



CONNECTING CONSERVATIONISTS

Conference 'Conservation of biological diversity in Cuba - 2015'

November 28-29, 2014
National Botanic Garden,
Cuba

We have organized these meetings annually to promote comprehensive approaches in nature conservation practices. We bring together botanists, zoologists, decision-makers

and stakeholders to share experiences, knowledge and facilitate cooperation among conservation teams.

The 2014 Conference featured the National Strategy

for Plant Conservation: achievements and challenges. A total of 65 talks on nature conservation were presented and we had 129 attendees from 28 institutions nationwide.

Bissea

El Boletín sobre Conservación de Plantas del Jardín Botánico Nacional de Cuba

Bissea, Vol. 7, Número Especial 1
Mayo/2013



top 50



LAS 50 PLANTAS MÁS AMENAZADAS DE CUBA

The TOP 50 is already driving conservation actions!

A project for preserving *Harpalyce macrocarpa* (Fabaceae - the legume family) is planned and waiting for fund allocation.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

Presentation of the book "theTOP 50 Cuban threatened plants"

November 28, 2014
National Botanic Garden,
Cuba

After a long printing process, we finally presented the TOP 50. The National Centre for Protected Areas and the Cuban Botanical Society are distributing the book for free to protected areas,

environmental agencies, universities and libraries all around the country.

This publication delivers scientific information to the public in an attractive way. It

call attention of Cubans to the conservation situation of their flora, one of the richest insular floras of the world with a remarkable degree of endemism.



BUILDING CAPACITIES

Course 'Designing, planning & managing conservation projects'

December 1-5, 2014
National Botanic Garden,
Cuba

Local-based initiatives are the key to achieve any conservation goal. In line with this, Planta! designed the 'project course' to train graduate students and technicians on project design,

planning and management, and powered them to develop nature conservation actions in their communities.

This first time, we trained 30 graduate students from

universities, botanic gardens and protected areas. Half of them had already prepared their project proposals covering a wide range of conservation issues.



CONNECTING CONSERVATIONISTS

The second largest university of Cuba welcomed Planta!

December 8, 2014
University of Oriente,
Santiago de Cuba, Cuba

With great enthusiasm we received the invitation to present Planta! at the University of Oriente - the second largest university of Cuba, and one of the three with biology program.

The initiative was widely welcomed by faculty and students, so that the creation of the local group was promoted right away. This group is lead by Mr. Mario Godillo, a bright and

energetic fellow, who has received Planta! trainings and worked with the our team for a couple of year now.



DELIVERING SCIENCES-BASED ADVICE

Planta! promotes the restoration of tropical rainforests

December 9 - 25, 2014
South eastern Cuba

Then we went to hunt magnolias for 15 days. We climbed the highest peaks of Cuba and counted XX plants. We even found three more plants of a very rare subspecies restricted to Gran

Piedra range. Now, there are 8 known plants of this variety. Planta! is providing farmers with tools, knowledge and skills to grow endangered trees, restore the tree layer in their coffee farms (former

rainforests) and manage their crops. Our team managed to increase in a third the population of *Magnolia cubensis* subsp. *acunae* with the successful reintroduction of 250 plants.



DELIVERING SCIENCES-BASED ADVICE

Assessing the conservation situation of Cuban native plants

January 4th to 9th, 2015
Matanzas

Planta! joined forces with the Cuban Plant Specialist Group to assess the conservation situation of Cuban native plants. During the first joined workshop we assessed the

conservation situation of 400 species. This partnership will produce a new Red List of Cuban Threatened Plants due to Fall 2015. This document will serve decision-makers, stakeholders and scientists of

set priorities for plant conservation in the country.



EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

Successful presentation of the 2015 Planta! Calendar

January 3rd, 2015
Fabrica de Arte,
Havana, Cuba

On the night of January 3rd, we presented the 2015 Planta! Calendar at 'Fabrica de Arte' - one of the most popular places of Havana city. That was amazing!

The place was already packed of young people two hours before the show started. Once it began, everyone was thrilled and excited by the music and the unique plant-inspired dresses.