

Global Strategy for plant conservation

Plants play critical role in supporting ecosystem resilience, provision of ecosystem services; adapting to and mitigating environmental challenges such as climate change, and for supporting human well-being. Recognizing that, in 2010, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided to adopt the consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation with its outcome-oriented global targets for the period 2011–2020. The implementation of the Strategy will be pursued as part of the broader framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. The global targets for 2011–2020 should be viewed as a flexible framework within which national and/or regional targets are expected to emerge, reflecting the national priorities and capacities, and taking into account differences in plant diversity between countries. Further efforts are expected to incorporate these targets into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to align the further implementation of the Strategy with national and/or regional efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

Bulgaria as a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity has ratified the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (2011–2020) and is thriving to achieve its goals.

Updated global strategy for plant conservation 2011–2020*

A. Vision

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

Our vision is of a positive, sustainable future where human activities support the diversity of plant life (including the endurance of plant genetic diversity, survival of plant species and communities and their associated habitats and ecological associations), and where in turn the diversity of plants support and improve our livelihoods and well-being.

B. Mission statement

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is a catalyst 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 and building the necessary capacities for its implementation.

C. Objectives

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation addresses the challenges posed by threats to plant diversity. The overall purpose of the Strategy is to achieve the three objectives of the Convention, particularly for Plant diversity, taking into consideration Article 8(j) of the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The Strategy considers plants in the terrestrial, inland water and marine environments. Further, the Strategy applies to the three primary levels of biological diversity as recognized by the Convention, hence plant genetic diversity, plant species and communities and their associated habitats and ecosystems.

While the Strategy addresses the plant kingdom with main focus on higher plants, and other well-described groups such as bryophytes and pteridophytes; Parties, other Governments and other relevant stakeholders may consider developing conservation strategies for other groups such as algae and fungi (including lichen-forming species).

The implementation of the Strategy should be considered within the broader framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. Similarly, the mechanisms required to enable Parties, partners and other stakeholders to effectively implement the Convention and to monitor progress in implementation under this new Strategic Plan will be also relevant for this Strategy.

* <https://www.cbd.int/gspc/strategy.shtml>

Objectives of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

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.

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