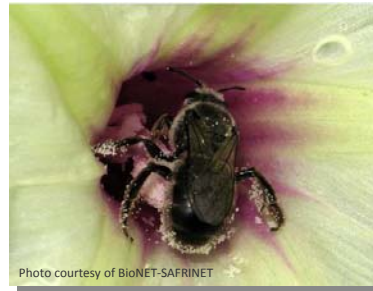


Who we are – what we do – and why

Why taxonomy matters and how the BioNET network supports taxonomy practitioners and end-users.

April 2011

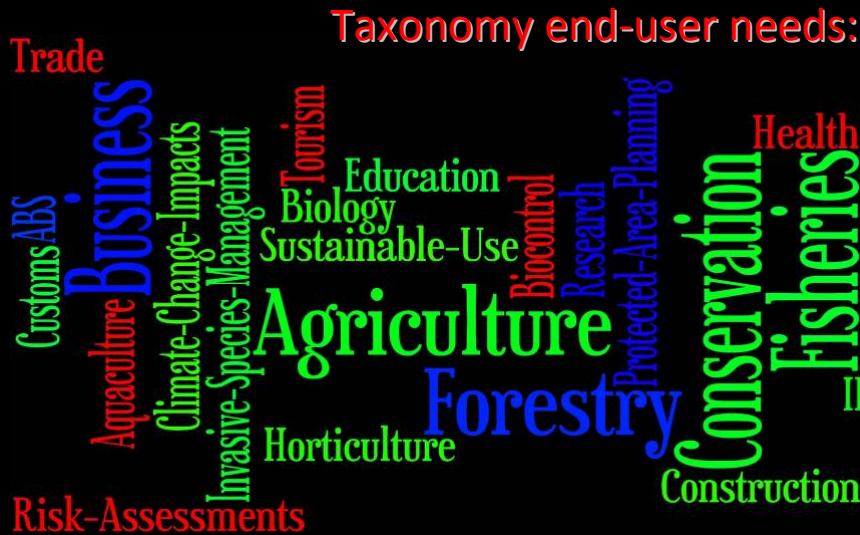


Scope of presentation

BioNET – the global network for taxonomy

- Why taxonomy?
- Why BioNET?
- Who are we?
- How do we work?
- What do we do?

Why taxonomy matters



Taxonomy | a knowledge base for

Conserving and sharing the benefits of biodiversity

- Only +/-10% of all species on Earth are described.
- We need to know what we want to protect, sustainably use and share benefits from.

Responding to climate change

- Help redefining protected areas to conserve threatened species.
- Support ecosystem adaptation measures.

Managing invasives and pests for increased food security

- Prevent pest and invasive introductions through detection.
- Provide identification tools to support invasive and pest management.
- Assist development of effective and safe biological control measures.

Facilitating and regulating trade

- Assist compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary export / import regulations.
- Facilitate detection of illegal wildlife trade.

Improving human, animal and plant health

- Diagnose and help predict human, animal, and plant pathogens and disease vectors.
- Provide the tools for quality control of medicinal plant and natural products.



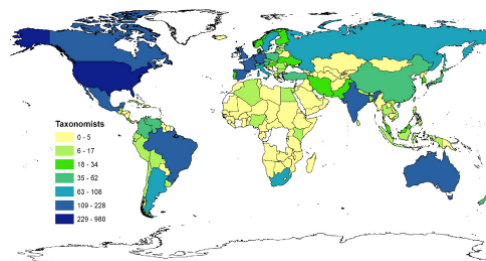
Why BioNET | collaboration required

- All countries need to know and name their living world
- No single country can have all the taxonomic capacity it needs

- Taxonomy is a global science
- Species know no national boundaries
- Taxonomic capacity is distributed highly unequally
- Collaboration and pooling capacity is highly cost effective
- Web-based communication technologies enable international partnerships

The world distribution of taxonomists according to ETI's World Taxonomist Database (November 2005)

From: http://www.gti-kontaktstelle.de/taxonomy_E.html



Why BioNET | meeting taxonomic needs

- **Type I: end-user needs**
Species lists, inventories, timely identification of species, identification aids, distribution maps and forecasts, survey and monitoring protocols ...
- **Type II: institutional needs**
Collections, taxonomic and related expertise, informatics and molecular analysis infrastructure, awareness of end-user needs ...
- **Type III: needs across institutions**
Strategies and prioritization, specimen collection and exchange, coordination of research and training, collaborative provision of identification services and tools, informatics standards, exchange of expertise, dissemination of products...

