

## ***SURVEY RESULTS: Interpreting plant collections for conservation***

*Botanic Gardens Conservation International U.S. and United States Botanic Garden, March 2012*

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to share the survey results for *Interpreting plant collections for conservation*. We are grateful for your input and help to make this survey a success!

**Survey Background:** This survey was designed for anyone involved in education, conservation, collections, or display at botanic gardens and arboreta in the United States and Canada. Results will guide a project being carried out by BGCI US and the United States Botanic Garden to support interpretation of collections for conservation, and to identify where programs, expertise and resources related to conservation and education are located. Responses are helping us produce conservation interpretation materials that are useful and freely available. Responses are also being used to update [GardenSearch](#) our free, online database of expertise and resources at botanic gardens around the world.

**Summary of Results:** BGCI US received survey responses from 136 individuals representing 110 botanic gardens. Among these respondents:

- A majority interpret threatened species in their collections.
- A majority would like to do more to interpret threatened species in collections.
- Only a small number were able/willing to provide interpretation examples.
- Various methods are currently used to interpret threatened plants, but mostly via tours and signage.
- The top reasons for not interpreting threatened species include lack of staff and other resources, and not publicly identifying threatened plants in collections to the public.
- Most said template materials for threatened species interpretation, as well as increased staff and financial support, would help interpret threatened plants in the future.
- A majority of respondents want to be involved and are interested in developing and using interpretation materials planned for this project.

### **Stayed Involved:**

- For those who indicated they would like to be involved in the development of interpretation materials, THANK YOU! We will be in touch in the coming weeks as this project progresses.
- [Endangered Species Day](#) and [Plant Conservation Day](#) coincide this year on **May 18, 2012**. This is a great time to increase interpretation of threatened plants in your collections. We hope to make interpretation templates produced through this project available in April.
- A few survey respondents reported that they did not have or could not identify threatened species in their collections. By uploading a plant list to BGCI's PlantSearch database, gardens can find out the conservation value of their collections literally overnight. See the [PlantSearch Upload Instructions](#) for details on how to contribute data.
- Survey data contributed are being added to and searchable via BGCI's GardenSearch database (see the new [Advanced Search](#)). If you haven't already, please [register](#) as a Garden Editor and login to update your GardenSearch profile, so the world knows about the facilities and expertise at your garden.

Thank you for participating! For additional information, contact us at the email addresses below.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kramer, Executive Director BGCI US at Chicago Botanic Garden ([andrea.kramer@bgci.org](mailto:andrea.kramer@bgci.org))  
Abby Hird, Research Associate at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University ([abby\\_hird@harvard.edu](mailto:abby_hird@harvard.edu))

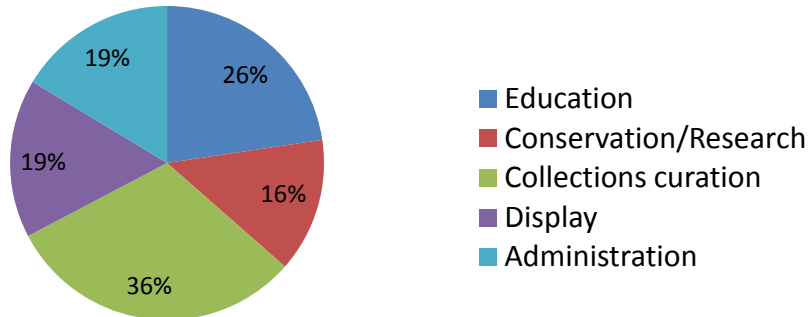


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### **NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS**

136 individuals representing 110 botanic gardens responded to this survey

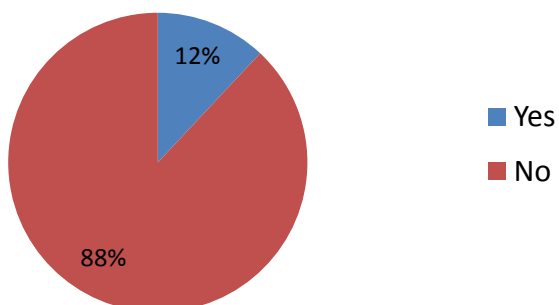
### **PRIMARY JOB RESPONSIBILITY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS (N=136)**



