Summary report of the Conference

Global Partnership for PLANT CONSERVATION 2018

Supporting the worldwide implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Organised by: the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC)

in association with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD).

and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), and

hosted by: South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Cape Town, South Africa

28 – 30 August 2018
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1. Introduction and background to the conference
In October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted an updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) for the period 2011-2020. This updated GSPC includes 16 targets for plant conservation to be achieved by 2020. To help Parties meet the targets of the GSPC, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation was formed in 2004. This consortium brings together a wide range of international, regional and national plant and conservation organizations. The Partnership is working to support national implementation and the GSPC, and to provide tools and resources to help each country to plan and act to meet the targets. The GSPC was included by the Convention on Biological Diversity as part of the flexible coordination mechanism of the GSPC and plays a significant role in helping to monitor and promote GSPC implementation.

This conference was organised by the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) in association with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). It was hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Cape Town, South Africa.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- Showcase examples and share experience on GSPC implementation;
- Review progress towards the target of the GSPC at national and international levels;
- Provide guidance and support for national and regional GSPC implementation entering into the a new phase post-2020;
- Help build leadership amongst the participating organizations for monitoring and delivery of the GSPC targets;
- Develop and consider scenarios and priorities for the GSPC in the period beyond 2020 and the ways in which it will contribute to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

2. Overview of conference sessions and participants
The conference was attended by over 120 participants from 35 countries. Participants included national GSPC and CBD focal points, plant conservation practitioners, representatives from GPPC member organisations and other interested parties.

The programme included 42 oral presentations and 6 parallel workshops, as well as 21 poster presentations. Oral presentations provided information on GSPC implementation at the national level as well as reports on progress towards individual targets at the global level. The parallel workshops provided opportunities for discussion around specific targets and issues related to the GSPC.

The detailed conference programme is provided in Annex 1.

The representative from the CBD Secretariat provided an update on the process for the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework, as well as an overview of the results of an on-line survey on the GSPC which had been conducted by the CBD Secretariat prior to the conference. Summary results of the survey are provided in Annex 2.
3. Progress in GSPC implementation at the national level
Reports on national implementation of the GSPC were provided by 16 countries including several megadiverse countries, as well as Hawaii:

Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Indonesia, Jamaica, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland.

All countries were asked to provide a table indicating overall progress against each target at the national level. These assessments have been combined in the table below:

![Overview of progress towards the GSPC targets in a selection of countries](image)

It can be seen that the assessment of progress is variable across both targets and countries. Amongst the megadiverse countries, both South Africa and China report more than 30% progress towards all targets, with the exception of Target 12 in South Africa.

Several countries were unable to assess progress towards Targets 6 and 9, perhaps indicating a lack of communication between agricultural and environmental sectors. All countries report more than 30% progress towards Targets 1 and 16, and most countries are making progress towards Targets 2, 3, 4, 11 and 14. The targets which appear to be the most challenging across countries are Targets 8, 9 and 13.

Copies of all national presentations are available on the Plants2020 website (www.plants2020.net).

4. Progress towards individual targets of the GSPC
A series of presentations were focused on progress at the global level towards specific targets, namely Targets 1, 2, 8 and 9. Presentations also covered national progress towards Target 7 in South Africa, and addressing Target 5 in tropical countries.

Target 1: An update on progress towards completing a World Flora On-line (WFO) was presented. This is a collaborative project, with 42 institutions having so far signed the WFO consortium agreement. Three working groups have been established (taxonomic, technical and communications) and a public portal www.worldfloraonline.org has been launched. The database presently includes over 23 million records provided by major herbaria around the world. These include descriptions for around 98,000 plant species (or approximately 25% of known species). Other data included in the WFO portal include references, vernacular names, images and threat statuses.
**Target 2:** Progress towards Target 2 (conservation assessments) has recently been accelerated by the launch of BGCI’s ThreatSearch database ([www.bgci.org/threat_search.php](http://www.bgci.org/threat_search.php)). This database combines global and national conservation assessments to provide a comprehensive global database for plant assessments. The database presently includes over 300,000 conservation assessments, related to 180,000 taxa. Analysis of the data has revealed that global conservation assessments are available for over 90,000 plant species and that one third of assessed plants are classified as threatened. The IUCN Global Trees Specialist Group has launched the Global Tree Assessment, with the aim of ensuring a conservation assessment for all the world’s trees by 2020. Work is also ongoing to develop a machine-learning approach to predict threat assessments and fast-track 'least concern' assessments.

