

## **Challenges of botanic gardens for plant conservation with local community: case of Korea National Arboretum's Plant Governance Project**

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Plant conservation is an important task of the botanic garden. In particular, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of rare plants is an important mission of the botanic garden. There are 571 species of rare plants and 360 species of endemic plants in Korea. The Korea National Arboretum has a mission to conserve and restore rare and endemic plants in Korea. The procedure for conservation and restoration of rare plants entails a very complex and delicate process. In the early days of plant conservation, it was the level of planting through simple plant growth *in situ*, but more and more accurate information was collected on the restoration material, and post-monitoring and evaluation were conducted. Over many years of conservation projects, there were failures and successes. Through these experiences, we have learnt many lessons. One of them is to engage the local community for the conservation of plants. After this realisation, we knew that we needed solid cooperation with the local community for plant conservation. With this opportunity, the Korea National Arboretum launched the "Plant Governance Project". This project connects the arboretum and local government through plants, and pertains to matters concerning the exchange and support of plant resources along with plant conservation, restoration, and joint research.