

The BioNET Network

12.04.2011

*BioNET's vision –
a world in which the
capacity to name living
organisms is accessible
to serve the needs of
people everywhere.*

BioNET – the global network for taxonomy

Partnership is central to BioNET's philosophy and mode of operation. The network's successes result from effective local and international collaboration between taxonomists, their institutions, technical and policy partners, and the users of taxonomy in science, agriculture, biodiversity conservation, health, trade and other areas.

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL (BioNET) refers to "BioNET as a whole" comprising all BioNET member institutions and individual members ("BioNET members"). In addition, the network engages in strong relationships with technology, capacity building, policy and funding partners ("BioNET affiliates").

BioNET components

BioNET comprises **10 regional networks, the Locally Owned and Operated Partnerships (LOOPs)**, delimited by the sub-regions of the UN. LOOPs are established when governments, via ministerial, CBD, agricultural, scientific or other relevant authorities, formally endorse a LOOP proposal and government nominees agree a regional strategy and prioritisation for taxonomy. A LOOP is coordinated by Regional and National Secretariats hosted by the Regional and National Coordinating Institutes. LOOP work programmes are defined according to local needs.

The BioNET Global Secretariat leads the delivery of BioNET's Global Programme in partnership with the LOOPs and international collaborators. The BioNET Secretariat is hosted by CABI in the UK and is governed by the BioNET Board.

The BioNET Global Programme supports the LOOPs with its four key areas A: Fortifying the operational platform (LOOPs); B: Accelerating development of taxonomic resources, tools and technologies; C: Policy development and communication; D: Resource mobilization & governance.

The BioNET Fund In response to a recommendation by the 200 international delegates to the BioNET Global Workshop, August 1995, CABI, as the original host organization for the Global Secretariat, decided to establish the BioNET Fund. The Fund supports the activities and objectives of the Global Programme.

BioNET governance

The BioNET Board consists of up to ten members, namely two representatives of the Secretariat's Host Organisation, representatives of the main funding organizations, two LOOP representatives, the Director of the BioNET Global Secretariat (*ex officio*), and one or more invited experts. The Board monitors use of the BioNET Fund and the Secretariat's operational performance, sets the Secretariat's strategy and supports fundraising activities.

The LOOP Coordinating Committee (LCC) is the equivalent of the BioNET Board at the regional level; it is the governing body of a LOOP and appoints and oversees the activities of the Secretariat hosted by the Regional Coordinating Institute. The LCC consists of the Regional Coordinator and all National Coordinators of the LOOP, plus any other invited expert from the region or elsewhere.

BioNET members

BioNET members are i) "[Member countries](#)", ii) the host institutions of the BioNET secretariats on the global, regional and national levels ("[Institutional members](#)"), iii) the individuals serving in any of the secretariats or governing bodies ("[BioNET Officers](#)"), and iv) anyone registering their interest in the work of BioNET ("[Individual members](#)"). Member institutions and individuals typically facilitate capacity building in or for taxonomy or have taxonomic product and service needs.

Member benefits include being part of a platform for international collaboration with the taxonomy, taxonomy end-user, technology and policy communities. Participants receive relevant communications on news, grants, job opportunities and more, through the BioNET e-Bulletin and other from the global, regional or national secretariats. In turn, BioNET members are prepared to share advice and good practice in taxonomy and capacity building, assist in developing relevant projects, and help to promote networking and the value of taxonomy. See the [BioNET website](#) for further membership benefits and responsibilities.

1. Member countries

The to date 105 countries (UN member states and territories) whose governments have formally endorsed a BioNET LOOP in their region and designated a National Coordinating Institute.

2. Institutional members

The Regional Coordinating Institutes that host the Regional Secretariats of each LOOP. The secretariats coordinate regional LOOP affairs and are the primary communication channels at the regional level. The Regional Coordinating Institute is appointed by the LCC and designates the Regional Coordinator.

The National Coordinating Institutions that host the National BioNET Secretariats with similar functions as the Regional Secretariats but on the national level. Each National Coordinating Institute is appointed by a government authority and designates the National Coordinator.

The Host Organisation of the Global Secretariat – CABI – was mandated in 1993 by the BioNET Consultative Group (now disbanded) and serves as the legal entity for the Secretariat. The Secretariat provides global coordination, communication and support services to the network, including facilitation of cooperation with international policy, technical and capacity building partners.

3. BioNET officers

These comprise the Global Secretariat personnel (Director and others), the LOOP Regional and National Coordinators and support staff, the BioNET Board Members, and the members of the LCC.

4. Individual BioNET members

BioNET membership is open to any individual interested in the work of BioNET. Members can come from any country or institution - they do not have to be affiliated with a BioNET member institution or member country. Individuals from BioNET member countries can register by supplying their full contact details either to the respective Regional or National Coordinator (see [LOOP Contacts](#)) or to the [BioNET Secretariat](#). Individuals from non-member countries should register their interest in membership with the BioNET Secretariat. New members will be asked to provide a brief description of their particular interest in BioNET and any expertise in taxonomy and will thus become part of BioNET's network of experts. They will receive a welcome package with information material on BioNET and are subscribed to the BioNET e-bulletin.

BioNET affiliates

- Technical Partners – expert centres and technology / capacity building organisations and initiatives with whom LOOPs and the Global Secretariat work to help build capacity for the practice and use of taxonomy.
- Policy Partners – bodies with which BioNET LOOPs and the Global Secretariat work to promote taxonomy and its application in national, regional and global policy forums.
- Funders – those who fund network activities and projects.

The BioNET Network – components and members 12.04.2011

