

Conference of the Parties Country Update 2026

Section: Other Information: implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Fifteenth Meeting:

Decision 5: Global Plant Conservation Strategy

Date: 03 February 2026

Update on South Africa's Response to the Global Plant Conservation Strategy

South Africa has a robust commitment to plant conservation, beginning with its response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in 2006, when a comprehensive Response document was drafted. A decade later, this foundational work culminated in the development of the National Strategy for Plant Conservation, which aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). This strategy focused on 16 target-driven outcomes aimed at effectively managing the country's rich biodiversity. The endorsement of the 2016 National Strategy by the Minister marked a significant milestone in South Africa's ongoing conservation efforts.

As we look ahead to 2026, South Africa is actively engaged in developing the next iteration of its plant conservation strategy. To support this initiative, we have established Working Groups dedicated to specific targets. An example is the activities around Target 4 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which aims to halt human-induced species extinction, ensure the recovery and conservation of threatened species. The Plant Species Recovery Working Group has been instrumental in identifying and prioritizing recovery projects while engaging a diverse range of stakeholders. One notable initiative, the Wild Restoration Project, focuses on enhancing habitat restoration efforts across various ecosystems. These collaborative actions reflect South Africa's commitment to achieving both national and global conservation goals, fostering partnerships among communities, researchers, and policymakers.

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