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COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR THE GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE

Ninth meeting
Nairobi, 16 May 2010

REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR THE GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE

INTRODUCTION

1. The ninth meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative was held on the afternoon of 16 May 2010 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya, in the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14). Notifications SCBD/STTM/JM/JSH/71393 (2010-060) and SCBD/STTM/JM/JSH/71393R (2010-094) were sent to Parties on 6 April 2010 and 6 May 2010, respectively.
2. Prior to the meeting of the Coordination Mechanism, item 4.5 of the SBSTTA 14 agenda, “Global Taxonomy Initiative: results and lessons learned from regional taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities”, had been discussed by SBSTTA, resulting in draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/L.6, subsequently adopted by SBSTTA as recommendation XIV/14 (UNDP/CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XIV/14).
3. On 15-16 May, a dedicated GTI symposium was held at UNEP in Nairobi on “Taking Stock of the Renaissance in Taxonomy: Post-2010 Capacity-building for the Convention on Biological Diversity”, organized by members of the GTI Coordination Mechanism, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A summary of the GTI symposium, including the agenda and list of participants, is attached below as annex I. Through the symposium, the Coordination Mechanism collected information relevant to some of the symposium’s agenda items, regarding (i) innovative technologies to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for the GTI, (ii) progress of regional collaborations in taxonomy, (iii) maximizing the use of outcome-oriented deliverables for the GTI and (iv) promotion of biodiversity research in context with ongoing negotiation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing under the Convention.
4. The ninth meeting of the GTI Coordination Mechanism was held to consider the post-2010 GTI goals and other outstanding matters taking into account the recommendations in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/L.6 and results of the symposium mentioned above. The adopted agenda of the

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Coordination Mechanism meeting is presented under item 2 below, and the meeting participants are listed in annex II.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The ninth meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative was opened at 1 p.m. on 16 May 2010 by the Chair of the Coordination Mechanism. Regrets were expressed by the Secretariat for the absence of the Executive Secretary and the head of the Division of Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters of the Secretariat.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

6. The Chair of the GTI Coordination Mechanism introduced the provisional agenda for the meeting, and members of the Coordination Mechanism agreed to a revised agenda, outlined below.

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.2. Organization of work.
3. Substantive matters:
 - 3.1. Report from UNESCO IYB Science Policy Conference (Paris, 25-29 January 2010);
 - 3.2. Report from GTI Symposium (Nairobi, 15-16 May 2010);
 - 3.3. Other activities of the Coordination Mechanism;
 - 3.4. Progress/update on the special fund for taxonomy;
 - 3.5. GTI and invasive alien species;
 - 3.6. GTI and access and benefit-sharing;
 - 3.7. Outcome-oriented deliverables for GTI programme of work planned activities for protected areas and island biodiversity (paragraph 7 of decision IX/22);
 - 3.8. Liaison with the Consortium of Scientific Partners of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CSP);
 - 3.9. GTI post-2010 strategies and targets: vision, mission and priorities for the next decade;
 - 3.10. Planning for GTI activities at and around the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, October 2010).
4. Other matters.
5. Closure of the meeting.

2.2. Organization of work

7. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Coordination Mechanism, Mr. Christoph Häuser, and notes for the report were taken by the Secretariat. It was agreed that certain items would be taken out of the order listed in the adopted agenda in order to allow some Coordination Mechanism members required to leave early to provide input. The Chair briefly summarized the recommendations adopted by SBSTTA on item 4.5 of the SBSTTA 14 agenda (Global Taxonomy Initiative). The Coordination Mechanism recognized the importance of paragraph 15 of UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/L.6, “[...] to develop a comprehensive capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative at global and regional levels”, as well as the results of the GTI symposium, including the discussion at the day 2 session on “Introduction to DNA barcoding”.

8. Mexico pointed out that the process of the work of the Coordination Mechanism has been slow due to lack of opportunities for inter-sessional coordination, which has also hindered the process of implementation of the GTI programme of work. The Coordination Mechanism should strive to further elaborate clear terms of reference, and invite new members and involve further partners to be able to take steps more proactively. It was agreed that these issues should be discussed further, under the item for “Other matters” in the revised agenda.

