

PLANTAS DO NORDESTE NEWSLETTER



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Centre for Economic Botany, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE, U.K.

REPATRIATION OF BOTANICAL INFORMATION TO NORTHEAST BRAZIL

One of the most important features of the involvement of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew with Plantas do Nordeste (PNE) is the potential offered for providing wider and easier access to relevant plant information for people in the Northeast. Why should this be?

During the 19th century, much of the taxonomic information and reference material for tropical environments was deposited in European institutes, without being duplicated in the countries where it originated. This is particularly well illustrated by the history of the *Flora brasiliensis*, a monumental multi-volume botanical work which described the approx. 23,000 species then known from Brazil. Most of the herbarium specimens on which this work is based exist only in European herbaria, with many at Kew. As they are fundamental for using the book, Brazilian botanists are hampered in their work. Making these resources available more effectively is an urgent priority for supporting taxonomic botany in Brazil.

Access to bibliographic resources is as difficult as seeing the original specimens. Taxonomists need to be able to examine the original scientific papers and confirm their exact dates of publication, in order to do their job.

Providing access is a problem that has to be tackled simultaneously on several levels. Increasing

funding for visiting European institutes is one means. Another is to create databases which can be repatriated or make links to existing ones, together with physical images and photocopies of key literature. The Internet will become increasingly important.

The concept of "repatriation" reminds us that the big resource

vascular plants alone, is a gigantic challenge. It calls for solidarity of purpose, a collective will, long-term vision and a commitment to attaining the goal. Full partnership between the institutes of many nations is an essential precondition for success. The Data Repatriation Project described below embodies this approach. It is a successful,

Workshop on repatriation of Kew Herbarium data to Northeast Brazil, coordinated by Daniela Zappi and with the participation of Kew and Brazilian

centres serve a very wide community of users and that this is an essential aspect of their global role in meeting the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The problem of recording and conserving biodiversity, even for

practical example of how to meet the challenge, and has set the standard for future programmes.

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DARWIN INITIATIVE GRANT: REPATRIATION OF HERBARIUM DATA FOR THE FLORA OF BAHIA

Current plans for a Flora of Bahia highlight the need for improved access for Brazilian researchers to the Bahian data held at the Kew Herbarium.

In response Kew staff prepared a project which involved databasing and repatriating information on some of the families in which Kew currently has expertise. The proposal was awarded a Darwin Initiative grant in early 1998, and the project officially started in August 1998, with the arrival of Teo Sena, from the herbarium at the Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, as the Bahia Darwin Initiative Officer.

The project was later extended to include all Northeastern states of Brazil, to fit the whole 'caatingas dominium', and in order to relate more easily to the work of PNE's Information, Dissemination and Training Subprogramme (SIDT) which aims to repatriate and disseminate botanical data to Northeast Brazil as a whole.

So far Teo has achieved the following objectives:

- prepared a database covering all Kew holdings from NE Brazil, for eight plant families (Cactaceae, Gramineae, Loranthaceae, Myrtaceae, Passifloraceae, Rubiaceae, Verbenaceae and Viscaceae in collaboration with the Kew specialists S. Atkins, E. NicLughadha, S. Renvoize, B. Stannard, N. Taylor and D. Zappi);
- produced preliminary checklists of the species of these families in Northeastern Brazil;
- provided photographs of all type material included in the database;
- photocopied and added the corresponding protologues to the images.

Between July and October 1999:

- the new data will be combined with existing data to obtain a total collections distribution map for the area;
- a report will be published with recommendations for future data repatriation and collecting coverage and a grant proposal

Participants of the project together with guests from some of the key institutions of Brazil

will be submitted to potential sponsors;

- and the datasets will be passed to PNE's Plant Information Centre (CNIP) so that the data can be incorporated in their database.