For more information see [BioNET Taxonomic Needs Assessment](#) [wegpages: www.bionet-intl.org/tna](http://www.bionet-intl.org/tna)



BioNET – Who we are



➤ BioNET – a response to the mismatch in need for, and availability of taxonomic expertise and services in science, conservation, policy, industry.

Founded 1993 as a capacity building partnership network to promote the taxonomy needed for decision making, sustainable development, and conservation particularly in the less developed countries.

Today **10 regional partnerships** with **mandates** from over 100 countries and cited as an actor 42 times in key CBD decisions.

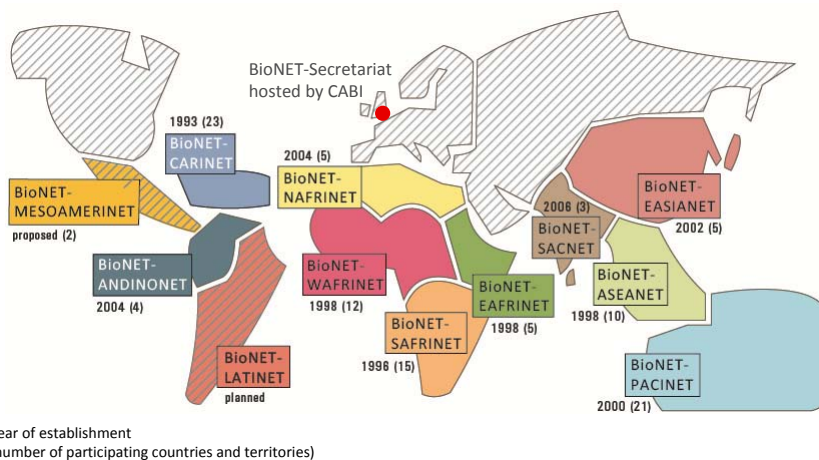
“The most comprehensive network...” for taxonomy (decision VI/8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity)

- 105 country and territory members (that endorsed BioNET) from four continents
- Over 60 institutional members (regional and national coordinating institutions)
- Over 70 BioNET officers (global, regional and national secretariats)
- Over 2,000 individual members from more than 150 countries

BioNET – Who we are | LOOPS



Unique: the only initiative promoting taxonomy world-wide
Locally Owned and Operated Partnerships (LOOPS)



BioNET – Who we are | components



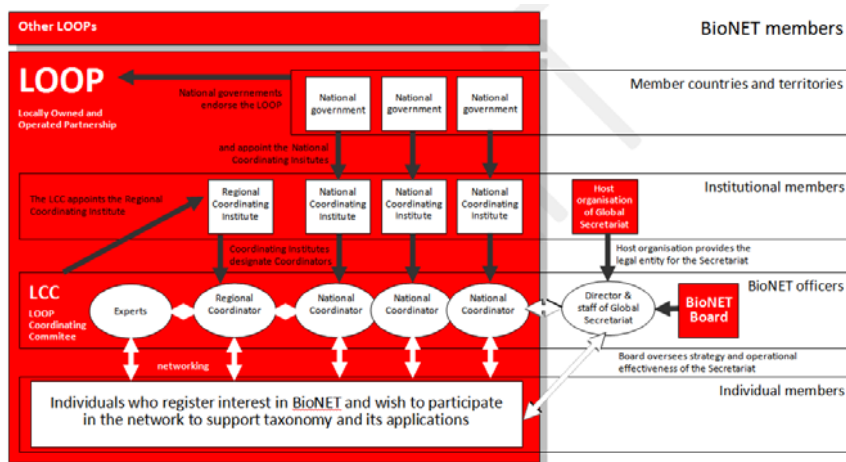
➤ BioNET – the global network for taxonomy – is made up of

