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# Plant Materials Transferred Management: A part of *ex-situ* conservation business process of Cibodas Botanic Gardens

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**Abstract**: One of the botanic gardens businesses is socializing cultivated plants from the garden to be further utilized, especially for reforestation (and other conservation purposes), research and educational purposes. This socialization can be conducted through seeds exchange and plant (and parts) that transferred for various users. Cibodas Botanic Gardens (CBG), as one of the Indonesian botanic gardens, is also conducted this activity. Plant materials and so the data needed for these purposes are recorded in the material(s) transfer agreement (MTA). The study aimed to analyze the number, type, and species of transferred plant materials and the data, the background of the applicants and for what purpose of the materials is needed based on MTA's documents. This study conducted through a quantitative descriptive method based on the materials transferred from 2013 to 2018. The results described that, for six years, the number of MTA was 86 documents, with 81 applicants. The applicants from local were 92.6% and foreign such as from China, Netherlands and Japan were 7.4%. For six last years, the transferred materials included 1,205 in the form of living plants, 201 specimens in form of herbarium, 8,605 specimens in the form of seeds, many thousands various unit of part of plant, plant propagation unit and other plant materials (i.e. mycorrhiza, fungi/ lichen/ moss, rhizoid and thallus, and ascoma), and 63 unit in the form of data and other information. The results expected to be able to describe the contribution range of CBG, especially in ex-situ plant conservation and the data, both on the local and international scale.

**Keywords:** plant materials; material(s) transfer agreement (MTA); *ex-situ* plant conservation; Cibodas Botanic Gardens (CBG)

# Introduction

In the early establishment, Cibodas Botanic Gardens (CBG) was intended as a place of acclimatization of types of plants from foreign which has high value and economic importance, such as quinine tree (Cinqueona calisaya), tea (Camellia sinensis), pine (Pinus merkusii) and resin tree (Agathis spp.). In the next development, CBG has grown as one of the government institutions which have the main duty and function in exsitu plant conservation, research, education, eco-tourism and environmental services (LIPI, 2016).

In recent years, CBG has conducted several *exsitu* plant conservation activities with a focus on Sumatran mountainous plants. *Ex-situ* plant collections would help conserve threatened species (Richards *et al.*, 2007), function as a source of traits for agricultural improvement (Neale & Kremer, 2011), or has been used to propagate large numbers of individual plants for ecosystem restoration or assisted migration (Broadhurst *et al.*, 2008; Vitt *et al.*, 2010; Aitken & Whitlock, 2013).

The other businesses of the botanic gardens is socializing cultivated plants from the garden to be further utilized, especially for reforestation (and other conservation purposes), research and educational programs. This socialization can be conducted through seeds and plants exchange that transferred for various users. CBG as one of the Indonesian botanic gardens, is also conducted this activity. Plants which needed for these purposes are recorded in the material(s) transfer agreement (MTA). MTA is a type of legally enforceable contract employed by research institutions and companies (or private) to set the terms under which their materials and associated data may be obtained and used by others (Henderson, 2007; Ku & Henderson, 2007).

This type of agreements provides an instrument to protect the advantages of the owners of discoveries and inventions while promoting the data and material sharing in the research community (Bubela *et al.*, 2015). The later is an admirable goal in an age where research is increasingly collaborative, multinational and multidisciplinary. MTA may apply to anything from materials that are simply under the control of the originator but

have no formal intellectual property rights attached to them to proprietary materials protected by patents and trade secrets (Rodriguez, 2005).

MTA commonly place limits on the use of materials, their physical handling, and distribution to third parties. For example, the use of materials may be limited to noncommercial or preclinical research, or to specific fields of use, such as research on a specific disease. Distribution to third parties may be prohibited, or subject to permission from the provider (Bubela et al., 2015). On the other hand, MTA has a bad reputation among researchers for being overly complex and, in practice, hindering the exchange of research reagents (Mishra & Bubela, 2014; Bubela et al., 2015). Nevertheless, the MTA remains necessary in order to protect the provider's biological resources, as well as take responsibility for the development and utilization processes. In this context, CBG has also applied the MTA policy in the transfer of its biological resources.

Plant materials used in those activities are recorded in MTA. This MTA is a prudence action of plants data recording, as evidence that the utilization of any form of bio-resources material in CBG well documented and as a contribution of plants conservation (UN, 1992). Forms of material which has been used were consisting of seedling, seeds, and part of plant materials (such as leaves, roots, stems, and fruit), mushrooms, moss, and other biological resources.

