

Global Programme Report to the BioNET Board May 2011 to August 2011

Richard Smith, Director
BioNET Global Secretariat

Financial supporters of the BioNET Global Programme 2007-11 to date

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
The Swedish International Biodiversity Programme
The European Union
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK)
The Total Foundation
CABI
UNEP (CBD Secretariat) / Government of Spain
Natural History Museum, London / Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK)
Ministry of Environment, Japan
European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

1 Transition Phase

The May 2011 BioNET Board meeting considered the Secretariat's report to April 2011. Following the Board's decisions in May 2011 to end the Global Programme and close the current Secretariat, work was focused on closing the current Programme and Office in an orderly manner by designing and implementing a "Transition Phase". In addition, Global Programme objectives were also delivered as far as possible. This report describes the results of the transition phase and core Global Programme work in the period.

Planning for the Transition Phase

A Secretariat team meeting was held in early June to conceptualise and plan a meeting of BioNET network representatives and CABI, reflect on the Board's decisions to end the Global Programme and close the current Secretariat and make a plan for the June-August "Transition Phase". The Transition Phase plan had the following objectives:

- 1) Define and agree what Secretariat functions / activities / assets should be handled by whom in the future, and which will be dropped / dissolved.
- 2) Maintain the continuity of the LOOPS and LOOP officers, and ensure that the work and performance of the LOOPS are as little affected as possible and that network and capacity building within and among the regions continues.
- 3) Record and pass on as far as possible Secretariat knowledge and expertise.
- 4) Ensure maintenance and further promotion of the BioNET brand.
- 5) Ensure that BioNET LOOP relations with stakeholders and CABI remain mutually supportive.
- 6) Develop strategies for BioNET (LOOP) support to the CABI Plantwise programme.
- 7) Dissolve the BioNET Secretariat office.

Building BioNET's Future – a meeting jointly organised by BioNET and CABI

The main activity of the Transition Phase was conceptualising, designing, organising, arranging international logistics, preparing documents, preparing participants, delivering and reporting on the meeting *Building BioNET's Future*, held 17-19 August in Malaysia, hereafter referred to as the "Malaysia meeting". This meeting was the principal activity through which Objectives 1-6 of the Transition Phase plan were realised.

The meeting concept was developed by Richard Smith in consultation with Joan Kelley (CABI) and was approved by the BioNET Board through email consultation. As specified by the Board at its May meeting, the Malaysia meeting sought to define new global organisation and governance structures for BioNET, agree to an outline proposal from CABI for continuing some BioNET Global Secretariat functions and define if and how BioNET will contribute to CABI's Plantwise initiative.

The meeting budget was developed by Richard Smith in consultation with CABI Southeast and East Asia and was approved by Joan Kelley. Cindy Blench (BioNET Secretariat Office Manager) undertook all international travel bookings. Soetikno Sastroutomo (CABI and BioNET-ASEANET) took the lead in all in country logistics in consultation with Lum Keng Yeang (CABI and BioNET-ASEANET) and Loke Wai Hong (CABI). John Mauremootoo (BioNET Secretariat Regional Partnerships Officer) working as a consultant served as the lead facilitator of the meeting, elaborating the programme and interviewing all participants before the meeting to understand all perspectives. Christopher Lyal (BioNET Board Chair) served as co-facilitator of the meeting. Kornelia Rassmann (Global Programme Officer) working as a consultant served as Rapporteur for the meeting and contributed to development of the programme.

Acting as a resource person at the Malaysia meeting, Richard Smith was able to contribute to Transition Phase objectives as follows:

- ✧ introduce and explain the rationale for the ideal set of Secretariat functions, thereby facilitating achievement of **Objective 1**
- ✧ illustrate how recent successes of BioNET provide a platform for continuity and growth, thereby reinforcing the Board's message about the continuity of BioNET and contributing to **Objective 2**
- ✧ inform participants about operational and strategic aspects of BioNET's global level work including maintenance of the contacts database, website content management, e-Bulletin production, BioNET's relationships with international bodies, the status and rationale of reference documents such as Terms of Reference for the LOOP and Secretariat, etc. (**Objective 3**)
- ✧ exhibit and report on the recent impact of BioNET-branded products and activities; illustrate how others value BioNET through citation of messages of appreciation received since the end of the Global Programme was announced (see **Annex A**); and encourage all to learn from the 2007-10 Evaluation, in particular that achievements

may best be measured through assessing a network's contribution to results achieved by multiple actors (BioNET members and others) rather than through measuring only achievements attributable solely to the network (**Objective 4**)

- ✦ remind participants of the scope of relationships BioNET has internationally and encourage LOOPs to actively seize the opportunity of contributing to Plantwise and to give CABI their full support in BioNET matters going forwards (**Objective 5**)
- ✦ advise on the potential areas for immediate and longer term contributions from BioNET to Plantwise; highlight the many potential benefits to BioNET from Plantwise (**Objective 6**).