- **LOOPS**, established through government endorsements from BioNET’s member countries and territories, each comprising
 - LOOP Coordinating Committee overseeing the regional work
 - Regional Coordinating Institute & Regional Coordinator
 - National Coordinating Institutions & National Coordinators
- **Individual members** including taxonomists and taxonomy practitioners from BioNET LOOP and non-member countries.
- **BioNET Secretariat**, located in the UK, hosted by CABI, linking the LOOPS and global policy, technical and capacity building partners, and delivering services to the LOOPS
- **BioNET Global Programme** delivered by the Secretariat in partnership with the LOOPS
- **Programmes of Work** delivered by the LOOPS
- **BioNET Board** overseeing the BioNET Global Programme and the work of the Secretariat

BioNET – Who we are | members



BioNET is a voluntary, international network comprising member countries, institutional members, BioNET officers and individual members.

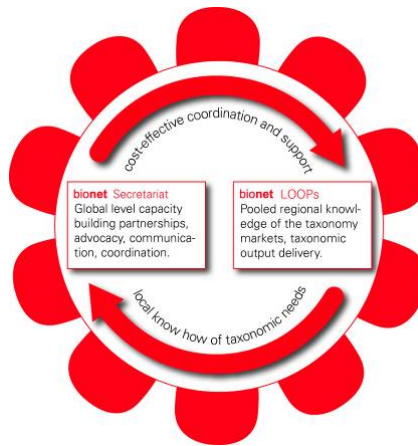


BioNET – How we work | networking (1)



LOOPs – in depth local knowledge for the network

Global Secretariat – international relationships, knowledge and advocacy for taxonomy



The BioNET Feedback Loop

local – global – local – global – **local – global – local – global – local – global**

BioNET – How we work | networking (2)



Benefits to BioNET members

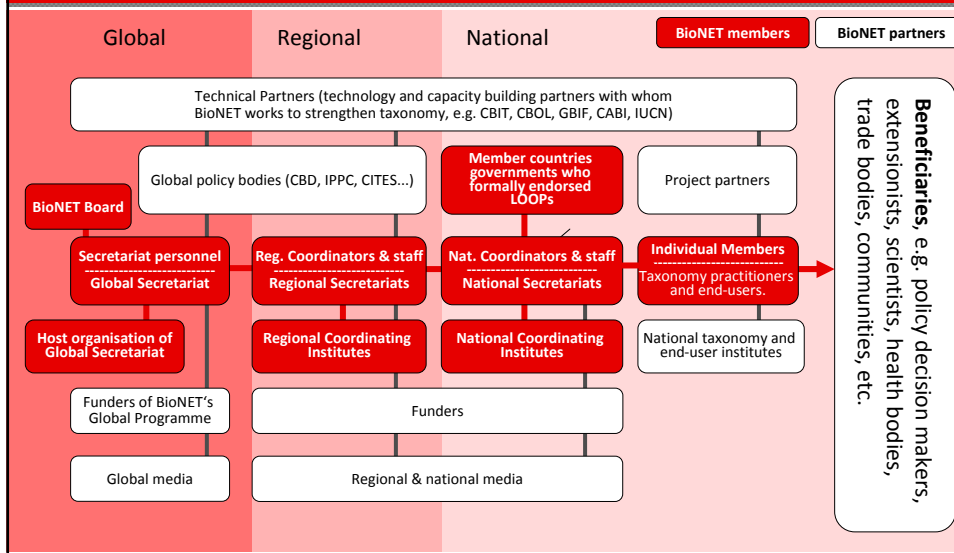
- **Strong institutions** – better access to expertise and technologies.
- **Empowered individuals** – information sharing and collaboration.
- **Effective response** – coordinated activities to meet societal needs.
- **More support** – speaking in a strong collective voice to mobilize resources and influence policy and regulations.

