

## 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

23.12.2010

### BioNET-INTERNATIONAL (BioNET): Statement of activities and products

For more information on the BioNET IYB activities and products please contact the BioNET Secretariat, UK, [bionet@bionet-intl.org](mailto:bionet@bionet-intl.org), or others identified below.

#### BioNET (all regional partnerships & Secretariat)

- “BIODIVERSITY IN MOTION” will engage all members of the BioNET network to highlight the relevance of taxonomy for biodiversity conservation and management. Experts will provide species images, their scientific, common and vernacular names, and a short statement of why this species is of interest and/or relevant to humans and why taxonomy is important to discover/protect this species. The images and text will be compiled to multi-media DVDs presenting a cross section of the unique biodiversity found in the diverse regions where the BioNET network is active. *Contact Dr Posa A. Skelton, Fiji, [skelton\\_p@usp.ac.fj](mailto:skelton_p@usp.ac.fj) cc [bionet@bionet-intl.org](mailto:bionet@bionet-intl.org).*
- COP10 – Nagoya Biodiversity Snaps! “SNAP IT – SHOW IT – NAME IT”, a Bioblitz type event aiming to raise public awareness and excitement as well as policy level awareness of taxonomy. Many people take for granted the biodiversity that inhabits their backyard. Many policy makers take the naming of species for granted. Participants of the CBD COP 10 meeting in Nagoya and citizens of Nagoya will be invited to **snap** a picture of any biodiversity (species) encountered in the city; **show** the image online or on dedicated computers available at the COP10 meeting; and try to **name** the species (scientific or common name), or alternatively – if the species cannot be identified by the finder - have it named by an expert. *Contact Dr Posa A. Skelton, Fiji, [skelton\\_p@usp.ac.fj](mailto:skelton_p@usp.ac.fj) cc [bionet@bionet-intl.org](mailto:bionet@bionet-intl.org).*
- BioNET is supporting UNEP in developing slide presentations for their IYB website. BioNET is coordinating the preparation of slides on taxonomy, its practice, uses and benefits to biodiversity conservation and society, and its future challenges and responses to user demands.
- BioNET will develop several posters, booklets and other PR material on taxonomy and biodiversity for COP10 and other events.

#### BioNET-Secretariat

- The BioNET Secretariat, working with the chair of CETAF and the GTI Coordination Mechanism is supporting the organisation of one day of the UNESCO IYB Science-Policy Conference 25-29 January 2010. Date: 27 January. Theme: Taxonomy – the Biodiversity Knowledge Base. Location: Paris. See the [UNESCO website](#) or contact the BioNET Secretariat.
- The BioNET website will feature a special page on IYB focusing on the relevance of taxonomy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, providing links to IYB activities and products of the BioNET regional networks and of other partners (e.g. [BYSE 2010, the Biodiversity Year Schedule of Events](#)).

- The BioNET Review 2008/9 will showcase the contributions of taxonomy to biodiversity knowledge, conservation and sustainable use (relevance of taxonomic knowledge for the CBD, climate change responses, food security and the Millennium Development goals).

## BioNET regions

### Pacific Islands (BioNET-PACINET)

Contact Dr Posa A. Skelton, Fiji, [skelton\\_p@usp.ac.fj](mailto:skelton_p@usp.ac.fj)

- “BIODIVERSITY BACKYARD BLITZ” . BioNET-PACINET and the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON). will engage communities in the Pacific region to take images of the species found in their back-yard and send them to a dedicated website. The species will be identified by experts and the final website will provide an overview of the common biodiversity in people’s back-yard.
- “WEB GUIDE ON MARINE PLANTS” of the South-west Pacific Islands. In biodiversity surveys of tropical environments, marine plants are often the dominant groups. Unfortunately, the lack of capacity to identify marine plant species continues to be an impediment for managers and communities. The product of this initiative will be an interactive visually appealing field-guide presented in easy to understand language for researchers, managers, citizen scientists and indigenous communities.
- “BANKING ON OUR BIODIVERSITY” Community markets are often a hype of biodiversity trading. Markets are also places where some of the biodiversity gems can be found, ranging from underutilised crops to new hybrids and improved varieties, and a variety of marine species. This project focuses on documenting the biodiversity that is being traded at local markets, and by the same token attempts to calculate the value of the products being traded. A report (with images) of the “Banking on our Biodiversity” project will be produced listing the various species and products being traded, as well as their value.

