Poster

Threatened Plants Rescue Center: A living gene bank of plants at risk

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Introduction. The tropical rain forest on limestone formation at Cuc Phuong National Park (CPNP), North Vietnam, harbors more than 90 species considered at risk.

Objectives. To establish a living collection (gene bank) of endemic and other plants considered at risk found at CPNP in a "THREATENED PLANTS RESCUE CENTER."

Methods. Ground-breaking and site preparation in July 2003 was followed by preparation of nursery beds, field search, propagule collection, field data recording, site mapping, phenological observations and herbarium documentation. Saplings were transplanted and cuttings were taken for propagation in the nursery, then to TPRC.

Results. At present 23 species of plants at risk at CPNP had been planted and growing healthy: 25-50 live individuals per species are planted. Phenology of 12 species are completed; data entered in TPRC Database.

Conclusion. 8% of wild plant species are expected to disappear within next 25 years as deforestation continues. Conserving and using plant genetic diversity is vital to meeting the world's future development needs. TPRC represents an effort to conserve plants at risk at CPNP for the benefits of future generation. TPRC fulfills the scope and mission of CPNP.

Keywords: herbal medicine, Costa Rica, Traditional use

Selected References

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