Influence and Action:
Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change
500 delegates, 36 countries, 6 themes

10 plenaries, 83 presentations, 12 symposia, 9 workshops, 5 panel discussions, 46 posters
Engagement and Education Day

83 delegates, 18 countries

1 plenary, 17 presentations, 4 workshops, 4 guided tours

(Image: Megan Barstow)
Final Conclusions and Emerging Themes

Compiled from all session chairs & Silvia Alvarez-Clare, Steve Blackmore, Nicole Cavender, Jean Franczyk, Tara Moreau, Suzanne Sharrock, Judy West, Damian Wrigley
Plant & Biodiversity Conservation

Important Lessons

★ The extinction of a species represents the extinction of experience.

★ Increasing sophistication of plant conservation practices means we can be agents of change for biodiversity conservation and restoration.

★ The nursery is the “engine room of everything”.

★ People, plants, and knowledge are critical, as are science and horticulture.

Grevillea jephcottii at Cranbourne Gardens (Image: ASBP)
Plant & Biodiversity Conservation

Calls to Action

★ We must engage with local communities for holistic biodiversity conservation.

★ We must train and empower the next generation of practitioners and share our successes and failures.

★ We must exchange information and living material among seed banks and botanic gardens and their nurseries.

★ We must collaborate and share our data.
The Global Tree Assessment is groundbreaking - generating baseline data for targeted, informed, and successful tree conservation.

The Prioritise-Plan-Act-Monitor framework has worked across six continents.

Assessments must be translated into action and there is an urgent need for scaling up.

Global Conservation Consortia are a successful model for creating coordinated ex situ collections (metacollections) of high conservation value.

Calls to Action: Join a Consortium; send your species conservation actions.
Adapting to Climate Change

★ Climate change-related disasters are **already impacting on ecosystems**, biodiversity, and our collections.

★ Botanic Gardens should prepare **Climate Adaptation Plans** for their collections and landscapes, as well as **Disaster Plans**, and ensure staff are trained in emergency procedures.

★ Large scale tree planting for carbon-sequestration is a major threat to biodiversity. Botanic gardens should use their skills and data to support the **Global Biodiversity Standard** and other biodiversity certifications.

★ Botanic gardens should play a strong motivating role to **encourage standards** for collection and storage of seed for restoration.

★ Large volumes of **restoration seed is needed** for the future to combat the changing climate, impact of invasives and habitat destruction.
Adapting to Climate Change

★ Collaboration is key in responding to the impacts of climate change: sharing our knowledge and expertise to achieve more together.

★ The Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens provides an active collaborative forum.

★ A range of tools are now available to adapt your collection to a changing climate, including the Landscape Succession Toolkit, and the Climate Resilience Assessment Tool (both launched at the congress).
Impactful Engagement & Education

Important Lessons

★ Botanic gardens around the world are being activated as spaces for all members of our community.

★ Garden staff and educators **inspire people** and culture change through our learning landscapes and creative programming.

★ **Local and global networks** make us stronger and increase our impact.

★ Whatever your expertise, we are all educators and agents of change.
Impactful Engagement & Education

Calls to Action

★ **Stay connected and inspired.** We are exploring how we can support a BGCI Education and Engagement Network. Stay tuned!

★ **Showcase stories** of hope and co-creation in response to a changing climate.

★ **Continue to accept and adapt** to uncertainty & change.

★ **Explore different knowledge systems** towards truth, justice and reconciliation.
Surviving and Thriving in a Post-COVID World

★ The pandemic increased public appreciation of plants, contact with nature and most importantly, botanic gardens as uplifting, safe and inspiring spaces.

★ Despite the difficulty of meeting face to face, digital meetings and communication have proved effective and reduced our carbon footprint.

★ The challenge is to build resilience against future crises we should keep in touch after the Congress and share solutions from around the world.
Global Conversations

★ **Major Achievements:** Research, reflection, and consultation inform successful projects, which all yield blueprints, models, or case studies that can inform practice.

