



International Courses 2003

Kew's international courses programme has been busy this summer with the Herbarium Techniques course running in June and July, closely followed by the Plant Conservation Techniques course in August and September. For a change, the British summer was notably hot and dry, with UK temperature records being broken in early August. But despite the heat, the courses flourished, with participants enjoying the opportunity to undertake field trips without needing waterproofs and wellington boots!

In keeping with the courses' tradition, there were participants from all over the world – from as far apart as the Falkland Islands and Papua New Guinea. Anna Asatryan from Armenia who took part in PCT represented the 99th country to attend one of RBG Kew's Higher Education and Training courses since they began in 1987. We welcome them all to the growing network of Kew's International Diploma Course alumni. The participants of the Herbarium Techniques Course introduce themselves on pp2–3. Look out for a report on the Plant Conservation Techniques Course in *on COURSE* 8.

Herbarium Techniques Course 2003



Course participants

Back row (left to right): **Alifereti Naikatini** (South Pacific Regional Herbarium, Fiji), **Homero Vargas** (National Herbarium, Ecuador), **Professor Simon Owens** (RBG, Kew), **Naqqi Manco** (Turks and Caicos National Trust, Turks and Caicos Islands), **Billy Bau** (Forest Research Institute, Papua New Guinea), **Professor Peter Crane** (RBG Kew), **Edgley César** (Brazil), **Alexy Seregin** (Moscow State University, Russia), **Raymond Walker** (National Parks Trust, British Virgin Islands)

Front row (left to right): **Monicah Kabelo** (National Museum, Botswana), **Alison Mahoney** (Minnesota State University Mankato, USA), **Angela Severin** (Ministry of Agriculture, St Lucia), **Lillian Kidd** (Falkland Islands National Trust, Falkland Islands), **Tonji Nana Félicité** (Herbier National, Cameroon)

Plant Conservation Techniques Course 2003



Course participants

Back row (left to right): **Colin Clubbe** (RBG Kew), **Joseph A Betzler** (Zoological Society of San Diego's Botanical Conservation Center, USA), **William Hamisy** (National Plant Genetic Resources Centre, Tanzania), **Dan Shepherd** (Resource Conservation Program, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, USA), **Suranjan Fernando** (Central Environmental Authority, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), **Professor Vernon Heywood** (University of Reading, UK), **Solofa Rakotoarisoa** (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Madagascar), **Kaliamoorthy Ravikumar** (Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore, India)

Front row (left to right): **Liz de Keyser** (RBG, Kew), **Anna Asatryan** (Institute of Botany, Yerevan, Armenia), **Anthony Mapaura** (National Herbarium and Botanic Garden, Zimbabwe), **Rita Ngolan** (Kilum-Ijim Forest Project, Bamenda, Cameroon)

FOCUS on The 2003 Herbarium Techniques Course

Twelve copies please!

Our Diploma Course on Herbarium Techniques 2003 was comprised of a diverse mix of students from around the world. Nine countries and three UK Overseas Territories were represented and melded together to form a helpful family network. Our classmates helped each other with everything from language to touring London and cooking. As can be seen in our introductions, our learning experiences and friendships grew together and made for a wonderful time.

Lillian Kidd

I'm Lillian Kidd, better known as Ginge. Falkland Island Conservation started a small herbarium in the Islands some five years' ago and requested that I should look after it. At the moment the whole herbarium is situated in a small room, together with Conservation's library. With only a few hundred specimens to house, this has not proved too much of a problem! F I Conservation felt that this course would ensure that I know how to care for these, and any new specimens arriving, correctly.

Alison Mahoney

At Minnesota State University-Mankato, I am one of only two botanists in a Department of Biological Sciences with a faculty of 21. We have a hard time interesting students in plants but I've always felt that our small, neglected herbarium could boost interest, if only I could find an 'angle'. When I stumbled upon a description of the course while searching for *Index Kewensis*, I applied immediately. I wanted to come on the course to learn techniques but I was also fishing for ideas.

From the detail of learning how to hinge-mount illustrations to the really vast concerns of the CBD, the material presented was exhaustive and useful. However, the less tangible enthusiasm of the staff and the highly varied backgrounds, points of view and personalities of the students, were really the energising elements of the course.