The pilot project culminated in a workshop on Repatriation of Herbarium Data for the Flora of Bahia, for which the project team were joined by Ana Maria Giulietti, State University of Feira de Santana, Bahia (UEFS), Regina Barbosa, Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), Carolyn Proença, Brasília University, Myrna Landim, Bremen University, Germany, André de Carvalho, CEPLAC/CEPEC, and Luciano Paganucci de Queiroz, UEFS. The primary aim of the workshop was to make an accurate assessment of the resources needed to database the remaining NE Brazilian collections at Kew and image all relevant type material. It is hoped that these data can be used as the basis for a funding proposal to continue the work. This project will end in October 1999.

We hope that this project will provide answers to broader questions (e.g. how many specimens from Bahia are held at Kew, time-scale to database it all, cost to image all the types of the region, etc.). It will also provide aid in identifying areas of high species diversity and endemism, essential for conservation planning.

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The Association Plantas do Nordeste (APNE) is a non profit organization founded in 1994 to manage a single bilateral cooperation programme – **Plantas do Nordeste Programme (PNE)** - in partnership between the National Centre for Science and Technology (CNPq), The Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG, Kew), universities, research institutes, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Association is run by a General Assembly and a PNE Board whose main responsibility is to establish the objectives and direction of PNE. The present President is Profa. Ana Maria Giulietti (herbario@uefs.br), from UEFS. CNPq and RBG-Kew have institutional representation on the Board of PNE.

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WHAT IS PNE?

PNE is a multidisciplinary research programme contributing to the identification and sustainable use of plant resources in the Northeast region of Brazil. PNE combines conservation and improvement of ecosystems with positive socio-economic benefit to the local community.

PNE raises funds independently to support its activities and is under the General Coordination of Jair Fernandes Virginio, Av. Gen San Martin, 1371 IPA – Bloco 7, Bonji, 50761-000 Recife, PE, Brazil Tel/Fax: 00 55 (81) 446 1486

✠ PNE RESEARCHERS DISTRIBUTE MAPS TO SCHOOLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AUIABA.

The research work being developed by a team of researchers from the Federal University of Ceará (UFC) at the ecological station of Aiuaba has led to the distribution of 5000 maps to state and municipal schools in the region. The project, The Semi-arid Flora of the Northern States of Northeast Brazil – Caatinga and Carrasco, started in 1996 with funds obtained from Souza Cruz, a subsidiary of British and American Tobacco, by the PNE Association (APNE). It is coordinated by Prof. Maria Angélica Figueiredo.

It is hoped that this initiative will motivate students to better their knowledge of the area whilst contributing to the conservation of their environment.

The preparation of the maps and teaching materials involved collaboration of the communities and information supplied both by the municipal government and by the rural people themselves. The monthly trips by research botanists also ground-truthed the area following study of satellite and radar images, and various types of map.

The maps were distributed to the schools at a special event which included the team of UFC, IBAMA representatives, the municipal council, municipal education secretary, school headteachers and the student community of Aiuaba.

The map was designed to show contours to enable an understanding of the area's relief; the limits of the districts which compose the município; drainage; the main reservoirs and lakes; roads; interstate and intermunicipal limits; the location of the ecological station; villages and farms; and the municipal capital Auiaba.

Copies of the maps were published so as to ensure that each school has the map of its own territory in its main room. They were distributed to each student to enable them to work on their own document and interpret it under the supervision of their teachers. The team from the UFC would like to thank APNE and Souza Cruz for enabling them to carry out this work.

Project Cycle Management Course funded by the Department for International Development (DfID)

The one week project cycle management course held in Engenho Massangana, Recife in November 1998 was a great success – it was well received and exceeded the expectations of all participants. The course was run by the Joaquim Nabuco Foundation (FUNDARJ) and organised by APNE with funds from DfID. The main objective of the course was to demonstrate the use of techniques such as Logical Frameworks (a tool used to manage and administrate DfID-funded programmes). The course was attended by a total of 17 participants from SIDT, project coordinators and other PNE supported projects from around NE Brazil.

