



AIPH Exhibitions Committee

Exhibitions Report: September 2025- February 2026

Summary

Preparations for Expo 2027 Yokohama (A1) are on track with 40+ countries positive about participation and maintained projections to receive 15 million visitors in 2027.

Expo Korat 2029 (A1) has submitted recognition dossier to the BIE Executive Committee and is progressing towards the BIE recognition planned for June 2026.

Expo 2031 Minnesota (A1) secured U.S. federal support which will allow this project to obtain necessary funding and further develop.

Udon Thani Expo 2026 (B) has achieved some construction progress but is facing delays with the Organiser still not appointed. Expo Ulsan 2028 (B) advances steadily with 16+ countries planned, and an Organiser appointed in January 2026. Baghdad 2029 (B) remains constrained by land delays due to delayed government activity following the Iraq General Election. Tae'an 2026 (C) and Goyang (C/D) Shows will open in April. Izmir 2027 (C) accelerates works. New Intent to host presentations are expected at the Expo Conference from Chungju, South Korea, for 2030 (B category), and Chanthaburi and Phayao provinces of Thailand (New C category Shows).

Section 1 – Exhibitions

1.1 Expo 2027 Yokohama (A1) - Japan

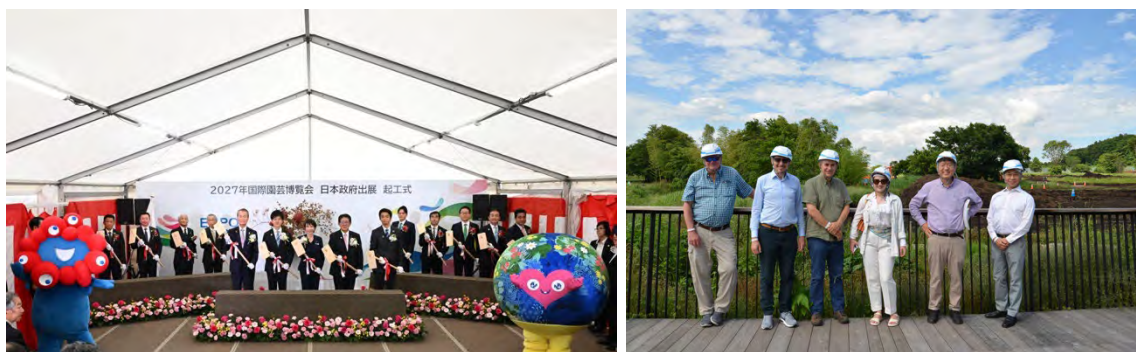
The preparations for EXPO 2027 Yokohama moved into a more outward-facing phase. During this period, the Expo was also formally linked with national greening initiatives, including the National Urban Greening Festival. Official participation plans progressed with recruitment of around 40 supported countries and around 20 self-built pavilions/gardens, which effectively means most of the space for international participants has been filled.

In addition, a major milestone was reached on 2 November 2025, when the Japanese Government Pavilion ceremony was held for GREEN×EXPO 2027, marking 500 days before the opening; hosted by Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Ticketing frameworks and visitor projections were announced, with expectations set at around 15 million total visitors. In early 2026, the Organising Association established a dedicated Traffic Demand Management committee to coordinate transport planning and mitigate congestion during the Expo period, marking a key step toward practical delivery. At the same time, outreach and educational activities continued through lectures and public programmes linking plants, landscape culture, and the Expo's future-oriented themes.

Discussions are ongoing between AIPH and Yokohama Organiser for securing a central and big enough plot for an AIPH garden (to be implemented in partnership with Living Hospitality as well as Arcadis and other contributors).

The site inspection "1 year before opening" is planned for March 16-17, 2026.



1.2 Expo Korat 2029 (A1) - Thailand

AIPH Site Inspection was held from 6–9 December 2025 in Nakhon Ratchasima. The inspection brought together senior representatives from AIPH, national ministries, and provincial authorities. During the inspection, the Organising Committee presented updates on governance structures, the BIE recognition timeline (with the members' vote and recognition expected in June 2026), and a comprehensive planning framework covering master planning, construction, planting, events, and operations.

The overall budget is estimated at approximately Euros 117.27 million, with construction and landscape works forming the largest share. The Expo anticipates participation from more than 30 countries, alongside national and private exhibitors, supported by a structured programme of international invitations and competitions. Robust preparations have been initiated at the provincial level for water management, transport planning and public engagement. The DOA, AIPH member and formal Organiser of the Exhibition, will need to start procurement for different services and operations soon.



1.3 Expo 2031 Minnesota (A1) - USA

After receiving provisional approval from AIPH for Category A1 Exhibition, Expo 2031 Minnesota has achieved a key milestone as the United States Government has formally issued a federal letter of support, strengthening the project's trajectory toward becoming the first A1 International Horticultural Exhibition held in the United States. This endorsement, confirmed by the U.S. Departments of Commerce and State, signals high-level national backing. The

Expo is planned to run from 1 May to 15 October 2031 under the theme “Human/Nature: Where Humanity and Horticulture Meet”, with a six-month programme centred on sustainability, regenerative landscapes, climate resilience, and global horticultural exchange. The site near the Mississippi River in Dakota County will feature five ecological zones: Tropical, Arid, Temperate, Continental, and North Star, which represent diverse plant life and climate systems worldwide, and is expected to welcome around six million visitors over its duration.



1.4 Udon Thani International Horticultural Expo 2026 (B) - Thailand

The Udon Thani International Horticultural Exhibition 2026 is progressing toward its scheduled opening in November 2026, with visible advancements in site development, planting, construction, and infrastructure. During the AIPH site inspection held from 7 - 10 December 2025 in Udon Thani, inspectors acknowledged progress on site when compared to the previous visits.

However, AIPH highlighted unresolved risks that threaten the project's viability if not addressed urgently. The most critical issue is the continued delay in appointing the professional Expo Organising Company, leaving major gaps in event programming, marketing, ticketing, and operations planning. In addition, the final comprehensive Masterplan has not been formally submitted to AIPH, despite ongoing construction, and inspectors raised concerns about thematic coherence, particularly the integration of non-horticultural elements, and the absence of a detailed soil improvement strategy.

Sustainability planning remains incomplete, with required strategies and implementation plans long overdue, and clearer frameworks are needed for international participation, horticultural industry involvement, and post-Expo legacy management. AIPH has formally requested urgent submissions and a follow-up inspection prior to the AIPH Spring Meeting to restore confidence in the Expo's readiness and alignment with AIPH regulations.

Photo update from the site, December 2025:



1.5 Expo Ulsan 2028 (B) – the Republic of Korea

On November 8-9, 2025, an AIPH site inspection delegation carried out inspection visit to the two proposed sites of Ulsan Expo 2028. The visit concluded with the delegation's participation in a city-wide celebration festival, reflecting strong institutional coordination, community engagement, and political support for the Expo. AIPH inspectors commended Ulsan's organisation, hospitality, and clear commitment to delivering a high-quality international event.

In 2025 the project budget has been significantly expanded to approximately KRW 220 billion ($\approx$ 127 million eur). International participation planning anticipates at least 16 countries, complemented by strong sustainability, healing horticulture, education, and legacy objectives, positioning the Expo as a long-term public and environmental asset for the city.

The Expo Organiser was appointed in early 2026. This allows time for ongoing technical discussions and implementation of AIPH recommendations, guidance and ensuring full conformity with AIPH regulations.



1.6 Expo 2029 Baghdad (B)- Iraq

The private sector-led Expo project has an intended site but the land confirmation was not secured yet, delayed by national elections. While post-election government formation can be lengthy, the election went smoothly and prospects for a new government look relatively positive so positive developments are expected imminently.

1.7 Taeon Horticultural Healing Expo 2026 (C) – the Republic of Korea

Scheduled to take place from 25 April to 24 May 2026, the Expo will be held at Anmyeondo Kkotji Beach Park. Key preparatory milestones have been achieved, including finalisation of the comprehensive implementation plan, slogan, mascot, and event identity, expansion of the Organising Committee, and approval of core plans by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

AIPH inspection team conducted a visit to Taeon on 9-10 November 2025. The meetings and site tour provided a very clear and inspiring picture of the 2026 Taeon International

Horticultural Healing Expo and its ambitions. The overall concept “Healing & Future from Nature” and the slogan “A Blooming Healing Time of Taeon” express a powerful and timely vision that resonates strongly with AIPH’s mission as the champion of the power of plants.



Together with our partner, Living Hospitality, AIPH is developing a small indoor AIPH area in Taeon (18 sq m, within the Industry Pavilion), focussing on introducing AIPH to a wider public as well as representing our brand via custom-designed souvenirs. The project objectives include:

Visitor Engagement:

- Reinforce the Expo experience by giving visitors a tangible connection to AIPH's mission and the event itself
- Create memorable take-aways that extend the message of plants' essential role beyond the Expo grounds

Visibility & Authority:

- Increase AIPH's brand recognition among general audiences (beyond industry professionals)
- Amplify AIPH's presence through items visitors display, gift, and share in their communities

Industry Support & Revenue:

- Generate revenue that supports AIPH's advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and Expo programming

CONCEPT VISUALIZATION



Living Hospitality is the main investor in this project; AIPH is not taking any financial risk. Some local industry may be mobilised to deliver theme integrations on the topic of

horticultural healing, to reinforce the visitor experience and create stronger touchpoints with the AIPH brand.

1.8 Expo İzmir 2027 (C) – the Republic of Türkiye

Expo İzmir 2027 is currently under preparation. Progress needs to speed up, as the site requires some development, alongside invitations to international participants, which have progressed through sister cities network of İzmir. To support the Expo İzmir Organiser, AIPH has facilitated an experience-exchange session with the Euroflora team.