There isn't much natural vegetation left in south central Minnesota – just acres of soy beans and maize. And the state herbarium is 90 miles away in the capital. But, I've come up with a plan and I hope my fellow students at Kew will help me begin to rebuild our herbarium as an Economic Botany collection. I think plants' usefulness will be immediately interesting to my students and if they can be involved with exchanging specimens with botanists from around the world, it can't help but be popular.



Alexey Seregin

Hello, I am Alexey Seregin from Moscow State University (Russia). This year I had finished the University and I was the youngest participant of the course. The atmosphere in the classroom was wonderful all over the courses and this helped us a lot to understand each other. I am definitely sure that a young botanist who once visited Kew will follow his profession for ever.

Raymond Walker

As Program Co-ordinator, British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust (BVINPT), I am responsible for the management of National Terrestrial Parks within the BVINPT system of parks and protected areas.

The course exposed me to the concepts, principles and practices involved in the management and curation of a herbarium. This was very beneficial to me and the institution that I represent. The experience gained will assist me and the BVINPT in future plant conservation work and aid in the overall management of the natural resources of the BVI.

Billy Bau

My name is Billy Bieso Bau and I come from Papua New Guinea (PNG). PNG is located



north of Australia in the Pacific. I am employed by the National Forest Service as a technical officer at the National Herbarium, which is part of the Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute (PNGFRI).

As a participant of the 2003 Herbarium Course, I have certainly learnt a great deal of new ideas, skills and techniques for managing a herbarium. All in all, these herbarium skills will definitely help me in improving the state of the Papua New Guinea National Herbarium.

Edgley Adriano César

I'm a student from Brazil, Paraiba state. My city is João Pessoa, in north-east Brazil. My institution is a federal university (UFPB – Universidade Federal da Paraíba). We have a small herbarium (c 30,000 specimens) that has species from local flora especially from 'Mata Atlântica' (Atlantic coastal forest) and 'Caatinga' (a very dry ecosystem that represents 80% of the north-eastern Brazil flora). I'm at Kew on the North-East Brazil Repatriation Project. I am so much enjoying this opportunity to learn English, a different culture and mainly learn about botany with the best experts and in the most important herbarium in the world. The course was quite nice, offering new knowledge, changes of experiences and new friends.

Monicah Kabelo

I was born on 17 August 1971 in Botswana. I work as the Senior Museum Assistant (Herbarium Assistant) for the Herbarium Section of the Botswana National Museum. The Herbarium Techniques course was very informative and enriching. When I get back to my Institution, the information I learnt here will be passed on to my colleagues.

Naqqi Manco

I travelled from one Kew to another Kew for the course – my home is in the Kew

scientific, heritage and tourism sites of London and created memories and experiences to cherish forever.

Homero Vargas

I am Homero Vargas from Ecuador. I work at the National Herbarium in Ecuador (QCNE). The course was a great experience for me because we shared knowledge and experiences from each of our institutions. The course helped me to improve my knowledge of how to manage a herbarium and all the conditions to develop my institution. I hope

knew all herbarium techniques. This course has taught me a lot more, from the simple basics to the complicated techniques and has helped me to see the bigger picture of the role of the herbarium in conservation, education and research. And the nice thing is I have been able to meet up with expert botanists and colleagues from all over the world and get contacts. We enjoyed going out on field visits with the course colleagues and co-ordinators, had fun and got to know each other well.

Kew is great – I never knew that one day I



PICTURES

Opposite page:

Top left: **Billy, Homero, Monicah & Raymond investigate plant pressing techniques**

Bottom left: **Ginge, Bill Baker (RBG Kew), Alison, Fred & Naqqi consider the best way to press a specimen**

Right: **Naqqi and Juliet Cruickshank (RBG Kew) watch Nana mount a specimen**

This page:

Left: **Fred and Alison observe Janet Sheldon (RBG Kew) laying out a specimen**

Top right: **Alexy and Edgley discuss their group's interpretive panel**

Bottom right: **Fred, Homero, Billy, Nana and Monicah take part in the CBD session**

Settlement on North Caicos in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). Originally named after Kew Gardens, Kew Settlement is located in our islands' only true tropical forest. The fertile soil and abundant rain, unusual in these desert islands, makes Kew Settlement the gardening centre of TCI.

