

Botanic Gardens from A to Z

(526089; 2 – 4 credit points)

March 10 - May 14 2009,
Tue + Thu 8 – 10, Kaisaniemi

www.fmnh.helsinki.fi/opetus



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Today's lecture

15. Kumpula opening – case history (Susanna Lehvävirta)

16. no lectures

17. National and international cooperation

- reasons for cooperation
- traditional cooperation
- International Association of Botanic Gardens IABG
- Botanic Gardens Conservation International BGCI
- Finnish network, other national networks
- Regional networks
- European Consortium of BGs



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but first: home assignment

- which targets of the GSPC are the most relevant for BGs? List, motivate, write a 1-page 'report'
- GSPC targets grouped into 5 topics; these are not the actual targets but they are the 16 marked i-xvi.
- BGs have mostly focused on targets
 - i, ii, iii (from topic a)
 - viii, ix (b)
 - xiv (d)
 - xvi (e)
- BUT: there is no right answer!



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Reasons for cooperation between BGs

1. building of a diverse plant collection
 - not easy to get hold of so many plants → seed exchange
2. serving science, which in itself is global
3. similar functions → similar problems
4. multifaceted activities → hard to keep up with development alone
5. conservation of plants – a global issue



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Traditional cooperation

1. seed exchange
 - seed list – *Index Seminum* or *Delectus Seminum*
 - usually biennial
 - sent to partners, partners send theirs in return
 - seeds wanted – *desiderata*
 - no money exchanged
 - an old tradition (Helsinki started in 1893)



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...traditional cooperation

2. exchange of expertise
 - (head) gardeners design(ed) collections
 - researchers identify collection plants
 - 'best practice' examples shared
 - education material circulated
 - etc. etc.



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International Association of BGs - IABG

- "official" organisation of BGs
 - under IAPT (International Association of Plant Taxonomy)
 - representative of BGs in International Botanical Congress
 - BUT: almost dead!



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Botanic Gardens Conservation International - BGCI

- originally a body within IUCN
- independent since ?
- a membership organisation
 - progressive membership fee
 - institutional but also individual members
- the largest plant conservation network in the world
- global; regional offices in US, Russia, China...



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...BGCI

- very active, especially between c. 2002-2007
 - Global BG Congress every third year
 - International Congress on Education in BGs
 - regular publications (Cultivate, BG-Journal, Roots)
 - books: red lists, conservation reports, guidelines etc.
 - info material of various kinds
 - databases (GardenSearch, PlantSearch)
 - *ad hoc* expertise
 - etc. etc.



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National networks

- Network of Finnish BGs
 - meet biennially or annually ("neuvottelupäivät")
 - 2007 was the 20th conference in Helsinki
 - information exchange, research presentations, technical consultation, cooperative projects
 - bulletin *Pimpinella* (www.joensuu.fi/botania/pimpinella.html)
 - www.botanicgardens.fi
- most countries have their own; active ones, e.g., Netherlands, Switzerland, U.S., Russia



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Regional networks

- PlantNet (Britain & Ireland)
- German speaking countries (Germany & Austria)
- Ibero-Macaronesian (Spain, Portugal)
- Latin America
- Europe



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European Consortium of Botanic Gardens

- "the EU-Consortium"
 - EU-countries are members, Norway, Switzerland and Iceland observers
 - IABG and BGCI have representatives
 - founded as a consultative body for BGCI and IABG in 1994
 - BGCI provides secretariat
 - originally to plan European responses of BGs to the CBD and to further implementation of international agreements and strategies



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...European Consortium of BGs

- "Action Plan for Botanic Gardens in the European Union" published in 2000
 - implementation and follow-up one of main tasks
- EuroGard Congress series
 - every third year, first in 1997 (Edinburgh)
- International Plant Exchange Network IPEN
- Electronic seed list search system
- Invasive species early warning list
- general exchange of information



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Course Programme

17. Tue May 5: *National and international cooperation*

18. Thu May 7: *Training for EuroGard (8.30, Valkoinen Sali)*

19. Tue May 12: *Repetition etc. – CHANGED!*

20. Thu May 14: *Exam*



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