Applications & expressions of interest

International Goyang Korea 2026 (C+D) - the Republic of Korea

GIFF(Goyang International Flower Foundation) submitted an application dossier for IHK 2026 to be approved as a Category C+D Show. This was approved online by AIPH members in January. Opening from 24 April to 10 May, 2026, the show aims to attract more than 400.000 visitors.

Expressions of interest

- Chungju city, the Republic of Korea, is interested in hosting a B-category exhibition in 2030. A meeting was held with the city representatives in November 2026, during AIPH's visit to the Republic of Korea in the framework of site inspection of Expo Ulsan 2028. Formal application timeline depends on the progress of national approval, scheduled to commence in 2026, and possibly continue through 2027.
- Chanthaburi province, Thailand. Intention to host a C category Exhibition in 2027. A visit was conducted by K Tambayong and E Terekhova in December 2025. The visit included a seminar hosted by the Chanthaburi Chamber of Commerce, keynote contributions from AIPH, and site visits to leading provincial initiatives and innovations supporting greener growth. The province was advised to apply for several years of consecutive approval, given the big site they would like to develop step by step. Formal application is expected at the 78th Annual Congress.



- Phayao province, Thailand. Intention to host a C category Exhibition in 2028. Formal application is expected at the 78th Annual Congress.

Expo Development – Report from Treve Evans

Discussions are ongoing with the United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Oman, Vietnam, Ecuador, possible interest from Italy, other conversations with cities in the Philippines, Australia, France, Colombia, Montenegro, Georgia, Jordan. To be covered further in T Evans' update.

Sheffield, UK: after considering a B category Expo, they have decided to explore the C category option. T. Evans will be visiting Sheffield with R. Hakes for a meeting on 17th February to further discuss this opportunity, which would be sometime in the 2030s.

Glasgow, UK: discussions have been held since 2019, the most recent at Host City in December 2026. They continue to consider an A1 Expo in 2038, which would be fifty years after the Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988.

Host City (Glasgow) 2026 – AIPH was sponsor of the event, which gave T. Evans the opportunity to present at a workshop (attended by forty delegates) “Best Practice and Innovation in International Event Hosting”, and on the second panel of the conference (approximately two hundred delegates), “The Business of Events and Sport in the Middle East”.

Meetings were held at Host City with the following – discussions continue:

- Glasgow (UK)
- Stockholm (Sweden)
- Malmo (Sweden)
- Tampere (Finland)
- Halifax (Canada)
- London (UK)

United Arab Emirates - With the support of a local consultancy, the UAE have shown interest in hosting an A1 International Horticultural Exhibition, potentially in 2033/34. Discussions between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our consultants continue.

Oman - T. Evans visited Muscat in October 2025 to speak at the Circular Cities Summit, and met representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. Subsequent to the meeting, the information now lies with the Undersecretary at the ministry, and it is expected that he will call a meeting during February, to which AIPH will be invited.

Colombia – T. Evans went to Proflora (hosted by Asocoflores) in October 2025, and while there, with the active support of Augusto Solano (Asocoflores), had meetings with the following:

- Bogota – Mayor
- Valle del Cauca – Governor
- Cali – mayor's team
- Medellin – mayor's team

Although Bogota have subsequently declined the Expo opportunity, discussions continue with the others. All, though, are interested in the AIPH Green City Standard, which was discussed in the meetings.

2.1 Development of B category Expos

Outreach has been made to a large number of cities around the world. While a small number declined, there are a large number with no responses. However, discussions were initiated with cities in a number of countries. GK Nordic also supported securing meetings with the Swedish cities and London for T. Evans at Host City (listed previously).

Data from GK Nordic in the graphic below.



GK Nordic have facilitated 29 meetings with cities in the following countries, some of which have included ALPH representatives. None have yet progressed to keen interest to move towards an application.

- Australia
- Indonesia
- Colombia
- South Africa
- Philippines
- Sweden
- India
- Mexico
- India
- Indonesia
- India
- Peru
- Spain
- Morocco
- Colombia
- Croatia
- India
- France
- Norway
- France
- Cambodia
- Ecuador

- Argentina
- Chile
- Australia
- Canada

Section 2 - Expo Support Programme – Elena Terekhova & Van Tran

Expo Regulations updates

A1 Category Regulations - BIE Engagement

Referencing past issues around Expo Doha, BIE has raised concerns about the A1 Expo regulations of AIPH. AIPH Secretary General is planning meetings with the BIE to harmonise our approaches and prevent Expo Organisers from receiving conflicting guidance. In this respect, changes are likely to be proposed for A1 Category Regulations.

C Category Regulations

Under current Category C regulations, AIPH covers travel for four international jury members we appoint. With C category Shows expanding rapidly from Europe (e.g., France, Italy) to Asia, AIPH propose the hosts to cover jury's travel expenses.

Expo communications

- Expos' Newsletters were issued bi-monthly with the subscribers' database now counting 3590 contacts. Should you have interested contacts, please communicate those to Rachel.wakefield@aiph.org. A survey was sent to all subscribers to get more insight and understand more about the expectations of the Expo Newsletter.
- The updated Expo newsletter design introduces a cleaner and more structured format. The new approach focuses on clearer signposting to web-based content, ensuring the newsletter highlights key messages while directing readers online for deeper detail.

Expo Monitoring

- The Exhibitions Committee Meeting was held 4 times per year to discuss the AIPH-approved Expos' progress and brainstorm future opportunities.
- Exhibitions' monitoring efforts are ongoing, with inclusion of C category Shows in our system and additional guidance provided to them.

Visibility & partnerships development

- **France.** On 18 November 2025, E Terekhova and V Tran attended two large-scale networking events at the Porte de Versailles in Paris. The Salon des Maires was a prominent gathering of mayors and local government decision-makers. A meeting was held with UNEP (Union Nationale des Entreprises du Paysage), the main French union of landscape-related companies. This body could be a candidate for full AIPH membership, alongside Val'hor. A meeting was held with IBS, the company organising Innocity Expo Paris 2026, which is the trade fair focussing on urban development, construction, green space integration. They expressed interest in AIPH's activities and suggested that we could organise a round table together with urban-and-landscape experts. Through this event, AIPH could reach more cities and decision-makers,

leveraging the broader urban/innovation expo to amplify horticultural and green-space themes. This event is planned for October 2026.

- **Engagement with Southeast Asian (SEA) governments, industry associations, and exhibition organisers is ongoing:**
 - o **Vietnam.** E Terekhova and V Tran engaged with Dr. T. Tuan in Vietnam to extend the network there. Dr Tuan is Chairman of the Vietnam Society of Landscape Architects (VSLA). Dr Tuan introduced AIPH to the Vietnam Ornamental Creature Association in an online meeting on January 16, 2026. AIPH invited the Vietnam Ornamental Creature Association to join us as a Full Member and discussed an Expo opportunity and potential collaboration to support the industry in Vietnam. Furthermore, some information reached us on a possible development led by a private-sector stakeholder, for an Expo in Hanoi. The private-sector stakeholder is in process of outreaching the Hanoi City Party Committee and the Hanoi People's Committee.
 - o **Malaysia.** Repeated attempts to keep in touch with the DOA of the Ministry of Agriculture of Malaysia, following our meeting at Expo Osaka 2025. Repeated attempts to connect with MyCEB, the Malaysian Convention and Exhibitions Bureau, body responsible for international projects bidding.
 - o **Philippines.** With the help of GK Nordic, we connected with Tourism Promotions Division of the Clark Development Corporation, special economic zone of Clark (80 km north of Manila). While they have expressed interest in AIPH Exhibitions, the Division could not yet identify a clear project lead. Absence of AIPH member in the region is also not helping this situation. Various industry players have been researched and some consulted, such as HortiFilipina, organizer of plant and garden events in the Philippines. There is no one unified association in the country; another possible route of reaching decision-makers may be to connect with their Department of Agriculture.

Reviewed & new documents

New support documents are in development to strengthen AIPH's resource offering for Expo Organisers. These resources are designed to address specific aspects of hosting successful international horticultural exhibitions:

- o [Showcasing International Participants at International Horticultural Exhibitions](#): A reference document featuring examples from past Expos to help organisers and participants understand best practices for engaging and managing international participation.

Next Steps

It is proposed that AIPH will:

- Further develop the Expo Support Programme by creating additional guidance documents to support Regulations, focusing on key policies and practical implementation.
- Continue AIPH's work with Expo organisers.
- Grow the newsletter subscriber database to increase outreach to industry stakeholders and potential Expo organisers.
- Engage Expo Organisers to actively participate in the Expos' Monitoring System and provide regular updates to the Expo Committee for timely action and support.

- Continue promoting the benefits of hosting Expos at international event forums and collaborate with prospective organisers to fill the AIPH Expo calendar.

Attachments

- Projects of Regulations for A1 and C category Exhibitions to be approved by AIPH General Meeting
- Wetrack Expos Monitoring Report

Section 3 – Future World Garden Shows – Elena Terekhova

The working group led by E Terekhova and composed of experts in Exhibition design; staging and delivery, has established a budget of approximately \$9 million USD for this project, so it can be implemented showcasing the highest horticultural standards and respecting the best sustainability practices for short exhibition staging and operation.

Initial sales efforts in the GCC region have started with our partner BLR used as the primary sales resource. BLR have been in touch with Ras Al-Khaimah, the first Emirate that we wanted to target for this project. Ras Al-Khaimah have advised connecting with them again later in 2026, when they are supposed to finish some of the major infrastructure projects and construction and start budgeting for content and activations.

The next direct target now is Al Ain city. We continue our efforts in this project.

