

## ***International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN)***

*An exchange system for botanic gardens for non-commercial purposes according to the CBD*

*Botanic gardens have a long standing tradition in botanical and horticultural teaching and research. Today, they also play an important role in environmental education, as well as in ex-situ and in-situ conservation. Through this work, they contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Thus, the access and benefit-sharing regulations of the CBD (§ 15) are of special importance for botanic gardens.*

*In this context much work has been done by botanic gardens towards the development of a model for voluntary implementation of the CBD's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions. Initiated by pilot projects at Bonn Botanic Gardens on behalf of the German Association of Botanic Gardens (VBG. e.V.) an "International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN)" was developed and adopted by the BGCI/IABG-Consortium of Botanic Gardens in the EU. The Consortium sticks up for the implementation of the IPEN.*

*The base of the IPEN is the registration of botanic gardens declaring their adoption of a common policy (Code of Conduct) which is in compliance with the obligations of the CBD. This registration is limited to botanic gardens only.*

*The IPEN covers :*

- transfer of living plant material from countries of origin to botanic gardens*
- plant exchange between registered botanic gardens*
- supply of plant material to not registered gardens and other institutions*
- sharing of benefits arising from non-commercial use (e.g. basic research).*

*Exchange and supply within the IPEN is only applicable for non-commercial purposes. For commercial purposes, individual agreements between the countries of origin and the users are obligatory.*

*By creating a system that is transparent to countries providing plant material, and by the inclusion of regulations for sharing benefits with these countries of origin, it is hoped that the IPEN will create confidence in the work of botanic gardens worldwide and thus facilitate their access to genetic resources. At the same time it is intended to minimize bureaucracy for plant exchange between botanic gardens within the scope of their traditional seed exchange.*

*Texte tiré du "Code de conduite IPEN"*

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[www.botgart.uni-bonn.de/ipen/conduct.pdf](http://www.botgart.uni-bonn.de/ipen/conduct.pdf)