

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

International Conifer Conservation Programme
(**ICCP**) based at the Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh (**RBGE**)

And

Beulah Arboretum



The
International
Conifer
Conservation
Programme



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”)

between

The **International Conifer Conservation Programme (“ICCP”)** based at the **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (“RBGE”)**. The programme uses a combination of taxonomy, conservation, genetics and horticultural research, coupled with capacity building, in order to promote conifer conservation globally.

and

Beulah Arboretum (**“Beulah”**) [short description of safe site]

ICCP and Beulah are together the “Parties” and singularly a “Party” of this MoU.

Purpose of MoU

This MoU is to record the Parties’ agreement to enter into a collaboration recognising Beulah as an **International Conifer Conservation Programme Safe Site (ICCPSS)**. It details the terms and conditions on, and subject to which, the parties must each adhere in order to **establish, support, develop, and maintain Beulah as an ICCPSS**.

1 The Parties

1.1 The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is a world-class scientific institution and a centre of excellence for plant conservation and education. Our overarching mission is to 'Explore, Conserve and Explain the World of Plants for a Better Future'. Our scientists, horticulturists and educators are working in over 35 countries around the world as part of an international network to protect species from extinction, address the loss of biodiversity, and enhance environmental sustainability.

1.2 The International Conifer Conservation Programme

About a third of the World's conifer species are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as being threatened. Established at RBGE in 1991, the ICCP aims to protect the World's threatened conifers. It works to raise the profile of conifers and conifer conservation globally.

The activities of the ICCP cover all aspects of conservation including basic inventory work in poorly known or remote areas; in-situ conservation through the establishment of new protected areas, restoration of degraded forests and depleted populations; sustainable utilisation of conifer species; ex-situ conservation; propagation, and basic taxonomic research.

ICCP Safe Sites

Since conifers are generally large, long-lived plants that may take decades to mature, a major part of the ex-situ conservation work undertaken by the ICCP is only possible through external partners becoming conifer custodians and growing plants as a designated "Safe Site" of the ICCP. Using material of **known wild origin**, the ICCP seeks to establish individual or small populations of trees on its safe sites, where their long-term future and scientific value can be secured and studied. Eventually, it is hoped that genetic material from these trees can be returned to their place of origin in order to help restore depleted populations there.

Given the inherent rarity and high conservation value of material distributed by the ICCP, it is in the interest of all parties to ensure that the trees are given the best possible care. ICCPSSs are therefore selected based on the following criteria:

- The site aspect, drainage, soils and climatic conditions provide suitable conditions for growing some species of conifer
- The site owner/management is interested in supporting global conifer conservation and agrees to provide the space and resources required to protect, manage and maintain these valuable trees from establishment to

- maturity, including meeting initial planting and protection costs, and being responsible for long-term care, regular weeding, etc.
- The site owner/management agrees not to seek to commercialise, collect or distribute to any other individuals, organisations, or locations, the seeds or any part of the tree(s), without RBGE's prior written permission, as this might otherwise contravene restrictions upon the material (see section 2.2 below) and additionally could pose a bio-security risk (see section 2.3 below)

RBGE recognises the importance of developing and maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship with Beulah, and commits to doing so, to ensure the successful establishment and survival of ICCP's trees on your site, to maximise their conservation, scientific and educational value.

1.3 The new ICCPSS - Beulah Arboretum

Beulah is a small arboretum of 4 hectares set in the heart of the Chilterns. It has over a thousand shrubs and trees of several hundred species. It may become home for the UK's National Collection of Cedars. I simply love trees and finding out more about them. I think it is important to do something to conserve trees as they are vital to the planet's well-being.

Beulah recognises the importance of developing and maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship with RBGE and the ICCP and commits to working with them to maximise the conservation, scientific and educational value of material shared by ICCP.

2 RBGE and the ICCP's commitments...

2.1 ...to you

RBGE will provide healthy, clearly-labelled conifer plants suitable for your site and either directly, or via experts from other partner organisations, will endeavour to provide all necessary information and, where appropriate, advice on the health and development needs of the species selected for your site to aid your ongoing maintenance and management of these valuable trees.

2.2 ...to international, European, UK and Scottish Law

RBGE is party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Nagoya Protocol (2014). These international agreements require that plant material supplied by RBGE is used for the common good, is not commercialised, and is not passed on to other third parties without written permission both from the country of origin and from RBGE. The Nagoya Protocol is in place to ensure, where a commercial value arises from a genetic resource collected from a country of origin, that country receives a fair and equitable share of the subsequent revenues. RBGE will support fully the completion of any Wildlife and

Natural Environment (WANE) licence application where, by necessity, as the landowner on which the species will be introduced, the site owner will need to be the WANE licence applicant.