**Target 8:** In relation to this target, an analysis of data in BGCI’s PlantSearch database (a database of plant species in botanic garden collections, including over 1.3 million records from over 1,000 institutions) has shown that globally, 42% of threatened plant species are held in botanic garden *ex situ* collections (living and seed collections). However, there is considerable taxonomic variability, with some plant groups being much more comprehensively represented in *ex situ* collections than others. Further analysis is required to determine the extent to which threatened species are held in the country of origin and how many conserved species are available for recovery and restoration programmes. Initial results show that 59% of tree species that are in *ex situ* collections are maintained in the country of origin.

**Target 9:** This target relates to crop diversity and associated crop wild relatives (CWRs), as well as other socioeconomically important plants. The conservation of the former is carried out in the framework of the Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), under the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Progress is monitored through periodic reviews of the State of the World’s PGRFA. A recent study has indicated that, at the global level, 28% of CWR species are adequately conserved *ex situ*. For the latter (other socioeconomically important plants), almost 7,000 different wild useful plants have been assessed to determine how comprehensively their diversity is safeguarded in seedbanks, botanic gardens, and other conservation repositories (*ex situ*), and how well parks, reserves, and other official protected areas preserve their natural populations (*in situ*). Approximately 3.3% of species were assessed as well conserved in *ex situ* conservation, and 40.7% in *in situ* conservation. The combined conservation status metric for all species shows that less than three out of every 100 species (2.78%) is sufficiently conserved or of low priority for further conservation action. Urgent action is currently needed to improve the conservation of the diversity of the world’s useful wild plant species.

**Targets 2 and 5 in selected tropical countries:** To date, some 1,771 important plant areas have been identified globally, but very few of these currently have conservation protection. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Plantlife International are collaborating on a project to identify Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) in 7 countries / regions, with the aim of identifying priority sites for the conservation and management of wild plant diversity. The work on identifying TIPAs (Target 5) is also driving forward red listing in the participating countries (Bolivia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea Conakry, Mozambique, New Guinea, British Virgin Islands) as a contribution to Target 2.

**Target 7 in South Africa:** This presentation provided information on how Target 7 can be achieved in a megadiverse country. In the case of South Africa, the background data required for this target is already available. This includes a comprehensive national plant Red List, fine-scale occurrence data for species and a well-mapped protected area network. Through mapping the occurrence of threatened species against existing protected areas, at least one population of 65% of South Africa’s threatened species have been identified in a
protected area – therefore conserved in situ. Further analysis revealed that Target 7 could be achieved with the addition of just 30 sites to the protected area network.

**Target 13**: This target refers to maintaining and supporting the relationship between plant diversity and local and indigenous knowledge, with the aim of ensuring that traditional knowledge is respected and reflected in the implementation of the GSPC. Target 13 may be considered more of a cross-cutting target, and achievement is difficult to measure. This presentation reviewed progress to date, looking at what various countries and organisations, such as botanic gardens, are doing in relation to Target 13. Examples from countries included Scotland, where traditional languages have gained greater protection since the passing of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act in 2005. Similarly, the Republic of Palau, in its revised NBSAP (2015-2025), has noted that "a more targeted process of ensuring that Palau’s traditional ecological knowledge and expressions of culture around biodiversity is collected and utilised" is needed. A range of tools and resources have been developed to support conservation by indigenous and local communities, including through biocultural protocols and indices of traditional environmental knowledge. Examples of the work of botanic gardens that support the conservation of indigenous knowledge by local communities were presented, including that of Missouri Botanical Garden in Madagascar and Cornell Botanic Gardens in the Pamir Mountains of Central Asia. Finally, a number of recommendations for taking forward Target 13 were presented, including the establishment of an international research platform to address gaps, development of robust indicators, greater engagement by the social sciences and humanities, and greater efforts in local capacity building.

5. **The GSPC as an integrated conservation framework**
A presentation on the Global Trees Campaign (GTC), which aims to safeguard the world’s threatened tree species, demonstrated how the GSPC provides a framework for developing an integrated approach to plant conservation which can be applied at both global and national level.

