

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL

&

BioNET-WAFRINET



Assessing the taxonomic needs of Ghana,  
first workshop, Aburi, 1-4 August 2006  
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# BioNET – why?

Taxonomic institutions are in **critical decline** worldwide.

Expertise is **fragmenting**.

Taxonomic support and services increasingly depends on:

- ❑ the **cooperation** of institutions in networks
- ❑ exploitation of opportunities offered by digital and molecular **technologies**

The needs are most acute in **less industrialised countries**.

**the global network for taxonomy**

Taxonomy for Ghana's development and conservation -  
assessing the needs, Ghana-UK project 2006-7,  
Workshop 1-4 August, Accra & Aburi, Ghana.  
Supported by the WSSD implementation Fund of Defra (UK)



# BioNET fact sheet 1

**Founded in 1993**...to promote taxonomic capacity building for less industrialized countries

**Unique goal:** the only organisation dedicated to promoting taxonomy globally

**“the most comprehensive network...”** (GTI Programme of Work)

**Tying taxonomy to development, conservation and policy processes** – strategy for the long-term strengthening of the taxonomic sector

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# BioNET fact sheet 2

**Working locally** to assist countries with establishment and facilitation of local partnerships for capacity building (LOOPs)

- ❑ Individual members in 153 countries
- ❑ 10 LOOPs, formally endorsed by over 100 countries

**International partnerships** via participation / membership of IUCN, GBIF, IFS, Ecoagriculture, IABIN, GISP, GPPC/GSPC, etc....and the Global Taxonomy Initiative.

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# BioNET, the CBD and the Global Taxonomy Initiative

- ❑ **BioNET Mission:** Contribute to human well-being and biodiversity conservation by building capacity to discover, name, and classify the world's living organisms.
  
- ❑ **Parties to the CBD have identified the following roles BioNET can support:**
  - ❑ Needs identification
  - ❑ Capacity building
  - ❑ Collaboration
  - ❑ Regional cooperation
  - ❑ GTI Coordination Mechanism
  
- ❑ **GTI: depends on capacity building (CBD Decision VI/8)**

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# BioNET support for the GTI

## 1. Achievements 2002-5

### ❑ **Strengthening cooperation**

- ✓ 1 new local partnership (LOOP) each year
- ✓ Global taxonomy workshop (BioNET, CBD, IPPC, UNESCO) - taxonomists from 95 countries, 30+ end-user / technology developer / funding organisations; framework for GTI implementation; used for GTI reporting

### ❑ **Needs assessments**

- ✓ National: priority setting in 16 countries in 3 regions
- ✓ Regional: user-oriented, in-depth assessment
- ✓ Global: overview of user needs

# Biodiversity and trade – assessing needs, building capacity

**Assessing quarantine and plant health taxonomic needs** - the interface of trade and biodiversity - in partnership with Australian institutions.

**Need 1** – Need to sensitise senior managers that their collections are the most important resource for quarantine and plant health

**Need 2** – Need to prioritise training on groups most needed for identifications.

**Need 3** – Need to engage scientists in universities in supporting collections and building expertise that has important impacts on food security, trade and biodiversity.

- ❑ **Capacity building** – collection management, SPS sensitisation, pest listing, identification tools. ASEAN Plant Health Network.

## 2. Achievements 2002-5

### ❑ **Building capacity**

- ✓ 6-7 regional training courses / year (e.g. quarantine mycology / pest listing, public health, pollinators, invasive alien species)
- ✓ fellowships for extended study (E Africa, W Africa, E Asia)
- ✓ technology transfer – identification tools / guide building

### ❑ **Communication:**

- ✓ expanding “The most comprehensive network...” to 153 countries
- ✓ Why Taxonomy Matters case studies support outreach to decision makers and end-users of taxonomy
- ✓ BioNET Bulletin / website promotes awareness of GTI, training and policy opportunities, events, publications

# What is a BioNET LOOP?

**L**ocally

**O**wned and

**O**perated

**P**artnership

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*= Technical  
Cooperation  
Network*

*permanent structure,  
owned and operated by  
member institutions and  
governments*



