

2025 Year in Review



**BOTANIC
GARDENS**
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL

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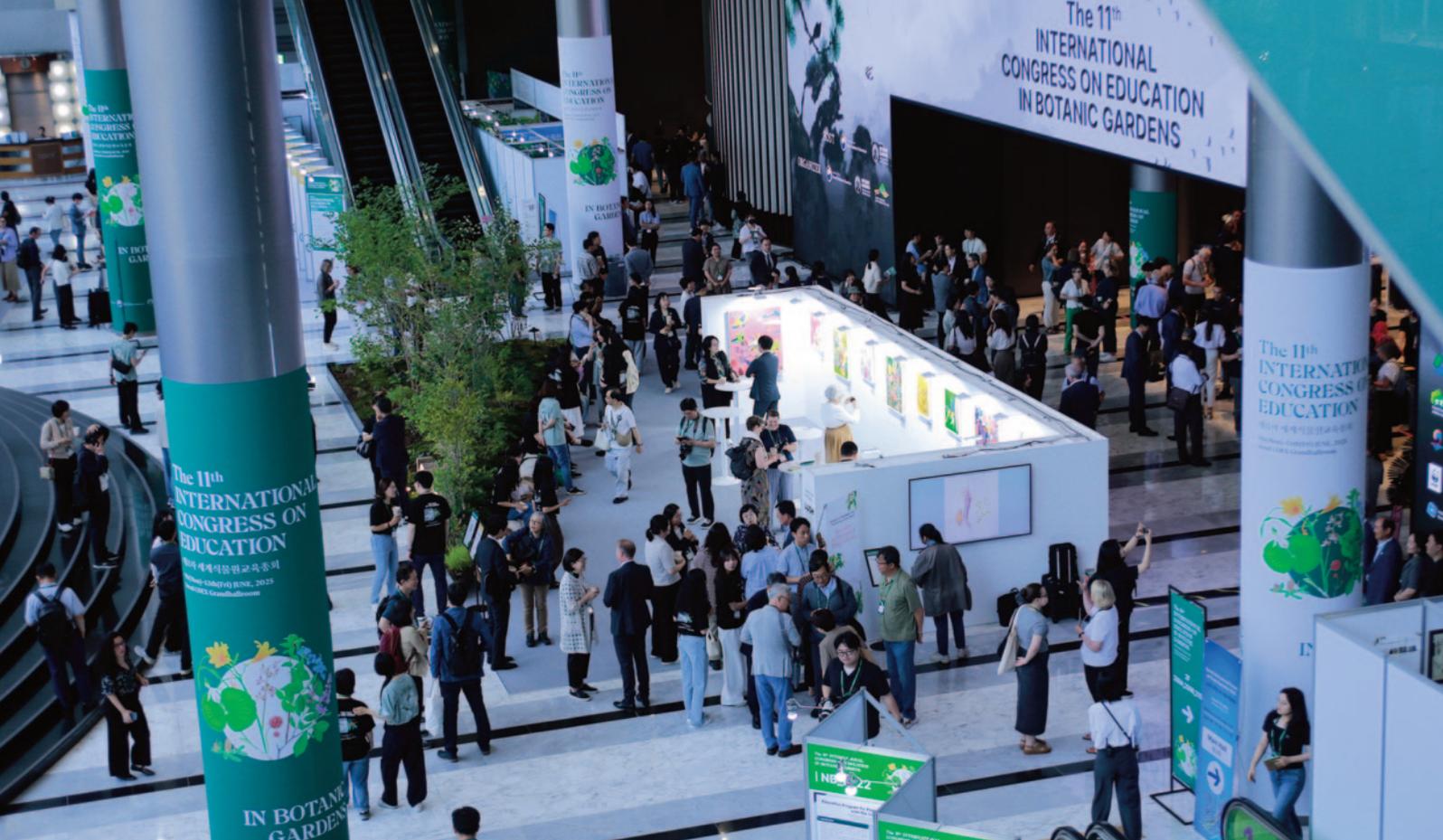
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Letter from the Secretary General

Welcome to BGCI's Annual Review of 2025, which looks back at the highlights of the year, and tracks progress against BGCI's objectives and milestones.

Highlights in 2025 include BGCI's 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens (ICEBG 11), which I had the great pleasure of attending, and was hosted by the Korea National Arboretum (KNA) in June ([p. 5](#)). Our heartfelt thanks go to KNA and our other Korean hosts from KoAGI and KABGA for their hospitality and their achievement in hosting what we believe to be the largest BGCI Congress to date. My thanks also go to BGCI's Education Team, who worked tirelessly to make the Congress such a success. Additional highlights include the development of PlantSearch ([p. 5](#)) – enabling gardens to connect with each other directly to request plant material for the first time – and the launch of the Illegal Plant Trade Coalition ([p. 6](#)) at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi in October.



As always, a key measure of our network's success is the impact of our work saving plants ([p. 7](#)). A retrospective study of BGCI's work with the Franklinia Foundation to conserve tree species ([p. 8](#)) documented more than 750 plant species supported through conservation action as a result of this important partnership. BGCI is extremely grateful to Fondation Franklinia for their support over the past 20 years. BGCI's tree conservation work, and that of our partners, is increasingly guided by the [Global Tree Assessment](#) (GTA), and new information on the status of the tree diversity of Mesoamerica is detailed on [page 11](#). For many countries in the region and elsewhere in the world, the GTA has provided national lists of threatened and endemic tree species for the first time, and these now form the basis of tree conservation planning in these countries (see [page 8](#)). BGCI's conservation projects are not just focused on plants. Our projects in Malawi ([p. 9](#)), Tanzania ([p. 20](#)) and the Philippines ([p. 22](#)) focus on people as custodians of biodiversity and wildlife, and the work of The Global Biodiversity Standard ([pages 5 and 10](#)) provides mentoring for habitat restoration and repair.

