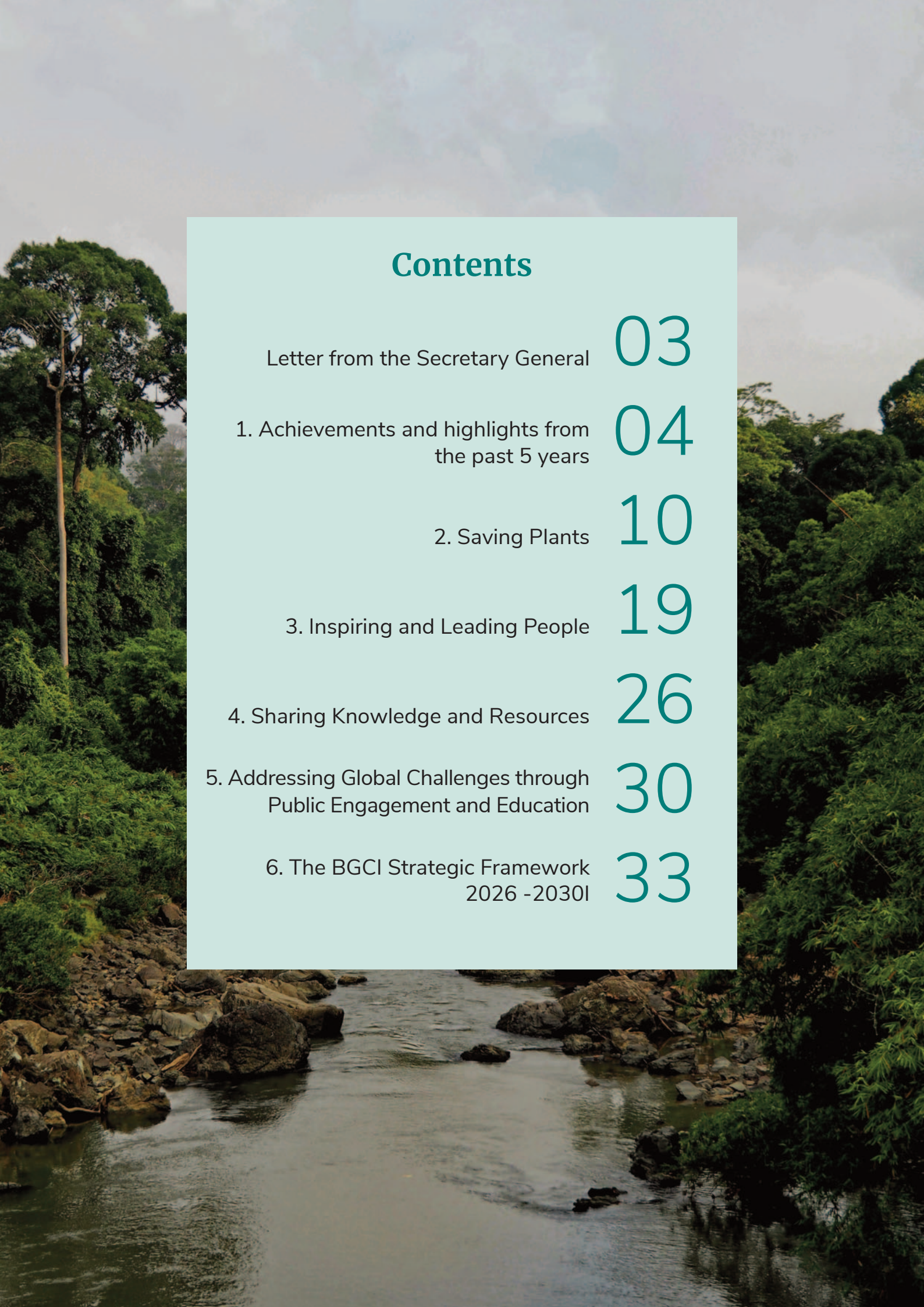
BOTANIC GARDENS CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

# 5 Year Retrospective BGCI 2021-2025



# Contents

# Letter from the Secretary General

Welcome to BGCI's review of our (and your) work over the past 5 years (2021-25). It has been an interesting exercise to compare our actual achievements over this period with our ambitions at the beginning of it - these were set out in our Strategic Framework 2021-25. BGCI's goal was that botanical organisations in our network will play a critical role in preventing plant species extinctions and create a more sustainable planet.

**Botanical organisations in our network will play a critical role in preventing plant species extinctions and create a more sustainable planet.**

Our work towards achievement of that goal was broken down into the following work streams: saving plants; inspiring and leading people; sharing knowledge and resources; addressing global challenges through public engagement and education, and; ensuring an effective and resilient BGCI.

As this review shows, many our original targets were met: the world's 58,000 tree species are now comprehensively assessed; we supported the recovery of >500 plant species; we established 10 Global Conservation Consortia; we developed and launched The Global Biodiversity Standard; our membership grew to ca. 1000 institutions; our congress audiences grew by >50%; BGCI's International Advisory Council has become the global leadership forum for the world's botanic gardens; we doubled disbursement of BGCI grant funding, and; we opened offices in Africa and Latin America.

Other objectives we were unable to achieve. When we drafted our plan in 2020, we couldn't foresee the longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the economic hardships that followed. Our expectation that substantial funding would be available for supporting the transition to a more sustainable planet, and influencing hundreds of millions of botanic garden visitors to change their behaviours related to consumption of energy, water and food didn't come to pass. Suddenly, there were other priorities – not least, how we respond to disasters. Similarly, we set up a Tree Conservation Fund expecting that we would be able to interest the corporate sector in funding threatened tree species recovery as part of their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments. However, we have found that in lieu of regulation or financial incentives to be biodiversity-positive, companies have been reluctant to spend money on biodiversity – even when packaged with carbon.

On the whole, however, BGCI and you, our partners, can look back over this period with some pride, and we can look forward with some optimism (See BGCI's Strategic Framework 2026-2030). On a personal note, as I approach my departure from BGCI after 11 years, I can say without hesitation **that botanic garden people are the best in the world – thoughtful, kind and committed** – and that is perhaps what matters most of all.

**Paul Smith,** BGCI's Secretary General

# 1. Achievements and highlights from the past 5 years

**BGCI's Strategic Framework 2021-2025 comprised five workstreams: saving plants; connecting people; sharing knowledge and resources; Addressing global challenges through public engagement and education, and; ensuring an effective and resilient BGCI.**

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

**In 2015, BGCI's Board agreed a set of Key performance Indicators for BGCI, and those have continued on their upward trajectory over the period 2021-2025.**

| 2015 | 2020 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| SPECIES 56 | SPECIES 122 | SPECIES 436 |
| Plant species conserved per annum | | |
| 2 | 4 | 9 |
| Databases | | |
| 381 | 591 | 968 |
| 355 | 1583 | 2726 |
| Institutional members | People trained per annum | |
| 15 / 9 / 2 | 24 / 19 / 4 | 47 / 30 / 6 |
| No. of patron gardens | No. of regional offices | No. of staff |
| 1.081 / 146,511 | 2.019 / 247,670 | 3.649 / 417,316 |
| Total income per annum (£m) | Membership income per annum (£) | |
| 0.579 (£m) | 0.971 (£m) | 1.743 (£m) |
| | Funding disbursed per annum | |

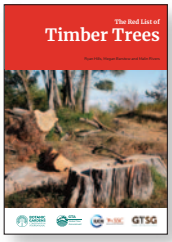
**It is difficult to pick out specific highlights from the last 5 years but some achievements do stand out, some of them building on the previous five years, and others that are new to BGCI. Here are a few of each of these:**

## 1.1 .SAVING PLANTS. FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION: FIVE YEARS OF THE GLOBAL TREE ASSESSMENT

GTA Global Tree Assessment

Over the past five years, the Global Tree Assessment (GTA), comprising the largest red listing programme ever undertaken, has delivered an unprecedented increase in the global understanding of tree extinction risk. Tree extinctions can only be avoided if conservation decisions are underpinned by the best available information. The Global Tree Assessment produces IUCN Red List assessments for every one of the world's roughly 58,000 tree species and enables this knowledge to catalyse conservation action.

Funded by Fondation Franklinia, we have focused on delivering up-to-date, global IUCN Red List assessments for every known tree species. **At the end of 2025, more than 85% of tree species have a published IUCN Red List assessment**, making trees a comprehensively assessed group, alongside other groups such as mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles.




These achievements have been delivered through coordinated global partnerships with more than 100 institutions and over 2,000 experts participating, supported by extensive training, technical leadership and coordination from BGCI. Alongside assessments, we have also strengthened BGCI's tree databases, initiated the tracking of conservation action in real time, incorporated tree data into Key Biodiversity Areas and Alliance for Zero Extinction processes and ensured results have been disseminated to policy makers, practitioners and funders. Together, these outcomes provide the foundation needed to prioritise, fund and scale up action to prevent tree extinctions worldwide.

## 1.2. SAVING PLANTS. THE GLOBAL TREES BGCI-FRANKLINIA FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP – CONSERVATION ACTION OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS

BOTANIC GARDENS CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Fondation Franklinia

BGCI supports the recovery of plant species *in situ* through the projects it manages directly (Franklinia Foundation, Darwin Initiative, Audemars Piguet etc.) and through provision of funding, for example through our Global Botanic Garden Fund. We started tracking this work in 2024 and that year, BGCI projects and programmes supported the conservation planning, *in situ* conservation, *ex situ* conservation and monitoring of 628 plant species. In 2025 that number was 484 species.

Projects driving conservation actions for threatened trees, in particular, have thrived over the last 5 years due to the valuable support provided to BGCI and its partners by the Franklinia Foundation. The Foundation has been a supporter of BGCI's tree conservation programme for nearly 20 years and, until early 2023, the programme was run in partnership with Fauna and Flora under the Global Trees Campaign. Since then, the BGCI-Franklinia Foundation partnership has gone from strength to strength, with regional tree conservation teams expanding, monitoring & evaluation systems upgraded, partnerships diversified, and with improved capacities for tree conservation (see the examples in sections 2.5 and 2.7 below). We have also undertaken our first national planning exercises, with stakeholder workshops and comprehensive reports produced, in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Chile and Malaysia.

