



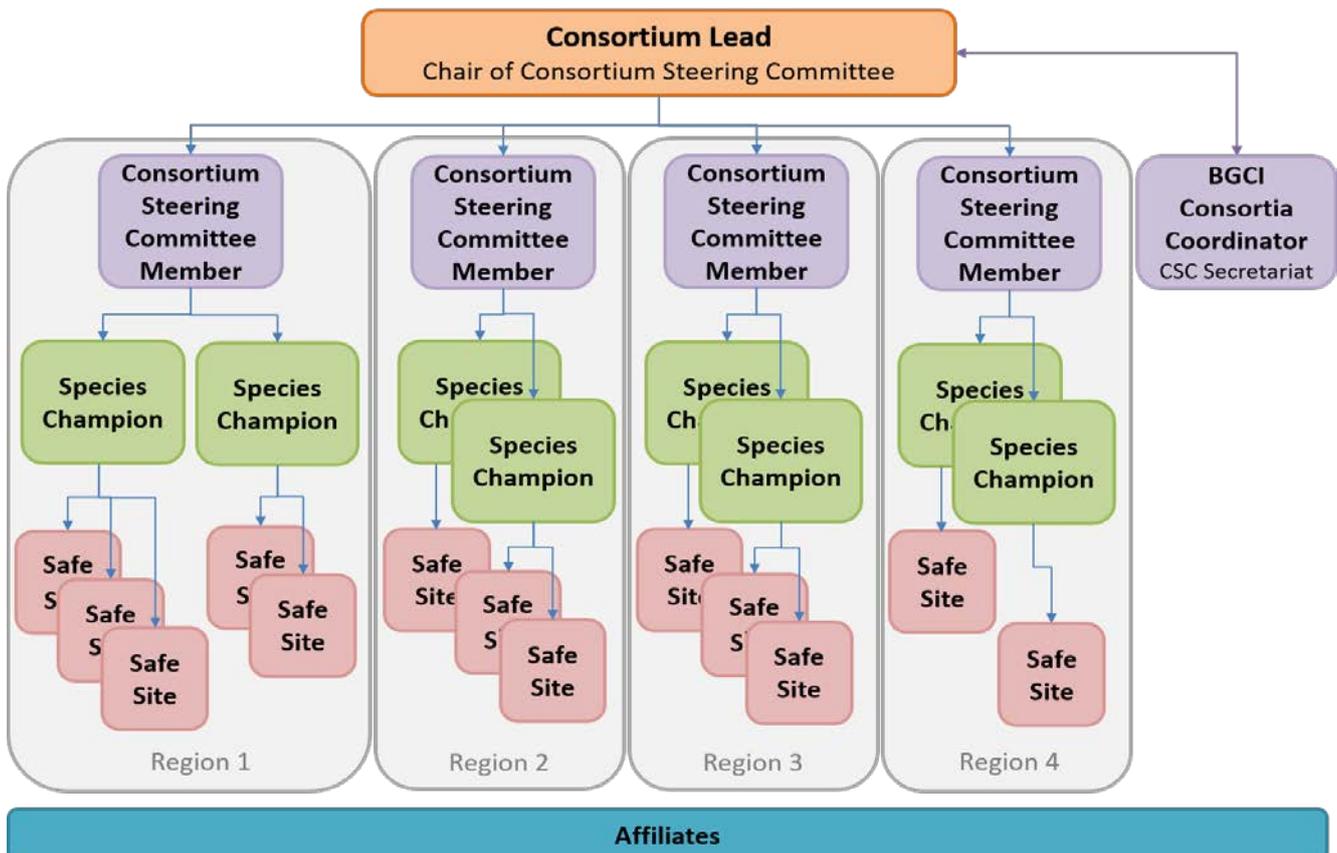
Global Conservation Consortia: Roles & Responsibilities

The Global Conservation Consortia are collectively coordinated by BGCI. BGCI:

