



**Implementing the CBD GTI Programme of Work:  
Invitation to a Follow-up Workshop to 3GTW  
(UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 12-14 February 2003)**

This invitation is extended on behalf of the three organizers of the Third Global Taxonomy Workshop (3GTW), held in Pretoria, South Africa, 8-12 July 2002, namely the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL – the Global Network for Taxonomy.

**Rationale**

This workshop is designed to maintain the momentum generated in 2002 around implementing the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) under the CBD. A number of key activities lending significant impetus for the global taxonomic agenda occurred in 2002:

- CBD CoP6, where the GTI Programme of Work (PoW) was formally adopted as Decision VI/8;
- 3GTW, which generated an overall strategic framework containing nine implementation elements (see Table 1) for moving forward the GTI PoW and related initiatives;
- WSSD, where the Plan of Implementation adopted includes Paragraph 44 on Biodiversity and reducing rates of loss by 2010 and, importantly, subparagraph 44(s) on implementing the GTI to help stem the rate of global biodiversity loss.

**Objectives**

The meeting has two objectives: the primary is to take the next necessary steps to reducing the taxonomic impediment, the secondary is to identify what, if any, future role BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's Technical Secretariat has in this process.

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In line with the original overall objective of 3GTW, namely to come away with “*an agreed global partnership for moving activities forward to overcome the taxonomic impediment*”, this next meeting is designed to put in place the final touches on the plan of action. We, the three organizing partners, recommend that it is conducted as a ‘project planning’ meeting, whereby the various ‘project partners’ commit themselves to undertaking key activities identified.

Table 1, generated at 3GTW, lists nine strategic elements required to implement a global strategy for demand-driven taxonomic capacity building. Each element was identified as necessary but (in itself) insufficient for overcoming the taxonomic impediment – concerted action on all nine elements being required. The key component missing is ‘who’ is going to undertake the activities listed. Each of the nine strategic elements has a number of actions listed, each of which will require commitments from one or more partner to implement. This ‘project planning’ meeting is dedicated to assessing which organizations and initiatives are willing and able to take responsibility, individually and jointly, for implementing certain actions, in discussions and agreement with all those responsible for the other activities. In this way, a global partnership can be formed whereby each member has an agreed role and responsibilities as a key component of the overall ‘project’ – contributing key pieces of the puzzle.

The issue of who collates activity information and monitors progress is also up for discussion, though it may be most effective that this role be assigned to the SCBD, in the person of the GTI Programme Officer, as we are in effect ‘implementing the GTI Programme of Work’.

The key secondary objective is defining the future role of the Technical Secretariat of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL within this partnership. In this follow-up to 3GTW, BioNET-INTERNATIONAL is seeking input from all interested parties as to its future role in assisting to overcome the taxonomic impediment (see Appendix 1 for a full description of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL and its activities).

### **Mandate for the Meeting**

It is planned that the outcomes of this meeting will be reported at the eighth meeting of the CBD’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 8) in Montreal, 10-15 March 2003, and we anticipate that a number of organizational commitments to implementation will be included.

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Therefore, as a key invited party you are requested to:

- Notify UNESCO-MAB as soon as possible and at the latest by Friday 17th<sup>st</sup> January of your intention to participate (Contact: Salvatore Arico, [s.arico@unesco.org](mailto:s.arico@unesco.org)); all logistical information and background documents will be made available on a devoted website at [www.unesco.org/mab/cooperation/taxonomy/workshop.htm](http://www.unesco.org/mab/cooperation/taxonomy/workshop.htm).
- Plan to bring or send a paper and/or poster describing your organization in general terms (e.g. vision, mission etc; see Appendix 1: BioNET-INTERNATIONAL paper as example);
- Seek a mandate internally in your organization for your organization's role in the partnership, including relevant current and ongoing activities your organization is conducting or involved in, so that this can be put forward, discussed and agreed in Paris; roles which your organization will not undertake, as well as those it may have a partial role in, are equally important to define;
- Seek perspectives within your organization on what role/s you would like adopted fully or partially, or not at all, by other partners, and in particular by BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's Technical Secretariat, within the overall partnership.
- Complete, as far as possible, Table 1, as per the above perspectives from your organization, as the basis for discussions at this meeting. (Please see Table 2 as an example. Table 2 reflects the 'first-cut' commitments of the UNESCO-MAB Programme in implementing activities under the nine strategic elements. This is the type of preparatory work required from participating organizations prior to the Workshop).

