

**Botanic Gardens
Conservation International
Five Year Plan 2007-2012**



BGCI

Plants for the Planet

Overview

Plant species are going extinct at an ever-increasing rate. Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is a world leader in tackling this global and often over-looked biodiversity conservation crisis. We operate as a membership organization, representing and drawing on the extensive skills and expertise of botanic gardens around the world. Linking more than 800 botanic gardens in 118 countries, BGCI forms the world's largest plant conservation network.

BGCI provides vision and leadership for the botanic garden and plant conservation communities and with the support of its world-wide network, is able to create significant global impact. Since our establishment in 1987, we have responded in a flexible manner to identified needs, taking into account global, national, and local priorities and circumstances. We work to ensure that plants are recognised as one of the world's most important natural resources providing vital ecosystem services. We support the key roles of botanic gardens in plant conservation and environmental education

helping to develop new botanic gardens where necessary and working with established gardens to address urgent issues of environmental concern. BGCI also recognises the beauty and aesthetic pleasure provided by botanic gardens and promotes gardens as places of inspiration and reflection for all.



Looking ahead, our Five Year Plan for 2007-2012 explicitly addresses the current and fundamental concerns relating to the impact of climate change on plant diversity and the understanding that biodiversity conservation is essential to ensure sustainable development and improved human well-being.

The context in which we work

The key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Biodiversity is a basic requirement in alleviating hunger and poverty and promoting human health and thus the CBD has a clear role in helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals agreed by the international community at the Millennium Summit in 2000. Plant conservation is addressed by the CBD through the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* (GSPC), which was unanimously approved by 187 countries in 2002. BGCI was a driving force in the development of the GSPC, which provides an innovative approach to target setting for biodiversity conservation.

BGCI continues to actively promote and implement the GSPC and it provides the ongoing rationale for our core conservation work. One of the mechanisms by which botanic gardens implement the GSPC is through the *International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation*.



International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation

The *International Agenda* was developed by and for botanic gardens in association with BGCI. It provides a mechanism by which botanic gardens can directly contribute to implementation of the GSPC and undertake a wider range of related

conservation and sustainable development objectives. Over 400 botanic gardens worldwide have adopted the *International Agenda* demonstrating their commitment to securing plant diversity for the benefit of people and the planet.



BGCI's Vision: A world in which plant diversity is valued, secure and supporting all life.

BGCI's Mission: To mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet.

BGCI Values

- **Appreciating and valuing plants** – Plants are the backbone of life on Earth, and the security of plant diversity worldwide forms the core of our mission.
- **Relevance** – BGCI's work will continue to evolve to meet the needs of our members, partners and the wider biodiversity conservation community.
- **Excellence** – BGCI strives for the highest standards in its plant conservation work around the world.
- **Cultural sensitivity** – BGCI's programs are designed to be culturally relevant to the needs and circumstances of local partners and audiences from diverse cultures around the world.
- **Integrity** – BGCI promises integrity, trust and honesty in every action.
- **Respectful relationships** – BGCI builds and maintains respectful and strong relationships with members and partners.
- **Sustainability** – BGCI integrates principles of sustainability throughout our institutional operations and works with our members to demonstrate sustainability in practice.

BGCI – Five Year Plan 2007-2012

BGCI's ambitious Five Year Plan supports the GSPC, securing its achievements beyond 2010 and responds to new conservation challenges. In implementing the plan we will build on our successes over the past 20 years in plant conservation, environmental education and promoting sustainability.

1. Securing plant diversity

As the world's largest plant conservation network BGCI is strategically placed to lead global efforts to reverse the impending extinction crisis faced by the world's plant diversity. Over the next five years our efforts will focus on securing a future for threatened plant species through a variety of mechanisms and techniques. Our specific aims are to:

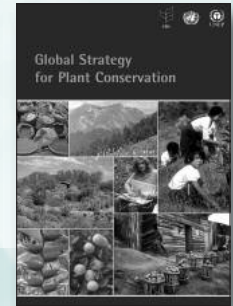
- 1.1. Reverse the loss of key plant species and their habitats by targeted recovery and restoration programmes enhancing *in situ* conservation efforts by botanic gardens and partner organizations, in support of Targets 5 and 7 of the GSPC.
- 1.2. Ensure that 50% of threatened plant species are in accessible *ex situ* collections (preferably in the country of origin) including 75% that are Critically Endangered, acknowledging our global facilitating role for Target 8 of the GSPC.

1.3. Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of threatened medicinal and nutritional plants to address human well-being and livelihood issues as a contribution towards Targets 3 and 13 of the GSPC.

