

# National Tropical Botanical Garden

Impact Report 2020







*Dianella sandwicensis*

The Mission of the National Tropical Botanical Garden is to enrich life through discovery, scientific research, conservation, and education by perpetuating the survival of plants, ecosystems, and cultural knowledge of tropical regions.

NTBG is the only botanical garden chartered by the United States Congress. Established in 1964, the Garden is dedicated to the preservation and survival of tropical plants, emphasizing rare and endangered species. NTBG is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation. We are not operated or subsidized by the federal government, and we rely on the much-appreciated support of members and donors like you to fulfill our mission.



## Message from Gordon Deane & Janet Mayfield

For over half a century, the National Tropical Botanical Garden has collected, studied, and saved many of the world's most endangered plants. We share our achievements and success with you, NTBG's supporters, members, Fellows, and Trustees who have demonstrated unwavering commitment to the Garden's mission.

In recent years, NTBG has overcome daunting challenges, from economic uncertainty to record-breaking tropical storms. Nothing, however, could have prepared us for 2020.

As global health, environmental, and economic crises converge, NTBG's work is more important than ever. The loss of biodiversity and habitat, the climate crisis, and global pandemic are all stark reminders that if we do not take care of our planet, our planet cannot take care of us.

In spite of these challenges, 2020 was marked by achievements that would have been noteworthy even in a "normal" year. Lockdowns and travel restrictions forced us to modify how we work and where we work, but our staff, with your support, adapted to the uncertainty and continued the work of saving plants.

In 2020, NTBG discovered and rediscovered previously unknown rare and endangered plant populations. We completed a full assessment of all 255 single-island endemic plants for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Endangered Species, helped bolster local food security by supplying over 6.5 tons of food in our own communities, maintained and improved our living collections, infrastructure, and institutional assets, and stayed focused on our core mission.

All of this was accomplished because your generosity and steadfast support provided our staff the capacity to continue. With your commitment, the Garden has kept operations running with a new sense of agility and adaptability as we carry on with this vital work.

As NTBG's Chair and CEO and Director, we appreciate this opportunity to express our profound gratitude for your partnership and support as we invite you to take a moment to review and reflect on the impact NTBG is having around the world. Knowing all we have achieved in a year like 2020 fills us with determination and hope for the future.

Together there is so much more we can do.

Gordon Deane  
NTBG, Chair

Janet Mayfield  
Chief Executive Officer and Director



# 2020 by the Numbers

## 255

KAUA'I SINGLE-ISLAND ENDEMIC SPECIES (87% ENDANGERED OR CRITICALLY ENDANGERED) ADDED TO IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES

## 135

*EUPHORBIA ELEANORIAE* INDIVIDUALS DISCOVERED IN A SINGLE LOCATION USING AN NTBG-OPERATED DRONE, RAISING TOTAL KNOWN POPULATION TO 250

## 16 MILLION+

SEEDS AND SPORES REPRESENTING 808 SPECIES IN NTBG SEED BANK

## 12,978 LBS.

OF NTBG-GROWN BREADFRUIT AND OTHER CROPS HARVESTED AND DONATED TO FOOD BANKS AND 24,000 LBS. OF LOCAL COMMUNITY FARM PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED BY NTBG TO KAUA'I'S NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY

## 89,270

SPECIMENS HOUSED IN NTBG HERBARIUM; 226 NTBG-COLLECTED SPECIMENS ADDED; 133 SPECIMENS LOANED, EXCHANGED, OR GIFTED TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS

## 100+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS, STUDENTS, BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS TOOK PART IN A CLIMATE CRISIS FORUM ON KAUA'I IN FEBRUARY

## 20

PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED OR CO-AUTHORED BY NTBG STAFF IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

## 800+

STUDENTS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND NTBG EDUCATION PROGRAMS STUDIED AT THE GARDEN

## 2,700 FEET

OF INVASIVE PLANTS REMOVED IN FRONT OF P'I LANIHALE HEIAU AND 1,500 HIGHLY INVASIVE AFRICAN TULIP TREES REMOVED FROM KAHANU PRESERVE'S COASTAL PANDANUS FOREST

## 9 SPECIES

OF RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANT POPULATIONS WERE DISCOVERED, MAPPED, AND DOCUMENTED USING FIELDWORK AND DRONES

## 10,905 HOURS OF SERVICE BY 294 INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

## 40%

OF ALL TAGGED LIVING COLLECTIONS NOW ASSIGNED MAPPABLE GPS POINTS

## 29,440+

VISITORS WELCOMED TO NTBG'S FIVE GARDENS

"We are helping to give the ecosystems that sustain us the resilient foundation needed in a changing world."

