

# Developing a post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as a contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework

Submission by the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation to the CBD Secretariat  
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## Introduction

In October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted an updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) for the period 2011-2020. This updated GSPC included 16 targets for plant conservation to be achieved by 2020. To help Parties meet the targets of the GSPC, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) was formed in 2004. This consortium brings together a wide range of international, regional and national plant and conservation organizations (List of partners provided in Annex 1). The Partnership works to support national implementation of the GSPC, and to provide tools and resources to help each country to plan and act to meet the targets. The GPPC was included by the Convention on Biological Diversity as part of the flexible coordination mechanism of the GSPC and plays a significant role in helping to monitor and promote GSPC implementation.

This document provides details of the process in the development of a post-2020 strategy for plant conservation. The draft Strategy is provided in Annex 2.

## GPPC Conference 2018

In 2018, a conference was organised by the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) in association with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). It was hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Cape Town, South Africa.

The conference was attended by over 120 participants from 35 countries. Participants included national GSPC and CBD focal points, plant conservation practitioners, representatives from GPPC member organisations and other interested parties. As well as reviewing progress towards the 2020 GSPC targets, the conference aimed to develop and consider scenarios and priorities for the GSPC in the period beyond 2020 and the ways in which it could contribute to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>.

## Influence of the GSPC

Prior to the conference a stakeholder survey on the GSPC had been conducted by the CBD Secretariat. This had been completed by 168 individuals, representing Parties, members of the GPPC and experts from botanical institutes that were not members of the GPPC. The key results of the survey were:

- Two-thirds of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the GSPC had provided significant guidance or direction to their work.
- The GSPC was considered particularly effective in raising awareness and strengthening networks.
- The GSPC was considered important in providing guidance for national implementation and as a framework with common targets.

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<sup>1</sup> Further details of the conference and a report are available here: [Global implementation \(plants2020.net\)](https://plants2020.net)

- There was strong agreement that the GSPC has advanced plant conservation and less would have been achieved without it.
- Respondents considered that the GSPC is not well integrated into the work under the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
- Respondents considered it particularly important that plant conservation targets should have specific indicators and that they become an integral part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### **GSPC Liaison Group meeting, 2018**

A GSPC Liaison Group meeting<sup>2</sup> was held 31 August, 2018 following the GPPC Conference. In light of discussions held during the preceding Conference, the Liaison Group was invited to review the progress achieved in implementing the GSPC and the implications for plant conservation targets for the period beyond 2020, including by reviewing options for integrating plant conservation in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that is under development.

It was proposed that the GPPC provide initial views on how a post-2020 GSPC could contribute to the scope and content of the post-2020 GBF as part of the CBD consultation process. In this respect, a submission was made by the GPPC to the CBD in response to the document 'Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Discussion Paper' (CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/1, 25 January 2019)<sup>3</sup>.

The Group further recommended that plant conservation should be clearly encapsulated in the context of a continued GSPC, updated and harmonised within the broader post-2020 global biodiversity framework. New or updated GSPC targets, would provide plant-specific milestones, indicators or sub-targets for this framework. Key focal areas for plant conservation going forward include ecological restoration, species recovery, sustainable use and benefit sharing.

Following the meeting, the GPPC prepared a possible first draft of plant conservation objectives, including targets, for the period 2021 to 2030.<sup>4</sup>

### **The Xishuangbanna Declaration on Plant Conservation (January 2019)**

The future of the GSPC in the post-2020 period was considered and reviewed at further international conferences and consultations held in China. An international conference marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yunnan, China was held on 3-5 January, 2019 on the theme of "*Saving all the plants in a changing world*". A report on the conference and the '*Xishuangbanna Declaration on Plant Conservation*' was prepared and endorsed by the 200 participants<sup>5</sup>.

The Declaration urged '*the Parties to the CBD to give urgent attention to the development of an updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation for the post-2020 period, containing agreed measurable outcome targets that contribute towards the proposed post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.*'

The full text of the Xishuangbanna Declaration is provided in Annex 3.

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<sup>2</sup> [Report of the Liaison Group on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation on its Sixth meeting \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/299A6E52-0C3A-DCBC-A111-60773465B5E3/attachments/208038/gppc.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/299A6E52-0C3A-DCBC-A111-60773465B5E3/attachments/208038/gppc.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/Post2020/postsbi/gppc.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [http://english.xtbg.cas.cn/ns/es/201901/t20190107\\_203670.html](http://english.xtbg.cas.cn/ns/es/201901/t20190107_203670.html)

## **World Forum on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, China (November,2019)**

A further international conference on the GSPC was held in Dujiangyan City, Sichuan Province, China on 28-29 October 2019 as a 'World Forum on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation'. It was convened by the China Wild Plant Conservation Association, in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and a range of international partners and attended by 260 participants

The participants of the Forum expressed their strong support for the development and adoption by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a global plant conservation strategy for the post-2020 period. They committed themselves to work collectively and individually with Parties to the CBD and the CBD Secretariat in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensuring a clear role for plant conservation within this framework.

Furthermore, they reiterated their strong support for and commitment to the achievement of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and emphasized that the continuation of the GSPC, within the context of the CBD, is essential for continued success in plant conservation at all levels. They highlighted the particular and unique roles of the botanical community, including botanic gardens and herbaria in conservation, and the outstanding progress achieved since 2002, supported through the guidance and framework provided by the GSPC first adopted in that year.

The meeting adopted the '*Declaration from the World Forum on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), Dujiangyan*' endorsed by the participants<sup>6</sup>. The full text of the Declaration is provided in Annex 4.

### **Stakeholder consultations: 2019-2021**

The draft post-2020 plant conservation targets developed following the 2018 Liaison Group meeting were subsequently reviewed and updated by the members of the GPPC and other experts as part of a broad international stakeholder consultation conducted during 2019.

During 2020, the draft post-2020 GSPC targets were further revised in line with the targets of the draft Global Biodiversity Framework. The edits, comments and suggestions made to that draft were then incorporated and a series of draft technical rationales and an explanations of terms used for each of the targets proposed were also prepared. The draft Post-2020 GSPC was submitted to the CBD Secretariat and was made available to Parties as CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/20<sup>7</sup>.

