



# **BioNET-INTERNATIONAL: the Global Network for Taxonomy**

***A sub-regional approach to  
capacity building in taxonomy for  
sustainable development***



**Dr Richard Smith  
Assistant Director**



# Taxonomic impediment

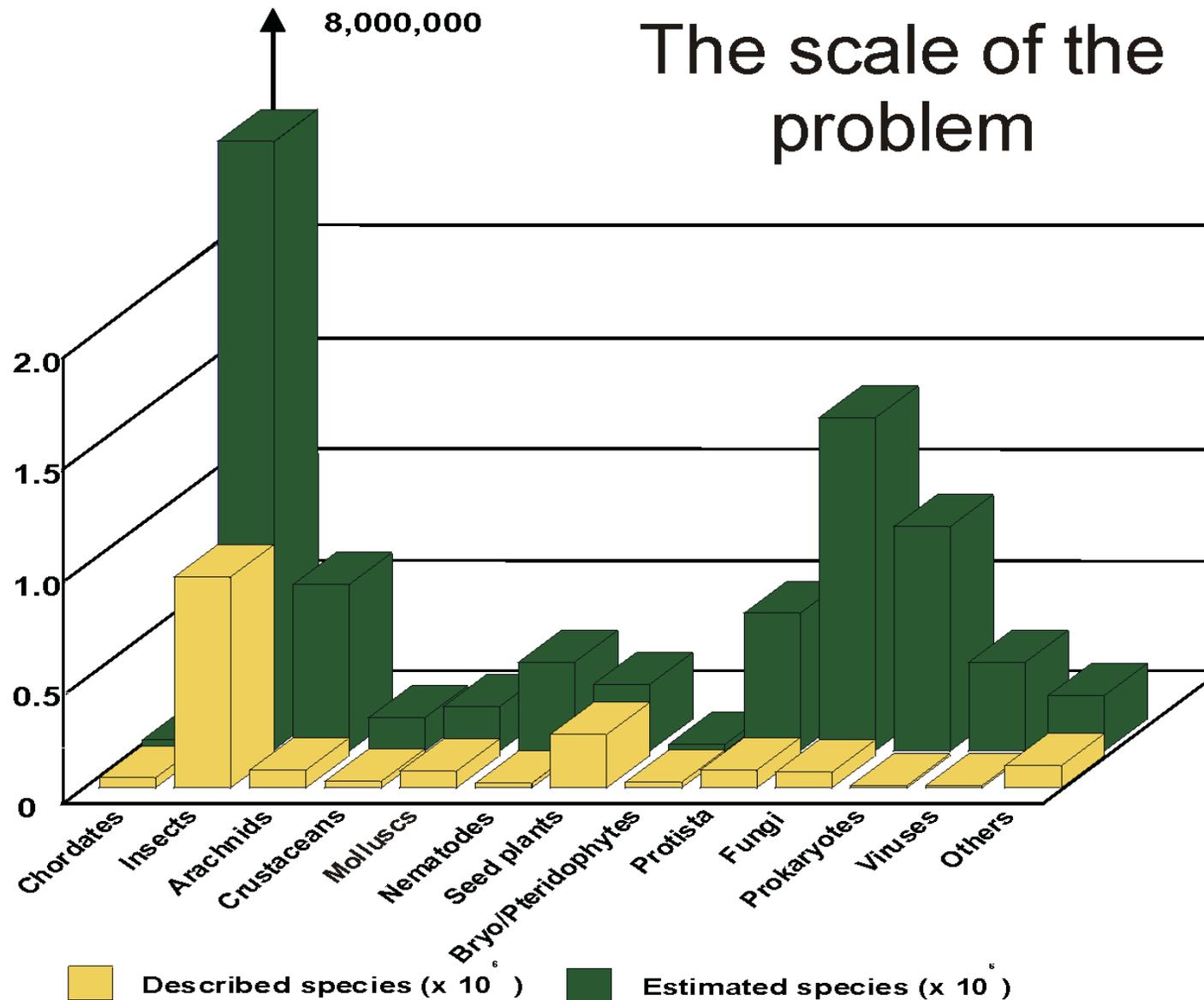
*Taxonomic Expertise and Information:  
not where it is needed*