2025 was an epic year for regional meetings, including the 10th European Botanic Garden Congress in Rome ([p. 15](#)), the South American Botanic Garden Network meeting in Bogotá, Colombia in November ([p. 15](#)), and the African Botanic Garden Network meeting in Accra, Ghana in August ([p. 14](#)). In all of these meetings, BGCI acts as a convenor but relies on you, our partners to share your knowledge and perspectives. A big thank you to the hosts of those meetings and to all the participants who make these meetings so memorable and productive.

For many of BGCI's member organisations, the more tangible support we can bring through funding and training is crucial. In 2025, BGCI disbursed a total of 67 Global Botanic Garden Fund grants, across 7 different grant types, worth \$223,214 to 59 institutions, across 35 different countries ([p. 17](#)). Overall, in 2025, BGCI disbursed over £1.6 million in grant funding to partner organisations. Examples of the technical support we provide is detailed in Section 4, and includes BGCI's accreditation scheme ([p. 17](#)), propagation protocol training in Latin America ([p. 18](#)), biosecurity capacity building in the Caribbean ([p. 18](#)) and Native Tree Species data sharing in Tanzania ([p. 20](#)). In total 2876 people benefited from BGCI training in 2025.

Our education and public engagement work is not confined to vocational training – it also includes public messaging and changing behaviours. In Section 5 ([p. 22](#)), our work on a Declaration of Intent on Climate Action Education is described and, on [page 22](#), the work of BGCI and partners in changing attitudes and behaviours related to the Philippine eagle represents a fascinating case study of resolving human wildlife conflict.

Last but not least, 2025 was the final year of our 2021-2025 Strategy. For a retrospective of those 5 years see 5 Year Retrospective BGCI 2021-25. It was also the time to plan ahead and the result of this planning process is [BGCI's Strategic Framework 2026-30](#). Our mission remains the same as it has been for the last two decades:

To mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet.

We look forward to working with you towards this end!

Paul Smith
BGCI's Secretary General



Highlights of 2025



11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens

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. 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!

PLANTSEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, BGCI significantly strengthened PlantSearch with two major developments. A [new communication facility](#) now enables direct contact between institutions to request information and plant material, improving collaboration. In parallel, a major system update introduced an [enhanced taxonomic backbone](#), improved name matching, clearer synonym tracking, and better data transparency, increasing accuracy and usability for global plant conservation efforts. We would like to thank BGCI members for continuously supporting the development of these tools.



THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY STANDARD

In 2025, The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) certified its first Premium Tier site, led by Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, a member of the Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens. The site reflects nearly 30 years of science-led forest restoration, transforming degraded land into a thriving, biodiverse ecosystem through long-term ecological research, native species recovery and adaptive management. Achieving the highest TGBS score to date (9.3/10), it sets a global benchmark for high-integrity, biodiversity-positive restoration.



LAUNCH OF THE ILLEGAL PLANT TRADE COALITION

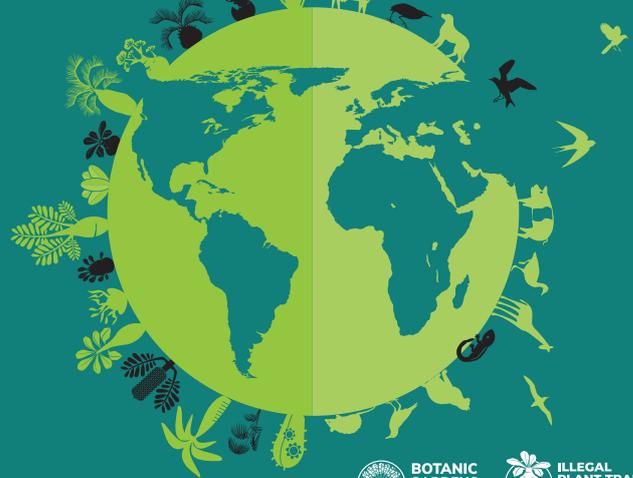
The Illegal Plant Trade Coalition (IPTC) launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress with strong cross-sector backing while raising awareness of the illegal plant trade and catalysing coordinated action to protect wild plant populations threatened by illegal trade, and manage confiscated species, including cycads, orchids, cacti, succulents and carnivorous plants.



PLANT EXTINCTION

The number of plants that have **disappeared** in the wild ...

is **twice** the number of birds, mammals and amphibians recorded as extinct.

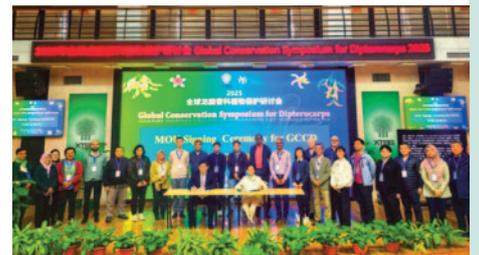


GLOBAL CONSERVATION CONSORTIA

The GCC programme achieved several major milestones in 2025, including the appointment of a full-time GCC manager to coordinate the network and further develop BGCI's role at the GCC Secretariat and develop a pipeline of new GCCs. The programme has grown to 12 GCCs, including the new GCC for Food Plants (GCCFP) which launched in September 2025 and is being led by New York Botanical Garden in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation and The Crop Trust. The GCCFP is a major innovative collaboration that brings together the botanic garden and crop seedbank communities.

Additional highlights in 2025 include running a successful *Nothofagus* seminar hosted at BGCI's office at Kew, the GCCD first global symposium for Dipterocarps conservation hosted by Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden in China and the publication of a major collection of papers by the GCCE on *Erica* conservation plus a new digital identification tool for this important super genus of over 800 species.

Looking ahead BGCI is organising the first in person meeting for all GCCs in May 2026. The GCC Summit will be hosted by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) in Scotland. This will be an important event for knowledge sharing, building capacity, setting global standards and scaling *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation efforts for over 1,800 threatened plant species across the 12 GCCs.





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. This section of the Year in Review highlights our work to save plants in 2025.

CONSERVATION ACTION

A key funder and supporter of BGCI's tree species recovery work over the past 20 years is the Franklinia Foundation and, this year, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of BGCI's partnership with Fondation Franklinia, we assessed the impact of the generous support this funder has given BGCI for tree conservation projects since 2006. Projects have evolved from supporting tree conservation in a few targeted countries to a larger programme that aims to conserve the world's threatened trees through delivering planning, training and conservation actions that build on the assessment work carried out by BGCI's Global Tree Assessment project.