ITEM 3. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

3.1. Report from UNESCO IYB Science Policy Conference (Paris, 25-29 January 2010)

9. BioNET-INTERNATIONAL (BioNET) summarized the results of the UNESCO IYB (International Year of Biodiversity) Science Policy Conference, where a dedicated session on "the biodiversity knowledge base: taxonomy today and tomorrow for environmental sustainability and human well-being" had taken place co-organized by the GTI Coordination Mechanism, UNESCO and BioNET, and informed the Coordination Mechanism that the relevant text from the recommendations of this conference was incorporated in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/L.6 just adopted by SBSTTA 14.

3.2. Report from GTI Symposium (Nairobi, 15-16 May 2010)

10. The Smithsonian Institution reported that the GTI symposium was a great success, with 47 participants from 27 countries attending. A summary report and the list of participants are attached as annex I below.

3.3. Other activities of the Coordination Mechanism

11. BioNET reported the result of the GTI project development workshop held in Nairobi in collaboration with the Secretariat in November 2009. The workshop brought together 29 participants, and results are available in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/36 and http://www.bionet-intl.org/opencms/export/sites/default/bulletin/newDevelopments/GTI_WorkshopReport2010.03.15.pdf.

3.4. Progress/update on the special fund for taxonomy

12. BioNET-INTERNATIONAL reported on a workshop on the proposed special trust fund for taxonomy (Paris, June 2009). The workshop developed a campaign on the trust fund, and outreach materials were underway. The National Geographic Society supported this campaign. However, fund-raising was still slow and BioNET hoped to launch it at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity with a continuous campaign.

13. ICIPE¹, as an observer, suggested that BioNET should approach the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other stakeholders from the agriculture sectors to seek contributions to the trust fund as strong taxonomic needs exist in agriculture and food security.

3.5. *GTI and invasive alien species*

14. On behalf of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), the Secretariat suggested that invasive alien species strategies and action plans should be the area where taxonomists can help at national and regional levels with a taxonomically correct list of invasive alien species. This would be reasonable to reflect in GTI goals in accordance with the post-2010 Strategic Plan of the Convention. The Coordination Mechanism supported discussing this idea under agenda item 3.9 below.

3.6. *GTI and access and benefit-sharing*

15. The Smithsonian Institution briefly summarized the results from the workshop on “Access and Benefit-sharing in Non-Commercial Biodiversity Research” that took place in Bonn from 17 to 19 November 2008 (see UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/8/INF/6), and the discussions regarding non-commercial research at the technical expert group meetings at Windhoek from 2 to 5 December 2008 and Tokyo from 27 to 30 January 2009, and the first part of the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, held in Cali from 22 to 28 March 2010. The issue required more interaction between the broader research and, in particular, the GTI community and the negotiators for an international regime on access and benefit-sharing.

16. UNEP expressed its interest in collaborating with the GTI Coordination Mechanism on the issues related to access and benefit-sharing to provide information input to the resumed ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, to be held in Montreal from 10 to 16 July 2010. The GTI Coordination Mechanism agreed to work with UNEP to provide information in condensed form (maximum two pages) on issues relating to non-commercial research for future meetings on access and benefit-sharing, which included the resumed ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and would continue to provide information to the Secretariat. For the resumed ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, a text should be made available by 10 June. Coordination Mechanism members were called upon for input into drafting text for a note.

17. China suggested that the regional representatives of the Coordination Mechanism and others should bring the issue to the relevant parts of governments of Parties in each region, to ensure that the issue of non-commercial research would be appropriately addressed at the relevant meetings mentioned above.

3.7. *Outcome-oriented deliverables for GTI programme of work planned activities for protected areas and island biodiversity (paragraph 7 of decision IX/22)*

18. The Secretariat informed the meeting that outputs are not yet determined for each of the planned activities under the programmes mentioned in the title above. In the discussion at the eighth meeting of the Coordination Mechanism, members expressed that another face-to-face meeting might be necessary to determine the outputs.

¹ African Insect Science for Food and Health, previously the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology.

19. Due to limitations of time at the present meeting, the Coordination Mechanism agreed to postpone further discussion of this issue to the next meeting and via discussions by e-mail. Outcome-oriented deliverables have been included in decision IX/22.

3.8. *Liaison with the Consortium of Scientific Partners of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CSP)*

20. The Chair provided some background about the Consortium of Scientific Partners for Biodiversity and information about its current membership.

