W-21 BGCI's Data Tools: Promoting effective, coordinated conservation action for plants

P. Malcolm, A. Meyer, E. Beech, K. Havens², J. Fant², J. Foster², S. Walsh³, and D. Wolkis³

Duration: 90 minutes + drop in session during lunch break

Target audience: Botanic garden staff

Objectives:

- Knowledge of the data tools BGCI provides
- Knowledge of how garden staff and researchers can access BGCI's data tools and their potential use
- Knowledge of how gardens and researchers can contribute to BGCI's data tools
- Knowledge on how gardens can use BGCI tool to identify the conservation value of their collections

Abstract: BGCI's data tools provide our botanic garden community with a wealth of information and a chance for gardens to contribute data to coordinate effective conservation action. In this workshop we will demonstrate BGCI's key data tools including GardenSearch, PlantSearch and the GlobalTree Portal, showing how large and small gardens can contribute to these tools and use the information provided to guide conservation prioritisation, planning and action. These tools can be used not only for country and regional level conservation action, but also to identify the conservation value of your own garden's collections and help grow your collections by sharing materials with other gardens.

After presenting the tools, there will be a Q&A session to answer queries about the general use of the tools and identify challenges that gardens are having. And a follow-on drop-in session for more in depth tool specific discussions and questions, and hands-on help from BGCI staff and other garden users.

This workshop will also introduce participants to the BGCI PlantSearch Pedigree module, demonstrate how to use it, and discuss the benefits that accrue from managing collections of rare plants as metacollections.

BGCI data tools that will be discussed:

- GardenSearch
- PlantSearch
- PlantShare (to be renamed PlantConnect)
- Index Seminum
- GlobalTreeSearch
- ThreatSearch
- GlobalTree Portal (including the Conservation Action Tracker)

¹Botanic Gardens Conservation International-US

²Chicago Botanic Garden, USA

³National Tropical Botanical Garden, USA