Together we are stronger!



BioNET – Who we are | members & partners

➤ The network has partnerships on the global, regional and national levels



BioNET – How we work | partnerships (1)

Policy partners of the network - e.g. BioNET & GTI

The Global Taxonomy Initiative

a policy framework for taxonomy:

- to support conservation
- to support sustainable use
- to support equitable access and benefit sharing

BioNET is an operational arm of the GTI

- Facilitating communication between taxonomic institutions and policy makers.
- Engaging and reporting on taxonomic institutions implementation of the CBD strategic plan and Programme of Work for the GTI.
- Coordinating actions globally, regionally and nationally.
- Providing guidance to the CBD Secretariat via the Coordination Mechanism.

BioNET – How we work | partnerships (2)



Technology partners of the network - e.g. BioNET & GBIF

GBIF

Focus: Promote tools and standards for sharing biodiversity information.

Added value to bionet:

Making taxonomic information freely available promotes biodiversity science and applications.

Through GBIF, taxonomists and others world-wide can make valuable, new taxonomic products.

BioNET

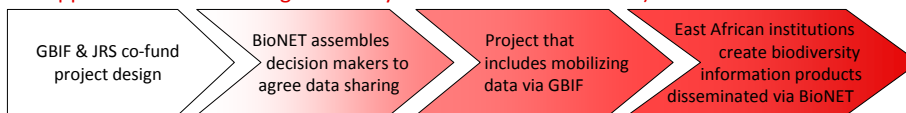
Focus: Promote taxonomy and its application to support human well-being.

Added value to GBIF:

Most biodiversity information served by GBIF and all species names are produced by taxonomists using collections.

Through bionet, taxonomists are major users of GBIF data.

For example: BioNET-EAFRINET, UVIMA project (Mobilising taxonomic information to support human well being and ecosystem health in East Africa)



BioNET – How we work | assets



BioNET offers its partners

- Understanding of markets for taxonomy on local, regional and global levels.
- Trusted mechanism for **global cooperation and strategic linkages** South-North, South-South and East-West.
- Proven **multi-sector platform** bringing together institutions and government agencies from different sectors.
- Strong **focus on developing countries** and sustainable development.
- Long standing **expertise in capacity building methods** and information.
- Lean and **efficient management**.

BioNET – How we work | values



- Commitment to a **common vision**
- Willingness to **champion taxonomy**
- Culture of **sharing** (e.g. information and experiences in capacity building for taxonomy)
- Commitment to **partnerships** (promote collaborations and encourage south-south and south-north partnerships)
- **Network awareness** (success is the product of network interactions, not the sum of its parts)
- Awareness of **end-user needs**
- **Scientific integrity**
- **Openness to innovative approaches** to taxonomy

BioNET – What we do | vision



The capacity to discover and name organisms is accessible to serve the needs of people everywhere.