- **95% of existing taxonomic expertise resides in “developed” countries**
- **95% of taxonomic information and collections reside in “developed” countries**
- **95% of remaining biodiversity resides in developing countries!**
- **Regional imbalances**
- **expertise is rapidly ‘greying’ and not being replaced**



# The scale of the problem



Adapted from 'The Web of Life', UK Systematics Forum, 1998



# Taxonomic Impediment

## *Recent international responses*

- Darwin Declaration (1999) *The Taxonomic Impediment*
- CBD CoP5 (May 2000) *Decision (V/9) on a Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI)*
- CBD CoP6 (April 2002) *approved GTI Programme of Work*
- 3GTW-Pretoria (July 2002) *Partnership approach to GTI*
- WSSD Plan of Implementation (September 2002) *Emphasized importance of GTI in delivering biodiversity targets*
- 3GTW-Paris (February 2003) *Commitments to Action Plan for GTI*



# BioNET-INTERNATIONAL

## *basics*

- A not-for-profit, donor-funded, global programme founded in 1993...
- ...to help build the taxonomic capacity needed by “developing countries” for sustainable development;
- 10 inter-institutional subregional networks...more being established
- supported by a Technical Secretariat
- NOT an Internet-based information network!
- NOT a database!
- NOT a donor agency!



# What is a BioNET- INTERNATIONAL LOOP?

*= Technical  
Cooperation  
Network*

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

**L**ocally

**O**wned and

**O**perated

**P**artnership

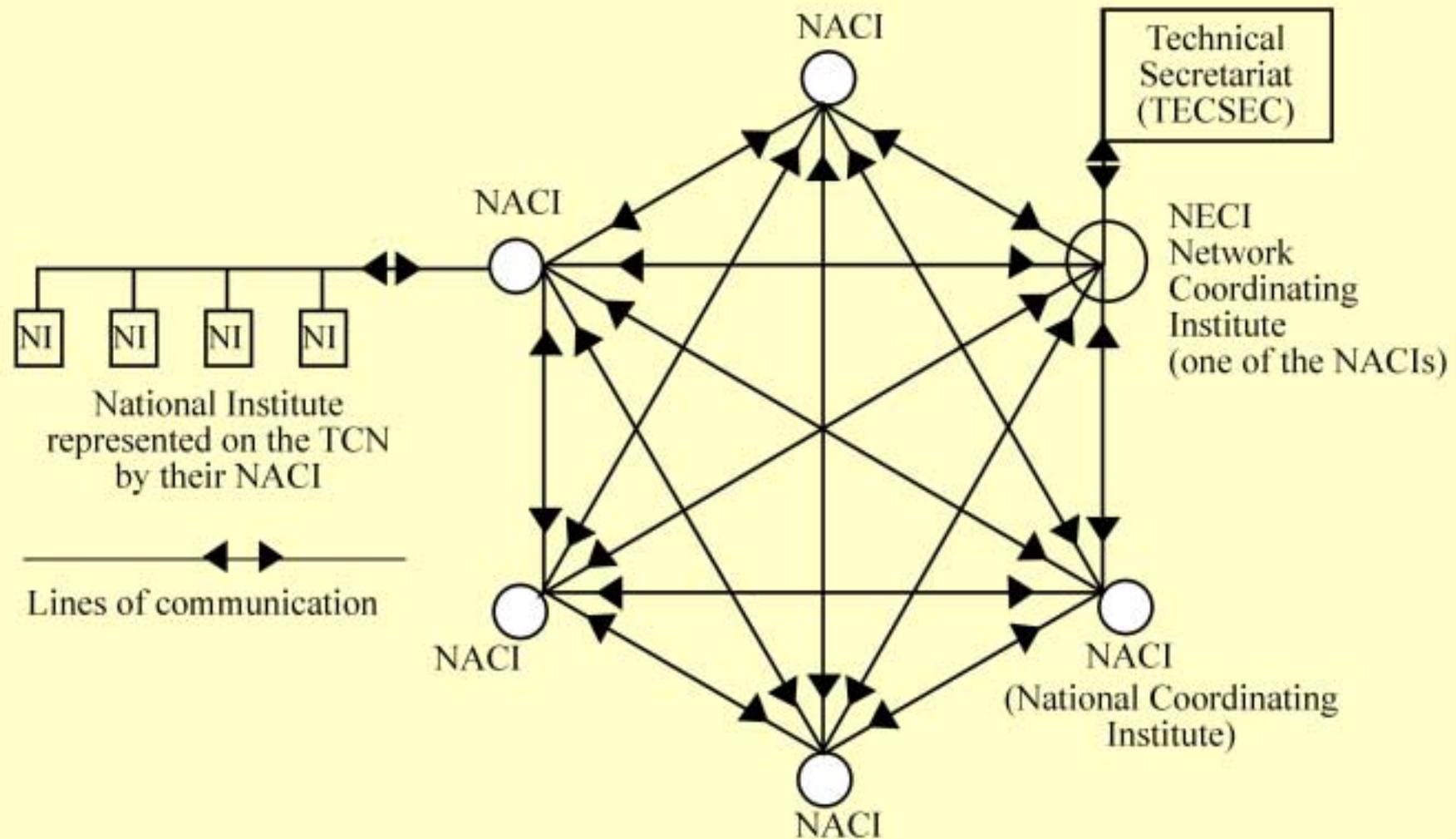
# Regional cooperation

## *Mobilisation and pooling of resources benefits all*



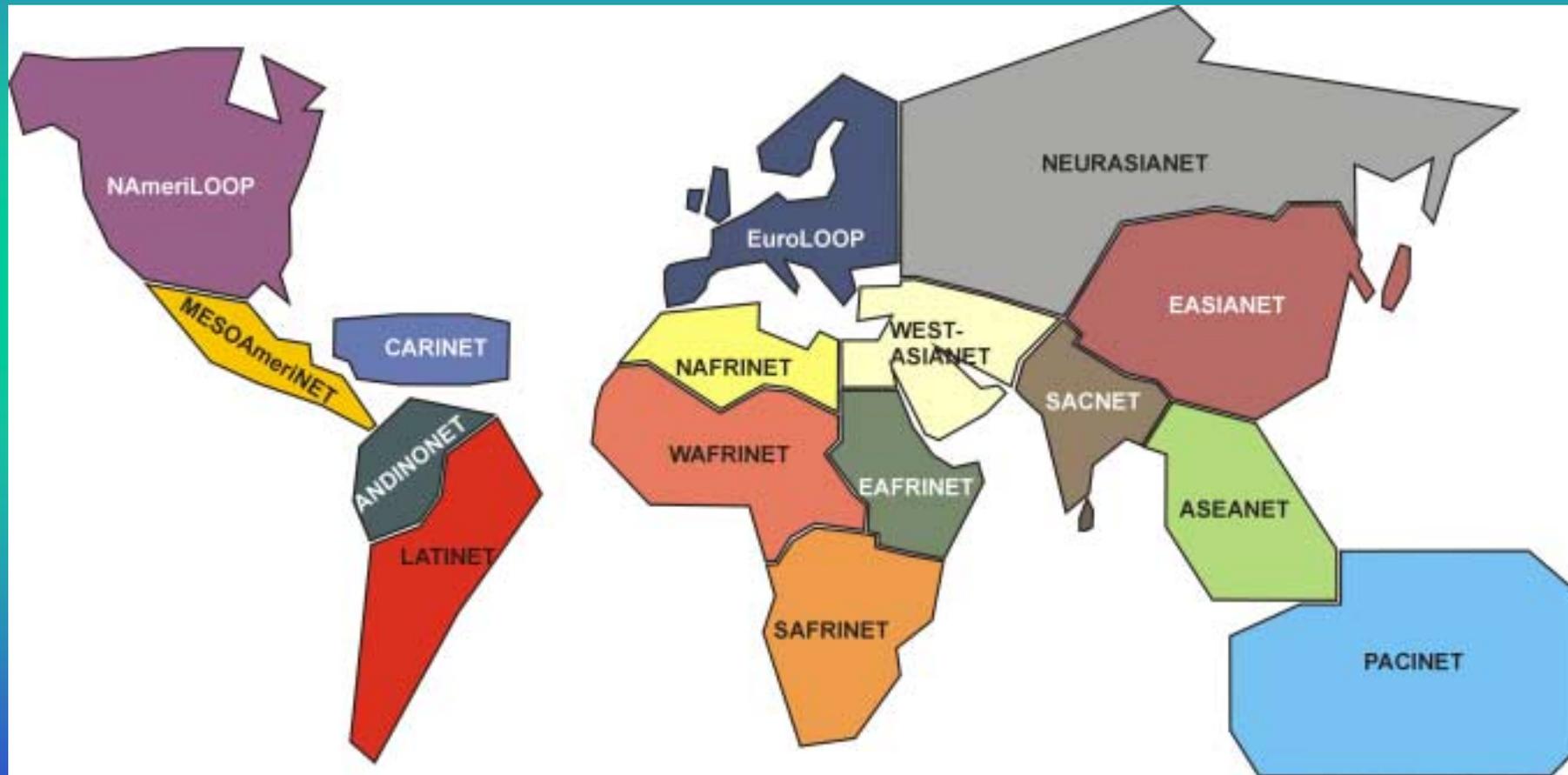
- Significant **expansion in capabilities** and services
- **cost effective** coordination and implementation of capacity building projects
- address **common issues** such as invasive species / integrated pest management
- **realistic goal** of subregional self-reliance

