



Convention on
Biological Diversity



COMMUNIQUÉ

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh joins CBD Consortium of Scientific Partners

Montreal, 14 September 2010 – Bringing with it over 300 years of experience, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh has become a full partner to the Consortium of Scientific Partners to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The scientific, educational and outreach work of the Garden and their four locations will be a major contribution to the implementation of the Convention.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, by Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and Stephen Blackmore, the Regius Keeper of the Garden. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh thus becomes the ninth member of the Consortium.

“Let me join with the other members of the Consortium in welcoming Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and thanking them for joining in this important task for saving life on Earth,” said Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary. “The experience of the Garden, including its work on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation will extend the ability of the Convention to raise awareness, deepen our strategies for biodiversity conservation, and educate present and future generations of the importance of biodiversity for our lives.”

“We are deeply committed to supporting the Convention on Biological Diversity and especially to channelling our efforts through the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Plants keep the biosphere working – future generations will depend upon them just as much as we do,” said Stephen Blackmore.

On 27 March, 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in the city of Curitiba, Brazil, between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and six leading scientific institutions: the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle de France, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. Since then, the Consortium has welcomed the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity of Mexico (*Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad de México*, CONABIO), the Muséums Nature Montréal and the Higashiyama Botanical Gardens in Japan.

The purpose of the MOU is to leverage the expertise and experience of these institutions in order to implement education and training activities to support developing countries building scientific, technical and policy skills in the area of biodiversity.



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