

BGCI Coordinator: Global Seed Conservation Challenge

Organisation: Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)

Post: Coordinator: Global Seed Conservation Challenge

Job Purpose: To manage and develop the BGCI/MSBP Global Seed Conservation Challenge programme

Line Manager: Director of Global Programmes

Location: BGCI, Descanso House, 199 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3BW

Hours: Full Time

Duration: 3 years

Salary: £25,000 – 28,000 pa

Holidays: 30 days/year



About BGCI

BGCI is a registered UK charity that works with its partners worldwide to conserve threatened plant species. BGCI has over 700 members and associates mostly botanic gardens, arboreta and plant conservation organisations in 118 countries; BGCI's headquarters in the UK are at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and it also has offices in the USA and China. Its mission is to mobilise botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet.

About the position

The Global Seed Conservation Challenge is a new partnership programme that has been developed between BGCI and the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The programme aims to address the challenge of achieving Target 8 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation¹ by 2020. The programme will focus on engaging the global botanic garden community in the conservation of species not already in secure *ex situ* collections. The Coordinator will be based at the BGCI offices in Kew, but will also work closely with staff from the MSBP, located at Wakehurst Place in West Sussex.

Job Specification

Coordinator: Global Seed Conservation Challenge

The role of the Coordinator will be to manage the BGCI / MSBP Global Seed Conservation Challenge. This will involve the following activities:

- Carrying out a seed conservation audit to establish the base line situation and setting targets for the botanic garden community to achieve by 2017 and beyond.

¹ GSPC Target 8 calls for at least 75% of threatened plant species to be in *ex situ* collections by 2020 and at least 20% of these to be available for use in recovery and restoration programmes.

- Promoting and coordinating seed collecting and seed conservation activities amongst the global botanic garden network.
- Providing technical support to improve the quality and conservation value of seed collections.
- Identifying constraints to high quality seed collecting and developing solutions to address these.
- Compiling data and other information on seed collecting activities and related facilities, procedures and resources within the network.
- Developing and disseminating tools and resources to address capacity gaps – taking full advantage of existing MSBP training resources and tools.
- In liaison with the MSBP Training Specialist, strengthening the capacity of botanic garden staff through formal training and *ad hoc* coaching in making and managing high quality collections.
- Contributing to BGCI/MSBP public awareness and fund-raising activities, including the maintenance of web pages, collecting stories on relevant activities and preparing public awareness materials.

Skills and competencies

Essential:

- Postgraduate qualification in plant sciences, conservation sciences or related subject
- Experience / understanding of seed conservation
- Demonstrable international project management experience including delivering project objectives
- Significant relevant experience of working in a scientific / environmental team
- Experience in organising meetings and technical workshops and in delivering training courses
- Excellent computer and writing skills
- Good people skills, including the ability to communicate with people from a wide variety of backgrounds
- Organised and with the ability to work unsupervised and under pressure

Desirable:

- A thorough understanding of plant conservation and sustainable use, biodiversity and development issues
- Experience of working in a developing country and/or in cross-cultural situations
- A second language
- Experience in fund raising, project development and proposal writing, including the use of the Logical Framework Approach for project management

To Apply: Send a covering letter and a CV, stating how you meet the criteria set out in the person specification to Liz Smith email: liz.smith@bgci.org by **Sunday 15 June, 2014**.

Start date: to be confirmed

To find out more about the BGCI, visit our website at www.bgci.org

An offer will only be made to a person who is eligible to work in the UK