***Nota Bene:* Please note that all costs are for participant's own expense.**

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We look forward to your participation in the Workshop.

Nick King

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick King', with a stylized, cursive script.

Director, BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, the Global Network for Taxonomy

Peter Bridgewater

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bridgewater', with a cursive script.

Director, UNESCO's Division of Ecological Sciences and Secretary, Man and the Biosphere Programme

Hamdallah Zedan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Zedan', with a cursive script.

Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological Diversity

**Table 1: 3GTW GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR DEMAND-DRIVEN TAXONOMIC CAPACITY BUILDING**

Strategy element	Action	Means	Partners	Funding	Timelines	Indicators	Outputs
<b>1. Political partnership:</b> Generate effective political and multi-sectoral commitment to fulfil national and international obligations	1. Raise profile of taxonomy with key sectors of society, including policy and decision makers <sup>1</sup> ; 2. Work with CBD and other conventions and related UN bodies; 3. Participate in bodies reporting to government on biodiversity issues; 4. Engage decision makers; 5. Conduct media campaigns; 6. Develop education programmes; 7. Participate in global initiative on biodiversity communication, education and public awareness (CEPA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visionary leadership and advocacy articulating value;</li> <li>• Proactive interaction with governments;</li> <li>• Sharing and using case studies of successful integration of taxonomy and other sectors;</li> <li>• Working with media; setting up communications and public relations programmes;</li> <li>• Emphasise key role of taxonomy; ensure other sectors are aware of the need for appropriate taxonomic input;</li> <li>• Incorporate taxonomy in political and legal instruments nationally and locally;</li> <li>• Regularly update legislation;</li> <li>• [add elements from CEPA]</li> </ul>	UNESCO-MAB; Govts; ?				
<b>2. Awareness and action:</b> Improve access to and analysis of policy level information within the <i>taxonomic community</i>	1. Develop and sustain awareness of development programme processes and objectives; 2. Develop and sustain awareness of NBSAPs; 3. Develop and sustain awareness of relevant Convention decisions;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make and maintain contact with local focal points of development and implementing agencies;</li> <li>• Locate and contribute to contents of NBSAP;</li> <li>• Identify relevant Conventions to which country is Party; discuss convention processes and</li> </ul>					

<sup>1</sup> Agricultural support; forestry; environment managers; conservationists; policy and decision makers; indigenous and local communities; private sector (national and multinational); publicly-owned companies; ecotourism; biosecurity; biosafety; access and benefit sharing; bioindicators; biotechnology; health issues (including emerging diseases); (see Box 4 of 'Addressing the needs of the users of Botanical Information')

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Develop and sustain awareness of donor policy backgrounds;</li> <li>5. Analyze information obtained to relate taxonomic output to development objectives;</li> <li>6. Contribute to harmonising the format of national reports under various conventions.</li> </ol>	<p>decisions with focal points and relevant stakeholders;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact bilateral and multilateral donors through appropriate channels.</li> </ul>					
<p>3. <b>End-user focus:</b> Meet stakeholder needs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form partnerships with users;</li> <li>2. Incorporate market research techniques in assessing stakeholder needs, including methods of ensuring stakeholder take-up of taxonomic products;</li> <li>3. Needs assessments, including identifying full range of stakeholders and users;</li> <li>4. Make taxonomic products more relevant to non-taxonomic issues;</li> <li>5. Improve stabilisation of names and develop concordances between different classifications;</li> <li>6. Increase the rate at which species are identified;</li> <li>7. Establish discussion fora;</li> <li>8. Include feedback on products from users and</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold stakeholder workshops, as part of national taxonomic needs assessment under GTI, and as part of any project development;</li> <li>• Remove barriers to use of taxonomic output (access, format, language, inconsistencies, etc);</li> <li>• Increasing commitment to partnerships;</li> <li>• Play link/facilitation role between stakeholders;</li> <li>• Make outputs from projects widely accessible so not recreated on project-by-project basis.</li> </ul>	<p>U-MAB Expert Institutions Networks</p>				

