

# The Latin American Ethnobotanical Sister Gardens

The sister garden concept was established in 1998 with the goal of creating a network of gardens to encourage documentation, conservation, education and horticultural maintenance of native Latin American plant material. Four initial gardens have been established, with four proposed gardens to add to the sister garden network.

## ● Proposed New Sister Gardens

### **Reserva Etnobotánico Cumandá** **Baeza, Amazonia, Ecuador**

The proposed garden will develop a Protected Ethnobotanical Reserve in the montane cloud forests of Amazonia near Baeza. This will link critical habitats in the Quijos river basin between existing national parks and ecological reserves. It also will educate visitors on ethnobotanical knowledge and the ecology of the region. The local counterpart is FundRAE, a non governmental organization that coordinates with EcoRAE, a governmental branch for the Amazon region ecodevelopment in Ecuador. In 1998, a group of UGA faculty and researchers visited the area and provided a preliminary assessment and a blueprint concept ethnobotanical sister garden which will be implemented in future phases.

### **Parque Botánico Omora** **Isla Navarino, Chile**

Another proposed site is in the southernmost region of the continent, in Isla Navarino. Local biological resources have been used by both indigenous communities and mestizo settlers. The Omora garden is being planned with the co-sponsorship of the University of Chiloé and the municipality of Puerto Montt. Key contributions are expected from research, extension, and exchange programs among Chilean and UGA collaborators.

### **Jardín Etnobotánico San Pedro Alejandrino** **Santa Marta, Colombia**

This sister garden is proposed for the Sustainable Development Plan of the Sierra Nevada. Interested stakeholders include co-sponsor Fundación Pro-Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and also the Government of Magdalena, the University of Magdalena, the Bolivian Museum of Contemporary Art, and the San Pedro Alejandrino's Quinta. The plan includes species from traditional indigenous territory of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta. Formal consultations with indigenous organizations and groups will be an initial step. Then, indigenous knowledge, intellectual property rights, and ex-situ plant cultivation in the mythology Cogi will be studied.

### **Jardín Etnobotánico Comunitario** **Pisac Valley, Cusco, Peru**

An LAE garden in the Pisac valley will offer environmental education and agrobiodiversity conservation. It will reaffirm potato cultivation practices and the Andean tradition of medicinal plant use. Following LAE's design principles, recycled materials will be used along with reconstruction and rehabilitation of old terraces and stone works. Collaborators include members of ANDES, a non-governmental organization of Quechua and Aymara indigenous representatives, and members from the Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network. Project focus will emphasize traditional knowledge in biodiversity, the use of heirlooms and natural heritage preservation.

## ● Established Sister Gardens

**Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden**  
The University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia, USA

**Jardín Etnobotánico**  
**El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR)**  
Chiapas, Mexico

**Jardín Etnobotánico y Medicinal**  
**Escuela de Agricultura de la Región**  
**Tropical Humeda**  
Costa Rica

**Jardín Etnobotánico**  
**San Pedro Alejandrino**  
Santa Marta, Colombia

**Reserva Etnobotánico Cumandá**  
Baeza, Amazonia, Ecuador

**Jardín Etnobotánico Comunitario**  
Pisac Valley, Cusco, Peru

**Jardín Botánico**  
**Dr. Miguel J. Culaciati**  
Huerta Grande,  
Córdoba, Argentina

**Parque Botánico Omora**  
Isla Navarino, Chile

