

Title: Botanic Gardens as Partners in Community-Based Conservation

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Human activities are the leading cause of the current biodiversity crisis. Therefore, humans too, should be a key part of the solution. Botanic gardens can serve as catalyzers, engaging and empowering stakeholder communities towards preserving and restoring their native ecosystems. However, it is important that botanic garden staff follow ethical principles to ensure that local knowledge is respected, sustainable livelihoods are promoted, and local stakeholders are active decision-makers and participants in managing and recovering their biodiversity. This talk will introduce some of the basic principles we believe are important as botanic gardens engage in community-based conservation, and will serve as an introduction to the other three talks in the session.