



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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14 April 2011

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to comment on draft terms of reference for the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative and to nominate candidates for the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to invite you to provide your comments on the draft terms of reference for the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), prepared in response to the report of the tenth meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for the GTI.

The report is accessible at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/gti/gticm-10/official/gticm-10-03-en.pdf> and is annexed to this notification for your reference. Please submit your comments and suggestions on the draft terms of reference to the CBD Secretariat (secretariat@cbd.int) at your earliest convenience, but **no later than 6 May 2011**.

At the same time I wish to invite you to nominate candidates for the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, which is expected to meet in early June 2011. The terms of reference, which will be revised on the basis of your comments, will serve on an interim basis to guide the selection of new members of the Coordination Mechanism during the inter-sessional period between the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Annex

To: CBD National Focal Points
SBSTTA Focal Points
GTI National Focal Points



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COP 10 / MOP 5

Annex

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 deliverables¹ 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 which require improvement in taxonomic capacity, including generation, maintenance, sharing and use of biodiversity information.

¹ Decision IX/22, annex.

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.