The objectives of this study were analyzed the number, type, and species of transferred plant materials, the background of the user and for what purpose of the plants is needed, based on CBG's MTA documents from 2013 to 2018. Through this study can be analyzed the utilization of plant material and user characteristics and purpose of its utilization. Furthermore, the results expected to be able to describe the contribution range of CBG, especially in *ex-situ* plants conservation and the data, both on the local and international scale.

### **Materials and Methods**

#### Study site

The study was conducted at CBG, Cianjur, West Java. CBG is located at 107° 0' 10.476" E to 107° 0' 59.275" E and 6° 44' 6.787" S to 6° 44' 51.112" S. The location is mountainside of mount Gede and mount Pangrango, at an altitude of approximately 1,300-1,425 meters above sea level, with an area of 84.99 hectares (Widyatmoko *et al.*, 2010). The average temperature is 20 °C, humidity of 80.82% and an average rainfall of 2,950 mm per year (Registration Unit-CBG, 2018a). CBG is *ex-situ* plants conservation with various types of plants that mostly originated from Indonesia, more than 60% (Registration Unit-CBG, 2018b), especially from

tropical wet mountains, and other foreign countries. CBG is  $\pm$  100 km from Jakarta and  $\pm$  80 km from Bandung.

#### Study framework

In this study, MTA of CBG was referred to as document form with code FR.8.RG-6.2. (CBG document of ISO 9001:2015 section Form of Registration Unit, 2018, unpublished data), which related to the document form with code: (1) FR.8.RG-6.1.G1., external request of information data and/ or plant material; (2) FR.8.RG-6.3.G2., internal request of information data and/ or plant material; (3) FR.8.RG-6.4.G3., follow up to the request of information data and/ or plant material; and (4) FR.8.RG-6.5.G4., transferred of information data and/ or plant material. The business process of this order can be described in Figure 1.

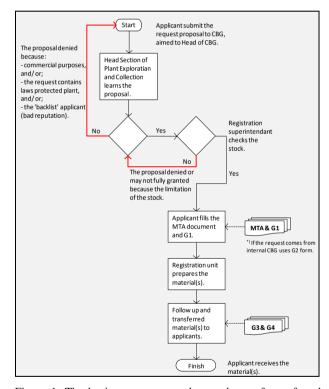


Figure 1. The business process and procedures of transferred information data and/ or plant material(s) request applied in CBG. (Source: CBG document of ISO 9001:2015 section Form of Collection Registration Unit, 2018, unpublished data).

This MTA intends to honor the letter and spirit of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (UN, 1992), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and other relevant conventions and laws regarding the use of biological diversity as well as benefit-sharing.

Material which explained in CBG's MTA includes, but is not limited to plants, parts of a plant or propagation material (such as seeds, cuttings, roots, bulbs, corms, leaves, plant tissue culture, plant herbarium or any other material of plant). Based on CBG's MTA agreement, material and any progeny or derivates thereof such modified or unmodified extracts will not be used for commercial purposes. If at any point in the future recipient wishes to commercialize the material and any progeny or derivates, the recipient must first obtain the written permission of CBG.

Any commercialization to which CBG agrees will be subject to a separate agreement between the recipient and the CBG consistent with the CBG's policy that benefits be shared fairly and equitably with the country of origin of the material (UN, 1992). Commercialization means the use or exploitation of genetic resources, their progeny or derivates, with the object of, or resulting in financial gain, and includes but not limited to the following activities: sale, applying for, obtaining or transferring intellectual property rights or other tangible or intangible rights by sale or license or any other manner, commencement of product development, conducting market research, and seeking pre-market approval (Medaglia & Silva, 2007; CBG document of ISO 9001:2015, section Form of Collection Registration Unit, 2018, unpublished data).

# Data analysis

The subject of this study was CBG's MTA and supporting documents (G1, G2, G3, and G4) which recorded from 2013 to 2018. CBG's MTA was a contractual document between CBG and applicant/ recipient candidate/ user regarding all material form in CBG which ordered, requested or transferred. MTA and supporting documents have contained: (i) applicant personal data, (ii) the purposes of the applicant, (iii) the type of material (i.e. data, information, and (part of) plant material), (iv) the number of material, and (v) the plant species.