Since 2006, the BGCI-Franklinia partnership has supported tree conservation in **56 countries** and targeted **764 plant species**, including **337 listed as threatened** on the IUCN Global Red List. Nearly **300,000 mature individuals** of **154 threatened species** have been protected *in situ*, and **309,291 plants** of **102 threatened species** planted back into the wild. Over **265 organisations** partnered with BGCI in these projects, with training and support given to more than **12,000 people**, from over **1,000 institutes** to deliver better conservation for these

In total, BGCI provided funding and technical support towards the recovery of **>420 plant species** in 2025



BOTANIC GARDENS
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

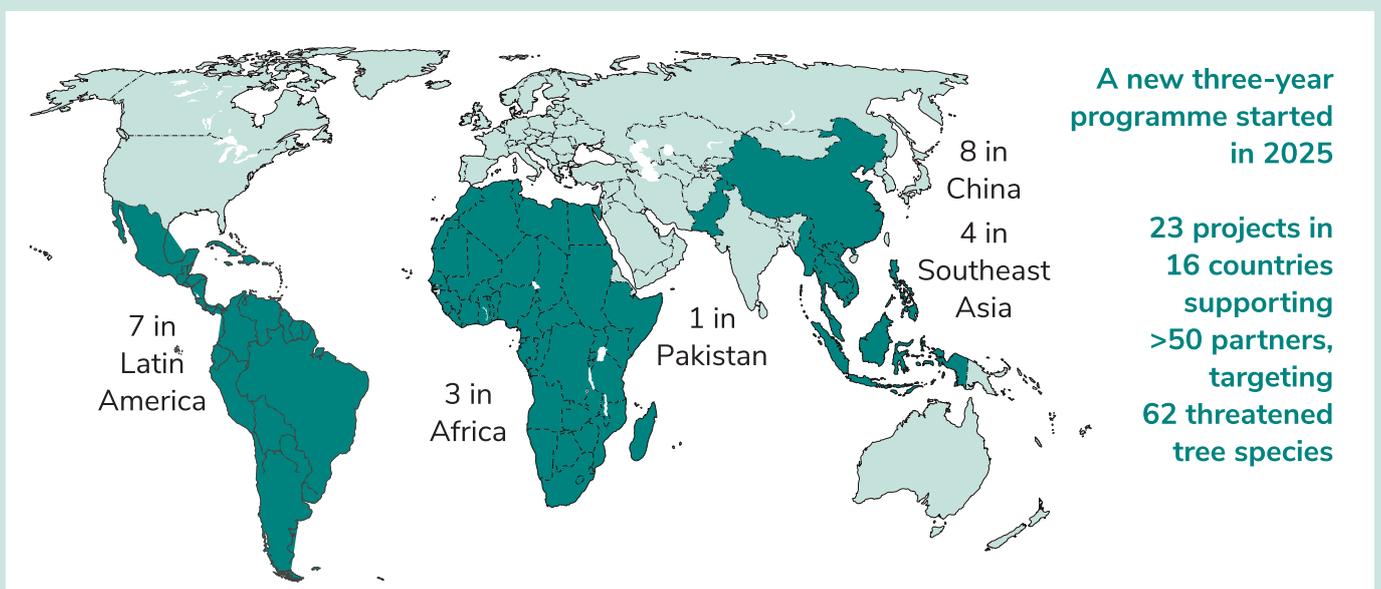


and other plant species into the future. Over a third of those people and 76% of the organisations supported are still active in plant conservation.

Livelihoods of over **500 people (178 women)** were also impacted through employment in nurseries, seed collection and supporting restoration, as well as sustainable harvesting of valuable species and from bee keeping or agroforestry support.

Fondation Franklinia's sustained investment has strengthened BGCI's global leadership in tree conservation through collaborations and exchange of expertise, increasing our reach, efficiency, and scientific rigour.

48 conservation action plans have been developed. Following previous national planning work in Kenya and Ghana, support has also been provided to Threatened Tree consortia in each country, and fundraising to implement the agreed action plans has raised over **£500,000**. Chile and Malaysia conservation action plans were reviewed, and will be officially launched and supported in 2026. Planning workshops were delivered in the Philippines.



SUSTAINABLE MIOMBO MANAGEMENT IN MALAWI

A three-year Darwin Initiative funded project around Mount Mulanje in Malawi concluded in March 2025, after over 10 years of collaboration between BGCI and the Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust and the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi, with newer partners WeForest and FairWild joining conservation activities in the area since 2020.

In this project, market analysis was carried out on a target list of 13 known useful plant and fungi species from miombo woodlands. Firewood and charcoal markets were also assessed to understand the incomes received from these destructive practices. These were shown to provide annual incomes of up to 134,854 MWK (£92). The species were also mapped in the local forest to assess their abundance and potential productivity.

A species selection workshop was held with 10 stakeholders from 6 institutes. Information on markets, availability and productivity of the plants was used to score each species to narrow down the list to 5 species for product developments: *Uapaca kirkiana*, *Flacourtia indica*, *Parinari curatellifolia*, *Garcinia buchananii* and a group of three *Cantharellus* spp.

Nine new products were developed from the 5 selected species by combining them with other ingredients to increase their shelf life and palatability in order to increase their market potential. These were



tested with local shops, restaurants and herbal tea producers, with three buyers willing to put in orders if supplies could be met.

290 community members (206 women) became registered collectors that can sell their products and, at the same time, be FairWild compliant. From the harvesting trials for product developments and testing in markets, 100 of those trained received 1,980,950 Malawi Kwacha (£1,353) for 1,165.7Kgs of fruit and mushrooms that had previously not given them incomes; 54 community members (47 women) became more regular sellers earning 89% of the total.

In co-managed blocks of miombo woodland, 1,481 hectares of woodland received extra protection through the project. Management actions included the deployment of community forest scouts, intensive weeding and forest management in 8 hectares. Five hectares were planted with 8,027 of 12 species in restoration sites within the reserve, and 311.89 hectares were subjected to prescribed burning to reduce annual fire damage in the heat of the dry season. These activities are aimed at protecting the miombo and allowing it to naturally regenerate but also to increase the resources available of marketed species for future use.

