

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Between

**The Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity**

And

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter “the CBD Secretariat”) and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, the Global Network for Taxonomy (hereinafter “BioNET-INTERNATIONAL”),

Recalling paragraph 3 of decision III/10 which endorsed the recommendation II/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice concerning capacity-building for taxonomy,

Recalling decision V/9 which established the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the Global Taxonomy Initiative Coordination Mechanism and invited all interested international and regional conventions, initiatives and programmes to indicate their support for the Global Taxonomy Initiative,

Recalling also that by its decision VI/8, the Conference of the Parties identified BioNET-INTERNATIONAL as an actor in the implementation of the programme of work of the Global Taxonomy Initiative and that BioNET-INTERNATIONAL has been a member of the Global Taxonomy Initiative Coordination Mechanism since its formation,

Noting that the CBD Secretariat is a member of the BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Fund Supervisory Board,

Recognizing that BioNET-INTERNATIONAL is an international initiative comprised of government endorsed, sub-regional, technical cooperation networks (*LOOPS*) supported by a Secretariat with the overall aim of furthering efforts to make taxonomic expertise and information rapidly and locally accessible to developing countries in forms appropriate for meeting CBD and other needs,

Recognizing also that BioNET-INTERNATIONAL seeks to promote understanding of the relevance of taxonomy to sustainable development, provide and facilitate capacity building and policy development services and foster technical and scientific cooperation for taxonomic capacity building,

Noting that the CBD Clearing-house Mechanism’s mission is to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation within and among countries, to develop a global

mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity, and to develop the necessary human and technological network for this purpose,

Desirous to enhance cooperation in order to adequately respond to a number of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties concerning capacity building in taxonomy; exchange and dissemination of relevant information; scientific, technical and institutional collaboration at sub-regional, regional and international levels; and transfer of technology and technology cooperation; as well as relevant decisions relating to the Biosafety Protocol,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 **Objective**

The objective of this Memorandum is to establish a framework of collaboration between BioNET-INTERNATIONAL and the CBD Secretariat with a view to further common goals. These goals include promoting and facilitating taxonomic capacity building and related technical and scientific cooperation and technology development and transfer needed to overcome the taxonomic impediment to implementing the three objectives of the Convention.

Article 2

Areas of Cooperation

The Parties to this Memorandum will undertake collaborative activities in the following areas:

- Scientific and technical cooperation related to the Global Taxonomy Initiative, Clearing-house Mechanism; biosafety; transfer of technology and technology cooperation; and the 2010 target to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss;
- Promotion of capacity building, cooperation and technology transfer through innovative approaches such as type-2 partnerships or transfers among relevant actors, involving in particular the private sector and civil-society organizations; and
- Any other area of mutual interest.

Article 2 **Responsibilities of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL**

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL will:

1. Act as a key agency for the implementation of the programme of work of the GTI in accordance with decision VI/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

2. Establish and administer a GTI seed money programme for capacity building in taxonomy, with money raised through fundraising;
3. Promote the delivery of rapidly and locally accessible taxonomic expertise and information in forms appropriate for achieving the objectives of the CBD;
4. Promote technology transfer through partnerships between users and providers of technology, information sharing and through the development of appropriate tools;
5. Promote understanding of the relevance of taxonomy to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
6. Promote cooperation between taxonomists and end-users of taxonomy in various sectors, including biodiversity, agriculture, trade, scientific research and government;
7. Promote capacity building to support biodiversity information sharing;
8. Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of the CBD Secretariat in BioNET-INTERNATIONAL activities, particularly BioNET-INTERNATIONAL LOOP Formulation Workshops, Global Taxonomy Workshops and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Board meetings;
9. Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of the CBD Secretariat in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation;
10. Participate as appropriate in the GTI Coordination Mechanism;
11. Collaborate with the CBD Secretariat in the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action developed during the third Global Taxonomy Workshop and the Paris workshop held in 2003;
12. Promote and facilitate the transfer of, and access to, pertinent technologies, and promote technological and scientific cooperation, by:
 - Contributing to the development and application of institutional, administrative, legislative and policy tools and mechanisms that facilitate access to, and adaptation of, relevant technologies;
 - Developing and applying mechanisms that encourage scientific and technical research, including joint research programmes, that strengthen national research institutions for the adaptation and further development of imported technologies; and
 - Contributing, as appropriate, to implementation of other elements of the CBD programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation.
13. Provide relevant information to the CBD Secretariat for dissemination through the Clearing-house Mechanism;
14. Work with the Clearing-house Mechanism to facilitate and promote technical and scientific cooperation;
15. Facilitate access to information and expertise found in BioNET-INTERNATIONAL LOOPS by GTI and CHM national focal points.
16. Promote and assist the increased interaction of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL national and regional LOOP coordinators with GTI and CHM national focal points; and

17. Promote the overall objectives and implementation of the CBD in all relevant fora and as a basis for taxonomic capacity building activities.

Article 3

Responsibilities of the CBD SECRETARIAT

The CBD SECRETARIAT will:

1. Collaborate with BioNET-INTERNATIONAL in the implementation of the programme of work for the GTI.
2. Disseminate relevant information received from BioNET-INTERNATIONAL to Parties, Governments, relevant international organizations, and the general public, as appropriate.
3. Raise awareness among Parties of activities carried out by BioNET-INTERNATIONAL by making relevant information available on the Convention on Biological Diversity website.
4. Participate as appropriate in BioNET-INTERNATIONAL activities, particularly in BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's Board, regional BioNET-INTERNATIONAL LOOP and Global Taxonomy Workshops.
5. Promote cooperation between Global Taxonomy Initiative and Clearing-house Mechanism national focal points and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL LOOPS, with a view to promote the enhancement of capacities, technical and scientific cooperation and exchange of information.
6. Assist with fund-raising as appropriate to support implementation of the programme of work of the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the Global Taxonomy Initiative seed money programme for capacity building in taxonomy.

Article 5

Execution of specific activities

1. The execution of specific collaborative activities will be effected through annexures relating to such activities agreed upon by the Parties.
2. Such annexures will form an integral part of this Memorandum.

Article 6

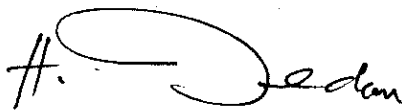
Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between the CBD Secretariat and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled through consultation and negotiation. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement through such consultation and negotiation, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) presently in force.

Article 7

Entry into force, amendment and Termination

- a) The present Memorandum will enter into force upon signature by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Director of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL.
- b) Any amendment to this Memorandum will be effected only on the basis of written agreement of the CBD SECRETARIAT and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL.
- c) This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party giving six-months written notice.



For and on behalf of the Convention on
Biological Diversity
Dr. Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary



For and on behalf of BioNET-
INTERNATIONAL
Dr. Richard Smith
Acting Director

Date 14/7/2004

Date 19/7/04