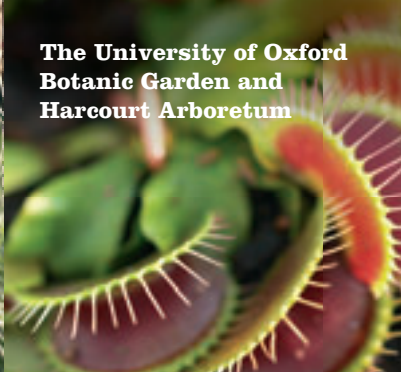




The University of Oxford
Botanic Garden and
Harcourt Arboretum



Saving the
**World's
Flora**





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Saving the World's Flora



There are over 2,200 botanic gardens in 153 countries around the World working together to reduce the careless and unnecessary loss of plant species. At least 30% of all endangered plant species are already alive and well in botanic garden collections but there is still much more that we can and should do.

In April 2002 the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was published giving botanic gardens around the World a focus for their conservation work. Strategies come and go but this one is special because, for the first time ever, 181 Governments have set themselves measurable targets to be met by 2010.

As you explore our Garden you can find out more about what we and other botanic gardens are doing to meet the 16 targets.

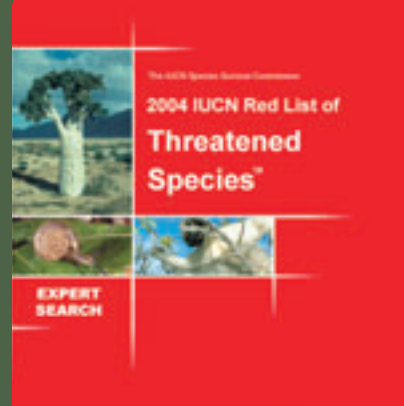
1

Target 1 A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete World flora.



2

Target 2 A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.



Stop 1

Lupins

Some of the plants growing in the Garden are grown for research projects at the University of Oxford. The lupins that you see growing in the Fabaceae family beds are being grown for plant scientist Colin Hughes who is producing a monograph (a comprehensive list) of all the lupins in the World.



Stop 2

Echinocactus grusonii

It is important to know what we have growing in our collection and we do this by making use of the IUCN Red List. This lists all of the known endangered plants in the World. If we are growing a plant that is endangered then we make a small dot on the plant label to remind us to take extra care. The barrel cactus, *Echinocactus grusonii*, is an example of a plant that appears in the Red List.



3

Target 3 Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use.



4

Target 4 At least 10% of each of the World's ecological regions effectively conserved.



Stop 3

Euphorbia stygiana

One of the plants that we have been actively conserving for the last decade is *Euphorbia stygiana*. Having successfully introduced this plant into cultivation it was just as important that we published how we did this so that other botanic gardens could use our experiences as a model.



Stop 4

Catharanthus roseus

We do not have any of these areas actually inside the Garden but we can grow plants from these areas and use them for teaching. Every morning in term time there is a school group in the Palm House where children discover more about why we need to conserve plants. They learn about plants such as the Madagascar periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*) that is used to treat children suffering from leukaemia.

5

Target 5 Protection of 50% of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.



6

Target 6 At least 30% of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.



Stop 5

Black pine

The Garden is home to some wonderful trees such as this black pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *nigra*) but we have a much larger collection of trees at our Arboretum just six miles South of Oxford. The Arboretum is also home to a woodland and meadow. We need to work to conserve these two areas as they are examples of endangered habitats.



Stop 6

Wicker Plant Supports

Throughout the Garden you will see plant supports that are made from material harvested from coppiced birch and hazel. We have our own coppice at the Harcourt Arboretum to enable us to “grow” our own plant supports. A coppice is also a particularly rich place for biodiversity, including fungi and animals in addition to plants.

7

Target 7 60% of the world's threatened species conserved in situ.



Stop 7

Begonia cubensis

Begonia cubensis is an example of a threatened species that we grow at the Garden. However, the best way of conserving this threatened species would be to grow it in Cuba in the wild. Cuba has an active Conservation Network who are working to stem the loss of plant species. At our Arboretum we have our own piece of the "wild" where we are able to grow threatened British native species.

8

Target 8 60% of threatened plant species in accessible ex-situ collections preferably in the country of origin and 10% of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.



Stop 8

Monkey Puzzle

Botanic gardens already grow 30% of threatened plant species and this *Araucaria araucana* is one example but we are keen to increase the number of threatened plant species that we grow within the Garden. One example of this is our work with the Conifer Conservation Programme at the Harcourt Arboretum where the Arboretum acts as a safe site for endangered conifers.



9

Target 9: 70% of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.