In total 23,468 individuals of 12 native species were planted in agroforestry plots by 938 farmers, alongside other well-known agroforestry species that are not native to Malawi.

The project has laid the groundwork for marketable products and opportunities from native miombo species that could be developed further, with other miombo areas in Malawi potentially adding to the resource base as demand increases.

23,468 individuals of 12 native species were planted by 938 farmers





2025 saw the launch of TGBS Mentoring Programme

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY STANDARD MENTORING PROGRAMME

In 2025, BGCI launched The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) Mentoring Programme to deliver practical, science-based capacity building for ecosystem restoration projects. Developed in collaboration with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the programme supports restoration and nature-based solution projects to achieve credible, long-term biodiversity outcomes, aligned with international best practice.

The mentoring is structured around three progressive modules. The Essentials module supports projects at an early stage, focusing on understanding reference ecosystems, establishing robust baselines, identifying key threats, and mapping key stakeholders. The Sustainability module strengthens project design and management systems, including advanced ecological monitoring and adaptive management. The Enrichment module supports projects with specialist thematic topics such as species selection, seed collection, or control of invasive species, helping them move towards higher levels of ecosystem integrity and long-term biodiversity recovery.

The first TGBS mentoring programme, delivered in 2025, piloted the Essentials module. It was led by Tooro Botanical Gardens, the TGBS Hub for Uganda, at the Kyamugavu Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary in Mubende District. The mentoring supported the project implementation teams from Canopy Regenerative and Transformed for Life, with funding from Ecosia, in a highly degraded 405-hectare landscape within the endangered Combretum wooded grassland ecosystem.

The mentoring team brought together complementary expertise in restoration ecology, botany, invertebrate ecology and ornithology. They trained the local practitioners how to implement field surveys of trees and shrubs, dung beetles and birds, and guided the development of a native reference ecosystem model using nearby protected areas as reference sites. The teams jointly applied the TGBS five-star ecosystem integrity and level of protection frameworks to interpret baseline conditions, identify key pressures and limiting factors, and define realistic, science-based recovery objectives.

Importantly, the process was designed as a learning partnership rather than a one-off assessment. Through joint fieldwork, analysis and discussion, the mentoring strengthened local capacity in species identification, ecological monitoring, data interpretation and adaptive management. The resulting baseline and reference models now provide a foundation for guiding restoration planning, tracking progress and improving long-term biodiversity outcomes.

The Kyamugavu pilot demonstrates the distinctive value of the TGBS Mentoring Programme: mobilising botanic garden expertise, grounded in international restoration standards, to translate global frameworks into practical, site-level action while building enduring scientific and technical capacity in-country. In 2026, the programme will be scaled through the growing global network of TGBS Hubs, with the aim of reaching a wider community of restoration practitioners and supporting more projects to deliver credible, measurable and lasting biodiversity recovery.

THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF MESOAMERICA'S UNIQUE TREE SPECIES

In 2025, BGCI published a warning about biodiversity loss from a region famed for its biological richness: Mesoamerica, which extends from Mexico to Panama. This region is home to thousands of unique tree species found nowhere else on the planet, and new research released this year paints a stark picture - nearly half of those endemic species are now threatened with extinction.

Before 2019, only 20% of Mesoamerican tree species had been assessed on the IUCN Red List. That changed following a pivotal meeting at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica, where experts from across the region convened for Red List training and to launch a coordinated assessment effort. Over the following years, researchers gathered and analysed information on more than 4,000 tree species found exclusively in Mesoamerica - mapping distributions, documenting habitat trends, cataloguing threats and identifying gaps in protection.

These assessments were finally published on the IUCN Red List and compiled into a paper published in [Plants People Planet](#), offering the best picture to date of the conservation status of Mesoamerica's unique trees.



The results are sobering. 46% of Mesoamerica's endemic trees are now threatened with extinction. The leading drivers of decline are agricultural expansion and logging. Most threatened species also lack targeted conservation actions, leaving them susceptible to further decline.

