



Global Genome Initiative for Gardens is an international partnership dedicated to collecting and preserving genome quality tissues for all species of plants on Earth

GGI-Gardens Newsletter

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News, highlights & opportunities from the botanic garden community



2024 GGI-Gardens partnership awards announced

GGI-Gardens is pleased to announce the recipients of the GGI-Gardens Partnership Awards, made possible by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), BGCI-US, and the United States Botanic Garden (USBG). Five botanic gardens and arboreta in five countries were awarded funds. The supported projects will sample from a wide range of species, including the critically endangered *Gigasiphon macrosiphon* endemic to Kenya and Tanzania, *Aspidosperma polyneuron* found in the seasonally dry tropical forests of South America. One awarded project will include the first documented conservation collection of plants endemic to the Andaman Islands in India.



Partner Institutions (Alphabetical)

Cartagena Botanical Garden, Colombia

Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, India

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, South Africa

Mandhari Plants & Designs / Gede Tropical Gardens & Nursery, Kenya

National Herbarium of Rwanda, CoEB, University of Rwanda, Rwanda

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These awards and the work the support are a testament to the central role botanic gardens play in conserving and understanding plant genomic diversity worldwide.

GGI-Gardens Award Partner Profile



Preserving plant genomic
diversity in India
200 taxa & 100 genera
previously unknown from
any DNA bank



Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute

The Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) was founded in 1979 in Kerala, India with the objective of providing conservation of tropical plant resources in India and Kerala in particular. JNTBGRI received its third partnership award this year. The Institute has strategically targeted nearly 200 taxa through the GGI-Gardens Partnership Awards. Upon completion of the 2024 award cycle, JNTBGRI will have added preserved herbarium and genomic voucher material for nearly 100 genera that were previously unknown from any DNA bank.

This year's funding will support their work for establishing a biorepository for the plants of the Andaman Islands, a remote archipelago off the coast of India that is accessible by permit only. Employing the GGI Gap Analysis Tool, the project has identified 41 species across 40 genera (27 families), with over half of these genera being novel to the Global Genome Biodiversity Network. Notably, nine target species, three of which are endemic to the Andaman Islands, are classified under various IUCN Red List categories, including critically endangered, endangered, and vulnerable. The biorepository will house samples sourced from the living collections of gardens, contributing to the conservation and sustainable utilization of the Andaman Islands' diverse botanical resources. Specifically this initiative aims to serve as a valuable resource for on-going research and conservation initiatives in the region.



JNTBGRI staff making collections for the
GGI-Gardens Program.
Photos courtesy JNTBGRI.

GGI-Gardens welcomes new Program Coordinator



This month, Raakel Toppila joined GGI-Gardens as our new Program Coordinator. Raakel will be replacing Liz Thomas, who recently started a Ph.D. program in the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Georgia. Congratulations Liz and thank you for all of your contributions to GGI-Gardens.

Raakel hails from Squamish, British Columbia. She brings with her a passion for plants and plant conservation, which was central to her studies while completing a Master of Science in Public Horticulture at the University of Delaware.

Raakel has worked in botanic gardens and herbaria throughout her career. She recently took a position as Program Assistant for BGCI-US. When she's not working, she's raising her three young children and exploring the mountains of her home town.

Upcoming Events



Conservation Innovation: Harnessing Technology to Advance Rare Plant Conservation

Center for Plant Conservation
2–3 May, 2024
San Diego Zoo and Safari Park,
San Diego, CA USA

Rooted in Resilience: A Sustainable Future for Gardens

American Public Garden Association
24–27 June, 2024
Boston Park Plaza, Boston, MA USA

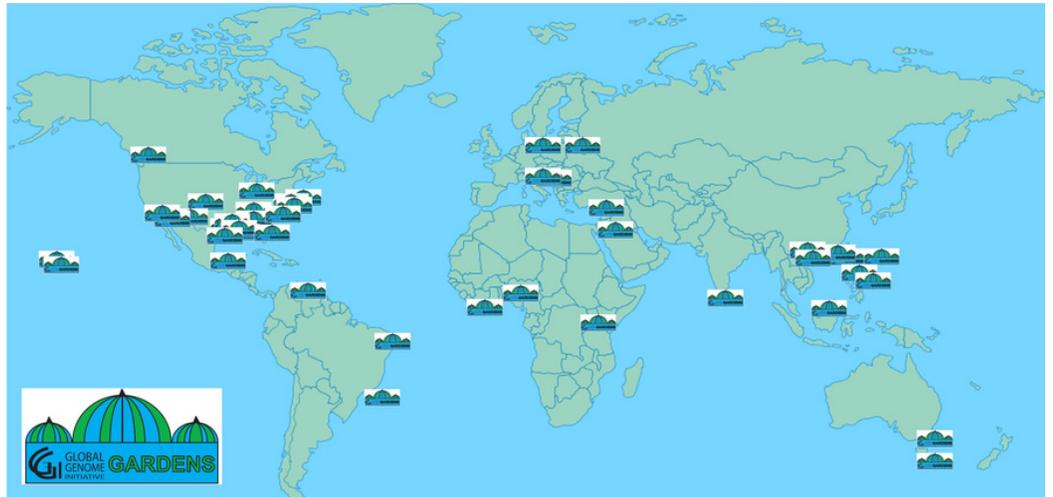
XX International Botanical Congress

International Association for
Botanical and Mycological Societies
21–27 July, 2024
IFEMA MADRID, Madrid, Spain

Botanic Gardens: People and Plants for a Sustainable Future

Global Botanic Gardens Congress,
BGCI
6–9 August, 2024
Suntec Convention Singapore,
Singapore

Who are our partners?



Interested in joining GGI-Gardens?

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