The data will be analyzed quantitative-descriptive each year of the time period. The trend of the increasing number of the request was done through a simple regression analysis by the formula:  $y_i = a + bx_i$ . The results will describe the applicants' background, what purposes those materials are needed and the description of the materials transferred by CBG. Furthermore, these also can be claimed as CBG's contribution to plant conservation through the information and knowledge transfer about CBG's plants' property to the wider community.

#### **Results and Discussion**

# The number of request and the background applicant

Based on the 2013 to 2018 period, the total number of CBG's MTA was 86 documents (Figure 1). There were 4 documents in 2013, 8 documents in 2014, 10 documents in 2015, 17 documents in 2016, 22 and 25 documents in 2017 and 2018. Totally, the transferred materials were included 1,205 in the form of living plants, 201 specimens in form of herbarium, 8,605 specimens in the form of seeds, many thousands various unit of part of plant, plant propagation unit and other plant materials (i.e. mycorrhiza, fungi/ lichen/ moss, rhizoid and thallus, and ascoma), and 63 unit in the form of data and other information (Table 1).

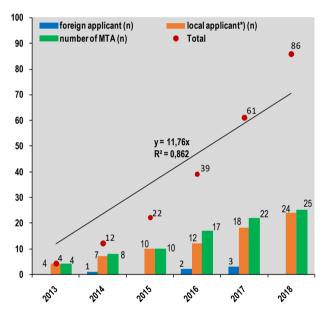


Figure 1. The number of MTA published documents trends from 2013 to 2018. (*Note*: \*) An applicant may request more than once in a year period and the number of MTA documents also follows, but only counted as one applicant).

The data showed that each year plants request was tended to rise (Figure 1). These results can be explained, among others, information disclosure that shared by CBG in various media, especially in https://sindata.krcibodas.lipi.go.id/ Cibodas-Botanic-Gardens-Record/CBGR/index.php, regarding the richness of collections which can be accessed by anyone. This openness (especially the information) is giving a widen range potential users and to attract allies and customers (Shapiro et al., 1999). The establishment of new botanic gardens has also contributed of the rise. Enrichment of the plant collection through plant seeds exchange is one of the botanic gardens businesses in order to develop the

conservation value of the garden (Davis, 2008; BGCI, 2012; Purnomo *et al.*, 2015).

The local applicants were still dominated plants request with 75 different applicants compared to foreign with 6 applicants. An applicant may request more than once in a year period and the number of MTA documents also follows, but only counted as one applicant. This case occurs a difference between MTA published documents (86) and the number of applicants (81), especially local (75). The record also notes that education and research institution mostly applies the agreement. Local institution applicants recorded in MTA were Samosir Botanic Gardens. Center of Plant Botanic Gardens. Conservation-Bogor Baturaden Botanic Gardens, Kuningan Botanic Gardens, Wamena Biological Gardens, Forest Research and Development Center - Ministry of Environment and Forestry Center of Geology Survey Bandung, and Herbarium Bandungense.

Moreover, some individual has also apply the agreements. These dominated from a research institution. university and other institution, such as students from Padjadjaran University, Brawijaya University, researchers from Indonesian Ornamental Crops Research Institute, etc. Furthermore, six agreements from foreign which established were one institution in 2014 with South China Botanic Garden, two agreements in 2016 with a student of Mie University of Japan and a Ph.D student of Leiden University of Netherlands. In 2017, the number of agreement was three documents, a Ph.D student of Naturalis Biodiversity Center of Leiden, Netherlands and researcher's staff of National Museum of Nature and Science, and Tsukuba Botanical Garden, the last both are from Japan. Foreign applicants have contributed 7.4% of the total applicant or 6.9% of the total MTA documents published by CBG from 2013 to 2018.

Tabel 1. The detail description of transferred materials of CBG from 2008 to 2018.