# LOOP model





# The BioNET **LOOPs**



# Objectives of a BioNET- INTERNATIONAL LOOP



- Respond to identified national and regional priorities
- facilitate, coordinate and promote taxonomic capacity building
- help users of taxonomy to develop taxonomic services and products using regional expertise
- help regions become **self-reliant** in taxonomy

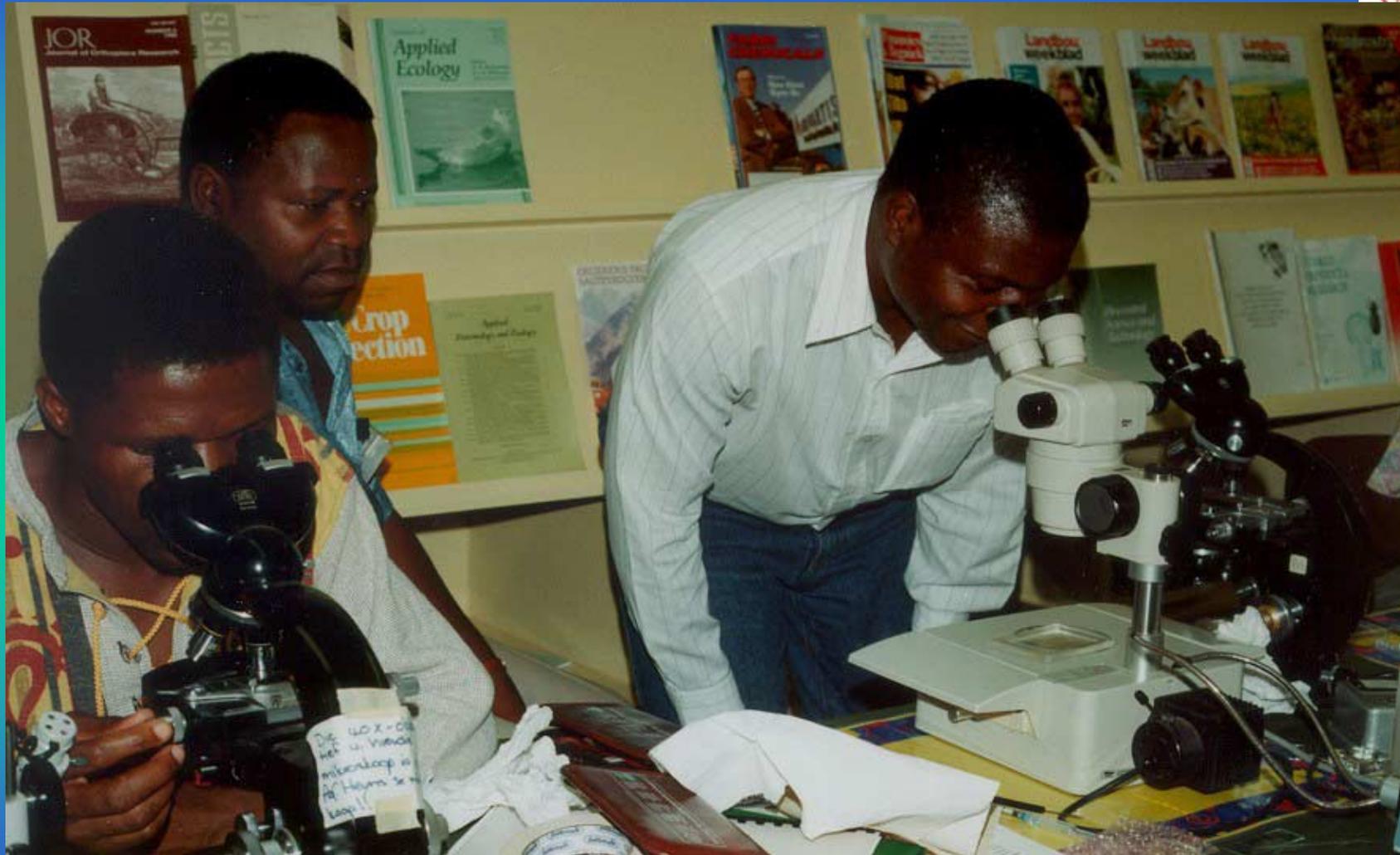


# IAS and IPPC: need for taxonomy...

## *how **LOOPS** can assist*

- NEEDS: Pest reporting, certification / verification (export/import), identification, surveillance, inspection, exotic pest response, pest listing
- LOOPS:
  - Permanent, government-endorsed sub-regional capacity building programmes
  - Capability and needs assessment
  - Organising delivery of training and technologies
  - Information sharing
  - Links via Global Network to experts and technology providers

# Training



Training of 38 taxonomic technicians working in quarantine support  
*organised by SAFRINET for FAO*



## BioNET **LOOPs**:

*invasives, phytosanitary and quarantine support*

- ANDINONET: proposal for a Phytosanitary and IPM knowledge base and regional taxonomic support service
- ASEANET: Capacity needs identification for IAS management
- SAFRINET: invasives information hub; identification tools; automated systems
- WAFRINET: SP-IPM programme of CGIAR
- Technical Partners: Discoverlife, EUROLOOP, others

# Communicating...



BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, The Global Network for Taxonomy - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