The 26 meeting participants included representatives from 10 out of the 12 existing or planned LOOPs as well as several CABI representatives. They engaged enthusiastically in progressing the meeting objectives, making the meeting a success on all accounts. The full meeting report prepared by K Rassmann has been provided separately to the Board and meeting participants. The main results of the meeting are described in the report's Executive Summary:

With the ending of support from the BioNET Secretariat's main funder, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the BioNET Board decided in May 2011 to end the Global Programme and disband the current BioNET Secretariat by 31 August 2011. BioNET - the global network for taxonomy - will continue with 10 regional networks (LOOPs), 105 member countries and over 2,000 individual members. To secure the global presence of the network and explore how global, coordination and communication of the network could continue, the BioNET Secretariat and BioNET-ASEANET invited representatives from all LOOPs as well as from CABI to meet in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 17-19 August 2011. The meeting sought to define new global organisation and governance structures for BioNET, agree to an outline proposal from CABI for continuing some BioNET Global Secretariat functions and define if and how BioNET will contribute to CABI's Plantwise initiative.

The meeting successfully addressed these agenda items. The participants agreed on a new global governance mechanism for BioNET, defined responsibilities for prioritised global secretariat functions to take BioNET forward, and were very appreciative of the CABI proposal, embracing the prospect of support through time of CABI's new Director, International Liaison (Sarah Simons), and a new position to be created at BioNET-ASEANET. The LOOP representatives were also positive about the collaboration with Plantwise, identifying areas for collaboration and benefits for both BioNET and Plantwise.

BioNET's Strategy 2012-16

The meeting participants agreed in principle to the draft BioNET Strategy 2012-16, encompassing the proposed purpose, focal themes (biodiversity and agriculture/food security), niche, mission and six strategic goals. On the basis of this, a refined strategy will be developed by the new BioNET governance body in consultation with the International Secretariat.

BioNET's organisation post August 2011

To maintain a cohesive network and ensure a global presence of BioNET, the meeting defined priority secretariat functions including 1) Fundraising for the Global Programme; 2) Knowledge exchange / coordination; 3) Marketing, branding, communication, PR, and awareness raising; 4) Maintaining partnerships and linkages; and 5) Monitoring and Evaluation. The participants agreed clear activities and responsibilities that will allow these functions to be maintained under the reduced funding situation. Responsibilities will be distributed between the Secretariat to be provided by CABI and others identified by participants. Some existing Secretariat assets will be continued including the website, the contacts database and the existing monitoring and evaluation documentation and PR materials.

BioNET's governance post August 2011

The meeting identified and constituted an 'Interim BioNET Council' (IBC) for a maximum period of one year (until the next body has been established) to work with CABI's International (BioNET) Secretariat. The Council will be composed of one representative per LOOP, a representative of the International Secretariat (Sarah Simons), two invitees to be co-opted (Chris Lyal and Richard Smith); other members are optional. Mohamed Kchouk was elected as Chair and José Clavijo as Vice Chair.

In order to allow the new Council to start operating quickly, the representatives of the current BioNET Board who were present at the Malaysia meeting convened and decided that from 1 September they would pass on all operations in terms of strategy to the IBC. The only remaining responsibility of the current Board will be oversight of the BioNET Fund, with the expectation that this will be fully drawn down by the end of year when the current Board will dissolve. This decision was later endorsed by Board members not present at the meeting.

The CABI proposal

The LOOP representatives appreciated CABI's proposal and agreed to accept it as a non-exclusive proposal to be reviewed after one year. The proposal provides for a minimum 30% time from the International Secretariat (Sarah Simons) and a full time officer located at BioNET-ASEANET. The duration of the proposal is one year, renewable for up to 5 years subject

to an annual assessment of results by CABI. Other direct costs (e.g. website) will have to be negotiated with CABI and will need prioritisation and costing.

