

Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens



Our Charter

2026

Purpose

The purpose of the Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens is to grow and sustain a global movement of botanic organisations that take action to protect and enable adaptation of botanical landscapes in a changing climate.

The time for action is **now**.

Founding Partners

The Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens¹ (CCABG) was launched at the inaugural botanic gardens Climate Change Summit, which took place at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) in Melbourne in December 2018. The founding partners that agreed at the Summit to form the CCABG are as follows:

Beijing Botanical Garden, Beijing, China	Botanic Gardens Australia & New Zealand (BGANZ)
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)	Botanic Garden of the City of Buenos Aires "Carlos Thays", Argentina
Eden Project, Cornwall, England	International Association of Botanic Gardens (IABG)
Jerusalem Botanic Gardens, Jerusalem, Israel	Morton Arboretum, Chicago, USA
Nanshan Botanical Garden, Chongqing, China	Royal Botanic Gardens CSIC, Madrid, Spain
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Australia	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa
UC Davis Arboretum & Public Garden, California, USA	



¹ Includes arboreta, botanic gardens, botanical gardens – organisations who manage plant collections and botanical landscapes

Governance

Since its foundation the CCABG has grown into an international network with nearly 600 members in ~100 countries around the world. To best serve this membership along our shared journey, an international Steering Committee has been established to support the Secretariat, which is hosted by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

- Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ), Australia and New Zealand
- Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), United Kingdom
- Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires "Carlos Thays", Argentina
- Longwood Gardens, United State of America
- Morton Arboretum, United States of America
- Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland
- Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Australia
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa
- University of British Columbia, Canada

An Internal Working Group within RBGV has also been established to synergise the work conducted by both, comprising of representatives from:

- Horticulture – Melbourne
- Horticulture – Cranbourne
- Arboriculture
- Science
- Programming and Audience Development
- Development, Marketing and Communications



Principles and Values

Our Principles of the CCABG are purposely adopted from the Living Systems that are interconnected with the landscapes and plant communities for which we are stewards. These principles will grow an alliance that is adaptive, diverse and resilient and thrives in the face of boundless change.

Principle 1 - Self-Organisation around a Shared Purpose

All complex-living systems exhibit a self-organising pattern. CCABG partners will respond to this pattern as parts of a thriving, complex social-ecological system. With a well understood and shared purpose for the CCABG, this self-organising pattern will create the conditions for individual and collective leadership to emerge from all parts of the CCABG. In this shared purpose, we are driven to make an impact both regionally and globally.

Principle 2 - Recruit for and celebrate Diversity

Diversity is a key characteristic of natural and social systems. The CCABG will pursue high diversity of its partnerships to build in adaptive capacity of the whole. This means that we include, value, respect and place importance on all partners and friends of the CCABG – regardless of their resources. This resilience will help the CCABG to bounce back from shocks, adapt to emerging challenges and benefit most from opportunities.

Principle 3 - Maintain Momentum & Energy Flows

Social networks are greatly assisted when a rhythm of activity is established. The CCABG leadership will focus on a design with rhythm and energy flows in mind. All partners commit to working as a team and taking the initiative within their power to energise the CCABG in times of difficulty.

Principle 4 - Nurture Relationships

Social capital is built when the number and quality of relationships between CCABG members and partners is increased. Stronger relationships equate to a stronger CCABG. We reach out, seek to understand, are open and mutually support each other. Our relationships are such that we have fun, celebrate our successes, are willing to ask for help, and share our failures as opportunities to grow. We are not afraid to address relationship difficulties.

Principle 5 - Plan for Resilience and Adaptability

Resilience and the capacity to adapt over time is a measure of success of the CCABG's principles. We therefore commit to the principles of the CCABG, are prepared to challenge the status quo, embrace new ideas, techniques, and technology, and step forward to demonstrate our creativity and personal strength. While we always strive for excellence, we don't let the perfect thing get in the way of a good thing.

Objectives

The CCABG is governed by five over-arching objectives:

- 1. Safeguard and steward resilient botanic gardens** for the benefit of people and the planet
- 2. Share knowledge and expertise** to assist botanic organisations and governing bodies to make informed decisions about climate change adaptation
- 3. Provide a credible and authoritative voice** in the world's response to climate change with respect to botanic gardens and plants
- 4. Engage our communities** in how climate change is impacting our collections and landscapes, and empower them to act
- 5. Provide professional development opportunities** in botanic garden and landscape management in response to climate change.

Roles & Responsibilities

Partners and Members

All partners and members are actively engaged in implementation of the CCABG's objectives and activities in their own territories and spheres of influence, including their organisations, networks, associations and partnerships.

- Exchanging information and sharing expertise with partners and members
- Recruiting new partners and members, and fostering relationships between existing and potential partners and members
- Communicating the importance of CCABG objectives and work to local stakeholders and communities
- Identifying and activating peak and local, regional and country networks, associations, stakeholders and governing bodies
- Advocating for action on landscape adaptation to a changing climate
- Identifying and accessing resources to facilitate action in their region

Associations

In addition to their roles and responsibilities as Partners, these Associations will assist in connecting other botanic organisations and networks and accessing funds and resources to support the mission of the CCABG.

