

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT / CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: Eight European Botanic Gardens Congress (Eurogard 2018)

Travel Dates: 09/05/2018 – 13/05/2018

Location: Lisbon, Portugal

Group member(s): Mariana García Criado

Aims: To present my publication “European Red List of Lycopods and Ferns” in a Red List Symposium at the Eurogard 2018 conference.

OUTCOME (a minimum of 300 words):-

In October 2017, my ‘European Red List of Lycopods and Ferns’ report (García Criado *et al.* 2017) was published. This project assessed the extinction risk of all 194 native fern and lycopod species present in Europe following the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List guidelines. The Eight European Botanic Gardens Congress (Eurogard 2018) took place from 7 – 11th May in Lisbon, Portugal, and I was invited by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) to give a presentation on my publication at the conference. This congress presented a unique opportunity to give an overview of my results to a specialized audience composed of a wide variety of stakeholders.

I had three main objectives during the conference, which I accomplished. Firstly, I presented the results of my publication in a 15-minute talk within the Red List Symposium session and the Biodiversity conservation activities theme. I promoted the project by bringing a few copies of my publication with me, which were of interest to the symposium attendants. Secondly, I strengthened my relationship with colleagues working at BGCI and in national Red List projects, and made new contacts at the conference. These interactions will likely result in new collaboration opportunities in the future. Finally, I attended different presentations at the conference, especially on the role of botanical gardens and their scientific research, *ex situ* conservation and education, which were particularly interesting given my previous and current research on plant biodiversity.

It was particularly interesting to see how the presented research fits into the broader context of European biodiversity, and particularly on global policy instruments such as the European Biodiversity Strategy or the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to guide global efforts for plant conservation. I learnt about the latest developments in the field and the new research currently being undertaken, and gained a deeper understanding of biodiversity conservation in Europe.

In conclusion, this was an excellent opportunity to discuss my previous research, to strengthen my networks and to learn about current issues and developments on biodiversity, and I am very grateful to the James Rennie Bequest for funding my travels to this conference.

Reference:

García Criado, M., Väre, H., Nieto, A., Bento Elias, R., Dyer, R., Ivanenko, Y., Ivanova, D., Lansdown, R., Molina, J.A., Rouhan, G., Rumsey, F., Troia, A., Vrba, J. and Christenhusz, M.J.M. 2017. *European Red List of Lycopods and Ferns*. Brussels, Belgium: IUCN. iv + 59pp.