BioNET's contribution to CABI's Plantwise initiative

The offer of preferred partner status in CABI's Plantwise initiative and the potential for collaboration sparked considerable discussion and many linkages were found between BioNET activities at the national and regional levels and the objectives of Plantwise. It was apparent that collaboration would be beneficial for both BioNET and Plantwise and the LOOP representatives present at this meeting took the general decision that there was interest in principle from BioNET to participate in Plantwise. Several areas of collaboration where BioNET can contribute to Plantwise were identified, e.g. assistance in expansion of Plantwise networks into new countries and regions, support of diagnostic and identification needs in countries where Plantwise is active, assistance in the training of 'Plant Doctors', support of the development of the Plantwise image library, and contribution of appropriate data and content as well as Information Quality Assurance for the Plantwise Knowledge Bank. In order to define BioNET's participation in Plantwise in more detail, the LOOP representatives will need to take back the results of the meeting to their LOOPS and discuss the opportunities; for this, further information and clarification on the Plantwise initiative and its priorities is to be provided by CABI.

Other activities contributing to Transition Phase objectives

In addition to the Malaysia meeting, supplementary activities contributed to particular Transition Phase objectives as follows:

- ✧ Activities contributing to **Objective 3** were meetings of Richard Smith with Sarah Simons (CABI, Director, International Liaison) and updating of key resource documents (the Secretariat Office Instructions and the website User Guide). Kornelia Rassmann has agreed to a request from the participants of the Malaysia meeting and Sarah Simons that she advise as necessary on the maintenance of the BioNET website, support the new (Malaysia) personnel in updating and maintaining the site and advise on the eventual transfer of the website to a new content management system.
- ✧ The Secretariat prepared a set of key documents and disseminated these using BioNET flash drives to participants at the Malaysia meeting, thereby contributing to **Objective 4**. This comprehensive set of files provide a key resource and it is recommended that DVD copies are produced and mailed to the ca. 70 LOOP Coordin-

ating Committee members in order to promote the use of BioNET materials and capacity building under the BioNET umbrella.

- ✦ The Secretariat supported the Chair and Board in drafting and disseminating agreed statements describing and explaining the decisions of the Board concerning the Global Programme and Secretariat to BioNET members and stakeholders (through the Bulletin distribution list). This was important for ensuring continuity of BioNET at the LOOP and global levels and preserving good relations between all elements of BioNET, member country authorities, CABI and important international stakeholders (**Objectives 2 & 5**).
- ✦ **Objective 7** comprised securing BioNET Secretariat electronic and physical materials. This was implemented by Richard Smith and Cindy Blench in consultation with Sean Murphy and Paul Bridge.

2 Results by Global Programme by Key Area, May 2011 – August 2011

Only those objects for which activities occurred in the period are included below.

Key Area A – Fortifying the operational platform

BioNET-EAFRINET

Expressions of interest in joining BioNET have been received from Ethiopia and Rwanda. This follows numerous attempts since 1999 to interest Ethiopia and, more recently, use of UVIMA Project resources to engage these countries in BioNET-EAFRINET. Recommended next step: Wanja Kinuthia (EAFRINET Regional Coordinator) / BioNET Secretariat to follow up, seeking formal written endorsement of National Coordinating Committee Terms of Reference and confirmation of Coordinating Institutes and Coordinators.

BioNET-EASIANET

The Secretariat has been informed by email that China has appointed a new National Coordinator for BioNET, that the National Biodiversity Committee will now be the National Coordinating Institute and that the Terms of Reference provided for this have been approved. This follows liaison by the Secretariat with China's GTI Focal Point since October 2010. Sarah Simons and Tsetseg Baljinova (BioNET Mongolia Coordinator) have been informed and encouraged to follow up by obtaining the new commitments in a formal letter.

A strong expression of interest in BioNET has been received from a senior official in the Academy of Sciences of North Korea (DPR Korea). DPR Korea is already a member of BioNET but has been involved only to a limited extent, largely because of the lack of email and web contact. This recent communication was received by email (a first) and promises a new level of involvement. Sarah Simons and the existing EASIANET Coordinators (Mongolia and South Korea) have been informed and encouraged to follow up.

A further strong expression of interest in BioNET has been received from Taiwan. As Taiwan's participation as a member country is unlikely to be acceptable to China, Coordinators have been consulted and agreed to invite Taiwan to participate as an Economy. A suitable authority should appoint a Coordinating Institute and Coordinator. These should be represented on

the LOOP Coordinating Committee and formal endorsement of the ToR (for National Coordinating Institutes) should be requested. Contact person: Professor Kwang-Tsao Shao, Acting Director, Research Center for Biodiversity, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. Richard Smith knows Professor Shao from various forums (GBIF, GTI, etc) and recognises him as a highly respected biodiversity information scientist.