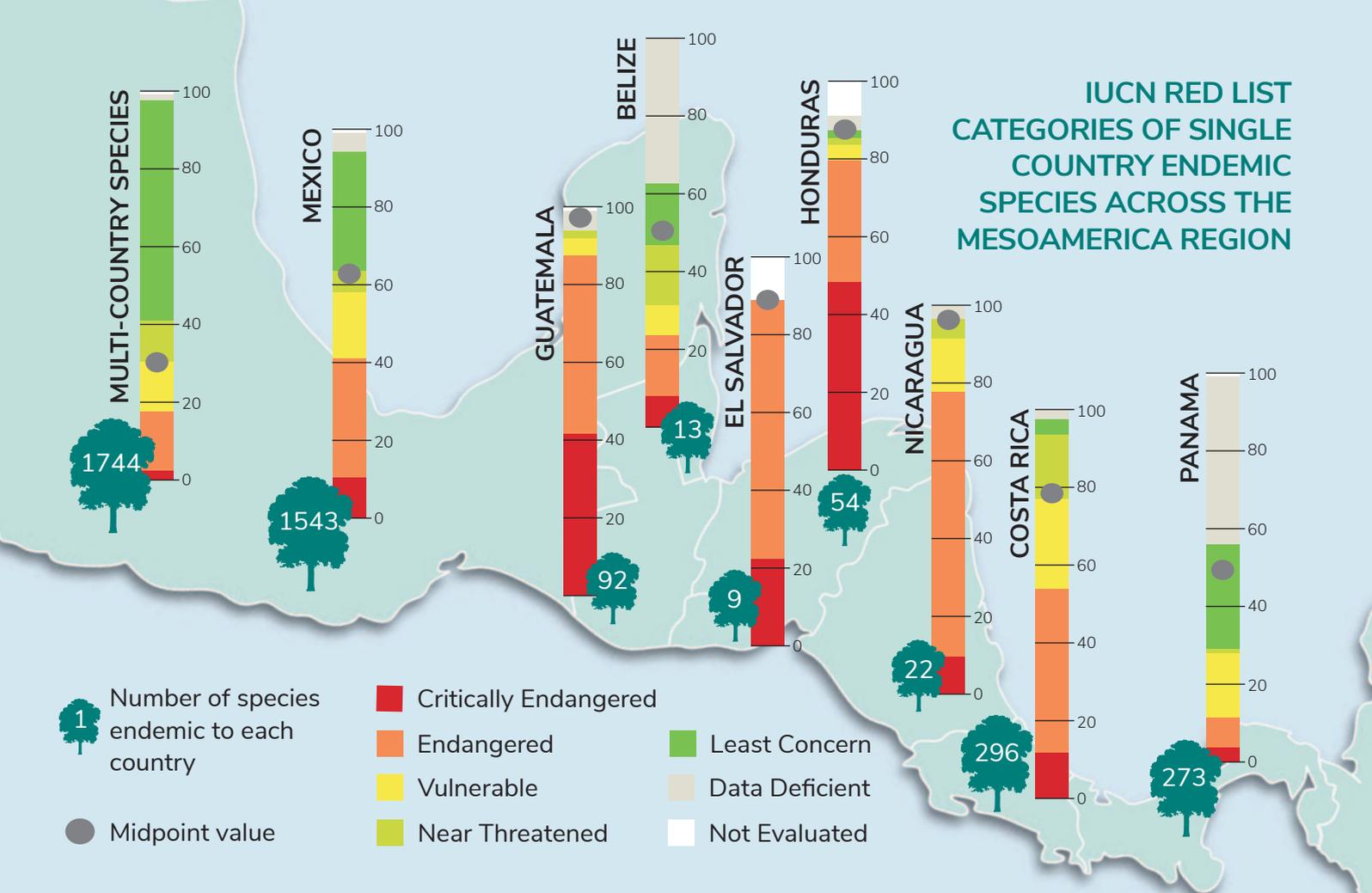
"This collaborative effort allows us to prioritise conservation action for the region's most threatened trees," says corresponding author Emily Beech of BGCI. "We can now pinpoint, at a country level, which species are most at risk, what threatens them and what conservation actions are already in place. We hope this inspires further work to prevent tree extinctions."

The publication of these assessments is only the beginning. Throughout the year, the results were shared widely - including via the TechTalk Series of the Caribbean and Central American Botanic Garden Network. The webinar, [Comprehensive Tree Assessments for Prioritising Conservation Action in Mesoamerica](#), brought together conservation practitioners, scientists, and garden networks calling for effective conservation interventions.

Looking ahead, Mesoamerica's trees are vital to the health of the entire region. They anchor ecosystems, support wildlife, provide livelihoods, and buffer communities from climate impacts. Losing nearly half of these species would reshape landscapes and diminish the natural heritage of an entire continent. The message is clear: the knowledge to save Mesoamerica's trees is now in hand. What comes next will determine the future of one of the world's richest forest regions.



IUCN RED LIST CATEGORIES OF SINGLE COUNTRY ENDEMIC SPECIES ACROSS THE MESOAMERICA REGION



PUBLICATIONS

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De Vitis, M., Havens, K., MacKechnie, L., Zeldin, J. and Kramer, A.T., 2025. Seed pretreatment length when producing seeds for restoration may impact seed dormancy in offspring. *Restoration Ecology*, p.e70300.

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Panero, I., **De Vitis, M.,** Dell'Orco, D., Cuccaro, V.C., Cambria, V.E., Trotta, G., Attorre, F. and Fabrini, G., 2025. Germination requirements of the endangered cliff-dwelling *Primula palinuri* Petagna and implications for conservation. *Biologia*, 80(12), pp.3343-3354.

Zamora, N and **Beech, E.** 2025 La Lista Roja de los árboles endémicos de Costa Rica. *Ambientico*. 293: 11-27



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.

BGCI MEMBERSHIP 2025

● Patron Gardens

Number of memberships



Individual memberships

BGCI now offers **individual memberships**, allowing non-institutional supporters to join, access training courses, and receive discounts for BGCI congresses and events. Income from these memberships supports BGCI's work on plant conservation, publications, training, and resources worldwide.



 [Click here to learn more](#)

MEETING OF THE AFRICAN BOTANIC GARDENS NETWORK AT THE AETFAT CONGRESS IN GHANA

From 3–8 August, BGCI staff and partners joined the 23rd Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa (AETFAT) Congress in Accra, Ghana, contributing to a series of meetings, workshops, and strategic discussions aimed at strengthening plant conservation and botanical collaboration across Africa.

A highlight of the week was the ABGN meeting, which brought together **34 delegates from 13 African countries**, alongside representatives from BGCI, Jardins botaniques de France et des pays francophones (JBFPF), Jardin Botanique de Paris, and Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques Genève. The gathering sought to reinvigorate the ABGN—founded in 2002 but less active in recent years—by reviewing its aims, membership processes, and working practices.

The main topics discussed concerned the modalities of joining ABGN and the links to BGCI membership, ABGN structure and exploring the option of a sub-regional structure to better reflect Africa's diverse biogeographical and cultural landscape, as well as developing a sustainable revenue stream to enable more systematic convening of the network.



Participants at the meeting were invited to reflect on technical capacity and training needs, project development and resource mobilisation, as well as coordination and communication within ABGN.

BGCI aims to adopt the successful regional facilitation model currently in place in the Caribbean and Central America Network. The session, supported by the RTRP-Seed project funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), received strong backing from JBFPF, represented by Jardin Botanique de Paris curator, Régis Crisnaire. BGCI Africa also presented an overview of its ongoing projects and engagement opportunities.



ABGN
African Botanic
Gardens Network

10TH EUROPEAN BOTANIC GARDENS CONGRESS

The 10th European Botanic Gardens Congress ([EuroGard10](#)) took place in Rome, Italy from 22–26 September 2025, gathering **236 participants from 36 countries** to explore the evolving role of **botanic gardens in ecosystem** restoration under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

The congress reframed gardens as active agents in restoring degraded habitats, shaping policy, and safeguarding plant diversity, rather than solely as ex situ conservation repositories.