21. Several Coordination Mechanism members expressed the view that the role of the Consortium is highly relevant to GTI, and that better collaboration between the Consortium and the GTI Coordination Mechanism would be beneficial. Further exploring appropriate partners to invite to the Consortium would be a next step, and it was suggested that the Chair send an informal note to the Executive Secretary to consider options for better liaison in the future.

3.9. *GTI post-2010 strategies and targets: vision, mission and priorities for the next decade*

22. The Coordination Mechanism introduced the revised Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/3), and the Coordination Mechanism agreed to discuss possible inclusions of GTI either in targets or indicators shown in annex II of the document.

23. Kew Gardens noted that the post-2010 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as well as the Strategic Plan of the Convention are still drafts until the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and suggested that the Coordination Mechanism would be better not to develop additional goals and targets. Instead, he suggested that it would be more useful if the Coordination Mechanism could provide suggestions for slight amendments to targets and associated text, or suggestions on indicators for each target, for the third meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation (WGRI 3).

24. BioNET expressed its consideration that the input to WGRI 3 should be consistent with the outcome-oriented deliverables for the GTI programme of work (annex to decision IX/22), and that the indicators should be able to monitor the impact of the deliverables, e.g., needs assessments, databases, tools etc.

25. The Coordination Mechanism members identified the placeholders for GTI as follows:

(a) Target 1: By 2020, everyone is aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to protect it.

(i) The following indicators can be provided by the suggested actors of GTI indicated in the annex to decision IX/22:

- Access / usage to (online) information on biodiversity, citizen science (e.g., the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, GBIF; the Encyclopedia of Life, EOL);
- Information about / open access of national checklists of higher plants, vertebrates established or related information facilities;

(b) Target 5: By 2020, the loss and degradation of forests and other natural habitats is halved.

(i) GTI can provide indicators on degradation of forests and other natural habitats (e.g., the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, GBIF; the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, GEO BON);

- (c) Target 6: By 2020, overfishing and destructive fishing practices are eliminated.
 - (i) GTI can provide indicators on fishing practices (e.g., FishBase; the Ocean Biogeographic Information System, OBIS; the Census of Marine Life; and other partners such as FAO);
- (d) Target 7: By 2020, all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably.
 - (i) GTI can provide indicators on management of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry (e.g., BioNET Locally Owned and Operated Partnerships or LOOPs; FishBase; OBIS).
- (e) Target 9: By 2020, pathways for the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species have been controlled, and established invasive alien species are identified, prioritized and controlled or eradicated.
 - (i) GTI can provide identification of invasive alien species at border control and in country management;
 - (ii) GTI can assist in improving ability to recognize invasive species before establishment;
 - (iii) GTI can assist in improving ability to detect and contain invasive species based on taxonomic knowledge;
 - (iv) [re.: indicators:] national taxonomic baseline information;
- (f) Target 11: By 2020, at least 15 per cent of land and sea areas, including the areas of particular importance for biodiversity, [have been protected through representative networks of effectively managed protected areas and other means, integrated into the wider land- and seascape].
 - (i) The GTI Coordination Mechanism suggests the revised text as follows:
 - By 2020, at least 15 per cent [...] have been selected to provide greatest protection of endangered species, guided by our understanding of species distribution;
 - (ii) Possible contributors from GTI could be for instance the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) in collaboration with IUCN;
 - (iii) Sub-target: x number of hotspots with inventories;
- (g) Target 12: The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented.
 - (i) GTI can support the reporting process;
 - (ii) Suggested indicator may be national red list of higher plants and vertebrates, and whether major taxa of microbes are preserved;
- (h) Target 13: By 2020, the status of crop and livestock genetic diversity in agricultural ecosystems and of wild relatives has improved.
 - (i) Increase understanding of wild relatives of domesticated plants and animals (including aquaculture);

- (ii) Provision of information on the status of pollinators, beneficial organisms for human well-being including microorganisms;
- (iii) Collaboration with the multi-year programme of work of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), could make the above more feasible.

