



*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

## Collections connections: the impact of the Global Genome Initiative for Gardens Partner Awards

The 2023 GGI-Gardens Awards Program supported nine institutions. Seven of nine institutions collected genomic and herbarium voucher specimens from 1,434 total vouchers, from 652 genera and 254 families. These collections represent high priorities for the global genomics community. Among them, 147 genera and five families were not previously represented in the GGBN biobank. Data from these collections will be added to the GGBN Web Portal. They will be available to facilitate genomics research, conservation projects and collaboration among gardens, policymakers, conservation practitioners, and researchers worldwide.



All photos in this issue courtesy of Integrated Resource Management Association (AGIR), Benin unless otherwise noted

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Organization	Genera collected	Genera New to GGBN	Families Collected	Families New to GGBN
Botanical Garden of Medellín	84	12	33	0
Centre for Plant Medicine Research	In progress			
Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán (CICY)	32	8	16	0
Huntington Botanical Garden	47	46	33	2
Inala Jurassic Garden	26	18	14	1
Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)	140	15	52	0
Jardim Botânico do Recife	In progress			
Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute	32	18	25	0
PIBS at Bethlehem University	291	30	81	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>140 (unique)</b>	<b>5</b>

## GGI-Gardens Award Partner Profile



Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources  
La Science au Service des Citoyens

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about the work of AGIR



### Integrated Resource Management Association (AGIR), Benin

The Ewe-Adakplame Relic Forest (EARF) is an emblematic forest patch covering 560.14 hectares of community land in Benin. It harbors about 200 species representing 17% of the National Flora of the Republic of Benin. It is also the only remaining natural habitat for many range-restricted species such as *Nesogordonia papaverifera*, *Mansonia altissima*, *Englerophytum oblanceolatum*, *Octolobus spectabilis*, *Vitex micrantha* and most of the species in the tribe Drypeteae (Putranjivaceae: *D. aframensis*, *D. afzelii*, *D. gilgiana* and *D. leonensis*) from Benin. Most of these species are threatened because of human encroachment, overgrazing, charcoal production and illegal logging. Since 2014, AGIR has focused conservation efforts on the rehabilitation of degraded land within the EARF through the propagation and planting of native trees.

The GGI-Gardens Partner Award supported the collection of many botanical surprises including endemics belonging to the families of Fabaceae, Cannabaceae, Malvaceae, Annonaceae, Moraceae, Sapotaceae, Ebenaceae and Putranjivaceae. One of the surprising phenomena during the work was the dramatic change in the forest throughout the seasons. The collecting team almost abandoned the project because progress in the forest was difficult, but this obstacle was overcome.

The 2023 GGI-Gardens Partnership Award enabled the collection of **489 herbarium and genetic voucher specimens** from **140 genera (15 new to GGBN)** in **52 different families**.





# Integrated Resource Management Association (AGIR), Benin continued...

Specimens collected through the GGI-Gardens Partner Award will be deposited at the National Herbarium of Benin at the University of Abomey-Calavi and at the mycological herbarium at the University of Parakou. The remaining samples will be used to create a local herbarium in the District of Ketou where the EARF is located.

## GGI-Gardens at conferences in 2024

This year, GGI-Gardens has been busy at a number of international conferences. Our team presented poster presentations at four meetings this year, including the annual meeting of the Center for Plant Conservation in San Diego, California; the annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the XX International Botanical Congress in Madrid, Spain; and the 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Singapore.

On the left side panel are two photos highlighting our poster presentations, including BGCI-US Executive Director, Abby Meyer, and GGI-Gardens Director, Morgan Gostel, standing with the poster that we presented at the meetings, entitled *Building bridges and growing genomes: an awards program to support international botanical collections and genomics infrastructure*.

### Building bridges and growing genomes: an awards program to support international collections and genomics infrastructure

Morgan R. Gostel<sup>1,2</sup>, Ray Mims<sup>3</sup>, Patricia Malcole<sup>4</sup>, Charlotte Ely<sup>5</sup>, Raake Topolia<sup>6</sup>, Elizabeth Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Devij Dotozo<sup>7</sup>, Abby Meyer<sup>8</sup>  
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Middle left and bottom left photos courtesy of GGI-Gardens

The GGI-Gardens poster, presented at various conferences this year.