**Supported projects in 31 countries on 206 threatened tree species**

In total, the BGCI-Franklinia partnership has supported **projects in 31 countries** working on **206 threatened tree species**. In monitoring surveys, **273,307 mature individuals** were located of **122 species. 259,013 individuals** of **87 threatened tree species** were then protected through fencing, patrols, law enforcement against logging, control of invasive species or the management of pests and diseases. In addition, **36,280 seedlings** of **62 threatened species** were planted back into the wild, **35,159 individuals** of **84 species** were planted in *ex situ* living collections, and **183,723** of **35 species** were banked in seed banks.

## 1.3. CONNECTING PEOPLE. BGCI'S GLOBAL CONGRESSES

### 1.3.1. The 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne, September 2022

**BGCI's 7th** Global Botanic Garden Congress

The theme of the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Melbourne was 'Influence and Action: botanic gardens as agents of change', and the conference covered topics including adapting to climate change; greener and more liveable cities; plant and biodiversity conservation; impactful engagement and education, and; surviving in a post-COVID world. **Over 500 delegates** from **36 countries** enjoyed **10 plenary presentations, 73 oral presentations, 12 symposia, 5 panel discussions, 9 workshops, 10 rapid fire presentations** and **46 posters**. But the statistics don't even begin to tell the story. After what must surely be the most planned botanic gardens congress in history (7GBGC was postponed twice due to COVID-19), we were overwhelmed by the warmth of our hosts and superb organization by the conference managers. A big thank you to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria, BGANZ and Waldron Smith Management.


### 1.3.2. The 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Singapore, August 2024

The theme of the 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Singapore was 'People and Plants for a Sustainable Future'. The Congress comprised four main themes: green and sustainable cities; gardens for the future; engaging communities, and; plant diversity and conservation. Over **900 delegates** from **73 countries** participated in the Congress (including >200 online), joining **7 plenaries** and **panel discussions, 175 talks** in concurrent sessions and **21 workshops**. The event was held in conjunction with Singapore's International Flower Show, which formed the spectacular backdrop for the conference dinner. BGCI is very grateful to our hosts, Singapore Botanic Garden, the staff of whom made us feel extremely welcome in their beautiful, green city.


### 1.3.3. The 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens, South Korea, 2025

**BGCI's 11th** Global Botanic Garden Education Congress

The 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens took place on 9th – 13th June 2025 in Seoul, South Korea, hosted by the Korea National Arboretum (KNA). Under the theme "Education for change: Botanic Gardens' role in addressing global challenges" **1,736 delegates** from **53 countries** participated – the largest BGCI Congress to date! Over five inspiring days, delegates from across the world gathered to explore how education in botanic gardens can address urgent global challenges, from biodiversity loss to climate change, while strengthening community engagement and inclusion. As part of the closing ceremony statement, June 12 was declared as an annual day of education in botanic gardens. The 11th ICEBG was a celebration of global collaboration, knowledge exchange, and a shared commitment to strengthening the role of botanic gardens in education and conservation. We look forward to continuing this momentum and building on the connections made in Seoul!

**1,736 delegates, largest BGCI Congress to date**

## 1.4. SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES. DEVELOPING BGCI'S DATABASES FOR *EX SITU* CONSERVATION

*Ex situ* conservation depends on more than individual collections. It relies on shared knowledge, coordination, and infrastructure that allow botanic gardens to act collectively rather than in isolation. For over two decades, BGCI has invested in exactly this kind of global infrastructure through a suite of databases and tools that support the documentation, exchange, and strategic use of living collections. Together, PlantSearch, GardenSearch, ThreatSearch, and more recently Index Seminum, and emerging analytical tools such as the Climate Assessment Tool (CAT), form a connected ecosystem supporting *ex situ* plant conservation in an era of accelerating biodiversity loss and climate change.


### 1.4.1. PlantSearch and GardenSearch: The foundation of a global meta-collection

PlantSearch and GardenSearch remain the backbone of BGCI's *ex situ* conservation data infrastructure, but between 2020 and 2025 their role has evolved significantly. What began as global directories for reporting and visibility are now increasingly recognised as operational tools that support strategic planning, and international collaboration across the botanic garden community. A major turning point came in 2023 with the launch of a re-designed user interface for both platforms. The new interface substantially improved usability, allowing more than one staff member per garden to manage and update data. At the same time, BGCI introduced a much-improved taxon name-checking service. Uploaded names are now matched, including author, against three authoritative references: the World Flora Online (WFO), the World Checklist of Vascular Plants (WCVP), and the International Plant Names Index (IPNI). It also introduced links from ThreatSearch, IUCN, CITES, Exceptional Species, GlobalTreeSearch and Crop Wild Relative information. This immediately increased data consistency and reliability across the system, strengthening the value of PlantSearch as a shared resource and as a strategic tool.


One of the most impactful recent developments has been the launch of BGCI's PlantSearch Communication Facility, formerly known as the "blind request" system. This facility now provides a structured, trackable mechanism for requesting plant material or information across institutions. Garden staff can search for a taxon in PlantSearch, see which gardens hold it, and communicate directly with the relevant institutions to request specific material or information. Because PlantSearch is fully linked to GardenSearch, all registered staff within a garden can view another institution's documented collections, enabling more precise and informed requests. Researchers and conservation practitioners outside the botanic garden community can also submit requests. In these cases, the request remains blind until a garden chooses to respond, ensuring appropriate control and safeguarding of collection data. For gardens receiving requests, the system can track requests over time, report on how their collections are being used, upload Material Transfer Agreements, and manage communications centrally. Since its launch in March 2025, the system has processed approximately 1,700 requests, with around 40 percent fulfilled. For the first time, BGCI can analyse which taxa are most frequently requested, where demand originates, and how effectively collections are supporting research and conservation outcomes.

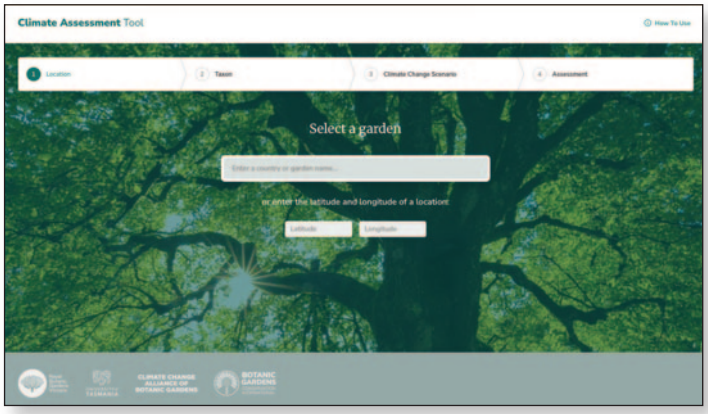
At the end of 2025, BGCI implemented one of the most significant advances in PlantSearch's history: the adoption of the World Flora Online as its principal taxonomic backbone. This move, aligned with recommendations under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, builds on earlier name-matching improvements and introduces a fully transparent revision-tracking system. Every six months, following WFO updates, PlantSearch automatically refreshes linked taxonomic information and generates a revision report for each participating garden. This ensures that changes in accepted names, synonymy, and taxon status are consistently and accurately reflected. Importantly, searching for an accepted name in PlantSearch now retrieves records held under both accepted names and synonyms. This advance has far-reaching implications because accurate, up-to-date taxonomy underpins almost every decision related to collections.

Together, these developments reposition PlantSearch and GardenSearch as essential, action-oriented infrastructure. They are no longer simply repositories of information, but strategic tools that connect people, plants, and knowledge, enabling botanic gardens worldwide to operate as a coordinated force for ex *situ* conservation.

### 1.4.2. New data tools: Index Seminum and the Climate Assessment Tool (CAT)

As well as the enhancements in BGCI's core databases, BGCI is hosting an online version of Index Seminum and a new Climate Assessment Tool.

Long before digital databases, botanic gardens collaborated through Index Seminum. Traditionally published annually or biennially, often as printed booklets and later as PDFs or webpages, these seed catalogues enabled gardens to expand collections for display, education, research, and ex *situ* conservation. In 2022




BGCI brought Index Seminum into the digital era by hosting a web-based Index Seminum tool. For the first time, multiple catalogues can be searched and managed in one place. By modernising Index Seminum, BGCI has preserved a historic practice while aligning it with contemporary standards, transparency, and conservation needs.

In the same year BGCI commenced hosting the Climate Assessment Tool (CAT). Long-lived living collections, such as trees are susceptible to changes in climate, and this tool uses predictive climate modelling to assess how well tree taxa may perform under future climate scenarios at a given location. When used alongside other tools such as PlantSearch, threatSearch and non-BGCI data tools, CAT helps gardens move from reactive collecting and planting to climate-resilient strategy.

Click here to access Index Seminum

Click here to access CAT

### 1.4.3. Towards an integrated ex *situ* conservation infrastructure

By the end of 2025, there was broad recognition that knowing what is held is no longer enough. The future of PlantSearch lies in interoperability, accession-level data, and integration with analytical tools that support strategic decision-making. With forthcoming provenance modules and alignment with emerging global visions for a "meta-collection," PlantSearch is poised to evolve into a connector within a global living collections ecosystem. Completing this journey—from inventory to impact—will determine whether PlantSearch can continue to shape not just how botanic gardens report their past, but how they collectively safeguard plant diversity for the future.