	'lessons learned' in any project.						
<b>4. Taxonomic information:</b> Improve access to and exchange of taxonomic information and products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decrease publication time for taxonomic works;</li> <li>2. Improve accessibility of publications;</li> <li>3. Develop and link databases of taxonomic information;</li> <li>4. Improve access to specimens and data;</li> <li>5. Exploit appropriate information technology;</li> <li>6. Improve access and communication among experts;</li> <li>7. Improve transfer and interpretation of taxonomic products from providers to users.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streamline existing publications procedures and develop and encourage electronic publishing;</li> <li>• Establish new and make more effective use of existing discussion fora;</li> <li>• Optimise networking and sharing of information by standardising metadata;</li> <li>• Work to overcome language barriers;</li> <li>• Actively seek and include traditional Knowledge to enhance information.</li> </ul>	CBD CHM; GBIF; Ecoport; Expert Institutions ?				
<b>5. Timeliness:</b> Accelerate the full taxonomic cycle: discovery, description, determination and dissemination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve and develop new tools and technologies in taxonomic research;</li> <li>2. Improve response times – provide quicker and more accurate identification and description;</li> <li>3. Examine new approaches to components of the cycle and cycle in total.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve rates of discovery;</li> <li>• Identify and address bottlenecks;</li> <li>• Reduce costs of tools e.g. software;</li> <li>• Promote electronic instead of journal publishing;</li> <li>• Seek new areas of application requiring faster responses e.g. EIA;</li> <li>• Seek standardised taxonomies/concordances.</li> </ul>	U-MAB; GBIF; Expert Institutions; ?				
<b>6. Capacity building:</b> Build human and infrastructural capacity to meet sustainable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop long-term strategy for sustaining capacity;</li> <li>2. Develop capacity within current structures and</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and deliver curricula in universities and other training institutions;</li> <li>• Make education and curricula</li> </ul>	U-MAB; IDAs; GEF; ?				

development needs	<p>processes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Identify and include new elements, structures and processes;</li> <li>4. Improve access to new information technologies;</li> <li>5. Access and mobilise resources.</li> </ol>	<p>more popular and 'fun';</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train new taxonomists;</li> <li>• Implement CEPA activities;</li> <li>• Establish Regional biodiversity Centres based on existing infrastructure;</li> <li>• Enhance collaboration and exchange e.g. over IAS tracking.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>7. Global partnership:</b> Enhance collaboration, cooperation and partnerships, building to global scales</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen networking between institutes, individuals and countries;</li> <li>2. Improve effectiveness of focal points;</li> <li>3. Drive pro-action of groups, networks and societies in linking together;</li> <li>4. Promote Access and Benefit-sharing for inclusiveness of all.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve linkages to and among focal points;</li> <li>• Create and expand national networks;</li> <li>• Expand national networks to regional;</li> <li>• Link regional to form global;</li> <li>• Develop MoUs to facilitate flexible partnerships around projects;</li> <li>• Visionary leadership to reduce 'turf-protection' and enhance collaboration.</li> </ul>	U-MAB				
<p><b>8: Science:</b> Sustainably maintain and enhance taxonomic science skills and knowledge base to enable responsiveness to emerging needs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and strengthen existing collections, institutions and networks;</li> <li>2. Generate interest in taxonomy as a science and encourage people to join discipline; find mechanisms and incentives for employing taxonomists;</li> <li>3. Develop and improve training programmes and curricula;</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicize the value of 'sound science' for socio-economic returns;</li> <li>• Advocate for and mobilize funds for research;</li> <li>• Create a database of case studies to support advocacy.</li> </ul>	UNESCO; Expert Institutions; Govts				

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Develop mechanisms for linking taxonomists to end users;</li> <li>5. Complete the catalogue of life;</li> <li>6. Adoption of new technologies/techniques.</li> </ol>						
<p><b>9. Resourcing:</b> Access and mobilise resources (ensure resources are available for production of appropriate product)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify new resources via new areas of application (e.g. trade; expand ecotourism products to new groups);</li> <li>2. Enhance skills/institutional capacity in writing/managing successful proposals;</li> <li>3. Improve communication skills;</li> <li>4. Improve media relation skills;</li> <li>5. Develop co-funding partnerships based on end-user needs.</li> </ol>	<p>Entrench existing funding lines within institutions and Govts; Lobby to redirect Govts resources for underpinning science; Explore private industry applications; Develop case study database of successful applications freely accessible.</p>	<p>UNESCO; GEF;</p>				

Strategic Purpose: Ensure importance of taxonomy recognised at and resourced from appropriate national and international levels.

