



ROYAL
BOTANIC
GARDEN
EDINBURGH

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR PLANT BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY AND CONSERVATION IN NEPAL

- A DARWIN INITIATIVE PROJECT -

Call for applications for participants on a training programme for plant collection, identification, conservation assessment and herbarium management

Royal Nepal Academy of Science & Technology (RONAST) and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, UK (RBGE), in collaboration with Tribhuvan University (CDB TU) and HMG Department of Plant Resources (DPR, MFSC), are running a project on 'Building Capacity for Plant Biodiversity Inventory and Conservation in Nepal'. The main objective of the project, sponsored by UK Government's Darwin Initiative, is to strengthen the herbaria of Nepal (KATH, TUCH) and generate taxonomic expertise and skills within Nepal to undertake biodiversity assessments and contribute towards the comprehensive Flora of Nepal.

During the 3-year project, three 2-week training workshops will be held in Kathmandu, complementary with fieldwork training in Nepal and study visits to the UK. Nepali botanists will receive training in modern techniques of data recording and databases, plant collections and identification, herbarium management and conservation status assessment. The first training workshop will be held from March 18-22, 2004 and March 29 - April 2, 2004 in Kathmandu. Schedules of other workshops and events are included on the project website.

18 Nepali botanists will comprise the Darwin Scholars to be trained during project. The DPR and TU will each nominate five candidates, whereas RONAST will nominate two candidates. These candidates will be selected from the permanent employees of the respective institutions on the basis of internal competition. The remaining six places will be filled on the basis of open competition (these candidates need not necessarily be permanent job holders). Applicants from DPR, TU and RONAST interested in participating in the workshops should apply directly to their respective institutions on or before **January 31, 2004**. Applicants for open competition should submit their applications to RONAST also on or before **January 31, 2004**.

Eligible applicants must have M. Sc. Botany or equivalent degree or relevant experience (preferably with specialization in plant taxonomy), commitment to plant diversity research in Nepal and general computing skills.

Pre-selection of candidates will be made by a selection committee constituted by RONAST, the final selection will be undertaken by Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Applicants should submit a completed Application Form (available from RONAST), a Curriculum Vita with bio-data, and letters of recommendation from up to two referees.

*For further information on the project, selection of Darwin Scholars,
Application Forms, etc. please contact:*

The Nepal Flora Project, RONAST; Khumaltar, G.P. O. Box: 3323, Kathmandu.

or visit the project website: <http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/nepal/darwin/>