Core themes included strengthening ecological restoration and plant conservation, aligning garden practices with international biodiversity frameworks and European nature restoration legislation, expanding public engagement and education, and embracing science, sustainability and emerging technologies.

Speakers emphasised the need for gardens to embed restoration into their missions, support genetically appropriate native species use at scale, and influence broader restoration agendas. Workshops spanned climate action toolkits, seed collecting standards, pest threats, and strategies for biodiverse, resilient cities. Outcomes pointed toward shared protocols, capacity building, improved policy interfaces, and enhanced collaboration across the botanic garden community.

EuroGard is only possible through collaboration of botanic gardens in the [European Botanic Garden Consortium](#), one of the oldest regional networks of botanic gardens.



MEETING OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN BOTANIC GARDENS NETWORK

The national representatives of the South American Botanic Gardens Network and threatened plant propagation experts met on November 14th at the José Celestino Mutis Botanical Garden in Bogotá, Colombia. The team reviewed the previous Action Plan and extensive discussions were held on the network's new goals, framed within the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Jointly, the Action Plan that will guide the network's work over the next two years was drafted. **Thirty participants from ten South American countries** took part.





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.

GLOBAL BOTANIC GARDEN FUND

In 2025 we were delighted to add the **Global Seed Conservation Grants** to the [Global Botanic Garden Fund](#) (GBGF) suite of offerings. The main purpose of these grants is to allow botanic gardens/arboreta to create new collections of threatened species, increase seed banking capacity and safeguard these collections by duplicating seeds in the Baekdudaegan Global Seed Vault (BGSV). These grants are made possible through funding from the Korea Arboreta and Gardens Institute. In 2025, BGCI disbursed a total of **67 GBGF grants**, across 7 different grant types, **worth \$223,214** to **59 institutions**, across **35 different countries**.

Grants worth \$223,214 disbursed in 2025



BGCI
Global Botanic Garden Fund

TOWARDS BGCI ACCREDITATION IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA

In 2025, BGCI started a **three-year online programme** for botanic gardens in the Caribbean and Central America to support small botanic gardens with limited resources to improve professional standards towards BGCI accreditation.

Nineteen gardens in the region were identified based on the results of a survey, bringing together especially those without existing collections policies, and offering them expert-led sessions, tools, and peer learning.

The 2025 sessions focused on strengthening the management and documentation of living collections, promoting the adoption of collection policies aligned with each institution's mission, and standardising evaluation, curation, and documentation procedures in accordance with international best practices.

The sessions were delivered in Spanish and English, and supported through documentation via [BGCI's online training platform](#) and [accreditation materials](#), with materials now in Spanish, French and English. A forum was also created in two languages to encourage sharing amongst participants.

In the last session, held in October, guests from botanic gardens from beyond the region were invited to share experiences. We would like to thank Cambridge University Botanic Garden (UK), Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (UK), Jardín Botánico Clavijero (Mexico), Jardín Botánico de Cali (Colombia) and Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève (Switzerland) for their generosity and expertise.

We look forward to continuing this work of collaboration and raising standards in 2026.

Click here to learn more about BGCI accreditation



THE NINETEEN GARDENS ON A THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME TOWARDS BGCI ACCREDITATION

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR PROPAGATION PROTOCOLS DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

In 2025, two regional workshops advanced capacity for developing propagation protocols for threatened tree species. In September, the “Propagation Protocols for Endangered Trees” workshop was held at the CATIE Dr. Jorge León Arguedas Botanical Garden in Turrialba, Costa Rica, where **23 participants from 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries** shared knowledge and engaged in hands-on sessions to promote the development and publication of propagation protocols for their institutions, helping to reduce duplicated efforts and strengthen conservation practice. Later, in November at the José Celestino Mutis Botanical Garden in Bogotá, Colombia, a train-the-trainer workshop on propagation protocols for threatened trees brought together **43 participants from ten South American countries** to deepen their technical expertise and prepare them to train others in creating and disseminating propagation protocols within their networks.

23 participants from 11 countries

43 participants from 10 countries

BIOSECURITY WORKSHOP

The Caribbean and Central American Botanic Gardens Network (CCABGN) is dedicated to fostering spaces where members can share experiences and expertise, addressing the unique challenges faced by botanical gardens and related institutions across the region.

From 4th to 6th February 2025, BERP ([Biocultural Education Research Programme](#)) and [Andromeda Botanic Gardens](#) hosted a dynamic 3-day workshop on Plant Health and Biosecurity, in collaboration with BGCI’s CCABG and [IPSN](#) networks, and Naples Botanical Garden. This workshop brought together **twenty-three (23) enthusiastic participants from seven Caribbean countries and islands**, including Anguilla, The Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Dominica, Jamaica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who shared their experiences from the region. Andromeda Botanic Gardens, a site of rich plant biodiversity across 8 acres with over 600 plant species, provided the landscape for sharing of practical expertise and immersion, fostering meaningful exchanges on regional challenges related to pests, diseases, and invasive species, strengthening cooperation among institutions.

23 participants from 11 countries

This training directly supported multiple targets outlined in the Plant Conservation Strategy for the Caribbean Region including conserving plant diversity, promoting education and awareness, and building capacity in the region, three of the strategy’s four objectives.



Participants engaged in a rich blend of theoretical sessions and practical knowledge application, covering topics such as biosecurity best practices, an overview of Caribbean pests and diseases, plant health monitoring, and strategies for managing invasive plant species.

Interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions fostered a spirit of collaboration, strengthening regional partnerships and encouraging the exchange of valuable insights to enhance biodiversity and conservation efforts across the Caribbean. Contributions from both local and international experts created meaningful opportunities for capacity building, equipping participants with practical tools, inspiration, and a supportive network dedicated to safeguarding plant health throughout the region.

Facilitators from (Barbados) Asymmetric Consulting Inc., Walkers Institute for Regeneration Research Education and Design Inc., (Bermuda), Bermuda Zoological Society, and the (UK) Fera Science enriched the workshop by blending technical expertise with cultural exchange, creating an engaging and col-laborative learning environment that not only strengthened participants' technical skills but also deepened international partnerships.

