



**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF BRAZIL TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
LOCATED IN MONTREAL**

N. 40

The Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the International Organizations located in Montreal presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, with reference with Notification 2011-171, sends in annex the remarks of the Ministry of Environment, regarding the 4th Meeting of "The Liaison Group on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation" and the project of a tool for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The Permanent Delegation of Brazil avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity the assurances of its highest consideration.

Montreal, 24th November 2011.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. F. ...", written over the circular seal.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Comments and observations on the key discussion points for the two documents (UNEP/CBD/LG-GSPC/4/2 of August 1, 2011, and www.plants2020.net), as per the documents forwarded (ref. no. 00537 and CBD Notification 171) are provided below. On this matter, allow me to note my participation in the GSPC and the GSPC Liaison Group discussions as the Brazilian Focal Point to the GSPC and Coordinator of the National Center for Plant Conservation (Centro Nacional de Conservação da Flora – CNCFlora/JBRJ), an organization linked to the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute, founded on objectives and functions largely consistent with a number of the GSPC's goals..

Both meetings were convened in St. Louis Missouri, USA, July 5 – 7, 2011, for the purpose of discussing implementation of the GSPC Targets and the respective tools and strategies to support GSPC implementation (toolkit), with the contribution of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International – BGCI and the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation – GPPC.

The following information was presented on Brazil's efforts to implement the GSPC:

1. GSPC – Target 1: GSPC Target 1 was accomplished under the coordination of the National Center for Plant Conservation – CNCFlora/JBRJ. Specifically, fulfillment of the Target was secured through publication of the List of Brazilian Plants (available online) and a print edition of the Catalogue of Brazilian Plants and Fungus (Catálogo de Plantas e Fungus do Brasil) in 2010, based on the contributions of more than 400 experts who participated in compiling and certifying the official list of Brazilian plants. The goal through 2020 is to ensure continuous updating of the system (see <http://floradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br>) and to release a new edition by 2015.
2. GSPC – Target 2: The measure undertaken by CNCFlora/JBRJ to achieve Target 2 is the development of a National Information System for Plant Conservation containing all of the risk assessment tools and protocols regarding plant extinction, plants' monitoring and the drafting of action. CNCFlora/JBRJ's key initiatives include:
 - Proposal for a National Plant Conservation Program (Programa Nacional de Conservação da Flora) submitted to the Secretariat of Biodiversity and Forests (Secretaria de Biodiversidade e Florestas - SBF/MMA) of the Ministry of the Environment for evaluation and determination of the protocols, methodology, terms, and financial resources for Program implementation and final consolidation with the National Commission for Biodiversity (Comissão Nacional de Biodiversidade – CONABIO).

- Assessments of extinction threats in connection with the 7,255 species included on officially published (state and federal) endangered species lists, as a model for fulfilling the red-listing target for all plant life by 2020. The assessments of extinction threats in connection with previously published lists will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment in 2012 for purposes of certification by the Ministry of the Environment and CONABIO as the Official List of Brazilian Plant Species Threatened with Extinction.
 - Recognition of CNCFlora as Brazil's Red List Authority by the IUCN;
 - Action plans for 100% of the species on the revised list of species threatened with extinction (red list) that is to be prepared in 2012 (in collaboration with the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity – ICMBio).
3. GSPC – Target 3: Establishment of protocols, a methodology, and the adoption of a system of criteria for assessing extinction threats and IUCN threat categories, applied universally by a majority of countries as an indicator of the status of species conservation at the global level. A partnership was established with IUCN to provide training and capacity building to CNCFlora staff. Brazil should officially adopt a threat criteria and category system to ensure the list of threatened species is globally accepted and to enable its use as an indicator in national assessment procedures.
 4. GSPC – Target 4: This Target should be reviewed for purposes of its implementation, despite the progress made in satellite monitoring efforts and the use of GIS systems.
 5. GSPC – Target 7: The Target will be implemented after the official acknowledgment by Ministry of the Environment about the list currently under review by CNCFlora/JBRJ that will be delivered to the Ministry in 2012. Negotiations are underway to achieve this target through the CNCFlora/JBRJ – ICMBio partnership based on an effort aimed at mapping the species threatened with extinction in Brazilian conservation units (initially those under federal protection).
 6. GSPC – Target 8: As Target 7, this Target has been a source of concern, given the difficulties and high costs involved in preparing and training the various institutions, in particular Brazilian botanic gardens, to address the related challenges. An integrated effort involving a diversity of organizations, institutions and national agencies (e.g. EMBRAPA/CENARGEN) is essential to Brazil secure progress on this Target. A workshop is being organized with BGCI to be held in January 2012 at the JBRJ, with the objective of discussing strategies and means for

implementing the Target in Brazil and in other megadiverse countries. In March 2011, CNCFlora/JBRJ took part in an event in connection with this Target in New York City, at which the “New York Declaration” was drafted (Botanic Gardens Ecological Restoration Initiative). CNCFlora contributed to development of the document by request of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International – BGCI. Among other provisions, the declaration supports the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), particularly in respect of Target 8, through which at least 75% of threatened plant species must be incorporated in ex situ collections, preferably in their countries of origin.

