CONSERVATOIRE & JARDIN BOTANIQUES VILLE DE GENÈVE

IN EX SITU

Exhibition

and excursions from the Botanical Garden

CONSERVATOIRE & JARDIN BOTANIQUES VILLE DE GENÈVE

pro natura Genève

VILLE DE GENÈVE DÉPARTEMENT DE LA CULTURE

An exhibition of magnificent photographs by Pro Natura Genève and the Botanical Conservatory and Garden (CJB) to promote the wild countryside and its beauty and conservation.

An initiative that comes from the Botanical Garden and that will reach far and wide!

*An invitation to the public **IN SITU,** at the Botanical Garden, to see the exhibition and our permanent collections dedicated to conservation and environmental education. And beyond, **EX SITU,** in three wonderful excursions using sustainable transport to explore the wild countryside and learn about the measures being implemented to protect it.*

Stunning. But is that enough?

The sheer beauty of these photographs should be all it takes to ensure the conservation of the species they feature. But unfortunately that is not the case! We must be active and even proactive in our efforts to conserve biodiversity. This is something that concerns us all, and we cannot live fulfilling lives reacting to our planet without the maximum diversity of the plant world… and a little solidarity!

EX SITU PROGRAMME

9 May:
The Botanical Garden and surrounding area

27 June:
The Museum Garden and its urban natural environment

5 September:
From the Botanical Garden to the lake and from shore to shore

Information and bookings: - CJB reception
- or on the website:
www.ville-ge.ch/cjb

2010 Année Internationale de la Biodiversité

Conserving biodiversity: why and how?

Two key questions in this International Year of Biodiversity!

Why?
> Maximum biodiversity or not?

Biodiversity, particularly in the plant world, has always met our basic needs for food, medicine, protection and our cultural and spiritual realisation. The process of evolution has always created new species and new potentialities. Our current problem lies in the unequalled rate at which we are losing species and the potential uses connected with these species, because of our actions as human beings. We must stop this process because it is having an extremely negative effect on the planet.

How?
> What practical things can I do?

- Promote the idea of the day-to-day usefulness of biodiversity. Things that are useful (or that might be useful) are easier to respect and conserve;
- Live your life while respecting your environment, close to hand and further afield. For example, this summer have an eco-friendly holiday that respects biodiversity;
- Be aware of the cultural diversity that lies hidden behind natural diversity, and appreciate it;
- Apply, foster and communicate the idea of encouraging the payment of a fair price for goods and services and promoting close-to-home consumption. These are the economic factors that are decisive in preserving biodiversity.
- Recognise diversity, pluralism and multiculturalism as predominant factors in the harmonious development of any society;
- Join an association that works to safeguard biodiversity and work as a volunteer.

> What are the Botanical Gardens doing?

Civil society and voluntary organisations, represented by Pro Natura in this exhibition, are working extremely hard to help conserve the environment and endangered species in our canton, the Geneva Basin, and nationally and internationally. The same is true of local environmental institutions such as the DGNP and the SEVE and the "naturalist" science museums (the Natural History Museum and the CJB).

Your host, **the Botanical Conservatory and Garden (CJB) of the City of Geneva** is one of the bastions worldwide of knowledge and implementation of this policy of conserving environments and species, both regionally and internationally. It is often consulted as an expert at all levels of the decision-making and conservation chain.

To find out more about us, see our website:
> www.ville-ge.ch/cjb

The Botanical Garden and Conservatory are also places where plant diversity is appreciated, demonstrated and studied in its own right. Scientists look for it in familiar and unexplored places, they describe it in articles and publications, they analyse it and follow its evolution using inventories and databases, they explain it in terms of phylogenies and genetic studies.

> What about «Conservation» at the CJB?

The CJB has a section dedicated to the ex- and in-situ conservation of plant life in the region. It carries out a number of preservation projects in situ (in the field) in collaboration with the relevant government departments and the associations concerned. A seed bank is being built up. Working with the Botanical Garden, it is conserving and breeding a number of endangered species ex situ (outside their natural surroundings).

It is important to realise that some wild species currently exist only in botanical gardens, which are working together to conserve them with the ultimate aim of reintroducing them to the wild.

These gardens therefore play a fundamental role as experts and interactive conservatories to safeguard the plant diversity of wild species. The current concerted policy adopted by botanical gardens in this field encourages them to think globally but to act and conserve locally.

A living museum!