Next Steps

It is proposed that AIPH will:

- Continue steering partners and contractors;
- Continue looking for new possible contractors and getting to know industry's best practices
- Support partners' efforts in going to market and assessing opportunities with a variety of clients (cities and administrations) in the Middle East

Green City Committee Report September 2025 – January 2026

Prepared by Dr Audrey Timm

Summary of AIPH Green City Activities

This Green City Report presents our activities, from September 2025 to January 2026, that progress ambitions stated in the AIPH Strategic Plan 2023-2026. For a review of all activities in 2025 leading up to this report read: [Annual Review 2025 • AIPH](#)

AIPH has maintained a consistent presence at several major international forums, including the C40 Mayors Forum and World Bank Urban Nature Forum in Rio de Janeiro, COP30 in Belem, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi. These sessions allowed us to present our Green City work to stakeholders from high level organisations. Notable outcomes include our partnership with the UNEP #BeatTheHeat initiative and the inclusion of our "Growing Greener Cities" podcast in the official IUCN series. We are currently preparing to lead a networking session at WUF 13 in Baku to further promote our initiatives.

The 2026 AIPH World Green City Awards have progressed into the judging phase, following 51 entries from 29 countries. To add more value for participating cities, AIPH has partnered with Nanyang Technological University to provide technical feedback reports. The AIPH Green City Standard has been revised and prepared for an online platform launch in early 2026. This platform is designed to help city governments plan and measure their greening efforts through a structured framework. Discussions are continuing with Expo organisers to host specialised Green City conferences within their programmes.

On the communications front, our monthly AIPH Global Green City Update maintains a steady readership, and we are researching new ways to reach city decision-makers. We have signed an MOU with the Arid Cities Network to facilitate the adoption of the AIPH Green City Standard in hot and arid climates. To better support our members, we are reinstating annual regional reports to track how AIPH urban greening activities influence the demand for ornamental horticulture. This data, alongside the upcoming release of our special journal issue in *Cities&Health*, will continue to support our role in global knowledge exchange.

Summary of Member Benefits:

The current strategic activities of AIPH are designed to bridge the gap between global urban policy and the commercial interests of the ornamental horticulture industry. By participating in high-level summits such as WUF 13 and C40, AIPH ensures that the industry is not just a supplier, but a recognised strategic partner in solving global challenges including urban heat and climate resilience. This positioning elevates the status of our members, providing them with greater leverage when engaging with their own local and national governments.

The AIPH Green City Standard and the World Green City Awards create a structured demand for the products our members produce. The upcoming online platform for the AIPH Standard provides cities with a roadmap that necessitates high-quality plants and professional landscaping, effectively creating a "pipeline" of greening projects. Furthermore, the capacity to provide feedback reports helps cities move from aspiration to implementation, directly increasing the regional demand for horticultural expertise and plant material.

The reinstatement of annual Green City reports from Members is a direct benefit aimed at quantifying the industry's impact. By collecting this data, AIPH can produce evidence-based

communications that show exactly how the ornamental horticulture sector contributes to urban health and economic value. This data provides members with powerful marketing and advocacy tools to use within their own regions. Our expanding networks with partners and city networks open new opportunities for members ensuring that our global work supports local commercial growth.

Key Strategic Goals for the AIPH Green City Initiative

1. Increasing AIPH visibility and impact

AIPH significantly expanded its global influence in late 2025 through strategic presence at high-level summits including COP30, C40, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Key achievements include the launch of the #BeatTheHeat initiative with UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and the selection of AIPH's podcast for IUCN's official series. Collaborative efforts with partners support the potential integration of the AIPH Green City Standard into global urban agendas. By securing roles on international juries and congress committees, such as WGIN (World Green Infrastructure Network), AIPH continues to cement its position as a primary authority in nature-positive urban development. These engagements span a wide range of topics from urban biodiversity and green infrastructure to circular cities and nature-based education. AIPH continues to explore participation in high-level global climate conferences to amplify our influence on a worldwide stage.

2. Leading Green City knowledge exchange

The 2026 World Green City Awards received significant interest, with 51 entries from 29 countries. Strategic inclusion of youth through the AIPH Youth Award jury strengthens ties between urban greening and horticulture producers. A new partnership with Nanyang Technological University will provide cities with evidence-based feedback reports to facilitate capacity-building workshops.

The AIPH Green City Standard is making good progress with an online platform launch scheduled for Spring 2026. Knowledge dissemination continues through the upcoming Cities&Health Special Journal and the AIPH Green City Briefings series, which has amassed over 8,250 views over the past 5 years.

3. Networks and communications

This section focuses on the growth of the AIPH network and the mechanisms used to communicate with global stakeholders. The monthly AIPH Global Green City Update remains a primary tool for external engagement, maintaining a steady readership of over 1,800 people. Social media engagement continues to grow, particularly on LinkedIn, which now serves an audience of nearly 1,600 followers.

Strategic partnerships remain central to our impact. A key development is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arid Cities Network, led by the Earthna Foundation. This partnership will promote the adoption of the AIPH Green City Standard in hot and arid regions and facilitate data sharing for academic research. While our application for IUCN membership was not successful at this time, we are pivoting our focus toward building relationships within the built environment, tourism, and health sectors, including organizations like the WHO and the World Green Building Council.

AIPH is reinstating the request for annual Green City reports from its members. These reports are designed to bridge the gap between high-level advocacy and the ornamental horticulture industry by identifying how greening activities drive demand for plants and flowers. By sharing these regional insights through the AIPH Green City Global Update, we aim to demonstrate the tangible economic and environmental contributions of our members to urban resilience.

The [AIPH Green City Team](#) consists of:

Mr Bill Hardy – Chair of Green City committee

Dr Audrey Timm – Responsible for the AIPH Green City Team; its strategy, execution, and reporting; with specific attention to the AIPH World Green City Awards, the AIPH Global Green City Standard, collaborations with third parties, and representing AIPH at events.

Rosie Hakes – Leads the communications team and supports AIPH World Green City Awards and other Green City programmes.

Hannah Pinnells – Focuses on digital design, PRs, and communications support.

Jennifer Dunn – External consultant to AIPH, progressing the AIPH Green City Standard and supporting the AIPH World Green City Awards. Jennifer previously participated on the Technical Panel for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024 and supported AIPH at the Salzburg Global programme for Greening Schoolgrounds and Outdoor Learning in her role with Salzburg Global as Network Development Specialist.

Francesca Boyd has taken other employment, still in the urban greening sector. She continues to contribute to the AIPH Global Green City Update in preparing research insights.

Additional part-time support from: **Anne-Marie Evans**, **Surya HK**, and **Lauriane Chalmin-Pui** contributed to the success of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2026 edition and supported creative comms campaigns.

Notes for attention of AIPH Members

- View the recording of the [AIPH Green City Briefings](#) and promote this series in your region.
- Follow the [AIPH Green City LinkedIn page](#).
- [Subscribe](#) to receive the monthly [AIPH Global Green City Update](#).
- Inform AIPH of any activity in your region that we can include in the AIPH Global Green City Update
- Be aware of developments in the AIPH Green City Standard and explore opportunities for cities in your region to adopt the AIPH Standard
- Complete the AIPH Green City Member report using the template from AIPH.

Key features of our activities in the Green City initiative that relate to the AIPH strategic plan are:

1. Increasing AIPH visibility and impact
2. Leading Green City knowledge exchange
3. Networks and communications

Details of activities in each theme:

1. Increasing AIPH visibility and impact.

AIPH participation in events.

AIPH was represented by Dr Audrey Timm at meetings and conferences in Rio de Janeiro in November 2025. C40, UNEP and World Bank and partners organised meetings in Rio ahead of COP30 in Belem.



C40 included a Mayors Round Table and Urban Nature Forum and was attended by 2,000 people with 300 mayors involved. The World Bank Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Urban Nature Forum held an event to promote their programme and agenda. AIPH was invited to present a 3 minute speech on how our work supports that of the Urban Nature Forum. AIPH met with partners IFLA, ISOCARP, ICLEI and other agencies, including WRI Cities4Forests, UN-Habitat, EBRD, WDCSD.

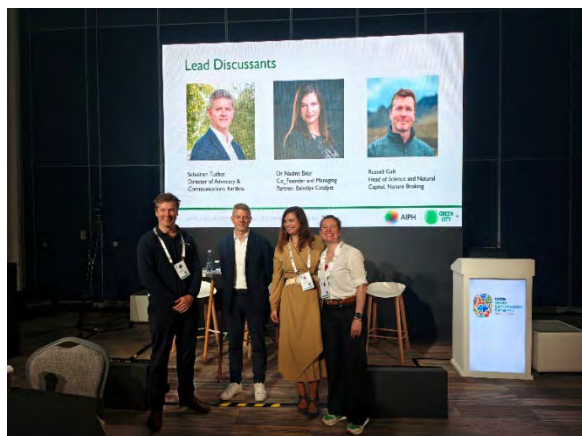
AIPH was grateful for the support of CNLA representative, Alan White, at the Rio meetings and for taking the AIPH advocacy message to COP30 in Belem. Audrey Timm prepared a short report of the event, which was circulated within the AIPH management team.



AIPH offered support for #BeatTheHeat– this new initiative from the Cool Coalition showcases global action on sustainable cooling and extreme heat resistance. At the launch by UNEP in Belem at COP30, the AIPH logo was on screen as a partner for the initiative.

AIPH attended the **IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects) World Congress 2025**, held in Nantes, France from 10-12 September 2025 [IFLA World Congress 2025](#) . Audrey has contributed to the IFLA Corporate Governance Review Working Group (CGRWG), set up to review existing IFLA organisational and operational models and construct new models that better suit the needs of the organisation. As well as attending the IFLA World Council, which precedes the congress, AIPH participated in a panel session which addressed the issue of professional practices in line with standards and guidelines.

