



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/GTI-CM/10/3
20 January 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR THE
GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE**

Tenth meeting
Nagoya, Japan, 24 October 2010

**REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR THE
GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE**

1. The tenth meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative was held at the Nagoya Congress Center, Japan, on Sunday, 24 October 2010, in conjunction with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The list of the participants is attached as annex I below.

I. OPENING THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened at 9.15 a.m. on 24 October 2010 by a representative of the Executive Secretary. Apologies were received from Mr. Chris Lyal (United Kingdom) and Mr. Christoph Häuser, the Chair of the Coordination Mechanism.

3. Meeting was chaired by Mr. Keping Ma on behalf of the Chair of the Coordination Mechanism, Mr. Christoph Häuser, as agreed by the members of the Coordination Mechanism present at the meeting.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Coordination Mechanism adopted the provisional agenda that had been circulated as annex II to notification SCBD/STTM/JM/JSH/73391 (2010-162) of 27 August 2010 and is attached as annex II below.

**III. AMENDMENT OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GTI
COORDINATION MECHANISM**

5. Participants discussed amendments of the terms of reference of the Coordination Mechanism based on the proposed text prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/GTI-CM/10/2).

6. The original terms of reference annexed to decision V/9 indicated only a general mandate to be completed by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, held in The Hague in April 2002. As the decision to be adopted at the ongoing tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was expected to

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contain a request to the Executive Secretary to develop a comprehensive capacity-building strategy in collaboration with the Coordination Mechanism, participants recognized the need for revised terms of reference to accommodate the additional requirements involved.

7. The members of the Coordination Mechanism reviewed the terms of reference prepared by the Executive Secretary paragraph by paragraph, taking into account: (i) needs of taxonomic information by Parties to respond to the new Strategic Plan of the Convention including regional information on fauna and flora; (ii) needs of fund raising for continuous capacity development in developing countries; (iii) improving the profile of the GTI as a useful tool for Parties to implement the decisions of the Conference of the Parties regarding the thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues; and (iv) priority-setting for the development of taxonomic capacity.

8. The participating Coordination Mechanism members asked the representative of the Executive Secretary to circulate an amended text to the rest of the members for comments and, when it was agreed, to submit the finalized text to the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) for its consultation. The revised draft terms of reference are attached in annex III below.

9. It was suggested that a new Chair of the Coordination Mechanism should be selected at the first meeting of the Mechanism with the new regional members, who were to be approved by the SBSTTA Bureau in due course.

IV. CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY FOR 2011-2020

10. Participants stressed the need to maintain consistency of the capacity-building strategy to be discussed, the existing programme of work for the GTI and the object-oriented deliverables annexed to decision IX/22.

11. Targets 1 and 2 of the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)¹ (“An online flora of all known plants” and “Assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action”) and target 19 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020² (“By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied”) were mentioned as highly relevant to the GTI. It was agreed that a strategy for taxonomic capacity-building should be developed in order to assist Parties in meeting the targets.

12. There was a strong recommendation that Parties should be assisted in improving their infrastructure. This infrastructure may include modern tools and information.

13. The approach of Census of Marine Life³ was considered as a model for creating wide interest in taxonomy that can lead to new investment by engaging scientists world-wide in mobilizing resources for a concerted effort to promote the description of species in poorly known biome and communicating the results to the public, and a similar programme for canopy and soil biodiversity was suggested to promote taxonomy, taking into account that covering all taxa and ecosystems does not seem to be realistic.

14. To overcome the difficulty of covering all taxa, participants suggested designing and developing programmes tied to ecosystem services, including pollinators, or other thematic approaches focusing on biodiversity hotspots, protected areas and invasive alien species. For example, listing 5-10 thematic

¹ Decision X/17, annex.

² Decision X/2, annex.

³ See <http://www.coml.org/>.

projects that need taxonomic capacity development over 10 years will be more effective than unspecific requirements.

15. The representative of Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) informed participants that taxonomic information in a good data architecture provided a backbone of biodiversity data and knowledge and GBIF would support GTI in creating synergy between taxonomy and biodiversity information.

16. Participants stressed that global information should match with national level of work for biodiversity. Any global species checklists, including the Catalogue of Life,⁴ which GBIF has been using as a backbone, need to be examined at the national level so that Parties can have information that are appropriate for their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and retrieve their national status on biodiversity from the global information resources.

17. Taxonomic-needs assessment through the regionally organized workshops, such as the ones held in Ghana and for East and South-East Asia, were considered to be an important step to translate taxonomic capacity development for the purposes of the Convention on Biological Diversity into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. It was emphasized that the language used should be very easily understandable by decision makers.

