

Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/JSH/71019

10 March 2010

## NOTIFICATION

**Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) Symposium:  
"Taking Stock of the Renaissance in Taxonomy: Post 2010 Capacity Building in taxonomy  
for the Convention on Biological Diversity" at the World Agroforestry Centre  
Nairobi, Kenya, 15-16 May 2010**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform Parties, governments, international organisations, donors, indigenous communities, and scientific the community that the CBD Secretariat will host a Global Taxonomy Initiative Symposium: "Taking Stock of the Renaissance in Taxonomy: Post 2010 Capacity Building for the Convention on Biological Diversity", on 15-16 May 2010 at the Conference Hall of the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

The objective of this symposium is to maximize capacity building in taxonomy with innovative technologies, including DNA barcoding, biodiversity informatics and increased regional cooperation to facilitate the implementation of the CBD. The participants of the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14) are cordially invited to this conference to collect information on taxonomy and advanced technologies in taxonomy, and to discuss on capacity development projects at national, regional and global levels.

Information on the conference and a provisional programme are annexed to this notification. Updates will be available at [www.cbd.int/gti/](http://www.cbd.int/gti/) with sequential addition.

Please, accept Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

To: CBD and SBSTTA Focal Points, GTI National Focal Points and relevant organizations  
cc: GTI Coordination Mechanism Members

## ANNEX 1

### **Global Taxonomy Initiative Symposium: “Taking Stock of the Renaissance in Taxonomy: Post 2010 Capacity Building for the Convention on Biological Diversity”**

An important early event in the International Year of Biodiversity was the UNESCO International Year of Biodiversity Science Policy Conference, which took place in Paris from 25-29 January 2010. The conference identified a number of ‘Priorities for and Modalities of Action’ and, among these, concluded that scaling-up and sustaining taxonomy may best be achieved through:

- Supporting indigenous and local communities in capturing and preserving their taxonomic knowledge;
- Applying cybertaxonomy, molecular and other innovative approaches to accelerate the taxonomic work flow of discovery and description;
- Using digital and molecular infrastructure tools to integrate taxonomic data with other types of life science information, thus also broadening the products available to support identification and other services;
- Prioritization of taxonomic efforts according to scientific knowledge gaps and user needs;
- Making communication and outreach standard practice, and using Internet media platforms to reach the public and others;
- Training a new generation of taxonomists, able to work flexibly and collaboratively, and taking stock of new and emerging technologies and tools;
- Appreciating the valuable contributions of taxonomy and recognizing it as a branch of cutting-edge science.

The field of taxonomy is undergoing a renaissance thanks to rapid advances in information science, biotechnology.

The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) is a Cross-Cutting Issue put in place to ensure that taxonomic information and expertise required to implement the Convention is available where and when required and, as a part of this process, supports building requisite capacity at local, national, regional and global levels. COP decision IX/22 suggested actors who could produce outcome-oriented deliverables for each of the planned activities of the Programme of Work for the GTI. These actors are among the leaders of the renaissance in taxonomy and they have made efforts to develop projects to deliver specific outputs (annex in decision IX/22). SBSTTA 14 provides an excellent opportunity to share information on the results of these efforts, and initiate new actions and partnerships.

## ANNEX 2

### Global Taxonomy Initiative Symposium: “Taking Stock of the Renaissance in Taxonomy: Post 2010 Capacity Building for the Convention on Biological Diversity”

ICRAF Conference Hall

#### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

#### DAY 1: Saturday, 15 May 2010

|            |  |   |
|------------|--|---|
| 9.00 a.m.  | Welcome  | Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif<br>CBD Executive Secretary  |
| 9.15 a.m.  | <b>Keynote Speech 1:</b><br>Innovative Technology in Taxonomy  | Dr. Helida Oyieke<br>The National Museum of Kenya                                     |
| 10.00 a.m. | <b>Keynote Speech 2:</b><br>Biodiversity informatics and the CBD   | Dr. Dan Masiga<br>ICIPE, Nairobi, Kenya   |
| 10.45 a.m. | Coffee Break   |   |
| 11.15 a.m. | <b>Regional project development, successes and<br/>obstacles identified</b>  | Dr. Christopher Lyal<br>Natural History Museum, UK                                    |
| 11.20 a.m. | Progress for taxonomy in Africa  | Dr. John Mauremootoo<br>BioNET-INTERNATIONAL  |
| 11.40 a.m. | Progress for taxonomy in Asia  | Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi<br>Japan Biodiversity Centre<br>Ministry of the Environment     |
| 12.00      | Progress for taxonomy in Europe  | Dr. Christoph Haeuser<br>Humboldt University Berlin                                   |
| 12.20 p.m. | Progress for taxonomy in Latin America   | [To Be Announced]   |
| 12.40 p.m. | Lunch  |   |
| 2.00 p.m.  | <b>Regional project development, successes and<br/>obstacles identified (cont. )</b>   |   |
| 2.00 p.m.  | <b>Report from 3<sup>rd</sup> International Barcode of Life<br/>Conference in Mexico – Access and Benefit-sharing</b>  | [To Be Announced]   |
| 2.30 p.m.  | <b>Round Table Discussion<br/>Innovative approach to build a<br/>capacity in taxonomy</b>  | Chair: Dr. David Schindel<br>Executive Director<br>Consortium for the Barcode of Life |
|            | Dr. Filiberto Pollisco (ASEAN Center for Biodiversity)<br>Dr. Christoph Haeuser (Germany)<br>Dr. Dedy Darnaedi (Indonesia)<br>Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi (Japan)<br>Dr. Dan Masiga (Kenya)<br>Dr. Helida Oyieke (Kenya)<br>Dr. Christopher Lyal (UK)<br>Dr. John Mauremootoo (UK)<br>[To be announced] (South America / Caribbean / Amazon Basin) |   |
| 3.30 p.m.  | Coffee Break   |   |
| 4.00 p.m.  | <b>Plenary discussion on Post-2010 GTI goals</b>   | Chair: Dr. Christoph Haeuser<br>Humboldt University Berlin                            |
| 5.00 p.m.  | Adjourns   |   |

**DAY 1: Sunday, 16 May 2010**

**POST SYMPOSIUM EVENT**

**Introduction to Post-2010 Capacity Building for the Convention on Biological Diversity**

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|-------------------------|--|
| 9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.  | Introduction to DNA Barcoding            |
| 11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. | Coffee Break                             |
| 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. | Introduction to Biodiversity Informatics |