Goal: Implement GTI Programme of Work to allow completion the catalogue of life on Earth ASAP.

Intermediate Objectives:

1. Ensure taxonomy is producing appropriate outputs via:
  - ensure taxonomists are aware of user needs
  - ensure taxonomists act on awareness
  - ensure other sectors are aware of need for appropriate taxonomic input
  - ensure other sectors act on awareness
  - ensure resources are mobilised for production of appropriate products

**Table 2: UNESCO-MAB commitment to actions to implement the Strategy and Action Plan for Taxonomy developed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Taxonomy Workshop, 8-12 July 2002**

Strategy element (no. reflects numbering in the original strategy)	Actions
<b>1. Generate effective political and multi-sectoral commitment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Reflect taxonomy in activities and products under the CBD-UNESCO Global Initiative on Biodiversity CEPA that target policy-makers and major economic sectors</b></li> <li>▪ Assist with identifying target audiences at political level</li> </ul>
<b>3. Meet stakeholder (end-user) needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Assist with needs assessments</b></li> <li>▪ As a key end-user help define needs</li> <li>▪ <b>Assist with stakeholder workshops</b></li> <li>▪ Assist with delivery of products through projects</li> </ul>
<b>5. Accelerate the full taxonomic cycle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Assist in elaborating new approaches to cycle</b></li> <li>▪ Assist in dissemination of outputs to user community</li> </ul>
<b>6. Capacity building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Assist in development of curricula in tertiary institutions?</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Pursue the current UNESCO and its MAB activities in relation to training in taxonomy and parataxonomy</b></li> <li>▪ Assist in development of new training programmes?</li> </ul>
<b>7. Global partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Increase synergy between MAB regional networks and BioNET LOOPS (regional networks of BioNET)</b></li> <li>▪ U-MAB have seat on/participate in LOOP Coordinating Committee meetings</li> <li>▪ Get network participation in/contribution to U-MAB projects</li> </ul>
<b>8. Maintaining taxonomy as a discipline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (See activities under 6.)</li> <li>▪ <b>Assist in finding and testing mechanisms for employing (para)taxonomists<sup>2</sup></b></li> <li>▪ Help specify scientific integrity requirements of end-users</li> </ul>
<b>9. Resourcing</b>	<b>Assist with workshops aimed at developing project proposals for funding (e.g. GEF)</b>

<sup>2</sup> The UNESCO-MAB Eco-Jobs Programme has been focusing on parataxonomy

## **Appendix 1: Background to BioNET-INTERNATIONAL and its possible future role and to the Third Global Taxonomy workshop (3GTW)**



### **What is BioNET-INTERNATIONAL?**

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, the Global Network for Taxonomy, is an international NGO dedicated to creating sub-regional taxonomic capacity building Technical Cooperation Networks (TCNs) to assist developing countries to overcome the *Taxonomic Impediment* by becoming self-reliant in taxonomy i.e. self-reliant in the skills, infrastructure (including collections etc.) and technologies needed to discover, identify, name and classify and to understand the relationships of all organisms.

These TCNs are designed to assist developing countries to identify the organisms that constitute and threaten their biodiversity, not for taxonomy's own sake, but rather to support national programmes for sustainable agricultural development, and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including applications such as IPM, quarantine, invasive species control and priority conservation areas identification.

### **Support for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, the CBD and other conventions**

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL is particularly focused on assisting countries implement the various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially the latter's taxonomic capacity building component, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI). The subregional TCNs have been recognised as appropriate structures through which many of the regional components of the GTI Programme of Work, (endorsed as CBD CoP Decision VI/8) can be most effectively implemented.

### **Why was BioNET-INTERNATIONAL established?**

Taxonomic skills and products are essential for implementing sustainable development, including conservation of biodiversity and food security. Until the early 1990s, many taxonomic services were provided free of charge by expert institutes in Europe and elsewhere. Today, developing countries typically lack the ability to pay for such external taxonomic services and have inadequate and poorly resourced local taxonomic capacity. For many economically and ecologically important organism groups there are no trained taxonomists nor the required infrastructure in many regions. One means to overcome this problem is to create mechanisms whereby developing countries could pool, share and optimise their taxonomic capacity on a regional basis. The BioNET-INTERNATIONAL sub-regional TCNs are such a mechanism.

