

## **THE ROLE OF BOTANIC GARDENS AND PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**

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Botanic gardens have a variety of roles that have evolved through time in response to changes in society. Conservation of biodiversity has been a major responsibility for botanic gardens over the past forty years. Securing funding for conservation and research programmes can be challenging particularly at a time of global economic downturn as can covering the costs of maintaining the living collections and infrastructure of botanic gardens. This presentation will consider current and new developing roles of botanic gardens globally and how these relate to international policy and economic sustainability.

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## **FOCUSING BOTANIC GARDENS ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION THROUGH MASTERPLANNING, EXEMPLIFIED BY WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S KINGS PARK AND BOTANIC GARDEN AND BY THE UK'S ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW**

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There is an urgent and compelling need for botanic gardens to become flagship organisations for the world's plants, fungi and other biodiversity at a time of unprecedented change. New ways of living sustainably with biodiversity have to be devised and demonstrated convincingly to contribute towards present and imminent global challenges. Here, I will explore approaches at regional and global level of sharpening the focus of botanic gardens towards such ends through masterplanning. Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Perth, Western Australia, and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew provide working examples.

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