



# Plant Conservation Strategy 2013–2016



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THE FLOWERING FOR LIFE PARTNERSHIP PLANTING *SIUM LATIFOLIUM* (BZG)

# Foreword

Plant species are vital components of biodiversity. We need to value and conserve them. There is an ambitious plan – the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation – signed up to by governments worldwide. Botanic gardens are committed to the plan and by working together with zoos we can achieve so much more. This is why the EAZA Plant Conservation Strategy is so important. We need zoo power and I urge you to support this strategy by taking action for plants.

SARA OLDFIELD, SECRETARY GENERAL, BGCI

## INTRODUCTION

All zoos can support the conservation of plants, so this strategy strives to be inclusive. Some organisations can contribute in a small way, while others are both zoos and botanic gardens that can carry out vital plant conservation work in the field. The important thing to remember is that all can contribute in some way.

Why zoos and plant conservation? The many strands of biodiversity are inseparable, as recognized in The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. You cannot conserve biodiversity without considering the whole and where better to start than with plants. Without attention to plants, the planets primary producers, animal conservation is only a way of delaying extinction. When we conserve plants we also conserve all life that depends on them, including ourselves as stated in the following quotes:

*“Without plants there is no life. The functioning of the planet and our survival depends on plants” (Global Strategy for Plant Conservation).*

*“Two thirds of the world’s plant species are in danger of extinction with pressure from the human population, habitat modification and deforestation, over exploitation, spread of invasive alien species, pollution and the growing impacts of climate change.”*

*“The implementation of the GSPC has demonstrated the importance of diverse networks, collaborations and the crucial role played by strong cross-sectional partnerships within the context of the Convention of Biological Diversity”. (CBD Plant Conservation Report 2008)*

EAZA has a valuable part to play in plant conservation. Its members are conservation organisations, education organisations and visitor attractions. One in 5 of the population of Europe visits an EAZA zoo annually, which



A TEAM FROM CHESTER ZOO'S HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CANAL AND RIVER TRUST REINSTATING THE HABITAT FOR THE ENDANGERED BARBERRY CARPET MOTH ALONG CHESTER'S WATERWAY

gives zoos a unique opportunity to engage with the people of Europe. The potential for positive actions, both by zoos and their visitors is vast. We must aim to inspire today's zoo visitors to be tomorrow's plant conservation champions.

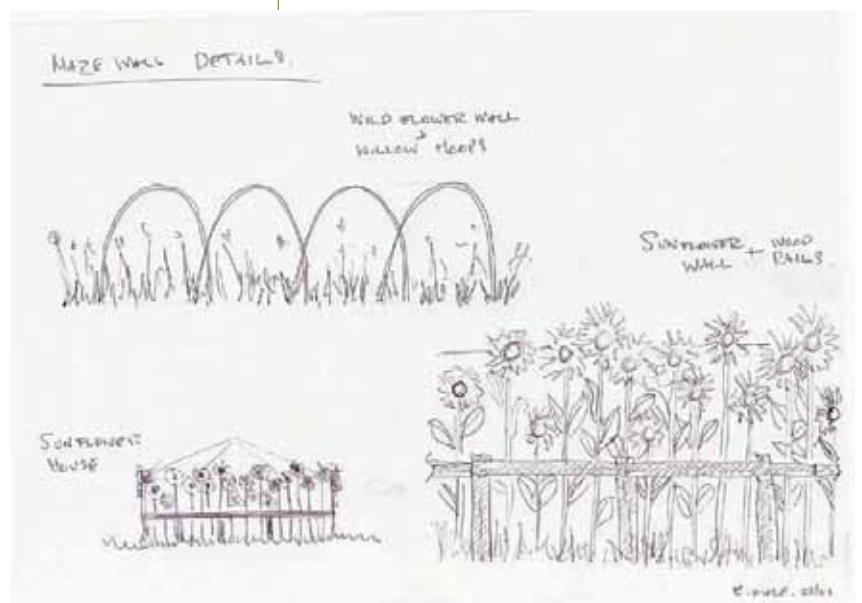
The EAZA Plant Conservation Strategy seeks to be both efficient and effective so the strategy concentrates on outputs, such as the EAZA Plant Conservation Guides that will make a real change in the way we think about and treat plants. It seeks to support the existing plant conservation and biological strategies and the work of botanical gardens and others, while focusing on the strengths