— Limahuli Garden and Preserve Conservation Operations Manager Dr. Uma Nagendra

**RESILIENT**  
*in the face of change.*



## Adapt. Improve. Overcome.

**Science and Conservation** – Published two-volume Flora of the Marquesas (86 new species, a 25% increase of native flora); continued assessing the Flora of Samoa; assessed all 255 Kaua'i single-island endemic vascular plants for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; discovered/rediscovered rare plant populations for nine species; completed a seed bank audit; increased herbarium specimens to nearly 90,000; developed new herbarium strategy; conducted a collaborative coastal plant salinity tolerance project; initiated an endangered endemic trees of Kaua'i restoration project; continued progress on construction of the International Center for Tropical Botany (ICTB) and welcomed students to a new food forest there; hosted interns and students to a virtual international biodiversity monitoring course. <https://ntbg.org/science/>

**Living Collections and Horticulture** – Built capacity in native fern lab and propagated rare endemic ferns including *Doryopteris angelica*; hired a new nursery manager; worked with cultural practitioners using native Hawaiian plants; increased collection of extant Polynesian introduced Canoe Plants including kalo (taro) and 'uala (sweet potato); continued biocultural conservation and landscape-scale habitat restoration work at Mt. Hā'upu summit, Makaha Valley, and Limahuli Preserve; conducted outplanting and restoration in dry and mesic forests; provided opportunities for students and interns; incorporated Hawaiian cultural values through chants, protocols, and festivals; tagged, mapped, and monitored rare native plants. <https://ntbg.org/science/collections/living-collections/>

**Breadfruit Institute** – Marked the Regenerative Organic Breadfruit Agroforestry (ROBA) demonstration project's fourth year; pursued recruitment of a new senior scientist position; welcomed launch of breadfruit cracker product—a collaboration with Patagonia Provisions; hosted work-study with local high school students; collaborated with global partners; strategically diversified ROBA crop plantings; produced breadfruit preparation brochure; grew and donated produce to help the local Kaua'i community; promoted the conservation, study, and use of breadfruit in media through interviews and articles; and increased online and social media presence. <https://ntbg.org/breadfruit/>

**Education** – Presented outdoor public science talks and demonstrations; Hosted in-person public climate crisis forum on Kaua'i; produced climate crises video series; welcomed students and volunteers in all gardens, developed interactive 3D smart phone app “bringing the garden” to app users everywhere; inspired and mentored KUPU members and interns; offered plant conservation and seedbank outreach at public schools; organized two weeks of socially distanced outdoor kid's camps; offered a virtual Hawaiian native plant lesson by Zoom for local members; collaborated with Kaua'i Community College to produce “Sprout Learning” educational plant-themed videos for kids. <https://ntbg.org/education/>



“When the Breadfruit Institute launched the Regenerative Organic Breadfruit Agroforest (ROBA) demonstration four years ago, we wanted to show how traditional food forests can improve food security and resiliency to extreme weather and economic uncertainty. We had no idea that our project would soon be put to the test. In 2020, our community saw a marked increase in food insecurity due to economic hardship caused by the pandemic. The ROBA's prolific output allowed NTBG to provide an abundant array of fresh produce to the community. During 2020, we harvested almost 13,000 pounds of breadfruit and other food crops which we donated to local food banks. The Breadfruit Institute's ROBA demonstrates how even small agroforests can have a large impact on achieving food security.”

