



Taxonomy for Ghana's development and conservation - assessing the needs  
Ghana-UK project 2006-7, Workshop 1-4 August, Accra & Aburi, Ghana  
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# Assessing Taxonomic Needs Why? and How?

Presentation for the Ghanaian  
Taxonomic Needs Assessment  
First Workshop



# Why Assess Needs?

To identify needs and priorities  
for taxonomists

- Needs of users e.g. conservationists
- Needs for particular tools e.g. species lists
- Priorities of users e.g. 'quick and dirty'

# Why Assess Needs?

To identify needs and priorities  
for policymakers

- Needs relating to specific policies/actions
- Needs for tools for use in delivering government objectives
- Needs for tools to deliver international objectives

**TO SHOW THERE IS NO MAGIC WAND!**

# How to Assess Needs?

## Why use the UK approach?

- Focused on the needs of end users
  - Targets end users
  - Asks about conservation tools
- Raised awareness about the T word
- Delivered needs that taxonomists can respond to and informed policymakers

# How to Assess Needs?

How will we gather information?

## Workshop

- Facilitated by whole project team – USE US!
- Attended by important stakeholders

## Interviews

- Face to face contact – more friendly
- Responses – more complete/honest

## Questionnaires

- Questionnaire design
- Handling feedback

# How to Assess Needs?

What kinds of needs?

- Not just 'taxonomic information'

Also

- Tools that rely on taxonomic information
  - Maps, reports, surveys
- Processes that use taxonomic expertise
  - Laws, quarantine services