Collection and Acceptance of Plant Material Policy

Science, Conservation, and Horticulture staff, associates, and students of the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) collect and exchange plants, plant parts and prepare specimens and other research materials as a regular part of their professional activities. The materials they collect are 1) appropriate to support specific research questions and conservation objectives, 2) selected in a manner that does not endanger the plant species or populations, and 3) collected in collaborative partnerships with other scientists and/or institutions/organizations/communities in countries where MBG staff work. This policy provides guidelines for ensuring that all MBG research collections are made in an appropriately ethical and legal manner. It is expected that all applicable staff will familiarize themselves with and abide by the relevant national and other regulations and procedures before undertaking any such collecting and third party exchange of material.

1. Compliance with Relevant Laws, Treaties, Conventions, and other Regulations.
   A. All materials will be collected in compliance with all relevant International, National, and Local Laws and Regulations.
   B. All materials will be collected in compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including its provisions for access, benefit sharing and prior informed consent, including the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and mutually agreed material transfer agreements where applicable will accompany all plant material.
   C. Material of all plants and plant groups included in the appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will be exported only when the appropriate and specific CITES permits have been obtained.
   D. Any materials of species regulated under the U.S. Endangered Species Act will be handled in compliance with the provisions of the Act.
   E. All collecting in protected areas will be conducted only with appropriate permission from the organizations responsible for their management.
   F. Where required Phyto-Sanitary certificates will be obtained and accompany plant material.
   G. All collecting on private lands will be conducted only with appropriate permission of land owners.
   H. All collecting in the territories of Indigenous Groups will be conducted only with appropriate permission of such groups.
   I. Material listed on USDA AHPIIS Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis (NAPPRA) list must not be imported.

2. Collecting Protocols
   A. No plants will be collected in any manner that causes significant damage to the population or leads to local extirpation of a plant population.
   B. No species of conservation concern will be collected without appropriate authorization.

3. Access and Benefit Sharing
   A. All research, including that involving the collection of plant materials, will be conducted with a collaborating partner institution when appropriate.
   B. Deposition of collected specimens will follow an agreed upon protocol established with the partner institution(s).
C. All collecting that has the objective of supporting research that aims to develop products with commercial potential will only be conducted under a negotiated access and benefit sharing agreement with appropriate government agencies and/or other authorities.

4. Import and Export of plant material

In addition to requirements laid out in this policy, export of plant material will be conducted according to the country of origins processes and for importing to conform to requirements and processes listed in U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service permits issued to the Garden. Upon entry of plant material to the Garden, along with collections, records of signed copies of appropriate permits and agreements will accompany plant material. When bringing back living material a 24-hour advance notice should be provided. Plant material entering the Garden will be addressed or hand delivered to one of the following staff depending on type of material:

Herbarium and DNA: Dr. Jim Soloman, Herbarium Curator
Living Plants and Seeds: Ms Rebecca Sucher, Living Collections Manager

I acknowledge that I have read and understood this, and agree to adhere to and observe the guidance set forth in it. I understand that the Missouri Botanical Garden has the exclusive right to change any of the provisions within this and that it is my responsibility to read and comply with any policy or procedural revisions.

Name________________________________________

Signature and Date______________________________