The draft GSPC targets were updated during 2021 in line with the developing Global Biodiversity Framework. These targets were then reviewed by GPPC members during an international consultation in late 2021 and the draft GSPC targets further refined in line with the comments received. The draft post-2020 GSPC as presented in Annex 2, proposes a series of plant conservation targets for 2030, closely aligned with and contributing to the targets of the GBF. It aims to provide a strategy for the plant conservation community as well as a framework for action on plants by all stakeholders as they implement the Global Biodiversity Framework.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bgci.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Declaration-from-the-World-Forum-on-GSPC-002.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [The development of a post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as a component of the Global Biodiversity Framework \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/doc/2020/06/2020-06-2020-global-strategy-for-plant-conservation-as-a-component-of-the-global-biodiversity-framework-cbd.int.pdf)

## Annex 1: Members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

Asociación Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Jardines Botánicos  
Atlanta Botanical Garden  
Australian Seed Bank Partnership  
Bioversity International  
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)  
Botanical Garden of Tver State University, Russia  
Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum, Germany  
Canadian Botanical Conservation Network  
Cadereyta Regional Botanical Garden (CRBG), Mexico  
Centre for Plant Conservation, USA  
Chicago Botanic Garden, USA  
China Wild Plant Conservation Association  
Council of the Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens  
Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève  
Core Facility Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna  
Chinese Academy of Sciences – Botanic Garden Network  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
The Earthwatch Institute  
The European Botanic Garden Consortium  
Fauna and Flora International (FFI)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
Global Diversity Foundation  
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)  
Indonesian Institute of Sciences - Bogor Botanic Gardens (LIPI)  
Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro  
IUCN - The World Conservation Union - Species Survival Commission  
Jardín Botánico Medellín, Colombia  
Jardí Botànic de la Universitat de València, Spain  
Jardín Botánico Viera y Clavijo, Spain  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)  
King's Park and Botanic Gardens, Australia  
Mexican Association of Botanic Gardens (MABG) C. A.  
Missouri Botanical Garden, St Louis, U.S.A  
Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France  
National Botanic Gardens Ireland, Glasnevin  
National Tropical Botanical Garden, Hawaii, USA  
New York Botanical Garden, USA  
New Zealand Plant Conservation Network  
Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanic Garden, Turkey  
The University of Oxford Botanic Garden, UK  
People and Plants International (PPI)  
Plantlife International, UK  
Planta Europa  
Plant Conservation and Research Foundation, Bangladesh  
PRONAPLAMED, University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica  
Red Latinoamericana de Botanica  
Rede Brasileira de Jardins Botânicos (RBJB)  
Red Nacional de Jardines Botánicos de Colombia

Royal Botanical Gardens (Hamilton & Burlington, Canada)  
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, UK  
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK  
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Australia  
Smithsonian Institution Natural History Museum, Washington D.C., U.S.A  
Society for Ecological Restoration  
Society for Economic Botany  
South African National Biodiversity Institute, South Africa (SANBI)  
Species2000  
The Morton Arboretum  
TRAFFIC  
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)  
United States Botanic Garden (USBG)  
Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center, USA  
World Agroforestry Centre, ICRAF  
World Flora Online Consortium  
WWF International (WWF)  
Wuhan Botanic Garden Botanical Institute

## Annex 2. Draft Global Strategy for Plant Conservation - 2030 targets

GBF draft target for 2030	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation – draft targets for 2030 (i.e. Sub-targets of the GBF)	Potential indicators for the Plant Conservation Targets	Sources of information for the measurement of plant conservation indicators	Rationale
<b>1. Reducing threats to biodiversity</b>				
1	1. All land important for the conservation of plant species diversity is included in spatial planning to support its conservation and restoration.	<p>Proportion of Important Plant Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas that include IPAs (or KBAs with adequate plant data) included in spatial planning for conservation and restoration.</p> <p>National % of area covered by the different protection mechanisms...</p> <p>Proportion of critically endangered plant species that have been included in conservation-focused spatial planning.</p>	<p>Bonn Challenge ROAM assessments</p> <p>Plantlife database of IPAs</p> <p>TIPA data</p> <p>KBA database</p> <p>National Flora Atlases</p>	<p>The worldwide efforts to define Important Plant Areas (IPA) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) can provide a valuable measure of baselines and progress towards the achievement of this target. An IPA is a natural or semi-natural site exhibiting exceptional botanical richness and/or supporting an outstanding assemblage of rare, threatened and/or endemic plant species and/or vegetation of high botanic value. In describing IPAs, the word ‘plant’ encompasses algae, fungi, lichens, liverworts, mosses, and wild vascular plants. IPAs are a site-based approach for the conservation of plants at a national level and forms a subset of KBAs around the world. Currently, IPA projects are being implemented across large sections of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East with 1,994 IPAs in 27 countries, and beyond Europe and the Mediterranean region, a number of IPA initiatives have been launched or piloted,</p> <p>Other approaches in countries that identify important areas for plant diversity that have not identified IPAs or KBAs could also be applied to monitoring.</p> <p>A range of spatial planning systems in use worldwide refer to the methods and approaches used by the public and private sector to influence the distribution of people and activities in spaces of various scales. Spatial planning can be defined as the coordination of practices and policies affecting spatial organization and can include land use, urban, regional, transport and environmental planning and economic, social, cultural and community planning too.</p>

