

CUBG Quarterly Briefing



Chinese Union of Botanical Gardens

Autumn 2017

June 26-30, 2017

Chinese Botanical Gardens Presents at 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress

The 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) was held at the City of Geneva, Switzerland from June 26-30. The congress brought together over 500 representatives of 300 botanical gardens from 70 countries and regions. 49 representatives from different botanical gardens in China attended the congress.



Prof. Chen Jin makes plenary speech

Prof. Chen Jin, director of Xishuangbanna Botanical Garden (XTBG), was invited as one of the 7 keynote speakers. He delivered a keynote speech entitled “Environmental education in botanical gardens: a child’s play?”. He pointed out that education has been regarded as one of the core functions of botanical gardens. Mr. Zhu Renbin, project supervisor of CUBG, introduced “A best tool for plant searching” at the session of “Management Challenges” to promote what CUBG is doing.

The theme of the congress is “Botanic gardens in society: visions for the future”. It aims to stimulate discussion and innovative reflections on the role and relevance of botanic gardens in society. Major topics include plant conservation, education and outreach, botanic garden management challenges and communicating the big issues via landscaping, with workshops and discussion sessions organized during the course of the meeting to address specific issues.

July 25, 2017

CUBG Hosts Botanical Garden Directors' Forum

CUBG hosted “The XIX International Botanical Congress – Botanical Garden Directors’ Forum”, whose theme is “New missions for botanical gardens in Anthropocene”, in Shenzhen Fairy Lake Botanical Garden on July 25.



At the forum, the directors discussed the development and mutual cooperation of botanical gardens. Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, director of Missouri Botanic Garden, presented “A Garden for the World: safeguarding plants through the Missouri Botanical Garden”. Prof. Tim Entwisle, director and chief executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, presented “Responding to a changing world : the scientific management of a botanical garden”. Prof. Chen Jin, director of XTBG, also chairman of CUBG talked about “Meeting the challenge in Anthropocene: How do Chinese botanical gardens act”.

They also answered questions raised by the participants.

July 25, 2017

CUBG and BGCI Join Hands to Conserve Plant Diversity Worldwide

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Chinese Union of Botanical Gardens (CUBG) and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) on July 25.

As representatives of the two sides, Prof. Chen Jin, chairman of CUBG and director of Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), and Prof. Paul Smith, secretary general of BGCI signed the MoU.



According to the MoU, CUBG and BGCI will collaborate for the purposes of capacity building for botanic gardens worldwide, in support of the objectives of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Sustainable Development goals and other plant-related international policy frameworks, particularly in countries listed on the Belt and Road Initiative.

The areas for potential future joint work mainly include joint funding applications between BGCI and CUBG, including potential for international cooperation grants with a particular focus on biodiversity science and conservation for botanic gardens in the countries included in the Belt and Road Initiative.

They will develop and implement joint training programs on conservation horticulture and landscaping, plant taxonomy, environmental education, botanical garden management, etc.

The two sides will also share data and protocols to support the implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and help ensure improved conservation outcomes, e.g. botanic gardens accessions data, wild plant species data, germination protocols, etc.

July to September, 2017

Full-Coverage Conservation Plan for Native Plant Species in China is ongoing

❖ July, 11

A rare and nearly extinct species of *Primulina*, *P. cardaminifolia*, which was assessed as Extinct in the field (EW), was rediscovered a population in the field.



❖ July

Firmiana major, which was listed as extinct in the wild for almost 20 years, has been found in Jinsha River Basin of Yunnan Province.

❖ August 3

Six new botanical gardens, along with the other eight project participant gardens, gathered together to exchange the working procedure and experiences on August 3 in Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG). The six new botanical gardens are Qinling National Botanical Garden, Chongqing Nanshan Botanical Garden, Hunan Forest Botanical Garden, Fuzhou Botanical Garden and South China Botanical Garden (SCBG). 63 members of the program attended the meeting.

❖ August 10

On the base of the last three-year field work, staff members from Nanjing Botanical Garden Mem. Sun Yat-Sen (NBG) discussed how to further push forward the full conservation of the native plants in East China.

❖ August 25

The work guide from the program was complete by CUBG Secretariat.

❖ August 29

Eleven experts, experienced in plant classification and wild plants, spent three days “holed up” at the end of August assessing the native plants in Hunan Province. After the assessment, there are about 3 species designated as extinct in the wild, 43 species as critically endangered and 193 species as endangered.