← Back → Forward ↻ Refresh

Search Favorites Media

## BioNET-INTERNATIONAL

# THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR TAXONOMY

Member of **IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL is dedicated to supporting sustainable development by helping developing countries to overcome the **taxonomic impediment** by becoming self-reliant in taxonomy, i.e. self-reliant in the skills, infrastructure and technologies needed to discover, identify, name, classify and to understand the relationships of all organisms.

**Search EcoPort**  
BioNET-INTERNATIONAL has a Strategic Alliance with EcoPort, the Ecology Knowledge Portal

Go!

**About BioNET-INTERNATIONAL**

**Subregional Networks - the LOOPs of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL**

**Contacts**

**Partnerships**

**Global Taxonomy Initiative**

**NEWS and EVENTS**

Questionnaire: we want your thoughts on our communication products

**BULLETIN - LATEST: September 2003**  
English, español and Français announcements | TeoSec feedback | events

**NEWSLETTER**  
March 2003

15 September 2003  
**Trade: the world-wide need for quality plant quarantine services**  
The SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) provisions of the World Trade Organisation have placed new prominence on the activities and quality of plant quarantine services. To assist countries with implementing the necessary quality standards, CABI International has released *Guidance on Quality Management Systems for Plant Quarantine Testing Laboratories*.