2	2: At least 20 % of degraded ecosystems are being restored using native plant species, of local provenance including species of conservation concern.	<p>Proportion (%) of degraded ecosystems being restored using appropriate native plant species including species of conservation concern.</p> <p>Accessible lists of appropriate native plant species available to support ecosystem restoration projects for each eco-region.</p>	<p>Bonn Challenge Barometer</p> <p>Restor platform</p> <p>Data Warehouse v2 (website)</p> <p>BGCI Global Tree Portal (<i>ex situ</i> tree collections and <i>in situ</i> planting)</p> <p>BGCI PlantSearch Propagation module</p> <p>Other databases; ConservePlant, TranslocPlant, Végétal local... GBIF for seeds</p> <p>National planning and assessments</p>	<p>This plant conservation element places native species and biodiversity at the centre of ecological restoration efforts. Planting schemes solely or primarily to achieve carbon sequestration and for commercial forestry can have detrimental impacts on biodiversity, especially where they involve exotic monocultures which displace native species and create low-value landscapes for biodiversity.</p> <p>A definition of a degraded ecosystem is one with a persistent reduction in its capacity to provide ecosystem services.</p>
3	3. At least 30% of the areas important for plant diversity are effectively protected.	<p>Inventory of Important Plant Areas (IPAs), and / or KBAs identified for plants, the plant species they contain and their protection status.</p> <p>Adequate management plans or reports from important plant areas.</p>	<p>Plantlife database of IPAs TIPAs data</p> <p>KBA database</p> <p>Protected Planet database of management plans (new/separate website)</p>	<p>‘Effectively protected’ implies that the conservation of the ecosystems and species they contain, and their genetic diversity is being assured or being addressed. Such effective management and conservation will often be achieved by the integration of a variety of conservation approaches, applied at all relevant geographic scales.</p>
4	4. All known threatened wild plant species are effectively conserved and managed <i>in situ</i> and/or <i>ex situ</i> , to include genetically diverse and viable populations	<p>Reduction in the number of plants threatened with extinction.</p> <p>Proportion of threatened wild plant species managed within Protected Areas.</p> <p>Red List indices for plants stable or increasing</p>	<p>National analyses of representation of threatened species within protected areas.</p> <p>IUCN Red List Index</p> <p>Nationally produced plant red list indices.</p>	<p>While <i>in situ</i> conservation, defined as the conservation of species in their natural habitat, is considered to be the primary approach for conservation as it allows evolutionary processes to continue, when the risk of extinction of plants is high <i>in situ</i>, alternative conservation measures (<i>inter situ</i>, <i>quasi in situ</i>, <i>near situ</i>, <i>introduction ex nihilo</i>) may be adopted. More specifically, such approaches would address the loss of genetic diversity in a population by introducing new genotypes, or would be required in the case of the definitive destruction of the natural habitat, or when the habitat is not subject to an effective protection measure.</p>

		<p>Proportion of CR plant species for which recovery plans or equivalent tools have been developed [or are being implemented]</p> <p>Proportion of known threatened wild plant species that are effectively conserved, through integrated (<i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i>) conservation management, including genetically diverse populations.</p> <p>Proportion of known threatened wild plant species seedbanked with different sampled locations over its distribution area</p> <p>No. of meta-collections</p>	<p>IUCN Red List and Green Species Status List.</p> <p>BGCI Global Tree Portal country and species pages</p> <p>PlantSearch</p> <p>Genesys PGR, EURISCO</p> <p>Article 17 assessment of Natura 2000 network</p> <p>Data Warehouse v2 (website)</p>	<p><i>Ex situ</i> conservation is defined as the conservation of plant diversity outside its natural habitat. It plays a valuable and often essential complementary role to <i>in situ</i> conservation by providing a safety “back up” and an insurance policy against extinction in the wild. <i>Ex situ</i> conservation can be performed by a diversity of methods: seed conservation including freeze drying, cryopreservation, <i>in vitro</i> culture, living collections (such as in botanic gardens and arboreta), field genebanks. One key element is identifying the most efficient and effective (including cost-effective) methods for each species. The assumption is that effective conservation of threatened species <i>ex situ</i> will include their availability to support <i>in situ</i> conservation, restoration and recovery programmes and to ensure that their genetic variability is included in <i>ex situ</i> holdings.</p> <p>Recovery plans may include the incorporation of species and their habitats in national level biodiversity conservation or action plans.</p> <p>Understanding the most efficient and effective means for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and criteria and needs for <i>in situ</i> recovery and management plans, will require extensive conservation biology research, including the development of innovative approaches, such as assisted migration, to face the global changes expected.</p> <p><i>Ex situ</i> conservation in the country of origin will be crucial in the case of field genebanks and must rely on the participation of local stakeholders / communities.</p> <p>The development of networks sharing germplasm, data, expertise and common protocols is crucial for the success of conservation.</p>
5	5: At least a [50%/40%] reduction in the number of plant species threatened by unsustainable levels of harvesting.	<p>Change in the number of plant species threatened by use and trade.</p> <p>The proportion of plants threatened by trade with management interventions in place to promote sustainable practices.</p>	<p>CITES Appendices</p> <p>National legislation regarding trade in plants</p> <p>CITES CoP proposals and species under review</p> <p>IUCN Red List</p> <p>Information from certification</p>	<p>Local, national and international trade may be considered as part of this target and included as one of the potential drivers of unsustainable harvesting. This target is consistent with the main purpose of the CITES Strategic Plan: “No species of wild flora subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade”. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) provides an international framework for the protection of wild flora threatened by international trade.</p> <p>A possible alternative formulation of this target is ‘By 2030, the harvesting, trade and use of wild plant species is sustainable and legal.’ Development of</p>



		No. / % / volumes of wild-harvested plants and plant-based products sold under sustainable management regimes.	schemes: FairWild certification; UEBT certification: Organic wild certification; FSC certification.  CITES trade database	baselines on plant use and sustainable harvesting would be necessary, in addition to continued focus on the volumes of wild plants in trade.  This Target can be interpreted to include the sustainability of wild harvested plants and the products derived from them. Plant-based products harvested from wild sources include food products, timber, wood-based products, fibre products, ornamental, medicinal and other plants for direct use. Sustainable management and harvesting aims to ensure that practices do not result in a decline in the diversity, value or supply of wild harvested plants. It is also assumed that this target includes the integration of social and environmental considerations, such as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and the participation of indigenous and local communities along at the supply chain integrate.
6	6. The detrimental impact of invasive species and biological invasions is addressed either by control measures or eradication in at least 30% of areas important for plant diversity.	The proportion of areas important for plant diversity where invasive aliens are present where control measures have been put in place or eradication programmes have taken place.	Nationally identified networks of areas important for plant diversity and associated registers of threats to these areas and management interventions that have been put in place.  NOBANIS , Daisie,  National reports	This Target seeks to address biological invasions as a phenomenon and not just invasive alien species. It therefore combines both the invasion of the alien species (of plants, animals or micro-organisms) and the reactions of ecosystems or habitats into which they are introduced. This is because the species often dubbed “invasive” may not always become invasive when introduced to new localities, ecosystems or habitats. Management plans therefore need to be designed (using the ecosystem approach) to address the damage done to plant species and/or their communities and to restore ecosystem functions, goods and services. This requires that target ecosystems/habitats be defined, in this case as “areas important for plant diversity”. It is noted that climate change is enhancing the spread and impact of many invasive alien species, hence future work on this target should ensure that there is adequate preparedness to effectively address biological invasions and that management plans should include options for adaptation to climate change.
6	7: Measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent new invasive species introductions and/or establishment.	Change /increase in the number of measures in place to manage pathways to prevent new invasive species introductions and/or establishment.  Number of emerging invasive alien species identified that have been eradicated.	National invasive alien plant databases tracking early detection and eradication management interventions.  BGCI Material exchange platform  BGCI Global Biodiversity Standard certification	This Target relates to the IUCN SSC invasive species specialist group’s proposal that states: ‘By 2030, 50% of invasive alien species causing significant impacts are regulated, 30% of the most significant pathways of introduction are effectively managed, and 50% of the areas most vulnerable to impacts from IAS have programmes in place that control or eradicate priority IAS, and prevent their introduction’.  It is clear that in order for this target to be achieved there is a need for significant public awareness campaigns and public involvement in control and management measures.

