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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.

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. BioNET is donor funded; this publication and other international work is currently supported by a grant from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

New Developments

BioNET and Darwin Initiative: conserving unprotected and vulnerable microfungi

The UK Darwin Initiative has announced support for a three year BioNET project that aims to initiate a global movement for biodiversity conservation of microfungi, a huge array of organisms covered by the Convention on Biological Diversity, but currently with no explicit protection anywhere in the world. The project "Conservation of Microfungi: a voice for unprotected and vulnerable organisms" is being led by Principal Investigator David Minter (CABI), with partners from Eastern Europe to Africa, South America, South Asia, the Caribbean and the UK. The team will collaborate with IUCN's Sampled Red List project to provide a baseline for assessing progress towards the 2010 Target of the Convention on Biological Diversity. [More...](#) Email: bionet@bionet-intl.org

BioNET at 12th meeting of the CBD scientific body: the names we need to know - taxonomy for the 2010 target and beyond

From 2-6 July, BioNET participated in the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity ([SBSTTA](#)) in Paris. For BioNETTERS, two associated events were of particular significance. First, BioNET gave a [presentation](#) at a side event on approaches to global taxonomic needs and capacity assessments, organised by the German GTI national focal point ([read more...](#)). Highly important for BioNET and its future was a second event jointly organised by the BioNET and CBD Secretariats: "The names we need to know: taxonomy for the 2010 target and beyond". The event provided the framework for launching the [BioNET funding campaign](#) to SBSTTA delegates. It was also an opportunity for discussing the status of targeted taxonomic responses to the 2010 target and emerging prospects for mobilising taxonomy for future priorities of the biodiversity-related conventions and beyond. The session was chaired by Stella Simiyu (CBD Secretariat, BGCI and BioNET-EAFRINET), speakers included Ahmed Djoghlaif (Executive Secretary, CBD Secretariat), Peter Bridgewater (Secretary General, Ramsar Convention), Julie Griffin (IUCN Species Programme), Alan Paton (RBG Kew), Olivier Biber (Government of Switzerland), Ana Tiraa (SPREP & BioNET-PACINET), Ma Keping (Chinese Academy of Science), Richard Smith (BioNET Secretariat) and Chris Lyal (UK GTI Focal Point & NHM, London). See the [programme of the side event](#) including links to the presentations.

BioNET-NAFRINET: New Regional Coordinating Institute

With endorsement from the National CBD Focal Point for Tunisia, the Borj Cedria Technopark, Tunisia, has been appointed as Regional Network Coordinating Institute for BioNET-NAFRINET by acclamation at the first NAFRINET Coordinating Committee meeting. The meeting was held in Morocco and hosted by the Institut Scientifique at the Université Mohamed V – Agdal. Participants included national NAFRINET representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, BioNET's Secretariat and experts from Botanic

Gardens Conservation International and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). Discussions focussed on development of a work plan to promote taxonomy in the region, including a BioNET seed funding programme for the coming 12 months. The meeting was made possible by the NAFRINET National Coordinating Institutions, the BioNET Fund and IUCN. **Contact:** Professor Mohamed Elyes Kchouk, NAFRINET Regional Coordinator & Unit Head, Aromatic & Medicinal Plant Unit. **Tel:** +216 (71) 430 855, **Fax:** +216 (71) 430 934, **Email:** kchouk.lyes@planet.tn

New biodiversity data access portal

An important new internet [Data Portal](#) was launched on 2 July 2007 by GBIF, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. The launch event took place at an international meeting for scientific and technical advice to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The new Data Portal is a gateway to more than 130 million data records provided by 200 institutions scattered over 30 countries around the world. To read the press release click [here](#). BioNET and four of its ten regional partnerships are members of GBIF. **Tel:** +45 3532 1484, **Email:** mlane@gbif.org

2007 Ebbe Nielsen Prize for biodiversity informatics

The 2007 Ebbe Nielsen Prize has been awarded by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, [GBIF](#), to Paul Flemons of the Australian Museum, Sydney. Flemons understands the importance of the interplay between natural history collections data, visualization and analysis tools, and conservation decision-making. He has published in top-tier scientific journals, but at the same time he builds software applications that are intuitive and maximize the user experience for both scientists and non-scientists. BioNET, as a member of GBIF, applauds the annual awarding of the Ebbe Nielsen Prize, the only one in the world that is given in the area of biodiversity informatics. *Source:* Eurekalert / PGR News from the Pacific.