### **How does BioNET-INTERNATIONAL operate?**

Through the establishment of subregional TCNs that provide a mechanism for achieving self-sufficiency in taxonomic needs via the cost-effective multi-lateral strengthening and sharing of taxonomic resources on a sub-regional basis. The TCNs are designed to be permanent, government-owned and sustained structures formed by intergovernmental agreement to address national and regional taxonomic priorities identified by their member countries. Each TCN may be coordinated by full- or part-time staff as nominated by their member governments and designated coordinating institutes, on the understanding that these activities directly support the meeting of national needs and obligations under the relevant MEAs.

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL has a small Technical Secretariat based in the UK that facilitates the establishment of new TCNs and assists existing TCNs to become self-sufficient via donor-funded

activities. Since 1993 seven TCNs have been established by 120 member countries, with a further seven, covering the remainder of the globe, in various stages of establishment.

### **Funding**

Both the TCNs and the Technical Secretariat are not-for-profit, donor funded programmes. The BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Fund supports the operations of the Technical Secretariat and provides a small amount of catalytic funding over two years to establish TCNs (co-financing for work programme proposals, communications costs, publicity, planning meetings etc) and to initiate fundraising. The initial two-year period is seen as critical for establishing the credibility of the TCN and securing funding for capacity building activities, but is purely an incubation phase. After this period the success of TCNs is entirely dependent on their member country governmental support and attracting donor funding to implement their work programmes.

The BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Fund is to be utilised on a draw-down basis over 10 years (from 1996) to fund the activities of the Technical Secretariat in meeting the above mandate, and provide the limited catalytic funding for each new TCN for the first two years, in order to assist each attain self-sufficiency. As such, BioNET-INTERNATIONAL is a donor-funded, not-for-profit, non-governmental initiative which creates sub-regional Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGO's) in the form of the TCN's. BioNET-INTERNATIONAL is not a donor agency and has the above strict mandate on use of its funds.

### **TCN Capacity Building Work Programmes**

TCN activities typically fall into five categories of capacity building:

1. Training.
2. Rehabilitation and resourcing of infrastructure, specimen and literature collections.
3. Information and communications.
4. Introduction and application of appropriate new tools and technologies.
5. Sustainable functioning of the TCN.

TCNs have been successful in securing funding for their work programmes from a number of generous funding partners to date, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Department for International Development (UK), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, USAID, UNDP and many others.

### **The Future Role of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's Technical Secretariat**

In its original mandate, the BioNET Fund was established to be drawn down by the Technical Secretariat over a 10-year period, during which it was to be used to set up a global coverage of sub-regional taxonomic capacity building TCNs. These TCNs are intended to remain in existence as resources and implementing mechanisms for all and any taxonomy-related activities in their regions. The BioNET Fund is now in its final 2-3 years (at current rate of spend) and the global coverage of sub-regional networks is nearing completion.

Once the global coverage of sub-regional TCN's is completed, a number of options exist for the Technical Secretariat:

- To be disbanded;
- To be subsumed in some way within another organisation/initiative;
- To continue as an independent NGO in one or more roles, e.g. a global taxonomy co-ordination function, as a fund-raiser and advocate for taxonomy, as a project proposal developer, as a project implementer, etc.
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BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's Technical Secretariat does not need to exist if no explicit role for it is apparent – it is there to serve the global taxonomy community, not itself. The sub-regional networks will continue to exist with or without the Technical Secretariat, in whatever form 'users' make use of them. Therefore, if the Technical Secretariat is to continue to exist after completion of the global coverage, it must have a mandate from the global taxonomic community to do so, and fill some niche or niches not filled by any other organisation. As part of the completion of the global partnership exercise at this meeting, BioNET-INTERNATIONAL is seeking input in defining whether such a role exists in support of the partnership and, if so, how the partners would like to see the Technical Secretariat fulfil it. Importantly, if the Technical Secretariat is to continue in some form, then further

core funding will need to be found – this needs to be done under a mandate from the global partnership and not be seen as ‘in competition’ for scarce resources.

### Introduction to 3GTW

The Third BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Global Taxonomy Workshop (3GTW), in July 2002, followed on from the Founding Consultation in 1993 in London and the First and Second Global Workshops held in Cardiff in 1995 and 1999 respectively. The Founding Consultation in 1993 agreed the need for an initiative such as BioNET-INTERNATIONAL in meeting developing country needs. The First Global Workshop in 1995 established the *modus operandi* for the Global Network and was instrumental in obtaining the necessary support from donors to establish the BioNET Fund and initiate activities. The second, in 1999, reviewed progress and, in recognising that the external environment had changed dramatically since BioNET-INTERNATIONAL’s inception and that it was imperative to work with and support the plethora of rapidly-developing related global activities (whilst continuing to build the sub-regional TCNs), set the agenda for placing the Global Network firmly in the international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) arena, most importantly with the CBD.

