Editorial

2014 has begun, another year of challenges and opportunities for orchid conservation the world over. We have been inspired by the many positive reports and motivated to do more after participating in the 5th International Orchid Conservation Congress held at Ile de la Réunion. The island is a place of contrasts with ample opportunity to learn about orchids and their relationship with the land, people, and conservation.

Some 20 countries were represented with both oral and poster presentations. Of particular interest were presentations about DNA barcoding being used to help with illegal trade monitoring of African and Asian orchids (Barbara Gravendeel), and with illegally traded Tanzanian orchids (Joseph Otieno).

Given that the congress was sited in a premier vanilla production location, a half-day session was devoted to the conservation of Vanilla. One of the two mid-week tours was to the CIRAD Biological Resources Center (CRB) where the largest collection of Vanilla species in the world is managed in a shade house collection and also conserved using in vitro and cryopreservation techniques. Those of us who chose this tour were not disappointed as many different species of Vanilla were in full bloom. Learn more about their work at: http://reunion-mayotte.cirad.fr/en/news/vabiome_biodiversite_vanilliers/

Marilyn H. S. Light, Editor

Sustainable Use of Orchids

The feasibility of developing the sustainable use of orchids used for food, traditional medicines, and flavourings is of growing interest. In the December 2013 issue of the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, Jacob Phelps, Center for International Forestry Research, opens a forum for discussion on sustainable development. We are aware of the success with artificial propagation of orchids for ornamental purposes: loopholes remain but there is some progress. As discussed at the IOCC5, the conservation community is also dealing with the challenge of orchids as traditional foods or medicines as with chikanda, faham, and salep where unsustainable harvest is of concern.
A conservation research project in which all orchid hobbyists can participate

Amy Hinsley is a PhD candidate in biodiversity management at the University of Kent, UK. Amy presented a paper at the IOCC5 regarding horticultural trade of orchids. As part of her research, she has designed an online survey to assess the various attributes of orchids that might appeal to hobbyists. Everyone is invited to participate.

With the first part, the participant has an opportunity to suggest what they feel is the best way to protect wild orchids from over-collection for trade. All answers are anonymous. Amy would be very grateful to have your responses as all will contribute towards her research. [www.conservingorchids.org/research](http://www.conservingorchids.org/research)
If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact: Amy Hinsley (ah371@kent.ac.uk)

CONGRATULATIONS!

2013 Award of Honour to Professor Kingsley Dixon

The Australian Orchid Foundation has awarded Kingsley Dixon the prestigious AOF Award of Honour for his outstanding achievements in orchid conservation. A detailed tribute appears in *Orchids Australia*, December 2013.

On The Bookshelf


This slim volume is packed with excellent photographs and information to suit anyone with a desire to learn more about the epiphytic and terrestrial orchids of Singapore. Each species has one page devoted to a description including photos of plants in bloom, as well as their status in, and distribution outside of Singapore. Conservation and reintroduction of native orchids to Singapore is a success story well documented here with a Practical Guide section on the conservation of native orchids drawn from the author’s hands-on experience. Highly recommended!  Marilyn Light
Call for conservation news

Members are asked to provide news of their recent conservation activities for publication in the OSG Conservation News.

Changes to contact information?

To maintain effective communication, we need to know of any changes in contact information. Please inform the OSG Chair, Dr. Mike Fay (M.Fay@kew.org)

Food for Thought


Phelps, J. 2013. Under what conditions is wildlife farming a solution? (j.phelps@cigar.org)

https://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/sustainable_use_and_livelihoods_specialist_group/sulinews/issue_7/