



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



The Huntington collections comprise over 25,000 taxa across the tree of life. Part of their mission is to increase access to collections for researchers and students around the globe. The GGBN is one important part of fulfilling that mission and interns funded by the GGI-Gardens Partner Award have been instrumental in creating and growing their biobanks.

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GGI-Gardens Newsletter

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News, highlights & opportunities from the botanic garden community



GGI-Gardens Award Partner Profile: The Huntington, USA

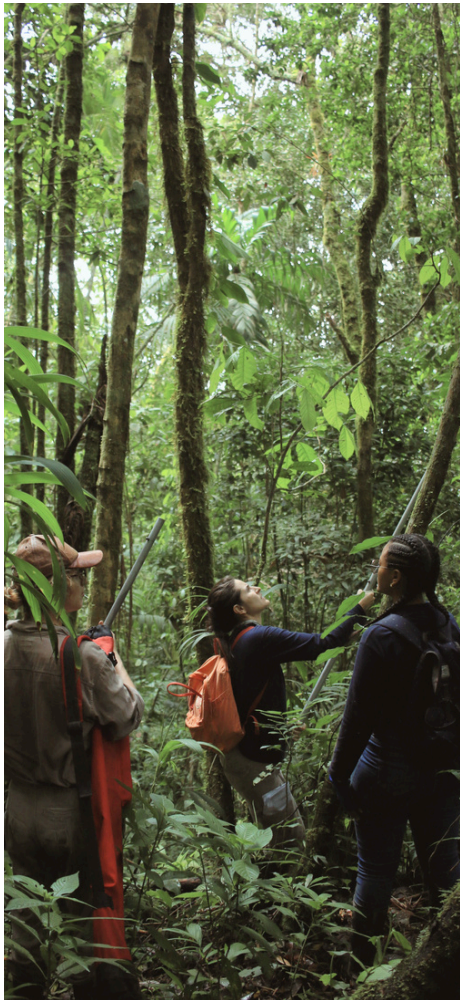


The Huntington's 2023 GGI-Gardens Award was used to help fund student intern, Annica Wu, from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. During her time at the Huntington, Annica gained experience in several aspects of field botany and collections management. She learned to use the Huntington's ArcGIS mapping system to identify and track taxa on the target list. Overall Annica made 48 plant collections from 33 families, two of which are new to GGBN and 47 genera, 46 of which are new to GGBN. From this set of candidate taxa Annica refined the system of tracking her progress within the ArcGIS map, which will likely be a model for the Huntington's collection protocol going forward. Annica's was able to mount and database a backlog of GGBN vouchers in addition to her new collections. Annica learned to extract DNA and add it to the Huntington's DNA bank. This is the second year Huntington has been awarded a GGI-Garden's Award, providing a budding botanist valuable and varied experience.

The Huntington's use of funds for an internship showcases an innovative approach to the GGI-Gardens Award. This initiative supports early career development while generating valuable data for genomics research.

The Global Genome Initiative for Gardens (GGI-Gardens) Awards are a collaboration between GGI-Gardens, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), BGCI-US, and the United States Botanic Garden.

GGI-Gardens Award Partner Profile: Cartagena Botanical Garden, Colombia



Cartagena Botanical Garden staff making herbarium specimens and collections for the GGI-Gardens Program.

Nestled within the tropical dry forest of Colombia's Caribbean region, is Cartagena Botanical Garden, a facility dedicated to the conservation, research, and education of the region's unique biodiversity. As part of their commitment to safeguarding plant diversity, they secured the 2024 GGI-Gardens Award to embark on a project to voucher and preserve plants from the region, contributing valuable botanical records to conservation efforts. While their team anticipated a rigorous but rewarding endeavor, the journey presented unexpected challenges, from regulatory hurdles to erratic weather conditions that disrupted flowering and fruiting cycles. One of the most significant obstacles they encountered was the requirement for special permits to collect threatened species, delaying some of their planned fieldwork. Additionally, unusual phenological patterns caused by unpredictable weather made it difficult to find fertile specimens at expected times. In October 2024, they faced a technical setback when their drying oven caught fire, limiting their ability to process samples. However, they quickly adapted, building a provisional drying oven and prioritizing the processing and mounting of herbarium specimens. Despite these challenges, they successfully collected 64 families and 122 genera, with 123 samples deposited in the biorepository managed by the Humboldt Institute. This project not only strengthened their collections but also deepened their understanding of the conservation needs of the region's flora. They continue to work toward their collection goal, ensuring that their botanical collections serve as a lasting resource for conservation and research.

GGI-Gardens Project Highlights Over the Years



Staff from NUEBG making collections for GGI-Gardens

Upcoming Events

Global Partnership for Plant Conservation Conference

12–14 March, 2025
Missouri Botanical Garden,
St. Louis, USA

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

Since the inception in 2017, the GGI-Gardens Awards have funded 34 botanic gardens and arboreta. Throughout the years some unique stories have emerged. These and others will be presented as a poster at the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation Conference at Missouri Botanical Garden in March and the American Public Garden Association Conference in June.

- 2020 awardee, Northwestern University Ecotourism Park and Botanic Gardens (NUEBG) in the Philippines, recovered the only known survivor of *Psychotria ilocana* in the wild and safeguarded it in their *ex situ* collection.
- 2020 awardee, San Diego Botanic Garden in the U.S., used a portion of its GGI-Gardens funding to support the establishment of their herbarium. The herbarium now encompasses c. 300+ specimens (and growing!) of mostly rare plants from San Diego and the region.

GGI-Gardens partners across the globe



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