Botanic gardens manage at least one-third of the world's flowering plants in their living collections and seed banks, representing a very significant potential resource for ecological restoration. Currently around 400 botanic gardens have seed banks. In the US, botanic gardens are actively engaged in the National Seed Strategy and are contributing to capacity building and development of seed banking in other parts of the world. Global initiatives, coordinated by Botanic Gardens Conservation International, are underway to increase the seed banking role of botanic gardens and to coordinate and scale up ecological restoration. These initiatives will be discussed with case studies from Europe, Africa and China demonstrating how botanic gardens are providing expertise and plant materials for restoration at different geographical scales.
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