The TCI are a UK Overseas Territory comprised of 130 islands and cays situated between the Bahamas and Hispaniola. As Conservation Officer for the Turks and Caicos National Trust, my responsibility for cataloguing our biodiversity extends to all the islands and cays. While the National Trust does not yet have an herbarium, we do have a specimen collection in Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami, USA.

The course has given me the opportunity to develop ideas for building an herbarium from the ground up – based on the suggestions and criticisms of our teachers and classmates. I have also gained an understanding of the daily responsibilities, functions and problems of herbaria around the world. Furthermore, friendships and partnerships formed between my classmates and myself will no doubt lead to a worldwide network of otherwise unknown possibilities for links, exchange, advice and knowledge sharing. Together, we also explored the

we can keep in touch with each other to share other experiences to help in the development of our institutions. At the end I recommend to people who work in botany to take this course because you can get the skills to help your country's conservation.

Nana Fèlicité

I work at the Herbarium National Cameroun. I enjoy the courses. Before I came here, there were many things I never knew about curation. Today, I can do it. If I have a new revision of a particular genus in my herbarium, I would not have a problem doing it. Concerning the description of plants, I learnt more because I was never able to give enough details on parts of flowers before. When I get back home, I will practice the knowledge I acquired on the training course.

Alifereti Naikatini

My name is Alifereti Naikatini (Fred). I work as a technician in the South Pacific Regional Herbarium (SPRH), based in the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji Islands in the South Pacific.

The Herbarium Techniques Course has been an exciting, educational and eye-opening experience for me. I have been working in a herbarium for three years and I thought I

would be doing a course in one of the world's leading herbaria. I am going to miss this place, the course and lots more but I am happy that I have a lot to take back home. Our institution and the South Pacific Region is going to benefit from this.

Final words

Now that our projects and assignments and final exam are over, we have gained not only knowledge but also familial relations by helping each other. Angela and Monicah always made sure we had all of the lecture notes by requesting from each teacher 'Twelve copies, please!' Many of us helped Nana with English, but by the end of the course, because of her care, we called her 'Mama Nana'. From our first shy ventures into the tube to our final exam dinner party where everyone helped to cook, we shared the responsibilities and benefits of the experience here in London. As we prepare to return home with our new skills, knowledge and friendship, we can make a final request – our diplomas, 'Twelve copies, please!'

Herbarium Techniques (HT), Botanic Garden Management (BGM), Plant Conservation Techniques (PCT), Botanic Garden Education (BGE), Darwin Initiative Cultivation and Conservation of Threatened Plant Species (CCTPS)

Makerere University Herbarium Techniques Course



Back row (left to right): **Morrine Nassuna** (Botanic Garden, Makerere), **Pamela Anying** (Kidepo National Park), **Majorie Nakibuka** (Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, Makerere University), **Chripsine Safari** (Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation), **Priscilla Balungi** (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), **Thomas Odora** (DOSATE, Makerere University), **Paul Ssegawa** (MUH), **Robert Barigyira** (Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation), **David Nkuute** (MUH), **Olivia Maganyi** (MUH), **Colin Clubbe** (RBG Kew), **Yusuf Ssessanga** (Botanic Garden, Makerere)

Front row (left to right): **Stella Simiyu** (National Museums of Kenya), **Rose Badaza** (MUH), **Paul Okullo** (Faculty of Forestry), **William Mugume** (Nyabyeya Forestry College), **Janet Nabakooza** (MUH), **Esther Nakamatte** (MUH), **Helga Namuganza** (DOSATE, Makerere University), **Esezah Kakudidi** (Botany Department, Makerere University)

This summer, between 3 August and 4 September, the Makerere University Herbarium (MUH) in Kampala, Uganda, organised a Herbarium Techniques Course for 16 participants from other Ugandan organisations. Rose Badaza (HTC 1994), Curator of MUH, who organised the course, sent us this report.