### East Asia (BioNET-EASIANET)

- The BioNET National Coordinating Institute in Mongolia – The Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences – is planning to be a co-organizer of a conference “Modern problems of microbiology in Central Asia” organised by Buryat State University and The Institute of General and Experimental Biology, Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, on May 27-28 in Ulan-Ude, Russia. The session “Microbial diversity and taxonomy” will be linked to the IYB theme. Contact Dr. Tsetseg Baljinova, Mongolia, [taxon\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:taxon_mn@yahoo.com) and Prof. Namsaraev B.B., Russia, [bair\\_n@mail.ru](mailto:bair_n@mail.ru)

### South Asia (BioNET-SACNET)

- The Biodiversity Research Group of Bangladesh (BRGB), the Bangladesh Coordinating Institute of BioNET-SACNET, is planning to celebrate IYB with a three day workshop beginning on 22 May 2010 under the BioNET-SACNET banner. Several taxonomists and biodiversity scientists from the SAARC countries like India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan will attend. Contact Badrul Amin Bhuiya, Bangladesh, [badrulbhuiya@yahoo.com](mailto:badrulbhuiya@yahoo.com)
- The BioNET National Coordinating Institute of Sri Lanka will participate in IYB through: 1) an evaluation of 300 species for the global red list; 2) the development of a taxonomic training programme; 3) the establishment of a national taxonomic initiative; 4) the publication of species conservation profiles of globally threatened species. Contact Dr Gamini Gamage, Sri Lanka, [gaminigamage@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gaminigamage@yahoo.co.uk)

#### East Africa (BioNET-EAFRINET)

- The regional Coordinating Institution of BioNET-EAFRINET (the National Museums of Kenya), together with the Kenya Wildlife Service, African Conservation Centre, and other biodiversity institutions in Kenya are organising a Biodiversity Informatics Congress for July 2010. Representatives from all corners of the globe will be invited to share successes, challenges and opportunities in biodiversity management, climate change issues as part of the IYB activities. *Contact Emily Wabuye, Kenya, eafrikenya@museums.or.ke.*

#### North Africa (BioNET-NAFRINET)

- BioNET-NAFRINET is providing products for IYB 2010 including a movie on neglected plant species (*contact Dr Khaldi Abdelhamid, Tunisia, khalditn@yahoo.fr*); and several Flora Inventories (*contact Dr Ghrabi Zeineb, Tunisia, Zghrabi@yahoo.fr*).

#### West Africa (BioNET-WAFRINET)

- Mali is preparing a protected areas map of the country; an inventory of main genetic plants resources; and a biological diversity sites map (*contact Dr Mahamane Gado, Mali, mahamane\_gado@yahoo.fr*).

#### Southern Cone of South America (BioNET-LATINET)

*Contact Dr Mercedes Lizarralde de Grosso, Argentina, ticky@csnat.unt.edu.ar*

- The *Instituto Superior de Entomología*, National University of Tucumán, will launch the third version of the *Maestría en Entomología*.
- The Argentinian National Ministry of Science and Technology is officially inaugurating the national biological data information system in collaboration with Argentinian institutions holding biological collections and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.
- The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Museums, National University of La Plata, Buenos Aires, will hold the ninth Argentinian Reunion of Cladistics and Biogeography in La Plata from 15 to 17 November 2010.
- The *Instituto Superior de Entomología*, National University of Tucumán, together with the *Secretaría de Estado Nacional de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable* are organizing the first Latinamerican Congress of Biodiversity (authorised by the CBD). Parallel event: workshop to develop a strategy for and launch BioNET-LATINET.