In order to meet its aims, the GTC focuses its work around the objectives of the GSPC. In relation to Objective 1 (understanding and documenting), the GTC has developed a comprehensive global database of the world’s tree species (GlobalTreeSearch), which provides details of over 60,000 tree species and their country-level distribution (Target 1). Species in GlobalTreeSearch are compared with ThreatSearch, to identify species without a threat assessment (Target 2) for priority assessment through the Global Tree Assessment. To date 23,800 tree species have been assessed and 8,614 threatened species identified. Integrated conservation programmes for threatened species are supported through the GTC (Objective 2) using both in situ (Target 7) and ex situ (Target 8) approaches. Conservation programmes also focus on developing propagation techniques and building capacity for the sustainable use of threatened species (Objectives 3 and 5) as well as raising awareness of tree conservation needs (Objective 4). Capacity building (Objective 5, Target 15) forms an important part of the work of the GTC, and in 2017, 395 people were trained in tree conservation techniques. Finally, partnerships and collaboration are promoted through initiatives such as the Global Oak Conservation Partnership (Target 16).

6. **Reports from workshop sessions**
Six workshops were held during the conference. Four of these focused on specific targets (Targets 8, 9, 14 and 15) while two addressed GSPC mainstreaming and evaluation of the global status of GSPC implementation. Some workshops included formal presentations as well as a discussion session. Copies of all presentations made during the workshops are provided on the Plants2020 website.
Each workshop was asked to:

- Review progress towards the target / issue
- Describe how this is measured
- Identify constraints to progress and opportunities to overcome these
- Identify models and examples for others to use
- Discuss the target / issue post-2020

The reports of these workshops are available on the Plants2020 website. Summaries of the workshop conclusions are provided below:

**Workshop 1: Achieving Target 8 of the GSPC**

There is variable progress towards this target and it is unlikely to be achieved globally and in megadiverse countries. Tools exist to monitor progress (PlantSearch), but these need to be further developed and refined. Progress is constrained by slow progress with Target 2 (conservation assessments) and lack of information on seed storage behaviour for many species. However, there are concerted efforts to enhance work on Target 2 and dedicated networks and partnerships help to disseminate information. It was suggested that more emphasis should be given to maximising genetic diversity in *ex situ* collections and broadening the use of such collections beyond restoration to include species reintroductions, translocation, novel species assemblages and use in agriculture, horticulture and forestry. In the post-2020 framework, there was a call for a more ambitious and explicit target, such as “*No plant species becomes extinct*” and a separation of the conservation and restoration parts of the target. There was also a suggestion to combine Targets 7 and 8 into a target for integrated species conservation and to investigate stronger linkages with the Global Plans of Action for PGRFA and FGR under FAO.

**Workshop 2: Raising awareness of the GSPC and engagement with stakeholders – Target 14**

Participants in this workshop noted that most countries had reported moderate or good progress towards this target and this reflects the many successful and persuasive programmes being implemented, often by botanic gardens. However, it does not take into account the extent such programmes influence behaviour or decision-making. It was felt that, at the national level, economics generally take priority over the environment and governments are reluctant to commit to long-term objectives. There is a need to broaden the stakeholder base to include tourism, agriculture and other ministries. We need to find ways to engage with specialists in other fields. It was also noted that botany has an image problem as a career and it is difficult to attract students to pursue plant-related subjects. There are inadequate measures of success and a need to change behaviours and values, not just inform. There could be some value in participating in high quality social research to measure impact. A re-wording of the target post-2020 could be along the lines of “*Awareness and understanding of plants results in measurable changes in behaviour, leading to improved conservation of plants and their habitats*”

**Workshop 3: Plant conservation and crop plants – a Target 9 workshop**

Presentations in this workshop provided some examples of the conservation of CWRs at the national and regional levels and a number of tools and models to support implementation were identified. Constraints to progress include the availability and accessibility of gene bank data, insufficient collaboration between *ex situ* and *in situ* practitioners and lack of awareness of available tools and resources. There is also a lack of awareness amongst protected area managers, policy makers etc. of the need for targeted conservation action for CWRs within protected areas. In relation to the post-2020 framework, the need for conservation of genetic
diversity of all plant species was emphasised, while also recognising the special role played by socio-economically important species in delivering ecosystem services. There is a need to have more explicit linkages with SDG 2.5, the FAO Global Plan of Action for PGRFA and, at the national level, with protected area expansion strategies. The definition of what ‘socioeconomically important’ means, needs to be clarified and ‘crops’ should also include neglected and under-utilized species.