This Herbarium Techniques course was the first of its kind to be held in Uganda. Its goals were to help participants improve their skills in collecting, identifying, preserving and managing herbarium specimens and to increase their understanding of the role of the herbarium in conservation. The sixteen participants came from a range of organisations including the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation, Makerere Botanic Garden, various university departments, Namulonge Research Institute, Kidepo National Park and Nyabyeya Forestry College as well as MUH. Financial support for the course was received from NORAD.

During the first two weeks of the course, the participants took part in a field expedition to Busia District in south-eastern Uganda to the north of Lake Victoria. The purpose of the

expedition was to collect and list the plant species in the District to improve the area's representation in MUH and to document the flora of Busia as part of the training exercise for the participants.

The second part of the course was held at MUH, where the participants received lectures and took part in practical sessions in mounting and plant identification by matching with existing specimens. The course also covered plant conservation strategies, the Convention on Biodiversity and writing project proposals. Among the facilitators were Professor Roy Gereau from Missouri Botanic Gardens Herbarium, Colin Clubbe from RBG Kew and Stella Simiyu (PCT 1993) from National Museums of Kenya. Other facilitators from Makerere University were Esezah Kakudidi from the Botany Department and Gerald Eilu from the Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, as well as Rose Badaza, Paul Ssegawa, David Nkuute and Olivia Maganyi (HTC 1999) from MUH.

After the taught course finished, participants spent one week at their home institutions collecting 50 specimens which formed part of their assessment. These specimens were

specifically for incorporation in their own herbaria. Other elements of the assessment were a two-hour theory exam and day to day field assessment.

All participants attended the closing ceremony on 4 October, together with the Head of Department, the Dean of Science and the Associate Dean. They all received their certificate and a copy of the Herbarium Handbook. The participants all considered that the course was a great success and the facilitators found it a rewarding and interesting experience.

Since the course, Robert Barigyira and Chripsine Safari from the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation have improved the arrangement of specimens in their Herbarium and have deposited better quality specimens in the MUH. Helga Namuganza and Thomas Odora from Makerere University's Department of Science and Technical Education (DOSATE) are setting up a small herbarium for teaching purposes. Nyabyeya Forestry College has realised the need to update their collection in the college herbarium. A team from MUH will be going to Nyabyeya to help William Mugume with this exercise.

BACK chat **Shorts**

News snippets from around the world

Richard Symmonds (South Africa, BGM 2000) has taken up a 6-month contract as the Gardens Operational Manager at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. He is working with Jim Cane (Australia, BGM 1996)

Vishnu Ramsawak (Trinidad, BGM 2000) has moved on from the botanic gardens and is now acting Project Officer 1 in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources. He visited Kew in January 2003 and met up with Colin Clubbe. One of his lasting memories of that visit will be the impressive snowfall – the first serious snow at Kew for over 12 years!

Abdul Kareem (India, BGE 2002) attended the first BGCI-India initiative meeting at Lucknow in June 2003.

Abdel-Monem el-Henawy (Egypt, HT 2001) reports that a new herbarium has been established at the Egyptian Desert Gene Bank. It already holds a total of 1500 specimens representing 300 species. Dr Michiel van Slageren from the Millennium Seed Bank Project visited the herbarium during a seed-collecting trip to the region.

Following his presentation at the 5th BGCI International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens in Sydney, **Alex Alexander** (India, PCT 1999) spent another three weeks in Australia at Albury in New South Wales. He was the guest of the Friends of Albury Botanic Gardens who had sponsored his trip to the Congress. During his stay Alex met with visitors to the gardens, staff from the botanic gardens in Canberra and Melbourne and local environmental planners. He also took part in the celebrations marking the 125th anniversary of Albury Botanic Gardens.