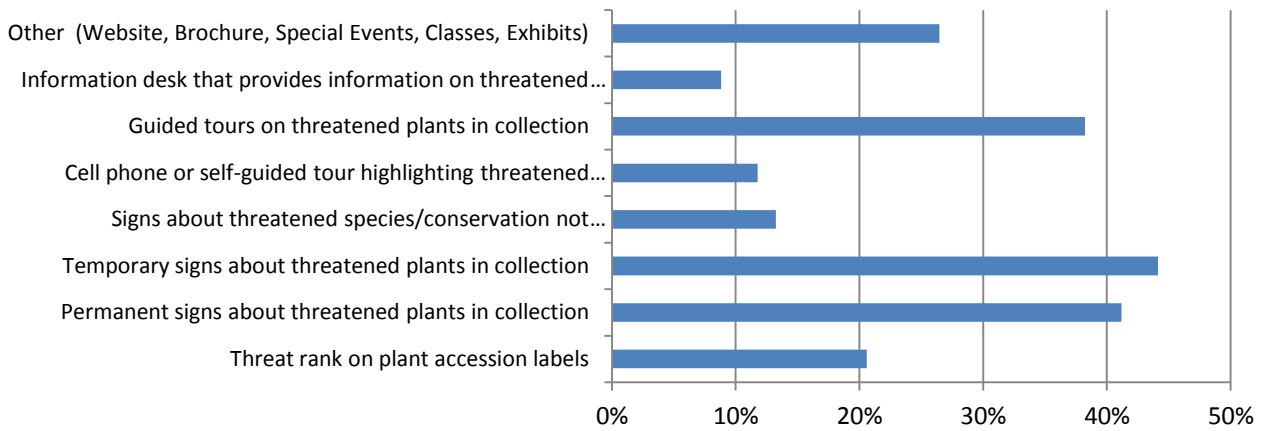
### **DOES YOUR GARDEN INTERPRET THREATENED PLANTS IN ITS COLLECTION? (N=117)**



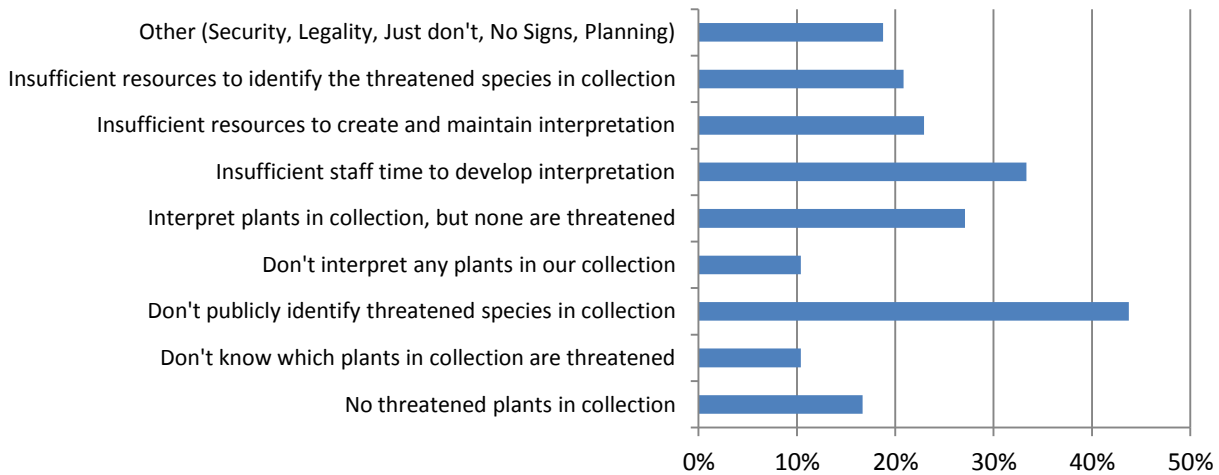
### **DOES YOUR INSTITUTION HAVE THREATENED PLANT INTERPRETATION MATERIALS THAT YOU THINK OTHER GARDENS MAY FIND USEFUL AND THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE? (N=100)**



### HOW THREATENED PLANT INTERPRETATION IS DONE (N=68)



### WHY INTERPRETATION ISN'T DONE (N=49)



### WHAT RESOURCES WOULD INCREASE THREATENED PLANT INTERPRETATION IN YOUR COLLECTION? (N=70)

