



## **Collecting, Handling and Long-Term Conservation of Seeds of Wild Plant Species**

Hosted by National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June 2022

The course will bring together plant conservation practitioners and botanists to Athens to participate in a workshop on collecting, handling and long-term conservation of seeds of wild plant species. The purpose of this course is to equip participants with the skills required to conserve seeds of wild plant species.

### **Approach**

The course will cover the main aspects of seed banking as a conservation tool with a focus on the Seed Conservation Standards agreed by the MSBP. It will combine theory sessions with practical field and laboratory sessions, to give you a chance to improve both your understanding and your practical skills.

### **Facilitators**

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew)

Ian Willey Millennium Seed Bank Country Project Officer

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Hanna Oldfield Training Coordinator

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Contact at University of Athens

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email [cthanos@biol.uoa.gr](mailto:cthanos@biol.uoa.gr)

### **Learning facilities**

The training course will take place at:

National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

School of Science

Faculty of Biology

Panepistimiopolis

15701 Athens – Greece

**Day 1  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Led by</b>	<b>Venue</b>
8:45 – 9:00	Registration, outstanding paperwork		Classroom
9:00 – 9:45	Welcome to the course/ Introduction to MSBP and seed conservation as conservation tool	Aisyah Faruk	Classroom
9:45 – 10:30	MSBP Seed Conservation Standards	Aisyah Faruk	Classroom
10:30 – 11:00	Tea break		
11:00 – 12:00	Seeds and Storage Behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Categories of storage behaviour</li> <li>• Screening for recalcitrant species</li> </ul>	Aisyah Faruk	Classroom
12:00-13:00	Lunch		
13:00 – 14:00	Seed development and maturity lecture and quiz	Hanna Oldfield	Classroom
14:00-15:00	Viability and longevity	Hanna Oldfield	Classroom
15:00-15:30	Tea break		
15:30-16:30	Viability monitoring – Theory	Ian Willey	Classroom
16:30-17:30	Viability monitoring – Practical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut test for seed quality &amp; oversow calculation</li> <li>• Chipping</li> <li>• Set up germination tests</li> </ul>	Frances Stanley	Lab



Day 2 Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June			
9:00-10:00	Planning and preparing a seed collecting trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal collecting</li> <li>• Team logistics</li> </ul>	Aisyah Faruk	Classroom
10:00-11:00	Seed collecting techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk assessments</li> </ul>	Ian Willey	classroom
11:00-11:30	Break		
11:30 – 12:00	Making quality collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing populations in the field</li> <li>• Seed quality assessment</li> </ul>	Hanna Oldfield	Classroom
12:00-13:00	Field data form & Pre-collection assessment	Ian Willey	Classroom
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 – 15:00	Sampling genetic diversity lecture and exercise	Ian Willey	Classroom
15:00-15:30	Break		
15:30-16:30	Seed Drying/Keeping Seeds Alive	Hanna Oldfield	Classroom
16:30 – 17:00	Preparation for the field day	Ian Willey	Classroom

Day 3 Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June			
8:00 - 9:00	Travel to field site		Field
9:00 - 11:00	<b>Practical:</b> Introduction to seed collecting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying target species</li> <li>• Pre-collection assessments</li> </ul>	Ian Willey	Field
11:00 - 11:15	Break		
11:15 - 12:45	<b>Practical:</b> Making quality collections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection techniques</li> <li>• Field data</li> <li>• Herbarium specimens</li> </ul>	Ian Willey	Field
12:45-14:45	Lunch and travel (order TBD)		
14:45 - 15:15	Post-harvest handling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ripening immature collections</li> <li>• Initial drying</li> <li>• Ambient conditions</li> </ul>	Hanna Oldfield	Classroom
15:15 – 15:45	Measuring seed moisture using hygrometers	Aisyah Faruk	Lab
15:45-16:15	Break		
16:15-17:00	Introduction to Seed Processing/Review of the field day	Frances Stanley	Classroom



Day 4 Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June			
9:00 - 11:00	Seed Processing techniques & quality assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (theory)</li><li>• Cleaning Practical</li></ul>	Frances Stanley	Lab
11:00 - 11:30	Tea break		
11:30 - 13:00	Quality assessments and counting of seeds	Frances Stanley	Lab
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 – 15:15	Viability monitoring practical: scoring	Frances Stanley	Lab
15:15 – 15:45	Tea break		
15:45 – 17:00	Germination lectures and activity	Ian Willey	Classroom
17:00-17:30	Follow up on seed collection made on field trip	Frances Stanley	Lab

Day 5 Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June			
9:00 - 10:10	Database management, data sharing and data warehouse	Hanna Oldfield	Classroom
10:00-11:00	Seed bank and collections management	Ian Willey	Classroom
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break		
11:30 – 12:00	Quiz	Hanna Oldfield	Classroom
12:00 – 13:30	Tour of the NKUA seed bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	Costas Thanos	
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch		
14:30 – 16:00	Open Q&A session on course, feedback forms	all	
16:00 – 16:30	Tea break and evaluations		
16:30 – 17:00	Closing words and photo <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of certificates?</li></ul>		

**Facilitators:**

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