T.0	<b></b>				Year		
Information	Type	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Plant (and parts):	a full living plants (n)	-	27	212	70	216	680
	herbarium (n)	-	-	-	-	201	-
	leaf (and parts)	6 kg	3 sheets	58 sheets	284 sheets	149 sheets	73 sheets
	branch (and parts)	-	10 kg	13.12 kg	-	4 pcs	-
	stem (and parts)	-	7 pcs	-	67 pcs	91 pcs	2 pcs
	root (and parts)	-	-	2 pcs	5 pcs	5 cm	14 pcs
	flower (and parts)	-	-		117 pcs	196 pcs	61 pcs
	fruit (and parts)	-	-	58 pcs	184 pcs	-	58 pcs
	seeds (n)	40	920	20	330	6,959	336
	package of seeds (very small to small size or spores etc.)	11	9	11	-	3	-
	shoots (n)	-	235	-	2	-	-
Plant propagation	cutting (n)	-	11		-	10	-
material:	grafting (n)	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other plant material:	mychorriza (n-colony)	-	15	-	92	-	-
	fungi/ lichen/ moss (n-colony)	-	-	4	235	24	9
	rhizoid+thallus (n)	-	-	-	30	12	-
	ascoma (n)	-	-	-	20	-	-
Data and other information:	record file (n)	-	-	-	-	-	11
	record data (n)	-	-	-	-	-	22
	visual data (n)	-	-	-	-	-	5
	picture (n)	-	-	-	-	-	25

*Source*: data was compiled and resolved from MTA, G1, G2, G3, and G4 documents of CBG 2013 to 2018. (*Note*: Each granted request may showed different unit of materials depends on the stock and simplified the calculation. pcs = pieces; *n* = number).

# The various type of materials

Furthermore, the plant materials which requested from foreign can be seen in Table 2. Mostly part of the plant materials requests in form of leaf (and parts) sheet. Based on the agreement, these materials used for research purposes and educational interests.

Leaves material were allowed because of the lack of plants stock in the nursery, so only leaves that can be granted by CBG. In addition, leaves material are easy to transport and does not require special treatment than whole a plant, usually inserted in plastic or large paper envelope. Based on the type of material, seeds and packages of seeds were the highest requests from the user. Transferred seeds were 8,605 pieces and the package of seeds as much as 34 packages (if each packaged contains more than 20 pieces, so the number of seeds was more than 680 pieces of seeds).

Package of seeds was established on seed material which very small to small size. It was conducted because the difficulty to count one by one of seed and/ or the seed material in large numbers and the stock at the garden was abundant. High requests for materials in the form of seeds can be understood because seeds can be wrapped, transferred and delivered easily, and do not require much space. In addition, through the seeds, they

Table 2. MTA information applied by foreign applicants.

Institution/ individual	Species	Family	Type of materials	n	Purpose of the request	
South China Botanic Garden	Musa acuminata	Musaceae	leaf (and parts)	1	Research interest on mycorrhiza attaced to	
	Musa uranoscopus	Musaceae	leaf (and parts)	1		
	Musa sp.	Musaceae	leaf (and parts)	1	Musa spp.	
	Mycorrhiza in wild Musa spp.	-	colony	10		
A Ph.D student of Mie University, Japan	Castanopsis argentea	Fagaceae	leaf (and parts)	30	Research interest on	
	Castanopsis javanica	Fagaceae	leaf (and parts)	66	tropical mountainous	
	Codiaeum variegatum	Euphorbiaceae	leaf (and parts)	20	plant species.	
	Hibiscus indicus	Malvaceae	leaf (and parts)	9		
	Acalypha amentacea	Euphorbiaceae	leaf (and parts)	10		
	Breynia microphylla	Phyllanthaceae	leaf (and parts)	8		
	Acanthus montanus	Acanthaceae	leaf (and parts)	8		
	$A calypha \times cristata$	Euphorbiaceae	leaf (and parts)	12		
	Morus alba	Moraceae	leaf (and parts)	8		
	Aglaia rimosa	Meliaceae	leaf (and parts)	20		
	Acalypha hispida	Euphorbiaceae	leaf (and parts)	10		
	Solanum sp.	Solanaceae	leaf (and parts)	5		
	Hibiscus sp.	Malvaceae	leaf (and parts)	8		
	Euphorbia pulcherrima	Euphorbiaceae	leaf (and parts)	8		
A Ph.D student of Leiden University, Netherlands	Trigonostemon sp.	Euphorbiaceae	leaf (and parts)	2	Research interest on	
	Ostodes paniculata	Euphorbiaceae	leaf (and parts)	2	tropical mountainous	
	Phyllanthus sp.	Phyllanthaceae	leaf (and parts)	2	plant species.	
A Ph.D student of Naturalist Biodiversity Center Leiden, Netherlands	Bazzania japonica	Lepidoziaceae	herbarium	16	Research interest on	
	Bazzania sp.	Lepidoziaceae	herbarium	15	tropical mountainous	
	Bazzania sp. (2)	Lepidoziaceae	herbarium	8	plant species.	
	Bazzania tridens	Lepidoziaceae	herbarium	27		
	Heteroscyphus coalitus	Geocalycaceae	herbarium	16		
	Pyrrhobryum spiniforme	Rhizogoniaceae	herbarium	60		
	Thuidium cymbifolium	Thuidiaceae	herbarium	16		
	Thuidium pristocalyx	Thuidiaceae	herbarium	20		
National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan	Todea barbara	Osmundaceae	package of spores	1	Research interest on	
	Alnus japonica	Betulaceae	leaf (and parts)	1	tropical mountainous	
					plant species.	
Tsukuba Botanical	Amorphophallus titanum	Araceae	leaf (and parts)	1	Research interest on	
Garden, Japan	Amorphophallus asper	Araceae	leaf (and parts)	1	tropical mountainous	
	Amorphophallus sp.	Araceae	leaf (and parts)	1	plant species.	

