



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/5
26 September 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

Fifteenth meeting

Montreal, 7-11 November 2011

Item 3.3 of the provisional agenda*

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR THE GLOBAL
TAXONOMY INITIATIVE**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative was established to assist the Executive Secretary to facilitate international cooperation and coordinate activities under the Global Taxonomy Initiative in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to decision V/9, in which only a general mandate was to be completed by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, held in The Hague in April 2002.
2. The Executive Secretary made amendments to the terms of reference in collaboration with the Coordination Mechanism (CM) for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI). These were peer-reviewed by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) Bureau, Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations.
3. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary is circulating herewith the amended terms of reference, for the information of participants in the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/1/Rev.1.

/...

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR THE GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE

1. According to the mandate provided by the fifth Conference of the Parties in decision V/9, the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) shall assist the Executive Secretary to facilitate international cooperation and to coordinate activities on matters pertaining to the implementation and development of the Global Taxonomy Initiative. It will support implementation of the programme of work for the GTI and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), including the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2011-2020, where appropriate funds can be provided for capacity development, advise the Executive Secretary as requested, and provide information on progress of the GTI at regional and global levels prior to every other meeting of SBSTTA and, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties.
2. The Coordination Mechanism for the GTI will, as appropriate, provide suggestions to the Executive Secretary on how to monitor the progress of taxonomic capacity development through the National Reports, and will provide analysis of these data on the effectiveness of GTI implementation on national level implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. The Coordination Mechanism for GTI will assist the Executive Secretary and the ad hoc technical expert group on post-2010 indicators in developing an indicator in order to assess the progress on the implementation of the programme of work for the Initiative as needed.
4. The Coordination Mechanism for the GTI will collaborate with the Executive Secretary to draft a comprehensive capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative at global and regional levels that addresses the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2010, taking into account the infrastructural needs for delivering taxonomic information and other relevant deliverables indicated in the annex to decision IX/22 to Parties.
5. With regard to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Coordination Mechanism will coordinate the activities of regional and global networks to:
 - (a) Support GTI National Focal Points, taxonomic experts and institutions in contributing to the process of developing or reviewing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, taking into account the existing taxonomic capacity;
 - (b) Advise the Executive Secretary about technical and technological ways to use the time and outcome-oriented deliverables for the planned activities of the GTI programme of work for Parties in national reports as appropriate, and;
 - (c) Assist the Executive Secretary to liaise with relevant organizations and individuals, and to support national and regional capacity-building in taxonomy and biodiversity research, *inter alia* through training and workshops for young scientists and implementers of the Convention on Biological Diversity where appropriate funds can be provided.
6. The Coordination Mechanism for the GTI will also identify synergies of activities in support of other programmes of the Convention, including its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
7. Other tasks and duties of the Coordination Mechanism for the GTI include:

(a) Provide scientific and technical assistance on all matters relevant to the GTI to the Executive Secretary, as appropriate and needed;

(b) Provide updates on information about relevant actions through the regional and global networks/projects, particularly against the outcome-oriented deliverables and other relevant outputs;

(c) Establish and maintain communication with GTI National Focal Points, institutions, organizations and partners relevant for the GTI;

(d) Liaise with GTI National Focal Points and relevant stakeholders for other Convention on Biological Diversity thematic areas, programmes and cross-cutting issues, as mandated by and relevant for, the GTI programme of work;

(e) Support fund raising and public awareness efforts for the activities of GTI and biodiversity research, as appropriate;

(f) Continue to raise awareness on the importance of taxonomy and the GTI.

8. The Executive Secretary, in agreement with such members, may invite one or more of the members of the Coordination Mechanism to facilitate/coordinate tasks mentioned in paragraph 7 above.

9. Membership of the Coordination Mechanism for the GTI includes:

(a) Co-chairs from a developed and developing country.

(b) Regional members composed of two regional representatives each from: **Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), The Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and The Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG)**, who will be selected on a rotational basis. The regional representatives will be nominated by Parties and relevant regional or global networks and selected by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the existing members of the Coordination Mechanism, taking into account the taxonomic needs to implement decisions, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2010. Upon selection of the co-chairs at the first meeting (paragraph 12), the Executive Secretary, one additional back-up from each of the regions selected by the co-chairs shall be named.

(c) The selected regional members will be approved by the SBSTTA bureau.

(d) Taking into account decisions V/9, VI/8, VII/9, VIII/3, IX/22 and X/39, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), The Global Environment Facility (GEF), BioNET INTERNATIONAL, the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI), Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), International Barcode of Life (iBOL), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) and Species 2000 are invited to be represented by one person from each organization on the Coordination Mechanism by the Executive Secretary.

(e) The Executive Secretary may invite representation at individual meetings of the Coordination Mechanism from relevant United Nations organizations, relevant users of taxonomy, donor organizations and scientific institutions, preferably participating Consortium of Scientific Partners for biodiversity.

10. Qualification of the members:

(a) Regional members are preferably experts in biodiversity sciences or serving in past GTI National Focal Points or involved in regional networks for taxonomic capacity-building, including BioNET International, International Barcode of Life, Global Biodiversity Information Facility or other initiatives suggested as actors to deliver the Object Oriented Deliverables for the Global Taxonomy Initiative programme of work in the annex to decision IX/22.

(b) Organizations will be invited based on their activities and involvement in international collaboration in biodiversity research, in the context of implementation of the programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity which require improvement in taxonomic capacity, including generation, maintenance, sharing and use of biodiversity information.

11. Duration of term:

(a) Each member will serve for at least one two-year term.

(b) Each regional member from **Africa, Asia-Pacific, CEE, GRULAC and WEOG** may serve for a maximum two consecutive terms. Extension beyond two terms is as determined by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Convention on Biodiversity National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points and GTI National Focal Points.

12. Co-chairs of the Coordination Mechanism:

(a) At the first formal meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for the GTI after these Terms of Reference are approved, the members of the Coordination Mechanism will elect a Chair and two co-chairs from amongst its members and report to the Executive Secretary.

(b) The co-chairs, or their designates, will convene all formal meetings of the CM on behalf of the Executive Secretary, and prepare a report for the Executive Secretary after each meeting.

13. Meetings of the Coordination Mechanism

(a) Meetings of the Coordination Mechanism can only take place with adequate representation from all regions, and subject to available resources. Meetings may be electronically held.

(b) Observers are welcome to attend meetings.