# 2. Saving plants

**BGCI is the largest plant conservation network in the world, and we coordinate, empower and mobilise our network to carry out plant conservation prioritisation, planning, action and monitoring, preventing plant species extinctions and promoting sustainability.**

## 2.1. GUIDING CONSERVATION ACTION WITH DATA. THE GLOBALTREE PORTAL

BGCI GlobalTree Portal

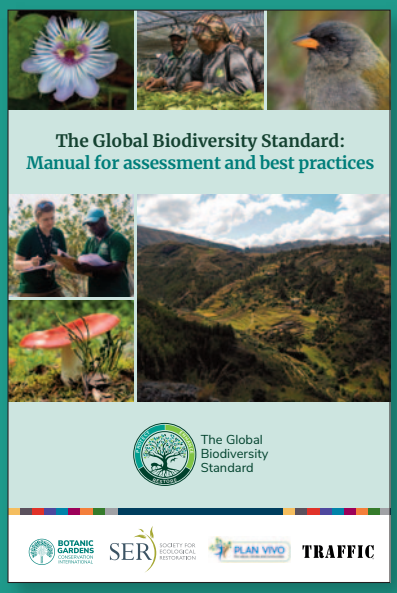
The GlobalTree Portal, launched in 2021, collates the data amassed during the Global Tree Assessment and allows users to access information about threatened (and not threatened) tree species on a global, national or species level. The GlobalTree Portal, developed with Stefan Jänicke, displays data on conservation status of tree species as well as actions underway to conserve them. It brings together BGCI's databases (PlantSearch, GardenSearch, ThreatSearch and GlobalTreeSearch) to provide information for policy makers, funders and practitioners. The Conservation Action Tracker, included in the GlobalTree Portal, highlights on-going conservation actions for tree species and identifies gaps that urgently need to be addressed to prevent tree extinctions. It is freely accessible to all, and conservationists can contribute their tree conservation actions to the Conservation Action Tracker via an online form. With more than 5,600 tree species already featured, the Conservation Action Tracker is not just a repository of information - it is a call to transform data and knowledge into measurable conservation impact for the world's threatened trees.

## 2.2. THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY STANDARD

In 2019, BGCI first became aware of the potential threat to biodiversity from the large-scale planting of fast-growing exotic tree species. In response to this concern, 2021 commenced with the publication of the 10 golden rules for reforestation review article. Further momentum and urgency was generated by the international Reforestation for Biodiversity, Carbon Capture and Livelihoods Conference hosted by Kew and BGCI in February 2021, which was attended by 2,260 participants from 113 countries. The resulting Kew Declaration on reforestation for biodiversity, carbon capture and livelihoods, which calls for urgent action to ensure that large scale tree planting does not damage biodiversity was signed by 423 organisations (including IUCN members and Commissions) and 2612 individuals from 114 countries. The next step was an emergency motion to the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in September 2021 and, although this was rejected on the grounds that this is not a 'new' issue, it was resubmitted at the WCC in October 2025, and passed.

BGCI's biggest step forward, however, has been the work carried out with the Society for Ecological Restoration, CIFOR-ICRAF, TRAFFIC, Ecosia and others to develop and implement The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS), a site-based certification aimed at tree planting and restoration initiatives, and a mechanism which deploys the expertise in our network not only to assess impacts on biodiversity but also to provide mentorship and support for better biodiversity outcomes. With endorsement from the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, IUCN and the World Agroforestry Centre, TGBS was officially launched at Cop-16 in Cali Colombia in November 2024 and by 2025, TGBS was active in 15 countries, with more than 200 assessors trained.

The Global Biodiversity Standard




## 2.3. THE GLOBAL CONSERVATION CONSORTIA

BGCI is coordinating a suite of Global Conservation Consortia (GCCs), which catalyse groups of institutions and experts to collaboratively develop and implement comprehensive strategies to prevent the extinction of priority threatened plant groups. Primary objectives include coordinated *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation efforts and dissemination of species recovery knowledge.

To date, we have 12 active GCCs covering the following plant groups: *Acer*, conifers, cycads, dipterocarps, Ebenaceae, *Erica*, *Magnolia*, *Nothofagus*, oaks, *Rhododendron*, *Sorbus* and food plants. More than 350 organisations have joined the Global Conservation Consortia, and in the period, 2021-2025, new GCCs established were GCC Conifers, led by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh; GCC *Erica*, led by Bergen Botanic Garden; GCC *Sorbus* (Whitebeams, Rowans & Service Trees), led by Westonbirt Arboretum, and; GCC Food Plants, led by New York Botanical Garden.


**GCC**
Global Conservation Consortia

Acer

Conifers

Cycads

Dipterocarps

Ebenaceae

Erica

Food Plants

Magnolia

Nothofagus

Oak

Rhododendron

Whitebeams, Rowans and Service Trees



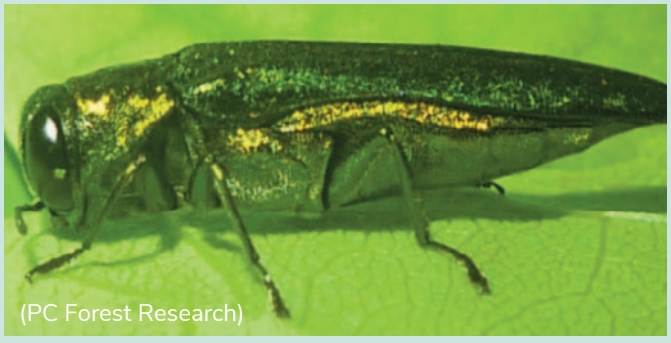
## 2.4. SENTINEL EYES AND PRACTICAL ACTION: MOBILIZING BOTANIC GARDENS AS GLOBAL PARTNERS IN PLANT BIOSECURITY AND EARLY WARNING (IPSN 2020–2025)

**IPSN**
International Plant Sentinel Network

Between 2020 and 2025, the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN) underwent rapid maturation, transforming from a promising international collaboration into a functioning, evidence-generating initiative that provides critical information and support for global plant health and biosecurity efforts. Over the past five years, IPSN has delivered sustained international general and targeted surveillance, generating intelligence that is rarely available through statutory monitoring alone. Coordinated surveys in regions of high biosecurity relevance—including Australia, New Zealand, South America, and Europe—have provided early insights into emerging pest and pathogen risks affecting a range of priority tree genera.

Notable examples include:

- Expanded host associations for Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (*Euwallacea fornicatus*) documented on *Acer*, *Quercus*, *Platanus* and *Salix* in Western Australia[1]
- First reports of *Phytophthora plurivora* affecting UK-relevant genera detected overseas in botanic garden collections[2]
- Multi-year Emerald Ash Borer datasets from Eastern Europe, producing longitudinal evidence on spread dynamics and host decline



(PC Forest Research)

Crucially, through its visual and trapping surveys, IPSN has complemented detection data with structured absence and baseline information. This has reduced uncertainty and strengthened Pest Risk Analysis by identifying where priority organisms are not yet present. Such evidence—often unavailable through other surveillance systems—has become an increasingly valuable component of the network's work, particularly in relation to anticipatory plant biosecurity data.

Working closely with diagnostic experts, the IPSN has expanded the range of plant health information resources available to practitioners. New pest and disease posters, factsheets, and organism alerts and biosecurity documentation and signage have been developed to ensure the provision of practical, relevant, and accessible information for professionals working on the ground.

### 2.2.1. Network Expansion and Collaborative Impact

From 2020 to 2025, IPSN expanded substantially in scale and connectivity. Membership grew to include more than 120 botanic gardens and arboreta worldwide, while relationships with National and Regional Plant Protection Organisations, research institutions, and expert networks were strengthened.

**Membership grew to include more than 120 botanic gardens and arboreta worldwide**

IPSN increasingly acts as a trusted facilitator between regulators, scientists, and practitioners, enabling a two-way exchange between research and policy priorities and on-the-ground intelligence. A particularly important development was the strengthening of collaboration with BGCI's regional networks, demonstrating the power of coordinated action across the organisation.

Examples include:

- **Caribbean Biosecurity Workshop**: A three-day regional workshop delivered in collaboration with the Caribbean and Central American Botanic Gardens Network (CCABGN) and BGCI's education team, building regional capacity and facilitating crucial knowledge exchange about biosecurity and plant health.

- **Southeast Asia Plant Biosecurity Group (SEA-PBG)**: Initiated in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Botanic Gardens Network (SEABGN), this initiative brought together participants from across the region to share expertise, identify challenges, and prioritise future actions. Launched in September 2025, it aims to demonstrate how coordinated, regionally driven action can amplify impact on the ground.

### 2.2.2. Beyond Surveillance: Research and Learning

Alongside surveillance activities, IPSN expanded into applied research and capacity building. Through collaborations with key European partners, IPSN contributed to the development of protocols for monitoring, sampling, and reporting organisms of interest, including canker stain of plane, sooty bark disease, and *Xylella fastidiosa*. These efforts enhanced early detection activities, strengthened staff skills and capacity, and reinforced links with scientists and legislators. This collaboration has promoted best practices for data collection that support robust evidence-based decision-making and effective action on the ground. In addition, the annual IPSN Small Grants scheme supported members in developing pilot studies and projects that showcase the crucial role of living collections in advancing plant biosecurity and plant health monitoring, while also promoting awareness of best practice approaches. Furthermore, the inception of the UK Garden Sentinel Network—a new UK-based initiative engaging volunteers and horticultural students in structured plant health monitoring—demonstrates how botanic gardens can inspire and train the next generation of plant health professionals while increasing "eyes-on-the-ground" surveillance capacity.

### 2.2.3. A Multichannel Communication Platform

Another key area of development over the past five years has been the expansion and diversification of IPSN's communication channels. Through social media, quarterly newsletters, a blog series, and a special *BGjournal* issue featuring 16 articles on biosecurity and plant health, IPSN has worked to ensure that key issues—and the essential role of botanic gardens in addressing them—reach a broad and diverse audience.


**References:**

[1] Western Australian Euwallacea fornicatus, Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB) Host List (DPIRD, 30 Jun 2025) https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/siteassets/documents/biosecurity/incidents/pshb/pshb-wa-host-list.pdf

[2] Laurence, M.H., Mertin, A.A., Pang, C. et al. First report of *Phytophthora plurivora* in Australia. *Australasian Plant Dis. Notes* **18**, 33 (2023). https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Matthew-Laurence/publication/374668067_First_report_of_Phytophthora_plurivora_in_Australia/links/65285fdc0e4a1710e50369c3/First-report-of-Phytophthora-plurivora-in-Australia.pdf

## 2.5. GLOBAL TREES ACTION: TANZANIA

As part of BGCI's Global Trees programme in Africa, between 2022 – 2024, thanks to funding from Fondation Franklinia, BGCI and the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) Agency were able to make significant contributions to threatened trees conservation in Tanzania, strengthening both species recovery efforts and institutional capacity within Tanzania Forest Services (TFS).