**Workshop 4: Mainstreaming the GSPC into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other processes.**

It was noted in this workshop that references to the GSPC in CBD National Reports (NRs) fell considerably between the 3rd NR and the 5th NR. Also, only 7 countries mention the GSPC in their NBSAPs and only 17 have developed a national plant conservation strategy or other GSPC response. Mainstreaming plant conservation in NBSAPs has worked best in countries where the CBD and GSPC focal points are well-linked and clear priorities have been set for plant conservation work. Building good relationships with relevant decision makers is key. Some immediate priorities identified by the group included:

- Ensuring countries report on the GSPC in 6th NRs
- Using the presentations from this conference to provide information for reporting
- Producing a Plant Conservation Report in 2020 to compliment Global Biodiversity Outlook 5

There is a need to maintain visibility for the GSPC / plant conservation in post-2020 biodiversity discussions, through developing SMART sub-targets and indicators that can be included under the post-2020 overarching biodiversity target. There is also a need to engage with a wider range of stakeholders, particularly the major production sectors that put pressure on plants.

**Workshop 5: Capacity building and support measure for the GSPC (Target 15)**

While a number of countries had reported limited progress towards this target during the conference, presentations made during the workshop provided some excellent examples of capacity building initiatives around the world. It was agreed that perhaps more capacity building is happening than is being captured in national reports. It is also very difficult to measure progress towards this target. Constraints identified included the decline in universities offering botany courses and a lack of clear career structures in plant conservation-related jobs. Enhanced partnerships and skills-sharing may help to overcome some constraints. It was suggested that countries should conduct national needs assessments across GSPC targets to determine national priorities and gaps. It was noted that capacity building is key for plant-related activities at national and international levels and linkages with other processes, such as IPBES, as well as with the social sciences, could be beneficial. The workshop also highlighted the need to look forward and consider future needs in plant conservation, to maximise technology use and to reach out to and partner with universities and other training institutions.

**Workshop 6: Evaluation of the current global status of the GSPC and priorities 2018-2020**

Participants reviewed progress against each of the GSPC targets, comparing the assessment of progress in the mid-term review (2014) with the situation today. For most targets, it was agreed that the assessments made in 2014 are still valid. Problems with the definition and ‘ownership’ of Target 6 were highlighted and it was agreed that insufficient progress is being made on controlling invasive species (Target 10) and conserving indigenous knowledge (Target 13). On the other hand, it was felt that progress towards Targets 7 and 8 were improving compared to the situation in 2014. Key constraints identified included lack of investment – very few new resources have been committed to plant conservation as a result of the GSPC. It was recommended
that post-2020 the targets should be refined to reflect progress to date and emerging agendas such as the SDGs, made SMART(er) and reporting should be against well-defined milestones and indicators.

7. Conference conclusions and recommendations
The concluding session consisted of a panel discussion, where a number of technical issues around specific targets were discussed. A statement in support of a continued GSPC post-2020 was made by the Chair of BGCI’s International Advisory Council. This statement is provided in Annex 3.

A number of issues and points were raised during the conference with respect to the future of the GSPC. These included:

- It is important to recognise and promote the fact that plants underpin the biosphere, food chains and all aspects of life on earth.
- In this respect, plants and their conservation have an important role to play in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is important that as many countries as possible report on the GSPC in 6th NRs. Data needs to synthesised and made available for reporting.
- A Plant Conservation Report 2020 should be prepared to compliment GBO5 that shows change in progress towards achieving targets.
- There is a need to strengthen linkages with a wider range of stakeholders – particularly from the production sector, whose actions have an impact on plant diversity.
- Local and indigenous people play an important role in conserving both plant diversity and associated traditional knowledge. The need to respect this role and ensure the conservation of traditional knowledge should be highlighted in a future post-2020 plant conservation framework.
- There is a need to be more interactive, more opportunistic and broader in our scope of engagement.
- Post-2020 targets for plant conservation need to be SMART, with clear and measurable milestones and indicators
- National parties need to be speaking to the GSPC and requesting to keep it, or elements of it, in the post-2020 framework.
- We need to take a flexible approach to developing a post-2020 GSPC, or at least plant-related milestones and indicators, so that these can be nested within the post-2020 Aichi targets and the SDGs.
- We should consider being more explicit about the importance of sustainable use of plants – a future plant strategy should not just focus on conservation, but perhaps include ‘sustainable use’ in its title.

Global Partnership for Plant Conservation: Business meeting
Following the plenary workshop, a GPPC business meeting was held. This included a report on activities of the partnership since the last meeting and a review of the current membership. The participants re-elected Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) as the GPPC Secretariat, and Dr Peter Wyse Jackson (Missouri Botanical Garden, USA) and Ms Maïté Delmas (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France) were elected as co-chairs.
Annexes

Annex 1: GPPC Conference programme

Annex 2: Results of a survey conducted in preparation for the conference of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation 2018 and associated Liaison Group meeting.


