La Estrategia Global para la Conservación de las Plantas (EGCP) 2011-2020 … y lo que significa para ti

Esta hoja informativa está diseñada para ser una guía sencilla a la versión actualizada de la Estrategia Global para la Conservación de las Plantas, particularmente para miembros de Grupos de Especialistas en plantas de la IUCN. Al final de la hoja informativa, hay algunas sugerencias sobre la forma en que la EGCP se puede utilizar para mejorar el apoyo y las acciones para la conservación de plantas silvestres.

❖ Avances recientes de la Estrategia Global para la Conservación de las Plantas

En la Convención sobre la Diversidad Biológica en Nagoya, en octubre de 2010 (CBD COP10) fue aprobada por los gobiernos de mundo una versión modificada y actualizada de la Estrategia Global para la Conservación de las Plantas. Esto es el resultado de ocho años desde la primera Estrategia Global para la Conservación de las Plantas (aprobada en 2002), la cual ha unificado a conservacionistas de plantas de todo el mundo y es vista por la Convención y muchos gobiernos como un gran éxito. Para los conservacionistas de plantas, esta decisión de apoyar una versión actualizada de la Estrategia de las Plantas significa que tenemos:

1. Un marco político global prolongado en apoyo a nuestro trabajo para la conservación de las plantas hasta el 2020.
2. Dieciséis metas globales actualizadas para la conservación de las plantas, sobre las cuales los gobiernos se verán obligados a rendir cuentas.
3. Logrado el reconocimiento de la importancia de las plantas y su conservación durante los primeros ocho años de la Estrategia Mundial para la Conservación de las Plantas, por los políticos y gobiernos de todo el mundo.
   …Todo esto es una MUY buena noticia.

❖ Resumen de la Estrategia actualizada

La estrategia ahora tiene una visión: ***"Sin plantas no hay vida. El funcionamiento del planeta y nuestra supervivencia depende de las plantas. Esta estrategia tiene como objetivo detener la pérdida continua de diversidad de plantas."*** La Estrategia actualizada contiene dieciséis metas bajo 5 objetivos - estos objetivos han sido actualizados de la siguiente manera:

I. La diversidad de las plantas es bien *entendida*, documentada y reconocida;
II. La diversidad de las plantas es urgente y efectivamente *conservada*;
III. La diversidad de las plantas es *usada* de manera equitativa y sustentable;
IV. La *educación* y la *conciencia* sobre la diversidad de las plantas, así como su papel en los modos de vida sustentables y su importancia para toda la vida sobre la tierra es promovida;
V. Las *capacidades y el compromiso público* necesarios para implementar la Estrategia son desarrollados.

Una lista de las metas actualizadas y lo que significan se encuentra en la tabla 1, al final de esta hoja informativa, con explicaciones breves de lo que pretenden alcanzar. El texto completo de la decisión COP 10 (no. X/17) se encuentra en la siguiente página: http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12283.

❖ ¿Cómo puede la nueva EGCP ayudar a la conservación de las plantas en mi país?

Las metas son esencialmente globales, pero cada gobierno, dependiendo de sus capacidades, se ha comprometido a llevar a cabo actividades para cumplirlas. Algunos países ya han optado por desarrollar versiones nacionales de la Estrategia Global para la Conservación de las Plantas, estableciendo lo que tienen que hacer para alcanzar sus objetivos particulares. Es el caso de, por ejemplo, China, Sudáfrica, México, las Islas Seychelles y el Reino Unido. Algunas de estas

estrategias nacionales se pueden encontrar en http://www.plants2010.org/. Estos objetivos nacionales a menudo se han *guiado* por los objetivos globales, pero no necesariamente son idénticos a ellos. En Europa hay una estrategia regional para la conservación de las plantas (www.plantaeuropa.org).

