

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

Royal Nepal Academy of Science & Technology, Nepal

The University of Tokyo, Japan

The Natural History Museum (London), U.K.

and

Royal Botanic Garden (Edinburgh), U.K.

for

Flora of Nepal Project

Flora of Nepal is a collaborative project led by the following institutions: Royal Nepal Academy of Science & Technology (RONAST), The University of Tokyo (TI), The Natural History Museum, London (BM), and Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (E).

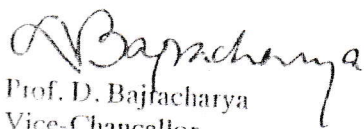
The main objective of the project is the production of a comprehensive flora of all the vascular plants (angiosperms, gymnosperms, and ferns, fern allies) of Nepal in co-operation with botanists from many institutions around the world. The purpose for doing this is to share and make readily available important information regarding plants of Nepal, including floristic, biogeographic and bibliographic data, to the benefit of all those concerned with the identity, properties and conservation status of Nepalese plants. The results of this collaboration will be made available in both hard copy and electronic format publications. The BM will provide the organizational headquarters for the project.

The collaborators agree to co-operate under the following framework until the publication of all the volumes of the Flora is complete or until the four institutions decide to revise this agreement.

1. The four collaborating partners share equal responsibility for decision making concerning the organization, operation and publication of the flora.
2. Each collaborator will provide one editor of the Flora. The editors will be responsible for project management under the supervision of the Co-chairmen. The editors will be responsible for agreeing all the credits, including the associated editors and authors of particular treatments.
3. There will be an advisory board appointed by the four collaborating institutions and comprising their own representatives together with a small number of experienced scientists with expertise relevant to the completion of the Flora. The role of the advisory board will be to offer support and guidance to the editors in completing the Flora. Four co-chairmen, one each from E, TI, RONAST and BM will be nominated from among the advisory board to organise its activities.
4. Specific instructions concerning the content and format are included in the "Guide for Authors" and have closely followed the model of the Flora of China, following the recommendation of the Flora of Nepal Workshop held at Kathmandu in 1997. The editors may, after discussion, modify the guidelines at any time.

5. Publication of the Flora will be managed by BM and RONAST on behalf of the collaborating partners: the publication will be in English. The two publishing organisations will share the copyright.
6. On behalf of all partners, BM agrees to take primary responsibility for developing and maintaining the electronic version of 'Flora of Nepal' on the world wide web.
7. The credits to the collaborators and contributors will be the same in the electronic version and in the printed version.
8. Fieldwork, to enhance the collections available for particular regions or taxa, is seen as an essential component of the project and will be carried out by the collaborating institutions, together or separately, depending upon the resources available.

Signature of the representative institutions



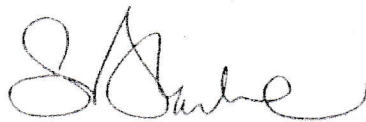
Prof. D. Bajracharya
Vice-Chancellor
Royal Nepal Academy of Science & Technology

Date: 13 July 1999



Dr. Neil Chalmers
Director
The Natural History Museum, London

Date: 9 July 1999



Prof. S. Blackmore
Regius Keeper (Designate)
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

Date: 9 July 1999



Prof. Akihiko Kawaguchi
Director
The University Museum, University of Tokyo

Date: 28 July 1999