## THE EAZA PLANT CONSERVATION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES:

1. To encourage and empower EAZA member organisations to contribute to plant conservation, in response to the global threats to plant biodiversity
2. To minimise negative effects of our actions and champion sustainable land management and plant use, through ethical plant use.
3. To encourage EAZA member organisations to engage with their visitors and promote plant conservation issues, the importance of biodiversity and the sustainable use of plants.
4. To increase the number of EAZA organisations that contribute to plant biodiversity through plant conservation and research projects
5. To build capacity within EAZA for plant conservation.
6. To establish productive partnerships and help realise initiatives such as the GSPC and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

GREEN DESIGN IDEAS FOR THE BRISTOL ZOO GARDENS MAZE



of zoos and the part that they can play in conserving plant biodiversity. As the EAZA Zoo Horticulture Groups strap line states, “Plants need animals need Plants need animals need plants.”

**THE VISION:** To maximize the potential of EAZA, its member organisations and zoo visitors, for plant conservation and to contribute to Global Plant Conservation initiatives, for the benefit of all plant and animal life of the planet.

## THE EAZA PLANT CONSERVATION STRATEGY TARGETS 2013-16:

1. Promotion of Plant Conservation issues within EAZA
  - a. A plant conservation presence on EAZA website 2013
  - b. Articles in EAZA Publications 1 per year minimum
2. The creation of a series of three EAZA Plant Conservation Guides that promote and encourage positive plant conservation action as follows:

### EAZA Guide to Ethical Plant Management

Inclusions: Buying plants and plant based products, invasive species, site biodiversity (GSPC targets 10, 11, 12)

### EAZA guide to increasing Awareness and Capacity for Plant Conservation.

Inclusions: The Promotion of the importance of Plant Biodiversity, training nature champions/for plant conservation and establishing and strengthening networks and partnerships for plant conservation This will include case studies/examples of good practice (GSPC targets 14, 16)

### EAZA guide to good Plant Conservation Practice

Aimed at Zoos capable of or involved in Plant Conservation or botanical projects or who consider themselves as part botanical garden. Inclusions: Ecological management and restoration projects, in situ plant conservation, ex-situ plant conservation, management of invasive species and collecting and sharing information and research. (GSPC targets 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 3)



**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:** PLANTING OF IOM CABBAGE; *SIUM* PROPAGATION AT BRISTOL; EAZA BOTANICAL CONFERENCE; KEVIN FREDIANI IN THE VERTICROP EXHIBIT EATING A LETTUCE SUSTAINABLY GROWN ON SITE WITH LOW CARBON, ENERGY AND WATER FOOTPRINT; WRIDLINGTON SCHOOL EXHIBIT RARE ORCHIDS AT BRISTOL ZOO FOR PLANT CONSERVATION DAY (BZG)





**Guide production targets of one guide by the end of 2014 and all three by 2016**

- 3.Improve and maintain communication between EAZA (EZG) and plant conservation organisations e.g. BGCI
- 4.Establish an EAZA Academy (EZG) Plant Conservation training Course by 2014.
- 5.Set up and operate an evaluation system to monitor the effectiveness of the EAZA Plant Conservation Strategy by 2013

**E. Mole DHE Cert Arb**, Chair of the EAZA Zoo Horticulture Group and Bristol Zoo Gardens

**ABOVE LEFT:** EZG WORKING GROUP AT ZOO BUDAPEST; **ABOVE RIGHT:** PLANTING BRISTOL ZOO'S ARAUCARIA; **ABOVE:** EZG BOARD COMMITTEE WORKING ON 5 YEAR STRATEGY PLAN AT BUDAPEST ZOO. FROM LEFT; ZSIGMUND VINCE, KEVIN FREDIANI, EDDIE MOLE AND SERGIO PACINOTTI

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