

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Cooperation with advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related
multilateral environmental agreements

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (DECISION 15.19)

1. This document has been prepared by the interim Vice-chair, at the request of the interim Chair of the Plants Committee.
2. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Qatar, 2010) adopted Decision 15.19, directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat, as follows:

The Plants Committee shall collaborate with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with any processes established to develop the Strategy beyond 2010, provided it is related to CITES, as well as on other issues related to flora species included in the CITES Appendices, and the Secretariat shall communicate the contributions of CITES in the context of its Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD Secretariat.

Background

3. On March 23rd 1996 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Secretariats of CITES and the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). In 2000 was amended to include collaboration in the development of proposals for a global strategy for plant conservation, concerning species that are threatened by international trade.
4. Since its 13th meeting (Geneva, 2003), Plants Committee has considered cooperation with GSPC recognizing that CITES contributes in different ways to many GSPC's targets, In particular target 11 "No species of wild flora endangered by international trade".
5. Subsequently, a stakeholder consultation exercise on the delivery of Target 11 was undertaken in early 2004 by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) on behalf of the CITES Plants Committee. CBD's Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7; Kuala Lumpur, 2004) welcomed the contribution of Plants Committee to the work of GSPC.
6. During the 15th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (Geneva, 2005), a working group was established to further elaborate the linkages between the work of this Committee and the GSPC. At PC16 (Lima, 2006)

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Canada and Mexico presented document [PC16 Doc.13.2](#), which included a revised table outlining key CITES Plants Committee activities and their contribution to the 5 sub-objectives and 16 targets of GSPC. An information note was sent to CBD Secretariat to communicate Regional representatives from the SBSTTA's Bureau and GSPC's focal points to inform on CITES supportive actions to implement GSPC.

7. The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (The Hague, 2007) established in Decision 14.15 that the Plants Committee shall collaborate with the GSPC of the CBD, especially regarding Target 11: "*No species of wild flora endangered by international trade*" (under GSPC's Objective III: "*Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner*").
8. Plants Committee at its seventeenth meeting (PC17; Geneva, April 2008) created an intersessional working group (PC17 WG12), chaired by Mexico, to analyze ways to support implementation of Decision 14.15. At that same meeting, during the establishment of Plants Committee priorities, GSPC was ranked as a High Priority.
9. CBD's 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bonn, 2008) decided in Decision [IX/3](#) to consider the further development of the Strategy beyond 2010. It also requested the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to provide, prior to CBD's tenth meeting of Conference of the Parties (CBD CoP10), proposals for a consolidated updating of the GSPC. Also during CBD COP 9, Plants Committee's contribution in document [PC16 Doc.13.2](#) was included by the CBD Secretariat in the elaboration of the [Plant Conservation Report](#) (PCR), recognizing that Target 11 formed the core business of CITES flora activities.
10. At its 18th meeting (Buenos Aires, 2009) Plants Committee established a working group chaired by Mexico (PC18 WG2) which –through the elaboration of a draft Decision to be presented at COP15– recognized that CITES contribution needs to relate to the current phase of GSPC as well as to the new planning phase for its continuation beyond 2010, as agreed by CBD COP 9. In order to facilitate cooperation between CITES and GSPC, PC18 adopted a table included in the Annex of document [PC18 WG2 Doc.1](#), which identifies objectives, mechanisms, methodologies, and designates responsible bodies to facilitate cooperation between CITES and GSPC.
11. At CoP15 (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 15.19 and some Parties suggested that the calendar of cooperation between CITES and GSPC in Annex 1 of COP15 Doc. 10.4 should be updated based on CBD's deliberations regarding GSPC.
12. Results of PC18 were also presented as an information document (UNEP/CBD/LG-GSPC/3/INF/2) at the 3rd meeting of the Liaison Group of GSPC held from 26th to 28th of May 2009 in Dublin, Ireland, where Austria and South Africa assisted on behalf of the Plants Committee.
13. SBSTTA 14 (Nairobi, 2010) prepared an update of the Global Strategy, taking into account the Plant Conservation Report, the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, the fourth national reports and additional inputs from the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and other relevant organizations, as well as contributions provided through an electronic forum, a number of meetings and regional consultations ([UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/9](#)).
14. At CBD COP 10 (Nagoya, 2010). *The Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020* was adopted through [Decision X/17](#). It includes 5 Objectives and 16 Targets.