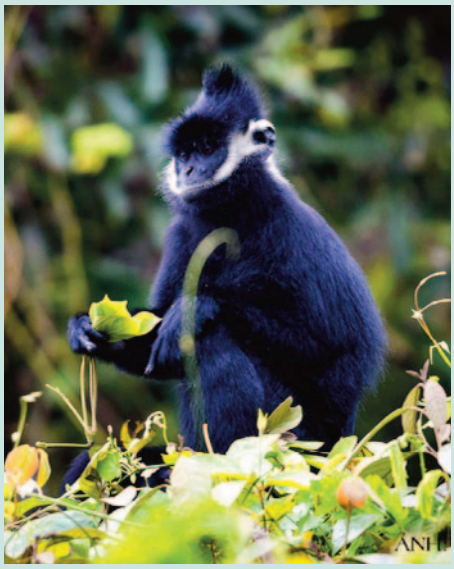
The project focused intensively on *Karomia gigas* (CR) and *Bussea eggelingii* (CR). Over three years, quarterly phenological monitoring supported targeted seed collection that led to the collection of thousands of fruits and seeds. Germination trials produced 208 seedlings, that continued to be nurtured in nurseries for planting. The project also delivered critical taxonomic verification, confirming *Bussea eggelingii* and correcting misidentified specimens (*Monotes africanus* and *Diospyros zombensis*), with *Bussea eggelingii* now being prepared for an updated IUCN Red List assessment. Two priority recovery sites—Vikindu–Pugu Kazimzumbwi (Dar es Salaam) and Masasi/Newala (Mtwara)—were established as long-term gene bank and recovery locations.

Beyond these focal species, surveys and conservation actions were initiated for nine additional Critically Endangered species, *Cynometra ulugurensis* (CR), *Cola kimbozensis* (CR), *Cola quentinii* (CR), *Millettia puguensis* (CR), *Baphia puguensis* (EN), *Euphorbia greenwayi* var. *greenwayi* (CR), *Cola lukei* (CR), *Calodendrum eickii* (CR), and *Encephalartos sclavoi* (CR). Recovery plans for *Karomia gigas* and *Bussea eggelingii* have now been developed and proposed for integration into national forest management plans, directly contributing to Tanzania's strategic targets for *ex-situ* conservation and native tree gene banking. This work also resulted in immense capacity building among 60 Tanzania Forest Service staff nationally on seed collection techniques for conservation, phenology surveys, and assessing seed maturity indices which aimed to enhance their skills in sustainable forest management, ensuring quality seed collection and nursery practices.

As of 2025, species recovery actions have started being implemented for *Bussea eggelingii* (EN/CR), *Gigasiphon macrosiphon* (EN), *Karomia gigas* (CR), *Millettia micans* (EN), *Calodendrum eickii* (CR), and *Mwasumbia alba* (VU). Species-level protection initiatives have been established in Rondo (Lindi Region) and Kwemkonga Forest Reserve (Tanga Region). These patrol/protection arrangements have been initiated to strengthen *in situ* protection of threatened species and reduce illegal activities affecting target habitats.

## 2.6. PEOPLE, PRIMATES, PLANTS: CO-MANAGING BIODIVERSITY AND IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS IN VIETNAM

Tuyen Hoa district in Viet Nam's Quang Binh province, located in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, boasts exceptional natural and cultural wealth. The region's evergreen tropical forests are home to unique fauna and flora. This includes the Endangered (IUCN) and CITES Appendix II-listed, white-necked langur, *Trachypithecus hatinhensis* and threatened tree species such as the legumes *Dalbergia tonkinensis* (Vulnerable) and *Erythrophleum fordii* (Endangered). Illegal cutting of valuable timbers, wildlife hunting, agricultural expansion, and indiscriminate collection of non-timber forest products, are key drivers of biodiversity loss.



"People, Primates, Plants: Co-managing Biodiversity and Improving Livelihoods in Viet Nam", is a three-year (2022–2025) international partnership established to reduce forest biodiversity degradation, including threats to the white-necked langur in Vietnam's Tuyen Hoa district, through active community participation in Special-use forest (SUF) management and livelihoods' improving agroforestry models. Funded by the Government of the United Kingdom through the Darwin Initiative, this international partnership is implemented by BGCI, the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF - also known as World Agroforestry) in Viet Nam, the Center for Research in Resource Governance Highland Resources (CEGORN), the Voluntary Conservation Group (VCG), and Tuyen Hoa District's authorities and local communities.

The *People, Primates, Plants* Project has delivered a suite of outstanding achievements at the intersection of biodiversity conservation, climate change resilience, and community livelihoods in Tuyen Hoa, Viet Nam. A cornerstone of this success has been the establishment of a SUF community co-management model, underpinned by Decision 999/QD-UBND and its formal recognition in the Prime Minister's National Forestry Plan. This model actively involves 2,770 households living around the SUF and has significantly enhanced local ownership and forest protection. Another major achievement was the discovery of a new species, *Begonia tui*, classified as Endangered, highlighting the biodiversity significance of the Project area. A botanical survey recorded 577 vascular plant species, 5.6% of Viet Nam's flora, including 42 endemics and 33 listed as rare or threatened.

The Volunteer Conservation Group (VCG), a local initiative strengthened by the Project to boost forest protection using the white-necked langur, *Trachypithecus hatinhensis*, as an iconic representative of Tuyen Hoa's biodiversity, has emerged as a vital force in community-led conservation. Its 12 core members and over 20 collaborators now conduct regular patrols across four communes, contributing to a sharp reduction of wildlife traps and illegal activities. In parallel, the Project supported the planting of more than 81,000 native trees, over 90% of which are continuing to grow, and established community nurseries producing more than 30,000 seedlings annually. These efforts have enabled restoration in the SUF using a supply of plants of native and threatened species that was previously limited, including the legumes *Erythrophleum fordii* and *Dalbergia tonkinensis*, thereby improving habitat connectivity for endangered species like *Trachypithecus hatinhensis*, and contributing to international covenants including Targets 1, 2, 4, 11, and 20 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. To boost local livelihoods, 100 households have initiated market-oriented, sustainable agroforestry models, leading to diversified sources of revenue and improved food security. Income increases of up to 35% were reported, supported by capacity building, product certification and traceability systems (e.g. VietGAP), and development of new market linkages.

**Conservation actions for 21 threatened tree species**

## 2.7. GLOBAL TREES ACTION: CHINA

From 2021 to 2025, with funding from the Franklinia Foundation, BGCI collaborated with 21 conservation institutions in China—including botanical gardens, universities, and forestry departments—to implement integrated conservation actions for 21 threatened tree species. Those projects have achieved significant outcomes, including the discovery of over **2,300 new wild individuals** through extensive field surveys, the propagation of more than **66,000 seedlings**, and the establishment of **123 ex *situ* conservation sites** that **safeguarded 11,488 plants** (with 9,937 surviving). Additionally, **60 reintroduction sites** were created, where **7,753 plants were reintroduced** (6,230 of which survived). Those projects have trained over 3,000 conservation technicians, engaged 28,112 primary and secondary school students and local community members in science outreach activities, and distributed more than 13,000 copies of educational and training materials.

These efforts have contributed to reducing threats to the target species, raised awareness and capacity among stakeholders, and encouraged greater governmental attention and support for plant conservation in China, as well as enhanced the comprehensive capabilities of 21 young researchers.


Those projects have also provided practical evidence to support the implementation of China's Strategy for Plant Conservation.

# 3. Inspiring and Leading People

**The botanic garden community is stronger together, and greater than the sum of its parts in areas such as policy, advocacy, maintaining professional standards and cost-effectiveness, provided that it is effectively led, and its actions are co-ordinated. BGCI has a pivotal role to play in ensuring that this happens through our policy work, leadership, co-ordinating role with regional networks, membership, and convening power.**

## 3.1. BGCI MEMBERSHIP: FIVE-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE (2020–2025)

The period from 2020 to 2025 marks one of the most significant chapters in BGCI's membership history. These five years saw not only rapid growth in numbers, but also a shift in BGCI's global reach, relevance, and the expectations placed on the organisation by its members and partners. Between 2020 and 2025, BGCI membership grew from just over 600 institutions to nearly 1,000 worldwide. This represents growth of more than 50% in five years — the fastest sustained expansion the organisation has experienced since its founding.

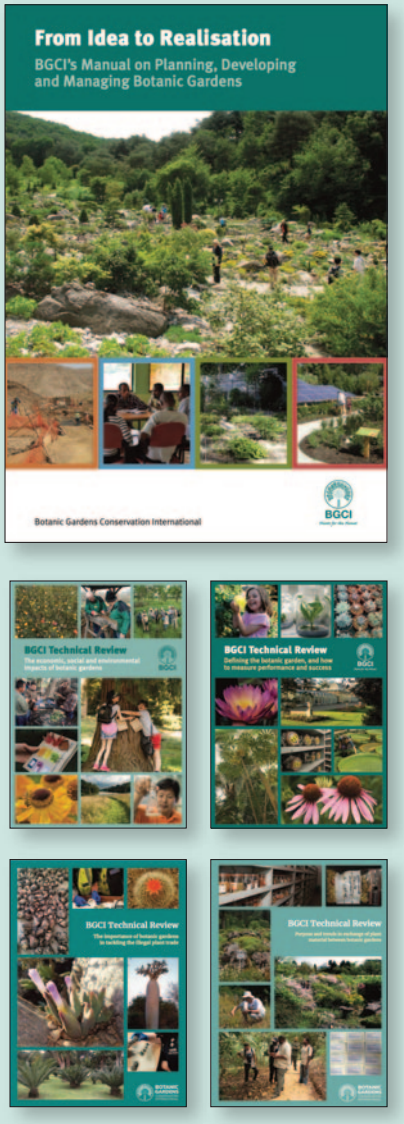
This acceleration did not occur in isolation. It coincided with heightened global awareness of BGCI's mission and the role of botanic gardens and plant conservation institutions in addressing global biodiversity challenges. During this period, BGCI increasingly came to be seen not only as a professional network, but as a global platform for collective action, knowledge exchange, and advocacy. The increase in membership was a product of this wider awareness of our work, but also the strength of the benefits that BGCI membership provides, such as: BGCI's accreditation scheme, online training courses, the Global Botanic Garden Fund and discounts to all of our congresses.

