

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
November 6, 2014**

SUBJECT: Proposal for the International Center for Tropical Botany to be a Special Purpose Center at Florida International University

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Designate the Florida International University's International Center for Tropical Botany as a Special Purpose Center.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 8.009

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The International Center for Tropical Botany (ICTB) will be a new center designed to promote the status and effectiveness of FIU's preeminent instructional and research programs in tropical botany. The center is a collaboration between FIU and the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG). The NTBG currently operates a botanical garden known as The Kampong located at 4013 Douglas Road in Coconut Grove in Miami and wishes to convey to FIU three lots located adjacent to the Kampong for the purpose of constructing the ICTB building. This lot will be used for the construction of the new facility with funds from a \$5 million donation. The purpose of the proposed International Center for Tropical Botany (ICTB) is to bring together the activities of existing researchers, faculty and their institutional relationships to consolidate FIU and NTBG's preeminence in tropical botany.

The ICTB will offer a combination of educational and training programs that will provide mentoring to undergraduate and graduate students. Cost associated with maintaining the facility is projected to be approximately \$200,000 per year, part of which is expected to be paid from auxiliary funds. The FIU board of trustees approved the ICTB as a Special Purpose Center on May 29, 2014.

Supporting Documentation: Information is located with the Facilities Committee materials