

To whom it may concern

Date: 07/12/2010

Partnership between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Facultad de Estudios Superiores Iztacala (FESI), UNAM, México, led by Dra Patricia Dávila Aranda.

On behalf of RBG Kew I would like to outline the many achievements of the long-standing cooperation with FESI-UNAM and highlight the paramount role played by Patricia Dávila Aranda over the last twenty years to drive plant conservation and scientific work in the region.

Kew is a global resource for plants and fungi knowledge and contains the largest and most diverse collections of plant and fungal specimens in the world. We have nearly 1,000 staff at Kew Gardens and Wakehurst of which over 350 are scientists.

Kew's scientific research stretches from the discovery and identification of new species, to the impact of climate change on threatened habitats. We strive to reveal the importance of plants and fungi in our everyday lives.

To succeed in our challenging work, we collaborate with organisations worldwide, and in Mexico, one of the most floristically rich countries in the world, we have developed a productive and effective cooperation with Dr Dávila's research team since 2003.

Through Dr Dávila's deep knowledge and huge experience in biodiversity, conservation and sustainable development, outstanding leadership, and commitment to partnership, I would like to recognise the following notable achievements:

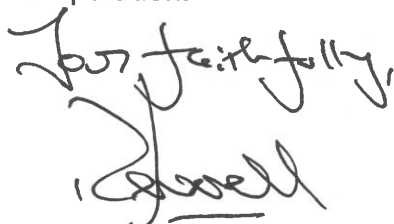
- One of the founding member of the **Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Partnership** (MSBP, web link: <https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/projects/banking-the-worlds-seeds>), a network of partners across 100 countries and overseas territories, which has successfully banked over 15% of the world's wild plant species;
- Establishment of the **first seed bank in Mexico** focussed on **wild plant species** and run to international standards, now with more than 4,000 collections of ca. 2000 species, an outstanding resource for Mexico and the world;
- Development of an integrated collaborative **science-based seed conservation programme** across Mexico with extension of research collaborations for example in Baja California, Sonora, Veracruz, and expansion of the United States cooperation.
- Successful completion of over **ten projects** aiming at protecting Mexico's mega plant diversity, focusing on threatened and endemic species and those of economic importance. We are currently supporting community based reforestation activities funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation, as part of the



Global Tree Seed Bank Project, and through the project 'Conserving native useful trees of Mexico to maintain its natural capital' with support from the UK Newton Fund, through the Institutional Links call implemented by the British Council.

- Significant outcomes for the researchers and students involved in the projects through completion of undergraduate and postgraduate theses and co-authorship with Kew researchers of more than ten peer-reviewed scientific publications, including most recently the catalogue on native trees of Mexico (Tellez, 2020) which constitutes a key milestone towards the better understanding, conservation and management of the Mexican native tree flora.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of Dr Davila and her FESI-UNAM research team and we look forward to continuing this valuable and fruitful cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'For faithfully, Deverell'.

Richard Deverell
Director, RBG Kew