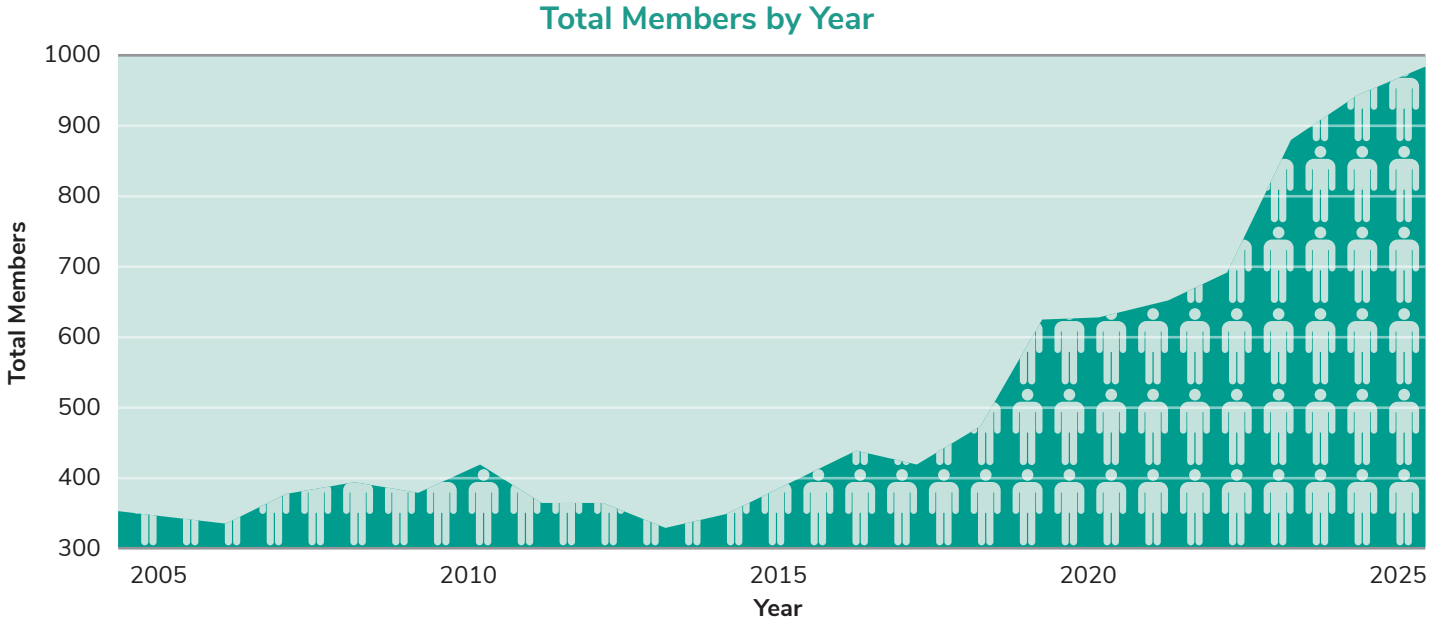
BGCI members are at the core to our work and our mission, and the membership income is our main unrestricted income, allowing BGCI to support the network with freely available resources such PlantSearch and GardenSearch, and our work in policy and creating standards for the community.

### 3.1.1. Uneven growth, shaped by regional capacity

While overall growth was strong, it was not evenly distributed across regions — a pattern that reflects differences in institutional capacity and the size of the potential membership base, and also resources that we are able to provide to strengthen the regional networks.

### Examples of BGCI Resources



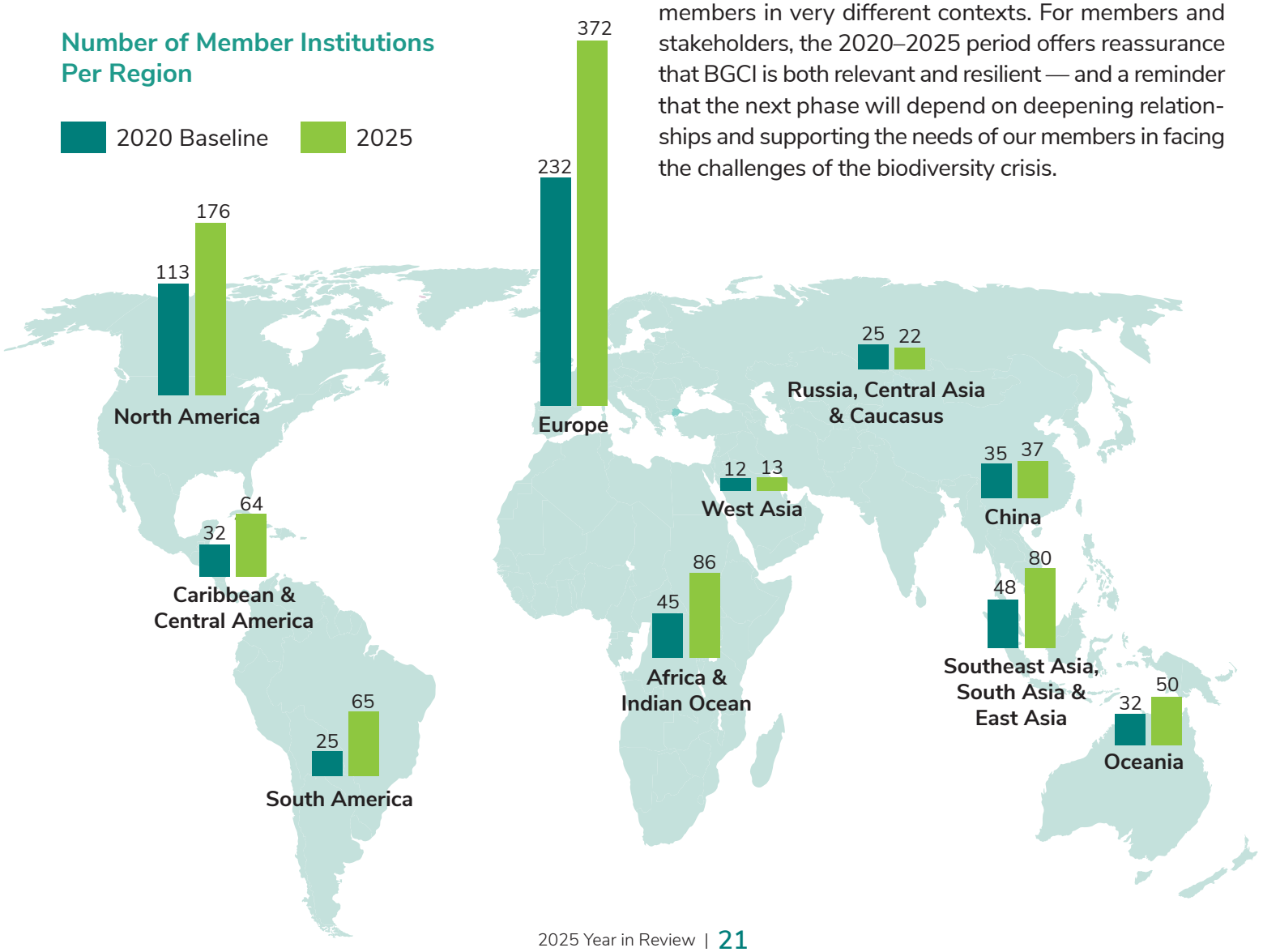
Europe and North America continued to form the backbone of BGCI membership, with Europe remaining BGCI's largest membership region in absolute terms and the region with the most longstanding members (many of them being with BGCI for over 20 years). However, these figures must be understood in context: both regions have the highest potential numbers of members, as both represent regions in the world with the highest concentration of botanic gardens. The Caribbean and Central America region and South America emerged as the regions with the largest percentage growth when compared to the 2020 baseline, reflecting the strength of the membership benefits delivered in a regional context, and the funding available to strengthen the network thanks to the generosity of the Leon Levy foundation.

### 3.1.2. Growth of Patron members

BGCI also saw steady and strategically important growth in its Patron membership, increasing from 19 to 30 by 2025. This growth reflects a deepening level of commitment to BGCI's global mission from some of the world's leading botanic gardens and arboreta. The expansion of the Patron cohort has been closely linked to the work of BGCI's International Advisory Council (see section 3.2), which provides strategic guidance, global perspective, and peer leadership. Over the past five years, the strengthening of Patron membership and the International Advisory Council has played a key role in anchoring BGCI's growth, supporting long-term stability, and ensuring that BGCI's expanding global network remains connected to experienced institutional leadership.

### 3.1.3. Conclusions

The period from 2020 to 2025 delivered meaningful progress toward a more globally representative membership. Growth in our Patron membership, in key regions such as in Asia, renewed momentum in parts of Africa, and steady engagement in Latin America have all broadened BGCI's geographic footprint. The challenge ahead is not simply to continue growing, but to ensure that growth is sustainable, balanced, and meaningful for members in very different contexts. For members and stakeholders, the 2020–2025 period offers reassurance that BGCI is both relevant and resilient — and a reminder that the next phase will depend on deepening relationships and supporting the needs of our members in facing the challenges of the biodiversity crisis.