can be sown and cultivated into plants that have similar characteristics to its parent in the garden.

According to the policy of the Head of CBG, transferred (living) plants, especially for a complete living plant, is mostly given to fellow of the botanical garden institutions in Indonesia, and those depend on the number of the collections of CBG. Plants request among fellow members is usually used in the context of enrichment of the collections and for research and education purposes. The second policy is if the number of plants was abundant in the nursery or and/ or the technique of breeding is relatively easy, and then the request may be granted (especially for a complete living plant request). The next policy is if the number of plants were just a few (five specimens or less) and/ or difficult to breed it, the possibility of the request will be reduced from the requested, or even denied.

of a plant (such leaf, branch, flower, fruit, etc.) that listed in the law was still possible to be granted, for example, *Castanopsis argentea* and *Castanopsis javanica*, but it also depends on the stock and plant collection sensitivity. If the main plant is too vulnerable, then only a limited number of the leaves material will granted. Nevertheless, this granting is only valid if the user guarantees that the material is used for conservation or research and education purposes only.

Plant(s) and/ or part(s) of the plant granted to the applicant were not charged because this is a part of the contribution of CBG in conservation, research, and education. After the request granted then all responsibility for shipping and licensing is borne by the applicant and CBG does not serve this. These policies also listed in CBG's Documents of ISO 9001:2015 Section Form of Registration Unit.

Table 3. The five most requested plant species in form of plant, fruit, leaf and seeds.

Species	Family	Plant (and parts) (n)	Fruit (and parts) (n)	Leaf (and parts) (n)	Seeds (n)
Pinanga javana	Arecaceae	150			
Handroanthus chrysotrichus	Bignoniaceae	50			
Prunus cerasoides	Rosaceae	46			
Crinum sp.	Amaryllidaceae	35			
Altingia excelsa	Altingiaceae	32			
Elaeagnus latifolia	Elaeagnaceae		58		
Amorphophallus titanum	Araceae		50		
Calliandra sp.	Leguminosae		25		
Ficus variegata	Moraceae		13		
Muehlenbeckia platyclados	Polygonaceae		7		
Castanopsis javanica	Fagaceae			66	
Castanopsis argentea	Fagaceae			30	
Codiaeum variegatum	Euphorbiaceae			20	
Aglaia rimosa	Meliaceae			20	
Acalypha × cristata	Euphorbiaceae			12	
Pittosporum moluccanum	Pittosporaceae				500
Castanopsis argentea	Fagaceae				130
Platea latifolia	Icacinaceae				101
Symplocos costata	Symplocaceae				85
Lithocarpus pallidus	Fagaceae				68

However, personal requests for complete living plants are still possible but must be approved by the Head of CBG, and not necessarily to be granted. The possible granted plants request is excluded plant species that protected by Indonesian laws (*Peraturan Pemerintah Republik Indonesia Nomor 7 Tahun 1999* and updated to *Peraturan Menteri Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan Republik Indonesia Nomor P.106/MENLHK/SETJEN/ KUM.1/8/2018*). The request of part

For commercial users, CBG has also conducted the service. The activities were conducted by the Services and Information Section of CBG while still obeying previous policy principles, but not further discussed in this paper.