- Botanic Gardens Australia & New Zealand (BGANZ)
- Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)

Secretariat

The role of the Secretariat is to actively convene the work of partners and members to realise the objectives and activities of the CCABG. Ultimately, in a self-organising network, the Secretariat should be aiming to minimise the need for one. In the meantime, its functions are as follows:

- Stewarding – keeping track of the growth and impact of the CCABG
- Connecting – providing tools and processes that encourage and support partners and members to share information and resources
- Nourishing – ensuring partners and members have access to the tools and resources they require to fulfil their role
- Illuminating – sharing CCABG stories and helping partners and members identify and develop stories that advance the work of the CCABG
- Naming – acknowledging, celebrating and promoting the work of CCABG partners and members
- Spokesperson – providing a central voice on behalf of the CCABG

Friends of the CCABG

Friends of the CCABG are important allies and can include leaders, philanthropic supporters, advocates, scientists, technical experts, writers, artists and others who subscribe to and support the purpose of the CCABG.

They provide technical, scientific and creative support and resources to the CCABG by:

- Providing advice, expertise and creative input
- Providing resources or assisting CCABG partners and members to access resources
- Participating in CCABG events
- Sharing information that they consider to be of value to the work of the CCABG
- Diversifying the means of outreach by the CCABG

How we operate

The vital relationships and energy of a global network can be stymied by the geographical distances between partners, members and friends of the CCABG along with the available means to communicate. In line with our shared Principles and Objectives, we all make personal commitments to regularly reach out and respond to each other through whatever means we have to hand, and to continually discover the best means of effective communication and understanding for the growth of the CCABG.

The **CCABG Roadmap** and its associated milestones will be an important guide for providing context and supporting the interconnection between Partners and Friends.

Proposed methods to build our Alliance include:

- Regular email updates and communiques (even if brief): partners are encouraged to share updates and also check in with each other if they appear to be ‘quiet’
- Online face to face discussions. At least quarterly meetings of partners on a 1:1 basis or as a small group in similar time zones
- Dedicated CCABG website/landing page including a calendar of events
- Seeking out the opportunities to meet up at conferences, seminars and workshops
- Developing a staff exchange program where partners and members can meet the people, contribute their expertise and learn from respective organisations
- CCABG project-driven ventures comprising of partners, members and friends

CCABG Roadmap and Milestones

2028	<p>10-year anniversary of the Climate Change Summit and founding of the CCABG</p> <p>Develop Ambassador Program</p>
2027	<p>9th Global Botanic Gardens Congress (9GBGC) Launch Climate Assessment Tool 2.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on case studies from Menu of Climate Change Adaptation • Risk and opportunities: plants and climate change – an update <p>Develop Exchange Pilot Program</p> <p>Develop identity, brand and website</p> <p>Steering Committee seats for renewal</p> <p>Horticulture Exchange Pilot Program</p>
2026	<p>Develop pilot Climate Assessment Tool 2.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxonomic upgrade and expansion • Multi-model climate projection • Additional climate parameters • Broader botanic garden and landscape applications <p>Review and update the Landscape Succession Toolkit</p> <p>Climate Adaptation Sign Pilot Program launched</p> <p>Develop sustainable business model</p> <p>Source and compile member case studies</p> <p>Secure funding and publish climate change information pamphlets</p> <p>Horticulture Forms continue</p>
2025	<p>Present at the Beyond Borders: Global Insights for Climate-Resilient Managed Landscapes June 2025 in Versailles, France, hosted by World Monuments Fund</p> <p>Publication of Menu of Climate Change Adaptation</p> <p>CAT 2.0 commence development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with Royal Horticultural Society (UK) • MoU to develop Royal Horticultural Society client of CAT signed <p>Steering Committees review Roadmap and Milestones</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval given for RBGV to permanently and official hold Secretariat <p>Website redevelopment</p> <p>November 2025 – 8th BGANZ Congress in Canberra, Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Succession Case Studies presented • Climate change adaptation outreach by botanic gardens <p>Discussion Forum on Cambridge University Botanic Garden publication on the state of botanic gardens around the world</p> <p>Horticulture Forums continue</p>
2024	<p>August 2024 – 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress (8GBGC) in Singapore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with University of British Columbia and Morton Arboretum to run climate action workshop • Capacity building, member recruitment, knowledge sharing • CCABG and the Climate Assessment Tool acknowledged and referenced at the 8GBGC <p>November 2024 – Inaugural meetings of the newly formed Steering Committee and Internal Working Group</p> <p>Horticulture Forums continue</p>
2023	<p>Promote the Climate Assessment Tool and Landscape Succession Toolkit through demonstrations, presentations and online workshops</p>
2022	<p>26 - 30 September 2022 – 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress (7GBGC), Melbourne, Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Climate Assessment Tool • Launch of Landscape Succession Toolkit <p>CCABG capacity building, member recruitment, next round of project/programs announced</p> <p>Member climate action initiatives</p> <p>Horticulture Forums continue</p>
2021	<p>Completion of Global Climate Risk Assessment Tool</p> <p>Progress publication of Landscape Succession Toolkit</p> <p>Horticulture Forums commence, quarterly</p> <p>CCABG capacity building, member recruitment</p> <p>Member climate action initiative</p>

2020	<p>Creation of Ibero-American Node of Botanical Gardens and Climate Change</p> <p>CCABG capacity building, member recruitment</p> <p>Member climate action initiatives</p> <p>Global Climate Risk Assessment Tool (in progress)</p>
2019	<p>June 2019 - Living Collections Risk Assessment Framework (Stage 1 complete)</p> <p>August 2019 – Launch of draft Landscape Succession Toolkit and BGANZ Victoria Workshop event</p> <p>October 2019 - Launch of dedicated CCABG webpage and BGANZ Congress Workshop event at Wellington, New Zealand</p>

