



5 June 2009

**HSBC ANNOUNCED AS PRINCIPAL CONSERVATION PARTNER
OF THE BOTANIC GARDENS TRUST**
FUNDING TO HELP INSURE AGAINST EXTINCTION OF
THE WORLD'S PLANT SPECIES AND OTHER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

HSBC has announced a three year commitment to the Botanic Gardens Trust as Principal Conservation Partner – its largest ever environmental initiative in Australia.

As Principal Conservation Partner, HSBC will provide vital funding to support the Trust's conservation program, *Protecting Plants for the Future*, and its initiatives at an international, regional and local level: the NSW Seedbank, the Asia Capacity Building Program and Towards Sustainable Horticulture.

This Australian commitment forms part of HSBC's global strategy to tackle environmental issues and climate change including the US\$100 million five-year HSBC Climate Partnership and the US\$90m Global Environmental Efficiency Program¹.

Stuart Davis, Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bank Australia, said: "In these uncertain times it is important that we continue to support the communities in which we operate. Sustainability is at the heart of HSBC's strategy and this partnership with the Botanic Gardens Trust demonstrates our continued commitment to investing in environmental projects that we believe will benefit future generations – in this case, the conservation of plant diversity, an essential tool in combating climate change.

"The new partnership also reflects the global nature of HSBC's business – as the world's local bank, HSBC is committed to making a positive contribution to the environment at a local, regional and international level," Mr Davis added.

Tim Entwisle, Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens Trust, said: "We're delighted to welcome HSBC as the Trust's Principal Conservation Partner. The Botanic Gardens Trust is an important custodian of world plant diversity and a major centre for botanical research and conservation. I'm thrilled that HSBC shares our vision."

The Botanic Gardens Trust's *Protecting Plants for the Future* program has three key platforms: the NSW Seedbank, the Asia Capacity Building Program and Towards Sustainable Horticulture.

1. The NSW Seedbank, managed by the Botanic Gardens Trust, is part of an international seedbanking program set up to insure against the extinction of the world's threatened plant species and aiming to have banked seed from 10 per cent of the world's wild plant species by the end of the decade.

HSBC announced as Principal Conservation Partner of the Botanic Gardens Trust/2

HSBC's support will enhance the program's research capability by funding a research scientist to collect seed from NSW's most vulnerable climatic zones. Once seed collections have been made, research will be undertaken to determine the seeds' germination characteristics, temperature and susceptibility to climate change.

2. Regionally, HSBC will contribute to the long term conservation of plants and their habitats by supporting the Trust's contribution to the Asia Capacity Building Program which will build capacity and share expertise among the botanic gardens of the Asia Pacific region.

The Asia Capacity Building Program will establish an education program in the form of a diploma for representatives from the South East Asia and East Asian Botanic Gardens networks. With HSBC's support, the Botanic Gardens Trust will send two senior horticulturalists to teach the diploma in the second half of this year. In the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, the HSBC Oriental Garden will highlight these important conservation programs by showcasing the regional biodiversity of Asia Pacific.

3. Locally, Towards Sustainable Horticulture is a program aiming to improve the public's understanding of water conservation, soil care and biological weed and pest management through education and demonstration of best practice with projects like the HSBC 'What's the Big Idea?' Garden at Mount Annan Botanic Garden.

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Notes to editors

¹ Major environmental initiatives by the HSBC Group include the HSBC Climate Partnership – a five-year partnership between HSBC and The Climate Group, Earthwatch Institute, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and WWF established in May 2007; HSBC's Global Environmental Efficiency Programme, launched in June 2007, is a US\$90m commitment to reduce HSBC's direct environmental impacts; HSBC's Climate Change Centre of Excellence assesses the financial implications of climate change; and the Climate Change Research Facilitation Programme, provides fund managers access to climate change research from a number of specialist providers. In July 2007, HSBC appointed Sir Nicholas Stern as Special Adviser to the Chairman on Economic Development and Climate Change.

HSBC Bank Australia

In Australia, the HSBC Group offers an extensive range of financial services through a network of 35 branches and offices. These services include personal and commercial financial services, financial planning, trade finance, treasury and financial markets, payments and cash management and securities custody. Principal HSBC Group members operating in Australia include HSBC Bank Australia Limited (ABN 48 006 434 162) and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (ABN 65 117 925 970). HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.

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