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OUTLINE OF THE GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE GUIDE

Note by the Executive Secretary

1.   In paragraph 5 of its decision VI/8 on Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to complete the guide to the GTI, and provide information and clarification to Parties and other Governments concerning the GTI, in particular on the process for developing projects aimed at implementing the programme of work, including existing guidance from the financial mechanism.

2.   In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has prepared the attached outline of the GTI guide for the consideration of SBSTTA at its tenth meeting. The guide is intended to provide an overview of how the GTI can support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to describe how taxonomic considerations can be integrated into the Convention's programmes of work on thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. It is also intended to elucidate the mechanisms for implementing the GTI, to clarify the roles of national focal points, the clearing-house mechanism (CHM), the GTI Coordination Mechanism and regional workshops, highlight the required interactions and cooperation with other organizations and stakeholders, and provide information on sources of funding, as well as references to taxonomy projects funded by the Global Environment Facility.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

        The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) may wish to review and endorse the outline of the GTI guide as annexed to the present note.

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*   UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/1.

Annex

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Foreword

Executive summary

The executive summary provides a condensed narrative of the purpose and scope of the GTI guide and highlights key messages on the GTI, the programme of work and the mechanisms for promoting its implementation.

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter explains the purpose of the guide, defines the science of taxonomy, and highlights the taxonomic impediment and the reasons why the GTI was established as a cross-cutting issue under the Convention. It describes the types of gaps found in taxonomic work relevant to the Convention and the lack of taxonomic capacity required for the implementation of the Convention.

Chapter 2: Background

This chapter provides a brief overview of the Convention and describes the historical background of the GTI and its operation within the context of the Convention. It highlights the objectives of the GTI and the processes and mechanisms for its implementation.

Chapter 3: The programme of work for the GTI

This chapter describes how the GTI programme of work can contribute to the implementation of the thematic work programmes and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. It contains 18 sections representing the 18 planned activities of the GTI work programme. Each section describes the key issues to be addressed, ways and means of implementation; as well as specific activities to be implemented by the Parties and other partners. The chapter also lists ongoing initiatives and programmes, relevant to the respective planned activities.

Chapter 4: Developing the GTI and monitoring its progress

This chapter articulates the range of actions and mechanisms that promote implementation, building on earlier chapters. The chapter describes pilot projects, the role of national focal points, the clearing-house mechanism and the GTI Coordination Mechanism in the implementation of the programme of work. It also highlights the need for communication, education and public awareness of taxonomic issues. In addition the relationship of the GTI to the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the 2010 biodiversity target, mechanisms for monitoring progress in implementation, including a brief discussion on the forthcoming review of the GTI at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and its possible impact on future work.

Chapter 5: Funding for the GTI

This chapter explains how finances can be mobilized for implementing the programme of work. It also highlights various funding sources for taxonomy related projects and provides examples of GEF funded projects.

Chapter 6: Information sources and useful contacts

This chapter provides information on appropriate taxonomic tools, presented in various text boxes and annexes, useful additional literature and information sources and key partners to assist the Parties in implementing the GTI.

Annexes/boxes

Annexes and boxes contain supplementary and more technical information, including some texts from decisions of the Conference of the Parties. Annexes will include:

(a)   Supplementary information;

(b)   Information sources and further reading;

(c)   Contact addresses and URLs of key organizations and initiatives;

(d)   Glossary of terms;

(e)   Key paragraphs of decisions of the Conference of the Parties referring explicitly to the GTI or more generally to taxonomic needs for implementing the Convention's programmes of work on the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues.