



# VALUING NATURE

Sharing Stories, Sharing Collections: Valuing  
Biodiversity in Wales

Poppy Nicol, Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University.

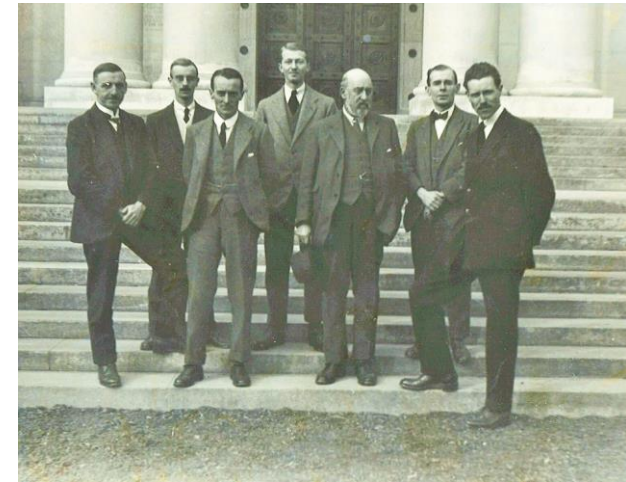
Heather Pardoe, Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Caerdydd/National Museum  
Cardiff, Amgueddfa-Cymru/National Museum Wales.



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# Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

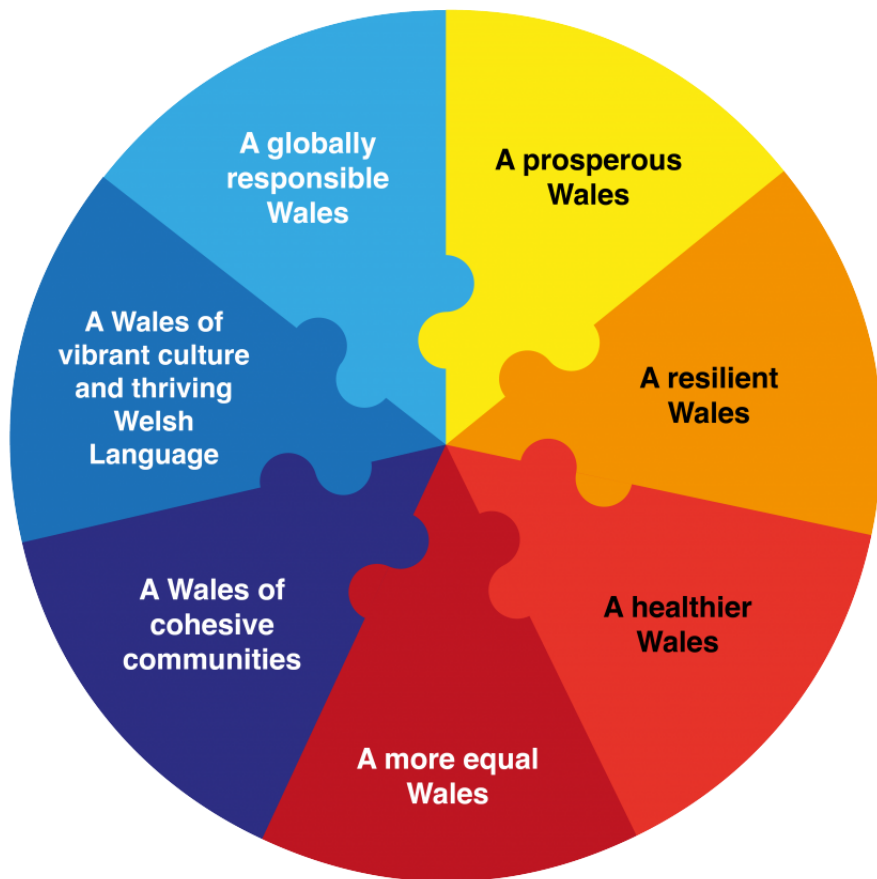


# The Economic Botany Collection at National Museum Cardiff

- Approximately 3,500 specimens of various items including seeds, medicinal plants, food products, fibres, resins and gums.
- AC/NMW hold the Materia Medica Collection acquired from Professor Terry Turner (former head of Cardiff University Department of Pharmacy).



# The Well-being Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015: 7 Goals



**A prosperous Wales:** An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

**A resilient Wales:** A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

**A healthier Wales:** A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

**A more equal Wales:** A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

**A Wales of cohesive communities:** Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

**A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:** A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

**A globally responsible Wales:** A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Source: Welsh Government 2015

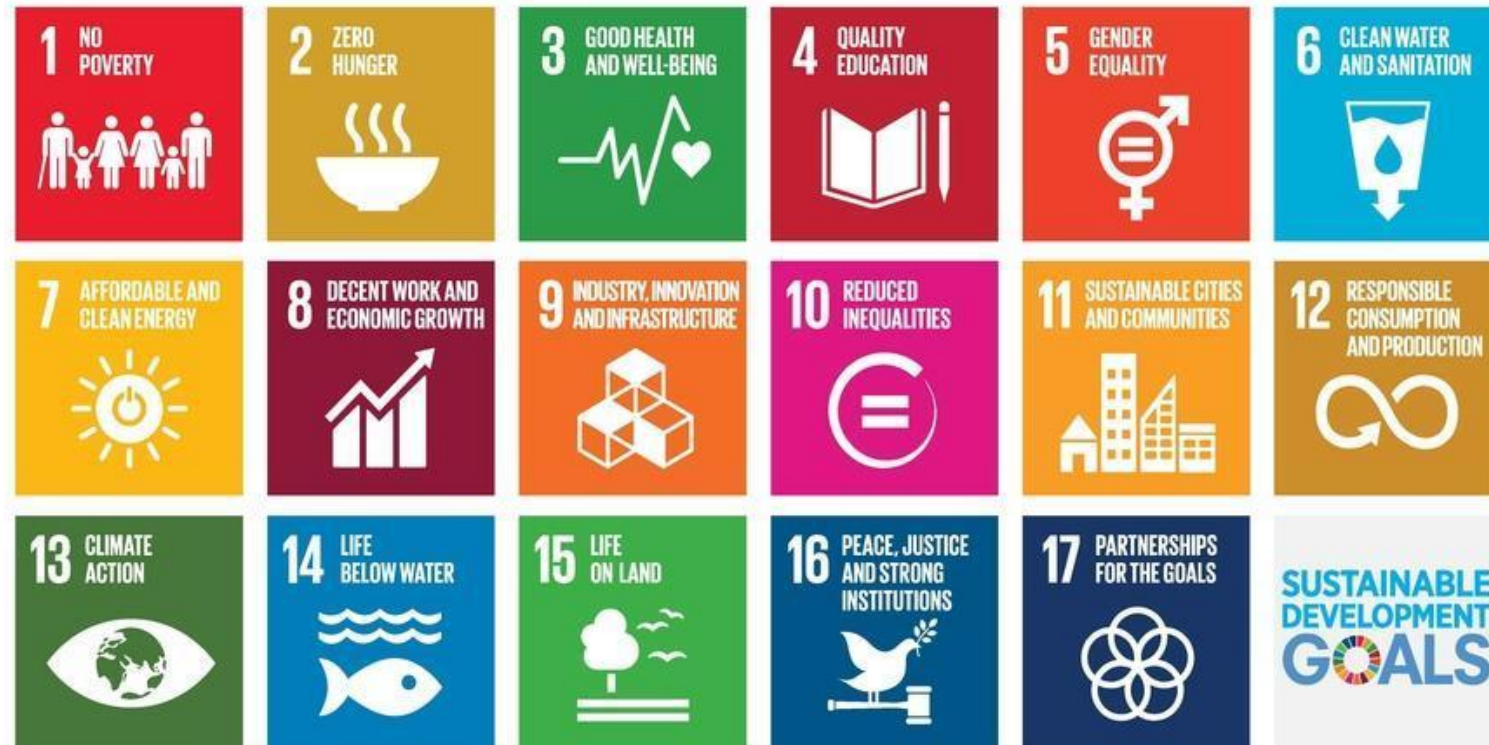
# Well-being Future Generations Act - Five Ways of Working



Long term	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement
The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.	Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.	How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

# Well-being Future Generations Act & the Sustainable Development Goals

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

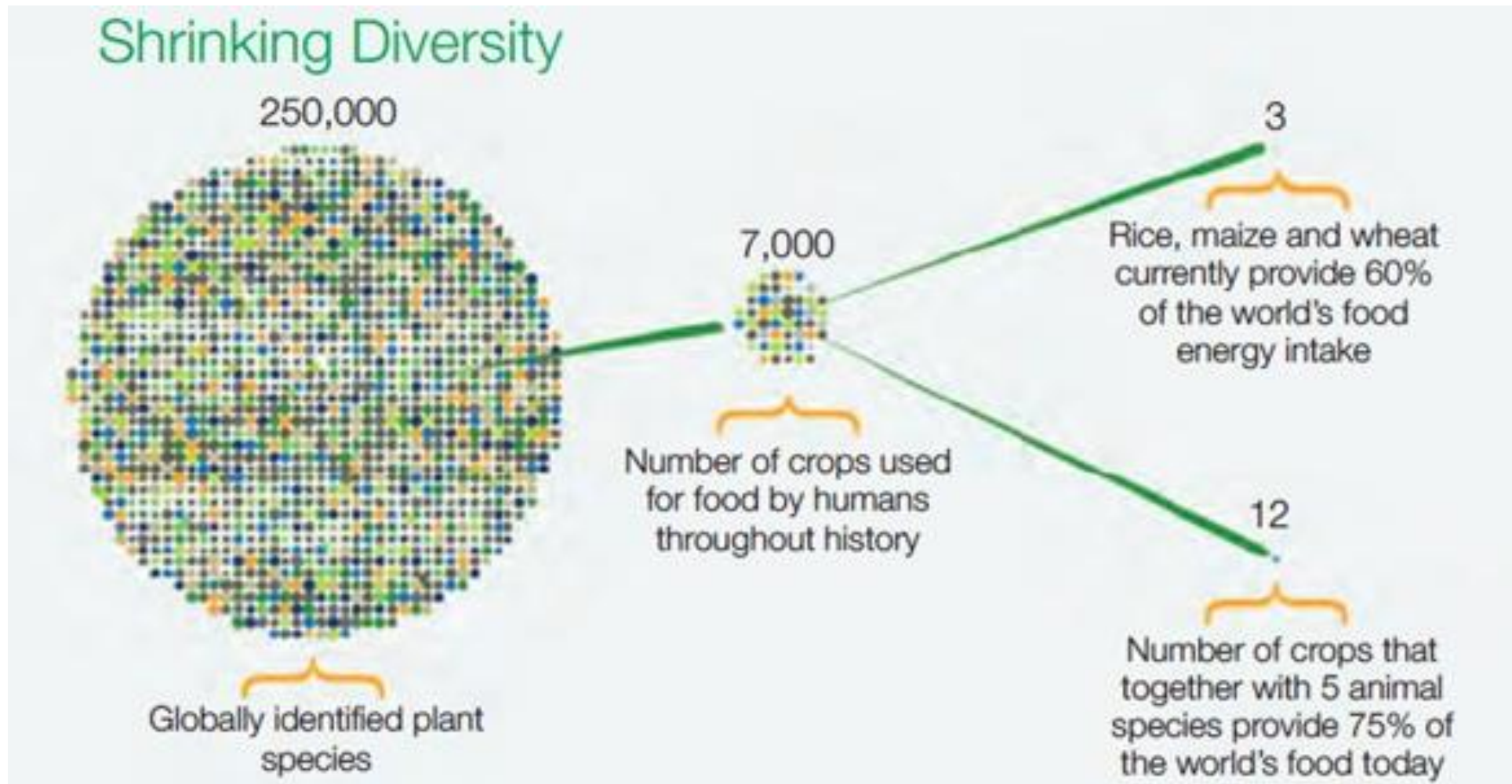


Source: UN 2015.

# Aims and objectives of the NERC/VN placement

- **Aims:** to investigate ways in which the **AC/NMW economic botany collection** and associated activities can improve **societal understanding and valuing of biodiversity**.
- **Objectives:** to co-produce a **Framework of Value with stakeholders**.
- **Outcomes:** to improve AC/NMW understanding of how the economic botany collection can further **societal appreciation of biodiversity** and **fulfil AC/NMW's duty of well-being** under the **Well-Being Future Generations Act (Wales), 2015**.

# Agri-biodiversity, well-being and the economic botany collection



Source: *Dimension of need: an atlas of food and agriculture*. FAO 1995.



# Co-production Methods

Exploring how co-production methodologies supports investigation of:

- i. the **valuing of biodiversity** within society;
- ii. the **building of biodiversity** within society;
- iii. contributing towards the Museum's **duty of well-being**.

Working with stakeholders to co-produce a framework of values that guides future work of the economic botany collection in terms of **acquisition, displays and activities**.

