



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

May 2018

NEWSLETTER

This month: Botanical Garden Congress in Poland and 200th anniversary of the host garden! Also a short note about palm oil.

The IPS Biennial in Colombia is happening later this month; send us your stories, photos and comments on it. We might publish them (if you want), but also we would like to have feedback about the event and its organization. Share with us!

BGCI's 10th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens

Bringing nature to the city. Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the University of Warsaw Botanic Garden.

This year in Warsaw, Poland, the 10th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens will be held, from 9th through 14th September. It will be an interesting opportunity to link up with people from all around the world who are passionate about plants.

The hosts are Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Botanic Garden of Warsaw University, which was founded in 1818 and will thus celebrate its 200th anniversary! It has gone through different situations, including being depleted during World War II and enthusiastically recovering afterwards.

Right: Logo of the 10th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens. Image © Ogród Botaniczny UW.

This garden focuses on biodiversity conservation, but also on education and public engagement.



BGCI's 10th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens (cont.)

For more about the Congress:

[10th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens 2018](#), BGCI Website.

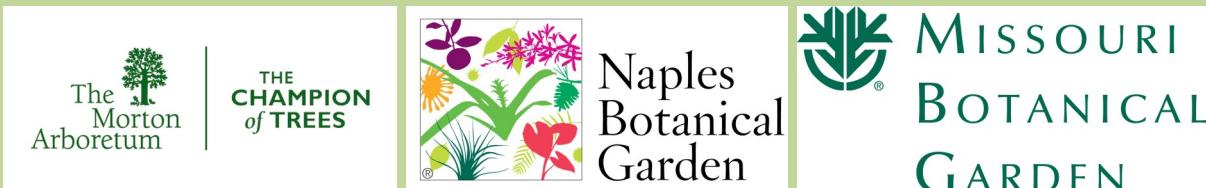
[BGCI's 10th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens](#), UW Botanic Garden Website.

Calls for Scholarships

BGCI thanks to the sponsors of the congress for some scholarships to attend the event. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is 31 May 2018, and notifications will be by 15 June 2018. For more information about the conditions and how to apply, visit the link: [BGCI Congress scholarship](#).

The Sylvia Scholarship Fund also offers some financial support that can be checked on this website: [Sylvia Scholarship Fund](#).

The congress has three Golden Sponsors, one with a huge palm collection!



Congress Themes

The attendees will have a wide range of sessions to enjoy and learn:

“City Gardens - City gardens all over the world have much in common. What do they offer to their audiences? What kind of difficulties do they face?...”

“New Educational Tools - This session is dedicated to practical tools and solutions used in education in botanic gardens – from inexpensive homemade tools to more sophisticated technologies used in education and its evaluation...”

“Working Together - Challenges can often arise from the presence of and interaction between different groups of employees within the garden (gardeners, curators, educators, etc.) who may have different backgrounds, perspectives and priorities for their work...”

BGCI's 10th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens (cont.)

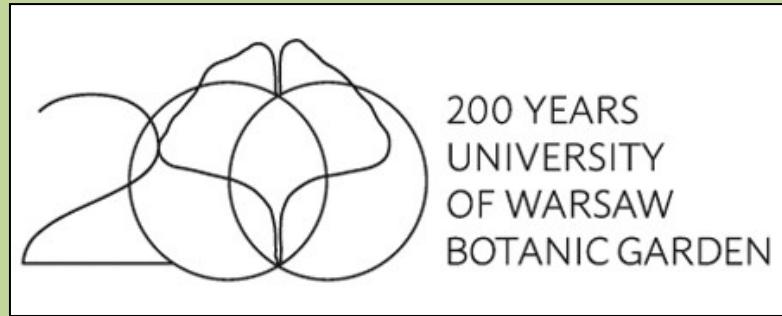
“Supporting Formal Education - How do botanic gardens work with partners that represent formal education systems (schools, teachers etc.)? Do they influence curricula and governmental educational polices?...”

“Reaching New Audiences - This session focuses on the importance of reaching new audiences and will share case studies of projects that aimed to develop relationships with new audiences, discussing successes and lessons learnt...”

“Measuring impact - Objective 4 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation asks that ‘Education and awareness of plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on earth is promoted’...”

“Education in Polish Botanic Gardens - The session is dedicated to the challenges Polish botanic gardens face in their educational activity...”

“Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the University of Warsaw Botanic Garden - A special session to celebrate 200 anniversary of University of Warsaw Botanic Garden will also be held during the Congress.”



Above: Logo of the 200th Anniversary of the Warsaw University Botanic Garden. Image © Ogród Botaniczny UW.



BGCI
Plants for the Planet

Botanic Gardens Conservation International is a network established in 1987 that includes 500 botanic gardens in more than 100 countries and that promotes the scientific and institutional contact among them and also with the public. Their objective is “to unite botanic gardens and other organizations committed to saving the world’s threatened plants.”

More information can be found on their website:

[Botanic Gardens Conservation International](http://www.bgci.org)

Left: BGCI logo © BGCI.

Short Note about Palm Oil (again)



Palm oil (from *Elaeis guineensis*) is one of the most controversial agricultural products. Its impact on the environment, however, depends on cultural practices and can range from truly sustainable to seriously negative.

On the one hand, there is traditional palm oil production, which relies on mono-cropping, clearing tropical rain forests, threatening biodiversity and releasing more CO₂ to the atmosphere (effect provoked by the change on land use from forest to farming), and which also has been accused of unfair labor practices and displacing local inhabitants or indigenous people.

Above: Fruits and oil from the oil palm. Photo © @slpu9945 on Pinterest.

On the other hand, because it is a perennial tree crop, it can protect the soil far better than annual crops, such as maize or soy bean, which under conventional practices require yearly soil preparation. Also, it is known that the oil palm is the highest yielding oil crop, needing about ten times less land surface to produce the same amount of oil compared with other oil-producing plants. The down-side is that in many cases this land use is in highly biodiverse areas, as the oil palm requires high soil moisture and lots of sun!

[What's Fueling the Demand for the Palm Oil Destroying the Rainforests of Indonesia? \(2013\)](#)

Short Note about Palm Oil (again)

No one crop is inherently good or bad, but its management can have a better or worse impact. It falls on consumers to demand that farmers and processing companies implement good social and environmental practices that allow better conditions for the environment, the workers and local people. And this statement is true not just for oil palm but for any agricultural product.

Read: [Is certification enough to protect Southeast Asia's forests?](#)

Given the criticisms of certification schemes, it is part of the consumer's homework to get to know what is behind the label and make well-informed purchasing decisions.



Above: Palm Oil Harvesters. [Photo](#) by Lucy McHugh/[CIFOR](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0).
Left: "Researcher extracting cooked palm oil with fabricated oil pumping machine in IITA Ibadan," Nigeria.
[Photo](#) by [IITA](#) (CC BY-NC 2.0).

[Is Palm Oil Healthier Than Coconut Oil? Is It Eco-Friendly? We Asked An Expert All Of Our Burning Questions.](#)

It needs to be kept in mind that many people depend on palm oil to make their living. Institutions such as the Center for International Forestry Research and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture make efforts through research and extension to bring palm oil production to a more sustainable level, assuring welfare improvements for local people. Read More: [Oil palm research for sustainable development and better livelihoods](#), CIFOR Website. See also the excellent article by Alain Rival and Patrice Levang in PALMS 59(1): 33-49. *The Oil Palm (Elaeis guineensis): Research challenges beyond controversies.*



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

IPS 2018 Biennial

THIS MONTH!

May 26 thru June 2

IPS 2018 Bienal

¡ESTE MES!

26 mayo al 2 junio

IPS 2018 Biennial

CE MOIS-CI!

26 Mai jusqu'à 2 Juin

IPS 2018 Bienal

ESTE MÊS!

26 de Maio a 2 de Junho



Sabinaria magnifica

Colombia

Armenia

Ladrilleros

Buenaventura

Cali

DOES YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER/PALM SOCIETY HAVE AN EVENT? Let us know by advertising it here! Or share your experiences afterwards! Contact us and send us pictures!

In addition to renewing your International Palm Society membership online this year, keep in mind that the IPS also offers merchandise online that can help you show off your membership, present your palm passion, and help spread the word about our community of palm enthusiasts!!



How do you get your own IPS items that include jewelry, shirts, caps, mugs, glasses, and many other practical items? Simply follow the “caps, t-shirt, totes, and more!” link from the IPS homepage [IPS Home](#), or go directly to this link: [IPS CafePress](#).

Remember to support our organization by participating with us! You can contribute by participating in our Palm Talk forum, our Facebook group, or by writing an article for either Palms journal or a note for IPS newsletter. You can also make an extra donation to the International Palm Society.



