



INTERNATIONAL  
CAMELLIA SOCIETY

## **‘The Apoliu Declaration’**

**An International Declaration by the  
International Camellia Society (ICS) for  
Conservation of Ancient and Historic  
*Camellia* Trees**

## **Text of ‘The Apoliu Declaration’**

The International Camellia Society (ICS) commends to the global community, particularly those nations where plants of the genus *Camellia* are grown, including their national parks reserves and estates, botanical gardens, horticultural and agricultural societies, heritage and cultural associations, the conservation of ancient and historic trees of the family Theaceae, genus *Camellia*.

Such trees represent an irreplaceable botanical and genetic repository that has been nurtured through millennia of human civilisation, particularly in Asia and later including India and Sri Lanka, global economic horticultural usage including tea, edible oils, cosmetics, native woods, nursery stock and floriculture.

The ICS also urges the conservation of these trees, particularly in their homelands of China, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Laos, Cambodia and other Asian nations, the aesthetic beauty of which has inspired garden design, the arts (including painting, poetry, literature and ceramics) and religious practice throughout two millennia.

Recognising that *Camellia* has since the seventeenth century become a global flower, the ICS further urges the conservation of ancient and historic *Camellia* trees (both indigenous and ornamental) throughout the world, including the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, and most European countries, particularly Portugal, Belgium, Italy, France and Spain. Such trees are international living sentinels within garden and other landscapes, marking the passage of hundreds of years of human horticultural endeavour and garden history.

In summary, the ICS urges the world community to conserve these wonderful ancient and historic *Camellia* trees, priceless and irreplaceable symbols of economic, horticultural and cultural endeavours through millennia of human civilisations.

**PART1: Key criteria of Ancient Indigenous *Camellia* Trees (i.e. native tree growing in country of origin)**

**1 Specification of Individual Indigenous Ancient *Camellia* Tree.**

**Coverage of ancient indigenous camellia tree (either *in situ* or *ex situ*).**

- Age Criteria: >100 years old.
- Level:
  - Level 1: >500 years old.
  - Level 2: 300-499 years old.
  - Level 3: 100-299 years old.
- Specimen needs to be identified to species level for indigenous tree.

**2 Specification of Community or Collection of Ancient Indigenous *Camellia* Trees.**

**Coverage of community, copse, forest or plantation of ancient indigenous camellia Trees (either *in situ* or *ex situ*).**

- Level:
  - Level 1: including at least 5 individual trees more than 500 years old.
  - Level 2: including at least 20 individual trees over 300 years old.
  - Level 3: including at least 100 individual trees over 100 years old.
  - Level 4: including at least 30 individual trees over 100 years old.
  - Level 5: including at least 10 individual trees over 100 years old.
- Specimens need to be identified to species level for ancient indigenous trees.

**3 Standards of Measurement and Records**

- Taxonomy: Species or cultivar name
- Place: where it is located, longitude and latitude, surrounding such as soils, water, light
- Ownership
- Estimates of Age: Documented with photos, pictures, bibliographic citation, forestry reports and ecological studies or other reliable documents to justify the age estimate
- Size Measurements (other than trunk): Height, Record of Canopy and Crown Width Density
- Trunk Measurements: Circumference (*not diameter*) of trunk(s) 1.3 metres above ground level for a single trunk tree or, for multiple trunk

trees, ground level circumference (*not diameter*) of all the largest lateral branches.

- Internal Testing of Branch and Trunk Structure
- Growth Vigour: including for trunk, leaf and flower
- Phytosanitary Report
- Interest: natural, scientific, educational, monumental, ornamental and aesthetic values
- Historic significance (supported by documentation)
- Record of any literary and cultural impact e.g. depiction in books, poems, cinema or other media, or referenced by some famous writer, novelist or poet.

The above standards of measurement and other records should be compiled and should support the estimated age of the *Camellia* tree specimen(s). At the same time, this Declaration recognises the significant differences in growth characteristics exhibited by *Camellia* trees across the world, and takes into account the local environmental and ecological context that the *Camellia* trees grow within.

## **PART 2: Key criteria of Historic Ornamental *Camellia* Trees**

Note: These trees may or may not be growing in the country where the cultivar originated. This Declaration also recognises that in many locations across Asia, there will be indigenous ancient *Camellia* trees where it is unclear whether it is a native forest remnant or has been cultivated or cared for by local communities. In such circumstances, the owner(s) have the choice of determining whether or not they regard it as either an indigenous ancient tree or a historic ornamental one. These criteria also cover historic potted specimens including bonsai or penjing.

