



Our sustainable development vision is to deliver our mission – *‘Exploring and explaining the world of plants for a better future’* whilst recognising through our scientific studies that the earth is a closed system with environmental limits within which we must live.

### **Policy Statement**

RBGE will place sustainability principles at the heart of all its activities. Plants play a vital role in the economy of Scotland and the world. RBGE will therefore play a leading role as a botanical institution, training and enabling professionals to contribute to global economic wealth, now and for future generations. RBGE will encourage access for all to its four sites, providing havens of green space for health and community well-being.

### **Policy Objectives**

In the delivery of this vision and policy statement we have four policy objectives:

#### **Economic Objective**

- Actively conserve Scottish plants, thus maintaining the integrity of Scotland’s iconic landscapes and the species within them that underpin sustainable tourism in Scotland
- Promote our Gardens as sustainable tourism destinations in Scotland
- Provide the scientific information and training needed to manage economically important plants in a sustainable way, both nationally and internationally
- Support businesses that operate sustainably and source materials and resources locally where possible through our procurement policy
- Increase the economic contribution of RBGE to the local economy

#### **Social Objective**

- Establish all our Gateway visitor centres as platforms for a range of partners with shared responsibility for communicating their science for a sustainable society
- Disseminate to the public the scientific information they need to take a full part in active decision-making on sustainable development matters
- Ensure our facilities and the way that we run them wherever possible meet the needs of all
- Inspire and stimulate diverse audiences about the world of plants through our Gardens and events

#### **Environmental Objective**

- Minimise our environmental impacts on the planet
- Contribute locally, nationally and internationally to biodiversity conservation
- Contribute to climate change adaptation strategies through education and research

#### **Resources Objective**

- Minimise our consumption of natural resources through the delivery of our environmental management system
- Provide leadership and an example to our visitors on environmental good practice
- Promote ecologically sustainable design and construction in both refurbishment and new build projects

This policy resonates with three of the five Scottish Government Strategic Objectives to create a Scotland which is Smarter, Safer and Stronger, and Greener. The implementation of this policy contributes to the achievement of these objectives through the National Outcomes which support them. We will ensure that these policy objectives are delivered and that we continually improve our sustainability performance through a cycle of internal audit and review together with effective communication.

Signed:

**SIMON MILNE MBE**

Date: March 2014