Annex 4: List of participants at the GPPC Conference
Global Partnership for PLANT CONSERVATION 2018

28–30 August 2018

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME WITH ABSTRACTS

VENUE: Old Mutual Conference Centre, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Cape Town, South Africa
PROGRAMME

VENUE: OLD MUTUAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, KIRSTENBOSCH NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN, SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE (SANBI), CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Tuesday, 28 August 2018

09:00 CONFERENCE OPENING

Including:
- Welcome from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).
- Welcome from Secretary General of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).
- Welcome and introduction from the Chair of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC).
- Statement and welcome from a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD):
- Statement and official opening by the Director General: Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), South Africa.

10:00 PRESENTATIONS ON GSPC PROGRAMMES, PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- Domitilla C. Raimondo, Z. Rabaney & L. von Staden (South Africa):
  Progress towards implementing South Africa's Strategy for Plant Conservation.
- Cristina López-Gallego, Carolina Castellanos & Hernando García (Colombia):
  The main achievements of the National Plant Conservation Strategy in Colombia.
- Hesiquio Benitez Dias (Mexico):
  Implementation of the Mexican Strategy for Plant Conservation (EMCV).
- Ethan Freid (Bahamas):

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 PRESENTATIONS ON GSPC PROGRAMMES, PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL (CONT.)

- David A. Galbraith (Canada):
  Biodiversity, conservation, the GSPC and the 2020 Biodiversity Goals & Targets for Canada.
- Hai Ren (China):
- Haining Qin (China):
  The role of expert volunteers in the implementation of GSPC: a case study of the China Plant Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.
• **Sahoby Ivy Randriamahaleo** (Madagascar): Madagascar’s progress in achieving the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: the need for a successor to the GSPC to pursue national priorities.

• **Philippe Bardin, Maïté Delmas & Serge Muller** (France): Progress by France in the implementation of the GSPC targets.

• **Gustavo Martinelli & Rafaela Forzza** (Brazil): GSPC advances in Brazil: updates and perspectives for 2020.

13:00 GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

13:15 LUNCH

14:00 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

1. **Achieving Target 8 of the GSPC**
   Coordinators: Paul Smith (BGCI) and John Donaldson (SANBI)
   • **Catherine A. Offord** & Karen D. Sommerville (Australia): Challenges in ex situ conservation in the South Pacific.
   • **Damian Wrigley** (Australia): Seed Banking throughout Australia in support of Target 8 and 9 of the GSPC.
   • **John R. Clark**, Joyce Maschinski & Peter Raven (U.S.A.): Achieving measurable success towards the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Objective II – the Center for Plant Conservation model to urgently and effectively conserve plants.
   • **Jordan Wood**, Jeremie B. Fant, Andrea T. Kramer, Kayri Havens & **Gregory M. Mueller** (U.S.A.): What to do when we can’t bank on seeds: Applying zoo population management protocols to rare plants in living collections.

2. **Raising awareness of the GSPC and engagement with stakeholders (at all levels, including amongst governments, CBD stakeholders, conservation and genetic resource practitioners and other groups and sectors) – a Target 14 workshop.**
   Coordinators: Tim Entwisle (Melbourne) and Colin Clubbe (Kew)

3. **Plant conservation and crop plants – a Target 9 workshop.**
   Coordinators: Ehsan Dulloo (Bioversity International, Mauritius) and Luigi Guarino (Crop Trust, Germany).
   • **Danny Hunter**, Teresa Borelli and **M. Ehsan Dulloo** (Mauritius): ‘Plants of the past, or crops for the future’: Biodiversity for food and nutrition is central to the 2030 agenda on sustainable development.
17:30 POSTER SESSION