BioNET-SAFRINET

Following the retirement of Gerard Prinsloo, South Africa has appointed a New National Coordinator. She was able to participate in the Malaysia meeting.

BioNET-PACINET

The final instalment of seed funding (GBP 6,000) has been paid to the University of South Pacific to support work and budget specified in a Letter of Agreement. The Board previously agreed to this allocation, subject to the Secretariat being satisfied with a proposal for use of the funds.

BioNET-ANDINONET

The final instalment of seed funding (GBP 4,000) has been paid to the University of Central Venezuela following confirmation of a work plan and budget outlined earlier in 2011. The Board previously agreed to this allocation, subject to the Secretariat being satisfied with a proposal for use of the funds.

Key Area B – Accelerating the development of demand driven taxonomic products

Technical support has been provided by John Mauremootoo to BioNET UVIMA Project thematic teams to facilitate the completion and expert review of factsheets and keys to invasive plants, major pollinators and selected pests of East Africa. The keys and factsheets have been published as CDs and will be published online at the Lucid central website - www.lucid-central.com - by the Centre for Biological Information Technology, University of Queensland, Australia, as an in-kind contribution to the project. Richard Smith and Shaun Hobbs (CABI) discussed the potential of linking Plantwise to selected BioNET UVIMA Project keys and factsheets hosted online by CBIT.

Key Area C – Policy Development and Communications

A Taxonomy Indicator to monitor implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy 2011-20

To date, there has been no indicator for taxonomy under the CBD or other biodiversity conventions. In December 2010, the BioNET Secretariat helped draft a proposal for an indicator with WCMC and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Following comments by the Coordination Mechanism of the GTI, RS, WCMC and RBGK have, in consultation with the CBD Secretariat, revised the proposed indicator and drafted a rationale. The revised proposal was considered by the Coordination Mechanism and by a formally constituted CBD expert meeting on indicators in June 2011. Both bodies supported the proposal and this has now been submitted to the CBD's scientific and technical advisory body for consideration. Richard Smith's leading role and "excellent input" to the proposed indicator was acknowledged in writing by Coordination Mechanism Chair Mark Graham, Director of Research Services at the Canadian Museum of Nature. Contributing to the indicator has greatly strengthened BioNET's profile in WCMC and offers real promise for a BioNET role in anticipated multilateral supported biodiversity indicators project. Furthermore, a taxonomy indicator would provide taxonomists and relevant funders with a basis for coordinating effort and allocation of resources to maximize their contribution to implementation of all the biodiversity conventions.

New BioNET representative on GTI Coordination Mechanism

Encouraged by Richard Smith, Mohamed Elyes Kchouk sought and secured his government's nomination to serve as an African representative on the Coordination Mechanism. He was subsequently selected as a member by the CBD Secretariat and participated in the June GTI meeting with Richard Smith.

GTI Capacity Building Strategy

Adoption in October 2010 of the ten year Biodiversity Strategy unites for the first time the various biodiversity conventions under a single strategic framework. Recognising the imperative of aligning the GTI with this new strategy, the CBD Secretariat, supported by the Coordination Mechanism, has prepared a ten year capacity building strategy. Richard Smith and Mohamed Elyes Kchouk (Regional Coordinator, BioNET-NAFRINET, BioNET Board members and Chair, Interim Council) participated in the key Coordination Mechanism meeting in June that drafted the strategy. The strategy has been reviewed by the SBSTTA Bureau and will now be considered by the CBD's scientific and technical advisory body.

Why Taxonomy Matters – compiled as a pdf

The 48 case studies compiled and edited by the BioNET Secretariat have been collated with an introduction and [published online as a pdf](#).