Las estrategias nacionales pueden ser muy útiles para crear conciencia y promover acciones específicas para las plantas. Idealmente su desarrollo debe involucrar a todas las personas y organizaciones que pueden (y deben) estar involucrados en la conservación de las plantas. Esto significa que organizaciones fuera de la comunidad tradicional conservacionista de plantas, por ejemplo, agricultores, silvicultores y productores de insumos relacionados con plantas, y, más importante aún, administraciones gubernamentales, deben estar involucradas. Obtener *compromisos* de todos estos elementos en apoyo a la Estrategia es una parte importante del proceso.

❖ Vinculando la EGCP con otros programas de conservación

La capacidad para implementar acciones de conservación de las plantas es limitada en muchos países alrededor del mundo, y hay muchas convenciones internacionales a las cuales los gobiernos deben responder. Esta situación puede ser aprovechada por las administraciones gubernamentales como una excusa para ignorar la EGCP y no invertir en acciones específicas que se requieren para la conservación de las plantas. Sin embargo, la EGCP también se puede llevar a cabo a través de ***estrategias de biodiversidad nacional y planes de acción***, *y a través de los resultados principales de la reunión de Nagoya –* ***el Plan Estratégico para la Biodiversidad de la CBD***. El Plan Estratégico de la CBD (2011-2020) también tiene objetivos, 20 en total, relacionados con todos los programas de la CBD. Los gobiernos estarán obligados a rendir cuentas sobre estos también. Muchas de las metas de la EGCP son similares a las del Plan Estratégico de la CDB, entonces virtualmente todas las actividades realizadas en el marco de la EGCP coinciden con las metas del Plan Estratégico. Hay una tabla en la página 7 de este documento que muestra las conexiones entre la EGCP y el Plan Estratégico. A los gobiernos se les está pidiendo AHORA que actualicen las estrategias y planes de acción en materia de biodiversidad (NBSAPs) para tomar en cuenta el plan estratégico de la CBD, por lo que ahora es también un buen momento para convencerlos que incorporen los objetivos de la EGCP a NBSAPs durante este proceso. Hay fondos disponibles del GEF para los países que lleven esto a cabo, véase http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/. Las solicitudes deben hacerse a través de puntos focales del GEF.

❖ ¿Cómo empezamos a trabajar en estas metas? ¿Qué ayuda está disponible?

Es muy probable que tú ya estés contribuyendo a algunas de estas metas. Si estás involucrado en evaluaciones para la Lista Roja, significa una contribución a la meta 2. Si estas involucrado identificando Áreas Importantes para la Conservación de las Plantas o en el manejo de áreas protegidas, estás contribuyendo a la meta 5. Si estás trabajando en la recuperación de especies, estás ayudando a las metas 7 y 8.

Si estás interesado en desarrollar tu trabajo para contribuir a la EGCP, el Sub-Comité de Conservación de Plantas de la UICN te puede ayudar poniéndote en contacto con otros que han desarrollado estrategias nacionales de plantas o con aquellas organizaciones que están dirigiendo contribuciones de ONGs hacia metas particulares. La UICN es reconocida como una organización líder con los Reales Jardines Botánicos, Kew para la meta 2 (evaluaciones de especies de plantas para la Lista Roja), y con Plantlife para la meta 5 (conservando áreas importantes para las plantas). La UICN también es parte del Consorcio Global para Conservación de las Plantas, una red de organizaciones trabajando activamente en la EGCP. El consorcio, dirigido por Botanic Gardens Conservation International, está trabajando en el desarrollo de una serie de ***herramientas en línea*** para la EGCP, para ayudar a cualquiera que quiera empezar a trabajar hacia las metas de la EGCP. Para obtener más información, contactar a info@bgci.org.

Acciones posibles para miembros de los grupos de especialistas y/o sus organizaciones:

- ***Escribe a tu punto focal de la CBD y pregúntale qué están haciendo en relación con la EGCP – cada país debe tener un punto focal de la EGCP, véase*** http://www.cbd.int/doc/lists/nfp-cbd-GSPC.pdf .
- ***Crea conciencia sobre la EGCP en tu organización – demuestra cómo tu trabajo está contribuyendo a metas de la EGCP (usa la tabla 1 a continuación como ayuda).***
- ***Asegúrate que la EGCP sea reconocida como una contribución para la estrategia nacional de biodiversidad y el plan de acción de tu país. ¡Toma nota de los fondos disponibles para actualizar este plan!***
- ***Muéstrale a tu gobierno cómo la EGCP contribuye al plan estratégico de la CBD (tabla 2).***

Aprovecha al Sub-Comité para la Conservación de la Plantas de la UICN, sus contactos y colaboradores para que te ayuden a apoyar la EGCP en tu país/región. Contacto inicial: andrew.rodrigues@iucn.org .

