

Botanists warn on threats to world's plant kingdom

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Tim Utteridge poses with a preserved *Ferocactus Fordii* at the Herbarium at Kew Gardens on May 9, 2016

Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens warned Tuesday about the threats facing the world's plant kingdom in the first global report of its kind aimed at drawing attention to often-overlooked species.

The "State of the World's Plants" report was drawn up by botanists at the

Kew Gardens research centre in west London, which has one of the world's largest collections in its greenhouses and sprawling gardens.

"There has never been a State of the World's Plants," said Kathy Willis, science director at Kew Gardens.

The 80-page report, which is linked to a website, is intended to become a database and global reference point as it will be published annually and allow for comparisons on preserving the world's [plants](#).

"This has been a huge undertaking... We engaged with more than 80 scientists to pull this together," said Steve Bachman, one of the report's authors.

He said it was a "huge step forward, pulling together existing knowledge in a condensed and readable version so we can really spread the message about the importance of plants to a much wider audience".

The task is a challenging one.

More than 391,000 species of vascular plants, a large group of plants which conduct water and minerals, have been registered around the world.

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