

Organization: - Botanic Gardens Conservation International US, Inc. - BGCI US

Project Location: East African region: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Web Address: www.bgci.org

Title of Grant: "East Africa Regional Project on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPS) – Supplemental Grant"

Grant Amount: \$35,000 supplemental grant

Principal Investigator: Stella Simiyu

Organization Background:

BGCI was founded in 1987 to link botanic gardens as a co-operating global network for effective plant conservation. The organization now unites over 700 members and other partners from 118 countries worldwide, all committed to saving the world's threatened plants. BGCI helps gardens connect with each other and these links generate positive change for individuals, gardens and local communities. Although BGCI was not alone in developing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, it is generally acknowledged that the drive and leadership provided by BGCI was fundamental in ensuring its ultimate adoption by 187 countries under the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2002. By adopting the GSPC, the world's governments are committed to "halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity."

Grant Description:

The Foundation supported BGCI in 2007 with a \$200,000 three-year grant to help key botanical institutions in East Africa move to shared cooperation in their approaches to informatics and away from a scenario where they had been working in an ad hoc manner, were developing biodiversity information management systems in an unplanned way, using incompatible formats and standards, with limited technical and human capacity, duplicating effort, lacking political support and not sharing data. As a result of the grant cooperative modalities and protocols have now been developed.

The Foundation approved this \$35,000 supplementary BGCI grant to complete project activities and help assure that the recent gains will be institutionalized by taking additional active steps to finish the medicinal plants conservation assessment, to communicate the project's achievements, and to hold a final steering committee meeting to bring closure on the work to date and to map plans for the future.