

## **GTI Global Assessment of Taxonomic Needs and Capacities**

### **Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde**

Representatives of the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT), BioNET International (Oxford, UK), the National Institute for Environmental Studies (Tsukuba, Japan), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (Copenhagen, Denmark), the Nees-Institute for Biodiversity of Plants (University of Bonn, Germany), the Smithsonian Institution (Washington DC, USA), the national GTI Focal Point (Stuttgart, Germany), and other relevant organizations discussed the implementation of strategies and mechanisms to decrease the taxonomic impediment and debated in detail the status of the GTI Global Assessment of Taxonomic Needs and Capacities. Additionally to the representatives of the seven presenting organizations, 25 participants visited the side event about problems and the future of the GTI "Global Assessment of Taxonomic Needs and Capacities."

During the Side Event seven scientists presented different views on the Global Assessment of Taxonomic Needs and Capacities. Renner & Häuser (GTI NFP, Stuttgart, Germany) introduced the "GTI Global Assessment of Taxonomic Needs and Capacities" and discussed the state of the art of this assessment. The GTI Programme of Work (COP Decisions VI/8, COP VIII/3) Operational Objective 1, Planned activity 3, asks the CBD Secretariat and the NFPs to perform as soon as possible the "GTI Global Assessment of Taxonomic Needs and Capacities" and present data at COP 9 in Bonn in May 2008.

In the context of the "GTI Global Assessment of Taxonomic Needs and Capacities", the German GTI NFP developed a questionnaire (download at [www.gti-kontaktstelle.de/q.html](http://www.gti-kontaktstelle.de/q.html)) to evaluate three relevant issues of the global assessments. The lack of data on these three parts has been confirmed by the presentations of Löhne/Mutke (University of Bonn) about the global assessment of plants with presentation of significant lack of knowledge in many parts of the world. Tillier (EDIT) presented data on a gap analysis for the fauna in Europe, a comparatively well studied region in the global context. However, even the European fauna evidently shows lack of knowledge and gaps especially in invertebrates. Each year new species are described for the European fauna.

Smith (BioNET International) presented the first results on the global assessment of invasive species and pointed out some important issues for questionnaires and the global assessment.

Shimura (NIES) explained the influence of climate change on biodiversity and the link between biodiversity loss, global change and taxonomy as well as the needs climate change scientists have regarding taxonomy.

Finally, Hirsch (SI) explained the concerns on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) parties, countries and other organizations face in taxonomy and how these issues might influence GTI Global Assessment of Taxonomic Needs and Capacities.

Further discussion on the topic arose later and involved the contribution of WCMC-UNEP in the global assessment and other relevant organizations.

As one outcome of the side event was the start of the questionnaire of the German GTI NFP as well as the reinforcement that such a global assessment is needed and wanted by the community.

To disseminate the results of the Side Event, the German GTI NFP summarized the presentations and published some of the slide shows as well as the contact details of the authors of the presentations online at [www.gti-ontaktstelle.de/sbstta12/sbstta12.html](http://www.gti-ontaktstelle.de/sbstta12/sbstta12.html).