3.10. *Planning for GTI activities at and around the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, October 2010)*

26. UNEP invited the Coordination Mechanism to plan a joint side-event at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan, on the Strategic Plan of the Convention and post-2010 targets.
27. The Coordination Mechanism suggested that a booklet on major achievements of GTI be published to distribute at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
28. The Executive Secretary is requested to explore funding for the printing cost of the booklet.
29. South Africa reminded members that at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2012, the GTI would have existed for ten years, which would provide an opportunity to look back and review achievements and challenges in having the GTI as a cross-cutting issue of the Convention.
30. A number of Coordination Mechanism members expressed the view that the IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) process is worthwhile to highlight the GTI Coordination Mechanism.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

31. The next physical meeting of the GTI Coordination Mechanism is expected to take place at the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya. A possible date is Saturday, 23 October 2010. The Coordination Mechanism has not confirmed the date.
32. The issue of ways to improve operations of the GTI Coordination Mechanism in future could not be discussed due to lack of time and absence of Mexico, who had proposed this agenda item.

ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

33. The meeting was closed at 5.15 p.m. by the Chair, who expressed his gratitude to the Secretariat and thanked members and observers for their attendance.

Annex I

**GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE SYMPOSIUM ON “TAKING STOCK OF
THE RENAISSANCE IN TAXONOMY: POST-2010 CAPACITY-BUILDING
FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY”**

Nairobi, 15-16 May 2010

1. The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) held a two-part event at the United Nations Environment Program Conference Centre in Nairobi during SBSTTA 14, just prior to the GTI Coordination Mechanism’s meeting of 16 May 2010. It comprised the following:

- I. A one-day symposium on “Taking Stock of the Renaissance in Taxonomy: Post-2010 Capacity-building for the Convention on Biological Diversity” (15 May 2010), and
- II. A half-day introduction to biodiversity informatics and DNA barcoding (16 May 2010).

2. The symposium was held to discuss how Parties could maximize the use of outcome-oriented deliverables for GTI (decision IX/22) to facilitate the implementation of the Convention during the post-2010 period including national strategies and targets under the new Strategic Plan of the Convention and the international regime on access and benefit-sharing to be considered at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It was co-organized by members of the GTI Coordination Mechanism, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3. The one-day symposium was attended by approximately 50 participants, who heard keynote addresses on new technology and biodiversity informatics that are main drivers of the recent renaissance in taxonomy. Participants then heard updates on recent progress in taxonomy in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. These presentations provided the background for round-table and whole-group discussions on two important issues facing GTI and the global taxonomic community:

(a) What outcome-oriented deliverables should GTI propose as part of the post-2010 Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity? Participants discussed the many detailed objectives that were adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and there was widespread support for focusing on fewer objectives that are more closely tied to the new Strategic Plan of the Convention. For example, capacity-building for taxonomy in general has been an important GTI objective as part of the effort to reduce the “taxonomic impediment”. Participants discussed the potential value of sharpening the focus of capacity-building around specific goals of the Convention.

(b) How could the proposed international regime for access and benefit-sharing affect progress toward these GTI objectives? Participants discussed the need for taxonomic researchers to be more proactive in discussions on access and benefit-sharing and to highlight the critical non-monetary benefits of non-commercial research.

4. The introduction to biodiversity informatics and DNA barcoding was attended by approximately 20 participants. Funding for barcoding has increased steadily over the past five years and the International Barcode of Life project (iBOL; www.ibol.org) now involves 25 countries.

5. The programme of the symposium and list of participants are provided below. The participants of the fourteenth meeting of SBSTTA were cordially invited to attend the event. The discussion was submitted to the ninth meeting of the GTI Coordination Mechanism to report to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October and to other relevant meetings of the Convention.

*Programme of the Global Taxonomy Institute Symposium held in Nairobi 15-16 May 2010,
on “Taking Stock of the Renaissance in Taxonomy: Post-2010 Capacity-building for the
Convention on Biological Diversity”*

