



# Open call to artists for summer 2022

Look.

What do you see?

A pretty garden, an Instagram-worthy picture, a place for space and wellbeing?

Look again.

Nature gives us food, nature gives us life.

Kew Science is at the forefront of work around food security, biodiversity and protecting the world's plants from climate change.

The main theme of our summer 2022 programme is food security. It's a three-month programme highlighting the importance of Kew's scientific work in this area and seeks to connect our visitors to nature in new and innovative ways.

***We're seeking submissions from artists of all disciplines (sound designers, sculpture artists, food artists etc.) for our summer programme 2022.***

The varied artworks in the programme will add a new layer to visitors' understanding and enjoyment of the landscape, encouraging them to reconnect and experience nature with fresh eyes and ears!

We're looking for artists that want to give a cultural response to Wakehurst and Kew Science, exploring exciting ways to connect our audience with nature, while communicating the core work that Kew Science is doing in the areas of food security and biodiversity.

***We are looking to commission between six and ten installations of different scales with budgets ranging from £5,000 to £30,000.***



## Detail

Building on the success of this year's *Summer of Sound* programme, our summer programme 2022 will be a three-month programme (July–September) highlighting the importance of Wakehurst and Kew's scientific work, connecting our visitors to nature in a new and innovative way.

### The overall themes of the programme are:

- Food security
- Biodiversity for a healthy planet and body
- Taste and diversity in our diet
- Waste
- Water intensity for food production
- Agriculture/over-farming
- Natural capital

In addition to the day programme, we'll have a series of related workshops for children and adults, and an evening event.

To feed into and develop their artwork, appointed artists will be given access to Wakehurst horticulturists and the scientists involved in the projects below, to learn more about their work in these fields.

# Wakehurst

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## Kew Science



*'Never before has it been so important to unlock the untapped potential of plant and fungal diversity to contribute to sustainable development. A green recovery is the only solution we must strive for. One in which we preserve nature, emit less carbon, become more self-sufficient. And one in which the world's 8 million other species are given the right and conditions to thrive – for the sustainable future of people and our planet.'*

**Kew's Director of Science, Professor Alexandre Antonelli**

As Kew's *State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2020* report revealed, our daily diet is made up of a very small amount of food plant species compared to the totality of those that nature provides us. Only 15 plants provide up to 90 per cent of humanity's calorific intake, though there are more than 7,000 known edible species, both wild and cultivated.

## Wakehurst

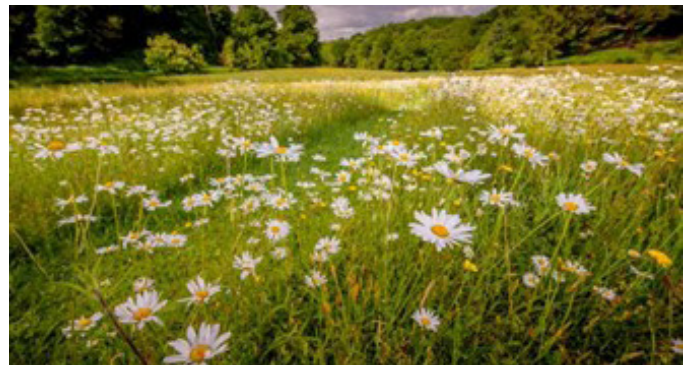


Wakehurst is the most biodiverse place on the planet, thanks to the Millennium Seed Bank and its global partnerships. It's currently home to over 2.3 billion seeds from 40,000 different plant species. That makes it the largest and most diverse wild plant species genetic resource in the world.



The increasing concentration of the global food demand on just a few plant-based resources has led to a steep increase in large-scale agriculture. Today, partly because of this trend, 2 in 5 plant species are at risk of extinction. The reliance on few species to provide our food makes our system more vulnerable to climate change and disease. By diversifying what we eat, we can build resilience into our diet.

As the world's population is set to hit the 10 billion mark by 2050, there will be increasing pressure on an already fragile environment to produce sufficient food and maintain livelihoods. Additionally, humanity is facing a double burden of malnutrition, with hunger at one end and obesity at the other. Addressing these challenges will need a combination of strategies to ensure sustainable production of safe and nutritious foods, while also protecting biodiversity and the ecosystem services nature provides.



We have National Collections of many plant species here at Wakehurst, including birch (*Betula*), southern beech (*Nothofagus*), *Skimmia*, St John's wort (*Hypericum*), *Eucryphia* spp. and primary hybrids hardy in southern England. The aim of these important collections is to conserve, grow, propagate and document plant groups in trust for the future.

# Wakehurst

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Our gardens are home to many rare and wonderful plants.

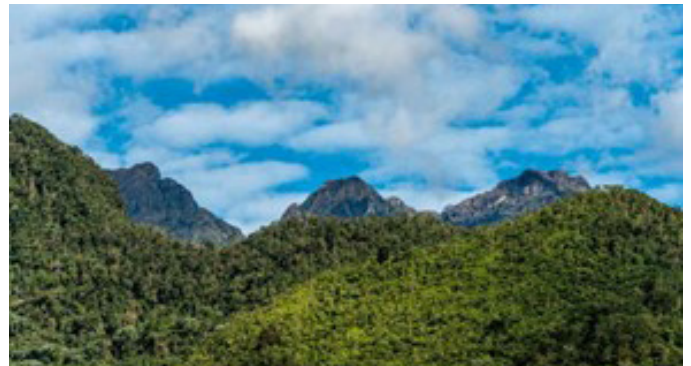
Wollemi pines (*Wollemia nobilis*) were believed to be extinct for two million years until a group of researchers discovered the species growing in the Australian Blue Mountains in 1994. These trees were propagated and distributed to botanic gardens around the world. In our Coates Wood, we have 15 of the first ever Wollemi pines introduced to the UK.

