



VALUING NATURE

Sharing Stories, Sharing Collections: Valuing Biodiversity in Wales

Poppy Nicol

Host: Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Caerdydd/National Museum Cardiff,
Amgueddfa-Cymru/National Museum of Wales.

Home: Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University.



Sustainable Places
Research Institute
*Sefydliad Ymchwil
Mannau Cynaliadwy*



Background

PhD Title



Placing the Apple: Exploring the Urban Applescape, Cardiff University.

Keywords: Agro-ecology, Agri-biodiversity, Communities of Practice.

How agro-ecological communities of practice can support agri-biodiversity.

Motivations?



Photo credit: Navdanya International 2017.

Seed-saving practices and seeds have a vital role to play in agri-biodiversity.

VN programme research goal 2: *Improving understanding of the role of agri-biodiversity and ecosystem services in health and well-being.*

Does the AC-NMW Economic Botany Collection has a role to play?.

Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Caerdydd-National Museum Cardiff, Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum of Wales.



Botany, Natural Sciences Department



Home to the AC-NMW Economic Botany Collection

Photo credit: PN 2017.

Welsh National Herbarium



Photo credit: PN 2017.

The Economic Botany Collection

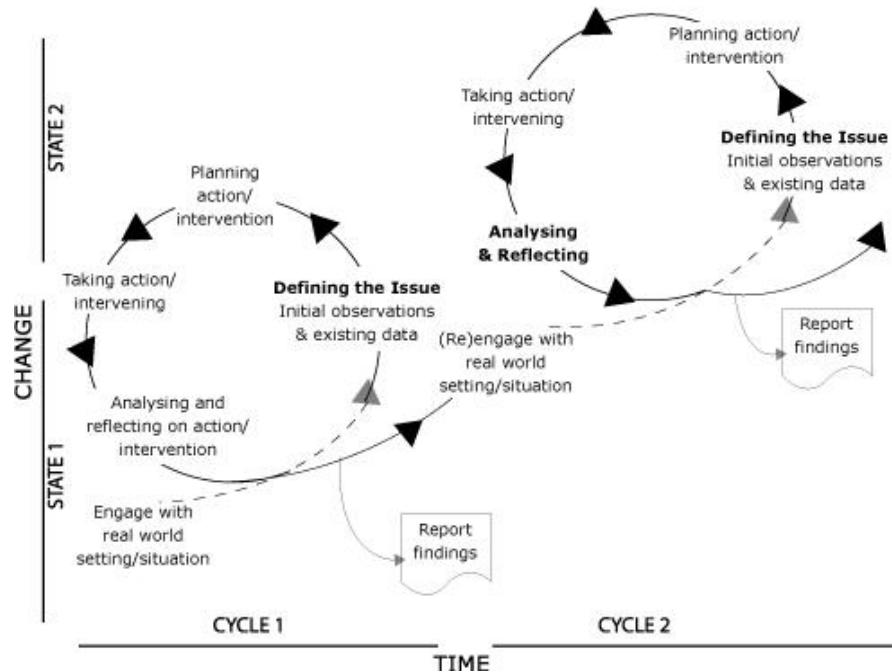
- Approximately 3,500 specimens of various items ranging from things like coffee beans, seeds, to vegetable oils, cotton and other fibres, aromatic resins, raw rubber.
- There are also some that have a pharmaceutical basis – AC/NMW have recently acquired the Materia Medica Collection from Prof. Terry Turner (former head of Cardiff University Department of Pharmacy).

Aims of the placement

- **Aims:** to investigate ways in which the **AC/NMW Economic Botany Collection** (which includes fibres, seeds, oils, resins etc.) and associated activities can improve societal understanding and valuing of biodiversity (where value is understood to refer to nature's benefits to people (ecosystem services), including monetary and non-monetary dimensions).
- First, how the AC/NMW Economic Botany Collection (held at AGC/NMC) has the potential to widen **public understanding and valuing of biodiversity**.
- Second, how the AC/NMW Economic Botany Collection can support **well-being**.

Objectives of the placement

- To co-produce a **framework of value** with stakeholders (including gardeners, farmers, civil society groups, artists and members of the wider public).



Outcomes of the placement

- **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.**

Well-Being Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

Wales is doing things differently

Wales is one of the first countries to introduce a law like this. The Act says that 44 public bodies, such as Local Authorities, the NHS, Fire and Rescue and others, must work together towards seven well-being goals.

The seven well-being goals:

- 1** A prosperous Wales – where everyone has jobs and there is no poverty
- 2** A resilient Wales – where we're prepared for things like floods
- 3** A healthier Wales – where everyone is healthier and are able to see the doctor when they need to
- 4** A more equal Wales – where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background
- 5** A Wales of cohesive Communities – where Communities can live happily together
- 6** A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh
- 7** A globally responsible Wales – where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World.



Outputs for AC/NMW

- A co-produced **Framework for Value** will inform the AC/NMW Collections Development Strategy regarding acquisition, display and activities.
- A **mobile 'Pop-Up' Exhibition** will trial the FFV and target diverse audiences that might not normally engage with the EBC or Museum.

VN outputs and outcomes

- Blog, video.
- A journal article (Proposed journal: *Environmental Values*) and conference paper.
- Methodological contributions: understanding of how **co-production methodologies** can support investigation of
 - i. the **valuing** of biodiversity within society;
 - ii. the **building** of biodiversity within society.

Work so far: cataloguing and exploring



Photo credits: HP 2017.

Seeds



A range of seeds (approximately 2,700) of a range of species from all over the world. As well as individual collectors, the Collection includes seeds from Singleton Park Botanic Garden, Kew, Cambridge International Agricultural Botany Station and Welsh Plant Breeding Station. Photo credit: PN 2017.

Medicinal Herbs



- Samples of plant matter used for medicinal purposes eg Kava, Cinnamon, Sassafras, Camphor. Photo credit: PN 2017.

Dyes and Tannins: plant material



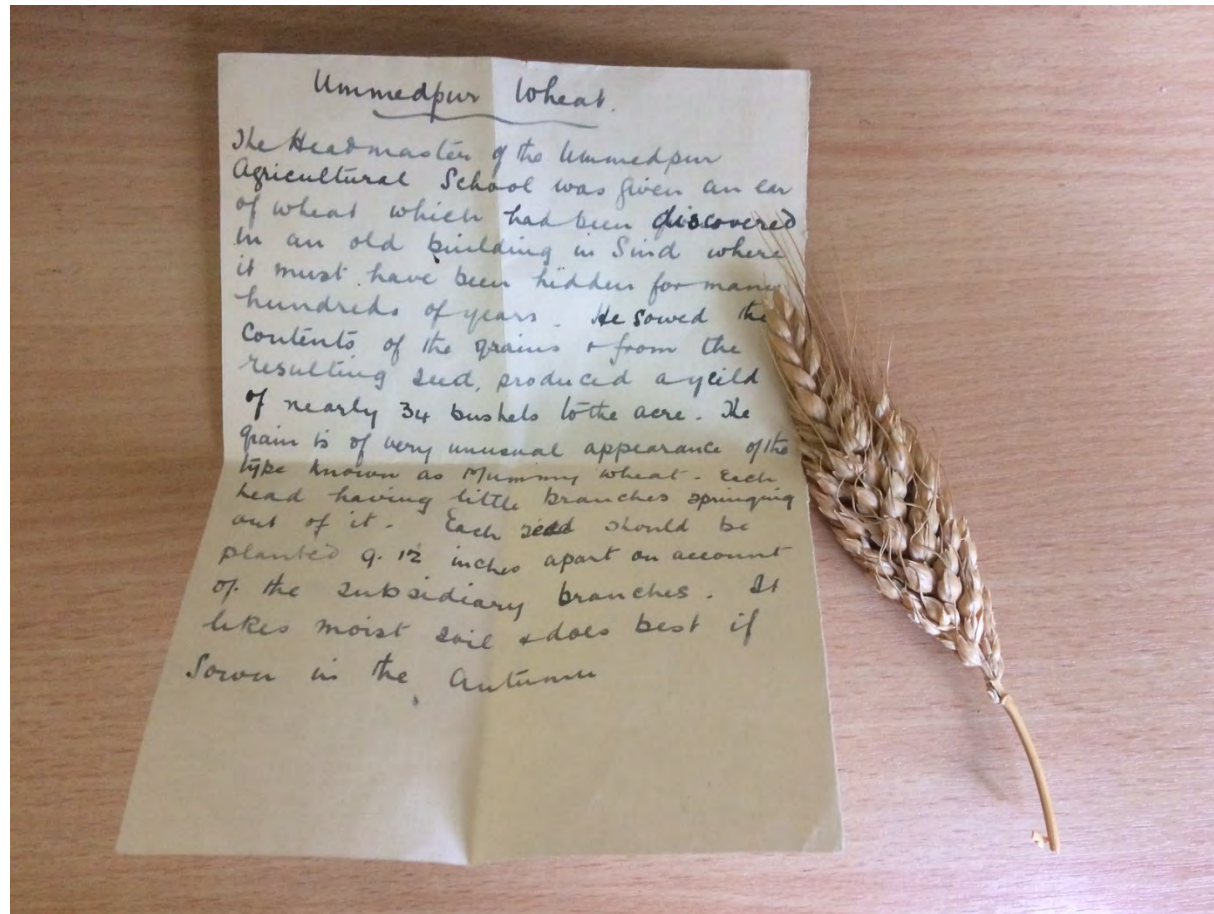
- Samples of plant matter used for dyeing eg Morinda, Madder, Safflower, Wattle Bark. Photo credit: PN 2017.

Dyes and Tannins: samples



Samples of wool dyes with various plant matter eg. Weld, Elderberry, Indigo, Privet.

Collectors



Correspondence from a collector in Porthcawl, regarding a wheat grown in India named 'Mummy'. Photo credit: PN 2017.

Phase two:

- Exchange with the AC-NMW Learning and Community and Engagement Team.
- Stakeholder mapping: gardeners, All Wales Eden Project, Food Cardiff, FCFCG Wales, CSA Wales, National Botanic Garden Wales, botanical artists, Artists working with natural dye.
- Inviting stakeholders to co-produce a framework for value, linking value to stakeholders' interests or preferences in relation to the Economic Botany Collection.

References

- Xunaxi Cruz Velasco 2013 Participatory Action Research (PAR) for Sustainable Community Development. postgrowth.org/participatory-action-research-par-for-sustainable-community-development/
- National Assembly for Wales 2015 *Well being Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015*. The Stationery Office.
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Thanks for listening!

poppy.nicol@museumwales.ac.uk