18. It was recognized that existing networks, such as BioNET-INTERNATIONAL[®], the International Barcode of Life and the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, were very important elements for the development of a strategy for taxonomic capacity-building and that encouraging their engagement in implementing the GTI and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention needed to be a part of strategy. Participants strongly suggested inviting such networks to Coordination Mechanism meetings, keeping close collaboration and seeking synergies with these networks in the process of developing the capacity-building strategy

19. It was suggested that indicators for taxonomy are very important to assess and monitor Parties' achievements in taxonomic-capacity development. It was agreed to consider: (i) global indicator(s) for taxonomy, with possible sub-indicators for use at national and regional levels, and Ms Natasha Ali and Mr. Peter Herkenrath were requested to provide a first draft for taxonomy indicator(s), share it with the members of the Coordination Mechanism and promote the indicator(s) for taxonomy in the process of the AHTEG on indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

V. OUTREACH

20. Participants discussed the question of publicizing the GTI among focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the general public. It was felt that outreach materials for the GTI national focal points to promote taxonomy, other than CBD Technical Series No. 30, are necessary to facilitate resource mobilization to taxonomy. Participants shared information on the products for the International Year of Biodiversity published by BioNET-INTERNATIONAL[®], including: (a) the "Understanding the World Around You" presentation in eight languages; (b) the "Who am I?" CD and (c) the "Taxonomic in Action" online/postcard campaign. Taking into account the negative connotations of the term "taxonomic impediment", it was suggested that some new wording should be used, for example:

- (a) Scientific basis for actions under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) Scientific discovery of biodiversity;
- (c) Biodiversity in local landscapes;

⁴ See www.catalogueoflife.org.

- (d) Taxonomy: age of opportunity and technology;
- (e) Protecting life on Earth/Understanding life on Earth;
- (f) The taxonomic imperative.

21. Participants suggested that outreach materials and other material should be produced for taxonomic institutions to use for fund-raising or the promotion of taxonomy-related work for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

VI. NON-COMMERCIAL USE OF GENETIC MATERIALS

22. In light of the ongoing negotiations on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, participants shared information on the recent papers: (i) *Biology without borders* by David E. Schindel⁵ and (ii) *Recent trends in US patent grants and issues to be considered* by George M. Garrity and Charles T. Parker.⁶ They also shared information on the language under negotiation at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with regard to special consideration on simplified measures on access for non-commercial research.

23. The Smithsonian Institution expressed its view that the non-commercial sector should agree on compliance measures and pointed the importance of documentation and databasing information associated with specimens for non-commercial research. The Smithsonian Institution also stated that the Consortium for the Barcode of Life would continue to work on simplified measures by developing standard language for prior informed consent and material transfer agreements, in which process reference would be made to the work done by Swiss Academy of Sciences.

24. Participants expressed the view that information on the Nagoya Protocol is important to coordinate international collaboration on taxonomic research and capacity-building, and suggested that such information be included in the outreach activities of the Coordination Mechanism.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

25. Participants in the meeting expressed the view that full participation of regional representatives in official meetings should be ensured by providing support for travel costs for members from eligible countries.

26. The Secretariat was requested to consider organizing the eleventh meeting of the Coordination Mechanism before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and preferably before the meeting of SBSTTA at which the comprehensive strategy of taxonomic capacity-building would be considered.

VIII. CLOSURE OF MEETING

27. The meeting was closed at 5.30 p.m. on 24 October 2010.

⁵ *Nature* 467 779-781(2010).

⁶ Available from Nature Precedings at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/npre.2010.4998.1> (2010).

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The following individuals participated in the meeting of the GTI Coordination Mechanism. Not all Coordination Mechanism members were present. The full membership of the Coordination Mechanism is provided at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-162-gti-en.pdf>

Africa:

1. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana)

Asia-Pacific:

2. Ma Keping (China and as a proxy for Mr. Christoph Häuser (Germany))
3. Noriaki Sakaguchi (Japan)

GRULAC:

4. Lily Rodriguez (Peru)
5. David Oren (Brazil)

Organizations:

6. ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (Filiberto Pollisco, Jr)
7. BioNET INTERNATIONAL (Richard Smith and Soetikno Sastroutomo)
8. Forest Research Institute Malaysia (Saw Leng Guan)
9. Global Biodiversity Information Facility (David Remsen and Samy Gaiji)
10. Integrated Taxonomic Information Systems (Michael Ruggiero)
11. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Natasha Ali)
12. Smithsonian Institution (Leonard Hirsch and David Schindel)
13. UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (Peter Herkenrath)
14. United Nations University-Institute for Advanced Studies (Geoff Burton)

Annex II

AGENDA AS ADOPTED

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of agenda.
3. Amendment of the terms of reference for the GTI Coordination Mechanism.
4. Capacity-building strategy for 2011-2020.
5. Outreach.
6. Non-commercial use of genetic materials.
7. Other matters
8. Closure of the meeting.