Venue: Kirstenbosch Conservatory

- **Sefra Alexandra Levin**: The seed huntress: ‘On the hunt to save the genetic biodiversity of our Earth’
- **Diana Milena Arango Uribe** (Colombia): Introducing trees to increase biodiversity and decrease pollution in the metropolitan area and the Andean region.
- **Tamaz Darchidze, Tinatin Barblishvili, Tsira Mikatadze-Pantsulaia** (Georgia): Plant conservation in Georgia – strategic targets of the National Botanical Garden of Georgia for 2030.
- **Peta Hardy** (South Africa): Prioritising areas for conservation management: putting theory into practice.
- **Sean Hoban, Emma Spence, Bethany Zumwalde, Nicole Cavender, M. Patrick Griffith, Michael Bruford, Gernot Segelbacher & Gerard Donnelly** (U.S.A.): Achieving two GSPC targets by documenting existing genetic diversity and developing best practices for preserving it.
- **Peter M. Hollingsworth** (U.K.): Using DNA for plant identification to support conservation and sustainable use.
- **Lerato N. Hoveka, Michelle van der Bank, Bezeng S. Bezeng & Jonathan Davies** (South Africa): Barriers to conserving South Africa’s endemic flora: a gap analysis.
- **M.M. le Roux, Ronell R. Klopper, Janine E. Victor** (South Africa): The e-Flora of South Africa – achievements and progress of the past four years.
- **Lee, Cheul Ho; Shin, Hyun Tak & Kim, Dong-Kap** (South Korea): A review of progress in implementation of the Korea Strategy for Plant Conservation (KSPC) 2020 by the Korea National Arboretum.
- **Ing. Tomáš Peš** (Czech Republic): Czech Native Flora Project in the Zoological and Botanical Garden of Plzen.
- **Emiliano Sánchez Martínez, Beatriz Maruri Aguilar & María Magdalena Hernández Martínez** (Mexico): The botanical gardens of Mexico and their commitment to plant conservation plans and strategies.
- **Raviraja Shetty G.**: Efforts to conserve endangered and economically useful medicinal plants of the Western Ghats of India.
• Ulyana Spirina & Yuri Naumtsey (Russian Federation):
  Bryophyte horticulture as ex situ conservation method: Case study of the Botanical Garden of 
  Tver State University.

• F. Tarquini, M. Pepe, A. Spoletini, G. Fabrini, L. Varone, L. & Gratani (Italy):
  Plant conservation strategy of the Botanical Garden of Rome.

• Gene-Sheng, Tung, Chih-Liang, Chao & Tsung-Yu, Hung (Taiwan):
  To enhance the flora conservation of botanical gardens based on participatory citizen science 
  approach in Taiwan.

• Murphy Westwood, Nicole Cavender & Gerard Donnelly (U.S.A.):
  Towards achieving the GSPC targets for trees through global collaboration.

*Poster presenters will be invited to speak for 2–3 minutes about their poster presentations during 
the session.*

18:30 CLOSE FOR THE DAY
Wednesday, 29 August 2018

09:00 PRESENTATIONS ON GSPC PROGRAMMES, PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL (CONT.)

- **Pierre-André Loizeau** and **Anouchka Maeder** (Switzerland):
The impact of the GSPC on the biodiversity legislation and awareness in Switzerland.

- **Libor Ulrych** (Slovakia):


- **Lillian Swee-Lian Chua** (Malaysia):
Progress on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in Malaysia.

- **Joni Jackson** (Jamaica):

- **Biljana Panjkovic & Jelena Dučić** (Serbia):

- **James Mougah** (Seychelles):

- **Camila de Sousa** (Mozambique):
The challenges and role of IIAM to contribute to achieving GSPC targets.

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 PRESENTATIONS ON CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES IN THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

- **Paul Smith & Kirsty Shaw** (BGCI):
The Global Trees Campaign: an integrated approach to delivering the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

- **Chipper Wichman** (Hawaii, U.S.A.):
The Hawaii Strategy for Plant Conservation – implementing the GSPC in one of the most unique floristic regions of the world.

- **Malin Rivers, Steven Bachman, Emily Beech, Abby Meyer, Suzanne Sharrock and Paul Smith** (U.K.):
Targets 2 and 8 – measuring progress towards conservation assessments for all plants and ex situ conservation of threatened species.

- **Stuart Hall, Alexander Lansdowne, P.M. Holmes, M. Gaertner & K.J. Esler** (South Africa):
Understanding restoration needs at the ecosystem level: Case studies from threatened vegetation types in South Africa's Fynbos Biome.

- **Colin Clube** (U.K.):
Implementing GSPC Targets 2 and 5: Kew's Tropical Important Plant Areas Programme.

- **Porter P. Lowry II** (U.S./France):
Contributions to GSPC Targets: examples of integrated conservation approaches from Africa and Madagascar.

13:00 LUNCH
14:00 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS (3)

1. **Mainstreaming the GSPC into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and reporting (including aligning GSPC targets with the Aichi Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and contributions to the Global Biodiversity Outlook – GBO-5)**
   Coordinators: Domitilla Raimondo (SANBI), Hesiquio Benitez Dias (Mexico) and Robert Höft (SCBD).