Top: Rose Badaza and colleagues from Makerere University discussing the redevelopment of the botanic garden

Middle: Collecting specimens on the field trip to Busia

Bottom: En route to Sigulu Island on Lake Victoria

Herbarium Techniques (HT), Botanic Garden Management (BGM), Plant Conservation Techniques (PCT), Botanic Garden Education (BGE), Darwin Initiative Cultivation and Conservation of Threatened Plant Species (CCTPS)

News from Fundação Zoo-Botanica de Belo Horizonte, Brazil



Left: **Caatinga vegetation Minas Gerais State, Brazil**

Inset top: **Inês with a colleague from FZB-BH**

Inset bottom: **Caatinga glasshouse at FZB-BH**



Inês Ribeiro (Brazil, BGM 2002) reports on developments at the Fundação Zoo-Botanica de Belo Horizonte (FZB-BH), Brazil. 'Brazil is not only the Amazon...'. That's how I started my presentation at the 2002 International Diploma Course in Botanic Garden Management at Kew. Brazil is known mostly because of its immense forest in the Amazon. But few people realise that that is more than that. We have majestic Atlantic forest, wonderful savanna (*cerado*), astonishing rocky outcrops with typical '*campo rupestre*' vegetation and the amazing *caatinga* (semi-arid vegetation).

As a botanist, I work at the Fundação Zoo-Botanica, an organisation administered by the city hall of Belo Horizonte, the capital of

Minas Gerais state in central Brazil. Its mission is to 'contribute to nature conservation through education, research and leisure activities, and by encouraging people to respect biodiversity'. The FZB-BH consists of the Botanic Garden, the Zoological Garden, the Environment Education Service and the Administration and Financial Department. About 800,000 people visit the institution each year, which is well-known nationally and internationally for its research, conservation and education activities.

The FZB-BH, through the Botanic Garden and Environment Education Service, looks forward to consolidating its role in studying, rescuing and conserving the species of the Minas Gerais flora. In our view, it seems that

information and explanation can change peoples' perceptions of wildlife and natural environments and encourage respect for them.

Alongside the 10 hectare Botanic Garden are 60 hectares of natural *cerrado* reserves and seasonal semi-deciduous forest within the FZB-BH's 144 hectare site. Within the Botanic Garden are established displays of medicinal and poisonous plants, foliage species, Brazilian palm trees, succulent plants, bromeliads and flowers. Two thematic glasshouses – one on plant evolution and one representing the Atlantic forest ecosystem – are already open to the public. Still under development are two other glasshouses which will show two other ecosystems in the state of Minas Gerais – the semi-arid *caatinga* vegetation and the *campo rupestre* vegetation which is typical of rocky outcrops in mountainous areas. Aquatic plants are cultivated in a small pond. Important living botanic collections of pteridophytes, bromeliads, orchids, Araceae, cacti and succulents and carnivorous plants are cultivated in areas not open to the public. There is also a large nursery where about 400 species of arboreal and garden plants are produced to supply the FZB-BH, the city hall organisations responsible for urban tree-planting and the green areas around the city as well as for environment recovery programmes.

We have recently participated in the programme *Investing in Nature*, a partnership between HSBC, BGCI, Earthwatch and WWF. After due consideration of the proposals received from botanic gardens throughout Brazil, we were selected to receive one of the first awards for 2002. Our project will contribute to *caatinga* biome conservation through an education programme that promotes knowledge of local species and of their uses and cultivation. We hope that by fulfilling the objectives of the project, our partnership with RBG Kew and BGCI will bring good results for the benefit of everyone.

The course at Kew Gardens has allowed me to broaden my knowledge of botanic garden management. My place on the course was sponsored by RBG Kew, Caparao Construction, Valourec and Mannesman Tubes and the Margaret Mee Botanic Foundation.

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North-South co-operation resulting from the Botanic Garden Management Course

Chris Fominyam (Cameroon, BGM 1994) has recently visited Peter Olin (USA, BGM 1994) at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. They describe some of the strong links forged during one of Kew's international diploma courses.

The Kew courses are wonderful grounds for the birth of excellent co-operation between gardens. They're a melting pot of garden managers of all levels coming together for a common goal 'Training'. This can be described as 'recycling' because training is a sharing of experiences through the guidance of the instructors. What some course participants fail to understand is that this is the best opportunity to create a long-lasting working collaboration between their respective gardens.

