

Response from the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network to consultation by BGCI on Target 14 of Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on BGCI's consultation document on Target 14 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The notes provided here do not represent a combined New Zealand response but are based on the Target 14 workshop held by the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network at its inaugural meeting in August 2003 in Wellington, New Zealand.

Comments on Sub targets

Sub target 1 is supported although advice will be needed on how to establish national baseline data on the level of awareness of plant diversity to ensure consistency internationally.

Sub target 2 is supported and will be valuable but will be more useful if it can be produced before end of 2005. An explanation of what this framework could entail would be useful.

Sub target 3 is supported but more than just analysis we will need information to be disseminated on most effective ways education instruments are used globally to implement other targets (e.g., use of websites, list servers, publications or workshops).

Possible additional Sub target:

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network is preparing undertake a review to identify all plant conservation education resources and programmes that currently exist in New Zealand as a first step towards the development of a national plant conservation education strategy.

The Network believes that such a review will help:

- Raise awareness about Target 14 and encourage as many New Zealand stakeholders as possible to participate in its implementation.
- Identify all existing plant conservation education resources and programmes in New Zealand
- Disseminate information about these existing resources and programmes nationwide.

The Network recommends that such a review be a key sub target to complement Sub target 1 where the general level of awareness is being determined. This may be considered to be part of the framework for implementation mentioned in Sub target 2 but in which case some example of what that framework might entail should be described.

Action by Parties

The Network will be seeking to have Target 14 incorporated into the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy when it is revised in the near future. This action is supported by the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

Action by NGO's

In terms of NGO's promoting Target 14 within their work programme - the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network considers this to be a cornerstone of our work. The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network has already held a national workshop on target 14 of the Global Strategy and has published a summary report of recommendations. International dissemination of best practice of NGO's promoting Target 14 would be valuable so that we can learn from others.

For more information about the approach to Target 14 by the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network see the following document that will be available shortly via the network website (www.nzpcn.org.nz):

Global strategy for plant conservation workshops: New Zealand summary report. 2004. New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, Wellington New Zealand.