		Number of countries that are contracting parties to the International Plant Protection Convention.	International Plant Sentinel Network  International Plant Protection Convention	
7	8: The detrimental anthropogenic pressures on [vulnerable] plant species and their ecosystems, including from pollution, excess nutrients from agriculture and development are identified, understood, minimized and mitigated.	Proportion of areas important for plant diversity threatened by pollution, excess nutrients from agriculture and development where mitigation measures have been implemented.  Measurements on the number of studies and mitigation measures implemented on impacts on plants and their habitats by pollution, climate change, biocides, changes in pollinator and other anthropogenic pressures.	Nationally identified networks of areas important for plant diversity and associated registers of threats to these areas and management interventions that have been put in place.  IUCN Green List  University of Exeter (LEEP) – Natural Environment Valuation Online tool (NEVO)  Landscape Ecology Programme – Wakehurst natural asset and risk register  University/Research grant databases  Peer review papers published	Given the ecological inertias related to climate change and ocean acidification, it is important to urgently reduce other anthropogenic pressures on vulnerable ecosystems so as to give vulnerable ecosystems and the plant species they contain time to cope with the pressures caused by climate change. This can be accomplished by addressing those pressures which are most amenable to rapid positive changes and would include activities such as reducing pollution and overexploitation and harvesting practices which have negative consequences on ecosystems and wild plant populations. Indicators for this element include the extent of biomes ecosystems and habitats, the incidence of human-induced ecosystem failure, the health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services, and the proportion of plant products derived from sustainable sources.  Impacts of pollution and biocides on plant pollination and pollinators are major threats to plant diversity and need to be addressed through the achievement of this Target.
8	9: 60% of the areas planted for carbon sequestration, to help mitigate climate change, are utilizing appropriately diverse native plant species.	Proportion of areas planted for carbon sequestration using appropriate native plant species including species of conservation concern.  Reduction in the number of carbon sequestration projects using known invasive species.	Bonn Challenge Barometer  BGCI Global Biodiversity Standard certification  Records of tree planting portfolios	This Target places native species and biodiversity at the centre of planting and ecological restoration efforts directed towards carbon sequestration. Planting schemes solely [or primarily] to achieve carbon sequestration and for commercial forestry can have detrimental impacts on biodiversity, especially where they involve exotic monocultures which displace native species and create low-value landscapes for biodiversity.

			<p>Projects implementing SER Standards for Ecological Restoration</p> <p>Landscape Ecology Programme – no. of guidance/peer-reviewed papers on best practice for nature-based solutions &amp; planting (specific outputs not defined yet)</p>	
<b>2. Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</b>				
9	<p>10: Socio-economically important wild plant [species] are effectively conserved and managed, to ensure they are available to support nutrition, health care, food security and livelihoods.</p>	<p>Number of management plans (or equivalent) that have been developed for socio-economically important wild plant species, including crop wild relatives.</p> <p>Number/proportion of [genetically diverse] viable populations of socio-economically important wild plant species, including crop wild relatives, that are effectively conserved and managed <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i>.</p> <p>Biodiversity for Food and Medicine indicator</p> <p>Proportion of development programmes which provide support to indigenous people and local communities for wild plant protection and restoration.</p>	<p>Global Tree Portal species conservation tracker</p> <p>PlantSearch</p> <p>GENESYS, EURISCO etc.</p> <p>MSB Seed Database</p> <p>Checklists of useful plants</p> <p>National genebank registers</p> <p>National assessments of in situ protection of socio-economically important plant species</p> <p>National spatial biodiversity plans and land use schemes.</p> <p>Plantlife IPA database</p>	<p>Socio-economically important wild plants are interpreted to include Crop Wild Relatives, PGRFA, FGR and other as well as plant species that are used directly for economic and cultural purposes.</p> <p>This element also focuses on respecting and securing the plant species and knowledge base of plant resources used to secure livelihoods, food security and health care, especially for Indigenous and Local Communities. This measure is incorporated to ensure that future generations accessing these resources can continue to benefit from their sustainable use. The target should be implemented consistent with the Convention’s programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions. This target may, in the long run, help local and indigenous communities to adapt to emerging environmental challenges such as climate change.</p> <p>This Target must be interpreted to reflect the availability of wild plant resource to support sustainable use, beyond being 'conserved'.</p>
10	<p>11: At least [50] [30] [100] % of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably,</p>	<p>Change in the % of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry that are managed</p>	<p>FSC (wood), FairWild (non-wood forest products), others</p>	<p>An ultimate goal is for all production lands to be managed sustainably, without impacts on plant diversity. In the context of this element, agricultural land may be defined as “production lands” where the primary purpose is agriculture,</p>