Kenya to host Africa's newest agriculture body

The Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) will have its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, said the new Chairman of the Board, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. AGRA is an initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Bill and Melinda Gates foundation has donated \$150 million to start the new initiative. [More...](#)

Developing countries seek fair deal on intellectual property rights

50 developing countries in Asia and Africa called on developed countries to accept a greater measure of international protection for traditional cultural expression, traditional knowledge and genetic resources. The move is aimed at protecting the intellectual property (IP) of developing countries from unfair use by developed countries. The demand came in the Bandung Declaration, made during a meeting of the Asia-Africa Forum in Bandung, Indonesia. It seeks to stop the unfair use by developed nations of the IP resources of developing countries and prevent "all forms of misuse, distortion and misappropriation". [More...](#) *Source:* [Traditional Knowledge Bulletin](#)

Kenya signs deal to exploit microbial goldmine

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has entered a five-year biotechnology research partnership with a Danish company to use enzymes with potential industrial applications, especially in biofuels and medicine. [More...](#) *Source:* [SciDev.net](#)

Ants employed to defend African mangoes and more

African farmers could control fruit fly damage to mango, citrus fruit, cashew and cocoa crops by using the weaver ant as a method of biological control, according to researchers. Fruit fly damage has a large economic impact on African farmers. As pesticides are often

too expensive, fruits may be harvested before maturity to prevent damage, but an estimated 40 per cent is still lost. The European Union and the United States have banned imports of West African mangoes due to fruit fly damage. Paul Van Mele and colleagues published their work in the June edition of the Journal of Economic Entomology. [More...](#)
Source: [SciDev.net](#)

Chinese scientists find why some plants are good neighbours

A discovery about how some plants can increase the yields of others could lead to farmers using less chemical fertilizer. [More...](#) Source: [SciDev.net](#)

World Bank evaluation calls for more cross-border solutions to development challenges

The [World Bank Independent Evaluation Group](#) has released a study entitled "The Development Potential of Regional Programs". The report finds that cross-border development programs can deliver strong results in environmental protection and other areas such as combating the spread of communicable diseases. Key components that need to be in place to make regional programs more successful:

*Each participating country needs to be committed to the regional effort.

*Regional programs need to have a clear division of responsibilities between the national and regional institutions.

*Governance arrangements need to give the participating countries a voice.

[More...](#) Source: [SciDev.net](#)

Events | Only newly posted events are listed here. For a full listing, click [here](#).

5-9 September 2007

Fifth Planta Europa conference: "Working Together for Plants", Cluj Napoca, Romania
[More...](#)

7-10 October 2007

Entomological Society of Nigeria: 38th Annual Conference, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. **Contact:** Dr. S.S. Ogbogu, **Tel:** 234 803 390 2494, **Email:** slyd58@yahoo.com

11 February-21 March 2008

Natural History Collections Management Training Program for Latin American and Caribbean, The National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. USA. [More...](#) **Contact:** Sally Shelton, **Tel:** +202.633.0835, **Fax:** +202 786 2328, **Email:** sheltons@si.edu

25-29 February 2008

GSDI 10: Tenth International Conference for Spatial Data Infrastructure, St. Augustine, Trinidad. Submissions relating to the GSDI-10 theme of "Small Island Perspectives on Global Challenges: The Role of Spatial Data in Supporting a Sustainable Future" are particularly attractive. [Submission procedures](#) | [More...](#)

5-14 October 2008

4th IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain. **Contact:** John Kidd, **Email:** john.kidd@iucn.org [More...](#)

Publications

Libro Rojo de las Plantas Endémicas del Peru (in Spanish)

The Red Data Book of Peru's endemic plants was published as a Special Edition of the Revista Peruana de Biología at the end of March 2007. Over 5500 taxa are recognized as

restricted to Peru. Endemism is reported for 36 genera. More than 40 botanists participated in this project. [More...](#) **Email:** blanca.leon@mail.utexas.edu

Flore Pratique du Maroc Volume 2

Publisher: Institut Scientifique, Rabat (BioNET-NAFRINET National Coordinating Institute, Morocco), Author: Mohamed Fennane *et al.* **Tel:**+212 (0)37 77 45 43, **Fax:** +212 (0)37 77 45 40, **Email:** Fennane@israbat.ac.ma | edition@israbat.ac.ma

INASP Newsletter

[Read](#) Newsletter No. 34.