2. **Capacity building and support measures for plant conservation / GSPC implementation.**
   Coordinators: Sebsebe Demissew (Ethiopia), Suzanne Sharrock (BGCI) and Christopher Willis (SANBI).
   - **Vanessa Handley & Holly Forbes** (U.S.A.): Progress through partnership: How small organizations can make meaningful GSPC contributions.
   - **Kimberlie McCue & Bárbara Goettsch** (U.S.A.): IUCN SSC Specialist Group–Host Institute Collaborations Advance GSPC Target 2: A case study.

3. **Evaluation of the current global status of GSPC implementation and priorities for 2018–2020.**
   Coordinators: Stephen Blackmore (BGCI), Maité Delmas (France) and Peter Wyse Jackson (GPPC).

16:30 GUIDED TOURS OF THE KIRSTENBOSCH NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN, FOLLOWED BY CLOSE FOR THE DAY
Thursday, 30 August 2018

09:00 PRESENTATIONS ON ACHIEVING INDIVIDUAL TARGETS OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

- **Target 1:** M. Marianne le Roux, Peter Wyse Jackson & Pierre-André Loizeau (South Africa): Building a World Flora Online.

- **Target 2:** Steven Bachman & Malin Rivers (U.K.): A machine learning approach to assess the conservation status of all plants.

- **Target 7:** Lize von Staden, Rupert Koopman & Ismail Ebrahim (South Africa): Achieving GSPC Target 7 in a megadiverse country.

- **Target 9:** Luigi Guarino (Germany): Measuring progress in the conservation of crop diversity.

- **Target 13:** Christopher Dunn & Peter Wyse Jackson (U.S.A.): Traditional knowledge conservation and the GSPC: progress and perspectives.

- **Target 13:** Tom Suchanandan & Carol van Wyk (South Africa): The National Recordal System – An initiative of the Department of Science and Technology towards the protection, promotion, development and management of indigenous knowledge.

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 REPORTS FROM WORKSHOPS OF THE PREVIOUS DAYS AND DISCUSSION followed by:

PLENARY WORKSHOP – A FUTURE GSPC FOR 2020 TO 2030

The workshop will address questions such as:

- What will be the suggested structure of a post-2020 GSPC – formulation, objectives, targets (revised, updated and new), stakeholders

- How will it address emergent issues such as cities and urban biodiversity, the SDGs, climate change and action, ecological restoration?

- Aligning the post-2020 GSPC with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Targets and the SDGs

- How will relevant stakeholders be engaged fully?

13:00 LUNCH

14:00 WORKSHOP CONTINUES...

16:00 WRAP UP AND GPPC BUSINESS MEETING

17:00 CONFERENCE CLOSE
Annex 2: Results of a survey conducted in preparation for the conference of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation 2018 and associated Liaison Group meeting.

Note: Where scores were used, respondents rated their level of agreement with the respective statements/questions using a 1 to 5 scale where, 1 was the lowest and 5 was the highest.

Figure 1. Affiliation of respondents.

The majority of respondents who selected “Other” were experts based in botanical institutions that are not members of the GPPC.

Figure 2. Influence of the GSPC.

Two-thirds of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the GSPC had provided significant guidance or direction to their work.

Survey responses (n=168)

The GSPC 2011-2020 has provided significant guidance/direction to my work and/or the work of my institution/organization (average score 3.7)
The GSPC was considered particularly effective in raising awareness and strengthening networks, while it was less effective in facilitating access to resources.

Respondents highlighted the importance of the GSPC in providing guidance for national implementation and as a framework with common targets.
There was strong agreement that the GSPC has enabled advancing plant conservation and less would have been achieved without it.

The targets of the GSPC 2011-2020 were always intended to be challenging and ambitious (average score 4.0)

Failure to achieve targets is largely because additional resources for plant conservation are not available (average score 3.9)

The GSPC 2011-2020 required plant conservation practitioners to prioritize a subset of targets on which to focus (average score 3.7)

There is a lack of indicators to track progress towards the attainment of the GSPC 2011-2020 targets (average score 3.5)

Missing targets creates doubt on the credibility of the GSPC process (average score 2.9)

There is strong institutional support for the implementation of the GSPC 2011-2020 (average score 2.8)

Without the GSPC 2011-2020 less progress on plant conservation globally would have been made (average score 4.2)
The responses suggest that the GSPC is not well integrated into the work under the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
Respondents considered it particularly important that plant conservation targets should have specific indicators and that they become an integral part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
Annex 3


