:

*“Invites the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation, with the support of the Secretariat and subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a **set of complementary actions related to plant conservation** to support the implementation of the global biodiversity framework aligned with the final post-2020 global biodiversity framework, other relevant decisions adopted at [COP15] as well as previous experiences with the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation [...] to be considered by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body following [COP15]” (CBD/COP/15/2: point 9B – Monitoring Framework - para 17 and point 15B – Cooperation with other Conventions and Int Orgs – para 13:).*

Why do we need specific plant conservation actions?

Plants are critical to sustaining all life on Earth as they maintain environmental balance and ensure ecosystem stability. Through photosynthesis, plants are at the base of most of the food chains that sustain life across the planet. Securing a rich and healthy plant diversity in functioning ecosystems is fundamental to the achievement of a sustainable future for humankind. Plant species and their habitats often require specific conservation actions distinct from other taxa which may be overlooked in wider biodiversity actions. Since the notable achievements that followed implementation of the GSPC to 2020, there is concern that without a continued specific focus on plant conservation in the post-2020 period, much vital plant diversity and ecosystem quality and function will be lost.

The new set of plant conservation actions will be clearly identifiable as a contribution towards the achievement of biodiversity targets. As such, they will mobilise the plant conservation community and support Parties as they develop and implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and report progress. Identifying specific and measurable conservation objectives for plant diversity will serve to highlight specific focal areas for plant conservation and will bring a wealth of expertise, data and resources into efforts to implement the biodiversity agenda.

Plantlife International and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew at COP15

Exhibition Stand 806

Visit our stand to meet members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

Side event

Important Plant Areas - A tool for implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework

Speakers include Ian Dunn, Plantlife CEO; Jane Smart, Director of the Centre for Science and Data at IUCN; Iain Darbyshire, Research Leader and Coordinator of Royal Botanic Gardens Kew's Tropical IPA programme; and from in-country IPA programmes in Africa, South America and Europe.

Presentations will demonstrate how IPAs are contributing to NBSAPs, to spatial planning and to Key Biodiversity Area programmes. IPAs are supporting indigenous peoples and local communities to protect and restore the ecosystems they rely on for food security, livelihoods and wellbeing and are ensuring the survival of rare and threatened plants, protecting vital carbon stores, whilst inspiring citizen science and community conservation.

4pm Friday 9th December

Venue: Side-event 1, 512E

All welcome. Refreshments available.

Contacts

Plantlife International, Claire Rumsey claire.rumsey@plantlife.org.uk

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew China Williams c.williams@kew.org

Botanic Gardens Conservation International and GPPC Secretariat Suzanne Sharrock suzanne.sharrock@bgci.org