

# Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand

## INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING POLICY

The Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) have a role to play in international environmental efforts. Its members;

- contribute to the conservation and protection of plant life.
- increase knowledge about plant life.
- build capacity for conservation of plant diversity through co-operation, collaboration and participation in education and training programs.
- participate in the setting and review of research methodologies and standards in plant sciences, horticulture and plant research.
- prioritise regional networking opportunities.

The involvement of BGANZ members in international environmental efforts should not interfere with their ability to meet domestic commitments but, rather, provide new opportunities to meet local and international conservation objectives.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

- Plant life in Australia and New Zealand is part of a broad, complex, interdependent ecological system.
- Global environmental issues are likely to have an eventual impact on our local environment with resulting implications for all plant life.
- As a professional body, BGANZ represents the interests of a number of associated botanic gardens and individual members who operate separately and participate voluntarily in cooperative programs.
- Through sharing of skills, information and collections, BGANZ members enhance their knowledge and understanding about plants and develop the capacity of others to contribute to global conservation measures.
- National, State and Territory governments have a social, economic and environmental interest in regions outside Australia and New Zealand.
- As members of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) BGANZ has responsibilities arising from commitments to international conventions that impact on how we conduct our scientific, horticultural and educational endeavours..
- Botanic gardens activities inside and outside Australia can impact on the social, cultural and natural environment of other countries.
- BGANZ members should work in partnership with like organisations to foster a strong international network of botanic gardens.

## MAIN ROLES:

In accordance with this policy and guiding principles, BGANZ's main activities and efforts internationally will reflect these significant roles:

1. Information Sharing and scientific research  
Through conference attendance, hosting of conferences and seminars, and collaborative research.
2. Skill Sharing  
Through supervision and training of overseas students or botanic garden staff, collaborative off-shore training programs, participation in relevant committees and workshops.
3. Influencing Policy  
Through participation in expert, multi-stakeholder liaison groups and key advisory committees that assist in formation of policy for conservation and sustainable development programs.
4. Plant Exchange  
To facilitate the exchange of plant material, in consultation with the countries concerned and with regard to local plant distribution licences and legislation, that directly improves an ability to display and interpret key messages relating to plant conservation or where facilities of the participant gardens can contribute to ensuring the survival of rare and threatened species.
5. Compliance with international agreements to which BGANZ members are signatory  
Through the development of appropriate policy responses and action plans, and collaboration and liaison with other regional network organisations (including individual botanic gardens).

***The level of involvement will be determined by the strategic priorities of each participating Botanic Garden and the identification of appropriate sources of funding to support these activities.***

***It is recommended that consistent with this policy, each interested BGANZ member prepares an Implementation Plan, taking into account local constraints and opportunities.***

## STRATEGIES:

- To develop and maintain strong networks with botanic gardens and other organisations for collaborative research, information/skill sharing and benchmarking purposes.
- To maintain membership of key international bodies and to participate in international conferences, working groups and seminars as appropriate to meet the BGANZ's objectives.
- To actively develop effective networks and participate in collaborative projects in the East Asia, South-east Asia, Pacific and other regions that contribute to capacity building programs and the understanding and protection of plant diversity through *in situ* conservation and sustainable development.
- To foster participation by staff members in regional capacity building programs and associations which will enhance knowledge and understanding of plant science, horticulture and/or conservation issues within resource constraints.

- To facilitate communication for BGANZ members to discuss collaborative programs.
- To consider requests for plant exchange that contribute to greater understanding of plant diversity and conservation.
- To work, in collaboration with other botanic gardens, conservation bodies and scientific agencies toward implementation of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*..
- To seek funding and other resource support for our regional and international work.
- To establish a communication and review process to ensure that:
  - organisational consensus on relevant issues is presented (by providing for at least one meeting/communication of BGANZ committee to discuss the issues prior to attendance by staff representing BGANZ)
  - outcomes and information are disseminated to members from regional and international forum (by providing for a debriefing session upon return from attendance and/or the provision of a written report/s to the relevant Director or BGANZ news).

### **ESTABLISHING COOPERATION:**

In accordance with this policy, its guiding principles and strategies, BGANZ members will prioritise efforts to work in cooperation with botanic garden or environmental networks to establish and promote individual partner garden relationships. Partner gardens should be:

1. botanic gardens open to the public, growing plants for public enjoyment, scientific, horticultural, conservation, and/or educational purposes.
2. based in Australia or New Zealand or located within East Asia, South-east Asia, the Pacific or other relevant 'regional' area.
3. a member of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, or affiliated networks.
4. committed to regional biodiversity conservation and promotion, or demonstrate a willingness to introduce such programs.
5. able to demonstrate commitment to the principles of *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* .
6. willing to assist identify and facilitate staff training needs.
7. willing to assist support and resource programs within the limitations of the agency.
8. willing to enter a partnership that advances the mission and programs of both partners.

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