



MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER

Advancing Research, Conservation, and Education through Scientific Plant Collections
ESTABLISHED 1959

International Fieldwork and Collaboration Policy

[Montgomery Botanical Center](#) (MBC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to conservation, research and education, focusing on scientific collections of palms and cycads. MBC conducts international fieldwork in an ethical, collaborative and mutually beneficial manner with international partners. This approach embraces the spirit of the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD) regarding sharing benefits arising from botanical activities.

MBC rigorously complies with permitting requirements of individual countries where fieldwork is being conducted by its scientists. This practice complies with Article 15 of the CBD granting countries sovereign rights to regulate access to their genetic resources.

In the spirit of equitable benefit sharing, MBC consistently builds partnerships with scientists, conservationists and other collaborators in host countries. These partnerships involve sharing of expertise, research data, collected plant material (both living and preserved), equipment and logistical and financial resources to support fieldwork. MBC also frequently funds travel by international collaborators to MBC to further enhance sharing of knowledge and resources. For specific examples of MBC's collaborative approach to benefit sharing, please see the following reports:

[Trinidad & Tobago 2007](#)

[Panama 2007](#)

[Panama 2008](#)

[Belize 2008](#)

MBC also works to implement key targets of the [North American Botanic Garden Strategy for Plant Conservation](#) (NABGSCS, 2006), which is based on the [Global Strategy for Plant Conservation](#) of the CBD. These targets include:

A. Understanding and Documenting Plant Diversity

- **A1.** MBC aids in the understanding and documenting of plant diversity by collecting extensive and detailed field data, photographs, and herbarium specimens during botanical expeditions. From the time collections are made, through growth to reproductive maturity and beyond, MBC documents horticultural, phenological, and life history data on representative plants to further increase the conservation and scientific value of the *ex situ* collection. All these data are entered into MBC's database and GIS applications and are available to researchers and conservation institutions throughout the world.
- **A2.** MBC staff, which includes members of the [IUCN Cycad Specialist Group](#) and [IUCN Palm Specialist Group](#), contribute data acquired during expeditions to update conservation assessment databases by the Species Information System (SIS) of the IUCN.

B. Conserving Plant Diversity

- **B2.** MBC's plant collections set a high standard for *ex situ* conservation collections, because of: (1) the extensive data associated with each accession; (2) the population structure of collections, which maximizes capture of genetic diversity, and; (3) the long-term commitment to *ex situ* population conservation collections as an undiluted focus of the institution.
- **B6.** MBC's research activities are fully integrated with its *ex situ* conservation operations. MBC-sponsored collecting expeditions include phytogeography as an integral component of the conservation mission. Collections-based research and assessments at MBC contribute to the strategic implementation of conservation methods in the botanic garden community.

C. Using Plant Diversity Sustainably

- **C1.** Subtarget 3: MBC is committed to rigorous compliance with all sovereign and international laws regarding permitting, exportation, and importation, including CITES, USDA-APHIS, and other applicable regulations.

D. Promoting Public Education and Awareness about Plant Diversity

- **D1.** With MBC's primary focus on population-based, *ex situ* conservation and research collections, all visitors to MBC are made aware of the primary importance of plant conservation and population diversity.

E. Building Capacity for Conservation of Plant Diversity

- **E6.** MBC shares its expertise in *ex situ* conservation approaches and methods as widely as possible to national and international collaborators. MBC views its collecting expeditions as part of longer term partnerships in support of botanical research and conservation. MBC seeks to broaden access to its collections and collections infrastructure for collaborators worldwide.

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