

## EuroGard VII Congress overview



The European Botanic Gardens Congress, EuroGard VII (European Botanic Gardens in the Decade on Biodiversity - Challenges and responsibilities in the countdown towards 2020), was held in Paris from July 6-10, 2015 at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle. It was organised in partnership with the European Botanic Gardens Consortium (EBGC), Botanic Gardens Conservation international (BGCI), and Jardins botaniques de France et des pays francophones (JBF).

The congress attracted 269 delegates from 41 countries.

The congress included 14 keynote presentations, 102 oral presentations, 5 workshops, 2 panels and 45 posters.

A Pre-Congress Workshop on the Global Strategy for Plant conservation was organized by MNHN, BGCI and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on July 3 and 4. It was attended by 25 participants among which 14 participants from west and central Africa, the Indian Ocean and Haiti.

During the Welcome ceremony, the Aide Française au développement, l'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, le Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassadeur délégué à l'environnement officially launched the French capacity building initiative "Sud Expert Plantes Développement Durable".

### **Featured keynote speakers:**

- Ferreira de Souza Dias, Braulio, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Dominique Richard, European Topic Center on Biological Diversity
- Paul Smith, Secretary General, Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- Eleni Maloupa, Hellenic Agricultural Organization, Thessaloniki
- Han Qunli, Director, Division des Sciences Ecologiques et de la Terre, UNESCO
- Sara Oldfield, IUCN/SSC Global Tree Specialist Group
- Juli Caujapé Castells, Director, Botanic Garden Las Palmas
- Matthew Jebb, Director National Botanic Garden Glasnevin, Ireland
- Guiraud Michel, Direction des collections, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
- Philippe Richard, Directeur, Jardin Botanique de Bordeaux
- Philippe Bardin : Conservatoire Botanique National du Bassin Parisien
- Peter Wyse Jackson, Chair of the Global Partnership for Plant conservation
- Hervé Le Treut, climatologue, member of the IPCC
- Marko Hyvärinen, Director, Helsinki Botanic Garden

[http://eurogard2015.sciencesconf.org/conference/eurogard2015/Eurogard\\_key\\_notes\\_speakers.pdf](http://eurogard2015.sciencesconf.org/conference/eurogard2015/Eurogard_key_notes_speakers.pdf)

### **The scientific programme**

The scientific programme was based on the European Botanic Gardens Action Plan which will be updated following the conference conclusions. The conference addressed the issues and challenges facing botanic gardens in the Decade on Biodiversity and considered opportunities and prospects for the community of botanic gardens.

### **The congress themes:**

A: Strategic frameworks and best practice for botanic gardens/Cadres stratégiques et bonnes pratiques pour les jardins botaniques

B: Science

C: Heritage, Culture and Tourism/ Patrimoine, Culture et Tourisme

D: Conservation

E: Botanic Gardens and Climate Change/ Jardins botaniques et changement climatique

F: Education

G: Networking, cooperation and capacity building/ Réseaux, coopération et partenariats

### **Photo gallery**

View the photo gallery created by François Grandin at <http://eurogard2015.sciencesconf.org/>

### **Conclusions and resolutions**

The resolutions and conclusions from EuroGard VII were presented by Pierre-André Loizeau, Director of the Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève (Switzerland). They can be downloaded on the website.

Pierre-André Loizeau provided a personal synthesis of the plenary sessions

### **Proceedings**

Full papers of all presentations are expected for October 15th, 2015. The papers will be reviewed and compiled into the Congress Proceedings.