Annex A

Feedback following the announcement
of the end of the Global Programme

Date	First Name	Last Name	Quote	Notes (what initiated the feed back)	Country	Affiliation
06.06.2011	Scott	Miller	Cindy – You have been at the core of BioNet from very close to the beginning (I remember meeting you in person at some of the earliest BioNet meetings when Tec was just launching the network), and I just want to express my thanks to you for everything you have done for the BioNet community over the many years. The meetings, newsletters, and activities that you have organized have done a great deal for informing and organizing the community. Thanks again, and best wishes in your future endeavors. Scott	Met Richard at GTI meeting in Montreal in June	USA	Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History Washington
27.06.2011	Emily	Wabuye	Dear dr. Smith, You are are a great team and have been of great help to EAFRINET. I hope that we shall see light at the end of this dark tunnel for the BioNET sec to continue with its functions. In connection with options for maintaining the BioNET sec, I have actually wondered about the possibility of finding synergy with GBIF in a way that BioNET can be assured of funding from governments. I recently had a chat with Prof. Hannu Saarenmaa of the Finnish Museum along these line and he seemed to think it possible. Of course I am not aware of the entire picture in terms of connections and alignments for BioNET but would suggest Prof. Hannu (or any other GBIF rep) to be considered as participant in the workshop. Thanks and best wishes. Emily	BioNET-Sec announcement to LCC of end of BioNET GP and Sec and request for nominations for CABI / BioNET-LOOP Meeting (27.06.2011)	Kenya	EAFRINET
28.06.2011	Posa	Skelton	Hi Richard, I am sorry, sad and devastated to read this. I didn't get Chris Lyal's email advising of the closure of BioNET - but was told by Alan during our Invasive Species meeting. Shocking really but not totally surprised as there weren't any strong backers (funding bodies) of taxonomy globally. It must be so hard for you, Konny, Cindy and John after the mammoth effort that you guys have put in. Well, my thoughts are with you all and I do hope to catch up again in one way or the other...sad sad sad. Keep smiling mate and you'll be right. Best wishes for your future endeavour. Posa	BioNET-Sec announcement to LCC of end of BioNET GP and Sec and request for nominations for CABI / BioNET-LOOP Meeting (27.06.2011)	Samoa	PACINET
30.06.2011	David	Nowell	Dear Christopher, Thank you for providing an update and we are sorry to hear about these developments. Although we are not in a position to offer resources I would suggest that the Bionet staff talk to Ms Ana Peralta (responsible for IPPC implementation / capacity development) as Bionet could more actively cooperate in the IPPC capacity development strategy. We have "re-invented" the IPPC capacity development programme and are looking for new ways of working with people to assist in the implementation the IPPC. We recently made a call to NPPOs and RPPOs for resources related to the implementation of the IPPC (https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&tx_calls_pi1[showUid]=1106137&frompage=13381&type=calls&L=0#item), and I believe the Bionet networks and resources may be relevant in the broader context as they are regionally and nationally based. We are looking forward to hearing from Bionet to see if there are options for closer collaboration in future. Regards, David	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Italy	Acting Coordinator IPPC Secretariat AGPMI-AGP Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Roma Italy

Date	First Name	Last Name	Quote	Notes (what initiated the feed back)	Country	Affiliation
30.06.2011	Fabian	Haas	Dear Chris, sorry for the bad news about that. Lets work to keep Bionet and taxonomy alive! In case I can be supportive pls contact me, as will I do when I find avenues for that myself. best Fabian	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Kenya	icip Nairobi
30.06.2011	Wouter	Los	Dear Chris, I regret this development and I hope that the planned explorations will result in a new future. This especially important in regard of the growing role of BioNET in the GTI. I hope to hear more news. Best wishes, Wouter	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Netherlands	LifeWatch
30.06.2011	Gideon	Smith	Dear Richard and colleagues, BioNET has always one of the bright shining lights on the taxonomy landscape, and I must admit that I was not expecting the message, pasted below. I can wax lyrically about my fond memories of witnessing the magnificent achievements of BioNET over the past several years. I shall sorely miss the incredible enthusiasm that Richard and his team always brought to events where our shared passions - taxonomy and systematics - were discussed. My very best wishes accompany each and everyone of you, and thank you very much for what you did for taxonomy. What more can I say? Regards. Gideon	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	South Africa	South African National Biodiversity Institute
30.06.2011	Sara	Scherr	Dear Chris, I'm sorry to hear that the Secretariat is closing. BioNet has been doing excellent, essential work and I am confident the strong network will continue to contribute. Good luck in finding new funding. Best regards, Sara	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	USA	EcoAgricultural Partners
30.06.2011	Esperança	Costa	Dear Sirs, Thank you for your message I hope Bionet secretariat can achieve more fundings as it was very helpful to have this secretariat we could cooperate with so many countries. Best Regards	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Angola	SAFRINET
30.06.2011	Arthur	Makara	It is unfortunate that the Global Secretariat which was the umbrical cord of regional networks and the Network at large is getting disbanded soon. It is going to be tough for the Network to have a bright future without a coordinating Global Secretariat. Any how, we have to accept the situation as it stands now. Thank you for sharing with us this difficult news and we hope that there will be a twinkle of light at the end of the tunnel.	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Uganda	EAFRINET
30.06.2011	Domingo	Madulid	Dear Chris, I wish BioNET continued success in their programs despite this sad news on funding. We will continue collaborating and supporting BioNET now and in the years to come. Domingo	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Philippines	ASEANET
30.06.2011	Seelavarn	Ganeshan	Dear Chris and the BioNet Secretariat, I am very sad to learn about this closure. Bionet has been a useful source of information and good networking for me. Hope that something good turns up in the future. Best wishes, Seelavarn	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Mauritius	SAFRINET