Participants committed to maintaining ongoing exchange of information on biosecurity and the plant health challenges within their respective gardens, institutions, and countries. Equipped with new tools, insights, and partnerships, they are now positioned to bring their knowledge back to their institutions and countries, amplifying the impact of this workshop across the region.

At CCABGN, we believe that fostering collaboration and sharing knowledge are the most powerful strategies for conserving the rich plant diversity of the Caribbean and Central America. This would not have been

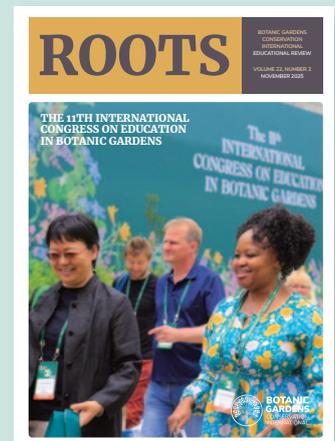
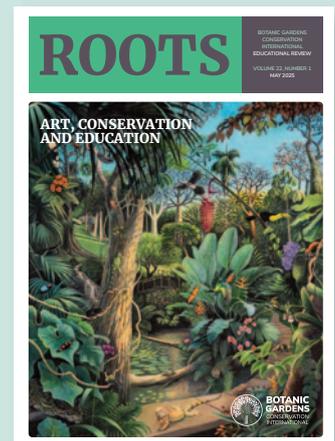


possible without funding from the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve and Naples Botanical Garden, whose support was instrumental in making this initiative a success. Furthermore, thanks to this continued funding, the IPSN will be able to facilitate further plant health monitoring and biosecurity efforts in the region. This includes supporting the development of information resources, monitoring tools, and other regionally identified actions and locally driven initiatives.

 [Click here to learn more about the Plant Conservation Strategy for the Caribbean Region, available in both English and Spanish](#)

BIANNUALLY PUBLICATIONS

BGjournal -
focusing in plant conservation
Roots -
educational newsletter



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TANZANIA'S NATIVE TREE SPECIES WEB BASED HUB

As part of BGCI's project "Diversifying Tanzania's Native Tree Species Portfolio for People and Biodiversity," funded by the Darwin Initiative, we are developing a [web-based hub](#) to make Native Tree Species (NTS) restoration knowledge easier to find, use, and apply. Tanzania has a wealth of expertise and information on native trees; however, limited access to practical guidance and tools still limits effective restoration—especially for practitioners and communities working on the ground. The hub is designed to close these gaps by bringing together trusted resources in one place and strengthening national and local capacity to restore Tanzania's native trees at scale.

The hub is organized into three core sections. First, NTS Resources, which hosts key reference materials such as species identification guides, phenology information, seed collection and handling guidance, propagation protocols, technical papers, reports, and links to relevant databases. Second, a Self-Learning Portal, which provides practical training content—including short instructional videos, guidelines, manuals, and training materials—focused on improving the quality and quantity of native tree seeds and seedlings for restoration. Third, What to

Plant Where, which houses decision-support tools such as potential vegetation and seed zone maps, helping users make informed, site-appropriate decisions about which species to plant and where.

The platform will also host recordings of technical talks to help practitioners stay connected to emerging science and field experience. Alongside this, a nursery directory is currently in development and will be linked directly to the hub. This centralized digital database will show the locations of NTS nurseries, their contact details, and which species they produce—helping to address a common bottleneck, where restoration practitioners often struggle to find reliable sources of native tree seedlings. Users will be able to search geographically (for example, by district or region) to match restoration demand with supply, strengthen connections across the restoration value chain, and better understand nursery capacity and supply trends over time.

Together, the web-based hub and nursery directory provide practical tools to support better restoration decisions, improve access to quality planting material, and ultimately help ensure Tanzania's restoration efforts deliver stronger biodiversity and livelihood outcomes—grounded in native species and informed by the best available science and practice.





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.

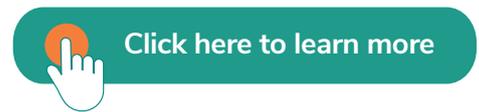
DECLARATION OF INTENT ON CLIMATE ACTION EDUCATION

Climate change represents a significant threat to plant conservation and people, and botanic gardens have an important role to play in contributing to climate change goals. With just 5 years left on many global climate goals however, we need urgent collective action and the ability to reach millions of people, to create more sustainable, inclusive consumption, and ensure support for plant conservation.

With a grant from the Big Give's Green Match Fund, BGCI has developed a Declaration of Intent on Climate Action Education.

This Declaration was created through a series of workshops that took place at the 11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens (Korea, 2025). The Declaration outlines the commitment that our botanic garden and arboretum network makes to address climate change challenges and identifies seven key goals where we can have the most impact over the next five years (2026-2030).

The Declaration was launched in January 2026 and invites botanic gardens and arboretums to sign up to the Declaration, agreeing to contribute to at least one of the seven goals.



WHERE FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES MEET: SHAPING NEW BEHAVIOURS FOR CONSERVATION

The Pantaron Mountain Range in Mindanao, Philippines, is home to the Indigenous Tighawanon people and one of the last remaining habitats of the critically endangered endemic Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*). As part of a wider effort to address forest loss, conflicts with wildlife, and the pressures faced by rural communities, BGCI is supporting a collaborative project with CIFOR-ICRAF and the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF).

The Education team's role focuses on education and behaviour change: working with project partners and community members to understand how everyday behaviours of different actors contribute to habitat degradation, and how shifting these behaviours can support both local livelihoods and the long-term survival of the Philippine eagle. Using Rare's Behaviour-Centred Design (BCD) approach, we will guide partners through a structured journey to identify the behaviours driving forest destruction, prioritise those most critical to change, and co-design feasible, culturally grounded interventions with the partners and the communities themselves. Through this process, we aim to build meaningful participation and empower local actors to become stewards of their own landscape.