Based on the MTA documents, it has discovered that the most requested a complete plant species was *Pinanga javana* (Arecaceae), for fruit request was *Elaeagnus latifolia* (Elaegnaceae), for leaf request was

Castanopsis javanica (Fagaceae), and for seeds was *Pittosporum moluccanum* (Pittosporaceae). The details of the most requested plant can be seen in Table 3.

The results can be described that the stock of these species was abundant, so CBG can comply with the request. Moreover, most of these species were wettropical mountainous plants so these were appropriate to be planted in the new location such as Baturraden and Kuningan Botanic Gardens as the plants' collection enrichment that has a similarity of the elevation and relative microclimate condition. This uniqueness and the native characters for some species such as *C. javanica*, *A. titanum*, and *S. costata* were an interesting object to be studied further. This was also driven by the request of the above species.

These processes, mechanisms and the policy of MTA were also conducted by other botanic gardens, especially those coordinated by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (*LIPI*), that are Center of Plant Conservation-Bogor Botanic Gardens, Cibodas Botanic Gardens, Purwodadi Botanic Gardens, and Eka Karya-Bali Botanic Gardens. In general, these botanic gardens were not charging any cost in seed and plant exchange, excluded for the commercial user.

Furthermore, CBG has also denied five requests in these periods. Three requests from local and two from foreign institutions/individuals. This conducted because the requests incompatible with the CBG policies and/ or indicated violated the law. These mostly caused by the requested plant were limited stock, protected plant(s) or not able to prove the permit from the authorities (such as The Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, Research Center of Biology-Indonesian Institute of Sciences (*LIPI*), Plant Conservation Center-Bogor Botanic Gardens). In order to take care of the credibility and reputation of the applicants than the names were not mentioned.

CBGs MTA is not to prevent researchers, students or other subjects from obtaining plants or plant materials from CBG, but it is a prudence action and well-documented process of how plants or plant materials of CBGs going to outwards. As a conservation institution, directly or indirectly, CBG is partly responsible for its plants and the materials. Despite the fact that CBG has difficulty controlling the development and utilization of plants and materials that have been transferred to users, although clearly stated in MTA, CBG should get benefit share, if the plants and materials can be developed and/or advanced utilization by users.

Benefits are arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations, and practices (UN, 1992; Streitz & Bennet, 2003; Rodriguez, 2005; Mirowsky, 2008). Benefits can be also arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources with the Contracting Party providing such resources. Such

sharing shall be upon mutually agreed terms (Streitz & Bennet, 2003; Rodriguez, 2005; Mirowsky, 2008).

CBGs MTA document has been composed by holding several principles, which are simple, management of risks should be proportionate to the type and likelihood of benefits and avoids reach-through claims (Mishra & Bubela, 2014; Bubela *et al.*, 2015). MTAs should also be commensurate with a realistic assessment of the risks and benefits to the institutions, both in terms of legal liabilities and potential revenue generation. Institutional contracts staff should evaluate the presence or likelihood of the following categories of risks relative to the likely benefits to accrue to the institution and/or its researchers and use MTAs or simpler agreements.

Through the MTA, CBG is widely open up for anyone or institution that will and wants to engage the activities especially in the field of plant research and education, through mutually beneficial agreements. CBG adopts these MTA's simple agreements in cases where the risk is low and the benefits are non-commercial interest. Even though, CBG still concerns those cases where more complex agreements are warranted, especially in relation to industry and in contexts closer to commercial development and/or clinical application, and violation of the efforts of *ex-situ* plant conservation.

#### **Conclusions**

CBG has conducted plant transferred materials as a part of the efforts of ex-situ plant conservation. In the past six years, CBG has served 86 requests of plant materials and the data, from local and foreign applicants. Most of the request dominates from local individuals and institutions. The most requested materials in the form of seeds. Those materials needed in order to develop their research and educational purposes, especially in tropical mountainous plant species. P. javana (Arec.), E. latifolia (Elaeg.), C. javanica (Fag.), and P. moluccanum (Pitt.) are most requested plant species that characterized of tropical mountainous plants. Even clearly stated in MTA documents, however, CBG has difficulty controlling the development and utilization of plants and materials that have been transferred to recipients. These results expected to be able to describe the contribution range of CBG, especially in ex-situ plant conservation and the data, both on the local and international scale.

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