

W-8 Responding to the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) – a new challenge, responsibility and opportunity for the world’s botanic gardens

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Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

Duration: 90 minutes

Target audience: All botanic garden representatives, local or international authorities involved in biodiversity and conservation.

Objectives:

- To raise awareness amongst the Congress participants on the origins, objectives, process and framework of complementary actions included in the updated GSPC;
- To help to mobilise new engagement in the achievement of the GSPC amongst botanic gardens in each country worldwide and their regional and national network organisations;
- To foster the development of new links between botanic gardens and their national CBD authorities to support GSPC implementation;
- To promote the development of individual botanic gardens and networks responses to the updated GSPC.

Abstract: In 2002, the Parties to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). In developing the GSPC they were responding to a call from the botanical community to recognise the urgency of having a global framework and strategy to conserve the tens of thousands of plant species and their habitats that were and are threatened in the wild. Up to 2020, it included a set of 16 international targets.

The GSPC provided a clear, coherent, and flexible framework to mobilise action amongst a wide range of stakeholders, including botanic gardens.

In the context of the development of the GSPC for the upcoming decade, the CBD decided that an updated GSPC should take the form of a set of complementary actions in support of the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the CBD in December 2022. There are 35 plant conservation actions proposed for the updated GSPC, aligned to the GBF targets for reducing threats; meeting people’s needs and providing tools and solutions. The set of actions is based on the plant conservation priorities and actions identified during various international meetings and stakeholder consultations. The actions recognise the importance of plant species, their role as both biological and structural elements in ecosystems and their socio-economic importance.

We look forward to the adoption of the updated GSPC at CBD COP 16 and to the continued leadership provided by botanic gardens in its implementation. This Workshop will aim to continue to inform and embed the GSPC into the operations of the international botanic garden community in order to operationalise its actions by botanic gardens at all levels.