

# A new Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

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**Wild plants are at the heart of biodiversity, essential for the functioning of the planet and vitally important to support human livelihoods. SBSTTA-25 is asked to recommend a set of plant conservation actions for adoption at CoP16, in support of implementation of the KMGBF ([Decision 15/4](#)).**

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. In decisions [15/5](#) and [15/13](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) to prepare, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention, a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the KMGBF. Following a peer review process led by the Secretariat in July-August 2023, the new Actions are now being presented for consideration.

## Why do we need specific plant actions?

Plants and fungi are the building blocks of life on earth; they are intrinsically linked to all aspects of our being, from providing ecosystem services to supporting human wellbeing, including climate regulation and food security. Plants and their ecosystems have influenced our cultural and spiritual development and are woven into languages, place names, religion and folklore across the world. However, plants have not always been given sufficient attention in the development of national and international biodiversity conservation plans and strategies.

There are over 400,000 known species of plants globally with as many as 100,000 species currently considered threatened in the wild, with two in five wild plant species threatened with extinction globally. This is fundamentally due to anthropogenic impacts whether they be direct or indirect, from the felling of forests for agriculture to the growing impacts of climate change on the biology of plants (as well as their related organisms). Without urgent intervention, the pressures on this biological kingdom will continue to result in the detrimental loss of genetic diversity and species.

## About the new Actions

The GPPC has produced a set of 21 ambitious Actions that align with the 23 Targets of the KMGBF as an update to the GSPC. The Actions highlight specific focal areas for plant conservation and will bring a wealth of expertise, data and resources into efforts to implement the biodiversity agenda. These proposed plant actions are designed to safeguard threatened plant species worldwide and to ensure that these plants remain available to support future generations.

The GSPC is relevant to a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to the Parties to the Convention, the following sectors and actors are expected to play key roles in its implementation: International initiatives; Conservation and research organisations; Communities and major groups; Governments at all levels; and the private sector.

## What has been the impact of previous Global Strategies for Plant Conservation?

The GSPC and its targets have been ground-breaking in stimulating a broad-based, multi-stakeholder, international and united community, committed to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity into the future. They have led to a new public awareness of the vulnerability and conservation importance of plant diversity; new capacity and networks now flourish at national, regional and international levels. The 2020 Review noted significant progress in a number of areas, including the achievement of a World Flora on-line by 2020 (Target 1) and accelerated progress worldwide in plant red listing (Target 2) and the expansion of the Important Plant Area programme (Target 5). At the national level, a number of countries (including some of the most biodiverse-rich countries, e.g. South Africa, Indonesia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and China) have developed national plant conservation strategies or responses to the GSPC that run in parallel with and support their NBSAPs.

## About Plantlife

Plantlife is the global charity working to secure a world rich in wild plants and fungi. Plantlife has been working with our partners over the past twenty years to make sure that plant conservation is given priority within global biodiversity agreements. We helped establish the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and coordinated the Important Plant Areas programme – an important tool for achieving the target 5 of the GSPC.

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