	ensuring the conservation of wild plant diversity	<p>sustainably, ensuring the conservation of associated wild plant diversity and traditional practices.</p> <p>No increase in cleared land and an increase in crop yield</p> <p>The 8 standards linked to Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme</p> <p>Trends in the application of appropriate management regimes, including certifications</p>	<p>Landscape recovery scheme and Local nature recovery networks (piloting 2022); Sustainable Farming Incentive (piloting 2021, launching 2022)</p> <p>Global Farm metric – Sustainable Food Trust</p>	<p>including horticulture, grazing, or wood production. The sectors to be considered under this target include, inter alia, croplands, pasture, forestry, including harvesting of non-timber forest products, and aquaculture. Sustainable management for plant diversity implies that a number of objectives are integrated into the management of such production lands: (i) the conservation of plant diversity including genetic diversity; (ii) protection of other plant species in the production landscape that are unique, threatened, or of particular socio-economic value; and (iii) use of management practices that avoid significant adverse impacts on plant diversity in surrounding ecosystems. The object of this element is therefore encourages the use of good agricultural, aquacultural and forestry practices.</p> <p>Guidance on a definition of sustainable management may be required. 'Agricultural lands' may be interpreted to include land under horticultural production too.</p>
10	12: 50% of domesticated socio-economically and culturally valuable plant species are conserved ex situ, and populations are effectively managed and monitored in situ, to prevent genetic erosion and safeguard their genetic diversity.	<p>[Increase] [change] in diversity of native and landrace species, subspecies and varieties used in plant-based foods included in agricultural systems.</p> <p>Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in medium- or long-term conservation facilities.</p> <p>The proportion of [known cultivars and landraces] [the genepool of crops] in use by farmers represented in seed banks.</p>	<p>GENESYS, EURISCO etc.</p> <p>GBIF?</p> <p>Third FAO Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</p>	<p>This element aims to ensure that crop varieties, farmers' varieties, plants of horticultural merit, landraces and other domesticated socio-economically and culturally valuable plant species are available to support their use in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, and other sustainable developmental and social needs, as well as natural systems that provide ecosystem services. 'Genetic diversity' should be interpreted to include crop varieties, traits and variation within genes.</p> <p>Building greater capacity to allow the quantification of genetic erosion processes will be required in most parts of the world. Issues related to the conservation of traditional knowledge are relevant to this target.</p>
11	13: Ensure that appropriate native plants are included in 80% of watershed restoration and hazard mitigation projects.	Proportion (%) / of hazard mitigation restoration projects (e.g. watershed, coastal, wetlands, cities etc.) that	<p>Bonn Challenge Barometer</p> <p>National restoration reporting</p>	Native plants are often the best adapted species suitable for watershed protection projects and may have robust root systems that allow them to filter and infiltrate water. This helps recharge important groundwater systems and reduce runoff and flooding. They can also improve air quality by absorbing and

		incorporate diverse native plant use.	Projects implementing SER Standards for Ecological Restoration  Ten Golden Rules paper	storing carbon dioxide while producing oxygen. Using native plants in watershed restoration projects often involves the collection of locally-adapted plant material. Hazard mitigation can be defined as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from hazard events. It is an on-going process that occurs before, during, and after disasters and serves to break the cycle of damage and repair in hazardous areas. Hazard mitigation projects may be enhanced by promoting effective land use that takes the occurrence and use of native plants and ecosystems into consideration.
12	14: All major urban areas have developed, designated or protected biodiversity-rich green spaces that are accessible to all	Change in the % of biodiversity-rich urban areas that are designated as green spaces and are accessible to all.  The % of urban areas that are designated as biodiversity-rich green spaces and are accessible to all.  More and better quality green infrastructure, including retrofitting in towns and cities.  Number of parks and botanic gardens or arboreta in major urban centers.	National databases of biodiversity-rich urban green spaces.  BGCI's GardenSearch database  Mayors challenge  FAO Initiative- Green Oasis, Greenways  25 year plan target- will include set of standard to explain was 'good' green infrastructure looks like  Exeter Uni - Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool (ORVal)	The development of accessible biodiversity-rich green spaces in cities and other urban areas is a growing need with the increased urbanisation of the world's population. Biodiversity-rich urban green spaces can promote many aspects of sustainable urban life, including promoting environmental education and awareness, native plant gardening, invasive species control and awareness, ecological restoration, storm water management, as well as general physical and mental health and wellbeing of the human population.
12	15: The world's largest cities have a development strategy that includes urban greening, biodiversity conservation programmes and community gardening.	Change in the number of the world's largest cities that have an active development strategy that includes urban greening, biodiversity conservation programmes and community gardening.  Change in number of annual visitors to nature reserves,	25 year plan targets	There are 81 cities with a population over 5 million people, according to the United Nations 2018 estimates. The UN figures are a mixture of city proper, metropolitan area, and urban area. This may be used as a definition of 'major cities'.  Botanic gardens and arboreta provide green and public spaces for residents in many of the world's major cities, providing them with biodiversity-rich spaces and experiences. Many municipal parks, gardens and green streetscapes are primarily managed for recreational activities without including biodiversity or plant conservation as important roles or priorities.

		national parks and botanic gardens and other protected areas within easy reach of each country's urban centers.		
13	16: All countries are benefiting from the exchange of plant materials and associated information and traditional knowledge to support plant conservation, ecological restoration and sustainable use.	Increase in the number of countries with policies and actions in place to facilitate efficient and effective exchange and transfer of plant materials, expertise and knowledge needed to support conservation, research, benefit sharing and sustainable use of plant diversity.	CBD ABS Clearing House data  BGCI Material Exchange platform users	<p>The development and adoption of appropriate policies and actions to facilitate efficient and effective international and other exchange and transfer of plant materials, expertise and knowledge is urgently needed in many countries to support conservation, research benefit sharing and sustainable use of plant diversity. Constraints in facilitating access, exchanges and collaboration between institutions to support cooperative programmes, particularly at international levels, has slowed progress considerably in achieving plant conservation priorities in many countries.</p> <p>It is understood and expected that this element will be achieved in full compliance with the principles and terms of the Nagoya protocol and its associated codes and guidelines, as well as national legislation and regulations adopted in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol at national levels. The achievement of this target will also be undertaken in accordance with the agreed processes under CITES for trade for scientific exchange and research purposes.</p>
<b>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</b>				
14	17: The importance and value of plant diversity has been integrated into rural and urban development and poverty reduction strategies [and planning processes and have been implemented in natural capital and other national accounting mechanisms and reporting systems worldwide].	Increase in the integration of plant diversity values into rural and urban development and poverty reduction, as well as into planning processes, natural capital accounting and reporting mechanisms.	National natural capital accounts.  Extent to which national targets for integrating plant biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that plant biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts	It is widely recognized that the values of plant diversity are not well reflected in decision-making. The objective of this element is to ensure that the diverse values of plants and opportunities derived from their conservation and sustainable use are recognized and reflected in all relevant public and private decision-making. For example, numerous studies, at various scales, have illustrated the economic value of plant diversity and the ecosystem services it underpins. Including the values of plant diversity in national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and into national accounting, as appropriate, places plants into the same decision framework as other goods and services. This would help give it greater visibility amongst policy-makers and contribute to the "mainstreaming" of plant diversity issues in decision-making processes.

