

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: a tool for implementing The Biodiversity Plan

Briefing for CBD SBSTTA-26 & SBI-04

May 2024

The updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation being adopted at CoP 16 will support the inclusion of plant conservation in NBSAPs and national targets, helping Parties and Non-State Actors to implement The Biodiversity Plan.

Join us at SBI Side Event 5414 on Wednesday 22 May at 18:15

Wild plants are at the heart of biodiversity, the building blocks of life on earth, essential for the functioning of the planet and vitally important to support human livelihoods.

Globally, as many as one in four of the 400,000 known species of plants are currently considered to be threatened in the wild. Without urgent intervention, the pressures on this biological kingdom will continue to result in the detrimental loss of genetic and species diversity, impacting all other biodiversity and ecosystems.

Since 2001, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) has supported Parties to the CBD and other stakeholders to take action, coordinated through the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC).

A new set of 22 complementary plant conservation Actions has been developed by the GPPC, with support from the CBD Secretariat, to align with the 23 Targets of The Biodiversity Plan (the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework). This means that implementing these Actions will contribute to meeting the Goals and Targets of the KMGBF. This updated GSPC will be presented for adoption at CBD CoP 16 in Colombia in October 2024, as recommended by SBSTTA-25.

The new voluntary Actions highlight specific focal areas for plant conservation and will bring a wealth of expertise, data and resources into local, national and global efforts to help implement The Biodiversity Plan. Vitally, this updated GSPC is a tool that can be used by a wide range of stakeholders in addition to the Parties to the Convention: international and national agencies, NGOs and initiatives; conservation and research organisations; indigenous people and local communities; governments at all levels; and the private sector.

The GSPC has 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. It has 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. Continuing this success is vital to implementing The Biodiversity Plan.

Background

- In CBD CoP15 Decisions [15/5](#) and [15/13](#), the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) was invited to prepare a set of complementary actions related to plant conservation to support the implementation of the KMGBF.
- In October 2023, following a peer review process, the GPPC presented the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) at SBSTTA-25, where Parties to the Convention provided feedback.
- As a result of this meeting, SBSTTA [recommended](#) the updated GSPC for adoption at CoP16 and invited the GPPC to provide guidance, indicators and a template for voluntary reporting of progress in implementing the new Actions.
- At the national level, several 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 their partners over the past twenty years to make sure that plant conservation is given priority within global biodiversity agreements. They helped establish the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and coordinate the Important Plant Areas programme – an important tool for achieving Targets 1 & 3 of The Biodiversity Plan.

Contact Plantlife: enquiries@plantlife.org.uk

About BGCI

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is the largest plant conservation network in the world, representing >850 member institutions in more than 120 countries. It is an independent UK charity established in 1987 to link the botanical institutions of the world in a global network for plant conservation. We aim to support and empower our members and the wider conservation community, so that our knowledge and expertise can be applied to reversing the threat of extinction facing plants. Our vision is a world in which plant diversity is valued, secure and supports all life, and our mission is to mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet.

SBI-04 Side event

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as a tool for implementing the KMGBF

Date: Wednesday 22/05/2024 @ 18:15

Location: CR-8 - CEE room, First floor, UNEP

We invite you to attend our side event convened by Plantlife on behalf of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC). A panel of speakers, including David Cooper - Acting Executive Secretary of the CBD, Andrew Gichira - Botanist and researcher at the Centre for Ecosystem Restoration in Kenya and joining virtually, James Kalema of Makerere University, will outline how the GSPC can support Parties and non-state actors in delivering The Biodiversity Plan, with practical examples from Kenya and Uganda. Following the short presentations, there will be opportunity for questions and discussion among participants.

Refreshments will be available.