The Third Global Workshop was planned to fall in the middle of two momentous occasions for taxonomy; between the approval of the Global Taxonomy Initiative’s Programme of Work at CoP6 of the CBD in April 2002, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002.

The objectives of 3GTW, within the theme of “*Partnerships for Demand-Driven Taxonomic Capacity Building*”, were five-fold:

- To identify the end-user needs of taxonomy and the capacity required to meet these needs;
- To identify the role of technical cooperation, new tools and new technologies for enhancing capacity building;
- To define the roles of all stakeholders in the capacity building process;
- To identify roles and opportunities in resourcing the identified capacity building; and, most importantly;
- **To come away with an agreed global partnership for moving activities forward to overcome the Taxonomic Impediment.**

In order to facilitate this, 3GTW was structured to provide keynote addresses on the above topics in the morning Plenary sessions, and then to move to Workshop breakout sessions in the afternoons to ensure participation and input by all. On the last two days, these debates were taken up in regional forums, looking at unique regional opportunities and constraints. A drafting group pulled all the deliberations together with a final presentation during the closure of both a global strategy with underlying action plans (see Table 1), and a statement on overcoming the taxonomic impediment for the WSSD (see Appendix 2). Table 1 forms the basis for discussions at this planned follow-up meeting hosted by UNESCO-MAB, in Paris, February 12-14, 2003.

**Appendix 2: STATEMENT TO THE WSSD FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> GLOBAL TAXONOMY WORKSHOP\*, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA, 8-12 JULY 2002**

**Taxonomy is the science of discovery, identification, naming and classification of life on earth. Taxonomy thus allows for the documentation, understanding and knowledge dissemination of the Earth's estimated 10 million-plus species and provides the scientific basis for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, forestry and all other forms of natural resource use. Taxonomy is therefore essential for sustainable human livelihoods, for example through maintaining water supply from protected landscapes, pollination, control of pests and diseases, trade quarantine, and innumerable other services which contribute to food security and human welfare.**

*Recognising* that taxonomy is the science of documenting all plant, animal and microbial life-forms which comprise the biological diversity on Earth, on which humanity depends and which can positively or adversely affect human health and livelihoods;

*Further recognising* that the diverse life-forms referred to are becoming extinct at an unprecedented rate, threatening the integrity of all life on Earth, and that we have so far only managed to document some 10 percent of estimated biodiversity, and the urgent need to document the unknown portion;

*Recalling* that the majority of the world's governments have signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Agenda 21 at the Rio 'Earth Summit' in 1992 to better conserve, sustainably use, and equitably share the benefits arising from the use of biological resources;

*Noting* that the Parties to the CBD have adopted as a Programme of Work the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) to build the necessary taxonomic capacity to support, amongst other things, sustainable development and poverty reduction:

Members of the world's taxonomic institutions and other interested parties, from 95 countries and representing all regions, met at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Taxonomy Workshop in Pretoria, 8-12 July 2002, and committed themselves to working with governments and civil society to help provide this essential basis for sustainable development.

The participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Taxonomy Workshop, through the WSSD, request world governments and relevant international organisations to:

- *Recognise* the essential role and contribution of taxonomy to sustainable development;
- *Support* taxonomic institutions to rapidly document the biodiversity which forms the basis of sustainable human livelihoods;
- *Promote* the necessary linkages between taxonomic centres and civil society; and
- *Build* adequate capacity in all regions for taxonomy to play this essential role.

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\* The 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Taxonomy Workshop was organised by BioNET-INTERNATIONAL: the Global Network for Taxonomy ([www.bionet-intl.org](http://www.bionet-intl.org); [bionet@bionet-intl.org](mailto:bionet@bionet-intl.org)) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and UNESCO-MAB and in association with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention.

Furthermore, recognising the Special Programme for Africa at WSSD and the recent creation of NEPAD, the participants urge African governments to ensure that these recommendations are fully incorporated in the future work programmes of these new initiatives.