A good example is the collaboration between the Limbe Botanic Garden (LBZG) and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (MLA). Peter J. Olin, Director of MLA and Christopher N. T. Fominyam, Supervisor at LBZG, met at the 1994 Botanic Garden Management Course, a class of about 8 participants. We all had a wonderful working team spirit and shared our experiences from different levels of management hierarchy at our respective gardens. It was so exciting to see Chief Executive Officers (CEO) coming to understand what some of their subordinates encounter in the field with staff, plants and landscape problems, as well as middle managers understanding what CEOs encounter with their Boards and politicians or decision makers such as government officials.

After the course, participants tried to maintain on-going correspondence with course mates as much as possible. It went well for a couple of years with all but some later ended naturally. However, Chris and Peter kept their correspondence going until 2000 when they met again in Asheville, North Carolina for the Botanic Gardens Conservation International Congress. At this second meeting, they both decided to establish a strong working collaborative. This meeting also coincided with an economic crisis that hit both gardens at the same time but at different intensities. With this new spirit of collaboration, Chris and Peter decided to exchange ideas about handling situations arising in their respective gardens as a result of the financial crisis. These

included staff reduction and changes in policy on landscaping, plant collection trips and, most especially, fund-raising.

Peter became particularly adept at fund-raising where his garden was far better in its approach, one that is very successful. He invited Chris to his garden for a month-long working visit to learn skills in fund-raising, look at new approaches to maintenance, and to participate in some of the fund-raising events. This visit took place in July to August 2002. It goes without saying that fund-raising wasn't the only good experience learned from an illustrious garden such as Peter's. This garden has wonderful staff, members, Board members and University faculty colleagues. Chris had the chance to interact and learn from everyone he encountered. He greatly appreciated the unbeatable hospitality of all the staff of Peter's garden through which he had lifetime experiences in learning botanical gardens management techniques.

There were so many benefits to this working visit that Chris made to Minnesota. LBZG has now developed an electronic approach to locating funding for collaborative research. Peter's sponsorship of Chris to the 2002 American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) Conference in Hamilton, Canada, also opened doors to new contacts for more collaborative research funding.

Today, LBZG is a member of AABGA on the advice of Peter and can enjoy all the benefits of this great network of American gardens. It also has a good checklist of potential donors and funding agencies interested in conservation in Africa. Finally, LBZG can always count on MLA as one of its great US partners. Chris and Peter hope to see this partnership grow and strengthen by helping other gardens with similar problems.

Please, let us course participants always keep our contacts gained from the course as much as possible and create good working collaborative links after the course. It could be as wonderful as Peter and Chris's. Chris is now hoping that Peter will find time on his very tight schedule to visit Limbe gardens in Cameroon.

Chris writes: Peter J. Olin, you're invited and very welcome to Cameroon. Don't be afraid of high humidity & temperature, insect bites can be taken care of with adaptive sprays! ☺

BACK chat Shorts

News snippets from around the world

Helen Pang Yoke Kiew (Brunei, HT 1999) teaches herbarium techniques to students from the Technical College studying for a Higher Diploma in Science. The students are attached to the University for a 3-month period of industrial training to learn and apply various laboratory techniques. Each year, she trains two batches of 4-5 students.

Brendan Sayers (Eire, BGM 2002) has co-authored the book *Orchids of Glasnevin* with E Charles Nelson. The book was launched in February 2003 at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.

Ray Mims (USA, BGM 2002) has moved to Denver Botanic Gardens as Director of Horticulture.

Chiou Wen-Liang (Taiwan, BGM 2002) is now at the headquarters of the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute in Taipei, working within the Herbarium and continuing his fern studies. After his return from Kew last year, he developed a volunteer system at Fushan Botanical Garden and began several education programmes. Based on 10-years' ecological research, a new indoor display was created which includes a natural sound interactive featuring birds, frogs, insects, squirrels, deer, rain and thunderstorms.

Agnes Mukaba Lusweti (Kenya, BGM 2000) is currently in Addis Ababa, working for an MSc in Biodiversity. She attended the AETFAT meeting in Addis Ababa as well as an orchid workshop.