Date	First Name	Last Name	Quote	Notes (what initiated the feed back)	Country	Affiliation
30.06.2011	Gilianne	Brodie	Dear Chris, My appreciation of your respectful message. A very sad state of affairs, considering the relevance of BioNET to the CBD ...With or without a structural framework I guess the challenge for us, as somewhat bonded individuals, to try and maintain our taxonomy despite needing to earn a living doing something else ... However, on a positive note I think taxonomy and an appreciation of it is much better here in the Pacific Islands than in some westernized countries, so i will hang on to that for the immediate future. warm regards Gilianne	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Fiji	PACINET
30.06.2011	Dennis	Gordon	Dear Chris, Thanks for the news. Not surprising in this economic downturn, but sad all the same. I am pleased that BioNET can continue and I sincerely hope that some support will be available to support all the critical functions. Best wishes, Dennis	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	New Zealand	PACINET
30.06.2011	Leonard	Singrah	Hi Chris, Thank you so much, your Bionet establishments were great, and I always appreciated all efforts your institute have done in senting such important mssgs.and informations that I had gained for the past, and wishing you the best to reestablish. thanks, Leonard	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	UK (Micronesia)	PACINET
30.06.2011	Melckzedeck	Osoe	Dear Dr Christopher Lyal, Thank you for that information. I look forward to a positive future of the network of BioNET Loops. Regards, Melckzedeck Osoe	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Kenya	EAFRINET
30.06.2011	Anthony	Munyaho	Dear Chris, Thank you very much for the communication. It has been fantastic being part of this noble forum of Naturalists. I have enjoyed the BioNET news letter, a conteplory companion in news adavances and events in science. I wish you get further funding soon and continue from where you leave the script. May best wishes in all your endeavours, Anthony Taabu Munyaho	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Uganda	EAFRINET
30.06.2011	Badrul	Bhuiya	Dear Chris, Thanks for your mail. My concern is that I can't even think of the end of current funding agreements for BioNET. That definitely means that the Global Secretariat will not be able to carry on as before. I would never forget the efforts of Tec, Nick, Richard, Cindy, Konny and John at the Secretariat to help the developing countries in overcoming taxonomic impediments and conservation of the biodiversity. I would like to explore opportunities to help the Global Network move forward.	Chris Lyal's dissemination of Board Meeting minutes to LCC and announcement of end of BioNET GP and Sec (10.06.2011).	Bangladesh	SACNET
30.06.2011	Mike	Dike	Dear Richard, It is unfortunate that BioNET Global Secretariat will be closing down by August. You have been a wonderful team who have worked wonderfully well to advance the course of taxonomy inspite of limited resources. The impact of your contributions will continue to be felt for a very long time. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. My warmest greetings.	BioNET-Sec announcement of end of BioNET GP and Sec to LCC and request for nominations for CABI / BioNET-LOOP Meeting (27.06.2011)	Nigeria	WAFRINET