We have over 100 threatened species of rhododendron in our collections, including *Rhododendron mallotum*, *Rhododendron barbatum* × *arboreum*, and *Rhododendron meddianum*.

Wakehurst is also a valuable natural capital asset – a place providing multiple ecosystem services and benefits. Through the artworks, we'd like to promote the Wakehurst landscape as 'a unity in one's surroundings, perceived through all the senses', offering a stillness and place for reflection, enhancing wellbeing.

## Get inspired by our top five key science projects around the world

### Colombia



#### Useful Plants and Fungi of Colombia project

Colombia is the second most biodiverse country in the world. From tropical beaches to snow-capped mountains, it is home to some 26,000 plant species including more than 6,000 with reported uses. There are also 7,273 reported fungal species in Colombia, and uncountable numbers remain undiscovered. This project seeks to explore and understand the importance of Colombia's indigenous plants and fungi in improving people's lives and promoting the bioeconomy through the sustainable use of biodiversity.

More than 1,520 edible plant species have been identified by the project team, many of them used at the local scale or just barely used. With more than 20 per cent of all known world's edible plants, Colombia could be a 'reservoir of food diversity' for humanity.

For more information, visit [kew.org/science/our-science/projects/useful-plants-and-fungi-colombia](https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/projects/useful-plants-and-fungi-colombia).

# Wakehurst

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## Ethiopia



### Enset project

The enset is a remarkable banana relative that has been cultivated for tens of thousands of years, exclusively in Ethiopia, becoming a staple crop for 20 million people.

Enset has a number of unusual traits that make it such a useful food security crop, earning it the nickname ‘the tree against hunger’. It’s said that 60 plants could feed a family of five for a year.

As well as providing food, parts of the plant are used in making rope, medicine, shelter, as feed for animals and even as items of clothing like skirts.

For more information, visit [kew.org/read-and-watch/tree-against-hunger](https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/tree-against-hunger).

## Mexico



### Science-based conservation of tree species in Mexico

Mexico is described as ‘mega diverse’: between 10 and 12 per cent of the world’s species can be found in this country. Mexico’s rich culture is world famous, and its unique ingredients are used internationally.

Kew has been working with partners in Mexico since 2015 to support conservation of useful tree species, in order to tackle climate change and protect plants important for the livelihoods of rural communities.

For more information, visit [kew.org/science/our-science/projects/science-based-conservation-tree-species-mexico](https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/projects/science-based-conservation-tree-species-mexico).

## Eastern Mediterranean



### Enhancing rural Caucasian livelihoods through fruit and nut conservation

The South Caucasus is truly a unique place, both botanically and culturally. The region holds over 6,500 plant species and an unusually high number of endemics (plants not found anywhere else in the world).



It also boasts a high concentration of wild relatives of modern crop varieties, including fruits, berries and nuts. These wild relatives are valuable as they provide a direct livelihood and nutrition to local communities, and potentially hold key genetic traits to help adapt modern domesticated crops to future environments.

For more information, visit [kew.org/read-and-watch/adventures-in-armenia](https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/adventures-in-armenia).

## Madagascar



### Madagascar yam conservation for livelihoods

Madagascar's population relies on wild yams for food to supplement small, seasonal and unreliable staple crops. Of Madagascar's 40 yam species, 33



are endemic, but at least 12 are threatened by over-exploitation, habitat loss and climate change.

For more information, visit [kew.org/read-and-watch/saving-wild-yams](https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/saving-wild-yams).

#### Requirements:

- Artists must be able to build an installation robust enough to last the duration of the event (three months).
- The installation must work in an outside environment and therefore withstand all of the natural elements, including high winds, rain, wildlife etc.
- The installation must be bespoke to the Wakehurst site.
- The installation must connect people to the Wakehurst landscape and our work on conservation and plant science.
- The installation must be made from sustainably-sourced/recyclable materials.

This year's programme, *Summer of Sound*, runs from 9 July to 12 September and features six sound-based installations around the gardens. Applicants are encouraged to visit Wakehurst during this period where possible.

### Eligibility

UK-based and international artists welcome to apply.

### Deadline

Expression of interest by 30 June.

### Timeline and budget

- 27 May 2021: Open call sent out
- 30 June 2021: Deadline for expression of interest
- 9 July 2021 – 30 July 2021: Artist onsite/online conversations
- 4 August 2021: Moderation and shortlist meeting
- 4 August 2021: Inform artists of shortlist and issue written submission request and criteria
- 24 August 2021: Written submission deadline
- 24 August 2021: Evaluation of written submissions and selection questionnaire
- 2 September 2021: Tender award notification
- October 2021: Artist design phase/engagement proposal
- December 2021 – May 2022: Fabrication of artworks
- End of June 2022: Installation of artworks
- Beginning of July 2022: Programme starts

### Application process and selection

We invite artists to submit their interest in the programme by 30 June. We'll then schedule on-site meetings (if possible) or video calls with all interested.

The team will select the artists that are the best fit to move forward with the programme. These artists will be asked to send over a portfolio of similar previous work and a series of short questions to answer based on their experience.

The team will then choose the artist they'd like to work with on the project.

From this point, the selected artist will be engaged to develop initial designs for Wakehurst and will be paid for any work submitted.

If you are interested, please contact **Sarah Jandu** via [procurementtenders@kew.org](mailto:procurementtenders@kew.org) for further information.