BioNET – What we do | mission



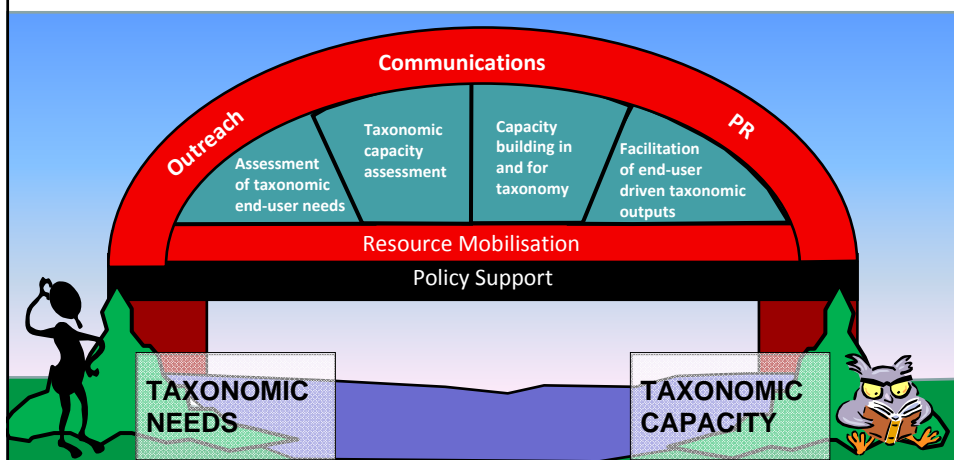
BioNET (LOOPs and Secretariat) works directly with technical, capacity building and policy partners and donors to maximise the contribution of taxonomy to

- implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity,
- agriculture and food security,
- poverty alleviation,
- animal, plant and human health,
- and many other fields of human interest.

BioNET – What we do | niche



BioNET helps to bridge the gap between end-user needs and the taxonomic sector's ability to meet those needs.



BioNET – What we do | strategic objectives

1. Support **capacity building** *in* and *for* taxonomy
2. Accelerate the **delivery of taxonomic outputs** to meet end-user needs
3. **Advise policy and regulatory bodies** and facilitate policy implementation relating to taxonomy
4. Promote taxonomy through **outreach activities**, PR and communication.
5. **Mobilise resources** for taxonomy and the network
6. Support **network building** at national, regional and global levels.

Good Practice | 1. capacity building in and for taxonomy

Project Development Workshop for the GTI in Africa

When: November 2009

Where: Nairobi, Kenya

Organizers: BioNET-Secretariat, BioNET-EAFRINET, GTI.

Purpose: Produce concept notes for fundable projects that implement the GTI with a focus on invasive species.

Participants: Regional project proponents, international experts and donor representatives.

Outputs & outcomes, e.g.:

- Progress made with 8 of 14 proposals.
- Training: improved understanding of the project development process.
- Understanding of the need to link to tangible development goals to attract donors.
- Networking with funders and technology partners.
- Support from CBD Secretariat for future workshops of this kind.



Supporters



Participants

The Workshop Participants (Photo: NMM)
National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya
16th-18th November 2009

Good Practice |

2. development of taxonomic resources, tools and technologies to meet end-user needs



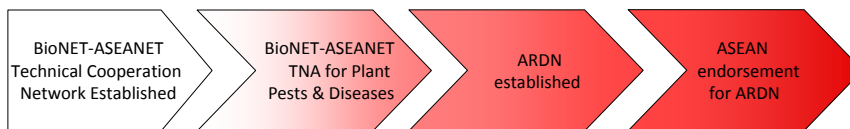
Development of ASEAN Regional Diagnostics Network (ARDN)

Objective: to provide reliable, timely identification of organisms of agricultural importance

Outcomes & outputs: remote microscope facility established, successful 2010 pilot phase



www.ardn.info



Good Practice |

3. support policy and regulatory bodies



Mainstreaming CBD implementation:
e.g. taxonomic support for invasive species management

- IPPC and CBD have strong common interests: plant pests = invasives (IAS)
- IPPC & SCBD joint work programme
- Often, the same taxonomic skills and collections can be used for biodiversity and agriculture objectives
- Infrastructure and regulations exist in agriculture sector that help deliver CBD objectives on IAS.

BioNET's role – the missing link!

- Networks are needed to organise and deliver support to users. Each user has different needs.
- All sectors of government, civil society and business need to be involved in CBD implementation.

Outputs & outcomes

- The BioNET Secretariat, NHM, London and GISP produced the first global assessment of the taxonomic support needed for managing invasives.
- BioNET-ASEANET serves the biodiversity and agriculture sectors delivering parataxonomic training and capacity building to manage pests / invasives.
- BioNET-EAFRINET develops a regional checklist and keys to invasive plants.



