

## CONCORD OF FAIAL: CONCLUSIONS OF THE XI AIMJB SYMPOSIUM

Despite coordinated efforts of the world's botanic gardens to save plant biodiversity, most of the 2010 targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) were not met, and biodiversity keeps declining as a consequence of continued and unprecedented biological and socio-economic threat factors, and of global changes. About 2/3 of the planet's biodiversity may be endangered by 2050, and the GSPC adopted 16 new targets to be met by 2020 to mitigate the alarming decline in plant diversity, emphasizing the elaboration of online floras of all known plants, the assessment of conservation status, poverty reduction and sustainable development through the conservation of crops, their wild relatives and the associated ethnobotanical knowledge.

Acknowledging the continuing global crisis in biodiversity, the XI Symposium of the Ibero-Macaronesian Association of Botanic Gardens recognized the continued imperative for the Association and for individual botanic gardens to make continued and heightened efforts to address the loss of plant resources and their habitats, in particular in the region. The participants noted and accepted that a coordinated effort of the AIMJB is needed to help provide the knowledge and tools needed to help take the right scientific and political decisions in the Ibero-Macaronesian area. Furthermore the Symposium participants highlighted the need to raise awareness of the critical situation that the world's floras are facing through public programmes and educational efforts. They also recognized and accepted the urgent need of contributing to all the targets of the updated GSPC adopted in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, towards 2020, especially through:

1. Reviewing and improving the taxonomic knowledge of the Ibero-Macaronesian floras fostering multi-disciplinary research and institutional collaboration
2. Monitoring, managing and removing invasive alien species and other biological invasions, and in particular to ensure that their collections cannot contribute to such invasive species problems.
3. Promoting ex situ conservation strategies that maximize the natural genetic diversity collected for seed banking and for genetically-representative living collections including preventing genetic erosion.
4. Adopting and publicizing tools developed by Botanic Gardens that provide the needed standards for
  - (i) the elaboration of a curated list of all known plant species (The plant list, <http://www.theplantlist.org>) and in support of the forthcoming World Flora on-line
  - (ii) the management of information and collections in botanic gardens and other centres (including the Babilonia software platform and other relevant applications)
  - (iii) the enhancement of the existing knowledge on biodiversity's genetic diversity (including the T4-Demiurge information system, <http://www.demiurge-project.org>), and
  - (iv) Involvement in species recovery and restoration programmes as well as in ecological restoration projects.
5. Noting the special urgency of undertaking targeted, coordinated and effective plant conservation action in the face of growing concerns about the impact of climate change on plant diversity and ecosystems;
6. Supporting the need for botanic gardens to be aware of and contribute to efforts to ensure that plant resources are used sustainably to support socio-economic purposes, in particular to address poverty alleviation worldwide.

7. Urged botanic gardens of the Ibero-Macaronesian region to develop institutional programmes and targets to ensure that they contribute substantially to the achievement of the GSPC.
8. Promote and encourage, in a regulated way, the support to Herbarium collections, a precious source for taxonomy knowledge.

The participants also highlighted and recognize the outstanding contribution of the living collections in Faial's Botanic Garden to improve the present understanding and preservation of the Azorean endemic and native Floras, in line with the updated GSPC targets.

We recognize the importance of the elected representatives of the AIMJB, and recommend the implementation and enforcement of protocols that effectively ensure their presence, or a significant representation thereof, in any AIMJB symposium approved by the Association's assembly. We also highlight that the decisions taken by the General Assembly are sovereign, and therefore should be always respected.

Also, we hereby express our congratulations to the team that made possible the new project of Faial's botanic garden and the celebration of this symposium and encourage the Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e do Mar to continue and enhance its outstanding support of the Jardim Botânico do Faial which has enabled it to become internationally known as an excellent model for a community garden, supporting vital public awareness, conservation and environmental protection of endangered biodiversity. The participants also expressed their thanks for the warm hospitality and efficient organization of the symposium by the host committee.