



BOTANIC GARDENS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND LTD

www.bganz.org.au

ACN 663 124 883

Press release: BGANZ supports COP 15 outcomes

21 December 2022

The Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ Ltd) supports the historic agreement reached at the recent UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) in Montreal.

Australian Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, writes, *'History has been made. For the first time ever, we have a global agreement to protect 30 per cent of the world's land and 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030. This is a big step towards achieving a nature positive planet. We secured high ambition on restoring degraded land, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems. We agreed a good target on reducing invasive species, recognising island sites, including in the Pacific, as a priority. We successfully advocated for placing the rights and interests of First Nations peoples at the forefront of nature conservation...'*

BGANZ, through every botanic garden in Australia and New Zealand, welcomes this historic outcome from COP 15 and will continue to play a key role in implementing all plant conservation measures across our two nations as Australia and New Zealand work towards achieving COP 15 conservation outcomes and more.

As stated in the recent *Australia State of the environment 2021* report, *'Australia has lost more mammal species than any other continent...of the 100 Australian species...listed as Extinct or Extinct in the Wild...38 [are] vascular plants.'* Australia's, and New Zealand's, botanic gardens are, however, leading plant conservation through innovative 'Care for the Rare' programs (see <https://www.bganz.org.au/care-for-the-rare-project/>), the Australian Seedbank Partnership (see <https://www.seedpartnership.org.au/>), and many individual gardens plant conservation projects.

Botanic gardens are uniquely placed to assist in conserving plants, threatened both now and in the future. Our network across Australia covers all states and territories, and in New Zealand, both north and south islands. BGANZ members have local plant knowledge, and are well-versed in threats to plants, both nationally and in their local habitat. It is this connection that will be crucial as we improve our programs across each state and territory to ensure we can manage threats to Australia's and New Zealand's plant life through climate change, and various diseases.



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Our botanic gardens not only protect the flora on which Australia's and New Zealand's fauna depend, they also continue to educate the broader public about solutions for threatened plant species in their communities.

BGANZ looks forward to continuing to partner with governments at all levels, and with partners, Friends groups, and our many visitors as we take a leading role in plant conservation in coming years.

Hayley Allen, Chair of BGANZ Ltd said, *'The role of botanic gardens has never been more vital. The challenges our planet and its plants face are well documented. Australian and New Zealand botanic gardens are playing important roles in both national and international conservation, and their holdings of living and preserved plants and seeds are an immense biological resource of information on plant biodiversity. I look forward to leveraging our strategic networks of stakeholders, companies, Friends groups and not-for-profits to protect and conserve Australia's and New Zealand's plants. These organisations, along with botanic gardens, are also united in the desire to educate the public about Australia's and New Zealand's plants, and the great work our gardens do. Plant conservation remains the major focus of BGANZ member botanic gardens.'*

BGANZ represents the association of botanic gardens across Australia and New Zealand. It is also an important member of the global organisation for botanic gardens, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI, see <https://www.bgci.org/>). A not-for-profit, BGANZ represents its member gardens and their members as it increases knowledge of the important conservation work its members do.

About BGANZ

Established in 2004, Botanic Gardens Australia & New Zealand Ltd (BGANZ) currently links more than 130 botanic gardens. BGANZ is a 'not for profit' peak industry body formed to build and maintain links with relevant national and international bodies, to benefit our member gardens across Australia and New Zealand.

The network aims to provide a forum for the exchange of information between members and the community and facilitate networking opportunities between members. It fosters best practice standards throughout botanic gardens in Australia and New Zealand and advocates for their interests, including plant conservation, plant sciences and social and cultural heritage programs.

BGANZ aim to build links with relevant national and international bodies who share their passion for contributing to a greener world.



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BGANZ enhances the state of botanic gardens for the benefit of the community and advocates for plant conservation, fostering of plant sciences and social and cultural heritage programs.

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