

BGCI – supporting the conservation of medicinal plants



Most of the world's population suffers from inadequate access to health care. It is estimated that 80% of people in developing countries depend directly on plant-based medicines for their primary healthcare. However, this vital resource is increasingly threatened by environmental degradation and unsustainable harvesting. Botanic gardens have a crucial role to play in reversing this trend.

BGCI is:

- Consulting and collaborating with other NGOs, botanic gardens and Governing bodies and to facilitate and co-ordinate effective *in situ* and *ex situ* medicinal plant conservation.
- Collecting case studies and best practice examples for circulation among botanic gardens and the wider medicinal plant conservation community.
- Developing the BGCI PlantSearch database to identify threatened medicinal plants held in botanic garden collections and act as a planning tool.
- Helping botanic gardens to document indigenous knowledge; prioritise, implement and support local medicinal plant conservation projects; educate consumers about the sources of their medicine and work towards Targets 3 and 13 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.



For further information visit:

www.bgci.org

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

The Rufford
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Foundation
www.rufford.org



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Plants for the Planet