

UVIMA is a Swahili acronym for Uchambuzi wa Viumbe Kwa Maendeleo Afrika Mashariki, and can be translated to Taxonomy for Development in East Africa.

## MOBILIZING VITAL TAXONOMIC INFORMATION TO SUPPORT HUMAN WELL-BEING AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN EASTERN AFRICA



# The UVIMA Project

### Project Scope

Starting in October 2008, this 2.5 year project aims to consolidate and mobilize existing taxonomic information for generating tools and products relevant to the environmental, food and poverty crises in Africa. The project seeks to contribute to resolving these interlinked crises by providing taxonomic tools to enhance ecosystem resilience and food security, focusing on three areas: pollinators, invasive alien species and pests. The project will build on ongoing national and regional initiatives and address some of the priorities identified during the Botanical and Zoological Taxonomic Networks for East Africa (BOZONET) proposal development process. While focused on East Africa, UVIMA will also provide a platform for engaging partners, sharing experiences and delivering outcomes at the pan-African level.

- **Invasive alien species** are key drivers of change in ecosystems, often severely compromising the delivery of ecosystem services.
- **Pests** are a constant challenge to agricultural productivity and trade.
- **Pollinator** decline in diversity and abundance is likely to cause the next agricultural crisis in Africa.

### Policy Relevance

Outputs of this project will be relevant for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species, the African Pollinator Initiative Plan of Action, the Common African Plant Protection Strategy and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organisation, among other national, regional and international policy frameworks. Local taxonomic partnerships will be strengthened to provide timely, relevant, and locally optimised products and services in response to emerging challenges.

### Partners

Coordinated by BioNET-EAFRINET, the project is led by experts from this East African taxonomy network including agricultural and biodiversity research institutions in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda as well as partners of BioNET at the pan-African and global level.

### Invitation to participate

In its initial phase, the project will focus on assessing the stakeholder needs for taxonomic information and on building linkages to partners. We invite and encourage involvement from those with experience in biodiversity informatics and the development and dissemination of taxonomic tools and products at national and local levels.

### Stakeholder workshop March 2009

The UVIMA preparatory workshop will bring together national and regional stakeholders as well as global partners to build a consensus on the scope and priorities of the project.

Together we will aim to achieve our ultimate goal of contributing to improved livelihoods, food security and ecosystem resilience in Eastern Africa.

For further information please contact the BioNET Secretariat ([bionet@bionet-intl.org](mailto:bionet@bionet-intl.org)) or

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### Some expected project outputs

- National lists on pollinators, pests and invasive alien species
- Reference databases at national and regional levels
- Web based tools and resources for end users – researchers, farmers and policy makers
- Targeted products to help respond to national, regional and international commitments
- Inter-regional and international linkages and networks
- Capacity building in biodiversity informatics
- Strengthened partnerships to deliver timely relevant taxonomic products for end users