# Objective 1: Cataloguing and exploring the economic botany collection.

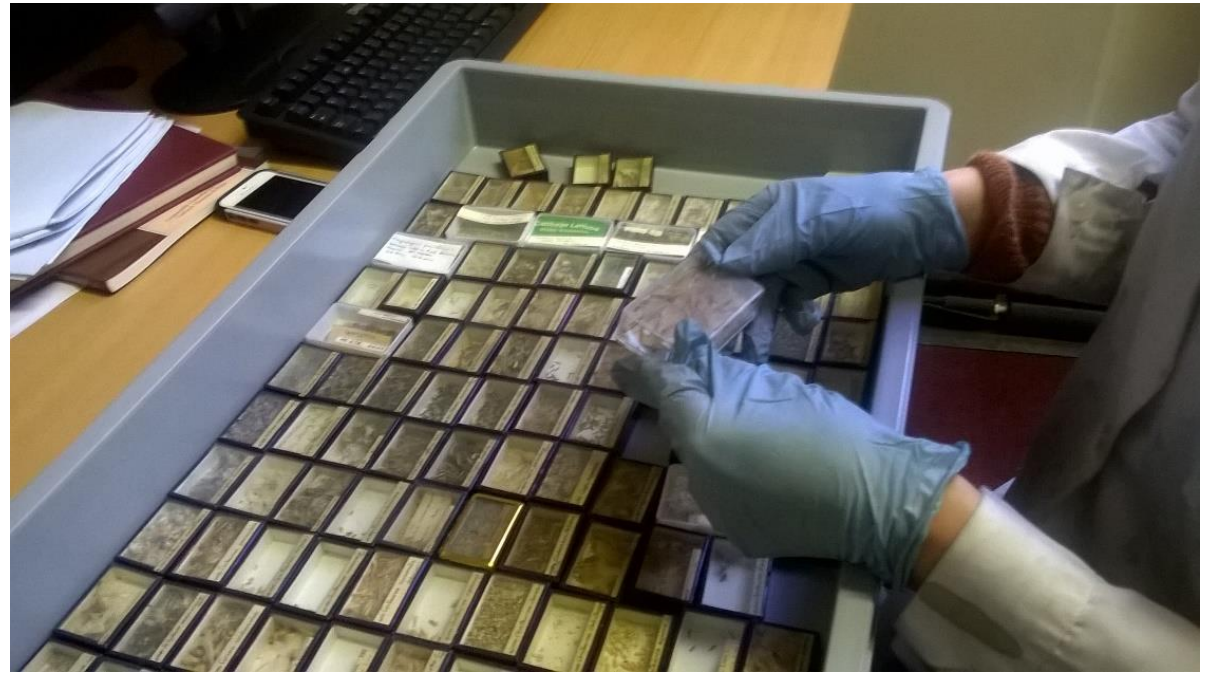


Photo credits: HP 2017.

# Objective 2: Public consultation.



Photo credits: PN 2018.

# Stakeholders

48 people participated in 7 workshops from community groups including:

Youth Forum; Gardening group; National Wool Museum group of weavers, spinners, gardeners;	Local park education centre staff and volunteers; Group of botanical artists.
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Over 23 **discussions** with members of Museum staff and associates and external stakeholders including:

Food Cardiff; Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens; Cardiff and Vale UHW; Sustainable Places Research Institute; Cardiff University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences;	National Botanic Garden Wales; Bute Educational Centre; Three artists including a textile artist, fine artist, ceramicist and zine artist; Three food historians.
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# Findings

How can the economic botany collection **further societal appreciation of biodiversity** and **fulfil AC/NMW's duty of well-being** under the **Well-Being Future Generations Act (Wales), 2015**? A number of themes emerged during the workshops as participants were invited to respond to the 7 goals:

- **Sharing** the values of the economic botany collection (A prosperous Wales).
- Enabling **learning** (A resilient Wales).
- Supporting **health through learning and promoting connection** (A healthier Wales).
- Enabling **access** to the collections- **physically and digitally** (A more equal Wales).
- **Connecting** to the collection through cultures and practices (A Wales of cohesive communities).
- **Learning from the past and imagining futures** (A Wales of vibrant cultures and thriving Welsh language).
- **Integrating** the goals (A globally responsible Wales).

# Placement Key Recommendations

Establishment of a **Biocultural Collections Working Group** is recommended in order to develop and implement an economic botany action plan and economic botany **Collection Strategy**. This strategy will aim to enhance the collection's potential to support public valuing and understanding of biodiversity and delivery of the Museum's duty of wellbeing.

Key recommendations:

- **Digitisation** of the economic botany collection and associated archives in the form of an **online catalogue**;
- Development of an **intergenerational and schools-based learning programme** that links with natural science collections including the economic botany collection;
- **Research-led curation** that supports investigation into historical and socio-cultural object biographies of specimens within the economic botany collection;
- Re-introduction of **artist residencies, artist-led research** and **art-science collaboration** that connect with the natural science collections including economic botany collection;
- Development of **partnerships** with other **public institutions** and **community-based organisations** to support creative learning programmes and health and well-being;

## 5 ways of working

- **Long term:** Safeguarding the collection for future generations.
- **Integration:** Creating an integrated vision for the collection that involves cross-departmental and cross-sectoral working.
- **Involvement:** Involving the public in conversations around the collection.
- **Collaboration:** Sharing learning with other nations – promoting AC-NMW's approach whilst learning from others. Aiming to be an innovator.
- **Preventing problems from occurring or getting worse:** Preventative action to prevent problems getting worse.



# VALUING NATURE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the project and to Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales, the Sustainable Places Research Institute and the Valuing Nature network for this opportunity!



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