**APCC11 session themes**

**1. *Assisted colonisation as a practical tool for climate change mitigation***One of the relatively new tools in the conservation toolbox is assisted colonisation—broadly defined by the IUCN as the movement of an organism outside of its native range to avoid extinction of populations due to current or future threats. The question of whether assisted colonisation should even be considered as an option has spawned a lively debate but the reality is that assisted colonisation is already being used, and is gaining in acceptance as a tool. This theme will explore examples of assisted colonisation, and consider the pitfalls and successes of the method.

***2. Conservation for people and nature: how do we maximise the benefits for both?***Conservation has always been about how people view, value and use nature. There is concern amongst conservationists that people are taking fewer opportunities to experience and connect with nature, despite its obvious benefits. It is likely that conservation projects work best when they involve nearby communities, and people benefit as much as the species that share the local environment. But how can this be done? In this theme, we will explore examples where people, and nature, benefit when conservation works are targeted with both in mind.

***3. Rethinking landscape restoration: seed production, provenance, conservation planning***An increased understanding of the future impacts of climate change has changed the way many think about ecological restoration. It brings into question the utility of historical benchmarks as restoration targets, the species or seed sources to be used, and the time frame for planning. Because the scale of restoration needed to recover landscapes is so large, it also highlights that innovative approaches to producing seed (outside of wild populations) will be imperative. This theme aims to explore new perspectives on seed production, provenance and restoration planning with a view to the long-term and questions such as: what are we restoring?

***4. Holistic conservation: the role of mutualisms in ensuring functional ecosystem recovery (eg. pollinators, soils).***A mutualism, in its broadest sense, is the way that two species exist in a relationship in which each benefits from the activity of the other. While the concept is not new, it’s not always been at the forefront when planning for functional landscape recovery. For example, re-introducing a plant species dependent on a pollinator mutualism to a landscape will be doomed if the pollinator is missing. The introduction of threatened orchids to sites where the species once occurred may fail if the soil biota it depends upon has also been lost. In this theme, we want to highlight examples of plant conservation works that look to recover a species with mutualisms in mind.

***5. Rescuing small populations from extinction***Genetic rescue is one of the tools gaining traction in the plant conservation field to save small populations from extinction. Genetic rescue is the process where small inbred populations receive genes from another population such that their overall genetic diversity increases. A suite of studies from the past decade highlights the value of genetic rescue but it has not been widely applied to conserve threatened populations. There are many reasons given for not attempting genetic rescue but in this theme, we want to highlight the ways in which genetic rescue can be applied. How would it be undertaken? On what species? Should we be worried, or emboldened?

***6. New challenges, emerging ideas***In this theme, we hope to identify the new challenges to plant conservation that have barely even been registered yet. The rise of pathogens might be one. We also want to highlight new ideas in plant conservation that deserve our consideration, but remain largely speculative or data poor. This theme is an exciting opportunity to showcase these ideas.