Module 1: Planning a Collection
• Permission
• Logistics
• Safety
• Your team
• Equipment
Ensure collecting is done legally

- seek permission from landowners and managers before collecting seed.
- Collecting from rare or threatened species, protected areas, or countries rich in biodiversity? A collecting permit is a legal requirement.
Permission

Failure to obtain the required documents can delay operations, jeopardize future efforts or result in prosecution!
Check target species are not protected

e.g. CITES
http://www.cites.org

e.g. The Bern Convention
http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/104.htm

e.g. National Protected Species
http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/Meldingsbank/Geen-gegevens/17508744
Rules differ depending on country and who owns the land.

e.g. **UK**
Collecting species included in *Schedule 8 of Wildlife and Countryside act (1981)* requires a specific permit from the relevant statutory conservation agencies: Natural England, Natural Resources Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage

Take advice from local collaborators, government offices, and biologists.
Contacts: [http://www.cbd.int/information/nfp.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/information/nfp.shtml)

e.g. **Australia**
permission from traditional landowners may be required as some plants can have special significance and cannot be touched (e.g. totemic plants)
Permission

You may need permission for:

- Tagging trees
- Seeds and herbarium specimens
- Restricted equipment
Permission

Things to consider:

• Access: Liaise with local site management.
• Insurance e.g. health and safety assessments.
• Personal documentation e.g. entry visas, work permits and international health certificates.
• Specimens for a national institution may be a condition of permission
• Contact the national plant health authorities if seeds are to be moved to other countries
Logistics: Timing

Collect at point of seed dispersal to maximise longevity in storage
Phenology:
Varies between species and years depending on weather and other factors. Herbarium data only an estimate.

E.g.
“... in the case of NW European herbaceous species, an extra 1.5-2 months is a useful guide for the time between peak flowering and peak seeding...”
(ENSCONET, 2009)
Logistics: Timing

An up-to-date seed collection calendar helps plan trips.

(Global Trees Campaign, 2013)
Logistics: Location

Research:

• local botanists and plant ecologists
• Eco-geographic surveys
• Inventories
• Distribution maps in floras
• Chronological accounts in botanical journals
• Herbarium sheets
• Reconnaissance trips and surveys
• satellite vegetation imagery
Don’t waste time!
Ensure enough vehicles are available/hired and routes are passible.

Plan ahead!
• Rapid movement of fruits from collection site might be needed.
• Advise seed extractory staff when to expect fruits.
Protocol:

• Insurance relevant to conditions you will face (terrain and weather)
• Follow bio-security and plant health procedures to prevent the spread of pathogens
• Be familiar with your occupational health and safety policies
Safety

Your equipment:

• Appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment

• Plenty of water for drinking and washing hands (especially if handling poisonous or irritating seeds)

• Check all safety equipment before you leave
Safety

Plan ahead:

• Give your itinerary to someone who will take action if regular pre-arranged contact is lost.
• Don’t go into the field with fewer than three people
• Check weather, road and fire reports
• Make contingency plans
• Carry appropriate telephone numbers
Your team

Ensure you have the right people for the job

e.g.

• Navigators
• Seed collectors
• Tree climbers
• First aiders
Equipment

Using the correct equipment:
• Makes collecting easier
• Ensures your seeds will be effectively banked
• Prevents accidents
Equipment

- Equipment for collecting seed
- Equipment for storing seed
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Safety gear
Equipment will vary depending on terrain and species of interest.

Equipment lists

- **Global Trees Campaign, 2013. p.4**

  STEP 4: Acquire field equipment
  - GPS and extra batteries.
  - Tree-climbing equipment (including ropes, a helmet, harness).
  - Compass and Topographic maps
  - Tree loppers.
  - Weather-resistant field notebooks; mechanical pencils.
  - Scateurs.
  - Binoculars for identifying tall trees (looking at leaves, flowers, fruits in the canopy).
  - Throw lines and weighted bags (for facilitating fall of seeds).
  - Camera for recording plant features – or equipment to ID flowers later.
  - Tarpaulin or baskets (for collecting falling seeds).
  - Food, water, personal gear and mobile phone
  - Mesh bags (for tying round seed heads awaiting seed dispersal).
  - First-aid kit.
  - Wicker basket, paper bags or breathable containers (for temporary storage of fruits and seeds).
  - Field guide or notes for identification.
  - A cool box.
End of Module One (Planning a Collection)

Why not try the quick quiz?

Then, go to Module Two (Prioritisation and pre-collection assessment)
Our Mission is to mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet.

Connecting People • Sharing Knowledge • Saving Plants

Descanso House, 199 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3BW, UK

www.bgci.org

@bgci