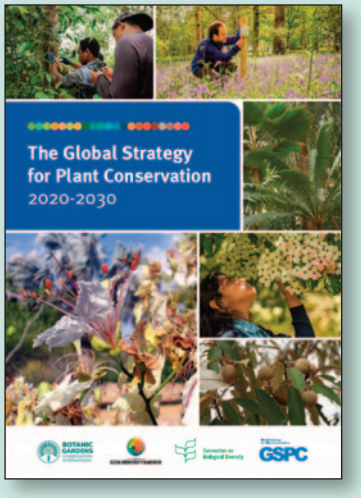


## 3.2. BGCI'S INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

BGCI's International Advisory Council (IAC) is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Ali of Jordan, and comprises 40 botanic garden leaders from six continents. The IAC serves as a global leadership forum for the world's botanic gardens, and BGCI is grateful for the time its members give to this role. Important topics initiated and discussed by the IAC from 2021-2025 include:

- The establishment of The Global Biodiversity Standard (2021)
- The susceptibility of botanic gardens, and their responses, to natural and man-made disasters (2021)
- New BGCI tools for responsible exchange of plant material and data (2022)
- Purpose and trends in exchange of plant material between botanic gardens (2023)
- The importance of botanic gardens in tackling the illegal plant trade (2024)
- Creating a global information ecosystem that empowers botanic gardens to connect, share, and analyse their living collections data, enabling informed, collaborative and collective decisions to manage and safeguard plant diversity (2025).
- Implementing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (2025)

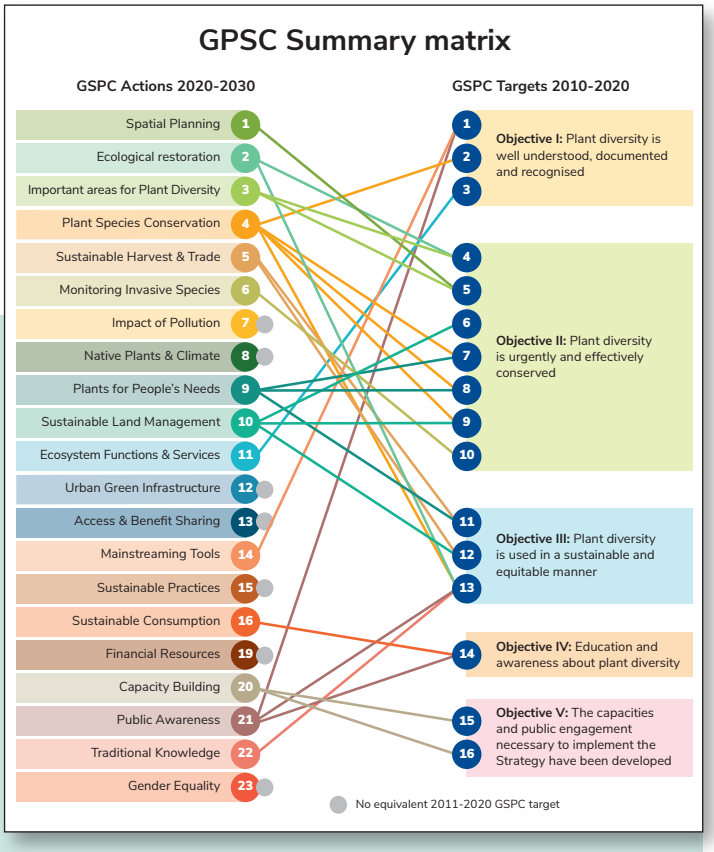
Publications emanating from these IAC discussions are available via the hyperlinks above.





## 3.3. BIODIVERSITY POLICY

BGCI has supported the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) was first drafted in 1999. The adoption of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD created an urgent need to realign plant conservation with the new global targets and implementation mechanisms. In response, a coordinated global process was undertaken to update the GSPC, ensuring that plant diversity is fully embedded within the wider biodiversity agenda. This inclusive effort translated the ambition of the Framework into clear, measurable, and actionable priorities for plant conservation, spanning in situ and ex situ conservation, restoration, sustainable use, capacity development, and knowledge sharing. The revised GSPC was formally adopted at COP16, reaffirming the central role of plants in achieving the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. To support implementation, a concise GSPC summary document has been published by BGCI, providing governments, funders, and practitioners with a practical reference for aligning policy, investment, and action with the Global Biodiversity Framework.



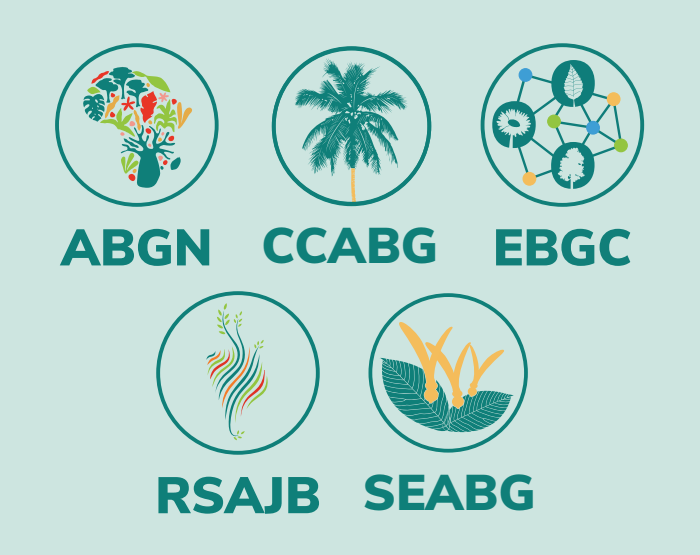
## 3.4. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER – THE STRENGTH OF COLLABORATION THROUGH REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN NETWORKS

Since BGCI's founding in 1987, the development and facilitation of regional botanic garden networks has been a key objective of the organisation in order to realise its global mission. Geographically focussed regional and national botanic garden networks are fundamental to enhancing collaborations for concerted action for plant conservation, sharing expertise, building capacity and demonstrating positive impact. They also present major opportunities for conservation policy advocacy and influence through the collective voice of all participating members of the networks.

Over the past five years, BGCI's Regional Programmes team have led and significantly scaled up the development, consolidation and coordination of a number of botanic garden networks. In particular, these include the South America Botanic Gardens Network (Red Sudamericana de Jardines Botánicos, RSAJB), Caribbean and Central America Botanic Gardens (CCABG) Network, Southeast Asia Botanic Gardens (SEABG) Network, African Botanic Gardens Network (ABGN) and European Botanic Gardens Consortium (EBGC). Major momentum for knowledge exchange and capacity building has been generated in and through these networks by way of over 115 technical talks and practical training courses reaching more than 6,400 participants, in addition to regular member communications and other public engagement initiatives.

The networks have also convened in-person meetings (see section 3.5, below), such as the CCABG Network's Botanical Bridges Congress hosted in The Bahamas and Colombia in 2022 and 2024, the SEABG Network's Conference and Meeting hosted by Makiling Botanic Gardens in the Philippines in 2023, and the EBGC's EuroGard Congress in Hungary and Italy in 2022 and 2025. BGCI has also promoted inter-regional, virtual network exchanges between the SEABG Network, the RSAJB and the Mexican Botanic Gardens Association (Asociación Mexicana de Jardines Botánicos, AMJB), bringing together more than 20 organisations from 13 countries in 2021.

Despite the importance and added value of regional botanic garden networks for the conservation of the world's plant diversity, financial resource mobilisation to assist in network creation and facilitation has been challenging. However, there are promising models in support of BGCI's regional network efforts, for instance the longstanding partnership with Naples Botanical Garden in Florida (USA) and more recently with the Jardín Botánico de Bogotá which significantly contribute to the operations of the CCABG Network and RSAJB, respectively. Furthermore, a major milestone was reached in 2023 thanks to the generous support by the Leon Levy Foundation, to assist in the consolidation of the CCABG Network. Similar generous funding through new partnerships such as with Fondation Audemars Piguet is now also assisting in the further development of technical capacity of the ABGN, RSAJB and SEABG networks. More recently, in November 2025, BGCI through the SEABG Network, signed a collaborative partnership with BRIN Botanic Gardens Network of Indonesia to carry out capacity building and to empower Indonesian Gardens to play a greater role in plant conservation.




Building on these successes and models, BGCI is continuing to mobilise support for the development of botanic garden networks in other regions such as West- and Central Asia, while maintaining close links with and contributing to networks facilitated by other organisations, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Botanical Gardens Working Group, Chinese Association of Botanic Gardens (CABG), American Public Gardens Association (APGA) and Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ). Since 2025, BGCI has also been represented on the executive committee of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Botánica (ALB) (Latin American Botany Association), with the objective of establishing closer links between academia and the botanic garden community in the region.

## 3.5. REGIONAL CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

### 3.5.1. Congresses of the Caribbean and Central America Botanic Gardens (CCABG) Network – Botanical Bridges

Click for more information on CCABG

The Caribbean and Central America Botanic Gardens (CCABG) Network was established in 2013 to bring botanic gardens in the region together to support each other, set standards and promote their conservation work in the region. The CCABG Network holds its congress every two years under the name 'Botanical Bridges'. This event provides a platform to engage and stimulate conversations and discussions among the country representatives on important issues affecting botanic gardens.

The first two congresses were held in Panamá in September 2016, in collaboration with the Summit Municipal Park, Biomuseo (Museo de la Biodiversidad), Panamá, and Belize Botanic Garden. The following meeting was held in Cuba in April 2018, hosted by the Jardín Botánico Nacional de La Habana. The third Botanical Bridges Congress was held on the island of Eleuthera, The Bahamas, in November 2022, hosted by the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve. It brought together nearly 50 participants from 26 institutions, representing 11 countries and territories. The fourth Congress was hosted by the Jardín Botánico de Cartagena "Guillermo Piñeres" in Cartagena, Colombia, in February 2024. The congress explored a wide range of themes that highlighted the intricate landscape of plant conservation and management. The congress hosted participants from 23 countries with attendance of over 100 participants. The fifth Botanical Bridges Congress will be hosted by the Jardín Botánico Nacional Dr. Rafael M. Moscoso in the Dominican Republic, in April 2026.

