



Taxonomy for Ghana's development and conservation - assessing the needs
Ghana-UK project 2006-7
Supported by the WSSD implementation Fund of Defra (UK)



Implementing the Convention on Biodiversity: the roles of Taxonomy

GTI Needs Assessments
UK and Ghana



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Welcome Glenys Parry

Department for Environment Food
and Rural Affairs (Defra)

UK CBD Focal Point

Head of UK Delegation

Introduction and Background

- Purpose of the side event
 - UK Taxonomic Needs Assessment
 - Ghana Taxonomic Needs Assessment
 - Discussion
- The organisers
 - Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK
 - Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana
 - BioNET International
 - The Natural History Museum (NHM), UK

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The UK Taxonomic Needs Assessment

Alistair Taylor

UK National Focal Point for the
Global Taxonomy Initiative

UK Needs Assessment

- Implementing the GTI in the UK
 - National Focal Point
 - UK GTI Steering Group
 - Register of Taxonomic Expertise
- UK Needs assessment
 - Methodology
 - Results and Next Steps
 - Value for other Parties

UK Needs Assessment

- National Focal Point
 - Natural History Museum
 - Nationally and internationally important collections
 - Contributes to UK biodiversity conservation as member of National Biodiversity Network
 - Contributes to international biodiversity conservation through e.g. GBIF

UK Needs Assessment

- UK GTI Steering Group
 - Established to advise National Focal Point
 - Members from taxonomic and biodiversity conservation sectors
 - JNCC, CEH, NBN, RBG Kew and Edinburgh, NHM, Defra
 - **Buy-in to GTI implementation from users of taxonomic information is essential**

UK Needs Assessment

- UK Register of Taxonomic Expertise
 - Called for in COP VI decision
 - Based on previous work by UK Systematics Forum (UKSF)
 - Resource intensive and little used in UK
 - Steering Group advised low priority
 - **Listening to users can help prioritise work, and focus resources where they will most benefit biodiversity conservation**

UK Needs Assessment

- Rationale for UK assessment
 - Recognised need for UK taxonomic information in support of biodiversity conservation nationally and internationally
 - Limited information available on user needs and priorities nationally
 - Assessment of the state of taxonomy by UKSF did not address user needs

UK Needs Assessment

- Methodology
 - Developed by GTI Steering Group
 - User needs focus
 - Drew on previous needs assessments
 - Users in UK including Overseas Territories
 - Limited resources available -1 GTI Focal Point
 - Information gathered through questionnaires and interviews with users

UK Needs Assessment

- Timing
 - Questionnaire design - 4 months
 - Circulating questionnaires - 1 month
 - Questionnaires returned - 3 months
 - Information analysis - 2 months
 - Reported drafted and circulated to Steering Group for comments and editing - 4 months
 - Final report produced - 1 month

UK Needs Assessment

- Questionnaire design
 - Identify users sector, role in biodiversity conservation, and species/ecosystem focus
 - Identify what information was being used, and what information was not available
 - Taxonomic information **AND** other information that relies on accurate taxonomic information
 - **Helped raise awareness about the role of taxonomy as well as gathering information**

UK Needs Assessment

- Results
 - 100 Questionnaires returned completed, including 10 from Overseas Territories
 - Priority user needs identified, based on national and sub-national analysis
 - Other key messages
 - Limited awareness of national conservation initiatives at local level
 - Need to maintain taxonomic capacity
 - Need for collaboration

UK Needs Assessment

- Next steps
 - Partnership approach between Focal Point, GTI Steering Group and existing user groups
 - Improved links between user needs and delivery of taxonomic information
 - Feed user priorities into the priorities of taxonomic institutions and funding bodies
 - Identify genuine gaps where taxonomic expertise is not available

UK Needs Assessment

- Potential value of UK approach for other parties
 - User buy-in to assessment from beginning
 - Focus on biodiversity conservation users
 - Used limited resources - 1 Focal Point
 - Short duration - 15 Months
 - Gathered information and raised awareness
 - Enabled taxonomists to prioritise

Sharing UK Experience

- Project concept developed 2005
 - Pilot UK approach in a developing country
 - Develop toolkit for other countries to use
- Support mechanism:
World Summit on Sustainable Development,
Implementation Fund
 - Managed by UK Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
 - Delivery of WSSD commitments

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Taxonomic Needs Assessment in Ghana

Professor Alfred Oteng-Yeboah
Ghana Council for Scientific and
Industrial Research (CSIR)

Ghana Needs Assessment

- Project partners
 - Ghana Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
 - BioNET International Secretariat
 - BioNET West African partnership for taxonomy (WAFRINET)
 - Natural History Museum (UK)

Ghana Needs Assessment

- Rationale
 - Implementation of CBD
 - Identified by Third National Report
- Relevance of UK approach
 - User needs focussed
 - Resource efficient
- Timetable
 - March 2006 launch
 - Training and start-up workshops (6 months)
 - Data-gathering and analysis phases (8 months)
 - Final reports and workshop (4 months)

Ghana Needs Assessment

- Outputs
 - Assessment information pack
 - Project website
 - Needs assessment report for Ghana
 - Needs assessment manual for future assessments

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Discussion

Chairs:

Ghana Ambassador to Brazil

Deryck Steer

(UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee)

Discussion Topics

- Potential Value of UK approach for other parties
- Challenges to identifying user needs
- Importance of needs assessments
 - Setting priorities
 - Raising awareness
 - Demonstrating relevance of taxonomy
- Other comments and suggestions?

Thank you for your time and
interest

Contacts

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