Rationale on CITES-CBD Cooperation on GSPC

15. Overall goals of CITES and CBD, while not identical, are mutually supportive. CBD' COP 7 adopted decision [VII/26](#) which invites CITES Secretariat to join the liaison group among biodiversity-related Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in order to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation.
16. During the expert workshop hosted by the Government of Germany at the International Nature Conservation Academy (Vilm, 2004), several priority areas of increased synergy between CITES and CBD were identified (including GSPC) and the review of Resolution Conf. 10.4 on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity was also proposed.
17. There are 3 CITES Resolutions related with CBD: [Resolution Conf. 10.4 \(Rev CoP14\)](#) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*; [Resolution Conf. 13.2 \(Rev. CoP14\)](#) on *Sustainable*

use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines; and [Resolution Conf.13.10 \(Rev. CoP14\)](#) on *Trade in alien invasive species*. In general terms, Resolution Conf 10.4 (Rev CoP14) aims to encourage CITES' bodies to collaborate –within their capacities– with the CBD; however, the Resolution lacks specific guidelines to facilitate its implementation.

Actions taken

18. In order to fulfill Dec. 15.19, a revised list of CITES activities and products and their potential contribution to the objectives and targets of the Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 was prepared based on document [PC16 Doc.13.2](#) (Annex 1).
19. Also as suggested by some Parties at CoP15, an updated version of the objectives, mechanisms and methodologies to facilitate cooperation between CITES and GSPC was elaborated, based on Annex 1 of document [PC18 WG2 Doc.1](#). (Annex 2).

Recommendations to Plants Committee

20. The Plants Committee may wish to:
 - a. Analyze and adopt the revised list of CITES activities and products and their potential contribution to the objectives and targets of the Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 included in Annex 1.
 - b. Analyze and adopt the revised objectives, mechanisms and methodologies to facilitate cooperation between CITES and the Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 included in Annex 2.
 - c. To prepare a draft Resolution on CITES and GSPC, bearing in mind elements of this document and that:
 - It has been recognized that CITES has the leadership in implementing target 11 and also has important relevance addressing other GSPC targets;
 - CBD has adopted a Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020; and,
 - CITES Decisions are intended to provide specific short-term time bound instructions, while the aim of Resolutions is to guide the interpretation and implementation of the Convention on a long term basis, and that Decision 15.19 instructs Plants Committee to collaborate with GSPC beyond 2010, using a very similar Resolution nature language and intention.

Revised list of CITES activities and products and their potential contribution to the objectives and targets of the Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020

GSPC's Objective	GSPC's Target	CITES contribution
(I) Plant diversity is well understood, documented and recognized	1. An online flora of all known plants.	• CITES checklists available online.
	2. An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action.	• CITES Appendices. • Amendment proposals to the Appendices.
	3. Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared.	• Non detriment findings (NDFs). • Periodic Review results. • Review of Significant Trade results.
(II) Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved	4. At least 15 per cent of each ecological region or vegetation type secured through effective management and/or restoration.	Non directly applicable, CITES works at species level.
	5. At least 75 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity of each ecological region protected with effective management in place for conserving plants and their genetic diversity.	
	6. At least 75 per cent of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
	7. At least 75 per cent of known threatened plant species conserved <i>in-situ</i> .	• Inclusion of species/populations in CITES Appendices.
	8. At least 75 per cent of threatened plant species in <i>ex-situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20% available for recovery and restoration programmes.	• Identification of the location/habitat of Appendix I species. • Efforts by CITES Parties to ensure sustainable use of CITES-listed species: NDF's and quotas. • Implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.9 on Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes.
	9. 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops including their wild relatives and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, while respecting, preserving and maintaining associated indigenous and local knowledge.	Non directly applicable.
(III) Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner	10. Effective management plans in place to prevent new biological invasions and to manage important areas for plant diversity that are invaded.	Non directly applicable. Nevertheless, CITES Parties have recognized the link between trade and alien invasive species in Resolution Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14) on Trade in alien invasive species.
	11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	• Everything CITES does, contributes directly to this target. Therefore <u>CITES has the leadership in implementing this target.</u>
	12. All wild harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably.	• NDFs and quotas. • Also annotations to the Appendixes enable regulation of certain target commodities.
	13. Indigenous and local knowledge innovations and practices associated with plant resources, maintained or increased, as appropriate, to support customary use, sustainable livelihoods,	• NDFs.

