

Kew

PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES

International
Diploma in

Botanic Garden Management



WORLD HERITAGE SITE



BGCI

Plants for the Planet

Botanic Garden Management An International Diploma Course

Collectively, botanic gardens hold the world's most diverse collections of plant genetic resources. They are faced with having to fulfil a number of both complementary and, at times, conflicting roles in conservation, display/amenity, education and research. The wider ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly through national biodiversity action-planning, provides an operational framework for botanic gardens to identify and deliver these functions. Botanic gardens are also ideally placed to support the implementation of Agenda 21, the blueprint for sustainable development, and many of the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).

This intensive eight-week course in botanic garden management explores the changing roles of botanic gardens and the key issues they face. As well as management of living collections, the course covers strategic planning and team management, education and visitor services, plant diversity and communication skills. It enables participants to gain the confidence and expertise to develop the resources within their own botanic gardens as integral components of national and local environmental strategies.

The course is run by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in association with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). Both organisations collaborate with many institutions worldwide, particularly those in developing countries which hold a major proportion of the Earth's biodiversity. This course is seen as a key element in our commitment to help build local capacity and expertise in both the management of living plant collections and the conservation of biodiversity.

Kew's international training programme is a direct contribution to the implementation of targets 15 and 16 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) by building capacity for the conservation of plant diversity.

Who is this course for?

People who are actively involved in the management of a botanic garden or arboretum, with some operational and strategic responsibilities as well as supervising horticultural activities.

Candidates should hold a horticultural degree or diploma or equivalent. All candidates must have good conversational and written English and a knowledge of the appropriate technical terms.

Whilst aimed primarily at colleagues from tropical developing countries, participants from other regions of the world are encouraged to apply.

The course is not intended for administrative staff or horticultural staff with no management responsibilities.

What are the course objectives?

To evaluate the different roles of contemporary botanic gardens, explore the key issues they face and prioritise these in relation to each participant's own institutional strategy.

To enhance each participant's skills and understanding to become a more effective manager of living plant collections.

To facilitate individual, more specialised studies related to each participant's own institutional context.

To develop a network of contacts with other professionals working in botanic garden management.

What does the course cover?

The management of living collections

- history, role and development of botanic gardens
- curation policy
- international legislation (CBD, GSPC, CITES, Agenda 21)
- accessions, plant records and mapping
- role of horticulture
- nursery management (including integrated pest management)

Management skills

- strategic planning
- fund-raising
- management techniques – this module has been designed and is run in association with **Cedar Associates**

Education and visitor services

- education
- Friends' organisations
- interpretation
- marketing

Plant diversity

- biodiversity and conservation
- role of living collections
- role of seed banks
- role of the herbarium

Communication tools

- computer training
- presentation techniques
- networking

Research project

- an individually tailored and tutored project relevant to your home institution.

How is the course taught?

Through a combination of lectures, workshops, seminars, tutorials, practical activities and field-visits, this course enables participants to develop and extend their skills in the diverse field of botanic garden management.

Staff from RBG Kew and BGCI provide the major input to the course programme, together with visiting practitioners from botanic gardens, universities and consultancies.

Field visits to a wide range of botanic gardens and related institutions enable participants to gain a wider overview of good practice.

All the sessions are taught in English.

How is the course assessed?

On completion of the course, participants will be assessed by:

- a short written examination
- written assignments
- an oral presentation
- an interview with an external examiner.

All assessments are moderated by an external examiner.

Successful candidates will be awarded the International Diploma in Botanic Garden Management at the end of the course. Candidates who complete the course, but do not achieve a pass standard, will receive a certificate of attendance.

Further information

For details of course dates and fees and for further information on applying for the course, please see www.kew.org/education/highered. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Course Co-ordinator for an application form and further details.

Course Co-ordinator
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The mission of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: To enable better management of the Earth's environment by increasing knowledge and understanding of the plant and fungal kingdoms – the basis of life on Earth