AIPH was represented by Treve Evans at **Circular Cities Network** conference in Oman in October 2025. The theme of his presentation was Circular Cities: Principles for Ornamental Horticulture. AIPH was not able to participate in the **Salzburg Global** programme on Nature-based Education: Time for Action, in September 2025.



Jenn Dunn represented AIPH at the **IUCN World Conservation Congress** in Abu Dhabi in October. AIPH lead 2 presentations, Growing Greener Cities (podcast) and AIPH Green City Standard: A Framework for Nature-Positive Urban Development, as well accepting an invitation to contribute to a session lead by IUCN Secretariat and NATURA, with contributions from IUCN CEC, AIPH, ICLEI, Cape Town, Terra Dubai, and Singapore National Parks – Rewilding the Urban Mind. Competition for places in the programme was high, and we are pleased with

AIPH participation. The podcast was selected for inclusion in the IUCN podcast series which is soon to be launched on Spotify and YouTube.

There are many events that AIPH could be represented at, however, those that we attend are carefully selected to ensure the best possible value outcomes.

AIPH was represented by Audrey Timm on the Jury for the Green Neighbourhood category in the **World Green Infrastructure Network (WGIN) Awards 2025**. WGIN has invited AIPH to participate on the Congress Committee that reviews papers submitted for inclusion in the conference programme and provides some feedback to authors. WGIN, World Green Infrastructure Network, Congress is on October 26 in Barcelona.

AIPH has submitted an application to lead a session at WUF 13 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan 19-22 May 2026. This is a networking session to promote the AIPH Green City Standard. AIPH Partner IFLA is collaborating on this session, and AIPH will invite cities that are attending the event in Baku to participate.

AIPH was invited to join sessions with partner organisations IFLA, UNEP, ISUH, ISOCARP and WGIN. The topics of these 2 sessions are: SDGs in Action and Voices from Cities. WUF 13 organisers will inform applicants by 20th February of their inclusion in the programme.

2. Leading Green City Knowledge exchange

AIPH World Green City Awards



Entries for the AIPH World Green City Awards 2026 was extended from 19th October to early November 2025. Interest was received from 229 sources across 45 countries, resulting in 51 entries from 29 countries.

The categories and questions are the same as the 2024 edition.

The [Global Youth Biodiversity Network](#) is supporting the AIPH Youth Award again. The Young IGOTY winners of 2025 and 2026 have been invited to join the Youth Jury. The 2024 winner, Colin Fernandes, is on the panel to select the Youth Jury, having himself participated on the Youth Jury to select the 2024 winner of the AIPH Youth Award. Their inclusion contributes to the connection between AIPH Green City work and the producers who are our members.

Countries with entries in the AIPH World Green City Awards 2026 edition. Bold text in the table show which are countries in which AIPH has a member organisation.

Australia	Brazil	Canada
Chile	Colombia	DR Congo
Ecuador	Egypt	Finland
France	India	Iran
Malaysia	Mexico	Mozambique
Netherlands	Palestine	Philippines
Portugal	Saudi Arabia	Somalia
South Africa	Thailand	Turkiye
Uganda	UK	United Arab Emirates
USA		

The [Technical Panel](#) has completed scoring and the Finalists will be decided in an online meeting. Jury selection is underway.

A venue for the awards ceremony in 2026 is yet to be decided. The AIPH strategy is to hold the event alongside another meeting or conference that will provide additional value to city representatives to attend the event. This would either be an existing event that one of our partners or associate organisations is holding, or a dedicated conference organised by AIPH if sufficient funding was forthcoming.

Through the collaboration with [Resilient and Inclusive Cities](#) Lab of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, city entries for the 2026 edition will be assessed and a short feedback report provided to cities. This report aims to support evidence-based urban greening and promote knowledge sharing between cities. It is the intention that these reports will enable AIPH to offer collaborative capacity-building workshops for cities.

AIPH Green City Standard

The [AIPH Green City Standard](#) is presented on the AIPH website with a new logo, providing clear information about the intention of the AIPH Standard and how it will support cities.



The Standard provides cities with a clear, actionable roadmap to unlock the full potential of urban greening, delivering measurable environmental, social, and economic benefits.

The AIPH Green City Standard gives city governments a clear and proven framework to plan, measure, and improve their greening efforts. It is designed to:

- Make urban greening more efficient and cost-effective
- Help cities show the value of greening to decision-makers and funders
- Improve quality of life for residents
- Strengthen climate resilience and city competitiveness

Jennifer Dunn continues to consult to AIPH to develop the AIPH Green City Standard. A revised framework includes suggestions and recommendations received from the Pilot Cities and the expert reviewers. AIPH has started development of the online platform to which cities will subscribe.

Invitations to Steering Committee members have gone out and the first meeting of this group is planned for late March. The launch of this platform is anticipated for April or May 2026.

A full report on the AIPH Green City Standard has been prepared separately.

AIPH Green City Conferences

AIPH is in discussions with forthcoming Expo organisers who are interested in holding Green City conferences within their Expos. The contribution of AIPH is in programme development of specialised Green City conferences and recommendations and introductions to speakers. Conversations in progress are for Taean Expo and Udon Thani Expo.

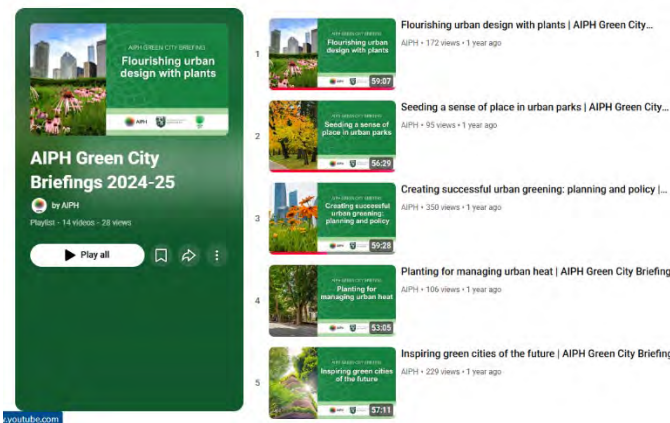
Living Green, Liveable Cities Special Journal Issue.

The Cities&Health Special Journal Issue 'Living Green, Liveable Cities' is scheduled for release in May 2026 (exact date yet to be decided). This Special Issue consists of 240 pages with 20 articles grouped according to the three themes of Social and Cultural Health, Health and Wellbeing, and Environmental health. Each section starts with the content of a keynote address to introduce the theme and provide illustrative case studies. This publication results from the AIPH Green City Research Symposium held in Doha, Qatar in February 2024. The Qatari Ministry of Municipality has contributed to the introductory editorial in recognition of their support. The recordings from this symposium on the [AIPH YouTube channel](#) have had more than 1,300 viewings.

4 February 2024 - 5 February 2024, Doha, Qatar



AIPH Global Green City Briefings



During 2025 AIPH gave global media exposure to the winners of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024 through the AIPH Green City Briefings. The final AIPH Green City Briefing was held in December 2025, with the focus on the City of Chengdu, the Grand Winner of the AIPH World Green City Awards. The MC for this session was Mr Robert Howard, Master Gardener of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, UK. AIPH is grateful to our member in China, the China Flower Association, for facilitating invitations to the City of Chengdu to provide a speaker.

Previous webinars in the series are available for on-demand viewing on the [AIPH YouTube channel](#).

At this stage a further series of AIPH Green City Briefings has not been confirmed. An analysis of the audience and the recordings reveals a total of 8,250 viewings both live and recorded for the entire series from 2021 to 2026 – a total of 34 sessions. AIPH Comms has explored opportunities for amplification of this series to increase viewership, and this is being considered alongside a review of the cost of this series to AIPH. All of the sessions have received funding from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners which covers the cost of Seren Events to manage the online delivery of the AIPH Green City Briefings.

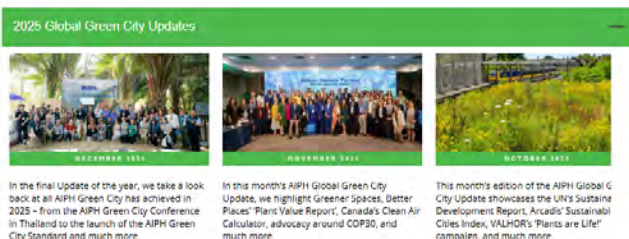
3. Networks and communications

AIPH Global Green City Update



This monthly publication is a key tool for supporting and promoting the work of our members and network of partner organisations, and remains one of the key mechanisms through which we communicate externally with our green city network [AIPH Global Green City Update](#).

Readership is 1,826 readers, with an average open rate of 29%. This readership has been static for more than a year. AIPH Comms is considering options to raise the audience.



Partnerships:

AIPH has received good support from some of our partners in promoting the AIPH World Green City Awards and distributing other comms. We continue to look for new partnerships, targeting the built environment and business – WBCSD, ULI, WGBC - leisure and tourism industries - WLO, WTO/ UN Tourism – and health organisations, particularly WHO. Contact with experts to request feedback on the AIPH Green City Standard that is scheduled for Q3 and 4 2025 will serve to create relationships that lead to an enhanced awareness of AIPH and new partnerships.

Partnership with WGIN - contribute to congress committee. members of the Congress Committee are expected to review some papers, to decide whether "oral" or "poster" and to provide the authors some feedback to produce the final version.

Earthna Foundation Arid Cities Network

AIPH has agreed to an MOU with the Arid Cities Network, lead by the Earthna Foundation. The Arid Cities Network (**"ACN"**) is a city-level partnership and community of practice to accelerate the delivery of sustainable and resilient solutions at a regional and/or global scale for hot and arid cities, grounded in traditional knowledge. Through this agreement, AIPH will work with ACN for cities to adopt the AIPH Green City Standard, and to facilitate use of the data for academic research. An online signing ceremony is planned for late February.



IUCN Membership

The AIPH application for membership of IUCN was not successful. AIPH may consider reapplying, however, this is not considered to be a priority.

Media and Communications- AIPH Comms team supports our Green City social media assets and campaigns.



The main resource is the [AIPH Green City LinkedIn page](#). The number of Followers continues to increase steadily, now reaching an audience of 1,596.

Overall, the AIPH Green City web pages receive between 4,500 and 6,700 views each month, with the AIPH World Green City Awards receiving the most attention.

AIPH Comms has recently undertaken intensive research to identify sources that are most likely to be read by city authorities and decision-makers. This will inform the targets for the Comms Campaign for the AIPH Green City Standard.

Green City Reports from AIPH Members

AIPH intends to reinstate an annual request for Members to provide a report on Green City activities in their region. This will enable us to explore the connection between AIPH Green City activities and demand for plants and flowers. The content of these reports will be used in the AIPH Global Green City Update to present how the ornamental horticulture industry is contributing to greener, resilient, and liveable cities.

Ornamentals Production Committee Report:
Date: September 2025 – January 2026

Summary:

General:

AIPH Ornamentals Production Committee serves to protect and promote the interests of the ornamental horticulture industry, focusing on the three main topics of Sustainability, Novelty Protection, and Plant Health. AIPH supports the development of a sustainable industry in terms of People, Planet and Profit. We develop and stimulate industry initiatives to reduce the risks of plant health outbreaks in the industry, keeping members informed and providing guidance as global initiatives and issues arise. In representing the ornamental horticulture industry in discussions relating to regulations and legal developments, AIPH creates an enabling environment for innovation in plant breeding to create a successful, developing industry. Through our ever-strengthening connections with our members, AIPH nurtures the effective exchange of knowledge and information between members, growers and countries.

Novelty Protection.

AIPH's strategic observership within UPOV's Administrative and Legal Committee and the Working Group on Harvested Material ensures that the ornamental sector's interests are prioritised. By actively participating in the Horizon Scanning Exercise, AIPH contributed to the integration of climate-resilient varieties and "green city" principles into the 2026–2029 Strategic Business Plan. Furthermore, AIPH's bilateral engagements with CPVO and CIOPORA facilitate critical discourse on DUS testing efficiencies and the legal distinctions between propagating and harvested material. This representation is vital for balancing breeders' royalty rights under Article 14(2) against the commercial sustainability of producers.

Plant Health.

AIPH demonstrates a multi-faceted leadership role in global phytosanitary governance. AIPH is leading the development of a Unified Framework, an audit-based standard rooted in HACCP and Systems Approach principles designed to harmonise international biosecurity. This extensive involvement spans the coordination of a new Plant Health Forum, and the submission of technical reports to the IPPC CPM 21 meetings to facilitate cross-border trade. AIPH supports members by monitoring and reporting on EPPO and EFSA pest risk assessments for critical threats such as *Xylella fastidiosa*, alongside developments in CITES CoP20 to implement artificial propagation codes and digital traceability. AIPH facilitates industry capacity building via the IPPC Plant Health Campus and collaborates with BGCI (Botanic Gardens Conservation International) on the Illegal Plant Trade Coalition to mitigate illicit trade risks. Collectively, these diverse activities ensure that the ornamental horticulture sector maintains high-level compliance with international quarantine regulations, chemical registration updates, and global conservation frameworks.

Sustainability

AIPH serves to represent the ornamental horticulture industry, collating and reporting on diverse sectoral advancements to ensure that stakeholders remain informed on critical sustainability and regulatory trends. AIPH is working towards the integration of sustainability data into the International Statistics Flowers and Plants Yearbook, synthesising performance metrics from established certification schemes to map industry performance and trends. This reporting extends to monitoring logistical shifts toward sea-freight and social indicators such as social and gender parity aligned with SDG 5. AIPH tracks technical progress within the sector, including the FSI-led Plant Protection Product Project for substance phase-out and the Horti Sustainable Packaging Initiative's focus on circularity and life cycle assessments. AIPH is leading on the creation and promotion of best-practice guidelines for sustainable floral displays at events and celebrates

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sectoral excellence through the International Grower of the Year Awards. By reporting on these diverse industry-led initiatives to the ornamental horticulture sector, AIPH provides a comprehensive overview of the sector's collective progress toward meeting international environmental and social standards.

The [AIPH Ornamentals Production Team](#) consists of:

Mr Jack Goossens –AIPH Vice President and Chair of Ornamentals Production committee

Dr Audrey Timm – Responsible for the AIPH Ornamentals Production Team; its strategy, execution, and reporting; with specific attention to initiating and progressing Plant Health and Sustainability agendas and overseeing the content of the International Grower of the Year Award.

Rachel Wakefield – Focuses on preparing subject specific AIPH newsletters, liaising with AIPH members, digital design, and communications support.

Mia Buma – Advisory to Sparring Partner Group (SPG) Novelty Protection and IP

For attention of members:

- Any members who would like to be added to the SPG list to receive the latest news from AIPH on novelty protection, please contact Rachel Wakefield (rachel.wakefield@aiph.org).
- For the final version of **Sustainable** use of flowers and plants at events and for the AIPH website, we request members to suggest case studies that can support this publication and showcase successes.
- Assist AIPH when requested to provide **industry statistics** that enable AIPH to compile an overview of the value and reach of the global ornamental horticulture industry.



Report Sparring Partner Group Novelty Protection and IP June 2025- January 2026

Author: Mia Buma, Advisory to Sparring Partner Group (SPG) Novelty Protection and IP

Summary:

I. UPOV Strategic and Legal Developments

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) sessions held in Geneva (October 2025) focused on modernising the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) framework to meet global challenges.

- Strategic Business Plan (SBP) 2026-2029: Adopted to replace the 2023-2027 plan. It introduces a Horizon Scanning Exercise and a Risk Appetite Statement. Notably, the SBP now integrates ornamental-specific trends:
 - Climate Change & Biodiversity: Focus on incentivising drought, heat, and pest-resistant varieties.
 - Green Cities: UPOV has adopted the principle of urban agriculture and ecosystem restoration as a strategic priority.
- Expansion of Membership: Nigeria formally joined UPOV (80 members covering 99 states), and Malaysia is nearing accession.
- Operational Efficiency: The Technical Committee (TC) is investigating methods to reduce delays in DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity, Stability) testing caused by phytosanitary requirements, including the potential use of test reports from other UPOV members.

II. Intellectual Property & The Harvested Material Dispute

A central focus of the reporting period was the study by the Working Group on Harvested Material (WG-HRV) regarding Article 14(2) of the 1991 UPOV Act.

- Expert Group Study: A final report was published on January 22, 2026, analysing the concepts of "unauthorised use," "reasonable opportunity," and "exhaustion of rights."
- The "Cascade" Principle: The report addresses the tension between breeders and producers.
 - Breeders' Position (CIOPORA): Advocate for a broad definition of "propagating material" to include any plant part capable of reproduction (e.g., cut flowers), seeking to collect royalties as early as possible.
 - Producers' Position (AIPH): Emphasises that breeders must exercise rights at the propagating material stage first. Extension to harvested material should only occur if no "reasonable opportunity" existed previously.
- Legal Uncertainty: AIPH expressed disappointment that the study was not permitted to address the Nadorcott case jurisprudence or provide a definitive classification for when harvested material becomes propagating material again.

III. CPVO Strategic Priorities & Cooperation

The bilateral meeting between AIPH and the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) highlighted key initiatives for the European horticultural sector:

- DUS Testing Reform: Discussions centre on centralising reference collections and reducing testing duration (currently averaging two years) to lower costs.
- NGT & Patent Coexistence: With the rise of New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), CPVO and the European Patent Office (EPO) are intensifying cooperation to ensure that Plant Variety Rights (PVRs) and patents coexist as innovation incentives.
- Legal Trends: A peak in legal proceedings was noted in 2023, with fruit species remaining the most frequently litigated.

IV. Sectoral Benefits

The report outlines several direct benefits for plant breeders, producers, and the wider horticulture industry:

Benefit Area	Impact on Horticulture Sector
Climate Resilience	Incentivizes the development of varieties adapted to extreme weather and reduced chemical inputs.

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Benefit Area	Impact on Horticulture Sector
Cost Efficiency	Potential reduction in DUS testing fees and duration through centralized EU testing and international report sharing.
Market Stability	Greater legal certainty in international trade through the expansion of UPOV membership (e.g., Nigeria, Malaysia).
Sustainability	Integration of "Green City" principles into global IP strategy, opening new markets for environmental services and urban-adapted varieties.
Enforcement Clarity	Ongoing work to clarify "unauthorised use" helps prevent unfair competition from unlicensed production.

Report in detail: Author: Mia Buma, Advisory to Sparring Partner Group (SPG) Novelty Protection and IP

General:

In October 2025, the annual **UPOV** (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) **meetings** took place in Geneva (Switzerland). AIPH's advisor represented AIPH in UPOV's **Administrative and Legal Committee**, it's **Working group on Harvested Material (WG-HRV)** and in the UPOV **Council**.

AIPH had the annual bilateral meeting with **CPVO's president**, Mr. Francesco Mattina, and met **CIOPORA's** secretary-general, Mr. Edgar Krieger, and vice-secretary-general Ms. Micaela Filippo. In the bilateral with CIOPORA, Mia Buma was accompanied by Mr. Huib Ghijsen. Huib is member of the expert group, with the task to produce a study-report to assist in the WG-HRV's deliberations on the UPOV principle of "Scope of the Breeder's Right" (Article 14(1) and (2) of UPOV's 1991 Act), and the relationship with the "Exhaustion of the Breeder's Right" (Article 16 of the 1991 Act). This report was published on 22nd January, 2026.

UPOV

Working group on Harvested Material, October 22, 2025 (WG-HRV):

The five members of **Expert group on Harvested Material** had a physical meeting in Geneva. Mr. Huib Ghijsen is member and group coordinator of this independent expert group. He presented in the Working group on Harvested Material (WG-HRV) their progress. The Group analyses the history of the 1978 and 1991 UPOV Conventions and the intentions of the drafters for the concepts of article 14(2) of UPOV 1991 (in particular the concepts in Article 14 of "unauthorised use", "reasonable opportunity", "exhaustion of the right", "propagating material" and "harvested material") by studying the preparatory papers and the records of the diplomatic conferences, together with the relevant jurisprudence. Unfortunately, it was decided in the WG-HRV that the study was not allowed to include a paragraph about the principles of propagating material and harvested material. For AIPH this is disappointing, because better understanding when and if harvested material can be used as propagating material again, would be beneficial to the correct application of UPOV's articles 14, sub 1 and sub 2. It is also disappointing that the expert group was not allowed to add a paragraph in which their findings were tested against the relevant HRV jurisprudence. The reason given was that these issues were not included in the Terms of Reference. However, from a practical point of view it is a pity the experts were not permitted to include this perspective. Considering the confusing ruling by the judges in the Nadorcott case, it would have been valuable to hear the conclusions of the expert group in relation to the case law.

The final report of the expert group has been published and made available to the WG-HRV on January 22, 2026, giving the members time to consider the final version of the study before the ninth meeting of the WG-HRV, March 19, 2026.

Link to the final report of the expert group:

https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?meeting_id=90361&doc_id=654666

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In **UPOV's Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), October 21, 2025 and Council, October 24, 2025** several relevant issues came on the conference table.

At the start of the CAJ, UPOV's Vice-Secretary General, Yolanda Huerta, gave a very informative update presentation about recent UPOV developments. Use the following link to listen and to watch her presentation:

<https://multimedia.wipo.int/upov/en/2025-yolanda-huerta-recent-developments-upov-720p.mp4>

Concluding a week of discussions at the 2025 UPOV sessions, Secretary-General Daren Tang underscored the plant variety protection (PVP) system's essential role in fostering innovation and development in plant breeding: *"New varieties adapted to local environments not only support innovation, investments, strong value chains and rural employment, they also increase the choice of healthy, nutritious and affordable food. By supporting breeders worldwide, the PVP system helps farmers and growers to boost incomes, increase yields and drive productivity."*

The Council adopted **UPOV's Strategic Business Plan (SBP) for 2026-2029**, replacing the SBP for 2023-2027. Key highlights in the SPB are: a new Horizon Scanning Exercise, proposals for a UPOV Risk Appetite Statement and a UPOV resources strategy. These elements are crucial for UPOV's growth and resilience in the coming years.

It is encouraging to know that it is thanks to AIPH's participation in **UPOV's Horizon Scanning Exercise 2025**, that issues relevant to the ornamental sector such as *Climate Change, Sustainability and Biodiversity* are included in the major trends that the UPOV system needs to anticipate and respond to, if it wants to remain relevant and impactful. In addition, UPOV incorporated the principle of green cities in its SBP. See note 1 for details.

The UPOV sessions 2025 brought together more than 200 delegates from UPOV's members and observers, to review progress on the organization's strategic priorities and developments over the past year.

Key highlights included:

- 1) the formal welcome of Nigeria as UPOV's newest member
- 2) in-depth discussions on the Strategic Business Plan 2026–2029
- 3) exchanges on how new technologies are transforming plant variety protection and driving innovation in agriculture



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Addressing the UPOV Council, Mr. Fatuhu Muhammed, Director General of the Nigerian Agricultural Seeds Council reaffirmed Nigeria's dedication to global collaboration in plant variety protection.

4) UPOV members provided positive advice on the legislation of Malaysia, paving the way for the Southeast Asian nation to become a UPOV member, once the laws are adopted.

5) In 2024, more than 29,000 plant variety protection (PVP) filings were made - the ninth straight year of increase. With the recent accession of Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, UPOV counts 80 members covering 99 states.

6) From UPOV's Technical Committee (TC) meeting: besides discussions on improvement of the PBR application procedures and DUS testing, the TC agreed to organise a webinar on practical experiences with delays in DUS testing due to phytosanitary requirements and considerations on using test reports from another UPOV member, to reduce delay in granting breeders' rights. The TC received the expressions of interest to make presentations from Australia, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand and United Kingdom.

7) PVP statistics period 2014-2024: in the CAJ meeting an interesting overview was given by the UPOV team about the PVP statistics in the period 2014-2024. It gives insight in PVP applications, titles granted, by which PVP office, by which country, PVP in force worldwide etc. etc.

<https://www.upov.int/en/plant-variety-protection/pvp-statistics>

8) Finally, the sessions also saw the handover of UPOV leadership positions. Outgoing President of the Council, Mr. Yehan Cui (China), passed the baton to Mr. Anthony Parker (Canada). The Chair of the Administrative and Legal Committee, Ms. María Laura Villamayor (Argentina) handed over to Ms. Minori Hagiwara (Japan) while the Chair of the Technical Committee, Ms. Beate Rücker (Germany) was succeeded by Ms. Nuria Urquía Fernández (EU).

On the sidelines of the sessions, on October 22, 2025, UPOV held a **Seminar on Cooperation with Breeders in Plant Variety DUS (distinct, uniformity and stability) Examinations**, where members shared experiences on collaborating with breeders to make plant variety examinations more cost effective and efficient. These examinations concern the DUS tests of newly bred varieties for which the breeder submits an application for plant breeders rights. The newness, distinctness, uniformity and stability of a variety are tested, before the PBR-application can be granted. Participants presented examples of cooperative testing approaches across national systems and discussed the benefits of collaboration in implementing the options provided under the UPOV Convention.

CPVO

The annual bilateral Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)-AIPH in Geneva

Francesco Mattina, CPVO's President, met with AIPH, represented by Mia Buma, for the annual bilateral CPVO-AIPH. Current issues in CPVO are:

1) Strategic discussions on DUS testing

Similar to UPOV, where a Seminar on Cooperation with Breeders in Plant Variety DUS examinations was proposed, a more cost effective and efficient way of the DUS testing was discussed within CPVO. It would be helpful if a reduction of the duration of DUS testing (average time is two years now) could be reached. The same goes for centralisation of the reference collections. With a concentration of DUS testing capacities, costs could be reduced.

2) CPVO's Preliminary Horizon scanning report

The objective of CPVO's preliminary horizon scanning is to provide its Administrative Council with contrasted information that will allow taking informed decisions on substantive policies. It intends to help CPVO to act and react to market dynamics and ultimately PVP applications' flows.

3) CPVO-EPO (European Patent Office) cooperation

Patents and PVRs already coexist on plant varieties. With the arrival of New Genetic Techniques (NGT's) such coexistence will very likely increase. Both patents and PVRs need to become incentives for agricultural and horticultural innovation. Already in 2016 the CPVO and the European Patent Office (EPO) decided to formalise a collaborative mechanism to strengthen their

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relationship through cooperation and information exchange in the area of plant-related patents and plant variety rights.

4) Update on international cooperation activities

CPVO focuses on regions and countries where international cooperation activities might have a higher impact. For example, countries close to accession to UPOV, to EU priorities on trade negotiations, and engagement from the beneficiary countries.

5) Overview of all legal proceedings (ongoing and terminated) during years 2022 to 2025

Main conclusions of the overview are: 1) a high number of legal proceedings overall, with a peak reached in 2023, 2) fruit species remain the main species involved in legal proceedings, 3) there is a dominance of English as main language, but multilingualism remains at the core of CPVO's work.

CIOPORA

The main topic in the bilateral meeting of CIOPORA -AIPH was the Progress report of the Expert group on Harvested Material (HRV). For this reason Huib Ghijsen joined this meeting.

Link to Progress report on the study of Expert Group:

https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=88391 under [WG-HRV/8/2](#)

CIOPORA proposed to not support the third chapter of the progress report. In this chapter the intentions of the drafters of UPOV's Convention 1991 on the two principles of propagating- and harvested material are further analysed, from the perspective that it depends on how the material is used in practice to be finally classified as propagating or harvested material. The expert group mentions the Records of the 1991 Conference, that take a clear position on **not** defining "propagating material".

For cut flowers, the records give clear indications that the drafters considered them as "harvested materials". The drafters referred to breeders who wish to have more extensive protection of their rights, to make their position more sure by making appropriate license-contracts.

In AIPH's point of view it is important for the correct application of UPOV article 14 sub 2 (harvested material), to establish in a dispute whether it concerns propagating or harvested material. As a consequence of the uncertain protection of the harvested material, due to the lack of clarity of a correct application of article 14 sub 2, breeders (at least the members of CIOPORA) prefer that all plant material of their variety is considered as propagating material or constituents. This preference of the breeders is exactly where the problem lies, as it is in conflict with the interests of the growers and farmers. Full extension of the scope of the breeders right to harvested material could cause too large a power position of the breeders (think of competition law regulation) in the production- and distribution chain and could disturb it. The breeders have to exercise their rights (receiving their royalties) as early as possible in the distribution chain. If possible the breeders should collect their royalties on the propagating material. They are only allowed (as article 14, sub 2 says) to exercise their rights on the harvested material as the breeder has had no reasonable opportunity to do so on the propagating material and if the material used was unauthorised.

The discussions will continue in the next meeting of UPOV's Working Group on HRV on March 19, 2026. For preparatory and interpretation purposes, UPOV delegates are invited to send any comments and questions on the final report of the expert group, in writing before the meeting by March 6, 2026. Your advisor will prepare AIPH's written comments and questions before this date.

Finally, last August, your advisor had an update-meeting with Jack Goossens, the chairman of the Ornamentals Groups, in order to prepare the PBR aspects to be reported in AIPH's Congress, September 2025 in Ghent. During the congress, your advisor met Patrick Dieleman, editor of the Belgium magazine *Sierteelt & Groen*, trade magazine of AVBS. This resulted in a lively interview publication with your advisor concerning recent developments in the PVP-world.

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Further details and clarifications about the above mentioned AIPH activities in the international PBR field:

Note 1:

In [UPOV's Strategic Business Plan \(SBP\) for 2026-2029](#) the issues *Climate Change, Sustainability, and Biodiversity* are further detailed as follows:

- **Climate-Resilient Varieties:** growing demand for drought, heat, pest, and disease-resistant crops underscores the importance of PVP (Plant Variety Protection) in incentivising adaptation to climatic challenges.
- **Sustainability Integration:** PVP needs to be positioned as part of broader sustainability agendas, leveraging plant variety protection for biodiversity conservation and supporting inclusive agriculture and diverse farming systems, such as organic farming.
- **Urban Agriculture and Ecosystem Restoration:** emerging areas such as **green cities** and ecosystem restoration require varieties adapted to new agricultural practices and enhanced environmental services.

In general, **the outcomes of the horizon scanning exercise 2025** make clear that the UPOV plant variety protection system faces critical challenges and opportunities due to rapid technological advances, climate change, evolving global trade, and shifting stakeholder expectations. Its future relevance depends on adapting to innovation, enhancing sustainability, improving efficiency, and fostering inclusivity. This has resulted in formulating in the SBP 'the Major Trends and Calls for Action for the UPOV Plant Variety Protection System'. Besides the outcomes of the horizon scanning exercise, the SBP includes the important chapter 'Strategy House', which provides insight in UPOV's mission, in its three strategic pillars and foundation, in its future direction and ensuring financial sustainability.

Link to UPOV's full Strategic Business Plan (SBP) for 2026-2029:

https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=85865 under C/59/14

General AIPH update on Novelty Protection:

Sparring Partner Group (SPG)

The first 2026 SPG newsletter has been prepared for distribution in February 2026. This will be followed by a second newsletter in the second half of 2026.

The SPG is an AIPH group focussed on novelty protection. The group is kept informed about the latest developments, the juridical consequences, and possible solutions, exchanges, and discussions for a better understanding and awareness of the importance of PBR and other fields of intellectual property rights. The SPG list has been updated and increased from the AIPH Member Survey 2025.

Plant Variety Protection Global Guide

The first set of chapters will be launched mid 2026 following review to ensure current validity.

ITALY



Emanuela Truffo
Jacobacci Avvocati Law Firm

AIPH is working with Emanuela Truffo of Jacobacci Advocati Law Firm in preparing a series of chapters that outline the process and options for plant variety protection in different regions around the world. Each chapter is written by and credited to a local expert in the field. Links to official websites for variable details such as costs are included where possible. AIPH leads on chapter design and compiling the chapters to be available for download from the AIPH website.

To date, AIPH has received draft chapters for the regions and countries: Italy, Japan, Spain, Israel, Portugal, UK, USA, Guatemala, Ukraine, Chile, France, EU, and Serbia.

JAPAN



USA



SERBIA



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Plant Health Report

Author: Dr Audrey Timm

AIPH Plant Health activities

Plant Health Benchmarking

A DRAFT Unified Framework for developing an International voluntary audit-based standard for Plant Health management in ornamental horticulture production has been developed and distributed for review. The first stage of review is undertaken by the core group of representatives of the 6 current plant health industry management standards. AIPH prepared a Terms of Reference for the core group which will later extend to a larger Plant Health Forum that engages with industry practitioners, plant biosecurity professionals, national trade body representatives, NPPO liaisons, and IPPC representatives. Mr Tim Edwards is consulting to AIPH on this project.

The DRAFT Unified Framework provides a robust, audit-based framework for nurseries and horticulture businesses to support the global ornamental horticulture industry to proactively manage biosecurity risks across the entire plant supply chain. This document serves as the essential guidance for developing internationally accepted, audit-based Plant Health management standards rooted in the HACCP and Systems Approach principles. This structure successfully integrates the audit-based process with the comprehensive systems approach, providing a clear blueprint for national standards development that is acceptable to regulatory authorities for cross-border trade approval.

AIPH has been invited by IPPC to submit an annual report with an update on this project for consideration for inclusion in the programme of the forthcoming CPM 21 meetings in Rome in March 2026.

PHA Plant Health Alliance.

AIPH continues with membership of the Plant Health Alliance. The Plant Health Alliance is a UK-based cross-sectoral group of organisations spanning ornamental horticulture, forestry and general land management, it includes trade associations, environmental NGOs and government agencies. PHA owns the Plant Healthy scheme for growers, garden retailers, landscapers and arborists.



Plant Healthy has released explainer videos for trade. There are seven easy-to-watch, concise films which cover how the scheme works and its benefits for businesses and employees as well as the natural environment, often featuring interviews already certified.

[Why Buy from a Plant Healthy Certified Business](#)

For the public, there are four equally digestible films which explain how the scheme works and what role

consumers can play in making it succeed:

- What is Plant Healthy: <https://youtu.be/OCqwV7mWdas>
- Why Plant Health Matters: https://youtu.be/WUZW7LVJC_k
- Everyone Has a Role to Play: https://youtu.be/7jPi6mZ49_M
- Why Buy from a Plant Healthy Certified Business: <https://youtu.be/yafsTbKlaTk>

These explainer videos have interest and relevance to other AIPH members considering developing a voluntary management scheme for plant health in the ornamental horticulture sector.

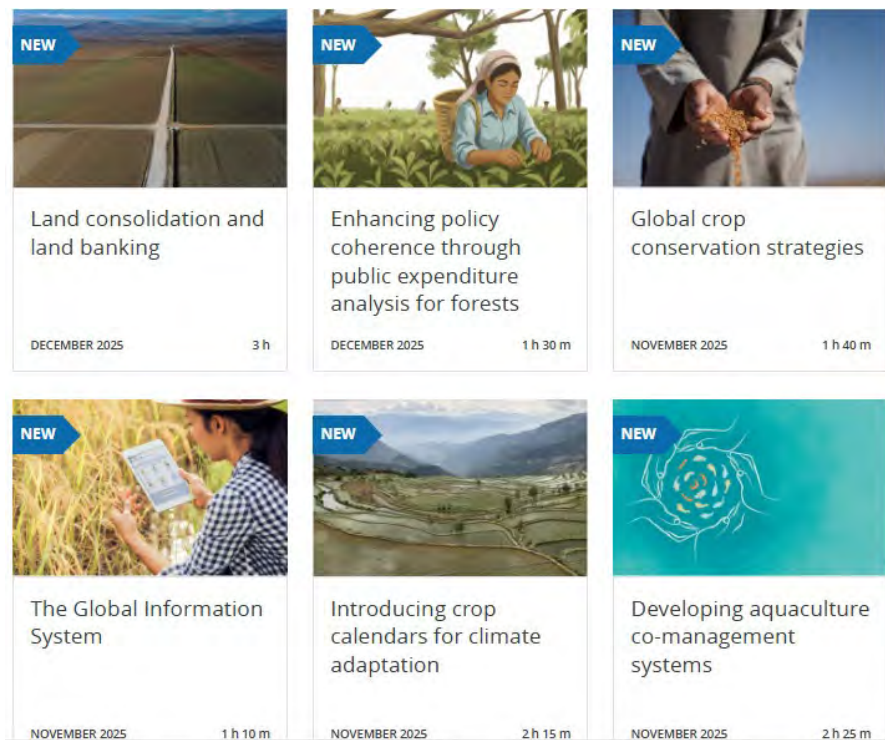
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Report on Plant Health, Invasive Plants and CITES: Key Developments in Plant Quarantine in the European Union, prepared for AIPH by Stefanie Miltenburg/Frits Jonk RFH - 1st half of 2026 – to follow.

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AIPH Plant Health General:

IPPC Plant Health Campus.



New courses are regularly added to the IPPC Plant Health Campus. This online platform is designed to strengthen phytosanitary capacity worldwide by offering free, certified e-learning courses, practical guides, and tools to support national and regional plant protection systems.

[Course: IPPC PLANT HEALTH CAMPUS | FAO elearning Academy](#)

The IPPC Plant Health Campus provides multilingual, certified e-learning courses that are accessible to anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world – for free. A new course of potential interest to AIPH members is [‘Pest emergency simulation: prevent, prepare, respond’](#).

EPPO

The EPPO Secretariat maintains a newsletter to which any interested person can subscribe (free of charge). This newsletter is sent on the first day of every month and lists all the pest risk analysis and relevant documents that have been published on the EPPO Platform on PRAs in the previous month. [EPPO PRA](#)

These are a selection from the newsletters in the second half of 2025:

[Priorities for EPPO PRAs in 2025-2026](#)

[Update of the Xylella spp. host plant database – Systematic literature search up to 31 December 2024](#)

[Update of the Xylella spp. host plant database – Systematic literature search up to 30 June 2025](#)

[Commodity risk assessment of Petunia spp. and Calibrachoa spp. unrooted cuttings from Uganda](#)

[Commodity risk assessment of Lonicera ligustrina var. pileata, Lonicera ligustrina var. yunnanensis and Lonicera periclymenum plants from the UK](#)

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[DRAFT Importation of Prunus spp. cuttings from Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom into the United States for planting](#)
[Evaluation of three assessments from the EFSA Panel on Plant Health quantifying the probability of introduction of a pest into the European Union](#)

[Advice from BuRO on the possible termination of the monitoring test for the export of lily bulbs to China](#)

[Acacia mearnsii](#)

[Assessment of the likelihood of establishment of Aromia bungii in Finland based on availability of host plants and suitability of climate](#)

[Pest risk assessments planned by EFSA in 2025-2029](#)

Xylella fastidiosa

[The overall number of Xylella spp. host](#) plants determined with at least two different detection methods or positive with one method (between sequencing and pure culture isolation (category A)), now reaches 464 plant species, 210 genera and 71 families. Such numbers rise to 728 plant species, 319 genera and 91 families if considered regardless of the detection methods applied (category E).

IPPC has published a field survey guidance to provide a protocol to aid in the monitoring, detection, sample collection, and diagnostics of *Xylella fastidiosa*, ensuring effective phytosanitary decision-making to manage the pest risk and protect cross-border trade.

[New IPPC publication: Field survey guidance for Xylella fastidiosa - International Plant Protection Convention](#)

Global attention to False Codling Moth

In June 2025, the IPPC released a [Field survey guidance for False codling moth](#). Kenya, led by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), developed and implemented the Rose False Codling Moth System Approach (Rose FCMSA), aligning with EU regulatory requirements. This “system approach” is a comprehensive, multi-layered pest risk management strategy designed to prevent, detect, and control FCM at every stage of flower production and export. [How Kenya's Systems Approach Manages False Codling Moth \(FCM\) in Rose Exports – Floriculture](#)

GIA announces two new minor-use permits for Australian horticulture

Two new Minor Use Permits are now available for the nursery industry, giving growers additional, legally approved options to manage key pest and disease challenges. A full list of current minor use permits – including crops, target pests and use conditions – is available on the [Australian Plant Production Standards website](#).

Hort Innovation Ag Chemical Updates

This regulatory support and response coordination project aims to provide Australian horticultural industries support to navigate complex domestic and international pesticide regulations. The project supports industry sustainability by safeguarding access to essential plant protection products, enabling stakeholders to develop effective response strategies and make informed investment decisions.

Updates are released as the project progresses. The most recent is [November 2025](#).
[Hort Innovation | Regulatory support and response co-ordination \(pesticides\) \(MT24008\)](#)

CITES

CoP 20 was held in Samarkand, the Republic of Uzbekistan from 24 November - 05 December 2025. The recordings of this 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to

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CITES is available for on-demand viewing. Discussions lead to strengthening of global conservation to ensure that international trade does not drive species extinction [CITES CoP20 concludes with a clear roadmap to enhance wildlife trade regulation and further strengthen implementation of the Convention | CITES](#).

Of relevance to AIPH members is that the parties [endorsed guidance on artificially propagated plant material](#), updated provisions for the management of confiscated specimens, and expansion of electronic permitting and digital traceability systems. They strengthened risk assessment tools for customs and border authorities and advanced work under the CITES and Forests framework, including renewal of the [CITES Tree Species Programme](#).

The publication providing guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES regulated plants is freely available at www.cites.org/Guidance_ArtProp_AgreedPC27.pdf.

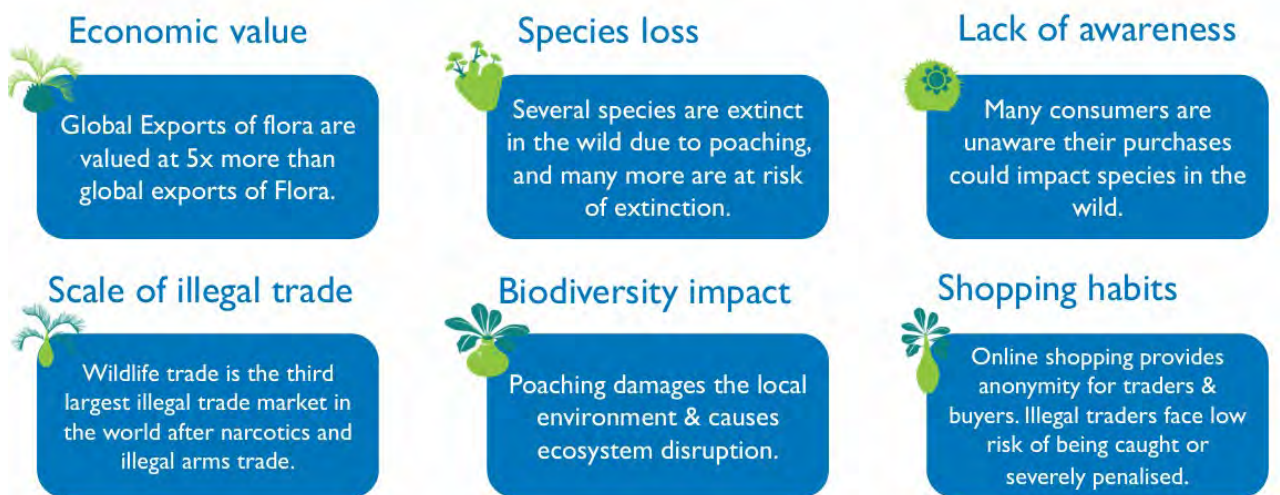
This document sets out the codes to use on permits and certificates to indicate the source of artificially propagated plant species.

Panama will host the 21st World Wildlife Conference (CITES CoP21) Panama in 2028.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

AIPH is cooperating with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) to support their new initiative: the [Illegal Plant Trade Coalition](#). Launched at IUCN World Congress 2025, the Illegal Plant Trade Coalition (IPTC) is a global alliance of botanic gardens and other partners for combined action to address, understand and mitigate the illegal plant trade. AIPH is in discussion with IPTC regarding suitable partnership contributions to the campaign, including a survey of the industry to understand the status of trade and high risk products and geographies.

Why is the Coalition needed?



Sustainability Report

Author: Dr Audrey Timm.

Sustainability data

Managing the sustainability profile of the ornamental horticulture industry is important for continued market access and business success. AIPH is collecting and collating data that will reflect industry trends in addressing key sustainability issues. The data will become an additional section in the [International Statistics Flowers and Plants Yearbook](#) that is published annually by AIPH and Union Fleurs.

Sustainability data that is proposed to be available for collecting and trend mapping includes:

- Percentage of the industry that is achieving certification – data from FSI, Greenhouse Sustainability, MPS, and Global Gap. This can be reported as % of grower numbers and % of industry turnover.
- Gender balance and wage levels – trends in the sector (meeting Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, recognising it as a fundamental human right essential for sustainable development) – AIPH intends to survey the industry to capture this data.
- Increase of product that is distributed by sea-freight – this information would be gathered by contacting major wholesalers and cargo companies and organising meetings with at trade events, such as IFTF, TFA, and IPM.
- List of Environmental indicators that is being tracked by certification bodies that will be reported on as data availability grows.

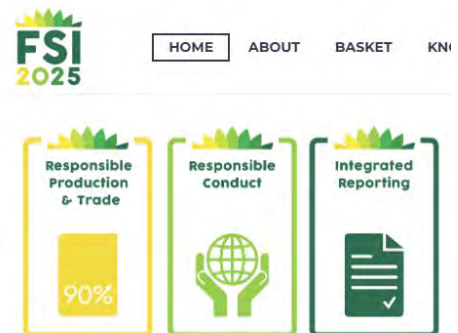
Information is being sought from industry leaders such as through FloriPEFCR and other tracking and reporting frameworks, including Agraya, Greenhouse Sustainability, and MPS.

Industry Sustainability

AIPH continues to support FSI as an active member.

Plant Protection Product (PPP) Project - Kickoff

FSI has launched a new project to identify, prioritise, and phase out the plant protection products that are of most concern. The use of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) is receiving growing attention from regulators, NGOs, retailers and end consumers. This project has 2 phases: Firstly, to build a consolidated list of substances that are being used, and secondly identify reduction methods that go beyond regulatory standards. FSI seeks the active engagement of retail and trade members to ensure alignment and impact across the sector.



Horti Sustainable Packaging Initiative

[HSPi](#) was launched by thirteen packaging manufacturers and suppliers within the floriculture sector, who have agreed to work together to make packaging materials used for flowers and plants more sustainable. The initiative is initially focusing on three aspects:



1. Supply chain transparency & certification
2. Circularity in materials and packaging
3. Carbon Footprint and life cycle assessments

HSPi conducted an inventory among all HSPi participants to determine which certificates are currently in use or deemed relevant. This information is organised into so-called [certificate baskets](#): thematically grouped

categories based on the topics addressed by the certificates.

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Queries or suggestions are invited by email to Herold@greenportalsmeer.nl

Sustainable Flowers and Plants at events and celebrations.

The first final draft of this publication was presented to the Sustainable Flowers Workshop in Coventry in December 2025. Positive feedback and some additional advice was received. This publication is structured as best practice guidelines for floral designers, event organisers, and event venues. It sets out how it is possible and desirable to produce, source, and design floral and plant arrangements for events that meet sustainability policies. AIPH is in discussion with a sustainable marketing intern to assist in outreach and uptake of the publication.

AIPH continues to request examples for case studies from our members. Please contact audrey.timm@aiph.org for more information.



AIPH Sustainability Survey 2025

The [AIPH International Sustainability Survey 2025](#) was distributed to AIPH Members and Affiliate Members, FCI readers, and AIPH supporters and partners. This project is now on hold following low response from members. AIPH is considering alternative ways to represent the industry.

AIPH International Grower of the Year Awards

IGOTY 2026 was celebrated at IPM Essen on 27th January 2025. The winner of the Sustainability Award was Hillier Nurseries LTD, UK, who also won the category of Finished Plants and the coveted Gold Rose Award for 2026.