



## **BGCI China Program Strategic Planning Workshop and Training Successfully Held at Qinling National Botanical Garden**

**13-17 October, 2024**



**Organized By:** Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)  
Qinling National Botanical Garden  
Shanghai Botanical Garden

To enhance the capacity of plant conservation practitioners on international project application skills, planning, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation techniques, and strengthen their communication and cooperation, BGCI successfully organized a BGCI China Project Strategic Planning Workshop and Conservation Training at Qinling National Botanical Garden from October 13-17, 2024. A total of 113 representatives from 43 botanical gardens, universities and protected areas in 20 provinces and municipalities directly under the central government, including Beijing, Heilongjiang, Liaoning, Xinjiang, Gansu, Shaanxi, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Fujian, Xiamen, Anhui, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Yunnan, etc. participated. Several media including China Net, Shaanxi Forestry Bureau Website, Shaanxi Daily Media outlets such as Sanqin Metropolis Daily reported this event and interviewed experts Prof. Ren Hai, the director of South China National Botanical Garden, Wen Xiangying, executive director of BGCI China office ,and Ms. Li Yali, *Ulmus elongata* project head of Qinling National Botanical Garden.

The workshop was chaired by Ms. Wen Xiangying, and speeches were given by Ma Anping, Director of Qinling National Botanical Garden, Ju Yanwu, Director of Nature Reserve and Wildlife Conservation Department of Shaanxi Forestry Bureau, as well as Yu Yongfu, Chief Engineer of China Wildlife Conservation Association. Kirsty Shaw, head of BGCI Global Tree Planning Program, introduced using BGCI's data and 20 years of experience to scale up tree conservation action globally through video, and thanked the National Forestry and Grassland Bureau for its long-term cooperation and support with BGCI, Shaanxi Forestry Bureau for its strong support for BGCI's conservation projects in the Qinling region, as well as Qinling National Botanical Garden and Shanghai Botanical Garden for their hosting and co-organizing the workshop, and especially thanked all BGCI China project partners for their diligent implementation of the project, which has made BGCI China projects influential globally. Xiangying explained Kirsty's presentation to participants.

During the two-day workshop and training, specially invited expert Prof. Ren Hai gave a lecture with the theme of 'Experimental Design and SCI Paper Writing in the reintroduction of Rare and Endangered Plants', which included the global overview of plants and endangered species, how to conduct scientific research, how to design reintroduction experiments, and sharing several threatened plant species that he has worked on how to discover and solve

problems from different perspectives and publish SCI articles. Conservation and restoration are the core function of the National Botanical Garden in China. Dr. He Tuo, Wildlife Conservation Monitoring Center of NFGA, provided a detailed introduction on 'Wild Plant Conservation and Management and the National Botanical Garden System'. The seeds collection strategies, skills, and storage methods are essential components of wild plant conservation work. Dr. Cai Jie, deputy director of Germplasm Bank of Wildlife Species (GBOWS), gave a detailed presentation on 'Seed Collection Strategies, Collection Methods, and Protection Technologies'.

Ms. Wen Xiangying briefly reviewed the achievements of BGCI's national project planning workshops and conservation trainings since its China office established in 2008, as well as the requirements of applying and the implementation of BGCI China practical conservation projects. The project leaders of 8 ongoing projects reported the progress, challenges encountered, next steps, and exit strategies once the project is completed. Experts provided comments and good suggestions for each project, which also gave all participants a comprehensive understanding of BGCI conservation projects.

During the workshop, we initiated the reintroduction activities for three threatened tree species, including *Ulmus elongata*, *Elaeagnus molis*, and *Abies chensiensis* in Zhashui Base, Shangluo township, Zhashui county, which is about 2hrs driving from Qinling National Botanical Garden. All seedlings were propagated from seeds collected from the wild and raised at the nursery of Qinling National Botanical Garden. Reintroduction mainly aims at increasing the number and the size of wild population, and ensures that these plants are no longer endangered in the future.

The workshop and training were very successful and achieved the expected goals. It not only improved project partners' ability to manage projects more effectively, but also equipped them with the skills needed to mobilize additional project funds. This workshop also provided a great opportunity for Chinese partners to share their experiences of implementing effective conservation projects in China and strengthened the communication of other conservation practitioners who might be our potential project partners in the future.

Some positive feedback from participants:

**Dr. Wei Yunkun from Shanghai Botanical Garden:**

BGCI's integrated conservation projects in China should be the best practice cases for plant species conservation. It effectively addresses the coordinated development of practical conservation of threatened plant species, awareness raising, capacity building, as well as local stakeholders including local authorities and local communities.

**Dr. Song Yigang from Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden:**

Thank BGCI China Office and Qinling National Botanical Garden for their careful organization and arrangement. This is my first time attending BGCI workshop and I feel that the organization and implementation of BGCI China projects are so meticulous, which is worthy of our serious learning from.

**Dr. Li Yali from Qinling National Botanical Garden:**

Our workshop has come to a successful conclusion. Firstly, Qinling National Botanical Garden is very grateful to Xiangying Wen for giving us this opportunity to hold such an important workshop. Secondly, we would like to thank all the experts, leaders, and participants for their strong support of this workshop. The end of the workshop does not mean the termination of our communication and cooperation. We look forward to future opportunities to gather together again and share more ideas and experiences on conservation.

**Mr. Cai Changfu from Xiamen Botanical Garden:**

I was very lucky to attend this training, where I met many old friends and made many new friends. Thank BGCI China office for providing everyone with this rare opportunity to learn and exchange ideas. Through the training, everyone gained a deeper understanding of BGCI's projects, and the typical cases presented were very instructive. BGCI China conservation projects provide a very good paradigm for everyone to carry out rare and endangered plant conservation work in their respective regions in the future. Thank Qinling National Botanical Garden for their very thoughtful and meticulous service for everyone, allowing us to feel the hospitality and enthusiasm of the Qin people. Qinling is a place with good mountains, good water, and better people!

**Dr. Xiao Siyue from Kunming Botanical Garden:**

Thank Xiangying and BGCi China office has provided this rare opportunity for communication and learning. The training is intensive, informative, and I gained a lot! I finally had the opportunity to seek advice from experts in this training when I encountered questions while doing conservation work. I also met like-minded colleagues during this training workshop and I do not feel lonely any more on the road of plant conservation. I look forward to seeing my friends again next time. I also welcome everyone to visit Kunming BG.

**Some pictures:**





Meeting room



Group photo



Chaired by Xiangying Wen



Welcome speech by Ma Anping, Director of Qinling National Botanical Garden



Address by Ju Yanwu, Director of Nature Reserve and Wildlife Conservation  
Department of Shaanxi Forestry Bureau



Address by Yu Yongfu, Chief Engineer of China Wildlife Conservation Association.





Video presenting by Kirsty Shaw



Lecture by Prof. Ren Hai



Lecture by Dr. He Tuo



Lecture by Dr. Cai Jie



Progress reporting by ongoing project partners



Expert provides comment and suggestions for ongoing projects



Expert provides comment and suggestions for ongoing projects



Leaders and experts plant seedlings of *Ulmus elongate* at Zhashui Base



Local community representatives are involved in planting at Zhashui Base



Xiangying and staff of Qinling National BG plant *Abies chensiensis*



Prof. Ren Hai provides guidance on how design reintroduction experiment



Group photo of reintroduction activity



Local media interview Prof. Ren Hai about reintroduction



Local media interview Wen Xiangying about global trees and their conservation