



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/LR/44307

16 September 2004

NOTIFICATION

Suggested actions for promoting implementation of the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its most recent meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur on 8 February 2004, the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) noted the need for guidance on specific actions for the implementation of the GTI by national focal points and accordingly suggested several support actions to be undertaken.

In accordance with [decision V/9](#) of the Conference of the Parties, on the GTI, and further to my notification dated 25 April 2001, in which a set of proposed functions for the GTI national focal points was provided, I would like to draw your attention to the attached suggested actions for the national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GTI designed to promote implementation of the programme of work of the GTI, as annexed to [decision VI/8](#) of the Conference of the Parties.

I wish to thank you in advance for your contribution to the implementation of the programme of work of the GTI and your support to the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

[original signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points of the CBD
GTI National Focal Points



Annex

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION BY CBD AND GTI NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS¹

Parties should:

- *Appoint national focal points for the GTI (in accordance with decisions V/9 and VI/8 of the Conference of the Parties). These focal points should comprise one or more expert individuals or institutions who together have the appropriate technical background and expertise to understand taxonomic needs in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity and have the capacity to fully perform the focal point role.*

National focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity should:

- *Empower and support national focal points for the GTI in their efforts to make contact and communicate regularly with the taxonomic community in their country, where possible making use of existing networks.*

National focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GTI should:

- *Integrate taxonomy into all projects as appropriate to ensure implementation of decision VI/8, on the GTI programme of work, and that taxonomic needs are met in all thematic areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity .*
- *Create links with national biodiversity strategy and action plans, the clearing-house mechanism, (NCSAs), the Global Environment Facility and other relevant processes so that the need for taxonomy is understood in each of these processes and so that taxonomists understand what is required to fulfil the relevant commitments.*
- *Utilize opportunities within national capacity self-assessments and GEF enabling activities to identify priority taxonomic needs for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity.*
- *Take responsibility for provision of information to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on:*
 - a) Taxonomic needs assessments, including reviews or studies on specific taxonomic needs;*
 - b) Directories of taxonomic expertise;*
 - c) Registers of biological collections; and*
 - d) Taxonomic initiatives and networks.*

¹ Identified by the meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) held in Kuala Lumpur on 8 February 2004.

National focal points for the GTI should:

- *Initiate, complete and/or update as appropriate national taxonomic needs assessments, ensuring that these address the taxonomic needs identified in the work programmes for each thematic and cross-cutting issue under the Convention on Biological Diversity.*
- *Prepare plans for the full national implementation of the GTI programme of work, utilizing national, regional and global capacities as appropriate.*
- *Work with government and relevant organizations to mobilize resources for the taxonomic capacity building required to meet national obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.*
- *Participate in and help ensure the sustainability of national, regional and global initiatives and networks aimed at taxonomic capacity building and technical cooperation.*
- *Work to bridge the gap between taxonomists and all user groups involved (through the establishment of web sites, mailing lists, bulletin boards, presentations at scientific conferences, workshops with end-users and other means).*
- *Popularize the GTI among taxonomists and provide an interface between taxonomy and the end-users of taxonomy.*
- *Raise the level of in-country recognition for the applied nature of much taxonomic work and the critical contribution of baseline taxonomic work to all activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.*
- *Be proactive in seeking to realize the benefits of cooperation with other sectors, for example, plant protection services, that have relevant capacities and capacity-building needs.*
- *Provide relevant information and ongoing feedback to the taxonomic and end-user communities (on the Convention on Biological Diversity and the GTI, other organizations and processes, contacts, government decisions, funding possibilities as well as case studies, etc.).*
- *Help to increase recognition that most taxonomic expertise can only be provided by taxonomists.*
- *Build an understanding in government of the costs involved in providing taxonomic services and support the development of programmes aimed at improving long-term employment and career opportunities for taxonomists.*
- *Facilitate regional and global implementation of the GTI programme of work through communication and cooperation with GTI national focal points and other stakeholders internationally.*