Table1: The targets in the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020

No.	Old target text	New target text	Commentary
1	A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora	**An online flora of all known plants**	Using the 2010 world checklist as a basis, include a more complete synonymy and geographic distributions to country level drawing on national floras and checklists and international initiatives.
2	A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels	**An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action**	Assessment of status through country-level processes and/or through international initiatives - conservation action can proceed following **any** relevant assessment. Linkage to action through prioritisation is emphasised. The IUCN Red List Criteria provide a robust framework for full assessments of all known plant species to a consistent international standard. The Sampled Red List Index for plants provides a global overview and a baseline against which global trends can be tracked.
3	Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience	**Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared**	Key areas methodologies required include: the integration of in situ and ex situ conservation; maintenance of threatened plants within ecosystems; applying the ecosystem approach; balancing sustainable use with conservation; and methodologies for setting conservation priorities; and methodologies for monitoring conservation and sustainable use activities.
4	At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved	**At least 15 per cent of each ecological region or vegetation type secured through effective management and/or restoration**	Ecological regions= large areas of land or water that contain a geographically distinct assemblage of natural communities. Effective management means that the area is managed to ensure the persistence of the vegetation, and biotic and abiotic components. The target aims to: (i) increase the representation of different ecological regions in ecological networks, (ii) increase the integrity and effective management of ecological networks. Useful mechanisms could be REDD (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation), ecological networks/corridors, Indigenous/Community Conserved Areas
5	Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured	**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**	The most important areas for plant diversity can be identified according to a set of criteria including endemism, species richness, and/or uniqueness of habitats, taking into account the provision of ecosystem services. Protection can be assured through effective conservation measures, including, but not limited to, protected areas, measures must be taken to maintain and enhance the plant diversity. Target links to ecological networks (target 4) and invasive alien species (target 10). Long term aim to include including enlarging/ connecting areas to combat threats.
6	At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity	**At least 75 per cent of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant**	Production lands refer to lands where the primary purpose is agriculture (including horticulture), grazing, or wood production. Important objectives : Conservation of the plant diversity which is an integral part of the production system itself (i.e., crop, pasture or tree species and genetic diversity); Protection of other plant species in the production landscape that are unique, threatened, or of particular

		diversity	socio-economic value; Use of management practices that avoid significant adverse impacts on plant diversity in surrounding ecosystems. Higher targets may be appropriate for natural or semi-natural forests and grasslands.
7	60 per cent of the world's threatened species conserved *in situ*	**At least 75 per cent of known threatened species conserved *in situ***	Biologically viable populations of these species should occur in at least one protected area or the species is effectively managed outside the protected area network. Effective conservation needs to consider (i) the genetic diversity of the species and (ii) climate change, for example by determining whether the protected area network includes corridors, altitudinal gradients, or the presence of multiple habitats to facilitate species movement. The target should allow for habitat and ecological restoration to enable its achievement. Many vulnerable endemic species should be treated as a priority .
8	60 per cent of threatened plant species in accessible *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes	**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**	Shows how *ex situ* conservation can support *in situ* recovery and restoration. *The ex situ collections should be accessible and should preferably be in the country of origin.* Suggests that priority be given to developing genetically representative collections of the most critically threatened species. Assessments of a representative sample of plant species could provide a basis for initial estimation of baseline and progress. Toolkits under this target need to include protocols for genetic management of ex situ collections, and reintroductions.
9	70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained	**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**	The focus of this target is crops, their wild relatives and other socio-economically important species, including those of local importance. By working with local communities, associated indigenous and local knowledge can be maintained. Combining genebank, on farm, and other in situ approaches, the target could be reached for all crops in production, as well as major forage and tree species. Other major socio-economically important species, such as medicinal plants, could be selected on a case-by-case basis, according to national priorities.
10	Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems	**Effective management plans in place to prevent new biological invasions and to manage important areas for plant diversity that are invaded**	A combination of prevention and management within critical areas and a first step towards developing management plans for all types of major biological invasions that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems. NB that the alien species could be plants, animals or micro-organisms and the management plans should be designed (using the ecosystem approach) to redress damage done to plants and/or their communities and to restore ecosystem functions, goods and services.
11	No species of wild flora endangered by international trade	**No species of wild flora endangered by international trade**	The target focuses on those species that are actually threatened by international trade. Includes but not limited to species listed on appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is