### **1 Specification of Individual Historic Ornamental *Camellia* Tree**

Must be clearly identified to species or cultivar level and meet at least TWO of the criteria as listed below:

- be >100 years old of a unique and/or original specimen of a cultivar and species, or of lesser age\* when taking into account the exceptional age of the plant;
- historicity must wherever possible be supported by documentation;
- represent a special planting marking a historic event or planted by a special person;
- be the original mother plant of a significant horticultural *Camellia* cultivar;
- represent an important complement within an historic collection including those of nurseries;
- be of special religious or cultural significance within the context of a temple, shrine, religious site, memorial (including cemeteries) and monuments; or
- has had literary and cultural impact e.g. depiction in books, poems or cinema or other media, or referenced by some famous writer, novelist or poet.

\*This takes into account those horticultural cultivars and specimens with a shorter natural life span than 100 years.

## **2 Specification of Collection of Historic Ornamental *Camellia* Trees (< 50 specimens)**

Each specimen within the collection must be listed and meet the criteria for an individual Historic Ornamental *Camellia* Tree.

Located within or across:

- a temple, shrine, religious sites, historic sites and monuments;
- within a historic estate; or
- separate locations across a distinct province or local government jurisdiction within an individual country.

### **Standards of Measurement and Records**

As specified for Ancient Indigenous *Camellia* Trees.

### **PART 3: Institution of ICS Global Awards for**

- (i) Significant Ancient Indigenous *Camellia* Trees**
  - Including Individual, Community or Collection of *Camellia* Trees
- (ii) Significant Historic Ornamental *Camellia* Trees**
  - Including Individual, Community or Collection.

It is recommended that like ICS *Camellia* Garden of Excellence award, that the ICS instigate the above awards marking the significance to the global community of Ancient and Historic *Camellia* Trees, as an instrument to promote their global conservation.

### **Award Criteria:**

- (i) Significant Ancient Indigenous *Camellia* Trees**
    - Including Individual, Community or Collection of *Camellia* Trees
- 1. Must meet specification for Ancient Indigenous *Camellia* Trees**
  - 2. Age has been supported by Standards of Measurement and Records, with as much data as can reasonably be collected**
  - 3. Comprehensive report provided on Standards of Measurement and Records**
  - 4. Quality photographs submitted of tree, foliage and flower (and desirably seed).**
  - 5. Details of Conservation Plan in Place**

**(ii) Significant Historic Ornamental *Camellia* Trees**  
**- Including Individual, Community or Collection**

- 1 Must meet specification for Historic Ornamental *Camellia* Trees**
- 2 Age has been supported by Standards of Measurement and Records**
- 3 Comprehensive report provided on Standards of Measurement and Records, with as much data as can reasonably be collected.**
- 4 Quality photographs submitted of tree, foliage and flower (and desirably seed).**
- 5 Details of Conservation Plan in Place**
- 6 Promotional Strategy to relevant Horticultural and Heritage Associations.**

**Award Processes:**

- Applications including accompanying documentation, photographs and any application *proforma* are to be submitted first by mail or email to a relevant ICS Director representing the region or country of the applicant. If that Director is satisfied and ratifies the application, then the Director forwards the full application to the Chair ICS Committee for Historic Committee Conservation, or other designated Committee members as listed on the ICS website.
- The Chair ICS Committee for Historic Camellia Conservation brings forward any recommendations so received to that Committee for consideration, in order of receipt.
- Awards are not automatic but subject to assessment by the Committee.
- The Chair ICS Committee for Historic Camellia Conservation may request an *in situ* inspection by a Committee member, should there be a major discrepancy or significant incompleteness in the application. Such costs of inspection would be borne by the applicant.
- If the award is recommended by that Committee, an award certificate listing the attributes of the ancient or historic camellia tree(s) will signed jointly by both ICS President and the Chair of ICS Committee for Historic Camellia Conservation, and the relevant regional ICS Vice President and Directors informed.
- In order to make the award processes manageable for the ICS Committee for Historic Camellia Conservation in the early years, a maximum of 20 applications will be considered in any calendar year, with an annual limit of up to 10 applications from any one country or region. This will be reviewed by the Committee after two years of the Award process operation, with the objective of making the process more flexible.

- The ICS will keep a Register of successful Ancient and Historical *Camellia* Trees Awards recorded by way of an online database. Awards will be given Registration Numbers for example: CN00001-00001-I(or C)-20191016, corresponding to country reference e.g. (CN) and country number e.g. (0001) -international number e.g. (0001) – Indication whether Individual or Community or Collection e.g. I(or C)- and date of ratification, e.g. 20191016.
- A modest one-off fee to the ICS may be applicable for applications from privately owned trees or collections should such applications be successful. Any such fee set and method of payment will be set out on the ICS website.
- The Award stands until the death of the Ancient and Historic *Camellia* Tree.
- Those Ancient and Historic *Camellia* Tree Awards already designated by the Chair ICS Committee for Historic Conservation, prior to this Declaration coming into effect, will be recognised as the new awards without need for re-application.