Participants of the Project Management Course funded by DfID

MILLENNIUM SEED BANK WORKSHOP

Prof. Ana Maria Giulietti (President of APNE) and Jair Virginio (PNE General Coordinator) were among eleven Brazilian delegates invited to RBG Kew's Millennium Seed Bank-Brazil workshop in London from April 8-10. The 3-day workshop, hosted by Kew's Director Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, and co-chaired with Minister Sergio Moreira Lima, Deputy Ambassador at the Brazilian Embassy in London, brought together representatives from CNPq-MCT, ABC, EMBRAPA-CENARGEN, MMA, MRE, APNE and Kew's Seed Conservation Department to look at the opportunities offered by the Millennium Seed Bank project. The project (mentioned in *PNE Newsletter* Issue 10, January 1997) concerns the conservation of seed from non-domesticated plant species, principally from the world's drylands, by joint collecting, conservation, research and training. This would be carried out as a partnership between Kew and appropriate Brazilian organisations.

The Workshop concluded that, subject to the Brazilian biodiversity legislation under development and subject to the availability of additional resources to enable Brazilian participation in the initiative, there may be scope for developing a broad collaboration with appropriate Brazilian organisations in seed collecting, research, training, utilisation, and information exchange.

Matching the geographical focus of PNE, the caatinga domain was agreed as the principal target for seed conservation activities in Brazil. A range of potential benefits was identified either arising from the seed conservation activity itself, or from the wider institutional resources available at Kew, particularly from the Herbarium and Library. Although delegates accepted that development of the initiative would be subject to further consultation within their respective organisations, it was agreed in principle to establish a Steering

Committee to take forward the discussions. Consideration was also given to holding a follow-up meeting in Brazil later in 1999.

At a reception given by Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance for Brazilian guests, the delegates were able to meet Kew staff (including members of the PNE Group) and representatives from other UK organisations with a particular interest in Brazil. Jonathan Lingham, the recently-appointed DfID desk officer for Brazil, took the opportunity to meet the delegates at the conclusion of the Workshop, prior to a tour of the Herbarium and Library facilities at Kew.

Michael Way, Seed Conservation Department, Wakehurst Place, m.way@rbgkew.org.uk

Simon Mayo, Kew Herbarium, Nicoletta Viale Tavares, Brazilian Cooperation Agency – ABC, and Roger Smith, Seed Conservation Department, Wakehurst Place at the reception of the Millennium Seed Bank Workshop.

OTHER NEWS

✠ **The Plant Information Centre (CNIP)** is now in operation at the Botany Department of the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE). For further information about CNIP contact the Centre's coordinator Eduardo Dalcin on cnip@elogica.com.br or coordenador@cnip.org.br or see CNIP's website (<http://www.cnip.org.br>).

Information about CNIP can also be obtained through secretaria@cnip.org.br or tco@cnip.org.br

✠ The University of Kent at Canterbury and Kew have just completed the first year of the U.K.'s only MSc course in Ethnobotany. For information see the website (<http://www.ukc.ac.uk/anthropology>) or through Prof. Roy Ellen r.f.ellen@ukc.ac.uk.

✠ Living Pharmacy Project

The project Comunidade Solidária, coordinated by the Brazilian first lady, Ruth Cardoso, printed 30,000 copies (financed by the Banco do Brazil Foundation) of the PNE product "Make your own medicinal plant garden" and eight folders on medicinal plants from the PNE Medicinal Plant Project coordinated by Prof. Abreu Matos of the Federal University of Ceará (UFC). Prof. Matos pointed out that this not only highlights but also greatly emphasizes the community aspect of the work developed by PNE.

✠ II PNE General workshop by CNPq.

The second general evaluation workshop of PNE by the National Council for the Scientific and Technological Development of Brazil (CNPq) on 1 - 2 July was attended by CNPq team and consultants, all coordinators of PNE projects and members of the Association PNE. Further information about the Workshop will be issued on the next edition of the *PNE Newsletter*.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF PNE PROJECTS

Publicity Leaflets:

Figueiredo, M.A. *Espécies arbóreas da caatinga e seu ambiente – Caatinga, uma fonte de vida e resistência.*

directed to: Associação Plantas do Nordeste, Av. Gen. San Martin, 1371, IPA – Bloco 7, Bonji, 50761-000, Recife, PE, Brasil. Tel/Fax: 55 (81) 446 1486 or E-mail: pne@netpe.com.br