### 3.5.2. Meetings of the Red Sudamericana de Jardines Botánicos (RSAJB)

The Red Sudamericana de Jardines Botánicos (RSAJB) was created in 2019 to strengthen links among botanic gardens in the region, promote research, support the development and management of botanic gardens, advance native plant species and habitat conservation, as well as promote education and environmental appreciation. The first workshop for the establishment of the RSAJB took place at the Universidad del Tolima, and the Jardín Botánico Alexander Von Humboldt in Ibagué, Colombia, in December 2019. The event was attended by more than 40 participants from 11 South American countries. The second RSAJB in-person meeting was hosted by the Jardín Botánico José Celestino Mutis, Bogotá, in November 2025. During the three days, 43 representatives from 10 South American countries participated in an interactive workshop to develop propagation protocols for threatened tree species, with a special focus on training for trainers, and jointly developed a two-year action plan for the network aligned with the newly launched Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

### 3.5.3. European Botanic Gardens Congress (EuroGard) of the European Botanic Gardens Consortium (EBGC)

The European Botanic Gardens Consortium (EBGC) was created in 1994 to plan Europe-wide initiatives for botanic gardens, especially within the context of developing national and Europe-wide action plans to contribute towards implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to promote the implementation of European and other international legislation such as the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy, the European Commission's Habitats Directive, the Bern Convention, CITES and the Ramsar Convention. The 9th European Botanic Gardens Congress (EuroGard 9) was held in Budapest, Hungary, in May 2022, co-organised with the Hungarian Association of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. The Congress attracted 175 participants from 28 countries. The Scientific programme included 70 oral presentations, 6 workshops, and 51 posters. EuroGard 10 was held in Rome, Italy, in September 2025 bringing together 236 participants from 36 countries under the banner "Botanic Gardens in the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration." With the global call for ecological restoration becoming ever more urgent, the Congress positioned botanic gardens not merely as repositories of plant diversity, but as active agents in restoring degraded ecosystems, informing policy, and sharing knowledge to safeguard plant diversity. The next EuroGard will be held in Oslo, Norway, the year still to be determined.

### 3.5.4. Strengthening the African Botanic Gardens Network (ABGN) at the Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa (AETFAT) Congress

During the 22nd AETFAT Congress in Livingstone, Zambia, an African Botanic Gardens Network (ABGN) meeting and training session were held. Discussions focused on botanic garden master planning, living collections management and the collection of propagation material. The 23rd AETFAT Congress in Accra, Ghana, held in July 2025, included a satellite ABGN meeting attended by 34 delegates from 13 African countries, which focused on revitalising the network through discussions on membership, governance, sub-regional coordination, capacity building and sustainable resource mobilisation. The next Congress will be hosted by Alassane Ouattara University in Côte d'Ivoire with the support of BGCI.


### 3.5.5. The Southeast Asia Botanic Gardens (SEABG) Network's Conferences and Meetings

The Southeast Asia Botanic Gardens (SEABG) Network, established in 2004 with BGCI providing the secretariat, connects botanical institutions across the region to promote conservation, capacity building, and sustainable management of the indigenous flora. The aims of the SEABG Network are to set standards among botanic gardens in the region, provide a venue for exchange of technical expertise and assistance within the botanical community, link SEABG members with other botanic gardens networks and associations, and also guide SEABG members towards implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), specifically the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).

The SEABG Network holds a conference every two or three years to convene country representatives and provide capacity building on priority themes determined by the network. The first and second conferences were held in 2004 and 2007 at Singapore Botanic Gardens. In 2009, the third conference was hosted by Dr. Cecilia Koo Botanic Conservation Center in Taiwan followed by the 2011 conference in Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, China. More recently, in 2015, Eka Karya Bali Botanic Garden in Indonesia hosted an Access and Benefit-Sharing training session in parallel with the SEABG meeting. Subsequently, in 2017, Bidoup-Nuiba National Park, Vietnam and in 2019, Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, Thailand hosted the SEABG meetings, respectively. The most recent SEABG Network Conference and meeting was held in Makiling Botanic Gardens, in the Philippines in July, 2023.

Besides, the in-person conferences, the SEABG Network facilitates knowledge exchanges through technical sessions or groups in the region such as the Southeast Asia-Plant Biosecurity Group (SEA-PBG), which serves as a platform for regional collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and coordinated action to protect plant collections and plant biodiversity from biosecurity threats in close collaboration with the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN).

# 4. Sharing Knowledge and Resources

**Plant conservation, public engagement and botanic garden management capacity is spread unevenly and inequitably across the globe. Institutional capacity is particularly weak in many developing countries and biodiversity hotspots. BGCI plays a crucial role in sharing information, knowledge and skills between different parts of its network through its databases, training and technical support activities.**

## 4.1. BGCI'S ACCREDITATION SCHEME

Over the past five years, BGCI's Accreditation Scheme has matured from its initial launch into a globally recognised benchmark for excellence in botanic gardens.

First introduced in 2018 to distinguish botanic gardens from other kinds of gardens through rigorous assessments of leadership, living collections curation, conservation actions, research, sustainability, public engagement and networking, the scheme has steadily expanded its reach and impact. Since then, institutions worldwide have engaged with the accreditation process, using BGCI's standards and mentorship support to improve programmes and align with international best practices. In 2024, the scheme celebrated a major milestone when it surpassed 100 accredited gardens, marking a growing global community committed to plant conservation and professional excellence.

BGCI accreditation has become both a badge of pride and a tool for internal review, helping gardens identify gaps and strengthen strategic direction while gaining recognition among peers and policymakers. Alongside the core Botanic Garden Accreditation, related pathways for Conservation Practitioner and Advanced Conservation Practitioner recognition have deepened the scheme's role in elevating conservation leadership across the sector.

**"The Accreditation demonstrates that the garden has global best practices in place, so is a great endorsement for the garden"**
Inala Jurassic Garden, Australia

## 4.2. BGCI VOCATIONAL TRAINING


This five-year period saw the launch of BGCI's online training platform, which offers a suite of self-paced learning modules for botanic garden professionals. The modules cover a wide range of subjects such as propagation, restoration, seed conservation and public engagement. In addition, a "Botanic Garden Basics" series provides BGCI members with a suite of foundation modules about botanic garden processes. In total, 27 modules are available, this includes many of our key modules in additional languages (French and Spanish).

Also in this five year period BGCI launched its Global Webinar series, a regular online event to showcase the work of BGCI and its members, and provide knowledge sharing and capacity building opportunities. This Global series is complemented by a programme of regional technical talks, which are focused on specific BGCI networks and regions. In addition, BGCI staff have delivered a suite of in person and online training and workshop sessions covering policy, conservation prioritisation, conservation horticulture and more.

In total, **39,509 people were trained** (BGCI training and webinars) during the period 2021-2025.

## 4.3. THE GLOBAL BOTANIC GARDEN FUND

BGCI
Global Botanic Garden Fund

Over the past five years, the Global Botanic Garden Fund (GBGF), managed by BGCI, has had a growing impact by providing small but strategic grants to botanic gardens and arboreta around the world, particularly in biodiversity-rich and under-resourced regions. The fund has supported an average of 56 projects each year across Africa, Asia and Latin America, enabling gardens to carry out practical work such as seed collecting and banking, propagation of threatened species, digitisation and improvement of living collections, staff training, and community education.

**Supported an average of 56 projects each year**

**Click for more information on BGCI's Global Botanic Garden Fund**

The GBGF empowers institutions that are closest to threatened plant diversity and best placed to act. Over this five-year period, the fund has also strengthened the global botanic garden network by promoting shared standards, knowledge exchange, and collaboration, helping translate global biodiversity goals into on-the-ground action. In doing so, the GBGF has demonstrated how relatively small, well-directed investments can deliver meaningful, long-term benefits for plant conservation worldwide.

In the last five years, we continued the successful annual running of the BGCI Member grants (with funding from The Botanist, The Huntington, and through the Holiday Challenge, the BigGive and GBGF donations), the ArbNet Partnership Programme Grants (funded by the Morton Arboretum) and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Grants (funded by Minnesota Landscape Arboretum). We also added six new grants to the GBGF suite, each targeting different types of conservation projects:

- In 2021, the GGI-Gardens Awards Program (funded in partnership with United States Botanic Garden) launched and focussed on herbarium voucher collections and preserving genome resources in biorepositories.

### A few of the many successfully completed projects

**Conserving geophytes from the Iberian Peninsula**
Europe
Completed 2021

**Genomic and herbarium specimen data collected from the Al-Arqoub region**
Africa
Completed 2024

- In 2022, we opened the North American Fruit & Nut Tree Crop Wild Relatives Conservation Partnership Awards (funded in partnership with United States Botanic Garden). These partnerships are for U.S.-based institutions undertaking conservation work focused on priority fruit and nut tree CWR taxa.

- 2023 brought three new offerings:

  i. The US Forest Service Rare Plant Partnerships (funded by the US Forest Service) which supported conservation action by botanic gardens for rare plant species that occur on USDA Forest Service land, in the U.S. and U.S. territories.

  ii. The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve Grants (funded by Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve), providing grants for institutions based in the Caribbean and Central American region and finally

  iii. The Global Conservation Consortia Grants (funded by a variety of funding sources, from The Huntington, The US National Arboretum, The Friends of Bedgebury National Pinetum - Forestry England). These grants ran for two years with a specific focus on GCC conservation.

- In 2025 we launched the Global Seed Conservation Grants (funded by the Korea Arboreta and Gardens Institute), which aim to support the long-term storage of seeds of threatened plants and increase seed banking capacity.

***Ex Situ* Conservation of the Endemic Wild Camellia in Vietnam**
Asia
Completed 2022

Since 2021, the GBGF has disbursed **US$911,683**. This encompasses 282 grants, across 59 countries to 175 institutions. In addition to this, we have awarded many scholarships and bursaries plus specific appeal grants, and when added to the GBGF amount, we disbursed a total of **US$1,152,000** over the last five years. Successfully completed projects from 2021-2024 can be read about here.

***Ex Situ* conservation of 11 threatened taxa in Nantahala National Forests**
North America
Completed 2024

**Disbursed a total of US$1,152,000 over the last five years**


# 5. Addressing Global Challenges through Public Engagement and Education

**BGCI's network of botanic gardens attracts hundreds of millions of visitors each year. BGCI plays a key role in supporting botanic garden education and outreach activities, to engage audiences in addressing global challenges such as sustainability, biodiversity loss and food security.**

## 5.1. GLOBE

GLOBE
Global Learning and Outreach network for Botanic Educators

GLOBE, which stands for Global Learning and Outreach Network for Botanic Educators, was officially launched at the 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens in June 2025. BGCI's vision for the GLOBE network is an interactive, collaborative platform where botanic educators around the world can exchange resources, insights, and inspiration with like-minded colleagues, ask questions of peers and find opportunities for collaboration. GLOBE includes a variety of platforms and tools (social media, newsletters) to provide a space for education professionals. Further plans are in place to grow this network in 2026 and beyond.

