

sharing (or Not Reinventing the wheel)

Objective I: Plant diversity is well understood, documented and recognized



Target 3: Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared

Plant conservation research, methodologies and practical techniques are fundamental to the conservation of plant diversity. Relevant techniques are being developed and used by many individuals and institutions around the world and methodologies developed in one place may well have useful applications elsewhere. However these are not necessarily known about or accessible. The aim of this target is to ensure that useful information and



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technologies are shared amongst the global community and that information gaps are identified, so that they can be filled with newly generated knowledge.

As plant conservation needs and available resources vary from country to country, it is important to provide information in as many languages as possible and provide case studies covering a range of circumstances. Each target of the GSPC will have its own set of information and research

needs, hence this target is considered 'cross-cutting' and applicable to all other targets. As progress is made towards each target it is important to ensure that the relevant lessons learned are shared and practical guidance on how to implement the target is made available to others. This is the purpose of the GSPC toolkit.

Key areas where the development of methodologies and techniques are required include:

- How to integrate *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation. How the information that has been developed on how to grow threatened plants in 'protected' environments (*ex situ*) can be used to help conserve them in their native habitats;
- How to reduce threats and ensure that threatened plants are maintained within ecosystems, especially in the face of changing climates;

A toolkit for plant conservation

BGCI has developed an internet-based 'toolkit' that provides information on how to implement the 16 targets of the GSPC. The toolkit website: www.plants2020.net provides technical details and links to manuals, guidelines and case studies relevant to each of the targets.



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- How to balance increasing demands for plant-based products harvested from the wild with conservation of the species that provide them.

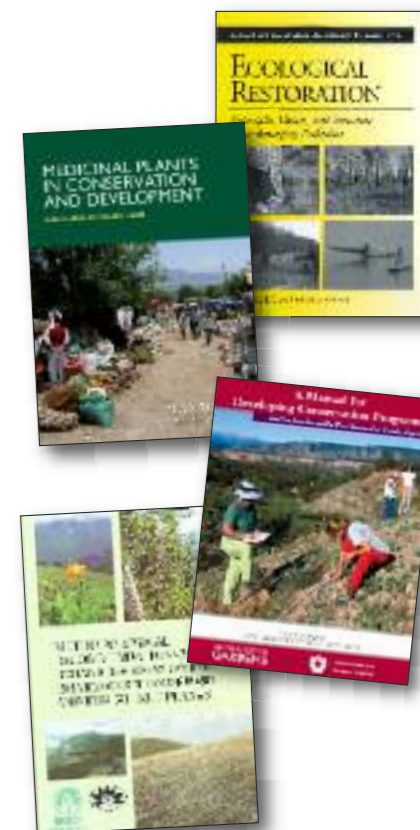
Where are we now?

Methodologies for different aspects of plant conservation and sustainable use have been developed by both

professionals and amateurs in countries around the world over the past few decades. Much of this information has, however, not been coordinated and often lies in unpublished reports and manuscripts, not easily accessible to plant conservation practitioners. So efforts should be focused on retrieving this information and making it widely available in a range of languages.

PlantzAfrica.com

This is a website providing information about plants native to southern Africa and related conservation topics. There are more than 22,000 different species of plants indigenous to southern Africa. Many of the more popular plants are described in detail, including how to use them in gardening and in herbal medicine. The website also provides information about the different vegetation types in southern Africa and the plant species found in them. Visit: www.plantzafrica.com



"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."

Ryunosuke Satoro



Find out more:

www.plants2020.net