Stop press

A first for the Plant Conservation Techniques course – new species identified

During her stay at Kew, Rita Ngolan worked with Dr Martin Cheek on a reassessment of the *Dovyalis spinosissima* Gilg (Flacourtiaceae) complex in Africa. One outcome of their research was the identification and description of the new species *Dovyalis cameroonensis* from the Kilum-Ijim forest in Cameroon's Bamenda Highlands. This will be published shortly.

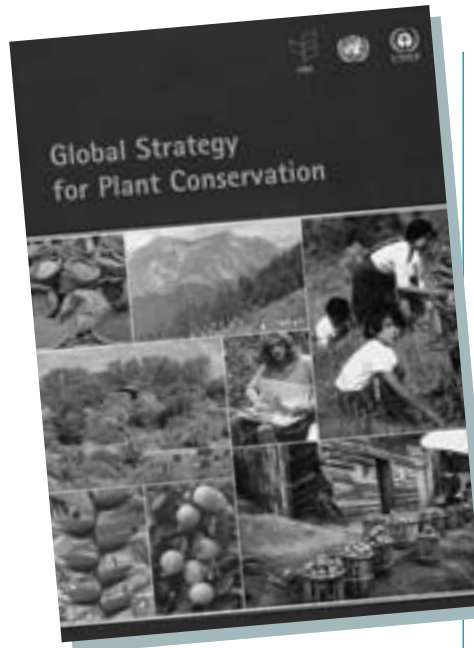
NOTICE board

New fellowship programme

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is pleased to announce that a major new fellowship programme has been set up, generously funded by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, New York City and the Garfield Weston Foundation, UK. The Kew Latin American Research Fellowships Programme (KLARF) offers support to botanical scientists visiting from Latin America (including the West Indies and the Guianas) to study at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew or the Natural History Museum.

The Andrew W Mellon Latin American Botanical Fellowships focus on developing capacity for botanical research in Latin America through close research collaboration between European and Latin American botanical scientists. They will support researchers wishing to consult European scientific collections or to develop research projects in morphology, biogeography, biochemistry, molecular systematics or related fields. The Prance Fellowships in Neotropical Botany focus on the application of botanical knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of plant biodiversity. They will place particular emphasis on capacity-building in neotropical countries, repatriation of knowledge to neotropical countries and building collaboration and partnership with RBG Kew.

For more details on the Fellowships and to find out how to apply, visit:
<http://www.kew.org/education/KLARF/html>



Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

In April 2002 all the Parties to the CBD adopted the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, an ambitious plan to halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity worldwide. The Strategy sets out 16 challenging targets dealing with:

- Understanding and documenting plant diversity
- Conserving plant diversity
- Using plant diversity sustainably
- Promoting education and awareness about plant diversity
- Building capacity for the conservation of plant diversity

These quantitative targets are being monitored and reported to the CBD and are to be achieved by 2010. The Strategy also contributes to the World Summit on Sustainable Development target agreed in Johannesburg in 2002 to significantly halt the decline in biodiversity by 2010.

The lead organisation for the strategy is Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and RBG Kew is collaborating with BGCI in a number of ways in implementing the strategy. Our whole training programme contributes to the Strategy and we are planning some overseas courses targeted specifically at implementing the Strategy. The first of these is being held in collaboration with Makerere University, Uganda in October 2004 and is aimed at an Africa-wide level. African colleagues who may be interested in this course can get further details from:

Rose Badaza, Curator, National Herbarium, Department of Botany, PO Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda. Email: badaza@hotmail.com

Copies of the strategy can be obtained from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, World Trade Centre, 393 St. Jacques, Suite 300, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9, Canada.

Email: secretariat@biodiv.org

Internet: www.biodiv.org

Acknowledgements

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TRAINING PROGRAMME

2004	Botanic Garden Management 5 Jul – 27 Aug	2005	Herbarium Techniques 6 Jun – 29 Jul	For further details of forthcoming courses at Kew, Please see the RBG Kew website: www.kew.org
	Plant Conservation Strategies, Makerere University Uganda 11 Oct – 2 Nov		Plant Conservation Techniques 15 Aug – 7 Oct	

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