**Botanic educators can exchange resources, insights, and inspiration**


## 5.2. BGCI SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS


In this 5-year period, BGCI's Education team had a strong focus on addressing global challenges through public engagement and education. In particular, projects focused on sustainability and food, looking at how botanic gardens and arboreta can support their visitors to make more sustainable choices. The Food Sustainability Challenge gathered examples of ways in which botanic gardens engage their visitors with food sustainability and culminated in the identification of a series of food actions aimed at botanic gardens and arboreta. The Sustainability Challenge Pilot worked with two UK gardens to create small-scale challenges that allow botanic garden visitors to contribute to climate change goals and turn sustainability engagement into collective conservation action. Two pilot challenges were created, Palate for the planet, that encouraged visitors to record their food carbon footprint, and Plant warriors encouraged the public to adopt environmental friendly behaviours to support buying indoor plants. The Fruit and Veg Food Waste Challenge developed a 30-day challenge for botanic garden visitors to reduce their fruit and vegetable food waste. The project encouraged individuals to explore the world of fruit and vegetables, appreciate the diversity and versatility in our diets, and showcase simple ways to reduce food waste.

## 5.3. PUBLIC AWARENESS TRAINING

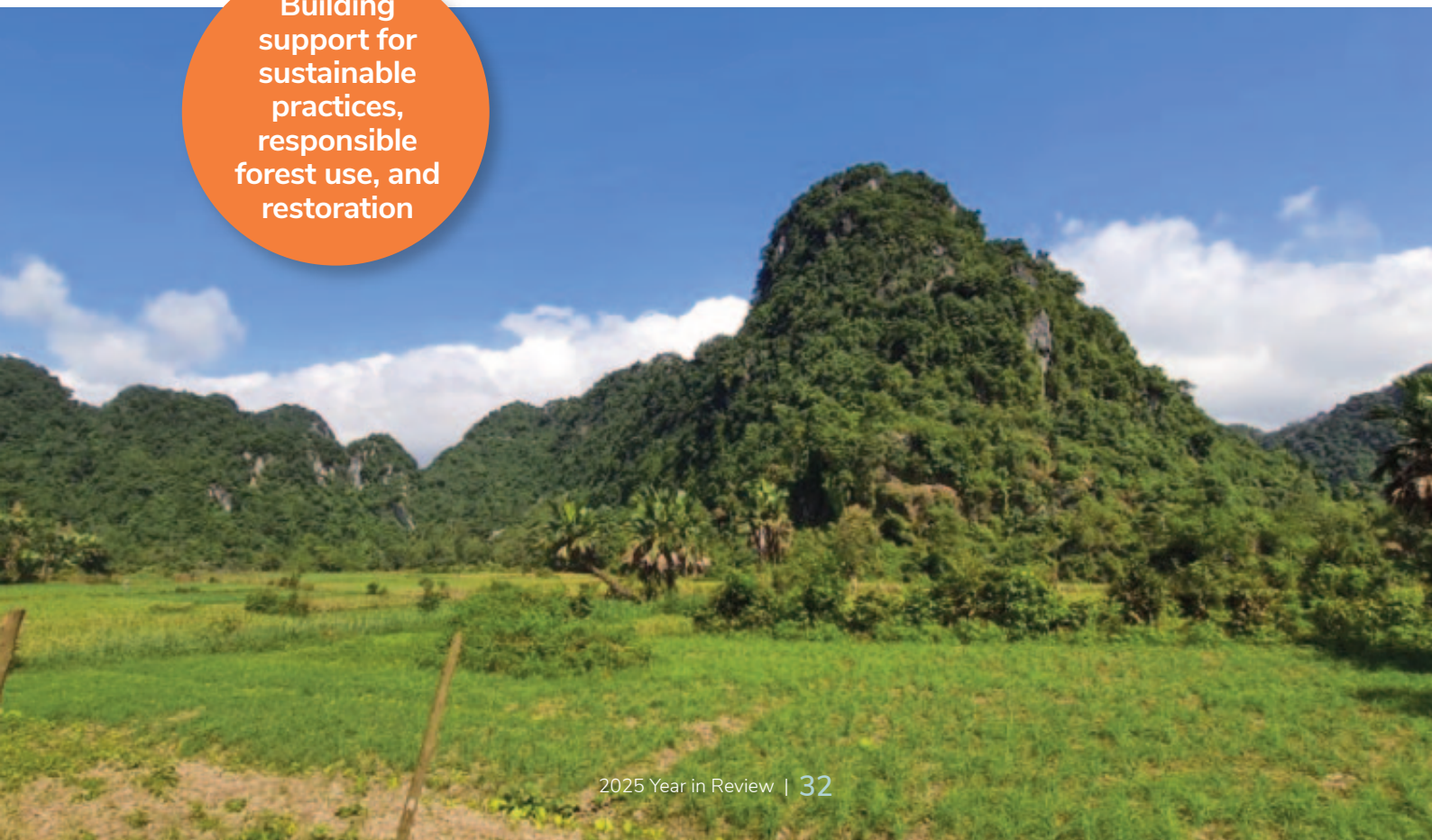
### 5.3.1. Using behaviour change to improve community sustainable natural resource management of Mount Mulanje, Malawi


As part of a Darwin funded BGCI project to develop alternative sustainable livelihoods options in the Mount Mulanje Biosphere Reserve, the education team trialled a behaviour change approach. Using the Behaviour-Centred Design (BCD) model developed by RARE, the team and in-country partners designed actions and interventions to address unsustainable charcoal and firewood harvesting and use in the local area. This included designing a series of public awareness actions (including radio programmes, leaflets and sponsorship of sporting events) to inform the community about the forestry act, tree tenure rights, biodiversity of Mount Mulanje and the challenges of conservation efforts. It also included leadership training with Group Village Heads (GVH) to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to run community meetings in their villages about conservation issues linked to the natural reserve.

### 5.3.2. Public awareness campaigns in Vietnam's Quang Binh province

The Tuyen Hoa district in Vietnam's Quang Binh province, is home to unique fauna and flora including the Endangered white-cheeked langur, and threatened tree species such as the Critically Endangered ebony *Diospyros mun* and the Endangered legume *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*. Illegal cutting of valuable timbers, wildlife hunting, agricultural expansion, and indiscriminate collection of non-timber forest products, are key drivers of biodiversity loss. As part of a BGCI wide, multi-partner project, the education team led a public awareness programme to raise awareness and build support for sustainable practices, responsible forest use, and restoration. Public engagement activities included a Train-the-Trainer programme on biodiversity and zoonotic disease prevention, a school programme about the langur and its habitat, a teacher's toolkit with activities on conservation, and the creation of awareness materials such as leaflets, posters and videos.

**Building support for sustainable practices, responsible forest use, and restoration**



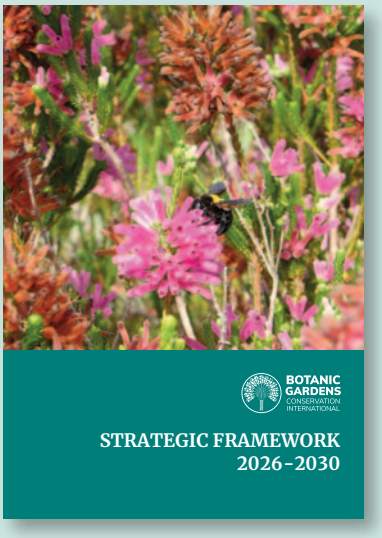
# 6. The BGCI Strategic Framework 2026-2030

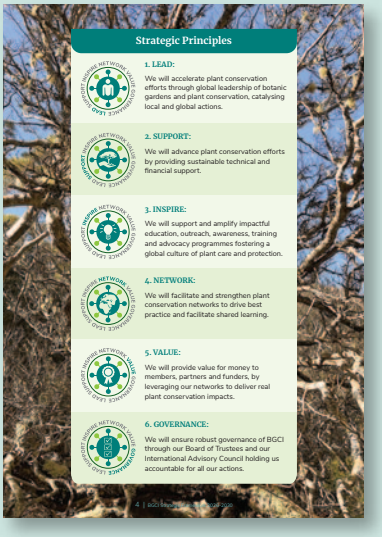
**The BGCI Strategic Framework 2026-2030 builds directly on the strong foundations and proven results of BGCI's 2021–2025 strategy, which expanded global conservation programmes, strengthened botanic garden capacity, and elevated plants in international biodiversity policy.**

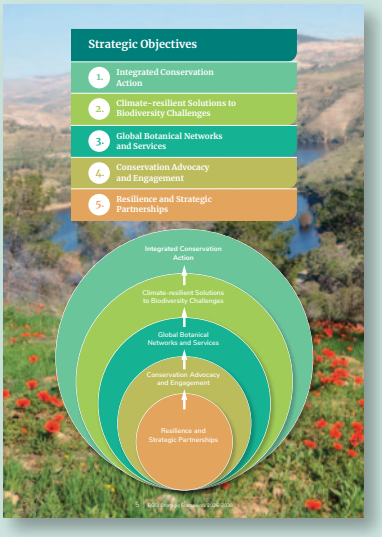
Lessons learned and successes achieved during this period have informed a sharper, more ambitious framework that focuses on scaling impact where it matters most. The new strategy deepens integrated conservation action, accelerates climate-resilient solutions, and mobilises a growing global network to secure more plant species for the future. For donors and funders, Botanic Gardens Conservation International offers a trusted partner with a clear pathway to amplified, measurable conservation outcomes.

Click for more information on the BGCI Strategic Framework 2026–2030


Staff at the BGCI Strategic Framework 2026 -2030 meeting



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