# Some recent LOOP achievements

- ❑ **Project development** Securing Investment in Biodiversity Knowledge: BOZONET, a regional GEF project. **BioNET-EAFRINET / ICIPE.**
- ❑ **Training** on Taxonomy of Neotropical Tabanidae (Insecta: Diptera). Participants came from 13 entomology / public health institutions in Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. **BioNET-ANDINONET.**
- ❑ **Training** 4-month fellowship for Curator of the Insect Collection at the National Museum of Zanzibar. Training provided by SAFRINET. **BioNET-EAFRINET/ BioNET-SAFRINET.**
- ❑ **Training** Mycology Collection/Names/Images Digitization, **BioNET-EASIANET/GBIF.**
- ❑ **Training** Design, development and production of Multimedia Diagnostic Keys for Plant Pests in the ASEAN Region, **BioNET-ASEANET/Lucid/ARCBC.**
- ❑ **Publications** 60 datasheets of pests, fungi, nematodes, molluscs, and weeds of phytosanitary importance in the Caribbean. **BioNET-CARINET / FAO.**

# International partners

- ❑ **Coordinating Institutes** Regional / National / Thematic in over 100 countries in 10 regions
- ❑ **Secretariat hosting** CABI
- ❑ **Membership** IUCN, GBIF, CBOL, IFS, GTI Coordination Mechanism, GISIN, etc.
- ❑ **Technical partners** GISP, API, UNESCO, IUCN, CABI, Lucid, IPPC, FAO, PestNet, Discoverlife, CBOL, etc.
- ❑ **Funding partners**
  - ❑ Secretariat: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation & Defra (UK)
  - ❑ LOOPs: UNDP, CTA, Commonwealth Secretariat, DFID, GEF, USGS, AusAID, etc.

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# DNA barcoding – a tool for taxonomy

**DNA barcode** Using a standard, short DNA sequence as a tool for taxonomic research and providing identification services

**CBOL - Consortium for the Barcode of Life** A US-based (Smithsonian Institution) initiative with the sole aim of promoting awareness and use of DNA barcode approach

**CBOL and BioNET: introducing DNA barcoding to less industrialised countries** Regional workshops (Southern Africa – April 2006, East Africa – October 2006, **West Africa - ?**, South Asia 2007, South America 2007)

**International Tephtrid (fruit fly) Barcode Initiative**  
BioNET-SAFRINET contributing

**Africa Scale Insect Barcode Initiative** BioNET-SAFRINET / CBOL / other

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The bionet\* bulletin is published by **BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's** Secretariat. It is available in English, Spanish and French and online @ [www.bionet-intl.org](http://www.bionet-intl.org).

BioNET is a not-for-profit initiative that promotes taxonomy via capacity building, advocacy and its affiliated local partnerships (LOOPs) so that all countries can know and identify their biodiversity and thereby address sustainable development and conservation priorities.

## New Developments

### **BioNET's West African partnership launches website**

WAFRINET, BioNET's West African partnership, is proud to launch its [Website](#) containing news on taxonomy from the region including identification services, reference collections, capacity building, technology applications and collaborative activities. The website has been developed and is hosted by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, the regional Coordinating Institution of WAFRINET. **Contact:** WAFRINET Regional Coordinator, Dr Braima James, **Email:** [b.james@cgiar.org](mailto:b.james@cgiar.org)

### **European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy project kicks off**

The first meeting of participants in EDIT, a five year project supported by the European Commission, was hosted in Paris in June by the National Museum of Natural History (Paris), the project leader. With taxonomic infrastructure and expertise increasingly fragmented in Europe as elsewhere, the project aims to "co-ordinate the European contribution to the global taxonomic effort, in particular the Global Taxonomy Initiative, through an integrated initiative aimed at improving society's capacity for biodiversity conservation". In addition to providing coordination and focus for taxonomic work in Europe, the project aims to promote the use of technologies and the cultural changes needed to realise more efficient approaches to doing and delivering taxonomy. BioNET serves on the Scientific Advisory Council of the project. [More...](#)

# BioNET-WAFRINET-Ghana

**From assessing needs to action** Who will champion the taxonomic needs assessment once the project is over in August 2007? National network, projects, annual meetings?

**CBD implementation** BioNET is a recognised national / regional / global mechanism for implementing the CBD (especially the Global Taxonomy Initiative)

**Advocacy** Promoting taxonomy to policy makers is an important part of BioNET's work

**A trusted partner** for international collaborations

**Sharing information** on taxonomic work and products in / on the region, expertise, opportunities (training, grants)

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