Books

Guedes, M.L.S. & Orge, M.D.R. 1998. *Checklist das espécies Pai Inácio (Palmeiras) e Serra de Chapadinha (Lençóis), Chapada UFBA, Brasil.* 69 p. Price: R\$10,00

Rodal, M.J.N., Sales, M.F.S., & Mayo, S.J. 1998. *Florestas Serranas de Pernambuco; localização e conservação dos remanescentes dos Brejos de Altitudes, Pernambuco, Brasil.* Imprensa Universitária da UFRPE, Recife. 30 p.

Sales, M.F., Mayo, S.J., & Rodal, M.J.N. 1999. *Plantas vasculares das florestas Serranas de Pernambuco. Um checklist da flora ameaçada dos Brejos de Altitude, Pernambuco, Brasil.* Imprensa Universitária da UFRPE, Recife. 130 p. R\$15,00

Proceedings of PNE's first General Workshop funded by CNPq

The proceedings of PNE's 1996 workshop in Recife funded by CNPq has just been published. It is edited by Fernando de Araujo (PNE's General Coordinator in 1996), Hew Prendergast (Centre for Economic Botany, Kew) and Simon Mayo (Kew herbarium). Copies are being distributed to all authors and contributors to the proceedings and those who attended the workshop.

Requests for purchase of these books and other PNE publications (see PNE Newsletter Issue 11) should be

✠ Congress & Conferences

The **50th Brazilian National Botanical Congress** took place in Blumenau, Santa Catarina on 18 - 24 July 1999. It was attended by botanists throughout Brazil as well as members of the Association PNE (APNE).

The **VIII International Aroid Conference (VIII e IAC)** will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden August 9-11, 1999. The conference will provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of current topics in the family Araceae, including their biology, ecology, taxonomy and horticulture. Attendees are invited to present a poster on any of the above topics (abstract not required). The registration fee of \$100 includes admittance to all scientific sessions, evening lectures, poster sessions and receptions. Box lunches, morning coffee, and afternoon breaks are also included in the registration fee. There will be an additional \$25 per person fee for the Closing Banquet. Prospective attendees who wish to receive a personal invitation should write to Secretary General. Six Brazilian botanists will attend, including Ivanilza Andrade from Ceará, who last year worked with the Fortaleza (UFC) Caatinga project team. For further information about the Conference, please contact Beth L. Cosgriff, Secretary General, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299, USA,. Fax: (01) 314-577-9 5 9 6 , e - m a i l :

bcosgriff@lehmann.mobot.org.

✠ Congress & Conferences

During the **8° Northeast Ecological Congress**, Jair Virginio, the General Coordinator of PNE, gave a talk on the Flora of Northeast. In this event Jair ran a course for 35 participants on Logical Frameworks together with members of the Fundação Joaquim Nabuco (FUNDAJ), Vileni Garcia, Morvan Moreira and Joanildo Buriti.

✠ Agreements

APNE e UFPE

During the 8th Northeast Ecological Congress on 31 May 1999, at the Mar Hotel in Recife, the Agreement of Technical and Scientific cooperation between APNE/UFPE was signed as a way of formalizing UFPE's commitment to the development of PNE's Plant Information Centre (CNIP). Among participants were the Governor of the State of Pernambuco, Exmo. Dr Jarbas Vasconcelos, secretaries and state deputies together with the signatories of the Agreement, Mozart Neves Ramos, Rector of the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) and Jair Virginio (General Coordinator of PNE).

APNE-IPA

The Agreement of Technical and Scientific Cooperation between APNE-IPA was approved by IPA and will be signed at the II PNE General workshop held by CNPq in Recife.

✠ Agreements

ABC/CNPq/DfID/APNE.

