Taxonomy and the Global Taxonomy Initiative

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What is taxonomy?
Taxonomy = Science

Taxonomy detects, describes, names, and, through the application of the theory of evolution, classifies all organisms.
How does taxonomy work?
Barcode of Life Initiative

Identification

The Fresh and Brackish Water Fishes of Lower Guinea, West-Central Africa

Faune et Flora Tropicale
CEBioS

TAXONOMY

Delivers

SCIENTIFIC NAMES

& stores these names in a

CLASSIFICATION

that allows

UNDERSTANDING.
So what’s the problem?
### The taxonomic impediment

| Knowledge gaps in the taxonomic system (e.g. taxon bias, concepts, characters,…) |
| Acute shortage of well-trained collectors, curators & taxonomists |
| Limited or outdated infrastructure |
| Limited access to collections and collection-based information |
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Reduce the taxonomic impediment

Taxonomic impediment

- Assess local taxonomic & curatorial:
  - needs
  - capabilities
  - preparedness
  - Initiate strategies and action plans to participate in GTI

- Improve the value and valuation of existing:
  - natural science collections
  - taxonomic and curatorial expertise
  - infrastructure
  - information exchange

Implementation operational objectives of GTI
Lack of expertise in the South
Countries accounting for **80%** of the named species have only **6%** of the world’s specialists

(cf. Wilson, 2003)
What is the solution?
At a global level:
At a national level:

Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative
In Belgium:

- **2001**: The RBINS is designated as the Belgian National Focal Point to the GTI
- **2003**: The RBINS and the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD) sign a 5 year specific convention
- The DGD–RBINS specific Convention is renewed in 2008 and in 2014 for 10 years.
To what aim?

Arm the developing countries with sufficient taxonomic capacities to enable them to inventor, monitor and sustainably manage their biodiversity and ecosystem services.
For whom?

Eligible countries for Belgian support from 2016 onwards:

Needs–driven, expertise & collection dependant
CAPACITY BUILDING
TAXONOMIC TRAINING IN SITU
Needs–driven, expertise & collection dependant
CAPACITY BUILDING

SPECIFIC TAXONOMIC TRAINING IN BELGIUM
Needs-driven, expertise & collection dependant
CAPACITY BUILDING
LIBERATION OF TAXONOMIC KNOW-HOW

Abc Taxa
Needs–driven, expertise & collection dependant
CAPACITY BUILDING

TAXONOMIC TRAINING \textit{IN SITU}

TAXONOMIC TRAINING IN BELGIUM

LIBERATION OF TAXONOMIC KNOW–HOW

GENERATION OF TAXONOMIC DATA

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD
To conclude (1/2)

• Human action deeply affects the planet and causes heavy biodiversity loss.
• This loss endangers ecosystem services and thus biodiversity-based livelihoods…
To conclude (2/2)

• Taxonomy detects, describes, identifies and classifies organisms and thus allows predictions that lead to sustainable management of biodiversity and sustainable development.

• The Belgian GTI is committed to building taxonomic capacity in the South.
Thanks for your attention!

Visit our website

http://www.taxonomy.be/