1.4. Lead international efforts to address the impacts of climate change on wild plants through the implementation of a global action plan agreed with botanic gardens and conservation partners.

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

The *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* (GSPC) is an ambitious plan to save the world's plant diversity. Developed by a unique partnership of international and national organizations, governments and non-governmental organizations, the GSPC was adopted unanimously at the sixth meeting of the Conference to the Parties to the CBD in 2002. It provides an innovative framework for actions at global, national and local levels and includes 16 outcome-oriented targets aimed at achieving a series of measurable goals by 2010 (see Annex 1).



2. Enabling people and botanic gardens

BGCI's greatest strength is its worldwide network of botanic gardens. They are centres of botanical expertise, horticultural knowledge and environmental education and it is their knowledge base that underpins all our actions. BGCI will, over the next five years, focus on ensuring that the appropriate information, skills and expertise are available throughout the global network to ensure that plant conservation targets can be met. Our specific aims are to:

2.1. Ensure that comprehensive information on threatened plants, the impact of climate change on plant diversity and the consequences of loss of plant diversity on human well-being are available to all our members and the wider biodiversity community, through the development of our unique global databases, comprehensive website and respected publications, in support of all the GSPC Targets and in particular Target 2.

2.2. Assist botanic gardens to develop communication, education and public awareness programmes that i) communicate the importance of plant diversity and ecosystem services in sustainable livelihoods and ii) promote informed action, as a major contribution towards Target 14 of the GSPC.

2.3. Enhance the skills and expertise of botanic gardens staff in horticulture, plant conservation techniques and environmental education through training, staff exchanges, provision of relevant information and networking, as a major contribution towards Target 15 of the GSPC.

2.4. Hold a series of global congresses for the botanic garden community with a focus on securing plant diversity, promoting plant-focused environmental education and enhancing science-based knowledge for the benefit of people and the planet, as a major contribution to Target 16 of the GSPC.

Enabling people

"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people."

Chinese Proverb

Botanic gardens offer unique opportunities for learning. They harbour richly diverse plant collections and are accessible to large numbers of people. This makes them important showcases for 'nature'. The educational resources of botanic gardens place them in an unrivalled position to demonstrate the importance of plants

and our relationship with them. BGCI's education department produces a wide range of policy guidelines, tools, materials and resources to support botanic garden education programmes.



3. Influencing decision-making and policy

BGCI is respected for its role in policy development and implementation relating to plant conservation. It is generally agreed that without the policy work of BGCI, the GSPC would not have been developed and adopted by the CBD. While working in partnership with the world's leading biodiversity conservation organizations, BGCI will continue to maintain its position as a leading advocate for plant conservation, with specific aims to:

- 3.1. Act as a leading advocate ensuring that the conservation and sustainable use of plant species is fully addressed by international biodiversity policy and related agreements with a focus on CBD and CITES to support all the targets of GSPC.
- 3.2. Promote the work of botanic gardens related to plant diversity conservation, human well-being, environmental education and climate change to policy and decision makers, as well as the wider public, both nationally and internationally.
- 3.3. Engage with policy makers and wider society to ensure that the CBD continues to pay full attention to the conservation and sustainable use of plant species beyond 2010, addressing the urgent threat of climate change.
- 3.4. Ensure mechanisms are in place to facilitate informed decision making by forging links between conservation best practice and biodiversity policy.



The Gran Canaria Declaration on Climate Change and Plant Conservation

According to recent estimates, more than 100,000 plant species are currently threatened with extinction. However, the rate of extinction is expected to increase further as global temperatures continue to rise, and as many as half of the estimated 400,000 plant species in existence today may be under threat. Recognising the urgent need for action, BGCI, together with the Jardín Botánico Viera y Clavijo, Gran Canaria, brought together a group of experts to develop the *Gran Canaria Declaration on Climate Change and Plant Conservation*.

The Declaration recommended the preparation of an action plan correlative to the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* on climate change and plants and called upon governments to take urgent action to increase protection for the world's plants.



Programme delivery and organizational development

BGCI will implement its Five Year Plan through the delivery of both global and regional programmes. Continued success will depend on enhancing strategic engagement with BGCI's broad constituency. The networking *modus operandi* that BGCI has adopted allows it to maintain a small, flexible staff base while maintaining the capacity to implement ambitious programmes. As BGCI moves forward, emphasis will be placed on ensuring the continuing strong support and expansion of its membership base and enhancing its strategic partnerships including the further development of private sector engagement.