By embedding BCD principles into the design of public engagement interventions, and community-led planning sessions, the project will promote conservation-friendly practices that improve forest health while strengthening well-being and livelihood security. Ultimately, this work will not only support the Philippine eagle and the biodiversity of Pantaron, but will also demonstrate how education, behaviour change science, and community co-management can drive lasting environmental outcomes.



An effective and resilient BGCI

BGCI has 45 Staff members

Many are based at the BGCI global headquarters in Richmond, United Kingdom. In addition, BGCI has offices in the United States of America, China, Singapore and Kenya. BGCI's staff based across the globe is comprised of full-time, seconded, and volunteer staff.

BGCI has 14 Board members

JOINED BGCi IN 2025:



Anne-Marie Frankland,
Director of Operations



Florence O'Sullivan,
Conservation Assistant
Officer



Oladimeji Salako,
GIS Conservation
Officer



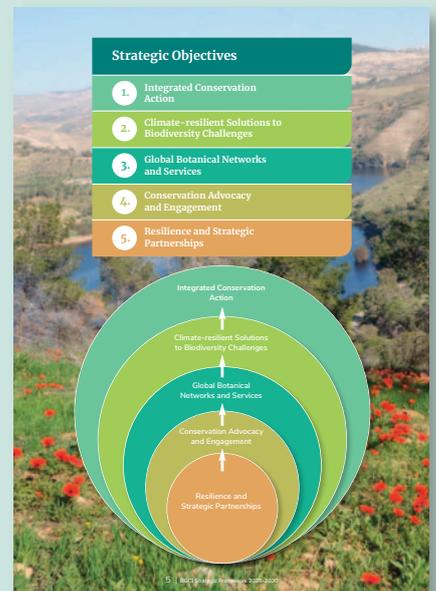
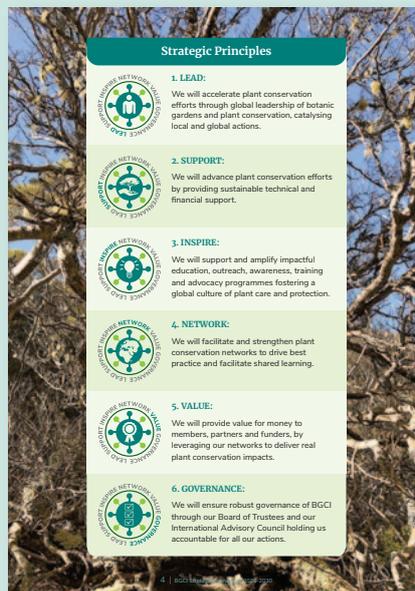
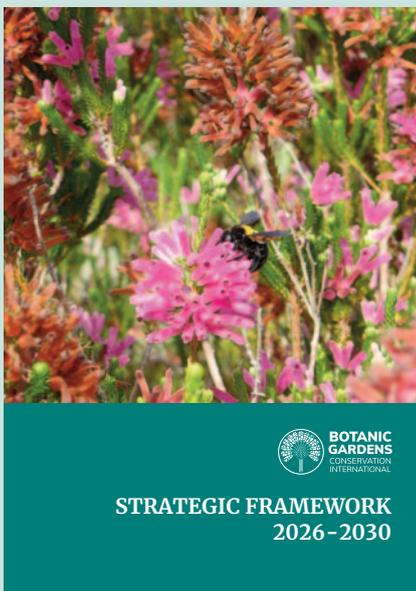
David Cooper,
BGCi Board Member



Grainne Brankin,
BGCi Board Member

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2026-2030

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCi) has launched its Strategic Framework 2026–2030, setting out an ambitious roadmap to scale global plant conservation impact. Developed through an extensive year-long consultation with staff, trustees, and international partners, the framework aligns with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and responds directly to the biodiversity and climate crises. It defines five strategic objectives focused on: integrated conservation action, climate-resilient solutions, strong global networks, policy influence, and organisational resilience. With a clear results framework and scalable delivery model, Botanic Gardens Conservation International is now positioned to deliver measurable conservation impact over the next five years.



OUR SPONSORS

Sponsor	Country	Contributed to
Audemars Piguet	Switzerland	Strengthening global technical capacity project and projects in Kenya
Bezos AI Grand Challenge	USA	Development of a proposal on AI-assisted identification of remotely sensed tree species
Cambridge University Botanic Garden	UK	BGCI PlantSearch
Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	UK	International Plant Sentinel Network
Ecosia	Germany	Tree species recovery
Fondation Franklinia	Switzerland	Tree conservation prioritisation and action
Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund	UK	Illegal trade
Indianapolis Zoo	USA	Colombian tree assessments and planning
Institute of Museums and Library Service (IMLS)	USA	BGCI databases
International Climate Initiative (IKI)	Germany	BGCI projects in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia
International Tree Foundation	UK	Tree conservation work Kenya
IUCN	Switzerland	Tree conservation planning, species threat abatement and restoration
Korea Arboreta and Gardens Institute	Republic of Korea	Global Botanic Garden Fund
Leon Levy Foundation	USA	Strengthening the Caribbean and Central American Botanic Garden Network, Global Botanic Garden Fund
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum	USA	Global Botanic Garden Fund
Rewild	USA	Global Tree Specialist Group
Sylvia Scholarship Fund	UK	Conference bursaries
The Botanist	UK	Global Botanic Garden Fund
The Darwin Initiative	UK	The Global Biodiversity Standard, the illegal wildlife trade, seed banking and projects in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Philippines and Vietnam
The Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation	USA	Nurturing Nature Phase 1
The Huntington	USA	Global Botanic Garden Fund
The Marsh Charitable Trust	UK	Marsh Awards
The Morton Arboretum	USA	Global Botanic Garden Fund, Disaster Recovery Fund
The Rufford Foundation	UK	Ecological Restoration Alliance, Grants
UK Department of Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)	UK	International Plant Sentinel Network
UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)	UK	Research on plant pests and diseases
United National Development Programme	Global	Projects in Gabon and Zanzibar
United States Botanic Garden	USA	Global Botanic Garden Fund



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BGCI is an independent organisation registered in the United Kingdom as a charity (Charity Reg. No. 1098834) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 4673175).

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