Annex III

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR THE
GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE**

1. According to the mandate provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision V/9, the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) shall assist the Executive Secretary to facilitate international cooperation and to coordinate activities on matters pertaining to the implementation and development of the Global Taxonomy Initiative. It will support implementation of the programme of work for the GTI and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), including the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity 2011-2020, where appropriate funds can be provided for capacity development, advise the Executive Secretary as requested, and provide information on progress of the GTI at regional and global levels prior to every other meeting of SBSTTA and, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties.
2. The Coordination Mechanism for the GTI will, as appropriate, provide suggestions to the Executive Secretary how to monitor the progress of taxonomic capacity development through the National Reports, and analysis of these data on effectiveness of GTI implementation on national level implementation of the CBD.
3. The Coordination Mechanism will assist the Executive Secretary and the ad hoc technical expert group on post-2010 indicators in developing an indicator in order to assess the progress on the implementation of the programme of work for the Initiative as needed.
4. The Coordination Mechanism will collaborate with the Executive Secretary to draft a comprehensive capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative at global and regional levels that addresses the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2010, taking into account the infrastructural needs for delivering taxonomic information and other relevant deliverables indicated in the annex to decision IX/22 to Parties.
5. With regard to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Coordination Mechanism will coordinate the activities of regional and global networks to:
 - (a) Support GTI national focal points, taxonomic experts and institutions in contributing to the process of developing or reviewing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, taking into account the existing taxonomic capacity;
 - (b) Advise the Executive Secretary about technical and technological ways to use the outcome oriented deliverables for the planned activities of the GTI programme of work for Parties to prepare national report as appropriate; and
 - (c) Assist the Executive Secretary to liaise with relevant organizations and individuals, and to support national and regional capacity building in taxonomy and biodiversity research, *inter alia* through training and workshops for young scientists and implementers of the Convention on Biological Diversity where appropriate funds can be provided.
6. The Coordination Mechanism will also identify synergy of activities in support of other programmes of the Convention, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
7. Other tasks and duties of the Coordination Mechanism include:
 - (a) Provide scientific and technical assistance on all matters relevant to the Global Taxonomy Initiative to the Executive Secretary, as appropriate and needed;

(b) Provide updates on information about relevant actions through the regional and global networks/projects, particularly against the outcome-oriented deliverables⁷ and other relevant outputs;

(c) Establish and maintain communication with GTI national focal points, institutions, organizations and partners relevant for the GTI;

(d) Liaise with GTI national focal points and relevant stakeholders for other CBD thematic areas, programmes and cross-cutting issues, as mandated by and relevant for, the GTI programme of work;

(e) Support fund-raising and public-awareness efforts for the activities of GTI and biodiversity research, as appropriate.

8. The Executive Secretary, in agreement with its members, may invite one or more of the members of the Coordination Mechanism to facilitate/coordinate tasks mentioned in paragraph 6 above as appropriate.

9. Membership of the Coordination Mechanism for the GTI includes:

(a) Regional members composed of two regional representatives from each of **Africa, Asia-Pacific, CEE, GRULAC** and **WEOG**, who will be selected on a rotational basis. The regional representatives will be nominated by Parties and relevant regional or global networks and selected by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the existing members of Coordination Mechanism, taking into account the needs in taxonomy to implement decisions, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(b) The selected regional members will be approved by SBSTTA Bureau;

(c) Taking into account decisions V/9, VI/8, VII/9, VIII/3, IX/22 and X/39, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Council of Scientific Unions, the International Plant Protection Convention, the Global Environment Facility, BioNET-INTERNATIONAL[®], CAB International, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the International Barcode of Life, IUCN, the Integrated Taxonomic Information System and Species 2000 are invited to be represented on the Coordination Mechanism by the Executive Secretary;

(d) The Executive Secretary may invite representation at individual meetings of the Coordination Mechanism from relevant United Nations organizations, relevant users of taxonomy, donor organizations and scientific institutions, preferably those participating in the Consortium of Scientific Partners for Biodiversity.

10. *Qualification of the members:*

(a) Regional members should preferably be serving or past GTI National Focal Points or involved in regional networks for taxonomic capacity building including BioNET-INTERNATIONAL[®], the International Barcode of Life, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility or other initiatives suggested as actors to deliver the object-oriented deliverables for the Global Taxonomy Initiative programme of work in the annex to decision IX/22.

(b) Organizations will be invited based on their activities and involvement in international collaboration in biodiversity research, in the context of implementation of the programmes of the CBD

⁷ Decision IX/22, annex.

which require improvement in taxonomic capacity, including generation, maintenance, sharing and use of biodiversity information.

11. *Duration of term:*

- (a) Each member will serve for at least one two-year term;
- (b) Each regional member from **Africa, Asia-Pacific, CEE, GRULAC** and **WEOG** may serve for a maximum two consecutive terms. Extension beyond two terms is as determined by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the CBD national focal points, SBSTTA focal points and GTI national focal points.

12. Chair of the Coordination Mechanism:

- (a) At the first formal meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for the GTI after these terms of reference are approved, the members of the Coordination Mechanism will elect a Chair from amongst its members and report to the Executive Secretary. The Chair has to accept the election.
- (b) The Chair will convene all formal meetings of the CM on behalf of the Executive Secretary, and prepare a report for the ES after each meeting.

13. Meetings of the Coordination Mechanism

- (a) Meetings of the Coordination Mechanism can take place only with adequate representation from all regions, and subject to available resources.