**More information: [click here](#)**  
**WTO SPS Agreement: Understanding the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

9 September 2003  
**International Symposium - Information Systems for Biodiversity: Species and Ecosystems**  
Location: St. Petersburg, Russia

**3GTW Partnerships for GTI Implementation**

**MORE INFORMATION**

| **Call for Case Studies on Societal Impacts of Taxonomy**

| **Recommendations for CBD and GTI Focal Points**

| **Draft Action Plan with Commitments**

**BioNET-INTERNATIONAL**  
**The Global Network for Taxonomy**

***Boletín Mensual***  
**No. 37 SEPTIEMBRE DE 2003**

También disponible en PDF: [www.bionet-int.org](#)

**Technical Secretariat (TecSec)**  
[www.bionet-int.org](#)

*Palabras del Director*

El boletín de este mes presenta nuestra información de importancia estratégica para la Red Mundial. En primer lugar, hemos recibido referidos para ANDONET de parte de los gobiernos de Bolivia y Colombia. En conjunto con el referido ya recibido de Venezuela, esto completa los tres países mínimos requeridos, por lo cual nos complace anunciar el establecimiento formal de ANDONET y esperamos por su pronta implementación de actividades prioritarias. En segundo lugar, SARRONET ha recibido notificación de su aceptación formal como Miembro Asociado de GSBF, integrando de esta forma AGENET en el consejo directivo de GSBF y ayudando a integrar importantes perspectivas a los debates de GSBF. Otra buena noticia es que CTA está apoyando el establecimiento, mediante CARINET, de CarPestNet, una red en Internet de información y asesoramiento modelada basándose en la exitosa EcoPestNet, que ya ha sido adoptada y expandida al Sudeste AMIBIO por AGENET. Deseario que CarPestNet resulte tan útil en el Caribe como lo ha sido el modelo original en el Pacífico y alentamos a otras regiones a utilizar este excelente herramienta.

Lentamente estamos recibiendo Estudios de Caso, ordenados y listos para su publicación en Internet. Para ponerlos a su disposición, agréguenos uno por mes en la circulación del boletín - esperamos que encuentren útiles estos concisos ejemplos de la importancia de la taxonomía, y agradeceremos sus comentarios acerca de ellos. Con tres en total de un ejemplo muy práctico sobre el valor del

