



This newsletter will serve to better connect GGI-Garden partners by providing news from the botanic garden community regarding collections and collections preservation; highlighting partner collections and contributions to GGI-Gardens and sharing opportunities such as the GGI-Gardens Partner Awards.

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



Staff from Tooro Botanical Gardens collecting voucher specimens. Photo courtesy Tooro Botanical Gardens.



Nurturing Nature

Partner Profile: Tooro Botanical Gardens

In January 2021 [Tooro Botanical Gardens](#) (TBG) was the recipient of a grant through the 2021 GGI-Gardens Awards Program, co-sponsored by [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#) (BGCI) and the [United State Botanic Garden](#). Located in Fort Portal, Uganda, TBG used the awarded funding to sample numerous taxa among the threatened and other tree species from its living collections.

The team, representing the TBG's research and plant conservation department spearheaded the collection and preservation of genome-quality vouchers from living collections. TBG is an indigenous, non-profit organization founded in 2001 as a centre of excellence in growing and maintaining living plant collections from the Albertine region for conservation, scientific research, education, horticultural and aesthetic purposes. Since then, 40-hectare of former communal grazing land has been turned into a biodiverse botanic garden with more than 900 plant species and nearly 200 species of birds in addition to myriad species of other fauna. Collections made by the TBG team have been deposited in the herbarium at Makerere University and genetic vouchers are deposited locally at the TBG GGBN-partnered DNA bank.

Contact GGI-Gardens:

Email: mgostel@brit.org, ggi@brit.org / Facebook: [@ggismithsonian](https://www.facebook.com/ggismithsonian/) /
Online: [GGI-Gardens Website](#) / Twitter: [#GGIGardens](https://twitter.com/#!/GGIGardens)



الحديقة النباتية الملكية
Royal Botanic Garden

Partner Profile: Royal Botanic Garden, Jordan

The Royal Botanic Garden, Jordan (RBG) was the recipient of a 2021 GGI-Gardens Award entitled *Supporting the living collection and documentation of the unique families and genera of vascular native plants not yet represented in biorepositories in Jordan*, co-sponsored by [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#) (BGCI) and the [United State Botanic Garden](#). Founded in 2005, RBG's mission is "to ensure native flora conservation through ecological restoration and providing research and demonstration... to address the environmental challenges of our times and generating hope for the future."

Throughout 2021, staff at RBG, led by Yaseen Ananbeh, Maysa Shishani, and Dr. Mustafa Al-Shudiefat collected numerous herbarium vouchers and genetic samples to accompany other collections to expand their living collection and facilitate botanical research. These collections include one family of flowering plants and 19 genera that were previously not available in any DNA bank worldwide. In addition to their collection activities, RBG also joined the Global Genome Biodiversity Network, their facility is now the first GGBN-partner in Jordan.

GGI-Gardens News!



Staff from Royal Botanic Garden Jordan collecting herbarium and genetic tissue vouchers in the field.

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**Inala
Jurassic Garden**

[Inala Jurassic Garden feature](#)

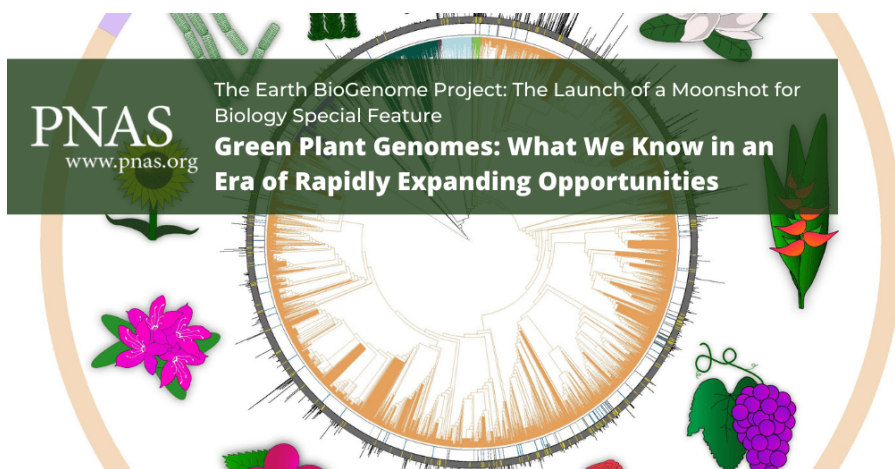
Inala Jurassic Garden a 2021 GGI-Gardens Partner Awardee recently featured GGI-Gardens and the collections that this partner award facilitated through an informative article and video – learn about the collections at Inala Jurassic Garden and how their garden’s living collection is contributing to genomic research by checking out this link!

[GGI-Gardens joins the African Biogenome Project as an Institutional Partner](#)

This month, GGI-Gardens joined the African Biogenome Project (ABP) as an Institutional Partner. The ABP is a continent-wide effort that seeks “to generate, analyze and deploy genomics data for the improvement and sustainable use of biodiversity and agriculture across Africa. Learn more about how you can support the ABP by reading their [launch article published this month in Nature](#).

[GGI-Gardens featured in new Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article](#)

GGI-Gardens was highlighted in a recent article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* entitled *Green Plant Genomes: What We Know in an Era of Rapidly Expanding Opportunities*. This article highlights advances in genomics research and outlines a roadmap for accomplishing the goals of the Earth Biogenome Project. GGI-Gardens and the collections the partnership has facilitated will play a key role in support genome sequencing efforts for green plants worldwide. You can learn more about this article by clicking the link above or by reading [this press release](#).



Events & Opportunities

[Center for Plant Conservation National Meeting 2022](#), 4–6 May 2022

[American Public Gardens Association Annual Conference](#), 20–24 June 2022

[7th Global Botanic Gardens Conference](#), 25–29 September 2022

We welcome written/photographic submissions from GGI-Gardens partners highlighting collection updates. Please email GGI-Gardens Program Coordinator Adam Black ablack@brit.org for more information on contributions and deadlines.

[Join our e-mail list to make sure you are notified](#) of all GGI-Gardens News

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