

UKOTCF Conservation Horticulture Working Group

Notes of the meeting held: 11th December 2025 via Zoom

1. Attendees:

- Leigh Morris, UKOTCF Council Member – Chair
- Jodey Peyton, UKOTCF Conservation Officer – Co-Chair
- Mike Pienkowski, Chair, UKOTCF
- Creightanya Brewley, Terrestrial Warden (Nursery Division), National Parks Trust, British Virgin Islands
- Sara Barrios, Islands Conservation Partnership Coordinator, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew
- Helena Bennett, Director, St Helena National Trust
- Keith Bensusan, Director, Gibraltar Botanic Garden
- Quincy Burgess, Super Intendant at Government House, Bermuda Government
- Simeon Cabral, Terrestrial Warden, National Parks Trust, British Virgin Islands
- Sarah Cathcart, Director of Education & Learning, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
- Ja'Moi Charles, Terrestrial Warden (Nursery Division), National Parks Trust, British Virgin Islands
- Nick Coelho, Micro Forest Officer, Bermuda Zoological Society
- Alison Copeland, PhD Student, Bermuda
- Torika Christian, Pitkern Flora Conservancy, Pitcairn Islands
- Myles Darrell, Head of Natural Heritage, Bermuda National Trust
- Keith Grant, Senior Terrestrial Warden, National Parks Trust, British Virgin Islands
- Dequan Leonard, Terrestrial Warden, National Parks Trust, British Virgin Islands
- Pericles Maillis, Individual, Bahamas
- B Naqqi Manco, Turks & Caicos Islands
- Nancy Pascoe, Deputy Director, National Parks Trust, British Virgin Islands
- Martina Peters, Head of Terrestrial Conservation, St Helena National Trust
- Kaila Ryan, Terrestrial Warden (Nursery Division), National Parks Trust, British Virgin Islands

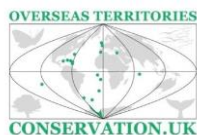
2. Background to the Meeting:

UKOTCF invited all those in the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies who have a conservation plant nursery or botanic garden (or who are interested in setting up a conservation plant nursery and/or botanic garden) to attend a meeting online. UKOTCF are keen to bring the conservation plant community together and gauge the enthusiasm and potential benefits of creating a Botanical Horticulture Working Group for all those in the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies carrying out ex-situ plant conservation. If the members feel such a group is worthwhile, UKOTCF will be delighted to facilitate this group going forward.

3. Welcome and Introduction:

Leigh Morris and Jodey Peyton co-chaired the meeting.

- All attendees gave a short introduction on themselves and their botanical work/ambitions.
- The meeting focused on discussions led by Leigh around the background to this initial meeting.
 - UKOTCF exist to support their members in the UKOTs and CDs
 - We are aware there are many botanic nursery and garden initiatives across UKOTCF members.
 - Our sense is that there could be things to gain from knowledge sharing across all members.
 - This could be a one-off meeting, but if enthusiasm is there, we will continue to facilitate these meetings and set-up a longer term Botanical Horticulture Working Group.



4. Presentation – Pitcairn Island Botanic Garden & Nursery:

- Torika Christian gave an excellent presentation on the ambitions for a Pitcairn Island botanic garden and nursery to support native plant conservation.

5. Group Discussion:

- The conversation then moved on to the nursery and propagation work that is done across the UKOTs and Crown Dependencies, and how a working group could help facilitate knowledge sharing and best practice.
- Finally, there was a discussion around what format a group could take and the frequency and format of the meetings.
- There was strong support from the attendees for meeting again and for this group to be facilitated by UKOTCF.
- It was agreed that a survey should be circulated to interested parties (including those who were not able to attend this first meeting) to understand the interests and needs of the group and then to take next steps from there.
- Leigh/Jodey thanked all the group for attending this first meeting and stressed the ambition that this group develops and sustains to be a wonderful place for UKOTs and Crown Dependencies to share knowledge and learn from each other.

6. Agreed Actions

1. Jodey/Leigh: Finalise the survey.
2. Jodey: Send survey to all people who expressed interest regarding topics for future meetings and working group preferences - Please see [here](#).
3. Sara: Follow up with Torika about red listing Pitcairn's endemic flora
4. Jodey: Arrange next meeting and steps based on survey responses.
5. Jodey: Send Council formal request for approval for the Botanical Horticulture Working Group after survey results are collected.

7. For information:

- a. Growing Solutions Virtual Event This conference will provide a platform to share innovation, strengthen partnerships, and highlight practices that reduce the risk of invasive species spread through horticulture. Register today for this free event and secure your spot! <https://mailchi.mp/invasivescanada/invasives-canada-summer-wrap-up-newsletter-12896429?e=b530f3dd89>
- b. Caribbean and Central American Botanic Gardens Network <https://mailchi.mp/bba51817d8b2/ccabgn-news-ccabgn-noticias-8779579?e=fe7b83e846> , <https://mailchi.mp/180eb2a683d2/ccabgn-news-ccabgn-noticias-8779733?e=fe7b83e846>, <https://mailchi.mp/270f92390462/ccabgn-news-ccabgn-noticias-8780072?e=fe7b83e846>
- c. Save the date: 2-6 August, 2027. Join BGCI, the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and leaders from around the world in Chicago to explore why botanic gardens are uniquely positioned to address the global call for habitat restoration: <https://web.cvent.com/event/47f5a6bd-9197-4a92-b74a-40fc34391351/websitePage:81fe4ff5-545a-443c-a79c-91dcbb7a9802>
- d. Free Fern propagation resource: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/richard-storey-638282145_fern-propagation-protocol-template-ugcPost-7388673965503815680-4shD?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&rcm=ACoAABejigEB76m2z5epXHr7cp5wyBq5ph9gVJU