			consistent with the main purpose of the CITES Strategic Plan: "No species of wild flora subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade".
12	30 per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed	**All wild harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably**	Plant-based products include food products, timber, paper and other wood-based products, other fibre products, and ornamental, medicinal and other plants for direct use, including non-timber forest products, local land races, wild relatives of crops, and neglected and underutilised plant resources. Sustainably managed sources include sustainably managed natural or semi-natural ecosystems and sustainably managed plantation forests and agricultural lands. Sustainable management integrates social and environmental considerations.
13	The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted	**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**	Relevant plant resources and methods to address their decline are largely site specific and so implementation must be locally driven. The scope of the target encompasses plant resources and associated ethnobotanical knowledge. Specific indicators being formulated by ILO (on traditional occupations, some of which related to plants and plant-derived materials) and UNESCO (culture and language loss) could be assessed for possible inclusion.
14	The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes	**The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes**	Refers to both informal and formal education at all levels, including primary, secondary and tertiary education. Key target audiences include policy-makers and the public in general. Materials [indicators] should be developed for specific target audiences. Should also be included in broader areas of mainstream education policy.
15	The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy	**The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy**	Capacity-building to address the need for conservation practitioners trained in a range of disciplines, with access to adequate facilities. Should be based on national needs assessments. Increased capacity should be understood to include not only in-service training, but also the training of stakeholders and decision makers, particularly at the community level.
16	Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels	**Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy**	. This target is understood to include the broadening of participation in existing networks, as well as the establishment, where necessary, of new networks.

Table 2: Links between the GSPC (2011- 2020) and the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011- 2020)

Summarised GSPC target (for full target text see previous table)	**Summarised CBD Strategic Plan headline target -By 2020….. (for the percentage a applied to each target see the VOP decision (no. x/2 at http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268)**
T1:….online flora	No similar target
T2:….assessment of the conservation status	No similar target
T3:…. Information, research ….methods	T19: knowledge, (science base and technologies) relating to biodiversity, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied
T4:….. conservation of ecological regions	T5: the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved…degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced T15: ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, including restoration of degraded ecosystems, to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification
T5: ….important areas for plant diversity protected with effective management	T11: terrestrial and inland water areas, and coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effective and well connected systems of protected areas and area-based conservation measures
T6: … production lands managed sustainably	T7: areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity
T7: ….. known threatened plant species conserved *in situ*	T12: the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, has been improved and sustained
T8: …. *ex situ*, recovery and restoration	No similar target, but linked to T12
T9: …. genetic diversity of crops, wild relatives and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved….	T13: the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, for safeguarding their genetic diversity
T10: …. biological invasions	T9: invasive alien species are identified, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to prevent their introduction and establishment
T11: …. international trade	No similar target, but some linkages to T4 and T6
T12: …plant-based products	T4:, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption T6: all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans /measures are in place
T13: ….Indigenous and local knowledge	T18: the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention
T14: … communication, education and public awareness programmes	T1:, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably
T15: .. trained people with appropriate facilities sufficient	T20: the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity
T16:… partnerships for plant conservation	T17: each Party has developed, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan