

PRESS RELEASE

Award-winning Chelsea Flower Show garden finds new home at Eden



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The Fauna & Flora Garden, which won Silver at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, has a new home in the Eden Project's Rainforest Biome.

Cornish-based garden designer, Jilayne Rickards, celebrated the win for highlighting the collaborative conservation work of Fauna & Flora, an international nature conservation charity.

Many of the difficult-to-source plants that feature in the garden were obtained by the Eden team from the iconic Rainforest Biome and from growers as far afield as Ghana. These were grown in Eden's new state-of-the-art plant nursery, Growing Point, before making their way to the prestigious show.

The garden focuses on the Afromontane landscape of Central Africa and highlights the need for responsible tourism to help protect endangered mountain gorillas. Featuring a waterfall within the design, the garden's return to Eden sees a second waterfall added to the Rainforest Biome.

Designer, Jilayne said: “The world’s only remaining mountain gorillas live in two separate areas of Afromontane forest. They face many threats, but collaborative conservation offers hope for the future; mountain gorilla numbers have increased from just a few hundred to over 1,000 since Fauna & Flora started work in the area.

“Responsible tourism supports local livelihoods and national economy and, in turn, local communities and national governments are incentivised to support gorilla conservation.

“To be able to tell this important conservation story at RHS Chelsea Flower Show was a huge honour, and we’re so grateful to continue this story at the Eden Project in Cornwall.”

Catherine Cutler, Eden’s Head of Living Landscapes, said: “It’s incredibly rewarding for the team here at Eden to welcome the Fauna & Flora Garden to the Rainforest Biome. We have worked closely with Jilayne and the team from start to finish, growing and nurturing many of the plants in the garden. These include the ferociously spikey *Acanthus eminens*, the pretty *Parochetus*, brightly flowering *Brillantaisia subulugarica* and tasty *Plectranthus amboinicus*.

“At Eden, our mission is to demonstrate the interconnectedness of all living things and the importance of finding balance to foster environmental harmony and social equity, so this garden really embodies our mission, and we’re proud to continue sharing its message.”

In 1978, Fauna & Flora played a pivotal role in establishing the Mountain Gorilla Project, responding to a personal plea from Sir David Attenborough, its vice president. Today, the project, now known as the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), stands as a shining example of the positive impact community-focused and collaborative conservation efforts can have on both people and nature.

Over the span of forty-five years, the population of mountain gorillas has risen significantly, exceeding 1,000 individuals, all thanks to the ongoing work and dedication. The success of this initiative is not just limited to the flourishing gorilla population, but extends to the improvement of the livelihoods of those living closest to the gorilla habitat. This improvement is due, in large part, to the growth of ecotourism that these creatures attract.

The Fauna & Flora Garden tells this story by recreating the journey of an ecotourist on a gorilla trek, immersed in lush vegetation, following a track that leads to a tourism kiosk, complete with a waterfall.

From inception, sustainability was a priority in the creation of the garden. Designer Jilayne worked closely with award-winning contractor, Tecwyn Evans, of Living Landscapes, to ensure the garden met the highest sustainable practices: from researching suppliers and calculating the carbon footprint of materials to avoiding the use of cement and concrete and using recycled materials.

The Fauna & Flora Garden was sponsored by Project Giving Back and can be found in the West African area of Eden’s Rainforest Biome.

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About Fauna & Flora

Fauna & Flora is a nature conservation charity protecting the diversity of life on Earth. For the survival of species and habitats, the planet and people.

As the world's first international conservation charity, Fauna & Flora has been shaping best practice in community-focused conservation for over 120 years. Today, the charity works closely with local conservation partners in almost 50 countries to protect habitats, revive the ocean, reduce extinctions, stop illegal wildlife trade, combat climate change and influence global policy and corporate sustainability. www.fauna-flora.org

About Jilayne Rickards

An ambitious and dynamic designer, Jilayne has been designing and creating gardens for over 20 years. One of only a handful of UK based female designers registered with both the Society of Garden Designers and British Association of Landscaping Industries, Jilayne's award winning gardens have featured in many magazines. Most recently, her Urban Retreat Garden was recognised by the BALI National Landscape Awards in 2020 with an unprecedented haul of four awards, including a Design Excellence Award, Designer and Contractor Joint Award and Best Use of Reclaimed and Recycled Materials Award. Her gardens are designed with biodiversity and sustainability in mind and are constructed using methods that reflect her determination to reduce the carbon footprint of her builds. She was a judge for the RHS Green Plant scheme and a speaker on sustainable gardening at Futurescape 2021, and is currently training to become an RHS Show Judge.

www.jilaynerickards.com/

About Living Landscapes

Living Landscapes is committed to sustainable and environmental construction practices, which has supported their long history in becoming BALI and RHS multi-award winners.

Living Landscapes collaborates with landscape architects and garden designers who also support its our core values. It firmly believes that landscape construction should complement the natural location it's within. If wildlife and local habitats are created or enhanced through

land forming and planting this should be done with careful consideration and thorough site analysis, ensuring the final creation naturally complements the surrounding environment.

www.livinglandscapesuk.com/

About Project Giving Back

Project Giving Back (PGB) is a unique grant-making charity that provides funding for gardens for good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. PGB was launched in May 2021 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating effect on UK charitable fundraising. It will fund gardens inspired by a range of good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

PGB will fund a total of 15 gardens at RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2023 and intends to fund up to 42 gardens at the show from 2022 - 2024. (Applications for 2023 & 2024 are now closed).

Project Giving Back was established with funding from two private individuals who are RHS Life Members and keen gardeners. They wish to remain anonymous. PGB will help UK-based good causes recover from the unprecedented effects of the global pandemic by giving them an opportunity to raise awareness of their work for people, plants and the planet at the high-profile RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Find out more at www.givingback.org.uk.

About the Eden Project

Owned by the Eden Trust, the Eden Project is a global arts, science and educational charity with a social and environmental mission: to create a movement that builds relationships between people and the natural world to demonstrate the power of working together for the benefit of all living things.

Founded as a Millennium Project in 2001, Eden has a reach of several million and, as the Eden Project establishes new sites across the UK and in China, Australia and New Zealand, its reach is growing.

The Eden Project. Home of the Eden Trust. Charity No. 1093070

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