Conservation prioritization within the living collections of The Huntington: ranking current and future targets

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The living collection at the Huntington is taxonomically broad and diverse with 27,989 living taxa, among which 14,977 are taxa that naturally occur in the wild. Prioritizing where to focus limited time and resources for conservation-based activities is challenging even for plants that are known to be endangered in the wild and are not well represented in cultivation. By examining how our collections rank using data tools, existing prioritization methods and curatorial input, we are better able to assess collection value in a standardized way. This allows our staff to focus efforts on current and future conservation activities that will produce the greatest conservation impacts and allow us to achieve our institutional goals.