DAY 1: Saturday 15 May 2010		
9 a.m.	Welcome	Ahmed Djoghlaif Executive Secretary of the CBD
9.15 a.m.	Keynote speech 1 Innovative Technology in Taxonomy	Bernard Agwanda National Museum of Kenya
10 a.m.	Keynote speech 2 Biodiversity informatics and the CBD	Dan Masiga ICIPE, Nairobi, Kenya
10.45 a.m.	Coffee Break	
11.15 a.m.	Regional project development, successes and challenges	Chair: Richard Smith BioNET-INTERNATIONAL
11.20 a.m.	Progress for taxonomy in Africa: Project development successes and challenges	John Mauremootoo BioNET-INTERNATIONAL
11.40 a.m.	Progress for taxonomy in Latin America	Lily Rodriguez Peru
12 noon	Progress for taxonomy in Asia	Noriaki Sakaguchi Japan
12.20 p.m.	Progress for taxonomy in Europe	Christoph Häuser Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin
12.40 p.m.	Lunch	
2 p.m.	Round-table discussion on innovative approach to build a capacity in taxonomy	Chair: David Schindel, Consortium for the Barcode of Life
2.05 p.m.	Maximizing the use of outcome-oriented deliverables for GTI in post-2010 CBD implementation	Dedy Darnaedi (Indonesia) Noriaki Sakaguchi (Japan) Bernard Agwanda (Kenya) Gideon Smith (South Africa) John Mauremootoo (UK) Sarah Simons (Global Invasive Species Programme)
2.50 p.m.	Promotion of biodiversity research and the international regime for access and benefit-sharing	Filiberto Pollisco (ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity) Christoph Häuser (Germany) Motomi Ito (Japan) Dan Masiga (Kenya)
3.35 p.m.	Coffee break	
4 p.m.	Plenary discussion on post-2010 GTI goals	Chair: Christoph Häuser Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin
5 p.m.	Adjournment	
DAY 2: Sunday, 16 May 2010		
9-11:30 a.m.	Introduction to DNA barcoding What you can do using DNA barcoding The process of biological materials for DNA barcoding Benefits for the Parties and local community	Consortium for the Barcode of Life

*List of Participants at the Global Taxonomy Institute Symposium:
“Taking Stock of the Renaissance in Taxonomy: Post-2010
Capacity-building for the Convention on Biological Diversity”*

Participants	Country/ organization	Participants	Country/ organization
Filiberto Pollisco Jr	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	Thein Aung	Myanmar
Judy West	Australia	Betty Kauna Schrodr	Namibia
Richard Smith	BioNET	Lily Rodriguez	Peru
John Mauremootoo	BioNET	Jeong-Mi Park	Republic of Korea
Nzigidahera Benoir	Burundi	Rail Khagoullih	Russia
Keping Ma	China	Junko Shimura	Secretariat CBD
Meng Monyoak	Colombia	Gideon Smith	South Africa
Kassahun Embye	Ethiopia	Mohamed Elhassan Ali	Sudan
Horst Korn	Germany	Zainabu S. Bungua	Tanzania
Christoph Häuser	Germany	Sirkul Bunpapong	Thailand
Christine von Weizsacker	Germany	Alan Paton	United Kingdom
Sarah Simons	GISP	Michael Ruggiero	USA
Dedy Darmasern	Indonesia	David Schindel	USA
Tatsuya Horikiri	Japan	Abdul Hakim Aulaiah	Yemen
Noriaki Sakaguchi	Japan		
Motomi Ito	Japan		
Masaki Yoneda	Japan		
Naoko Nakajima	Japan		
Stephen Muarein	Kenya		
Philip Oheno	Kenya		
Klaya Kiauthia	Kenya		
Eugene Orlolo	Kenya		
Daniel Masiga	Kenya		
Daniel Leego	Kenya		
Charles Tonui	Kenya		
Bernard R Agwanda	Kenya		
Jonathan W Davis	Liberia		
Rasoavahiny Lautelle Heimine	Madagascar		
Danriani Zahasa Harinioina	Madagascar		
J. H. Seyani	Malawi		
Saw Leng Guan	Malaysia		

Annex II

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE NINTH MEETING OF THE
COORDINATION MECHANISM OF THE GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE**

Christoph Häuser	Germany (Chair)
Gideon Smith	South Africa
Lily Rodriguez	Peru
Hesquio Benitez Diaz	Mexico
Keping Ma	China
Noriaki Sakaguchi	Japan
Ester Nywabgi	UNEP
Alan Paton	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
David Schindel	Smithsonian Institution
Peter Herkenrath	UNEP-WCMC
Richard Smith	BioNET-INTERNATIONAL
Hendrick Segers	Belgium (observer)
Fabian Haas	ICIPE, Kenya (observer)
Balakrishna Pisupati	UNEP (observer)
Mathias Halwart	FAO (observer)
Junko Shimura	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
