

BOTANIC GARDENS

AND THEIR VALUABLE ROLE IN CONSERVING PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Botanic gardens and arboreta mobilize scientific, collaborative, and strategic approaches to conserve valuable **plant genetic resources (PGR)**—the wide range of wild and cultivated plants.

Botanic gardens maintain PGR in a variety of forms:



Living collections



Seed collections



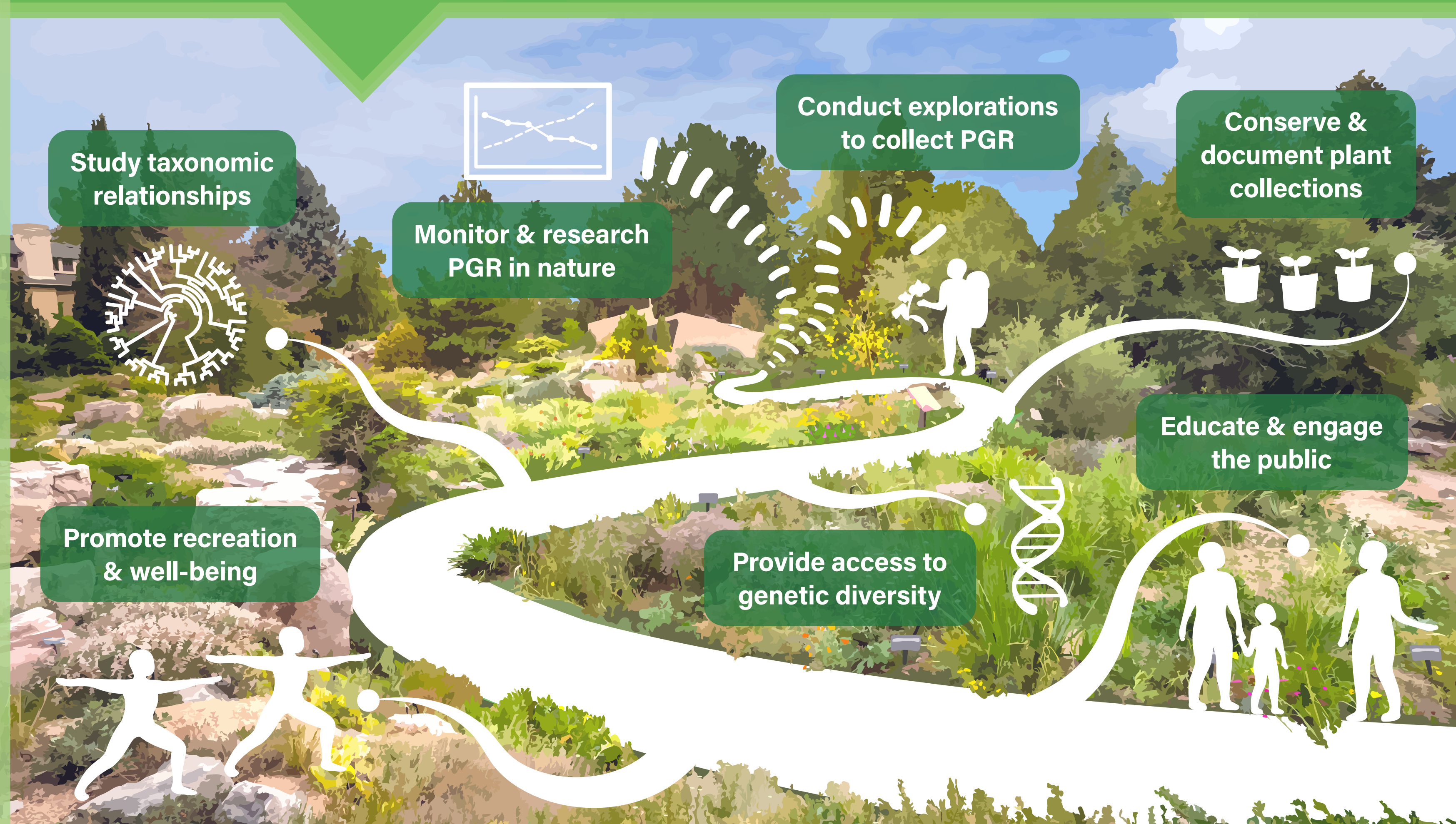
Plant records



Herbarium collections

Functions of botanic gardens

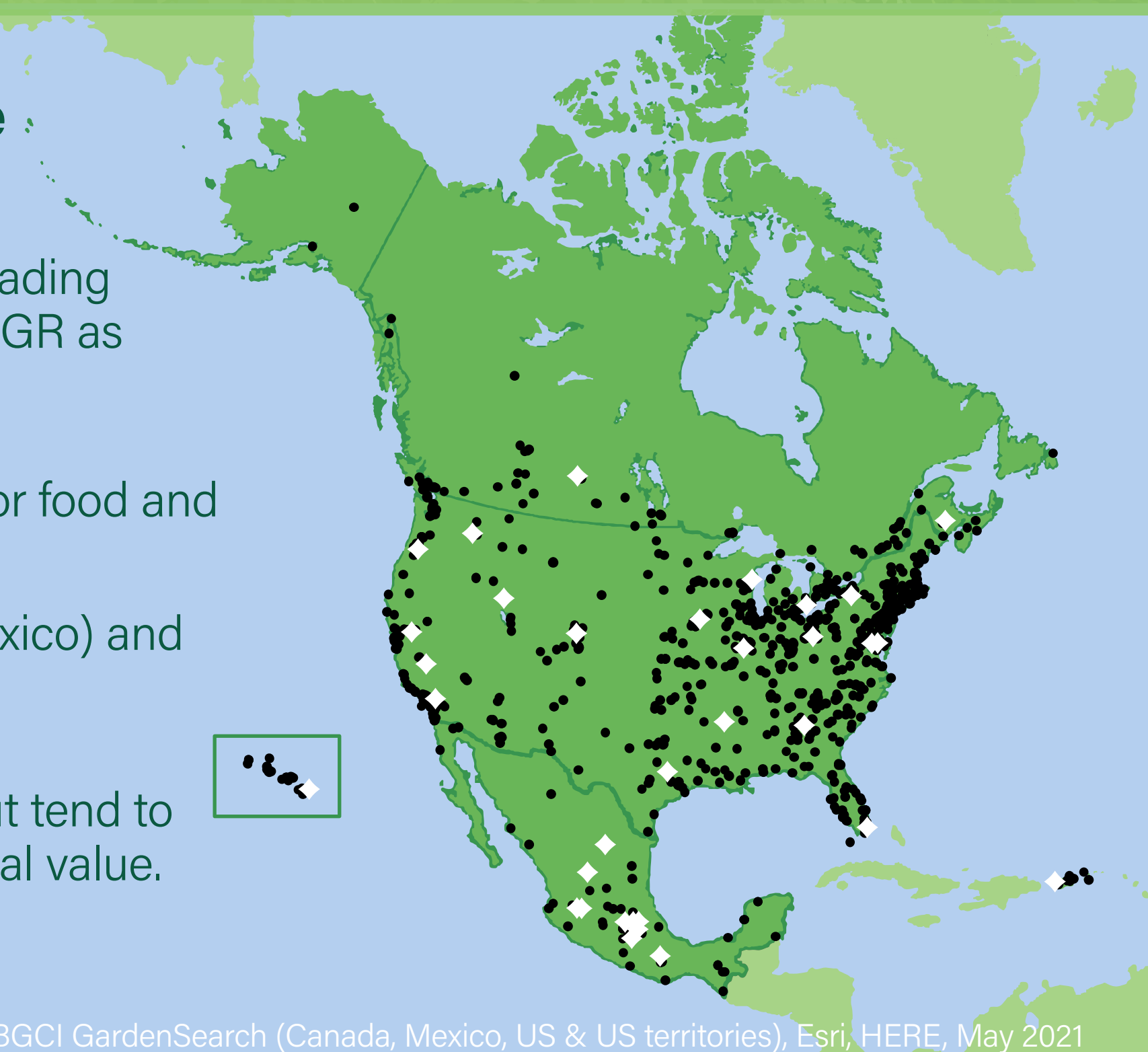
The role of botanic gardens continually evolves. Rapid decline of biodiversity has increased the need for action. Botanic gardens use diverse strategies to advance local and global conservation efforts.



Regional and global networks coordinate conservation efforts

Botanic gardens and agricultural genebanks are the leading **conservation repositories**—facilities that conserve PGR as collections.

- ◆ Agricultural genebanks typically preserve PGR for food and agriculture at locations suited to each crop. North America has **1** international (CIMMYT, Mexico) and **33** national genebanking facilities
- Botanic gardens vary in scope and resources, but tend to conserve diverse PGR with cultural and ecological value. North America has **>1,030** botanic gardens



BGCI GardenSearch (Canada, Mexico, US & US territories), Esri, HERE, May 2021

There are at least **3,038** botanic gardens worldwide

BGCI GardenSearch, May 2021

Botanic gardens collectively manage **>107,000** species in their living plant collections

this is equal to approximately **31%** of all vascular plants

State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2020

Botanic gardens attract an estimated **500 million** visitors each year

BGCI.org, May 2021

For additional resources on botanic gardens, visit bgci.org and publicgardens.org

Contacts: Sarada.Krishnan@croptrust.org or Tara.Moreau@ubc.ca

Design credit: Kathryn Chen

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

Partial funding by USDA-NIFA-Higher Education Challenge Grant Program (2020-70003-303930)