— Noel Dickinson, Research Technician and Agroforestry Project Manager



## 2020 Garden Impact Highlights

### McBryde Garden and Allerton Garden (South Shore of Kaua'i)

Focused on private specialty, individual, and small group tours; expanded public outreach with outdoor science talks and yoga at the Visitors Center; launched online store; resurfaced roads and pathways; repaired and improved irrigation, weed control, and groundcover; refreshed plantings; offered online members events; increased tour offerings to include the garden around South Shore Visitors Center; used CARES Act PPP funding to hire temporary grounds staff and improved staff training. <https://ntbg.org/gardens/mcbryde/>

### Limahuli Garden and Preserve (North Shore of Kaua'i)

Welcomed a new garden director; continued predator and weed control, removed invasive plants in the Upper Limahuli Preserve; monitored the Limahuli Stream for native snails and native seabirds in the upper preserve; rethatched Hawaiian hale (house) roof; improved hardscape in parking area and made Visitors Center improvements; added new window for outdoor tour check-in; distributed produce boxes to the local community; welcomed small school groups; collected Critically Endangered palms; cleared riparian area for native stream fish restoration project; expanded into new planting zones in Limahuli Preserve; developed and expanded kalo (taro) collection and plantings. <https://ntbg.org/gardens/limahuli/>

### Kahanu Garden and Preserve (East Maui)

Completed construction of a new 14,900 gallon water catchment storage tank, doubling water storage capacity; increased mulching efforts for breadfruit collection; finished Pi'ilanihale Heiau vista improvements; safeguarded artifacts in new storage case with inventory taken for over 240 cultural items; planted new native garden by Kahanu Garden office; collaborated with neighboring Mahele Farms through heritage plant exchanges and education projects. <https://ntbg.org/gardens/kahanu/>

### The Kampong (Miami)

Offered Fairchild Laboratory guided tours; participated in aerial landscaping program; produced a new self-guided tour booklet to enhance the visitor experience; created rare orchid cultivation module with University of Miami; focused on grounds maintenance projects and new plant installations; and offered the International Network for Sustainable Ecosystems Services of a Tropical Biodiversity Hotspot Under Global Change workshop. <https://ntbg.org/gardens/kampong/>



“Once you get a taste of the Garden, you just can’t get enough because you realize how important it is for the world.”

— NTBG Member Marsha Nager





“Five years ago, NTBG started using quadcopter drones to search for rare plant populations in the most difficult, inaccessible parts of the island. In our first year, we located nearly a dozen previously unknown plant populations, and those numbers have grown every year since. We have devised new ways of searching for endangered species that combine the latest technology with spotting scopes and traditional access by rappelling. Working with partners across the state and around the world, we’re gaining new insights into endangered plant distribution and abundance. Last year we embarked on a new partnership with Canadian researchers that may allow us to remotely collect plant material, which would otherwise be out of reach. In 2020, we discovered new populations representing at least nine rare species that will help stem the tide of extinction.”

