

5th Global Botanic Gardens Congress

Conclusions



5th Global Botanic Gardens Congress

An opportunity to share and learn:

- 17 Plenary talks
- 12 organised symposia
- >80 contributed talks
- 34 posters

Many conversations.....



5th Global Botanic Gardens Congress

- An opportunity to experience and learn about New Zealand and its biodiversity and conservation programmes



5th Global Botanic Gardens Congress

An opportunity to discuss key issues concerning botanic gardens:

- 6 'talking points'
- An open forum



What is a botanic garden?

- Is the definition important?
- Accessioned, documented and curated collections
- ‘Plants with a purpose’
- Incorporate sustainability
- Engage the public and work in partnerships
- Relevant to local communities
- Focus on wild species



Global coordination and outreach

- Botanic gardens are addressing global issues (food security, climate change etc.)
- Global issues require a global response
- BGCI as a unifying force providing a common voice for botanic gardens – need to strengthen capacity
- GSPC is a major example of global response – need to highlight success in implementation and engage at policy level



Global coordination and outreach

- Important to share information and best practice
- But need to bridge the gap between English and non-English speaking gardens
- Step up efforts to support botanic gardens in biodiversity-rich countries



Access to plant collection data

- Strong call for open access to data
- Reservations by some will be respected
- Importance of information at genetic level
- Sharing data supports many activities – especially in situ / ex situ linkages



Participation for all

- Botanic gardens – cradle to grave
- Open to all – but without losing focus
- Need to look beyond garden walls
- Relevance to local community and responding to changing needs
- Embrace diversity



Conservation action

- Growing recognition of value of ex situ
- Botanic gardens increasingly involved in in situ
- Prioritisation remains challenging given the scale of the problem
- Greater efforts needed in seed banking
- Identify and share information on exceptional species



Conservation action

- Horticultural expertise is essential for conservation efforts
- Need for more horticultural training
- Need to strengthen the role of arboreta and gardens in safeguarding trees threatened with extinction
- Ex situ methods for bryophytes are improving



Science communication

- Essential role for botanic gardens
- Need to use range of tools and resources
- Science education at all levels – working in partnerships
- Blended learning – using BG resources



New initiatives

- International Plant Sentinel Network
 - enthusiastic response
- Global seed conservation challenge
 - New partnership BGCI / MSBP
- Ecological Restoration Alliance
 - Strengthened
 - new website: www.erabg.org





SAVE THE
DATE

BIODIVERSITY

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Wild Ideas Worth Sharing

St. Louis, MO • April 26–May 1, 2015

BGC's 9th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens

