

BGCI's 6th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens

Evaluation Report

Evaluation was carried out at the congress on the final morning (Thursday 14th September). After the keynote speech, delegates were asked three questions which they had to answer by writing on a post-it note and sticking them up on boards in the poster hall. The post-its were collected at the end of the congress.

The participants were asked to briefly outline

- what they liked about the congress
- what they would change for next time
- what they would take away with them, what they would do as a result of the congress when they got home

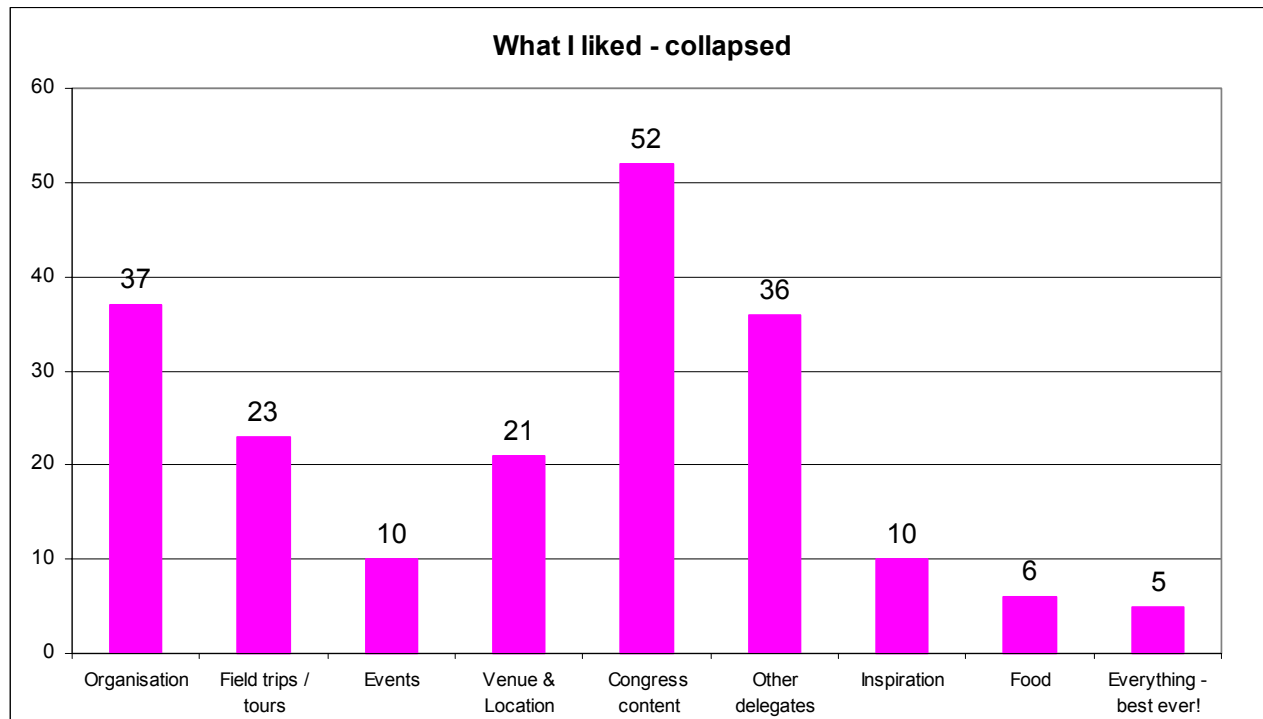
What I liked about the congress

Total number of post-its received = 88

Detailed Breakdown			
Staff / organisers / hosts	17	Location – Oxford	20
Organisation	20	Congress content – Keynote speeches	10
Field trip: Kew	5	Congress content – Papers	5
Field trip: OUBG	9	Congress content – Workshops	20
Field trip: Harcourt Arboretum	3	Congress content – Posters	5
Field trips: general	4	Congress content – Network meetings	1
Tours: Kew	2	Congress content – General	16
Events: Reception and Congress dinner	2	Other delegates – international	11
Events: Natural History / Pitt Rivers museum	2	Other delegates – networking	25
Events: Said Business School / Jazz evening	3	Inspiration	10
Events: general	3	Food	6
Venue: Christchurch College	1	Everything - The best congress ever!	5
Total number of responses			205

Collapsed groupings			
Staff / organisers / hosts and organisation of congress	37	Congress content	52
Field trips and tours– Kew, Oxford	23	Other delegates	36
Events	10	Inspiration	10
Venue & Location	21	Food	6
Everything - The best congress ever!			5

For full responses see Appendix I



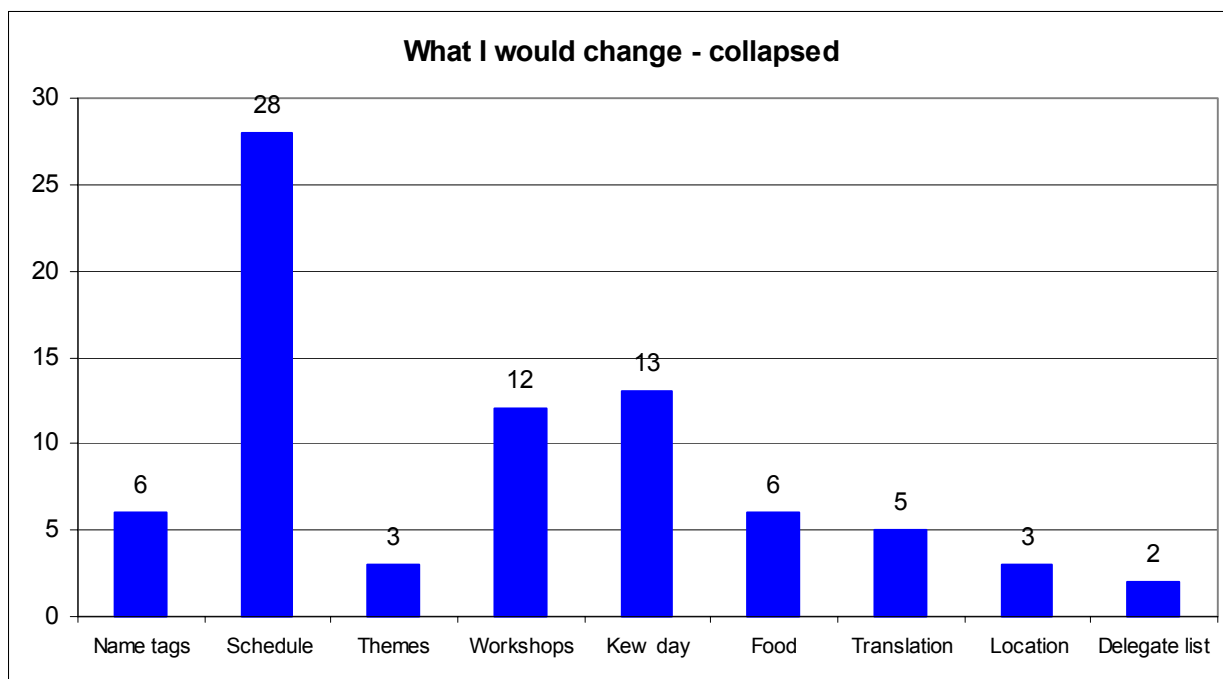
What I would change for next time

Total number of post-its receive = 59

Detailed Breakdown			
Name tags: larger	3	Themes: more theoretical and methodical	1
Name tags: with countries	3	Workshops: less of them	1
Schedule: need to have fewer sessions / choices	1	Workshops: more practical	4
Schedule: more time for networking	3	Workshops: stricter guidelines for workshops	1
Schedule: more time for posters	4	Kew day: better logistics	3

Schedule: more time for sightseeing	2	Kew day: more stuff to do	1
Schedule: shorter congress	1	Kew day: should not have workshops	4
Schedule: longer congress	1	Kew day: more time required	1
Schedule: more scientific content	1	Kew day: better guides needed	4
Schedule: more practical	2	Food: smoother logistics	3
Schedule: specific sessions developed / developing countries separately	1	Food: available on free evening	1
Schedule: more interactive round table discussions	2	Food: more meat	1
Schedule: more regional meetings	1	Food: less meat	1
Schedule: more spiritual topics	1	Translation: all sessions translated into Spanish	4
Schedule: tougher selection criteria for content	2	Translation: sessions translated into French	1
Schedule: more theory based sessions	1	Venue: should be closer to accommodation	1
Schedule: more free time (reflection etc)	5	Location: should be in a developing country	2
Themes: more focus on developing world environmental problems	1	Delegates: broader range of backgrounds	1
		Delegate list: by country as well as by name	1
Total number of responses			78

Collapsed Breakdown					
Name tags	6	Workshops	12	Translation	5
Schedule	28	Kew day	13	Location	3
Themes	3	Food	6	Delegate list	2



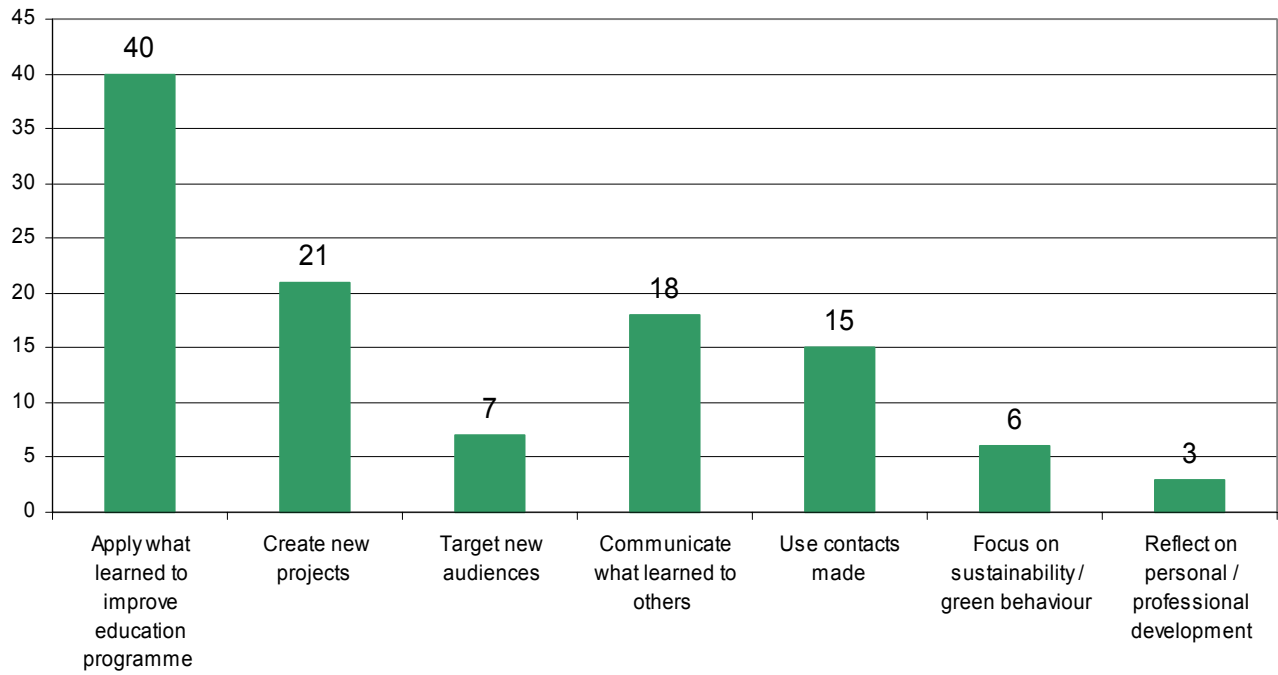
What you will do when you get home as a result of the congress?

Total number of post-its received = 70

Detailed breakdown	
Apply what have learned to improve education programmes: general	21
Improve education programmes using techniques learned: art	4
Improve education programmes using techniques learned: play and games	1
Improve education programmes using techniques learned: drama	1
Create specific new projects	16
Create specific new projects: with schools	3
Create specific new projects: with volunteers	2
Renovate existing: education programmes	9
Renovate existing: interpretation	2
Target new audiences: Teachers	1
Target new audiences: Volunteers	1
Target new audiences: Teenagers	1
Target new audiences: Older people	1
Target new audiences: Special needs groups	1
Target new audiences: Community	2
Evaluate programmes	1
Communicating what learned: to staff within garden	7
Communicating what learned: to other botanic gardens in networks	8
Communicating what learned: to wider BG audience	3
Use contacts developed	13
Use contact developed: with BGCI	2
Read / use resources collected	1
Focus on environmentally friendly behaviour	6
Personal or professional development	3
Total number of responses	110

Collapsed breakdown	
Apply what learned to improve education programme	40
Create new projects	21
Target new audiences	7
Communicate what learned to others	18
Use contacts made	15
Focus on sustainability / green behaviour	6
Reflect on personal / professional development	3

What I will do, as a result of the congress - collapsed



Appendix I – What did you like most about the congress?

1. Models and approaches to public involvement in plant conservation through games/stories
2. I liked everything and appreciated your hospitality, thanks a lot
3. Meeting and socialising with international people in the most fantastic settings
4. Informative and educative tours/workshop sessions
5. The Fairchild Challenge & the willingness of all to share their knowledge
6. Excellent location and hosts
7. The visit to Kew
8. Brilliant Thanks! Ran like clockwork, good mix of stuff to do. Lovely welcoming staff & amazing delegates to network with. Last keynote speaker – great presentation
9. Exchange of incredible ideas from around the world
10. Met a lot of interesting people with great ideas
11. Good representations from around the globe; how important education is in gardens; how to design own educational model
12. Visitations to sites of interest e.g. Museum, Harcourt Arboretum etc & the paper sessions
13. International context connections; superbly organised & great venue; hands on aspects especially willow weaving; some great ideas
14. Storytelling and acting in teaching
15. Fantastic organisation & facilities; gathering of multi-nations with the same focus/goals/problems – wonderful to experience, very empowering
16. Range of international delegates
17. One of the best workshops was the experimentation one in Kew
18. Sharing wide range of experiences with many colleagues
19. I liked the kindness of the people of the organization
20. Tours & Site activities; Schedule for papers & workshops; Social events & meals; Networking with colleagues; Hospitality
21. Sharing all, sharing everything that leads us towards our common goals
22. Workshop sessions and the exchange of very usable ideas
23. I liked practice workshops
24. I liked the diversity of topics with high level of organisation
25. Enjoyed meeting people, sharing experiences and some excellent papers
26. Networking
27. Workshop sessions
28. Hands on, outside workshops and most papers; Food great especially for veggies!
29. Great Ideas and informal networking
30. It has refreshed and enthused my love of communication and sharing
31. Chance to meet great people
32. Fantastic opportunity to network and Workshop by Antoinette Eysell + Avhatakali Mamatshaya was superb
33. Perfect organisation
34. Meeting so many lovely people with fantastic works to share; Linking hearts and minds around the world
35. Workshops were extremely well done
36. Meeting up with lots of others at different stages on the journey
37. The Location and the final keynote – Prof. Kavtaradze
38. The place, people from all over the world sharing same hopes & dreams, problems & constraints; The perfect organization, social activities especially the performance on the 1st

day; The weather; talking with educators from different backgrounds, experience & culture; the new displays at Kew as well as the interpretative trails of labels; The systematic drama at Oxford BG

39. Oxford Garden Afternoon was great; Great organisation; Dimtry's Keynote
40. Meeting artists who actively work in Botanic gardens enabling the cultural richness to be expanded in botanic gardens
41. Excellent location and hosts
42. Feeling a kindred spirit with fellow participants
43. Best conference I've ever been to – and I've been to a lot!
44. Excellent venue; Superb organization; good food; Friendly people – lots of helpers; Very exciting/stimulating to meet so many people all involved with the same ideas and ideals
45. I liked the people, the organisers and the themes and also the beautiful city of Oxford; This conference has inspired me for future works and activities
46. The most attracting thing was the Oxford setting and the neat organisational ability
47. The trip and activities planned for the arboretum and the Oxford Botanic Garden. I really enjoyed all activities – Thanks for sharing ideas with us!
48. Workshops and so many international contacts/friends
49. I really appreciated the ideas from BGCI to engage everyone from all around the world to get together here for our future works and always give a chance to people. Thank you very much
50. All the lovely BGCI and OBG staff. They are brilliant!
51. The diversity of very interesting subjects; The kindness and efficiency of organisers and volunteers; The city of Oxford
52. The network meeting was a very good idea
53. The Oxford team and BGCI staff were very nice, they worked too much & tried to solve all our problems. They need to go holidays! They were very patient!
54. The willingness to share ideas & experiences; The workshops and tours
55. Great venue, fantastic turn out – getting everyone together sharing ideas. Really enjoyed it – Thank You! And the Kew Day
56. Presentations of the keynote speakers; Congress coffee breaks; Resources and the presentations of the delegates; The spirit of networking
57. Everything was great, the kindness of the organizers, the place and the people we had a chance to meet
58. The magnificently organised workshops on different subjects
59. Wonderful event
60. The visits to Kew and Oxford botanic gardens; The interaction with different people from other gardens
61. I loved Oxford, BGCI/OBG Hosts, Christchurch, Museums, Meals, Dancing, Meeting delegates – It was worth every penny!
62. Jazz band at the Said Business School; The food and the Fantastic organization
63. Great organization of the whole congress and the Jazz evening
64. Excellent organization of the congress
65. Knowledge; People; Place; Organization
66. Wide area deeply worked in education
67. Visit to Kew; Last plenary lecture
68. The arboretum; The Oxford botanic garden; The keynotes; The congress dinner
69. The congress was very well organized and the works really interesting but what I most appreciated besides learning from the other delegates experiences was the theatre at Oxford Botanic Garden

70. Learning and sharing with/from other BG educators; Seeing BG Ed programmes at Kew and Oxford; Meeting BGCI people and learning what BGCI does worldwide
71. "I have been attending professional meetings of public garden educators for nearly 30 yrs, and this one stands out head and shoulders above the rest. Quality and range of presentations, so much solid, thought provoking information and interchange of ideas. Schedule, food, venue all added to the quality. ABSOLUTLEY STELLAR job. You should all be very proud of putting this all together, down to every detail with abstracts etc etc. THANK YOU – Sandy Tanck. (Unbelievable – even a slide show!)"
72. Very beautiful historic city; Very good organization; very interesting and informative; The visits to different institutions; Prof. Kavtaradze's keynote
73. All the keynote speeches
74. Content – Outstanding; Keynotes – Very good; Setting – Over the top!; BGCI & Oxford staff – Truly Wonderful
75. The same objective in every country of the world. Humans are together in something: Education and the Environment
76. Visit to Kew Gardens; Speaker Prof. Kavtaradze; Well organised conference
77. Networking and organisation brilliant
78. The good mixture of paper sessions and workshops – I have learned so much
79. Workshops were really hands-on; good organization of the congress
80. Perfect venue and timing
81. Enjoyed most Dr Art's Planet Earth show – Fun, got my attention; Liked the AWE size idea of priorities with systems.
82. The place; All the people that organised the event, very lovely; The social activities; The presentation of systematic drama
83. Botanical gardens activities
84. The workshops – practice and work
85. making friends with other botanic gardens
86. La gran calidad de las ponencias y la estricta organización !felicidades!
87. Que venga tanta gente de Suda'Merica y lo trabajadores !encantadores! Que son, sus trabajos y sus ideas
88. La posibilidad de descubrir distintas realidades, distintas sensibilidades y el mismo esfuerzo para promover la educación sobre todo las personas

Appendix II – What should we change for the next time?

1. Name tags too small
2. No presentation of the countries natural flora
3. Maybe a few more keynote speakers; Allow free movement between breakout sessions
4. For things like the presentations of activities at Kew have someone evaluate them for educational value first (not educators delivering and not very good practice this time)
5. Only vegetarian meals at public programme events
6. More hands-on workshops more spread out so we can participate in a wider number of them vs/ presentations
7. Increase more simulation workshops
8. I would like to have more practical classworks next time
9. Make the day visit just a visit
10. Bigger nametags with name if country too!
11. Nothing
12. Possibly to stay longer at places like Kew and Oxford BG
13. Talking more about constraints and difficulties encountered in educational projects in botanical gardens; Share not only the enthusiasm but also the bad parts of the efforts in education in BG's; Case studies are not only to illustrate great examples but to discuss how to overcome problems as well
14. More workshops and time for reflection
15. I really would like to have another education in a developing country (e.g. Latin America) as our facilities, plant displays, Ed Programmes and all our reality is very different from European countries
16. Give very clear guidelines for what a workshop is...Not a long talk!
17. Enough time to explore the city in the evening
18. Too many choices of programmes
19. Food must have meat; Venue of congress in different country
20. More practical workshops
21. The time schedule was very tight. A little bit more time to take breath would be fine
22. Possible ways to allow exchanges in-between workshops
23. Better Workshops; To select better the paper session's participants, some of them present very poor information; More time for regional sessions; There are many differences among countries developed and not developed – Try to separate them in order to know about our necessities
24. To have much time for poster session, it was too short to look carefully and also discuss
25. I feel very strongly that there should have been food available on the free evening. For those of us who come on our own to force oneself into a group for dinner when you have been at the conference less than 24 hours was very difficult. Also the £ is a very strong currency & for most eating out in the UK is expensive. To have a buffet followed by a free evening for people to go out for a drink etc would have been fine. You could even make the buffet optional & you sign in for it but please have something available.
26. All the bad things happening in the 3rd world should also be made aware of (like deforestation, maybe in Roots?)
27. Continue to give us this great variety of people, places, ideals – Hope for the future of our green planet
28. Logistics of food service (other than Great Hall)
29. A more theoretical and methodical level at the presentations; The poster session: give a better space and more time to see the poster and to have more time fro knowing about the experiences of these colleagues; More professional & academic criterions to select papers because some of

- them seem to be talking about EE we have been caring on from long ago. I think papers must have more critic and proposals for improve our EE practice
30. Make workshops promise to be participative and a little more active
 31. Keep all workshops & paper sessions at conference venue. Visits to other gardens (e.g. Kew) should be just that
 32. More skill sharing in workshop sessions
 33. Name Tag print should be bigger with country obvious to see; Have laser pointers for presenters to use
 34. Longer meeting!; Participants listed by country as well as alphabetical; More time for posters, poster boards numbered (& on programme also) making it easier to find a particular poster; Countries included on name badges
 35. I would like this congress was celebrated in a non-developed country, because it's there where help in sustainability has sense and for support and see the real difficulties
 36. Organisation & movement of groups around the sites, Particularlyly Kew
 37. Session venue closer to housing; Availability of Wi-Fi; Reduce fees for retired/limited income; All minor conference was excellent!
 38. Include more (a separate session) for theory based presentations/research e.g. a talk on Plant Blindness by an American Professor for interested parties
 39. The Queues
 40. Give delegates time to explore cities and meet friends
 41. One day too long; Perhaps more workshops
 42. To give more attention to spiritual ideas in conservation to go to society worldwide
 43. French translation
 44. More time between paper sessions/workshops for "networking"
 45. More facilitated discussions (i.e. Round tables)
 46. Don't organise four hours of bus trips with very little to do when we get there. Guides were boring
 47. More discussion on adult learning & in more interactive learning styles to facilitate creativity and exchange of ideas (and birth of new ones)
 48. More time to talk with people of all places
 49. Biodiversity is too biodiversity languages, people culture. Here 65% Anglo-Saxons conferences and the rest of the world –
 50. Needed a bit of down time to process info and enjoy local sights
 51. Keep format of moving sessions and visits in the afternoon; More time needed for travelling from Kew visit to Said event in Oxford
 52. More papers about enanceiation (sp?) (how to say it practically); Education for adults is important, not only children
 53. Program OK except Kew day. Too much things to do and my tour guide not really good
 54. Too many workshops; One full day at Kew should be of alone interest than on more workshop; Too many theoretical and verbal approaches, practical is also necessary
 55. Very little time for poster session – mixed with time to eat. I felt so bad because I worked a lot on my poster and very few people saw it because there were tables and chair in front of it
 56. La informacion en internet decia de dos idiomas oficiales. Que paso? Con esa organizacion solo una sala tuvo traduccion
 57. Mejorar la biodiversidad linguistica free languicees
 58. En la informacion del congresso decia one era biungue: Ingles/Espanol y eso, solo ocurría en una sala!
 59. Y el espanol que sucedio?; Falto mas traduccion y en el luch las mesas muy mal acomodadas

Appendix III – What will you do as a result of the congress?

1. A summer education programme in our garden
2. Try out some ideas / methods I get to know during the congress and share them with others
3. Work with schools to improve their school grounds and the range of plants available for education & encourage them to go to a local botanic garden
4. Keep courses and programmes simple; Look at what we do; Start school programmes simple
5. Apply knowledge acquired for better education for sustainability
6. Communicate to our personnel the news and the power of working together; Plan new activities; Look for better performance
7. Working and applying these days knowledge
8. Many ideas from inspirational speakers; Dedicated programme work for decade of sustainability education; New CPD's ideas for teachers; Improve training for education volunteers
9. Make contact with those I've met and stay in contact
10. Inspired to do more work with plants (I work in a zoo)
11. Maintain contacts; Follow up on ideas; Present to colleagues
12. Work on those not done well at my garden
13. Encourage action rather than complacency
14. Try and absorb information and some changes to the interpretation
15. Work hard on exhibiting & publishing & involving community to conserve plants
16. Exchange research information relevant to botanical gardens education with other researchers across the world; Disseminate experience and knowledge in the field
17. Implement a programme inspired by the Geneva example for immigrants of all ages in Lisbon
18. Set up workshops like the Kew art experimentation at Lisbon
19. Adopt GAP (Brooklyn BG) to Lisbon reality and start a similar project at the Jardim botanico
20. Revisit adult-ed courses and apply some new thinking
21. Change in my own mindset/perceptions; many new contacts
22. Take notes on computer of activities I have learned; Contact by email people I have met; Read literature I have obtained; seek funding to generate new projects
23. A sense of being part of an international gang
24. Adopt more interactive school tours of botanical garden
25. Would like to implement forest exploration and biodiversity environmental education programme
26. To promote education on our programmes
27. Encourage better practice
28. Continue networking with such peers; Encourage more conference attendance & networking by all our garden staff; Foster a "sister programme" with another programme in another part of the world
29. I will talk to my colleagues (all part time volunteers) and show them the very simple and easy things that can improve our education programme so much
30. More at facilitating, less at education
31. Take dance classes; Study pedagogy; Learn 10 plant names
32. Appreciate different peoples ways of learning and taking in information and apply different ways of doing things
33. Share what I learned with the rest of the staff and may give a seminar about botanic gardens education in my institution to share with researchers the importance of this issue; Plan an education programme for our botanic garden

34. I am going to include activities from the workshops (food chain, Dr Arts) and all the activities related with art; Start to document my information and do day by day evaluation
35. Initiate more programmes
36. I will definitely use the games I have learned in the workshops
37. I will try to take children to see natural ecosystems
38. That networking and sharing ideas with other B.G's or institutions all over the world is important and we (I) will share our information on the web
39. I will make some ideas that I learned here
40. More time for self exploration
41. Strengthen project which I presented at the congress; Establish active exchanges with colleagues abroad; Activate several projects/practises that were left aside
42. Try to show and act with an environmental behaviour and apply it everyday in life and work
43. Renew efforts to expand and develop the education program at the gardens in Auroville
44. I will play more games
45. I will like to share what I see with my team and certainly improve our practice in sustainability
46. I will ensure that I apply the knowledge acquired and make sure that the African region is well coordinated
47. Increase plant collections; Improve on education programmes
48. My activities in the garden will be richer than before; I'll try to promote artistic approaches using theatre and landscape art
49. Get teenagers in!
50. Will put education on my agenda of developing the botanical garden at Peshawar botanical garden
51. Fairchild challenge! Implement "Decade of education for sustainable development" strategies in our programme; Communicate with colleagues from other countries and seek collaboration; Share info with BGCI and colleagues
52. Conducting workshops and start a "BGIR Challenge" to incorporate the education programmes in our garden
53. Use ideas for our programmes; Add new programmes and improve the old
54. Work harder to improve sustainability into all of our programmes & practices
55. Improve our labelling design to include more ecological and conservation info
56. We will organise an awareness programme for the physically challenged people
57. I'm going to do a meeting spreading the ideas and inspiration; And I'm going to send an Email to all other BGs in my country about the congress
58. Ideas and enthusiasm to improve our education activities
59. Develop innovative programmes for schools and communities; maintain collaboration with BGCI & other institutions to strengthen sustainable development
60. I will bring all experiences and ideas to improve education works in my country
61. Outdoor weaving sculpture
62. Link/keep touch with those I've met; Follow up on ideas
63. Improve our education programmes
64. I will apply many techniques and ideas in staff management
65. Educate old people (50-80) – Old people have Grandchildren!
66. A workshop with my volunteers to transfer these experiences to them
67. Muchas ideas para implementar, tanto en educacion como en gestión. Tambien nuevos contactos para compaitir
68. Voy a implementarcaiubis eu el programma de voluntaries; Voy acompaitir lo aprendido

69. Hay muchas ideas para poner en práctica, no solo meritos para mi jardín, sino. También para compartir con otros jardines botánicos mexicanos
70. Aplicar algunas ideas; Trabajar con las autoridades