



BGCI's 8th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens

Jardín Botánico del Instituto de Biología de la UNAM, Ciudad de México,

12-16 November 2012

Themes

1 Knowledge and understanding – plants in the spotlight

Ask anyone to name 20 animals and they'll have no problem. Ask them to name 20 plants they'll probably struggle. But why is it important that we can name plants? Conservation scientists certainly need to know otherwise they won't know what plants to save but the challenge is convincing the general public that they also need to know. Target 1 of the GSPC is to produce an online flora of all known plants while Target 2 is about assessing their conservation status. What approach does your garden take to teaching people about the names of plants and whether they're endangered? How are you encouraging conservation action?

2 Sustaining our natural capital

For most societies, there has always been tension between humans and the environment. However, during the later part of the 20th Century, and now in the first decades of the 21st Century, this tension has become acute. As the world's economies continue to focus on consumer growth and populations increase in size, the challenge of sustaining our natural capital is becoming ever more critical to address. The GSPC includes ambitious targets to conserve our natural capital –including ecological regions and agricultural lands as well as individual plant species. It also states that we need to do this within the context of respecting indigenous and local knowledge. We want to hear how your garden is raising awareness about these issues and how you are educating the public about the need for us to sustain our natural capital.

Organizado por





3 Plants, economy and culture – have we got the balance right?

The world economy is run on plants! They provide an astonishing array of products – food, timber, paper, medicine, clothes, biofuel, etc. But how many of us know the full story of the products we use and consume? Do they come from natural or managed ecosystems? Are the farming methods sustainable? Do the farmers receive a fair wage? Are local communities and indigenous people involved in decisions that affect their livelihoods, food security and health? Share your success stories with the congress about how your garden addresses the ethics of sustainability and influences the public to follow your lead.

4 Connecting people to plants – learning to live more sustainably

Over the past 20 years, botanic gardens have demonstrated that they have the ability to communicate effectively, educate and raise public awareness about the importance of plant diversity. Nevertheless, they still have much to do to reach all levels of society, including policy makers and the general public. Potential solutions could involve scaling up models of good practice and harnessing media communications more powerfully. BGCI's education congress in Mexico 2012 is the ideal opportunity to talk about your successes in connecting people to plants.

5 Training and collaborating for change

To achieve all targets of the GSPC, it is essential to build the capacity of staff in a range of disciplines, including education, public awareness and communication. Increasingly, gardens realise the importance of using trained

Organizado por





staff in these fields. However the number of botanic garden staff currently working in this area is worryingly low. We know that networking can help to address this by offering training and developing common approaches to education. It can also help to frame policies and priorities and encourage their implementation. What strategies does your garden have in place to increase numbers of trained staff? Is networking helping with this? Tell us your achievements in training and networking for change.

Organizado por