			<p>Integration of plant biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems.</p> <p>National development plans (e.g. Environmental Land Management scheme – Landscape Recovery and Local Nature Recovery 2024; 25 Year Environment Plan) Landscape Ecology Programme’s Shared Outcomes Fund project - integration of above and below ground (plant, fungal) diversity within government natural capital baselines, development of public-private finance mechanisms for nature-based solutions.</p> <p>Landscape Ecology Programme: University of Sussex - Landscape Modelling tool (social and ecological indicators of biodiverse landscapes)</p>	
18	18: Incentives and subsidies, including afforestation, restoration and carbon sequestration incentives, that are [the most] harmful to wild plant diversity are eliminated in order to minimize or avoid detrimental impacts, and are replaced with positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity	Decrease in the number of perverse incentives and subsidies, that are harmful to plant diversity and increase in the number of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity that are developed and applied.	<p>National development plans</p> <p>National legislation</p>	Substantial and widespread changes to incentives, including subsidies, are required to ensure sustainability. Ending or reforming incentives, including subsidies, that are harmful to plant diversity is a critical and necessary first step that would also generate net socio-economic benefits. In addition, the creation or further development of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity, and plant ecosystems, provided that such incentives are in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, could also help in the implementation of the GBF by providing financial or other incentives to encourage actors to undertake actions which would benefit plants
19	19: All countries have developed the capacities, institutions, networks, resources and public engagement	Positive change in the number of countries that have the capacity, institutions, networks,	National data on institutional capacities, resources available for biodiversity conservation, and	In the context of this Target, ‘capacity’ is defined as the process by which individuals and organizations will have obtained, improved, and retained the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment, and other resources needed to achieve the

	necessary to implement their plant conservation priorities and actions.	<p>resources and public engagement necessary to implement their plant conservation priorities and actions.</p> <p>Measurement of the increase in the total financial and other resources available to implement identified priority plant conservation actions.</p> <p>Number of professional training and capacity building initiatives related to plant conservation, including number of people trained.</p> <p>Numbers of institutions and organisations involved in implementing plant conservation programmes and membership of plant conservation networks.</p>	changes in human capital available for plant conservation work.	objectives of their national plant conservation strategies and goals. Capacity building can also include a conceptual approach toward social and behavioural change, and the removal of obstacles that lead to infrastructure development allowing the achievement of the stated goals. Significant capacity building can also be supported, encouraged and facilitated through the development of training networks.
20	20: Access to comprehensive and authoritative global and national expertise, and online information systems, documentation and inventories is available in all countries on floras and the status of known plant species and natural habitats.	<p>% described species represented in the world's flora.</p> <p>% species with distribution, habitats coded, images, keys etc.</p> <p>% with conservation assessments.</p> <p>Increase in the number of countries with access to</p>	<p>The World Flora Online <a href="http://www.worldfloraonline.org">www.worldfloraonline.org</a></p> <p>National online floras, ecosystem (vegetation/ habitat) type maps and associated descriptions.</p> <p>National red lists for plant species.</p> <p>National red list assessments of ecosystem types.</p> <p>BGCI's Directories of Expertise</p>	This plant conservation element builds on the GSPC 2020 Target 1, to have available 'An online flora of all known plants' which was achieved by the end of 2020. The implementation of this target was undertaken by an international consortium of leading botanical institutions, the World Flora Online (WFO) Consortium, as well as by individual Parties that are preparing and making available electronic Floras at national and other levels. Nevertheless, increasingly comprehensive data continue to be needed to guide conservation action. While the WFO provides a valuable and comprehensive baseline on the world's plants, further work is required to ensure that accessibility is improved to meet the needs of users, including verification of the correct names and synonymy, up-to-date geographic distributional information, comprehensive descriptions, verified images and conservation assessments. Some countries, regions and plant groups are still inadequate known and understood.



		<p>comprehensive and authoritative global and national expertise, and online information systems, documentation and inventories of their floras and natural habitats.</p> <p>The proportion of described plants included in a scientifically verified and up-to-date online flora. and national plant information systems, including number of new plant species discovered and described.</p> <p>Change in the number of important areas for plant diversity / Important Plant Areas identified and protected. Number of specific training and education programmes in plant taxonomy and related information technology.</p>	<p>Plantlife's IPA database and other national flora databases</p>	<p>The target aims to support the development of [distributed and widely accessible] information systems that continue to gather, systematize, integrate and present plant data that are needed to support conservation programs, restoration and sustainable use of all of the world's plant species, including relevant aspects of their ecology, habitats and conservation biology. Furthermore, c.2,000 new plant species are discovered and described annually, many of which require to be listed as threatened. Information systems are needed to continue to update and include such new discoveries.</p> <p>It is expected that this will include new focus on making such data more relevant for users, enhance and build the capacity of the community of plant experts supporting such information systems and providing new tools for identification (keys, pictures and descriptions) and include local and vernacular names where possible and ensuring that data are provided in the most relevant languages.</p>
20	21: All known plant species have been assessed for their extinction risk and conservation status.	<p>Change in the number of known plant species have been assessed for their [extinction risk and] conservation status.</p> <p>% of all plants assessed</p> <p>Number of national and global threat assessments as a proportion of listed taxa.</p> <p>% of assessments that are recent assessments</p>	<p>IUCN RED List;</p> <p>BGCI's ThreatSearch database</p> <p>National data</p>	<p>Implementing this element is a priority at national and regional level as it forms the baseline of knowledge for identifying and assessing threatened species. It is expected that assessments will be "Evidence-based", founded on verifiable data in order to ensure that the assessments are objective, repeatable and provide a strong basis for further investment and are suitable to guide conservation action. The Red List Categories and Criteria under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) provide a robust framework for this endeavour. However, since the proportion of plants assessed globally is still low, this approach will need to be complemented by drawing upon a wider range of assessments at national, regional and global levels.</p>