Date	First Name	Last Name	Quote	Notes (what initiated the feed back)	Country	Affiliation
01.07.2011	Tsetseg	Baljinova	Dear Dr Christopher H C Lyal, Many thanks for your letter describing the situation with Bionet-International. I hope that the wise decision for further elaboration of the network will be found. With best wishes, Sincerely, Tsetseg	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Mongolia	EASIANET
01.07.2011	Bernard	Agwanda	This one of the saddest information I have received this year , Chris. I was however prepared for the shock by early notice from John Mauremotoo. The secretariat has been a star for my taxonomic nights! The positive thing is that LOOPS must up their game and reinvent central planning and coordination. But all together we must think of Secretariat funding from our divergent centres , Risky Agwanda	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Kenya	EAFRINET
01.07.2011	Wendy	Min	Dear Chris, Thank you for the update on the future development for BioNET. We wish all the staff at the current secretariat the best in their future endeavours. Best wishes, Wendy	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Singapore	ASEANET
01.07.2011	Jean-Michel	Maes	Thanks for the e-mail. Sorry for the bad news. Perhaps a solution is looking locally for support. Here the Mesoamerinet was never activate, so perhaps a good moment for a project, both InBio and BioNET needs money, so perhaps together an idea could be found. If something come out, I will be happy to articipate. Sincerely, Jean-Michel.	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Nicaragua	MESOAMERINET
02.07.2011	Andre	Koch	... und noch eine schlechte Nachricht für die Taxonomie. Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Andre Koch [more bad news for taxonomy]	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011). Contact disseminated Chris' mail via the German GfBS listserv	Germany	Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum A. Koenig, bonn
02.07.2011	Sudershan	Kumar	Dear Dr. Chris Lyal, It is need very shocking News that Bio NET is not getting donors. However, I wish to inform you that we are setting up our Bionformatics Division for next 5 years and we would be indeed very happy to cooperate as much as we can by way providing some inputs for Bionet activities from our side like sparing a dedicated server, deputing some staff to host Bio NEt activities and so on. You can let me know in this regard. I will write to you furhter on this. with best regards, yours sincerely, Dr.Sudershan Kumar	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	India	SACNET
02.07.2011	Jonas	Redwood-Sawyerr	A shame really. Funding has made many a good project disappear. We hope other good alternatives attractive to funding agents will replace BioNet though. Congrats on a good job done over the years. Jonas	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Sierra Leone	WAFRINET
02.07.2011	Laban	Ojiambo	Dr. Lyal, Thank you very much for your service. i wish you and the entire secretariat a positive future. regards, Laban	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Kenya	DRSRS

Date	First Name	Last Name	Quote	Notes (what initiated the feed back)	Country	Affiliation
03.07.2011	Setijati	Sastrapradja	Dear Dr. Lyal, Thnak you very much for the info on the BIONET future. I am one of those who takes BIONET for granted. I always read the news that BIONET provided us and never asked the details of how the BIONET survives. Now the time has come that BIONET will no longer receive support it needs for its existence. Sad but it is a reality. I just hope that there would be a donor coming soon to rescue BIONET! In this opportunity I would like to thank you all who dedicated your time and energy to inform all of us on the progress of Biodiversity and taxonomy. Am still struggleing to inform my fellow country men to try to understand what biodiversity is all about. Will continue doing so till the end of my being. Best regards, Seti Sastrapradja	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Indonesia	ASEANET
04.07.2011	Connal	Eardley	[...] I was saddened to hear the news about closing the BioNET Secretariat. [...]	BioNET-Sec announcement to LCC of end of BioNET GP and Sec and request for nominations for CABI / BioNET-LOOP Meeting (27.06.2011) Responded to JM	South Africa	SAFRINET
05.07.2011	Julius	Ecuru	Thank you for this notification. We acknowledge with gratitude SDC's support to BioNET over the years. I especially appreciate the established Network, and hope that the connections made will continue in some ways. With best wishes, Julius	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Uganda	EAFRINET
05.07.2011	Alfred	Oteng-Yeboah	I have just received this sad news of the future developments for BioNET. I am only hoping that in the next few months, before the end of August 2011 when the current funding finishes, there will be a new funding outlay. It will indeed be catastrophic if no funds are found soon, as this will wind down all the achievements chalked in the last several years by BioNET. The GTI within the CBD, which looks up to BioNET as a servicing centre, must act quickly to support BioNET in its search for new sponsors. Sincerely, Alfred Oteng-Yeboah	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Ghana	WAFRINET
06.07.2011	Annie	Simpson	Hello, Richard: I received Chris Lyal's email about the demise of the BioNET Secretariat while I was on holiday. I'm so sorry to hear you're running out of grant money! [...] Best regards, Annie Simpson	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011). Replied to RS	USA	National Biological Information Infrastructure National Program Office - USGS 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 302 Reston

