

Strategic Framework

Mission Statement

The African Botanic Gardens Network promotes and supports the work of botanical gardens and associated institutions through education, conservation and sustainable use of plants for development, poverty alleviation and halting biodiversity loss.

Vision

African botanical gardens will be integral and valued partners in the conservation and sustainable use of Africa's unique environmental, botanical and cultural heritage.

Guiding Principles

Botanical gardens are defined as institutions holding documented collections of living plants for the purposes of scientific research, conservation, display and education.

Africa is defined as continental Africa and surrounding islands, please refer to the ABGN contacts page for further details.

The African Botanic Gardens Network (ABGN) is committed to:

- Promoting and implementing key national and international instruments relating to the environment and sustainable development, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (in particular the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation), the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation, Local Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
- The fundamental importance of an ecosystem approach to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and will undertake an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation.
- Botanical gardens reaching their full potential through partnerships and effective collaboration at local, national, regional and international levels.
- The need for monitoring and coordination in the activities of botanical gardens, the effective use of resources and delivering the identified objectives of the network.
- The urgent need to undertake assessments of the conservation status and management needs for African plant diversity and will work to identify and strengthen the roles of botanical gardens in this process.
- Its role as the representative body for African botanical gardens. Furthermore, the ABGN will work closely with BGCI and other key organisations active in education, conservation and sustainable use of plants, such as IUCN, WWF, IPGRI and other relevant UN and national/international agencies, particularly as regards the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
- The fundamental link between botanical gardens and taxonomic botany and their contribution towards resolving the taxonomic impediment.
- The development of relevant regional, sub-regional and thematic networks and their contributions within the ABGN.

- Ensuring that its programmes and activities are complementary to those of relevant existing networks operating at all levels.
- Encouraging all African botanical gardens to strengthen their amenity, cultural, historical and recreational roles.
- Encouraging all African botanical gardens to focus primarily on the cultivation, display and study of African plant taxa.