

W-9 Tree Day: Building and sustaining conservation networks

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Duration: 90 minutes

Target audience: Botanic garden leaders or staff that want to start or expand their conservation efforts within the consortia framework.

Objectives: In this session, participants will learn about the different ways GCC have formed and how they are currently administered under a shared framework. Participants will learn about successes and challenges in facilitating conservation networks as well as engage in discussion about initiating/leading new global conservation consortia and participating in currently existing consortia. The panellists and participants will engage in discussion and learn from each other about networking and collaboration to increase conservation impact at botanic gardens.

Abstract: The 2023 State of the World's Plants and Fungi report revealed 45% of flowering plant species are threatened with extinction. Plants receive a fraction of the conservation resources directed at animal taxa; despite their diverse ecosystem services, and myriad human uses. Several existing conservation networks, for example the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Specialist Groups, have spurred conservation action, but there remains an urgent need to scale up conservation efforts for the world's plants. In 2018, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) initiated a new approach to coordinated conservation action for plant taxa: the Global Conservation Consortia (GCC). GCC catalyse institutions and experts to collaboratively develop and implement comprehensive strategies to prevent extinction of threatened plant groups.

During this session a brief overview of the GCC framework will be presented. A moderated panel discussion will then be held. The panel will include participants from a number of consortia including Cycads, Magnolias, Oaks and Conifers. Q&A and open discussion amongst the panel and session attendees will include how the GCC framework is applicable to many taxonomic groups, the diverse ways consortia have been initiated, design, implementation, successes, and challenges of consortia administration as this new and exciting approach to conservation is developed.