The Additional Term covering the Agreement of Cooperation between the Brazilian and British Governments was signed on 20 March 1998. The agreement marked the beginning of PNE's Information, Dissemination and Training Subprogramme (SIDT). The Additional Term was signed by Elim S. Dutra (Director of The Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and Dr Carlos Roberto de Faria e Souza (Superintendent of International Cooperation (CNPq) for the Brazilian Government, Jair Virginio (Techno-Administrative Director) for APNE and Howard Thompson (Director of the British Council) for the British Government.

✠ Field Manual

Anna Lawrence from the University of Reading, U.K. submitted a proposal, through the Forest Research Programme of DfID, to develop a methodology to be used in the development of identification guides to native species for use by the general public. Anna proposed a partnership with PNE's Information, Dissemination and Training Subprogramme (SIDT). The proposal was analysed and approved during APNE's Board meeting at the end of June.

PEOPLE IN FOCUS

Warm thanks to the outgoing President of the APNE's Board

The first of April marked the end of the second year of Dr Maria Regina Barbosa's Presidency and of Dr Isabel Cristina Machado's Vice-Presidency; they are from the Federal University of Paraíba and Federal University of Pernambuco respectively. We thank them both.

Regina and Isabel Cristina were both founder members of APNE in 1994 and have been members of its Board from its very beginnings. They have accompanied and contributed in many ways to the increasing maturity of the Association during that period. But it has been during the last two years that Regina, particularly, has shouldered the burden of representing PNE nationally and internationally, of coordinating APNE's Board and of taking the lead in formulating a new strategy for the Association.

When Regina took over the Presidency in April 1997, APNE faced some strategic and administrative difficulties which needed urgent attention. Regina immediately brought her professionalism and considerable experience of committee work to bear on the meetings which she has led in exemplary fashion. She saw the APNE through the difficult handover period from one coordination team to another, oversaw the selection and appointment of Jair Virginio and Lúcia Helena Vieira da Cruz and coordinated APNE's financial and administrative activities.

During these two years Regina has represented PNE with energy, integrity and considerable flair at meetings both nationally (such as with CNPq or at the National Botanical Congress) and internationally (such as workshops on PNE held at Kew). All of this she achieved despite being simultaneously Head of her own department in UFPB. For the general good Regina allowed her own projects and interests to take a back seat and for that alone we owe her a great vote of thanks, as we do Isabel Cristina.

Happily we are not saying goodbye to either of them. Regina will continue, together with Simon Mayo, to coordinate the Biodiversity Subprogramme within PNE and Isabel Cristina is the coordinator of the project Floristic and Reproductive Phenology of Bees Species in Mata Serrana, Pernambuco. We wish them every success in the development of their own research.

Special thanks to Prof. Sir Ghilleen Prance and welcome as a member of the APNE's Board

On 13 August 1999, Prof. Sir Ghilleen Prance will retire as the Director of Kew. Prof. Prance's eleven years of Directorship have been of crucial importance for Kew and its connection with Brazil. This is especially true for the Northeast because it was during this period that the Centre for Economic Botany (CEB) was established at Kew and that the PNE Programme was created and developed in collaboration with many institutes in the Northeast.

At APNE's Board meeting on 25 August 1998, Prof. Prance was elected Sócio Benemérito of APNE and permanent member of the Board. This demonstrates APNE's recognition of the constant support for PNE which Prof. Prance and his wife Anne have shown during the years in many different ways: from publicizing PNE at conferences and meetings in many continents to trips to the Northeast; with members of the 'Friends of Kew' to show PNE's projects in action; and in other less formal occasions which invariably

Prof. Prance (right) and Minister Sergio Moreira Lima at the opening of the Millennium Seed Bank Workshop.

brought positive results for the Programme.

It was Prof. Prance's great love of Brazil, shared by many researchers at Kew, which generated the first funding for the development of PNE and also secured new funds to continue supporting the management, administration and development of projects for PNE. Prof. Prance's administration supported the development of PNE's Information, Dissemination and Training Subprogramme (SIDT) and secured the financial support of the UK's Department for International Development (DfID).