The following entities are signatories of the declaration:

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom

Missouri Botanical Garden, USA

Chicago Botanic Garden, USA

The New York Botanical Garden, USA

Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Brackenhurst Botanic Garden (Plants for Life International), Kenya

Jardín Botánico Francisco Javier Clavijero, Mexico

South African Biodiversity Institute, South Africa

For further information on the Botanic Garden Ecological Restoration Initiative, got to: www.bgci.org/resources/news/0790/

7. GSPC – Target 15: Training and capacity building were provided to CNCFlora/JBRJ staff through the Threatened Species Programme – TSP/SANBI in South Africa and the Red List Programme – RLP/IUCN in the Dominican Republic.
Representatives of CNCFlora participated in national and international workshops and meetings to discuss implementation of the GSPC Targets.
8. GSPC – Target 16: A Brazilian Plant List System was created. Currently operated through a network of 600 national and international experts, the list fosters implementation of a number of other related Targets (Targets 3,4,7,8). In addition, a National Plant Conservation System incorporated within the Brazilian Plant List System is in the final stages of development. The system’s architecture and its integration with the Brazilian Plant List System and CNCFlora/JBRJ Portal were laid out at the event.
9. Owing to the repercussion of the efforts undertaken by CNCFlora, a presentation of the measures and strategies adopted to implement the GSPC’s Targets in Brazil was given during the GPPC’s meeting. Various international organizations and agencies expressed their interest in

establishing partnerships with CNCFlora, mainly among the following points:

- A proposed partnership with BGCI: development of a joint agenda, with BGCI serving as a facilitating agency for Target 8; A workshop is scheduled to be offered in Rio de Janeiro in January 2012 by BGCI and CNCFlora/JBRJ.
- A process to certify CNCFlora as Brazil's Red List Authority – IUCN, as manifested by IUCN representative Andrew Rodrigues.
- Discussions with the South Africa's Threatened Species Programme – TSP/SANBI representative, Dr. Domitilia Raimondo, on the status of a MoU between CNCFlora and SANBI, which is currently in the final draft stage.
- Discussions on the status and strategies of the “New York Declaration” (Botanic Gardens Ecological Restoration Initiative), in which CNCFlora took part through contributions to the document's elaboration and referrals for signing of the participation agreement.
- The representatives of Colombia expressed their interest in exchanging information on the CNCFlora's development and operational model.

Comments on the GSPC Liaison Group meeting

1. Based on the presentations at the previous GPPC meeting, the implementation of the GSPC in Brazil was noteworthy for the achievement of Target 1 in 2010, especially considering Brazil's megadiverse country status.
2. Based on CNCFlora/JBRJ's diagnostic assessment of the listing procedures for threatened plant species in Brazil, securing progress on Target 2 will require nationwide adoption of a system of criteria and categories to assess extinction threats and create IUCN red lists, an internationally recognized and adopted system, as well as a thorough review and enhancement of the respective normative standards, mandates, and legal instruments, in addition to integration of the state lists and the national list.

In relation to the toolkit to support implementation of the GPCPC Targets, the following comments bear mention:

1. In its seventh meeting, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested that the Executive Secretary, with the support of members of the global partnership for plant conservation, elaborate proposals for a toolkit, including a checklist to assist Parties in integrating the Targets into their strategies, plans and programs (paragraph 7, Decision VII/10).

2. The request was reiterated in paragraph 6 of Decision IX/3. The fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) considered the draft toolkit developed at the third meeting of the GSPC Liaison Group in document UNEP/CBD/LG-GSPC/3/4. Decision X/17 of the Conference of Parties requested development by 2012 of an online version of the toolkit for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in all United Nations official languages, including by convening a workshop to define the purpose, context, producers, users and evaluation of implementation of the toolkit, taking into account also the previous work undertaken.
3. Under the coordination of Botanic Gardens Conservation International [WINDOWS-1252?] – BGCI, a workshop for initial consultation on the format and content of the toolkit was held at the Linnean Society of London on September 27, 2010. The meeting included twelve participants, among them representatives of Plantlife International, the National Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society, and UNEP-WCMC. This was followed by an online survey to identify the needs of users and the available resources for incorporation in the toolkit. The staff of the National Center for Plant Conservation took part in the survey through the submission of comments and recommendations on the format and content.
4. The results of the survey and a preliminary version of the toolkit were presented to the community in St. Louis, Missouri, at the GPPC and GSPC Liaison Group meetings. All of the comments and observations put forth by participants at the events were organized by BGCI and the CBD Secretariat.
5. The development of a toolkit would be, in part, a response of the Secretariat to low regional adherence by GSPC parties. Under the strategy, individual parties are responsible for consolidating their specific national strategies. However, to date few countries have engaged in a national discussion on the issue. Many have claimed that implementation of the GSPC at the national level is complicated by barriers to its application at this level, most particularly barriers requiring the amendment of existing laws in participating countries.
6. In this light, a decision was made to bolster exchanges between parties, not merely in relation to the respective strategies, initiatives, and approaches adopted, but to the tools implemented as well, so as to facilitate the process. For participants, the effort provides a space for sharing and exchanging successful initiatives and experiences capable of providing basic guidance to parties endeavoring to overcome national barriers to implementation of the GSPC.

7. Despite the specific demand for a checklist to assist parties in incorporating their strategies, targets, plans, and programs based on the GSPC, the content of the toolkit remains largely generic and does not offer clear guidance on step-by-step implementation of the GSPC. In all likelihood, this is due to the nature of GSPC implementation at the national level, which is highly specific and variable, in accordance with the particular socio-environmental context.
8. The parties are encouraged to contribute to the toolkit by offering links to portals or platforms, in addition to case studies, manuals, guides, and other documents to assist in the implementation of the GSPC at the national level.
9. CNCFlora has collaborated directly with this initiative and participated in the discussions held to this point. The close relationship forged between the National Center for Plant Conservation CNCFlora and representatives of BGCJ have served to place the organization in a strategic position through which to develop a collaborative partnership capable of fostering the dissemination of of Brazil's progress in implementation of the GSPC at the national level.