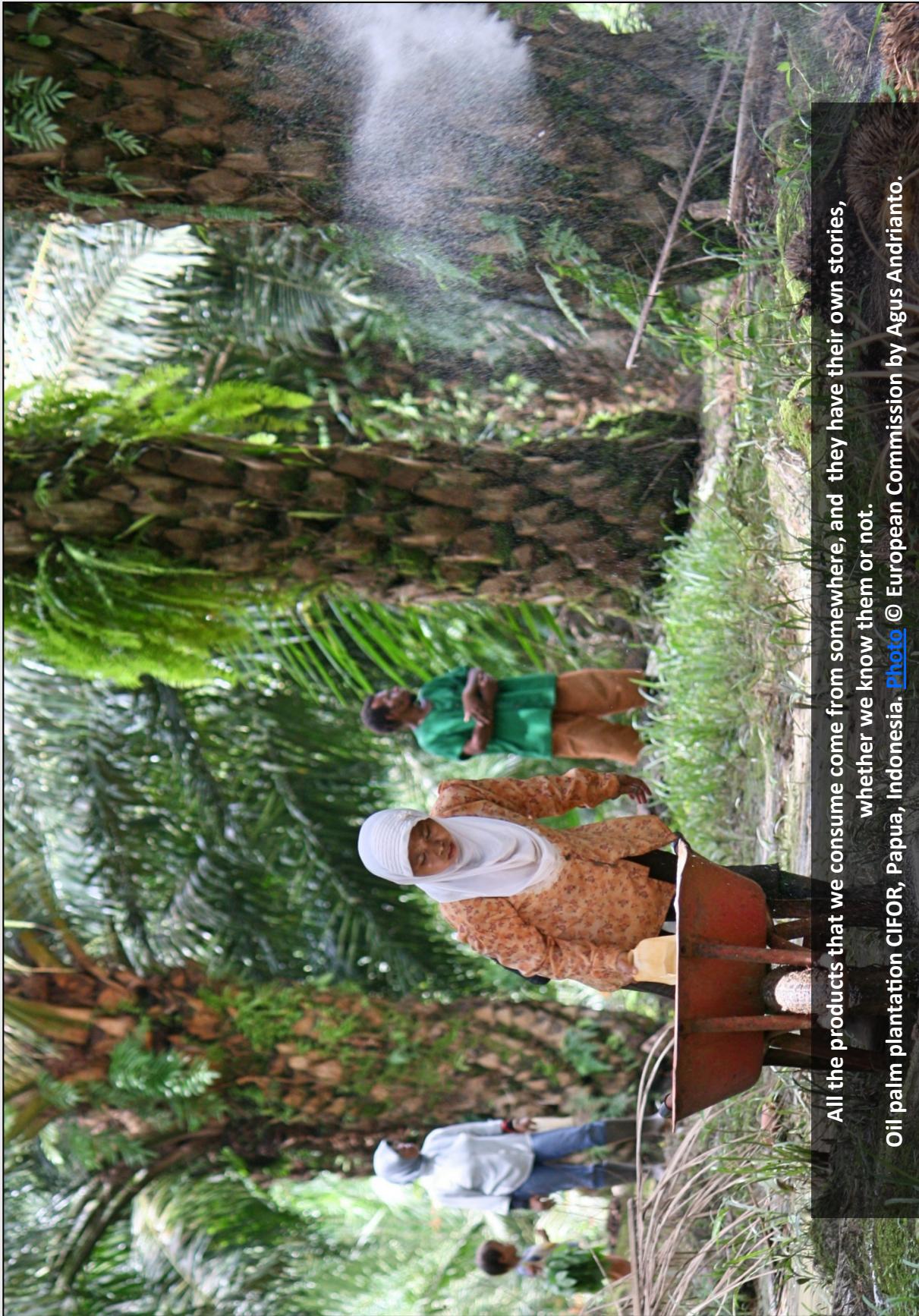
Let's keep this alive!

Visit the discussion board to ask questions about palms: www.palmtalk.org

Visit the new INTERACTIVE FaceBook Group: International Palm Society

Follow us on Twitter: @IPS_PalmSociety; on Instagram: @thepalmsociety; or

Email address for contact: info@palms.org



All the products that we consume come from somewhere, and they have their own stories, whether we know them or not.

Oil palm plantation CIFOR, Papua, Indonesia. [Photo](#) © European Commission by Agus Andrianto.