— Ben Nyberg, GIS and Drone Program Coordinator

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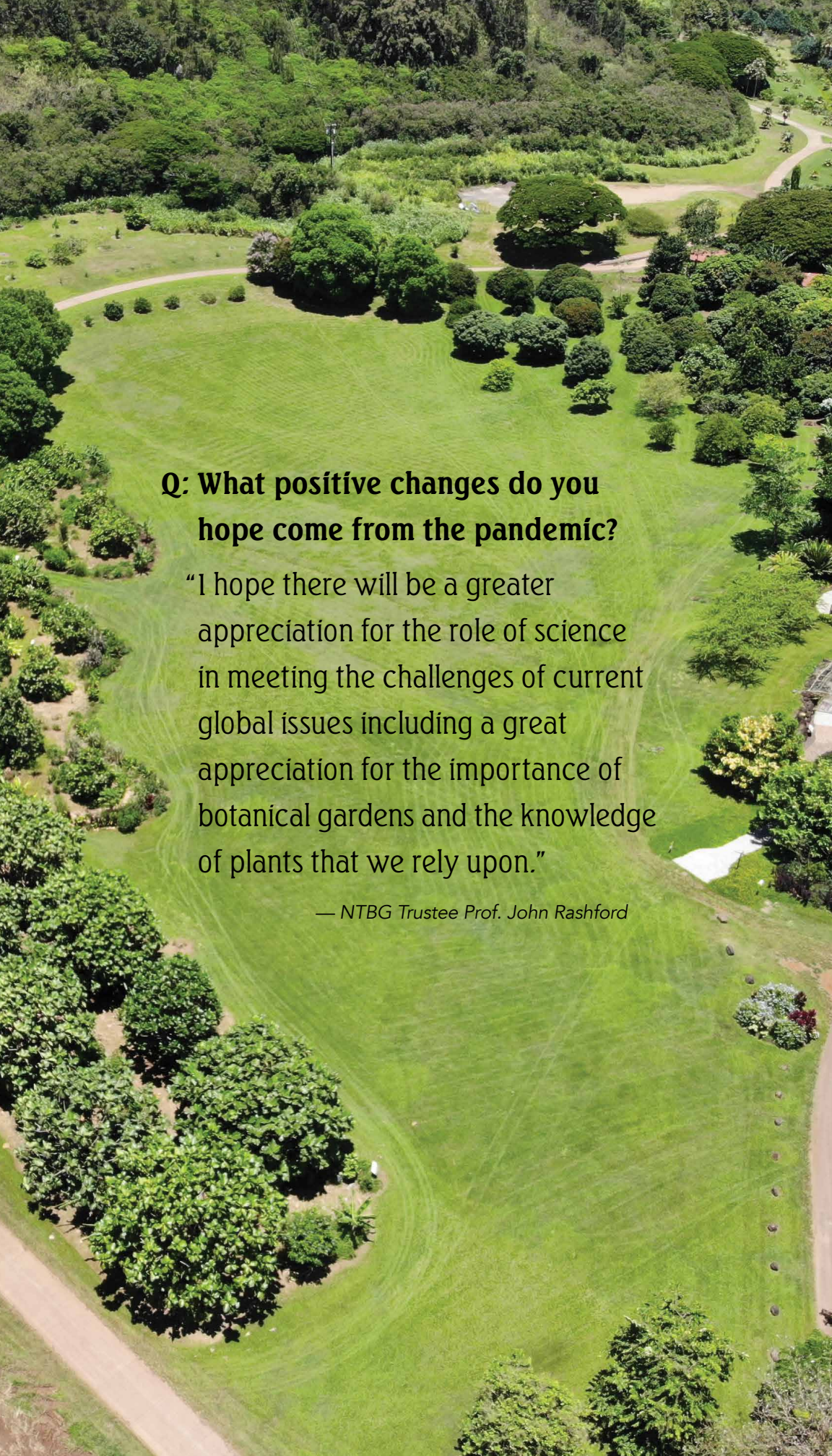
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*Psychotria maritima*





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## Q: What positive changes do you hope come from the pandemic?

“I hope there will be a greater appreciation for the role of science in meeting the challenges of current global issues including a great appreciation for the importance of botanical gardens and the knowledge of plants that we rely upon.”

— NTBG Trustee Prof. John Rashford

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 M.A. Rikard Charitable Fund  
 Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation  
 MFW Topham Fund at Schwab Charitable  
 National Science Foundation  
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
 Paige Searle and John May Charitable  
 Gift Fund  
 Pamela Steele White Foundation  
 Raven Foundation  
 Relgalf Charitable Foundation  
 Sorenson Family Fund  
 The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.  
 The Charles Engelhard Foundation



Lena and Ronald Goldberg  
 Karen and Richard M. Goodale  
 Sheila and Mike Goodwin  
 James Guerber  
 Sarah Fairchild and Adam Hait  
 Beryl and Rex Hamilton  
 Elizabeth and Scott M. Haskins  
 Lauren and Justin Havlick  
 Tracy Hayward  
 Diane B. Heller



The Miami Foundation  
The Mohamed bin Zayed Species  
Conservation Fund  
The Nelson Mead Fund  
The Robert & Bethany Millard Charitable  
Foundation  
Thomas D. Hewitt Family Trust  
William C. Nutting Family Fund

