



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



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# GGI-Gardens Newsletter

## Issue 19 | May 2025

News, highlights & opportunities from the botanic garden community



## Announcing the 2025 GGI-Gardens Partnership Award Recipients

GGI-Gardens, in collaboration with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), BGCI-US, and the United States Botanic Garden (USBG), is excited to announce the newest recipients of the GGI-Gardens Partnership Awards. This year, eight outstanding botanic gardens and arboreta across eight countries have been awarded funding to advance critical plant conservation efforts.

### Congratulations to our 2025 Partner Institutions (listed alphabetically):

- Alliance for Conservation Tree Genomics, Phuoc Binh Botanical Garden and National Park, Vietnam
- Cartagena Botanical Garden, Columbia
- Herbario Nacional de Bolivia, Bolivia
- Instituto Inhotim, Brazil
- Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute, India
- Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, South Africa
- National Herbarium of Rwanda, CoEB, University of Rwanda
- Vailima Botanical Gardens, Samoa

These projects embody the vital role botanic gardens play in preserving plant genomic diversity—safeguarding rare and threatened species, supporting global research, and building the foundation for future conservation breakthroughs. We are honored to support this important work and inspired by the dedication and vision of our global partners. Together, we are helping secure a richer, more resilient future for the world's plants—and all who depend on them. Congratulations to all the 2025 awardees!



Photo courtesy of Alliance for Conservation Tree Genomics



## GGI-Gardens Award Partner Profile: Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden



Photos of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden set against the backdrop of Cape Town's Table Mountain, courtesy of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, one of the 11 National Botanical and Zoological Gardens managed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), plays a vital role as a window into South Africa's rich biodiversity. The gardens were established to promote, conserve, and showcase the extraordinary plant life of Southern Africa. A key focus of SANBI's scientific work is "Building Biodiversity Knowledge Assessments and Monitoring." This initiative uses foundational research to understand the status of biodiversity, identify effective conservation strategies, and highlight the benefits of biodiversity to society. As part of this effort, the Global Genome Initiative for Gardens (GGI-Gardens) genomic collections contribute critical scientific resources for future genetic research. SANBI's Horticultural Research and Conservation (HortCore) strategy directly supports its second strategic objective: Plant Conservation. This objective emphasizes using horticultural expertise to advance conservation efforts and ensure a sustainable future for South Africa's flora. Through the HortCore strategy, 263 priority plant species were identified, 60% of which are threatened and prioritized for both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation due to their threat status. To support this goal, Kirstenbosch undertook a project to expand its living collection and gather genomic samples from the 263 target species. The project resulted in 650 genomic collections, covering 76 species, 54 genera, and 27 plant families. Despite challenges, the project has provided valuable learning opportunities and strengthened SANBI's capacity in DNA sampling—laying the groundwork for further advances in plant conservation science.

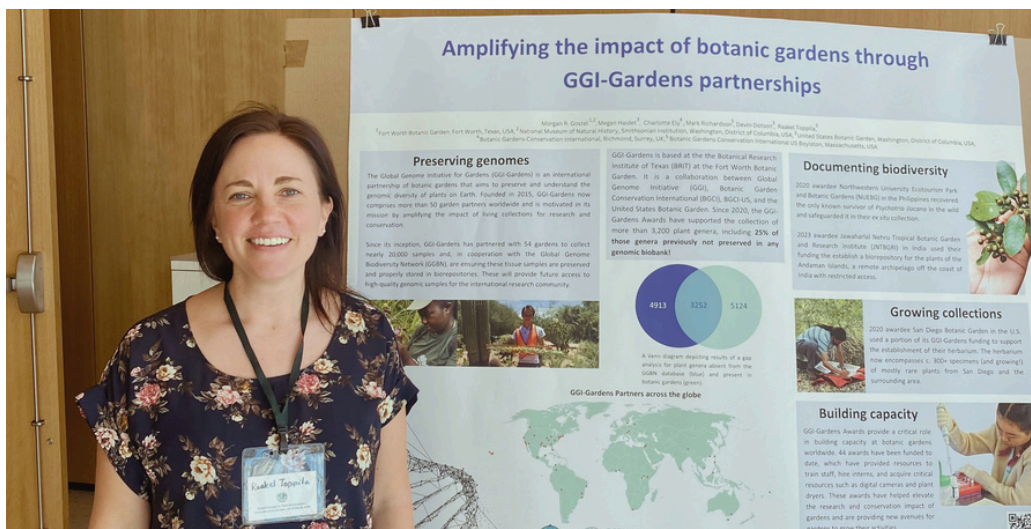




GGI-Gardens Advisory Committee Member, Anurag Dhyani and GGI-Gardens Program Coordinator, Raakel Toppila at GPPC Conference in St. Louis

## GGI-Gardens at the GPPC Conference

GGI-Gardens Program Coordinator, Raakel Toppila presented a poster at the International Plant Conservation Conference for the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation at Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis in March.



## Upcoming Events

### Elemental

American Public Garden Association  
2-5 June, 2025  
Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver,  
USA

### Botany 2025, Botany without Borders

Botanical Society of America  
26-30 July, 2025  
Palm Springs, USA

### GGBN 2025 Conference

South African National Biodiversity  
Institute  
29 September - 3 October, 2025  
Capetown, South Africa

## GGI-Gardens partners across the globe



## Interested in joining GGI-Gardens?

Contact us!

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