❖ September 11

Chen Jin, the Chairman of CUBG, visited Nanjing Botanical Garden. Sun Yat-Sen (NBG). He strongly recommended again that multiple tools for biodiversity conservation should be comprehensively considered in the process of this project.

❖ Early September

13 experts, leaded by Peng Chunliang, Party Secretary of Hunan Forest Botanical Garden, headed for Badagongshan National Nature Reserve and Tianmenshan National Forest Park in west Hunan. They aimed to invent the native plants according the list of threatened grades assessed by the experts.

❖ September 12

Workshop on the project “Inventory and Conservation of Native Plants in Guangdong Province” was held in Dinghu Mountain National Nature Reserve on September 12 to 13. Prof.Hu Huabin, CUBG Secretary-General, attended the meeting.

❖ September 25-29

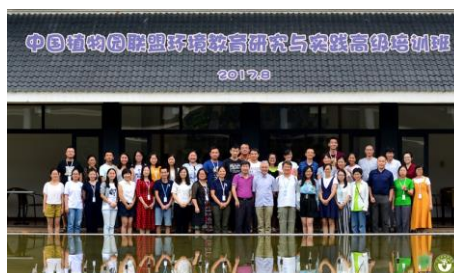
36 experts from 15 institution including South China Botanical Garden, CAS, joined the rapid assessment meeting for the native plant species in South China. The results show that there are about 60 species designated as critically endangered, 195 species as endangered and 255 as vulnerable species.

August 7-19, 2017

CUBG Environmental Education Training Course 2017 completed

The two-week-long environmental education training course 2017 came to a successful end on August 19, which is marked by 11 interesting oral presentations by trainees.

26 trainees involving environmental education from botanical gardens, non-



governmental organizations (NGOs), and universities joined the course.

Prof. Chen Jin delivered lectures, discussed with trainees, and guided through the whole course. Prof. Peter Higgins, a professor with University of Edinburgh and chair in Outdoor and Environmental Education, was invited to teach within and improve practice in outdoor, environmental and sustainability education. Prof. Zhang Zichao shared experience and case studies of environmental education in Taiwan. Dr. Credic Tan from University of Oxford was another invited lecturer. He shared methods of entailing innovative teaching and outreach in conservation and research into the effectiveness. Prof. Kyle W. Tomlinson and Mr. Wang Ximin also guided the whole course.

Basic theories and methods of environmental education studies, statistical analysis, literature comprehension, small research projects, etc. were main contents of the training course.

This is the fifth session of the Environmental Education Training Course which is initiated by CUBG and held annually in XTBG since 2013

September 11, 2017

Plant Information Management System(PIMS) is tested on line

After the completion of Plant Information Management System (PIMS) development, 15 botanical gardens and related institutions have participated in the test on line.

By unified standards of data collection, these gardens will upload and refresh their plant information on PIMS, and they could also share and collect the public data in statistics according the shared protocols.

The public could also log in the portal website (www.db.cubg.cn) to learn more about the plant situation in China, based on the existing data on PIMS.

July-September, 2017

CUBG Talent Exchange Program in 2017

CUBG Talent Exchange Program in 2017 is launched in this quarter.

Targeted for the communication among members, CUBG started this program from 2015. CUBG will help the members who have the needs for talents especially in gardening and environmental education, in sending staffs or introducing experts for some time.

Up to the end of September, two gardens have applied this program for the

exchange.

Training Courses in Next Quarter

October 24-27, 2017

Plant ex-situ Conservation Technical Training Course

Course Characteristics:

- ✓ High-quality professional teaching team
- ✓ Combination of theory teaching, field practice and lab operation
- ✓ Practice in Zero Extinction Program in



Training Place:

- ✓ Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, CAS (XTBG)

Find out more about training: <http://www.cubg.cn/tzgg/2017-09-01/1792.html>

November 1-15, 2017

Gardening and Landscape Construction Training Course

Course Characteristics:

- ✓ Overseas advanced experiences in gardening management
- ✓ Base on the idea of Conservation Horticulture, combining with multiple subjects, like Conservation Biology, Ornamental Horticulture, Ornamental Botany and Landscape Architecture
- ✓ Opportunity to study abroad in for three months



Training Place:

- ✓ Kunming Botanical Garden, KIB, CAS
- ✓ Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, CAS (XTBG)

Find out more about training: <http://www.cubg.cn/tzgg/2017-09-05/1801.html>