GSPC's Objective	GSPC's Target	CITES contribution
(IV) Education and awareness about plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on earth is promoted	<p>local food security and health care.</p> <p>14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CITES tools, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training courses, Workshops results and Technical reports. -Web page. -Slide packs. -CD-ROMs. -Capacity-building unit within the Secretariat.
(V) The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed	<p>15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.</p> <p>16. Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CITES Parties and Plants Committee. •Regional Directories.

Revised objectives, mechanisms and methodologies to facilitate cooperation between CITES and the Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020

OBJECTIVE	MECHANISM	METHODOLOGY	CALENDAR	RESPONSIBILITY & (BUDGET)
a) Promote and enhance collaboration between GSPC focal points and CITES Authorities at the national level	Encourage involvement of CITES authorities in the development and implementation of the GSPC national strategies. Ensure CITES activities are included in GSPC National Reports.	Notification encouraging national authorities to get in touch with GSPC focal points and to encourage reference, where relevant, to CITES Biennial reports and CITES Trade data when compiling GSPC national reports. Post key dates for CBD reporting regarding the GSPC on the CITES website.	Linked to CBD reporting calendar	CITES Secretariat and National CITES Authorities (no cost)
b) Promote awareness of ongoing activities of CITES that contribute to achieving GSPC targets	Share information on the operations and outcomes of CITES processes, such as significant trade reviews, periodic review of the Appendices, and amendment of proposals for the CITES Appendices, and indicate how these contribute to meeting the GSPC targets.	Transmit Annex 1 to CDB Secretariat	By PC20	CITES Secretariat (no cost)
c) Encourage GSPC national focal points to focus on CITES listed species when addressing targets 12 & 13	National CITES Authorities identify CITES species that may be subject to best practices of sustainable use CITES National authorities to work with GSPC focal points to help identify species when addressing targets 12 & 13.	Notification reminding national CITES Authorities to invite GSPC National Focal Points to collaborate and to help identify priority species. [Consideration could be given to including input from the CITES & Livelihoods working group].	By PC20	CITES Secretariat (no cost) National CITES Authorities (budget to be defined)
d) Ensuring CITES participation with CBD on implementation of GSPC targets 2011-2020	PC representative to participate in SBSTTA and other CITES relevant GSPC meetings	PC chair or nominee	Linked to CITES and CBD calendar	PC Chair
	Ensure inputs from CITES PC into the development of CBD documents relating to implementation of GSPC beyond 2010	PC chair or nominee to make inputs into GSPC working documents such as SBSTTA peer review process.	Linked to CBD calendar	(PC Chair Budget or Party of nominee)
e) Within the framework of MOU between CITES and CBD, improve exchange of information relating	Dates of key meetings relating to the development and implementation of the GSPC communicated	Communications between CITES and CBD Secretariats	Linked to CBD calendar	CITES and CBD Secretariats (no cost)

OBJECTIVE	MECHANISM	METHODOLOGY	CALENDAR	RESPONSIBILITY & (BUDGET)
to GSPC and plant conservation issues	Invite CBD representative to participate in CITES-PC meetings dealing with GSPC	PC chair to issue invitation	Linked to CITES calendar	CBD Representative (CBD budget)
	Ensure communication of advances in both conventions regarding the GSPC	Communication between CITES and CBD Secretariats	After PC19	CITES and CBD Secretariats
f) Streamline reporting	Ensure that efforts to streamline reporting by/ for MEAs provides better synchrony for reporting on CITES activities relating to GSPC targets	Communication between CITES and CBD Secretariats	Linked to CITES and CBD calendar	(no cost)