New publications from CABI

*Forest Genetics

*Insect Conservation Biology

*Poisonous Plants: Global Research and Solutions

*Agricultural Biotechnology and Intellectual Property Protection: Seeds of Change

*Decentralization and the Social Economics of Development: Lessons from Kenya

*Heat Treatments for Postharvest Pest Control

Email: orders@cabi.org

Vacancies

Global Project Manager UNEP/GEF Pest and Disease project

Deadline: 30 September 2007. Based in Rome, Italy. [Details](#). **Fax:** +39 066118341, **Email:** biodiversityvacancy@cgiar.org

Grants

Request for Proposals: The IABIN Specimen and Species Thematic Network

This Request for Proposals seeks proposals from organizations that house high-quality invasive alien species information and data. Proposals that are accepted will be awarded seed grants for making data publicly available through the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) Invasive Species Thematic Network (I3N). Only organisations in 32 countries as identified by the Organization of American States and the World Bank are eligible to apply for use of these GEF funds. Full details are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). **Closing date:** 3 September 2007. **Email:** rbesana@iabin.net

Call for proposals: SYNTHESYS - Taxonomic Access Facilities (TAFs)

SYNTHESYS announces the Seventh call for proposals under the European Commission's FPVI European-funded Integrated Infrastructure Initiative. SYNTHESYS is a five-year project comprising two parts which together aim to create an integrated European infrastructure for researchers in the natural sciences. SYNTHESYS Project funding is available to provide scientists (Users) based in European Member and Associated States to undertake short visits to utilize the infrastructure (namely the collections, staff expertise and analytical facilities) at one of the 20 partner institutions for the purposes of their research. [More...](#) **Closing date:** 28 September 2007. **Email:** synthesys@nhm.ac.uk

BioNET LOOP contacts

Established LOOPS

ANDINONET

<http://www.andinonet.org.ve>

Regional Coordinator:

Prof José Clavijo:

clamiche@telcel.net.ve

CARINET

<http://carinet.ecoport.org>

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Ron Barrow: carinet@trinidad.net

EAFRINET - [profile](#)

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Wanja Kinuthia:

eafrinet@africaonline.co.ke

NAFRINET - [profile](#)

Regional Coordinator:

Contact BioNET

SAFRINET

<http://safrinet.ecoport.org>

Regional Coordinator:

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ASEANET - [profile](#)

<http://www.aseanet.org>

Secretariat:

Dr Soetikno Sastroutomo:

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EASIANET

<http://www.easianet.nies.go.jp/hk>

Regional Coordinator:

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EuroLOOP

Regional Coordinator:

Dr S. Ulenberg ulenberg@science.uva.nl

PACINET - [profile](#)

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Gilianne Brodie brodie_g@usp.ac.fj

WAFRINET [profile](#)

<http://www.iita.org/wafrinet/>

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Braima James: b.james@cgiar.org

SACNET – South Asia

<http://www.biodiversityasia.org/sacnet>

Interim Regional Coordinating Institute: IUCN-

Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia.

Dr Channa Bambaradeniya

cnb@iucnsl.org

LOOPS under development

LATINET – South America

Southern Cone - [profile](#)

Contact Dr Mercedes Lizarralde de

Grosso

ticky@csnat.unt.edu.ar

MesoAmeriNET - [profile](#)

Interim Regional Coordinating Institute:

INBio, Costa Rica

Contact Alvaro Herrera:

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NEURASIANET

Interim Regional Coordinators:

Dr Alexander Ryss: nema@zin.ru