The phrase 'o sotaque pode ser inglês, mas a alma é

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PEOPLE IN FOCUS

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definitivamente brasileira' (the accent may be English,

but the soul is definitely Brazilian) - a reference to Prof. Prance by a Brazilian journalist - neatly conveys the affection in which he is held by those Brazilians who had the pleasure of meeting and working with Prof. Prance over the years. His contribution to Brazil will always be connected with his work in the Amazon over a period of 35 years. However, it can also be said that his contribution to Northeast Brazil is already a reality through PNE.

New President for APNE

Prof. Ana Maria Guilietti was elected to occupy the post of President for APNE's Board in March. Ana was born in Pesqueira, Pernambuco and graduated at the University of Recife. She

began her taxonomic studies with Prof. Dárdano de Andrade Lima in Recife and subsequently worked under the supervision of Graziela M. Barroso and Aylthon B. Joly. Ana is currently a Professor of Botany at the State University of Feira de Santana (UEFS), Bahia, where she is actively participating in the development of botanical studies in the State of Bahia. She has an important role with national and international institutions in the area of financial support for research and evaluation of research and post graduate projects.

For many years, Ana Maria led the Laboratory of Taxonomic Botany at the Biosciences Institute of the University of São Paulo (USP), where she established a national and international reputation as a teacher of taxonomic botany with a

total of 36 dissertations and theses supervised. Many of her doctoral students are now leading figures nationally and, increasingly, internationally. With her colleague Dr Nanuza Menezes, she developed the long term collaborative link between USP and Kew; one notable result of this was the crucial role that she played in the creation of the PNE Programme in 1990. Her research specialities are focussed on the systematics of the Monocotyledons (especially the family Eriocaulaceae) and the flora of the campo rupestre.

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Roseane Rodrigues, a graduate in Company Administration of the Catholic University of Pernambuco, has been selected for the post of secretary for PNE's Plant information Centre (CNIP).

Roseane has good experience and qualifications and will be working with Eduardo Dalcin and Bob Allkin. She has been

working as a secretary for 13 years, acquiring experience with organizations in the state of Pernambuco such as Siderúrgica Aconorte S/A (Grupo Gerdau), Motogear Ltda. (Grupo Honda), and Usina Matary S/A (Grupo Maranhão), among others. Bob and Eduardo are very pleased to be working with Roseanne - to keep them organised, of course!

secretaria@cnip.org.br

Lúcia Helena Vieira da Cruz has been working as financial administrator for APNE since June 1998,

receiving a PNE bursary through CNPq. Lúcia graduated in Company Administration at the Catholic University of Pernambuco in 1980 specialising in the area of financial economy under the supervision of Prof. Fernando Brito. She previously worked as Cabinet Assistant and Executive Secretary for the Governor of the State of Pernambuco. Other experience involved work with the Belgo - Brazil Florestal Ltda project and Artquímica Industria Ltda, among others. Lúcia is also an architect and furniture designer and gained her qualification at the ETFPE. She likes music, poetry and nature which, in her own words, 'is the highest expression of life and harmony'.

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Cintia Gamarra, who was granted a CNPq/PNE bursary, started her work with PNE's Plant Information Centre (CNIP) in April. Cintia is under the supervision of Dr Everardo Sampaio, Coordinator of PNE's Information, Dissemination and Training Subprogramme at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE). Cintia is coordinating the collection of literature about caatinga vegetation.

VISITORS *IN FOCUS*

✠ **David Hassett**, Kew's representative on APNE's Board, paid two visits to Kew in 1998. On one of these occasions he received the 'Kew Award' for the excellent voluntary work he has provided to PNE ever since the beginning of the Programme in 1992. David returned to Kew in March 1999 to attend the Millennium Seed Bank Workshop. We would like to thank David for his major support and for keeping the PNE Group at Kew informed of the development of PNE in Brazil. Specifically, we would like to thank David for his work in trying to develop PNE's economic botany strategy together with other members of the committee, Hew Prendergast, Maria do Socorro Bona do Nascimento and Jair Virginio.