Date	First Name	Last Name	Quote	Notes (what initiated the feed back)	Country	Affiliation
06.07.2011	Mark	Fornwall	Hello Richard, My apologies for not responding sooner, much going on in my personal and business life. I must admit that I am having a difficult time sorting through the messages here. I think that BioNET was a great thing and now the future murky. How are you doing? Is does this indicate major changes for you? I hope that all is well and appreciate what you have done these past several years. Best of luck. Cheers, Mark	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011). Replied to RS	USA	Center for Biological Informatics/ITIS PBIN, US Geological Survey, 310 Kaahumanu Ave Kahului, Hawaii 96732
06.07.2011	José	Salinas	Dear Chris, I was away from home in a place with no access to internet. Now I am reading all old and new mails. Your news are very sad and we all have to regret the lack of support (financial, of course) for the good enterprises like BIONET. If you were doing something on weapons, warfare and the like, you would be receiveng lots of money from all countries and national and international agencies. Imagine Einstein reseaching on ants of the Andean paramos or the bamboos of Sub Sahara forests. Who will pay for that? I hope there will be some kind of agreement to continue your unvaluable work. Yours sincerely, P. J. Salinas	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Venezuela	ANDINONET
07.07.2011	Geoff	Norton	Hi Richard, I was very sorry to hear about the impending demise of BioNET. I know it's been a hard struggle in recent years but I'm sure that it will be sorely missed by many taxonomists and those needing the services of taxonomists. [...] Lucid will continue as normal and IdentifyLife will be officially launched at the International Botanical Congress in Melbourne later this month. I still think this free, open source platform offers considerable potential for linking developing country taxonomists into a global source of taxonomic descriptive data and keys and I'd be grateful for any advice you can give us on how we might pursue this. Is making contact with LOOP organisers contacts still the best strategy or is there a more generic way to explore this? Wishing you all the best for the future, Geoff	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Australia	CBIT, Centre for Pest IT and Transfer Hartley-Teakle Building The University of Queensland Brisbane 4072 Australia
12.07.2011	Frances	Mansfield	Dear Chris, Thank you for your email. I am saddened to hear of the funding issues for BioNET - I have valued the network and it truly made me feel stronger in developing our module on the Classification of Living Organisms and being able to illustrate the value of taxonomy. I have made contact with the Masters in Taxonomy/Conservation programme organiser at the NHM - we have one of our graduates joining the MSc programme this year. Taxonomy is clearly a current and vital part of biology and I would like to thank BioNET for the information provided. Please do let me know of any further developments/ resources. Best wishes, Frances	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	UK	School of Biosciences University of Kent Canterbury Kent, UK
12.07.2011	Wendy	Min	Dear Richard, We apologise for this late response. We would like to inform you that we will not be able to participate at this important meeting. The BioNet is an important initiative which we hope will survive this funding crisis and continue its valuable work to its members. Please keep us inform on the outcomes of the meeting. Best wishes, Wendy	BioNET-Sec announcement to LCC of end of BioNET GP and Sec and request for nominations for CABI / BioNET-LOOP Meeting (27.06.2011)	Singapore	ASEANET

Date	First Name	Last Name	Quote	Notes (what initiated the feed back)	Country	Affiliation
13.07.2011	Yves	Samin	Dear Richard, It is with quite some concern that we took notice of the mail of Dr Lyal regarding the restructuring and closing down of the BioNET Secretariat. We found it quite uncomfortable to read that your main sponsor, although very satisfied with the obtained results, decides to invest in other priorities. We sincerely hope that this does not affect your and/or Kornelia's position and that your Secretariat can swiftly become fully operational again thanks to the funding of another sponsor. We also sincerely hope that this decision will not affect the different projects (especially the installment of the Special Trust Fund for the GTI, but also your 'why taxonomy matters' and other awareness raising campaigns) you have so fiercely and successfully defended over the years. It would truly be a pity to see all that fine work not fully validated... Best wishes, Yves (also with kind regards of the other team members of the Belgian GTI)	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	Belgium	RBINS Institut Royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique Bruxelles
14.07.2011	Monica	Moraes	Dear Richard, No problem and I truly understand all those reasons. Hope you will build up good perspectives for continuing such wonderful efforts you have carried out at a worldwide level! Hugs! Mónica	RS reply to her mail from mail from 05.07, not accepting her application to participate in the Malaysia meeting.	Bolivia	ANDINONET
15.07.2011	Jackie	van Goethem	Dear Dr Leal, Thank you for sending this information which in fact is quite sad news. In view of the very positive outcome of a recent external evaluation, it is my hope that BioNET's Global Secretariat will find a new way to become again fully operational. Kind regards, Jackie Van Goethem	Chris Lyal's jangomail-announcement (30.06) of end of BioNET GP & Sec to bulletin receivers (30.06.2011).	RBINS	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences Department of Invertebrates Brussels
28.07.2011	Randy	Thaman	Dear Richard - As Posa says this is very sad. There is money for all kinds of expeditions, studies of biodiversity and resilience, putting our brochures, handbooks, etc. but very little money to provide the training and taxonomic knowledge that will be required for the implementation and monitoring of biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate, environmental and economic change. Thanks so much for the wonderful support you've given PACINET and all of us over the years. Keep in touch. Sincerely, Randy	BioNET-Sec announcement to LCC of end of BioNET GP and Sec and request for nominations for CABI / BioNET-LOOP Meeting (27.06.2011) Responded to RS	Fiji	PACINET