- Facilitates the establishment and development of new consortia, and co-signs MoUs
- Coordinates communication and alignment of goals between consortia, and brings different consortia together at Global Botanic Garden Congresses, EuroGard meetings, etc.
- Establishes standards and operational procedures and ensures consortia adhere to these
- Provides the secretariat for every CSC (if needed). Holds consortia registers, circulates reports.
- Ensures consortia continue to function during transitions in leadership (lead and CSC roles)
- Promotes consortia globally with policymakers and funders, and assists fundraising efforts
- Provides branding opportunities and identity through logos, and conferring 'global conservation consortium collection' status
- Provides promotional opportunities through BGCI website, journals and newsletters

Each Global Conservation Consortium has five tiers of membership:

- Consortium Lead
- Consortium Steering Committee (CSC)
- Species Champions
- Safe Sites
- Affiliates



Consortium Lead

A single institution will be responsible for Consortium coordination, communication and reporting at a global scale. This Consortium Lead:

- Will appoint an individual staff member to act as main point of contact for the Consortium and to be the Chair of the CSC
- Operates on a 5-year term, renewable pending approval of BGCI Consortia Coordinator and majority vote of CSC
- Reports annually to BGCI Consortia Coordinator and other relevant stakeholders on Consortium progress, projects, and collections
- Recruits and coordinates CSC members, including recruiting a Vice-Chair position/institution
- Coordinates meetings of the CSC and regional or local meetings of Consortium members
- In collaboration with CSC, with input from other members, makes decisions regarding strategies and priorities for the Consortium
- Maintains a master species checklist and defines operational regions for the Consortium
- May lead operations for one region of the Consortium
- Acts as a Species Champion and Safe Site for at least one priority species
- With BGCI and other Consortium members, leads and coordinates fundraising efforts for Consortium development, administration and programs

Consortium Steering Committee (CSC)

- Composed of ~5-10 institutions + BGCI Consortia Coordinator
 - Chaired by Consortium Lead
 - Vice-chair (from a different institution than Consortium Lead)
 - Secretariat (CSC member or BGCI Consortia Coordinator if needed)
 - All CSC positions appointed on a voluntary basis for a 5-year term, renewable
 - May form sub-committees as appropriate (e.g. Taxonomy Sub-committee)
 - CSC meets at least annually, or more often as needed
 - CSC decisions are by consensus, with Consortium Lead casting deciding vote if needed
- Develops Consortium work plan, sets goals, provides strategic advice on planning and implementation of activities
- Monitors progress against Consortium objectives
- Responsible for regional coordination and recruitment of Consortium members, ensuring that the work of the Consortium is global in scope, providing broad geographic and institutional representation, focused in diversity hotspots
- Recruits and approves new Species Champions, Safe Sites and Affiliates
- Works with taxonomic experts and sub-committee as appropriate to assign each species to an operational region

For their specific region, each CSC member will:

- Track Consortium activities, including research and conservation projects and collections, and report at least annually to the CSC
- With input from experts and Consortium members in the region, identify the at-risk species of conservation priority that require a *metacollection*: a network of coordinated living plant collections at multiple sites, known as Safe Sites, that safeguard genetic diversity
- Recruit Species Champions to coordinate the metacollection of Safe Sites of every priority species

- Act as a Species Champion and Safe Site for at least one priority species (if institution maintains or has access to living collections)
 - Institution is (or is working to become) accredited through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and/or the BGCI Accreditation Scheme
- Maintain up-to-date list of regional Species Champions, Safe Sites, Affiliates
- Ensure all species in the region have up to date threat assessments
- Coordinate regional Consortium meetings opportunistically and as required
- Facilitate, coordinate, and undertake research efforts (e.g. taxonomy, population genetics. etc.) in collaboration with the region's Species Champions, Safe Sites and Affiliates as applicable
- Undertake *in situ* conservation projects
- Encourage knowledge sharing and engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities in centers of diversity, including preserving and supporting indigenous ethnobotanical knowledge
- Works with existing local, regional and national plant conservation networks and accreditation schemes, building on current conservation efforts
- Act as an advocate and ambassador for the Consortium and the botanic garden sector, particularly with policymakers, funders, and the general public
- Fundraise to support Consortium activities, including building capacity to empower Safe Site institutions, especially in diversity hotspots