★ **Challenge:** Tension between urgency for long-overdue change and the time required for an authentic response, especially as we seek to honour First Nation experience and knowledge.

★ **Opportunity:** The willingness to change one’s perspective by a few degrees can lead to creative and positive change.
Greener Cities

★ Cities are **significant reservoirs of plant diversity** and with human intervention nature can be intensified to support biodiversity.

★ There is emerging data showing that botanical gardens provide **motivating and restoring experiences** that can change people's lives in positive ways.

★ We should be partnering more with **social scientists** to increase this body of knowledge.

★ Deploying **skills in garden design** and urban planning is critical to enhancing the impact of our plant collections and linking people with nature.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria  (Image: S. Alvarez-Clare)
The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is of fundamental importance to both individual gardens and the global botanical community. It is imperative that the GSPC continues into the future.

The next round of GSPC targets are yet to be agreed by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Speak to your governments and GSPC Focal Points about the importance of the GSPC to botanic gardens and plant conservation globally.

As Agents of Change we must act now to advocate as a global community for plant conservation under the Post-2020 biodiversity framework.
Congratulations! Awards presented

**Marsh Award for International Plant Conservation**
Amelia Martyn Yenson – Australian Network for Plant Conservation

**Marsh Award for Education in Botanic Gardens**
Rudy Aguilar – Belize Botanic Garden

**Professional Scholarship Award**
Thomas Mehlhose, Rockhampton Botanic Garden

**Young Member Award**
Caitlin Abela, Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan.
Next steps

Tools and resources available

- Adapting to Climate Change
- Global Conversations
- Greener and More Liveable Cities
- Plant & Biodiversity Conservation
- Impactful Engagement and Education
- Surviving and Thriving in a post-COVID World
Plant Conservation Action – Click to Join
Explore, Collaborate and Share

Share your expertise
Update your garden profile
Add your plant/seed collections
Check level of threat of a taxon
Find distribution of a tree
Send known conservation actions on trees

New tools

**BGCI PlantShare**
Responsible exchange of plant material for conservation between organisations

**Climate Assessment Tool**
Check suitability of trees in predicted future climate scenarios

**Index Seminum**
Annual exchange of seeds between organisations
Other available resources

BGCI
Global Botanic Garden Fund

Online Training Courses

Accreditation Scheme

Post your News with us!

BGjournal

ROOTS

BGCI Technical Review
The susceptibility of botanic gardens, and their responses, to natural and man-made disasters
Become Members

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) currently represents 700 + botanic institutions in more than 100 countries around the world.

Botanic Gardens Australia & New Zealand Limited (BGANZ) currently links more than 130 + botanic gardens.

Donate to BGCI
Plants are essential for all life on earth, yet one-fifth of all plant species are threatened with extinction. No matter what you donate, every contribution makes a real difference.

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BGCI’s Tree Conservation Fund
At least 2500 tree species are on the brink of extinction and we must act now. Support BGCI’s Tree Conservation Fund today!

Disaster Recovery Fund
BGCI is working to support the botanic garden community impacted by disasters of all kinds, including severe weather events and armed conflict.

Global Biodiversity Standard
The world’s only international certification that recognizes and promotes the protection, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity. Support the Global Biodiversity Standard today!

Global Botanic Garden Fund
Support important conservation in botanic gardens through a donation to BGCI’s Global Botanic Garden Fund.

NEWS
BGCI newsletter
Cultivate

BGANZ mailing list

CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE OF BOTANIC GARDENS
SEABG
Southeast Asia Botanic Gardens Network

Join a network
The challenge is great.

There are a wide range of data, tools, resources and databases now available to support our work. We must take advantage of these.

Through sharing knowledge, skills, building partnerships, and strengthening local and global networks, we can maximise our impact.

"Strive for hope of gain instead of fear of loss"
Carmel Mbizo (SANBI)
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