

Seed Conservation Techniques International (SCTi) (16-20/6/2025)

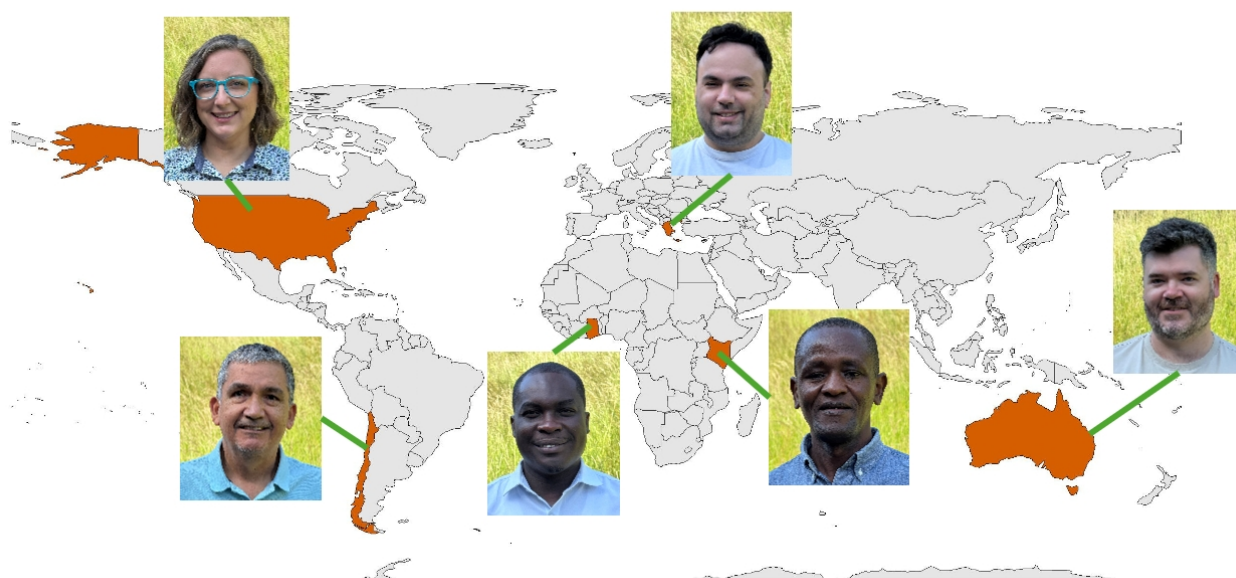
With the rampaging biodiversity loss and the necessity of coordinated plant conservation across the globe the increasing demand of high quality and standardised seed conservation training led the members of the Millennium Seed Bank (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew) to the idea of creating a group of certified trainers of global presence, with the goal of increasing the reach and accessibility for seed conservation practitioners.

On June 16, 2025, Dr. Spyridon Oikonomidis from the NKUA Seed Bank visited the Kew's Millennium Seed Bank after being selected to participate in the '**Train the Trainer Workshop**' which sought to form the first cohort of certified trainers to work with the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP). During this intensive three-day workshop, under the guidance of MSB staff (Charlotte Lawrence, Hanna Oldfield and Michael Way), Dr. Oikonomidis, along with five other participants from five continents, engaged in hands-on training, observations, and meaningful discussions. The workshop focused on the effective delivery of high-quality Seed Conservation training aligned with MSBP standards.

Starting this year (2025), the newly certified trainers:

- Amponsah James (CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, Ghana)
- Emery Nathan (Botanic Gardens of Sydney, Australia)
- Engelhardt Meg (Missouri Botanical Garden, United States)
- León Pedro (Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, Chile)
- Oikonomidis Spyridon (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Seed Bank, Greece)
- Otieno Victor (Centre for Ecosystem Restoration, Kenya)

will organise (in collaboration with the MSBP team), and deliver training workshops on Seed Conservation for groups and individual practitioners of seed banking worldwide.



The 6 members of the founding cohort of the MSBP Trainer Certification Scheme. From top left (clockwise): 1) Engelhardt Meg, 2) Oikonomidis Spyridon, 3) Emery Nathan, 4) Otieno Victor, 5) Amponsah James and 6) León Pedro. (Photo Credits: Maggie Gowan & Map Created by: Alice Hudson, Kew)

This is to certify that

Spyridon Oikonomidis

is a Certified Trainer for the

MSBP Trainer Certification Scheme

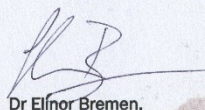
and has special permission to use MSBP training materials to
deliver training courses in seed conservation techniques with

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

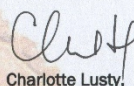
Workshop organised by the MSBP Team,

Collections Department,

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Wakehurst.



Dr Elnor Bremen,
Head of Millennium Seed Bank Partnership



Charlotte Lusty,
Head of Seed Collections

Valid for 2 years from: July 2025