Preamble:

The botanic garden community worldwide includes more than 2,500 institutions undertaking actions in conservation, horticulture, scientific research, promoting sustainability and environmental education that is of inestimable value to humanity, and reaches an audience of more than half billion people worldwide each year. The botanic garden community has been a keen and determined supporter and participant in the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) since its establishment in 2004. The GPPC conference brought together a wide range of plant conservation scientists, policy makers and practitioners from across the world to consider the future of plant conservation, and in particular to develop ideas for a global plant conservation strategy for the post-2020 period. The conference attracted a wide range of participants to share their experiences and further the development of plant conservation policy, practice and actions during and beyond this, the U.N. Decade of Biological Diversity. Many participants representing botanic gardens worldwide attended the conference, including many of the world’s most biodiversity rich countries.

The results of the conference will be provided to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a contribution from the GPPC and the plant conservation community in general towards future plans for the CBD in the achievement of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The importance of plants and their conservation is clear in helping to address many of the global challenges identified by the SDGs. On the occasion of this conference, the International Advisory Council of BGCI provided the following statement of support for the conference and its deliberations and for the objective of achieving an effective global framework to guide plant conservation in the years following 2020.

Statement:

The International Advisory Council of Botanic Gardens Conservation International represents thirty or more leaders of some of the world’s top botanic gardens and institutions, from 6 continents. At its meeting held on Monday 27th August, 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa, these leaders pledged their support for the development of a renewed global plant conservation strategy for the period post-2020.

Furthermore they reiterated their strong support for and commitment to the achievement of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and recognized that the continuation of the GSPC, within the context of the CBD, is essential for continued success in plant conservation at all levels. They highlighted the particular and unique roles of botanic gardens in conservation and the remarkable progress achieved by them since 2002, supported through the guidance and framework provided by the GSPC adopted in that year.

They noted that the CBD had recognized the special importance of plants for sustaining life on earth, as the basis of most terrestrial ecosystems and their importance for ecosystem services, food security and for the provision of many other resources for humanity. Therefore, there is a continuing need to have specific measures adopted to
safeguard the tens of thousands of plant species worldwide that are threatened and to ensure that these plants remain available to support future generations.

They also noted their continued support for the CBD and its objectives and pointed out that the GSPC has played an important role in ensuring that the botanic garden community is closely aligned with the CBD, which the renewal of a GSPC framework in the post-2020 period will continue to sustain and further develop.

They expressed the hope that the GSPC could be increasingly mainstreamed into national biodiversity frameworks so that it becomes effectively nested into a post-2020 global biodiversity framework which will be adopted by the world community. In this regard, they suggested that links between a post-2020 GSPC and the Sustainable Development Goals be explored so that objectives and actions can be harmonized with the Sustainable Development Agenda, while at the same time ensuring that effective species conservation measures continue. Similarly, synergies should be explored with complementary Conventions such as the climate change convention and the convention to combat desertification. However, care should be taken not to dilute or lose the species conservation focus of targets 7 and 8 of the GSPC, particularly where species have no immediately demonstrable use to humans.

They pointed out the need for the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol to address the current challenges and constraints on achieving access to plants to support urgent conservation, sustainable use and research needs worldwide.

These botanical leaders also supported the IUCN Species Survival Commission in calling for more emphasis on, and resources to support, species conservation, including the need for species conservation action plans, the establishment and effective management of protected areas, greater accountability and enforcement by Governments and sufficient funding and political support for species conservation.

They pointed out that botanic garden collections contain millions of accessions (of living plants, herbarium specimens and other biological material) of immense value to support conservation and ecological restoration. Furthermore, their scientific and horticultural expertise, experience and networks in all regions are a remarkable global resource available to undertake and support plant conservation and restoration actions throughout the world.

The Council noted the importance of Parties to the CBD incorporating more of the non-governmental sector’s responses to the GSPC into national CBD reporting and monitoring and urged Parties to the Convention to include national responses to the GSPC in their National Reports to the CBD.

They reiterated the importance of renewed efforts in capacity building and resource mobilization.

They pledged to focus on developing renewed efforts for botanic gardens to develop new coordination and joint efforts between them and with non-garden sectors in achieving the objectives and targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The International Advisory Council of Botanic Gardens Conservation International committed to work with Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the CBD Secretariat in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensuring a clear role for plant conservation within this framework.
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