### \$1,000-\$4,999

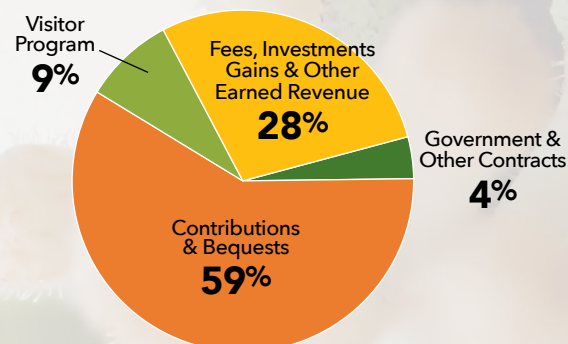
Alan and Monica King Fund  
Alexander Dawson School  
Arquitectonica International Corporation  
Botanic Gardens Conservation  
International  
Catherine S. Rodriguez Family Foundation  
Center for Plant Conservation  
Cobb Family Foundation, Inc.  
D.D.M. Horticultural Services, Inc.  
Fantastic Gardens Hawai'i  
Goodwin Family Charitable Fund  
Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort & Spa  
Hana Community Endowment Fund  
Havlick Family Fund  
Holliday Family Foundation  
Indian River Community Foundation

Jhamandas Watumull Fund  
Jim Guerber Revocable Trust  
Ka'iwa Construction Inc.  
Milton & Henrietta Kushkin Fund  
Morphic Science  
Na Hoalo Ekalu Community Fund of  
Hawai'i Community Fdn.  
Northern TR Charitable Giving Program at  
The Chicago Community Fdn.  
Qualcomm Charitable Foundation  
Seattle Foundation  
The Breakers Hotel  
The Copriviza Family Charitable Fund  
The Dayton Foundation  
The John & Ann Steinbrunner Charitable  
Gift Account  
The Laura Emerson Chandler Fund  
The Red List Project  
The Richardson Family Charitable Fund  
The Stephen Mead Charitable Fund  
The Thomas R. Parker Charitable Fund  
UBS International, Inc.  
Weist Charitable Fund  
William S. and Janice R. Anderson  
Foundation  
Wiseheart Foundation, Inc.

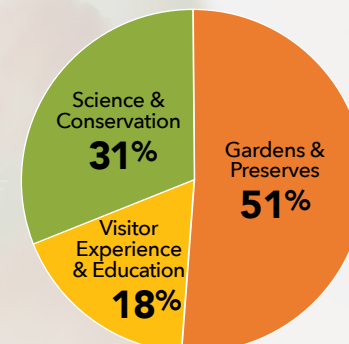
# Financials

Un-audited December 31, 2020

## Revenues & Support



## Expenses



2020

### ASSETS

\$ in 1,000s

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,645
Other current Assets	1,524
Fixed Assets	35,301
Assets held for preservation	10,780
Assets held for investment	25,016

### TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 75,266

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### LIABILITIES:

Current Liabilities	\$ 721
Long-term liabilities	814

#### NET ASSETS:

Without donor restrictions:	
Unrestricted	33,112
Designated by the board	1,312
With donor restrictions	39,224

### TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

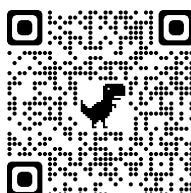
\$ 75,183

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR

\$ 2,537

NTBG is the only botanical garden chartered by the United States Congress. Established in 1964, the Garden is dedicated to the preservation and survival of tropical plants, emphasizing rare and endangered species. NTBG is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation. We are not operated or subsidized by the federal government, and we rely on the much-appreciated support of members and donors like you to fulfill our mission.

[www.facebook.com/saveplants](https://www.facebook.com/saveplants)  
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[instagram.com/ntbg](https://www.instagram.com/ntbg)  
[www.youtube.com/ntbgsaveplants](https://www.youtube.com/ntbgsaveplants)





“One never knows what a plant, animal,  
or insect holds for the future. There’s no  
telling what information can be garnered.”

— NTBG Fellow Patti Amstutz



**National Tropical Botanical Garden**

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Tel. (808) 332-7324 | [www.ntbg.org](http://www.ntbg.org)