



# The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

**Without plants there is no life.  
The functioning of the planet, and our survival, depends on plants.  
The GSPC seeks to halt the continuing loss of plant diversity.**

Global Strategy  
for Plant Conservation

**GSPC**



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*Plants for the Planet*

# The GSPC and its targets

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) is a cross-cutting programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It includes 16 global targets set for 2020. The aim of the GSPC is to halt the continuing loss of plant diversity and to secure a positive, sustainable future where human activities support the diversity of plant life, and where in turn the diversity of plants support and improve our livelihoods and well-being.

The GSPC provides a framework for working together at all levels - local, national, regional and global - to understand, conserve and use sustainably the world's immense wealth of plant diversity whilst promoting awareness of the importance of plants and their conservation needs.

The 16 targets adopted at the global level provide guidance for setting national plant conservation targets. These targets are to be understood in a pragmatic rather than literal way. They aim to be strategic, rather than comprehensive.

## The GSPC objectives and targets

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

**Target 1:** An online Flora of all known plants.

**Target 2:** An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action.

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

**Objective II: Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved**

**Target 4:** At least 15 per cent of each ecological region or vegetation type secured through effective management and/or restoration.

**Target 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.

**Target 6:** At least 75 per cent of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.

**Target 7:** At least 75 per cent of known threatened plant species conserved *in situ*.

**Target 8:** At least 75 per cent of threatened plant species in *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20 per cent available for recovery and restoration programmes.

**Target 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.

**Target 10:** Effective management plans in place to prevent new biological invasions and to manage important areas for plant diversity that are invaded.



**Objective III: Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner**

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

**Target 12:** All wild-harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably.

**Target 13:** Indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices associated with plant resources, maintained or increased, as appropriate, to support customary use, sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care.

**Objective IV: Education and awareness about plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on earth is promoted**

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

**Objective V: The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed**

**Target 15:** The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.

**Target 16:** Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy.

# The GSPC and the Convention on Biological Diversity

The implementation of the GSPC should be considered within the broader framework of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The pressures on biodiversity and the underlying causes of biodiversity loss affect plants as much as other components of biodiversity. The implementation of the GSPC will make an important contribution to the achievement of the five goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

## The Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:

**Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society**

*Relevant GSPC targets: Targets 11, 12 and 14.*

Targets 11 and 12 address the sustainable use of plant diversity by all sectors of society, while Target 14 aims to raise awareness of the importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation.

**Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use**

*Relevant GSPC targets: Targets 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12.*

Targets 4, 5, 6 and 10 focus on reducing the pressures on biodiversity caused by habitat loss, agriculture and invasive species. Targets 11 and 12 address the sustainable use of plant diversity.

**Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity**

*Relevant GSPC targets: Target 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9.*

Targets 4 and 5 focus on the protection of ecosystems, Targets 7 and 8 are aimed at species-level conservation while Target 9 addresses the conservation of plant genetic diversity.

**Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services**

*Relevant GSPC targets: Targets 4 and 5.*

Targets 4 and 5 contribute to this goal through the conservation and restoration of ecosystems.

**Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building**

*Relevant GSPC targets: Targets 1, 2, 3, 13, 15 and 16.*

Targets 1, 2, 3 and 13 focus on the generation, maintenance and sharing of knowledge, understanding and information about plant diversity, with Target 13 having a specific focus on local and indigenous knowledge. Targets 15 and 16 address the need for capacity building and networking for enhanced plant diversity conservation.



James Aldred



Jeff Haskins

## Taking action for plant conservation

The GSPC targets are wide-ranging and broad-based. They address the conservation of all plants, including wild species, crops, medicinal plants and forest trees. The targets require both species and habitat-based actions, considering both natural and managed landscapes and include supporting actions related to education, public awareness and capacity building.

To achieve the targets of the GSPC a wide range of stakeholders across sectors need to be engaged. These will generally include representatives from Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, but other groups must also be considered. Important additional stakeholders whose work contributes to the implementation of the GSPC include environmental education organizations; botanic gardens and herbaria; local and indigenous communities; universities and research institutes; agri-businesses, horticultural trade and forestry companies; medicinal plant traders; quarantine authorities and amateur botanical societies. It is important that all such relevant stakeholders are consulted and engaged in developing a national response to the GSPC.

As well as contributing to the achievement of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, implementation of the GSPC is relevant to a number of other international agreements. The conservation and restoration of ecosystems (Targets 4, 5 and 8) contributes to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Understanding plant diversity (Targets 1, 2 and 3) will help to ensure that biodiversity benefits are achieved through the UN's REDD+ programme. Target 11 contributes to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Target 9 supports the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Any action taken towards achieving the targets of the GSPC provides opportunities for developing synergies with other international and regional agreements.

Further information on the GSPC, as well as guidance on how to implement the targets, is available from the GSPC toolkit:

**[www.plants2020.net](http://www.plants2020.net)**

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