10

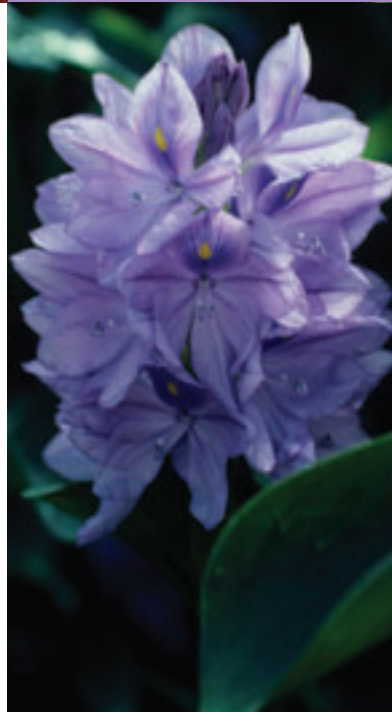
Target 10: Management plans in place of at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.



Stop 9

Vegetable Beds

It is important that we conserve not only current crop varieties but also their wild relatives along with old varieties. Our vegetable beds demonstrate how to grow vegetables in this country. If you are keen to help towards achieving this target why not consider growing heritage varieties of vegetables by joining the Heritage Seed Library?



Stop 10

Eichornia crassipes

Each year we produce a seed list for exchange with other botanic gardens around the World. We try to ensure that plants that could establish themselves as major alien weeds in other countries are not included in the list. We urge other gardens selecting seed to be aware of what they are introducing. The water hyacinth, *Eichornia crassipes*, is an example of a major alien weed that has spread to many areas of the tropics.

11

Target 11 No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.



12

Target 12 30% of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.



Stop 11

Sarracenia leucophylla

Some of the plants within the Garden come to us via specialist nurseries. When this happens we take care to ensure that the plants we purchase do not contravene CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna). This was especially important when we recently re-designed our Insectivorous House as many different groups of insectivorous plants appear within the list, including *Sarracenia leucophylla*.



Stop 12

FSC Garden Benches

As an environmental organisation we feel it is essential that we buy plant based products that are derived from sustainably managed sources. For example when we buy new pieces of garden furniture we always look out for the FSC logo.



13

Target 13 The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.



14

Target 14: The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.



Stop 13

Medicinal Plant Bed

At least 80% of the World's population rely entirely or in part on locally produced medicines, extracted from plants. It is important for botanic gardens around the World to work with local communities so that future generations are able to inherit medicinal plant lore. For example, the discovery of digoxin in English foxgloves that has saved many lives was originally used by Shropshire romanies.



Stop 14

Yew Tree

Each year over 10,000 children and adults take part in our Education Programme. Many of them learn about the oldest tree in the Garden, the yew tree (*Taxus baccata*) that is used in the treatment of breast cancer. When people understand how plants are used in our lives they often find it easier to understand why it is so important that we must conserve plant diversity.

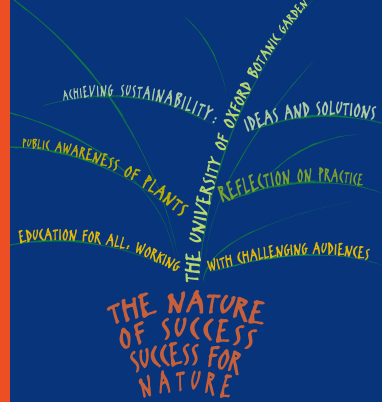
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Target 15: Number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this strategy.



16

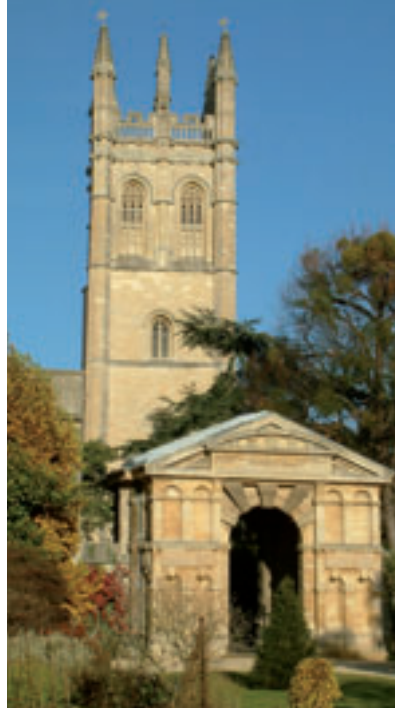
Target 16 Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.



Stop 15

Lamiaceae Family Bed

As part of the Oxford University we are involved in teaching undergraduates studying biology within the University. It is important that we teach students about plant classification and identification, as they are the botanists of tomorrow. The family borders are a valuable tool when teaching people about how plants are related.



Stop 16

The Arch

The final target emphasises the need for us to share our experiences with others. In September 2006 we will be welcoming the BGCI International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens to Oxford when we will be able to share our techniques with botanic gardens from around the World whilst learning new approaches to teaching our visitors about plant conservation.

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These sixteen targets are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-restricted. It might initially be assumed that a botanic garden such as ours is too small to be able to make a significant contribution but this would be a mistake. With more than 2,000 gardens contributing according to their size, the botanic garden community is making a very significant contribution to halting the needless loss of plants around the World.



A large print information leaflet about the Garden is available on request.

If you have enjoyed learning more about the conservation work of the Garden why not consider supporting us by joining the Friends of Oxford Botanic Garden. Friends application forms are available from the Ticket Office.

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