2.3 ...to plant health and bio-security

Pests and diseases are a very real threat to plant and animal health around the world. It is essential we proactively mitigate opportunity, monitor presence, and manage pest and disease outbreaks to avoid the devastating consequences pests and diseases can have on the natural environment, and on the communities which depend on their existing native and non-native species. RBGE is a certified member of the Plant Healthy Certification Scheme, and is committed to improving plant biosecurity. The ICCP material passed to you has undergone regular inspections throughout its life to check for normal plant health and growth, and for the presence of known pathogens and pests. Furthermore, the ICCP will endeavour to keep you up to date with any known pest and disease developments likely to pose a threat to the ICCP plants under your care.

2.4 ...to Plant Passports

RBGE is subject to European Community (EC) rules and to related inspection by the Horticulture & Marketing Unit of Scottish Government's Rural Payment & Inspections Division (SGRPID). RBGE issues EC Plant Passports to accompany the ICCP plant material released to all recipients. Plant Passports are important records which help facilitate the authorised transfer of plant material. A SGRPID Plant Health Inspector may want to check the received material to understand its origin and plant health record; hence **RBGE recommends that you retain your Plant Passport document for at least 3 years from initial receipt of the ICCP plant material and records.**

3 Beulah Arboretum's commitments ...

3.1 to RBGE and the ICCP

Beulah will provide suitable space on site to plant these valuable trees and commit to care for them from initial planting and establishment through to maturity, for as long as is reasonably possible to do so. Beulah understands that the plants and labels are provided free of charge, but that replacement labels will be charged at cost and that it is the ICCPSS's responsibility to cover the costs of maintenance, including but not limited to initial planting, establishment, and protection costs as well as on-going weeding and long-term care. If desired by the ICCPSS, a custom recommended maintenance schedule can be devised to support horticultural staff at the ICCPSS, but this is above and beyond the normal scope of the programme and as such would incur a fee.

Beulah will never seek to commercialise, collect, or distribute the seeds or any part of the tree(s) to any other individuals, organisations, or locations, without

RBGE's prior written permission, which will not be unduly withheld where there is a clear non-commercial benefit to conservation or education.

Beulah will maintain up to date records of ICCP plants in their care, ensuring that plants are fully labelled and/or clearly mapped out so that each individual plant can be easily matched up to its original accession number as provided by RBGE at time of delivery.

Beulah will be mindful of plant theft, and as far as is reasonably possible, prevent unsolicited removal and distribution of ICCP material from the site.

3.2 to international, European, UK and Scottish Law

Beulah will abide by the intent and conditions set out in the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol and ensure that material provided by ICCP is not commercialised in any way or passed on to any third party without prior written consent of RBGE.

3.3 ...to plant health and bio-security

Beulah will enable access by ICCP staff and/or volunteers to check on the trees at pre-arranged times, or else provide the ICCP with yearly updates on the ICCP plants in their care, including checking overall tree health and size, and checking for damage and/or evidence of pests and diseases.

Beulah will be vigilant in looking out for problems with pests and diseases on their site and in the immediate area that are likely to threaten the ICCP trees in their care, and will notify the ICCP promptly of any issues so that a management plan may be jointly agreed.

4 Duration and agreement of this Memorandum of Understanding



The ICCP's long-term nature and intentions in growing this threatened and extremely valuable scientific material, means that there is no obvious expiry term for this MoU. Naturally, RBGE hopes that your interest and commitment to these valuable trees will remain in perpetuity, and that a positive relationship flourishes between both parties.

If circumstances change and, e.g., as owner, you wish to sell any portion(s) of land on which the trees under this MoU have been planted, it is your responsibility to notify the ICCP, in advance, and it would be appreciated if a copy of this agreement could be passed to the new owner so that they are aware of the value and long-term nature of this project, and also, wherever possible, that RBGE be notified of the new ownership details. Please see Section 5 below. If it is already known that the subsequent owner will not engage with the ICCP, or that at any time the plants are at risk of being removed, please give the ICCP as much notice as possible such that material may be recovered from the site or

propagated from so that the genetic diversity held in this ex-situ collection is not lost.

GDPR statement:

I understand that by signing this MOU, I accept that my personal data will be stored and processed under the terms of the RBGE Privacy Policy. These data will be used to contact me regarding RBGE/ICCP business but will not be shared with any other 3rd Party unless I specifically authorise this.

	On behalf of ICCP/RBGE	On behalf of Beulah Arboretum
NAME	Dr Hannah Wilson	Ron White
Signature		 Ron White (Apr 14, 2023 15:15 GMT+1)
Position	Head of ICCP	Owner Beulah
Date	13 th April 2023	14th April 2023

5 Useful contact details and sources of further information

5.1 ICCP point of contact

Hannah P Wilson (Head, International Conifer Conservation Programme)

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR, UK.

T: +44 (0) 131 248 2963

E: hwilson@rbge.org.uk

W: <http://www.rbge.org.uk/science/genetics-and-conservation/conifer-conservation>

W: <http://threatenedconifers.rbge.org.uk>

5.2 Beulah Arboretum point of contact

Name: Ron White

Postal Address: Eaglesfield, Montague Rd, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 3DZ
Eaglesfield, Montague Rd, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 3DZ

Telephone 01442863150

Email Address: ron.ann.white@btinternet.com






ICCP - Beulah MoU

Final Audit Report

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