



Vendredi 14 février à 11h

Amphi Langevin - Mont-Saint-Aignan

Seed Conservation and Research at the Millennium Seed Bank

Rosemary Newton and Peter Toorop
The Royal Botanic Gardens

Responsables scientifiques :

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The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, has a rich history and heritage influenced by Royalty and consists of historic buildings, gardens, glasshouses, the Herbarium, Jodrell Laboratory and Millennium Seed Bank spread over two sites at Richmond in London and Wakehurst Place in West Sussex. Under the current climate of biodiversity loss and threat of extinction due to direct or indirect anthropogenic pressures, plant science research and conservation are vital activities of Kew, and are the main focus of the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst, the largest seed bank for wild plant species in the world. The basic principles important for the collection and maintenance of high quality seed collections that underpin *ex-situ* conservation efforts will be explained. Achievements and future goals of the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership will be discussed, with emphasis on enabling use of collections. Challenges related to seed conservation and examples of how research within the Seed Conservation Department has contributed to solving these technical difficulties or develop a fundamental understanding will be given, with emphasis on case studies of individual plant species.

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