BGCI's governance and programme review process

BGCI is registered as a charity in the UK and governed by a Board of Directors that meets quarterly. An International Advisory Council meets annually, providing guidance to the Board on overall programme development and strategic directions for BGCI. In the US, BGCI is registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

The support and involvement of its membership is crucial to the development of BGCI's programme. We therefore provide a forum for botanic garden staff to contribute to BGCI programme development through holding a global botanic garden congress every three years.

Committees comprising members of the BGCI Board, members of staff and external advisors will support:

1. Strategic direction, conservation and science
2. Financial management
3. Fundraising and PR

Staff structure and regional/national offices

BGCI consists of a small secretariat based at its Headquarters located at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK and a number of regional/national programme offices. The senior executive officer is the Secretary General who leads a management team which includes the Director of Regional Programmes, the Director of Global Programmes, the Head of Education and the Head of Finance and Administration.

The overall objective for the next five years is to ensure a strong team of staff working together effectively to deliver the components of our Five Year Plan. Communications across the organization will be strengthened and opportunities for staff development will be supported. BGCI will maintain and consolidate its current network of regional and national offices and link these with the activities of regional and national botanic garden networks. Although regionalisation is a long term goal for BGCI, it is not the intention to develop a complex and costly infrastructure. As far as possible BGCI

offices will continue to be located within botanic gardens. The possibility of staff secondments from botanic gardens to enhance the development and implementation of the regional programmes of BGCI will be considered.



Fundraising

Fundraising objectives for the next five years are to:

1. To ensure best practice in all fundraising activities by joining the Fundraising Standards Board and thereby adhering to the Institute of Fundraising's Codes of Practice.
2. To secure annual growth for effective delivery of the Five Year Plan including programme activities and organizational development.
3. To maximise long-term sustainability by:
 - diversifying BGCI's support base by strengthening and/or developing appropriate relationships from sectors including, but not limited to, the private sector, trusts and foundations, governments, multi-lateral agencies and individuals (particularly focusing on major donors and BGCI's Conservation Donor initiative);
 - increasing unrestricted and core funding;
 - increasing BGCI's reserves.

Fundraising targets will be set on a yearly basis to support organizational and project requirements. Systems and policies will be reviewed and adapted to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and assessment of fundraising activities.

Developing BGCI's profile will be central to increasing fundraising potential. In doing this, BGCI will work with its members, some of whom already have a very high public profile. Communication will be increased with both donors and potential new supporters with meetings and events held to strengthen relationships. PR and publicity opportunities will also be developed to raise awareness of BGCI and to explain the nature and importance of our work.



Financial management and administration

The financial management and administration functions will support BGCI to achieve its objectives and activities by developing systems, procedures and guides that are

appropriate and adaptable to the changing needs of the organization, while ensuring they follow best practice and meet our legal and regulatory obligations. A priority will be to adapt the current systems and procedures to reflect the increasing range of projects being undertaken by BGCI.

Systems, procedures and guidelines will ensure that the organization can monitor its progress and report on successes, potential problems and failures enabling the organization to review what is happening in a timely manner, make adjustments as appropriate and minimise its risk.

Planning for the future – a programme to 2027

BGCI has increased the scope and effectiveness of its work dramatically over the past twenty years. Given the flexibility of its network structure and ability to respond rapidly to new situations, BGCI is well placed to develop environmental solutions in the future. Incorporating a process of institutional learning and change during the implementation of the Five Year Plan will allow BGCI to develop and adapt its programmes in order to respond effectively to future needs.

Annex 1: GSPC Targets

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation - Targets for 2010:

(a) Understanding and documenting plant diversity

Target 1: A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.

Target 2: A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.

Target 3: Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.

(b) Conserving plant diversity

Target 4: At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.

Target 5: Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.

Target 6: At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.

Target 7: 60 per cent of the world's threatened species conserved *in situ*.

Target 8: 60 per cent of threatened plant species in accessible *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.

Target 9: 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.

Target 10: Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.

(c) Using plant diversity sustainably

Target 11: No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.

Target 12: 30 per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.

Target 13: The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.

(d) Promoting education and awareness about plant diversity

Target 14: The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.

(e) Building capacity for the conservation of plant diversity

Target 15: The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.

Target 16: Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.



BGCI

Plants for the Planet

**Botanic Gardens
Conservation International**

Descanso House, 199 Kew Road,
Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3BW, U.K.

Tel: +44 (0)20 8332 5953

Fax: +44 (0)20 8332 5956

E-mail: info@bgci.org

Internet: www.bgci.org

BGCI is an independent organization registered in the United Kingdom as a charity (Charity Reg No 1098834) and a company limited by guarantee No 4673175.

BGCI is a tax-exempt (501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the USA and is a registered non-profit organization in Russia.

Plant featured on cover: *Physoplexis comosa*
Printed on recycled paper