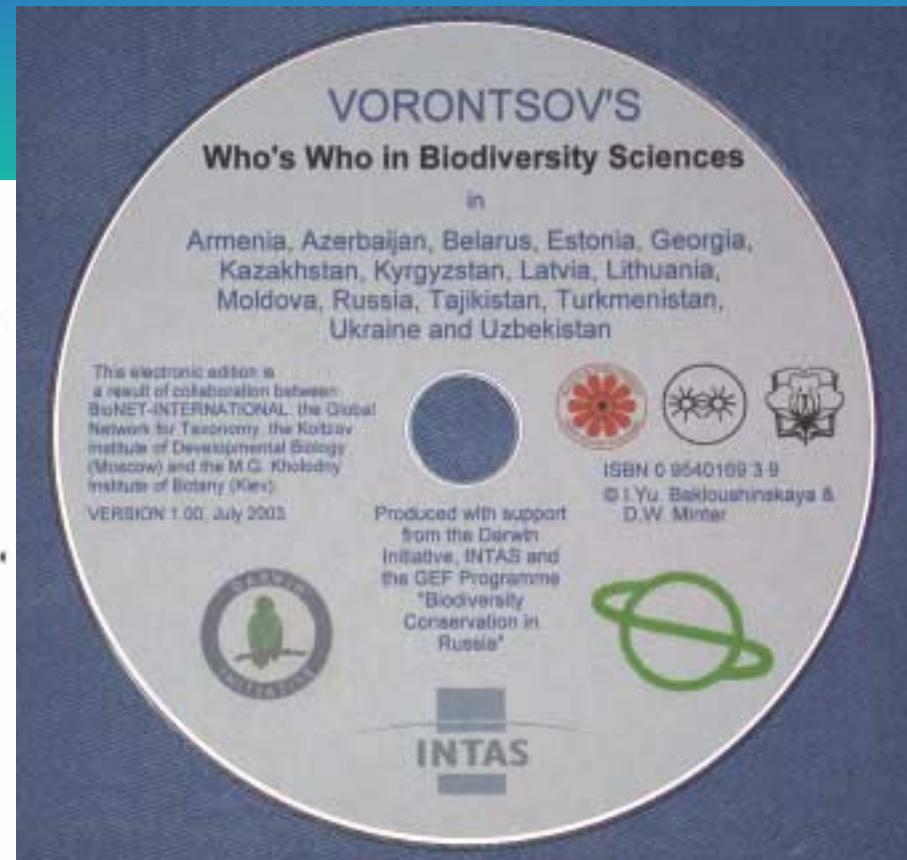
# Recent products



## Electronic distribution maps of Caribbean fungi



The maps have been produced using a database developed by the Darwin Initiative Fungi of the Caribbean project (1997-2000) undertaken as a partnership of Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática, La Habana; Jardín Botánico Nacional de La Habana; National Herbarium of Trinidad & Tobago; International Mycological Institute (CAB International); and CARINET - the Caribbean network of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, the Global Network for Taxonomy.  
 © D.W. Minter 2003. PDMS Publishing ISBN 0-9540169-4-7

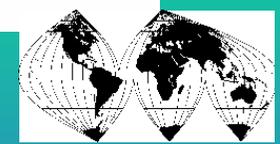




# LOOPs - facilitating partnerships



**DANCED**  
Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development  
Ministry of Environment and Energy



**Sida**





**1st BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Global Workshop (BIGW1) 1995, Cardiff**

**2nd BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Global Workshop (BIGW2) 1999, Cardiff**

**3rd BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Global Taxonomy Workshop 8-12 July 2002, Pretoria, South Africa:**

*“Towards Sustainable Development - Partnerships for building demand-driven taxonomic capacity”*



3GTW July 2002 and February 2003

## *Partnerships for building demand-driven taxonomic capacity*

- Organised by BioNET in collaboration with UNESCO-MAB, CBD and IPPC Secretariats
- 300 participants
- Taxonomists from 95 countries
- Users (IUCN, CI, WWF, CBD, IPPC, etc.)
- Technology and tool developers (GBIF, Fishbase, Discoverlife, EcoPort, ETI, SP2000, etc.)
- Resourcing / funding (UNEP-GEF, UNDP-GEF)
- OUTPUT: Action Plan for the Global Taxonomy Initiative



# GTI Action Plan

## - 9 elements

- End-user driven
- Political Partnership
- Global Partnership
- Awareness and Action
- Capacity Building
- Science
- Taxonomic Information
- Timelines
- Resourcing



# Convention on Biological Diversity, Global Taxonomy Initiative and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL



GTI Programme of Work (Decision VI/8)  
recognises that the LOOPs of BioNET-  
INTERNATIONAL can help with:

- **needs assessments**
- **awareness raising**
- **regional cooperation**
- **coordination and implementation of capacity building**

## Contents

- The CBD
- The GTI
- **GTI Work Programme**
- Taxonomic needs assessments
- **Capacity Building**



## Collaboration between initiatives is vital to build appropriate capacity

The GTI Programme of Work cites initiatives including:

- BioNET-INTERNATIONAL and its LOOPs
- GBIF
- GISP
- etc

as important partners, and emphasises their roles in implementation

## Contents

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- The GTI
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- **Capacity Building**



# Capacity Building

*“Capacity development at the national and regional levels ..[is].. a driving force in implementing the programme of work”*

*COPVI/8*



# *Thank you!*

## Interested?

Contact your Regional and National Coordinators  
via [bionet@bionet-intl.org](mailto:bionet@bionet-intl.org)  
[www.bionet-intl.org](http://www.bionet-intl.org)

## ...stay in touch

Bulletin - emailed monthly  
(English, Spanish, French)

upcoming events | product announcements