				Parties, other Governments and other relevant stakeholders may consider undertaking assessments of the extinction risk and conservation status of other groups such as algae and fungi (including lichen-forming species).
20	22: The world's people are aware of the value of plant diversity and the ecosystem services it provides, and universally recognise their responsibility for its protection and the steps that can be taken to conserve and use plants sustainably.	The number of people taking part in citizen science programmes monitoring, identifying, conserving or sustainably using plant diversity.	Public surveys of citizens, consumers and sectoral participants on plant awareness and understanding issues (such as botanic garden visitors). National natural capital accounts that include the value of plants  Citizen science platforms e.g. iNaturalist and other nationally developed platforms  Institutes, Networks of Plant conservation, e.g. Gardens, Museums	There is an urgent need to effectively communicate the value of plant diversity to all relevant sectors. There is also a need to refocus a communication strategy to address livelihoods, ecosystem products and services. Implementation of this the target will also require the engagement of both the informal and formal education sectors at all levels, including primary, secondary and tertiary education.  It is clear that key messages for a communication / marketing plan for this target will require the incorporation of plant conservation into national climate change communication strategies, and into other relevant resource management documents or strategies
21	23: With the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities [related to] <del>[relevant for]</del> the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity, are respected, and safeguarded to support customary and cultural use of these resources.	Change in the extent of full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities including all genders, at all relevant levels, in respecting, safeguarding and maintaining the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity, to support customary and cultural use of these resources.  Number of studies completed on plant traditional knowledge,	National initiatives that include the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities.  National programmes to document traditional knowledge. Peer reviewed papers, oral histories documented and archived.	This Target focuses on respecting and securing the knowledge base of plant resources used to secure livelihoods, food security and health care, especially for Indigenous and Local Communities. This measure is incorporated to ensure that future generations accessing these resources can continue to benefit from their sustainable use. The target should be implemented consistent with the Nagoya Protocol and related provisions. This element may, in the long run, help local and indigenous communities to adapt to emerging environmental challenges such as climate change.

		innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.		
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## Annex 3: The Xishuangbanna Declaration on Plant Conservation

THE PARTICIPANTS in the Fourth Xishuangbanna International Symposium, *Saving all the Plants in a Changing World*, held at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yunnan, China, on January 3-5th, 2019:

1. **Recognizing** that plant diversity forms the essential basis for natural ecosystems and human well-being.
2. **Recognizing** that the maintenance of plant diversity is essential for the achievement of important international objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and the objectives of the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
3. **Noting** in particular the contributions of plant diversity to the achievement of the following SDGs: eradicating poverty (SDG 1); preventing hunger (SDG 2); human health (SDG 3); clean water (SDG 6); affordable, clean energy (SDG 7); sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11); climate action (SDG 13); and life on land (SDG 15).
4. **Acknowledging** that there are continued and growing threats to plant diversity worldwide from many factors including habitat loss and degradation, unsustainable exploitation, pollution, invasive species, and climate change.
5. **Noting** that there are no technical reasons why any plant species should go extinct, since *in situ* conservation in protected areas and other sustainably managed habitats, complemented by *ex situ* conservation in seed banks, cryostorage, and living collections, is sufficient to conserve every known rare and threatened species.
6. **Consider**, therefore, that the extinction of any known plant species is inexcusable.
7. **Recognizing** also that the unique combination of expertise, experience, skills, and resources of the world's botanical gardens are available to undertake effective plant conservation, and represent the interface between scientific research, horticulture, conservation and public education.
8. **Acknowledge** that many botanical gardens are already making significant contributions to plant conservation, but accept that there is an urgent need to scale up existing activities both individually and through joint actions with partner networks, agencies, and other organisations.
9. **Pointing out** that the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted by the CBD in 2002 and updated in 2011, has provided an essential framework for plant conservation worldwide and achieved considerable progress towards the achievement of its objectives.

Therefore, the **participants of the Xishuangbanna International Symposium 2019**:

10. **Urge** botanical gardens and all other institutions involved in botanical research and plant conservation to use their individual and collective capabilities and resources to:
  - a) **accelerate** completion of the global plant species inventory, since it is not possible to target conservation of unknown or undescribed species;
  - b) **support** development of effective species identification tools to improve the protection of species threatened by illegal or unregulated trade;
  - c) **complete** assessments of the risk of extinction for all known plant species, so that conservation efforts can be efficiently targeted towards those that are most in need of conservation action;

- d) **design, designate, protect, and manage** more protected areas and other sustainably managed habitats, especially those that represent important areas for plant diversity, in order to conserve threatened plant species in nature, *in situ*, where they can continue to evolve as resilient populations and continue to support associated species;
- e) **research and monitor** wild populations of rare, threatened, and declining species and ensure that they are subject to active conservation programmes aimed at achieving self-sustaining and viable populations in the wild;
- f) **continue to develop** complementary measures to support the safeguarding and recovery of rare and threatened plant species, including *ex situ* measures such as genetically-diverse and complementary collections held in seed banks, cryobanks, and living collections;
- g) **determine** seed storage capabilities and propagation methods for all known rare and threatened species in order to provide the most effective and efficient methods of *ex situ* conservation;
- h) **undertake** new initiatives in conservation translocations and expand the scale of ecological restoration to support the recovery of threatened plants and their habitats;
- i) **educate** the general public, decision-makers, and students of all ages about the importance of plants and their essential value for human wellbeing, as well as the need for plant conservation and the means by which this can be achieved;
- j) **engage** local, regional, and global leaders in the development of policies and practices that secure the continued survival of all plant species;
- k) **participate** in the development of active and collaborative plant conservation networks aimed at ensuring that gaps are filled in plant conservation and in the supporting research knowledge needed;

11. **Call for** all botanical gardens to place plant conservation as a top priority in their missions, and to engage with their management authorities, funding agencies, sponsors, visitors, local communities, and other stakeholders to increase the scale and effectiveness of plant conservation actions to ensure that no plant species goes extinct.

12. **Further call** for the establishment of new botanical gardens and greater support for existing botanical gardens in areas of high plant diversity and with climatic and biogeographical characteristics that are under-represented in the existing network as safehouses for plant biodiversity.

13. **Finally, the participants urge** the Parties to the CBD to give urgent attention to the development of an updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation for the post-2020 period, containing agreed measurable outcome targets that contribute towards the proposed post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Annex 4: Declaration from the World Forum on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province, China

### *Organizing Committee of the World Forum on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*

China Wild Plant Conservation Association (CWPCA) together with Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and SEE Foundation organized the 2019 World Forum on Global Strategy for Plant Conservation on October 28-29, 2019, in Dujiangyan City, Sichuan Province, China. After discussion, participants agreed on the below declaration.

