

## **Draft Dublin Statement from the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation**

The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation is a voluntary initiative that brings together international, regional and national organizations in order to contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

At its first conference held in Dublin, Ireland, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation worldwide, by 2010.

The conference brought together delegates from 37 countries and from a wide range of national and international organizations to consider urgent priorities for implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation the future roles of partnerships in plant conservation. It took place from 23 to 25 October, 2005, hosted by the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland and supported by the Office for Public Works, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and HSBC's Investing in Nature programme.

### Background

#### *The Conference*

Noted that as many as two-thirds of the world's plant species are in danger of extinction in nature during the course of the 21st century;

Acknowledged the dependence of human beings on plants for almost every aspect of life, and the need to use them to build more sustainable, healthier, and better lives in the future;

Welcoming the establishment of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation as an essential step in supporting the world-wide implementation of the global strategy for plant conservation;

Stressed the importance of plants for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly as fundamental resources for local communities, to help achieve sustainable livelihoods, contribute to health, and reduce poverty and hunger;

Particularly noted the adoption by the World Summit on Sustainable Development of a Plan of Implementation in 2002, including the target "to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010", and its acknowledgement of the fundamental link between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development;

### Progress to date

Recognized that many governments, organizations and institutions are already working on the implementation of a range of initiatives that support the achievement of the Strategy and its 2010 targets;

Welcomed the development of National Plant Conservation Strategies in countries including Colombia, Ireland, the Seychelles, the U.K. [others];

Welcomed the establishment of a flexible coordination mechanism for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation to help monitor the achievement of the Strategy and the inclusion of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation as a part of that mechanism;

#### New actions and urgent priorities

Called on all the world's governments [Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity] and inter-governmental bodies to recognize the achievement of the global strategy for plant conservation and its 2010 targets as an urgent priority;

Stressed the need for strengthened plant conservation partnerships worldwide and invited organizations working at all levels to join the partnership and work for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

Called for the establishment of regional, national and local partnerships for plant conservation, to help implement and coordinate plant conservation strategies at all levels;

Noted with serious concern that to date few governments are implementing national plant conservation strategies or action plan, despite the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation having been adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2002;

Recognized that the incremental cost for implementing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation will be in excess of one hundred million dollars worldwide to achieve the objectives of the strategy and called on governments and donor agencies to mobilize and make available new resources for urgent plant conservation action and to build capacity for plant conservation, especially in developing countries;

Called on botanical institutions worldwide to

- participate in new initiatives to complete a preliminary Red List on the world's threatened flora as an essential step in achieving its conservation;
- contribute to the monitoring of the status of plants throughout the world, detect those in most danger, and conserve them in nature, as well as in botanic gardens and gene banks;

Urged the development of new/strengthened linkages between the botanical community and those organizations and institutions involved primarily in the conservation of the world's economic plants, to support the conservation of plant genetic resources;

Drew particular attention to the need for need measures to control alien introduced plants and animals to help ensure the survival of biodiversity throughout the world;

Proposed that greater recognition of the importance of developing public awareness and educational programmes about plant diversity to raise new public and governmental concern for plants and their conservation;

Emphasized the fundamental importance of botanical science and research for the achievement of the strategy, particularly to ensure that the results of taxonomic and conservation biology research are available to support the development of effective methodologies, practical techniques, models and protocols for plant conservation;

Congratulated and thanked the organizers of the conference for hosting such an important, stimulating and timely meeting and for their generous hospitality in Dublin.

The members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation are:

BioNET International  
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)  
Earthwatch  
Fauna and Flora International (FFI)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)  
Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)  
International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)  
IUCN - The World Conservation Union - Species Survival Commission  
King's Park and Botanic Gardens, Australia  
Missouri Botanical Garden, St Louis, U.S.A.  
People and Plants International (PPI)  
Planta Europa  
Plantlife International and  
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, U.K.  
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, U.K.  
Smithsonian Institution Natural History Museum, Washington D.C., U.S.A.  
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa  
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)  
World Agroforestry Centre, ICRAF  
WWF International (WWF)

*Dublin, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2005*

## The Global Partnership for Plant conservation

Meeting in Dublin 23-25 October 2005

WELCOMES the many voluntary and official efforts to achieve the targets of the GSPC whose importance was reinforced;

REGRETS the limited progress in developing national plant conservation strategies (with only 10 completed and more in preparation

RECALLING that although the targets are global , they will be achieved principally by action at the national level;

RECALLING that the Objectives and Rationale for the GSPC declare that the GSPC will “employ in situ conservation as the primary approach for plant conservation, complementing them where necessary with ex situ conservation”.

### NOTING

- The rising evidence of climate change and its growing impact on plant populations;
- The conclusion of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the significance of its findings on the loss and benefits of ecosystems to plant conservation;
- Continued deforestation, accelerating in some regions, and changes in landuse that severely impact plant populations;

But, on the other hand,

- Continued growth in the protected areas estate (though expressing concern that the coverage and management of these areas may not be adequate for the needs of the plants they contain)
- Progress in some regions to reverse perverse incentives to conservation;
- Growing acceptance of the need to address poverty around the world,

## RECOMMEND

1. A mid-term evaluation of progress and difficulties in achieving each target;
2. The allocation of priority actions at international, regional, national and local level;
3. The achievement of Target 2 based on the proposal submitted by IUCN and immediate work to develop the methodology for preliminary assessments;
4. More consideration be given as to how to create further alliances and to broker agreements with new partners;
5. A review of resourcing for implementation of GSPC based on changes made to the GEF;
6. Clarification of the functions of facilitators (lead agencies) for each target and of national focal points in relation to the institutional leadership country by country;
7. An effective system to monitor progress and in so doing encourage implementation especially at national level;