David Hassett receiving the 'Kew Award' in 1998 from the Director of Kew (left) and Lord Blakenham, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Kew (right)

✠ **Ana Maria Giuliatti** and **Jair Virginio** also attended the Millennium Seed Bank Workshop. On this occasion, they both attended meetings with the Director of Kew and members of the PNE Group to discuss issues related to PNE. They also visited the University of Wolverhampton together with Hew Prendergast to attend a meeting with the consultant Prof. John Lowe to discuss PNE's strategic plan.

✠ **Luciano P. de Queiroz (UEFS)**, **André de Carvalho (CEPLAC/CEPEC)**, **Maria Regina Barbosa (UFPB)**, **Ana Maria Giuliatti (UEFS)**, **Carolyn Proença (University of Brasília)**, and **Myrna Landim (University of Bremen, Germany)** visited the Kew Herbarium in June to participate in the Workshop on Repatriation of Botanical Data to Bahia. During the rest of their time in the UK, they carried out some work in the Herbarium and discussed the development of PATAX.

✠ **Teonildes Nunes Sena** arrived in London in August 1998 to participate in the Bahian Data Repatriation project financed by The Darwin Initiative. Over the year, Teo has been working in the Kew Herbarium creating a database of more than seven thousand Bahian plant species (see article page 2). Teo also attended the Herbarium Techniques Course at Kew and will return to Bahia in August 1999, where she will resume her position as herbarium technician at the State University of Feira de Santana (UEFS). herbario@cascavel.uefs.br.

✠ **Simon Owens**, Keeper of Kew's Herbarium and his wife Emma toured the Northeast of Brazil in July-August, 1998. They visited APNE, The Prof. Dárdano de Andrade Lima Herbarium at IPA, the new Plant Information Centre (CNIP) based at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco (UFRPE) and PNE's extension project coordinated by AS-PTA. Simon also attended the XLIX National Botanical Congress in Salvador together with other researchers from Kew and members and associates of PNE. He gave a talk on floral biology and afterwards travelled to see the exuberant vegetation of Chapada Diamantina, Bahia. He then visited the CEPEC herbarium at Itabuna and the Rio de Janeiro Botanic Garden.

✠ **Prof. Mozart Neves Ramos**, Rector of the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), and **Prof. Ana Cabral**, Director of the Centre for Biological Sciences (CCB), visited CNIP on 24 May. On this occasion, a meeting was held with **Everardo Sampaio**, Coordinator for SIDT, and other members of the SIDT team to discuss the Cooperation Agreement between APNE and UFPE. **Eduardo Dalcin**, CNIP's coordinator, gave a presentation and demonstrated CNIP's work.

✠ **Ian Thompson** from the Department for International Development (DfID) paid a visit to the states of Pernambuco and Paraíba from 24 - 28 May. The main objective of this visit was to observe 'in loco' the development of PNE's extension work by SIDT; and to promote the interchange of DfID's own projects. Ian observed at first hand the activities developed by AS-PTA, in Paraíba and Pernambuco. He also visited the Caatinga Centre in Ouricuri and the project Recuperação de Menores de Rua run by Agroindústria de Base Familiar in Jaboatão dos Guararapes, Recife. On 28 May he visited the Plant Information Centre (CNIP) in Recife and held an evaluation meeting with CNIP staff. Earlier this year, Ian visited Kew to familiarise himself with the collaboration work between Kew and PNE. He met members of the PNE Group at Kew and visited Museum No. 1, The Princess of Wales Conservatory and the Education Department.

✠ Mr **Kerby** from DfID visited PNE's Information, Dissemination and Training Subprogramme (SIDT) on 19 March 1999 accompanied by **Ian Thompson**, who is responsible within DfID for SIDT's management in Brazil. The objective of the visit was an evaluation of the Brazilian programme funded by DfID. **Bob Allkin** from CNIP gave a general presentation on PNE whilst **Marcelino de Souza Lima (AS-PTA)** and **Tim Eisenbeis (AMAS)** presented PNE's community extension work.

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Particular thanks to those who have contributed with articles and editing of the *Newsletter*.

Please send any comments or contributions on this publication to Amélia. Articles for the next issue should reach us (on disk or by email) no later than 30 October 1999