#### *Summary*

As part of the consultation process towards a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and with the endorsement of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, an International Forum on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was held in Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province, China. The Forum endorsed the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as the policy framework for plant conservation action for the countries of the world. They called on the Chinese government, as the host of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) to work with other parties, governments and stakeholders to incorporate the GSPC into the proposed new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. China was congratulated for its work in implementing the GSPC in China. The Forum also recognized the outstanding leadership being offered by China in hosting the upcoming CBD COP 15 in 2020 and they called on the Chinese government, and other Parties, as well as the CBD Secretariat, to play a leadership role for a future post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

#### *Preamble:*

An International Forum on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was held from 28-30 October, 2019, in Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province, China, organized by the China Wild Plant Conservation Association (CWPCA), and co-organized with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC), Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Biodiversity Committee of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China. The Forum included invited experts, colleagues and other guests from all over the world and China who participated in and contributed to the meeting. The World Forum of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was welcomed and endorsed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Forum noted that the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) will be held in China in 2020. It is expected that that conference will establish a global strategic framework for biodiversity conservation to be achieved over the next decade, incorporating global biodiversity conservation targets for the period 2021-2030, within the broader framework of a vision for the world's biodiversity up to 2050.

The participants pointed out that the period leading up to the Forum had included an important meeting held at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden in China in January 2019, as well as stakeholder consultations led by the GPPC and BGCI. The year before the CBD COP 15, the World Forum on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) was organized within the context of

international stakeholder consultations on this proposed global biodiversity framework to discuss and review:

1. The current status on progress in the achievement of plant conservation worldwide, as guided by the GSPC (2011-2020);
2. Lessons learnt from GSPC implementation, which may inform future priorities and approaches to plant conservation worldwide;
3. Views, positions and perspectives on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and,
4. A draft GSPC framework for the post-2020 period, linked to the over-arching global biodiversity framework.

They also highlighted other important upcoming events when the GSPC could be further developed, most notably the World Conservation Congress (June 2020).

*Statement:*

The participants of the World Forum on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province, China pointed out that plant diversity is of immeasurable value to humanity, supporting all aspects of life on Earth. They recognized and acknowledged that the international botanical community, including a vast diversity of governmental and non-governmental organisations, botanic gardens, universities, museums, protected area managers and innumerable scientists and other citizens worldwide are undertaking actions that safeguard plant species and their habitats, including through measures related to conservation, horticulture, scientific research, promoting sustainability and environmental education.

They expressed their strong support for the development and adoption by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a global plant conservation strategy for the post-2020 period. They resolved to provide the results of the Forum to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a contribution towards future strategic and action plans of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contributing to the achievement of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its goals (the SDGs). They noted the importance of plants and their conservation in helping to address many of the global challenges identified by the SDGs.

Furthermore, they reiterated their strong support for and commitment to the achievement of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and emphasized that the continuation of the GSPC, within the context of the CBD, is essential for continued success in plant conservation at all levels. They highlighted the particular and unique roles of the botanical community, including botanic gardens and herbaria, in conservation and the outstanding progress achieved since 2002, supported through the guidance and framework provided by the GSPC first adopted in that year.

They noted that the CBD had recognized the special importance of plants for sustaining life on earth, as the basis of most terrestrial ecosystems and their importance for ecosystem services, food security and for the provision of many other resources for humanity. Therefore, there is a continuing need to have specific measures adopted to safeguard the tens of thousands of plant species worldwide that are threatened and to ensure their restoration and recovery by 2050 and so guarantee that these plants remain available to support future generations.

They also noted their continued support for the CBD and its three objectives and pointed out that the GSPC has played an essential role in ensuring that the botanical community and other stakeholders are closely aligned with the CBD, which the renewal of a GSPC framework in the post-2020 period will continue to sustain and further develop.

They expressed the hope that the GSPC could be increasingly mainstreamed into national biodiversity frameworks so that it becomes effectively nested into a post-2020 global biodiversity framework which will be adopted by the world community. In this regard, they suggested that links between a post-2020 GSPC and the Sustainable Development Goals be explored so that objectives and actions can be harmonized with the Sustainable Development Agenda, while at the same time ensuring that effective species conservation measures are amplified in the future. Similarly, synergies should be explored with complementary Conventions such as the climate change convention and other biodiversity related conventions. However, care should be taken not to dilute or lose the species conservation focus of targets of the GSPC, particularly where species have no immediately demonstrable use to humans, yet of uncontested ecological and intrinsic value.

They pointed out the need for the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol to address the current challenges and constraints on achieving access to plant material to support urgent conservation, sustainable use and research needs worldwide.

They requested the Chinese government as the host of COP 15 to work with the CBD Secretariat and other parties, governments and stakeholders, to explore the development of new financial mechanisms to support biodiversity conservation. This should include working in collaboration with the GEF, the GCF and other funding mechanisms, in particular to increase capacity in developing countries and countries in transition, including island nations.

These botanical leaders also supported the IUCN Species Survival Commission and its Abu Dhabi Call for Species Conservation Action. In calling for more emphasis on, and resources to support, species conservation, including the need for species conservation and recovery action plans, the establishment and effective management of protected areas, greater accountability and enforcement by Governments and sufficient funding and political support for species conservation.

They pointed out that botanical institutions contain collections of millions of fully documented accessions and associated knowledge (of living plants, herbarium specimens, seeds, tissue collections and other biological material) of immense value to support conservation and ecological restoration. Furthermore, their scientific and horticultural expertise, experience and networks in all regions are a remarkable global resource available to undertake and support plant conservation and restoration actions throughout the world. They reiterated the importance of renewed efforts in capacity building and resource mobilization.

The participants of the Forum committed themselves to work collectively and individually with Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the CBD Secretariat in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensuring a clear role for plant conservation within this framework.

They welcomed the development of an updated China Plant Conservation Strategy, a successor for the 1st such strategy prepared in 2008 and committed themselves to supporting its implementation.

The participants congratulated China for the excellent progress that has been achieved in implementing the GSPC in China. The Forum also recognized the outstanding leadership being offered by China in hosting this Forum and for the upcoming CBD COP 15 in 2020 and they expressed the hope



that the Chinese government, and other parties, as well as the CBD Secretariat, would continue to play a leadership role in relation to a future post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.