

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

Briefing for Parties to the CBD – March 2022



**BOTANIC
GARDENS**
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL

**The Global Partnership
for Plant Conservation**

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Summary

Twenty years ago, the Parties to the CBD recognized that plants are essential for the functioning of the planet and are vitally important to support human livelihoods. They adopted the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and from 2002 until now, its plant conservation targets guided CBD Parties and the wider conservation community towards many significant achievements.

In line with the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and through broad international stakeholder consultations, an updated Strategy for plant conservation is now proposed. Completely aligned with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Strategy has been expanded and updated as a contribution towards the achievement of the biodiversity targets.

We are asking Parties to the CBD to consider how this post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation can be incorporated into the Global Biodiversity Framework and to express their support for this at the CBD discussions and negotiations taking place in Geneva from 14–29 March 2022.

This will be an essential step to continue the momentum of cooperation at all levels for the conservation, restoration, re-introduction and sustainable use of plants at global, regional and national scales.

In preparation for the SBSTTA-24 and Open-Ended Working Group meetings in Geneva, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) has prepared a document describing the new 2030 plant conservation strategy. This document is available as [CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/34](#).

Why do we need specific global plant conservation targets?

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 trophic 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 where the ecosystem services that plants provide are crucial to our survival. Since the notable achievements that followed implementation of the current GSPC targets, 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 plant conservation strategy aims to be clearly identifiable as a contribution towards the achievement of biodiversity targets. As such, it 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.

What has been the impact of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and its targets?

The global plant conservation strategy 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 and new capacity and networks now flourish at national, regional and international levels. The 2020 Review of Progress reported notable achievements:

- **National plant conservation strategies** based around the targets are focusing the work of some of the world's most biodiverse countries (e.g. Brazil, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines and South Africa). Between them these countries include over 50% of the world's plant diversity. Other countries have incorporated new plant-focused initiatives into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans using the GSPC as a guide.
- An online **World Flora** of all known plants, supported by over 40 institutions working together in the World Flora Online Consortium, is now available and continues to develop.
- A growing number of companies use the **FairWild Standard** to ensure the sustainable sourcing of wild harvested plant-based products from countries around the world.
- The **Global Tree Assessment** has completed Red List assessments for all the world's tree species.
- An interactive toolkit is guiding countries in the conservation of **crop wild relatives**.
- The African Forest **Landscape Restoration** Initiative (AFR100) Initiative and the Great Green Wall are bringing 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration.
- **Important Plant Areas** are being identified and protected in a growing number of countries and are helping generate plant data to support the conservation work in Key Biodiversity Areas.

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[Associated submission to the CBD](#)