Species Champions

For each prioritized, at-risk species, a single institution (ideally *in situ* or “near situ”) acts as its Species Champion. Each Species Champion:

- Is responsible for Consortium-wide strategic coordination and reporting of the metacollection: a network of coordinated living plant collections at multiple sites, known as Safe Sites, that safeguard genetic diversity for the priority species
- Maintains a database of accession-level and specimen-level information for the metacollection of their priority species, which will be updated annually
- Develops a tailored strategy for building the metacollection that addresses the specific conservation needs of the priority species, including identifying populations and ecological zones that are underrepresented in the metacollection
- Recruits Safe Sites in strategic locations, ideally *in situ* or “near situ”, to maintain a living collection of the priority species, taking into account projected climate change
- Ensures Safe Sites update accession and specimen data to the metacollection database annually
- Reports annually to the regional CSC member on the status of the metacollection, following a standardized reporting template to be provided by the CSC
- Maintains a Safe Site collection of the priority species and is (or is working to become) accredited through the BGCI Accreditation Scheme and/or ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program
- Coordinates activities and communications between Consortium members working on the priority species, and facilitates collecting efforts and germplasm distribution
- Compiles and/or updates the IUCN Red List assessment for the priority species
- Develops, coordinates, and/or collaborates on research and conservation projects (both *ex situ* and *in situ*) across the Consortium for the priority species
- Encourages knowledge sharing and engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities in centers of diversity, including preserving and supporting indigenous ethnobotanical knowledge

- Is encouraged to fundraise to support Consortium activities

Safe Site

For each prioritized, at-risk species, a series of coordinated Safe Site institutions manages living collections of high conservation value that altogether represent the metacollection. Safe Sites may be a botanic garden, private collector, nursery, golf course, park, university, cemetery, school, tribe, government managed natural area or seed orchard (e.g. local, state, national agencies), etc. Each Safe Site:

- Actively develops and curates a significant living collection of high conservation quality, which represents a portion of the Consortium's metacollection for the priority species
- Acquires and exchanges germplasm according to current best practice in accordance with international policies and conventions including the Nagoya Protocol for Access and Benefit Sharing, and with all necessary permissions and permits
- Commits to follow the *Safe Site Agreement*, which outlines standards and expectations of Safe Sites and includes ensuring security of sensitive collections and occurrence data
- Utilizes metacollection germplasm only for research, conservation, educational, and other non-commercial activities, in keeping with the goals of the Consortium
- Makes germplasm available to Consortium members both proactively and by request, and tracks distribution of germplasm through signed material transfer agreements requesting adherence to above standards
- Reports accession- and specimen-level collection data annually to the relevant Species Champion, with data managed according to specified standards laid out in the *Safe Site Agreement*
- Is encouraged to become accredited through the BGCI Accreditation Scheme and/or the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program, and to participate in other local, regional, or national accreditation schemes and professional networks
- Annually contributes a list of all taxa held in their institution's collections to BGCI's PlantSearch database, the only global database of plants in *ex situ* cultivation
- May participate in research and conservation projects, collecting expeditions, fundraising, and other Consortium activities as appropriate

Affiliates

Consortium Affiliates do not hold a formal role as a CSC member, Species Champion or Safe Site, but may collaborate on any of the following Consortium activities in coordination with the relevant Species Champion and/or Safe Site:

- Scouting or collecting trips, adhering to the same standards and best practices outlined in the *Safe Site Agreement*
- Population monitoring
- Research
- Taxonomic work
- IUCN Red List assessment compilation or review
- *In situ* conservation projects (reintroductions, habitat management, invasive species removal, etc.)
- Fundraising

Consortium Affiliates may be able to use the Consortium logo in fundraising or promotional materials, pending the approval of the BGCI Consortia Coordinator and the CSC member for their region. Affiliates may or may not be officially associated with a botanical institution.