Good Practice |

4. promote taxonomy through outreach, PR & communication

bionet 

A Powerpoint presentation about taxonomy, its practice, uses and benefits.

- Commissioned by UNEP for the International Year of Biodiversity 2010
- BioNET chosen for its global advocacy role, the network and strong connections with UNEP
- Developed by the BioNET-Secretariat and BioNET-PACINET from partner contributions in March 2010

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pacinet

bionet 
secretariat

Objectives

- Introduce taxonomy to lay audiences and demonstrate its relevance to societal needs.

Outputs & outcomes

- 3800 views / downloads from the BioNET website in 2010
- Used in awareness raising work by several taxonomic institutions
- Voluntary offers to translate into further languages and link to own outreach work (currently available in 8 languages)
- Further presentations planned with partners



Good Practice |

4. promote taxonomy through outreach, PR & communication

bionet 

Ahmed Yahyaoui, Head of the Ichthyology Department, Faculté des Sciences, Morocco



This presentation is very interesting for us as well as the specialists and the general public.

Brilliant ... more of such presentations are very welcome.



Balakrishna Pisupati, Head of Biodiversity, Land and Governance Programme, UNEP

It is a beautiful presentation.

Visitación Conforti, Universidad de Buenos Aires



The slide presentation on taxonomy is a real masterpiece.



Jackie Van Goethem, Head Invertebrates Department Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium

We're already working on the translation, enjoying it. It is just super!!!



Yael Gavrieli, Director Nature Campus, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Good Practice | 5. mobilise resources for the network and taxonomy

bionet

Development of the EAFRINET – UVIMA Project

- Project roots in prior regional work (BOZONET)
- BioNET-Secretariat and BioNET-EAFRINET jointly developed the proposal “Taxonomy for Development in East Africa” (UVIMA)
- BioNET Board assisted to obtain funding from SwedBio (£330,000)
- Project duration: Nov 2008 – Apr 2011
- Joint project coordination by BioNET-Secretariat and BioNET-EAFRINET

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Objectives

- Mobilising taxonomic information to support human well being and ecosystem health in East Africa

Outputs & outcomes

- Network strengthening
- Understanding of taxonomic needs for management of pests, invasive species and pollinators
- Development and dissemination of relevant taxonomic tools and products to end-users



Good Practice | 6. network building

bionet

“A network is not the sum of its parts; it is the product of the parts' interaction.”

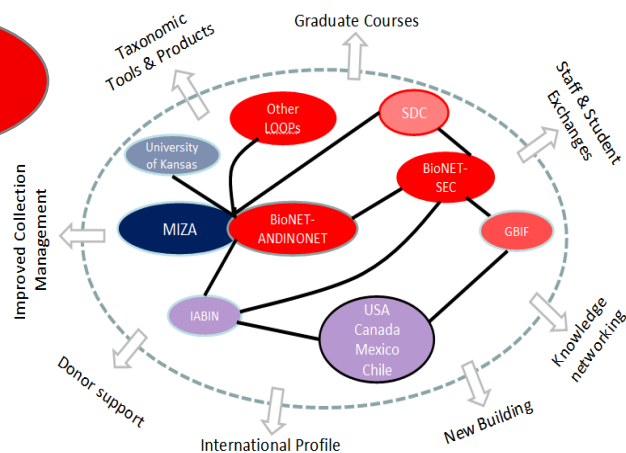
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BioNET
is us

Your friends
become our
friends



Pepé Clavijo:
Regional Coordinator
BioNET-ANDINONET



Thank you

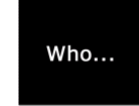


BioNET – is the leader in establishing and operating partnerships for taxonomy.



Taxonomy – produces fascinating knowledge about life on Earth and indispensable information for many fields of human interest, contributing in numerous ways to the welfare of our planet.

TAXONOMY IN ACTION



Discover why taxonomy is important!

www.bionet-intl.org | bionet@bionet-intl.org

