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**COORDINATION MECHANISM OF THE GLOBAL
TAXONOMY INITIATIVE**

Seventh meeting
Montreal, 20-21 November 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS*Annotations to the provisional agenda***INTRODUCTION**

1. The sixth meeting of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative will be held at the seat of the Secretariat, in Montreal, on 20- 21 November 2006.
2. Registration of participants will commence at 9 a.m.

ITEM. 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 20 November 2006. The Chair of the Coordination Mechanism will also make introductory remarks, after which participants will briefly introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**2.1. Adoption of the agenda**

4. Members of the Coordination Mechanism will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/GTI-CM/6/1), with any such amendments as may be agreed upon.

2.2. Organization of work

5. Participants will be invited to consider how to organize the work of the meeting, in particular whether to consider all items in plenary or whether to divide into smaller groups for particular items. Participants may also wish to decide on the nature of the report of the meeting.

* UNEP/CBD/GTI-CM/6/1.

ITEM 3. GLOBAL TAXONOMIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

6. The global taxonomic needs assessment falls under planned activity 3 under operational objective 1 of the programme of work for the GTI adopted in decision VI/8. In paragraph 11 (a) of decision VIII/3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to consult “with relevant organizations and funding agencies regarding the global taxonomic needs assessment called for in planned activity 3 of the programme of work for Global Taxonomy Initiative, in order to consider, *inter alia*, the scope of the assessment, options for methodology, and potential implementing agencies, with a view to completing the assessment as soon as possible, taking into account users’ needs”.

7. The Chair has held some consultations on this item and will report to the meeting and seek feedback. Discussion on funding will take place under agenda item 9.1. In addition, a report on the Global Taxonomic Needs Assessment for Invasive Alien Species will be made by Chris Lyal/Richard Smith.

ITEM 4. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

8. Planned activity 4 of the programme of work for the GTI is on public awareness and education. In addition, in paragraph 11 (e) of decision VIII/3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to “undertake, as part of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness programme and in collaboration with relevant partners, activities demonstrating the importance of taxonomy for the general public, including information on products, lessons learned, and accomplishments of taxonomy-related projects, and activities encouraging public participation, recognizing the importance of volunteer naturalists and local and indigenous people as a source of expertise”.

9. Participants are invited to discuss options for education and public awareness activities, and identify actors, in addition to the secretariat, for implementing those activities.

ITEM 5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

10. In paragraph 15 of decision VIII/3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary “to convene, with support from relevant organizations and donors, a project-development seminar aimed primarily for those countries that have already identified taxonomic needs or that have submitted proposals for pilot projects under the Global Taxonomy Initiative, to promote formulation of country-driven projects based on identified taxonomic needs and to explore potential benefits of developing new, and enhancing existing, regional or global projects to address common taxonomic needs that have already been identified”.

11. Participants are invited to briefly brainstorm about the content of this seminar, criteria for selecting participants, resource people, etc. The Secretariat has tentatively scheduled the meeting for 22-25 January 2008, subject to the availability of funding. The issue of financial support will be discussed under agenda item 9.1.

ITEM 6. REFINEMENT OF THE GTI PORTAL

12. The GTI portal was finalized and made public in July 2006 (<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/taxonomy/default.shtml>). Members of the Coordination Mechanism can give feedback to the Secretariat at any time, but may wish to take the opportunity at the meeting to make general comments or suggestions.

ITEM 7. INTERNATIONAL REGIME ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

13. Access and benefit-sharing is a planned area of activity in the programme of work for the GTI. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2002, Governments called for action to “negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit sharing under the Convention has been mandated by the Conference of the Parties to elaborate and negotiate the international regime on access and benefit-sharing and to complete its work before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In this context, it will be important for the negotiators of the international regime to keep in mind taxonomy-related considerations, such as: (i) the need to develop a regime that will take into account the particular requirements of taxonomic research; and (ii) whether the regime could usefully address the issue of taxonomic capacity-building.

14. Participants may wish to discuss, *inter alia*, the particular issues of access to and exchange of materials for taxonomic study and the need for taxonomic capacity-building in provider countries.

ITEM 8. DEVELOPMENT OF OUTCOME-ORIENTED DELIVERABLES FOR EACH PLANNED ACTIVITY IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

15. In paragraph 11 (f) of decision VIII/3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to “develop, in consultation with the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative, other relevant consultative bodies, stakeholders and organizations, for each of the planned activities of the programme of work on the Global Taxonomy Initiative, specific taxonomic, outcome-oriented deliverables to be considered as additions under “(ii) Outputs” with a timeline for possible consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting”.

16. Participants will be invited to discuss this issue. It may be appropriate to begin with a general discussion of the extent to which implementation of the programme of work has been successful, and to take stock of accomplishments and current activities, as a starting point in developing deliverables for each of the planned activities. At least one past meeting of the Coordination Mechanism has explored this issue (Wellington, 2004).

ITEM 9. FUNDING ISSUES

Item 9.1. Funding for the global taxonomic needs assessment and the project development seminar

17. Participants will be invited to make suggestions and comments regarding funding for the both the global taxonomic needs assessment (agenda item 3) and the project development seminar (agenda item 5). In the case of the Project Development Seminar, GEF has been approached for funding but declined. The secretariat subsequently sent out a letter in October 2006 to a number of donor Governments and organizations to seek funding, and asked any interested donors to indicate their intent no later than 1 July 2007.

Item 9.2. Special fund for the Global Taxonomy Initiative

18. In decision VIII/3, the Conference of the Parties invited “BioNET-INTERNATIONAL and other relevant organizations, in consultation with the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, to establish a special fund for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting”.

19. BioNET will lead the report on progress towards establishment of the special fund, and will seek inputs of the members of the Coordination Mechanism.

Item 9.3. General funding sources for implementation of the programme of work

20. Participants will be invited to discuss, in general terms, the adequacy of funding sources for implementation of the programme of work and to make any suggestions about further mobilization of funding.

ITEM 10. NEXT STEPS AND FUTURE MEETINGS

21. In light of any action items identified, the meeting may wish to consider next steps and future meetings for the period up to COP-9. Liaison with other thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, including possible inputs to other inter-sessional meetings, could be discussed.

ITEM 11. OTHER MATTERS

22. Participants will be invited to raise any other issues relevant to the meeting.
