

## REPORT

# Building BioNET's future

A meeting jointly organised by BioNET and CABI

17th – 19th August 2011, Equatorial Hotel, Bangi, Malaysia.

Kornelia Rassmann

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## 1. Executive summary

With the ending of support from the BioNET Secretariat's main funder, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the BioNET Board decided in May 2011 to end the Global Programme and disband the current BioNET Secretariat by 31 August 2011. BioNET - the global network for taxonomy - will continue with 10 regional networks (LOOPS), 105 member countries and over 2,000 individual members. To secure the global presence of the network and explore how global, coordination and communication of the network could continue, the BioNET Secretariat and BioNET-ASEANET invited representatives from all LOOPS as well as from CABI to meet in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 17-19 August 2011. The meeting sought to define new global organisation and governance structures for BioNET, agree to an outline proposal from CABI for continuing some BioNET Global Secretariat functions and define if and how BioNET will contribute to CABI's Plantwise initiative.

The meeting successfully addressed these agenda items. The participants agreed on a new global governance mechanism for BioNET, defined responsibilities for prioritised global secretariat functions to take BioNET forward, and were very appreciative of the CABI proposal, embracing the prospect of support through time of CABI's new Director, International Liaison (Sarah Simons), and a new position to be created at BioNET-ASEANET. The LOOP representatives were also positive about the collaboration with Plantwise, identifying areas for collaboration and benefits for both BioNET and Plantwise.

### **BioNET's Strategy 2012-16**

The meeting participants agreed in principle to the draft BioNET Strategy 2012-16, encompassing the proposed purpose, focal themes (biodiversity and agriculture/food security), niche, mission and six strategic goals. On the basis of this, a refined strategy will be developed by the new BioNET governance body in consultation with the International Secretariat.

### **BioNET's organisation post August 2011**

To maintain a cohesive network and ensure a global presence of BioNET, the meeting defined priority secretariat functions including 1) Fundraising for the Global Programme; 2) Knowledge exchange / coordination; 3) Marketing, branding, communication, PR, and awareness raising; 4) Maintaining partnerships and linkages; and 5) Monitoring and Evaluation. The participants agreed clear activities and responsibilities that will allow these functions to be maintained under the reduced funding situation. Responsibilities will be distributed between the Secretariat to be provided by CABI and others identified by participants. Some existing Secretariat assets will be continued including the website, the contacts database and the existing monitoring and evaluation documentation and PR materials.

### **BioNET's governance post August 2011**

The meeting identified and constituted an 'Interim BioNET Council' (IBC) for a maximum period of one year (until the next body has been established) to work with CABI's International (BioNET) Secretariat. The Council will be composed of one representative per LOOP, a representative of the International Secretariat (Sarah Simons), two invitees to be co-opted (Chris Lyal and Richard Smith); other members are optional. Mohamed Kchouk was elected as Chair and José Clavijo as Vice Chair.

In order to allow the new Council to start operating quickly, the representatives of the current BioNET Board who were present at the Malaysia meeting convened and decided that from 1 September they would pass on all operations in terms of strategy to the IBC. The only remaining responsibility of the current Board will be oversight of the BioNET Fund, with the expectation that this will be fully drawn down by the end of year when the current Board will dissolve. This decision was later endorsed by Board members not present at the meeting.

### **The CABI proposal**

The LOOP representatives appreciated CABI's proposal and agreed to accept it as a non-exclusive proposal to be reviewed after one year. The proposal provides for a minimum 30% time from the International Secretariat (Sarah Simons) and a full time officer located at BioNET-ASEANET. The duration of the proposal is one year, renewable for up to 5 years subject to an annual assessment of results by CABI. Other direct costs (e.g. website) will have to be negotiated with CABI and will need prioritisation and costing.

### **BioNET's contribution to CABI's Plantwise initiative**

The offer of preferred partner status in CABI's Plantwise initiative and the potential for collaboration sparked considerable discussion and many linkages were found between BioNET activities at the national and regional levels and the objectives of Plantwise. It was apparent that collaboration would be beneficial for both BioNET and Plantwise and the LOOP representatives present at this meeting took the general decision that there was interest in principle from BioNET to participate in Plantwise. Several areas of collaboration where BioNET can contribute to Plantwise were identified, e.g. assistance in expansion of Plantwise networks into new countries and regions, support of diagnostic and identification needs in countries where Plantwise is active, assistance in the training of 'Plant Doctors', support of the development of the Plantwise image library, and contribution of appropriate data and content as well as Information Quality Assurance for the Plantwise Knowledge Bank. In order to define BioNET's participation in Plantwise in more detail, the LOOP representatives will need to take back the results of the meeting to their LOOPS and discuss the opportunities; for this, further information and clarification on the Plantwise initiative and its priorities is to be provided by CABI.

## 2. Introduction

### Background and context

Following very generous support for BioNET since 1995, SDC decided mid 2010 that, in the context of their current priorities they are no longer able to provide support for the BioNET Global Programme. The [external evaluation of BioNET's results 2007-10](#) was very positive about the achievements of the network and Global Secretariat and it was anticipated that this could result in a new phase for the Secretariat with support from new / other donors. However, in the absence of other funding for the BioNET Global Secretariat, major changes in the way that BioNET is structured are required and the Board, at their meeting 16/17 May 2011, took the following decisions:

- The Global Programme will end and the current BioNET Global Secretariat team will be disbanded at the end of August 2011.
- CABI, the host of the Global Secretariat, has provided an outline proposal for continuing some Secretariat functions through 30% staff time of its new Director, International Liaison (Sarah Simons); the proposal has been sent to the LOOPS for discussion and agreement.
- CABI is also inviting LOOPS to consider participating in its "[Plantwise](#)" project, an initiative to improve food security and the lives of the rural poor by reducing crop losses. Plantwise is reducing crop losses and improving lives by gathering, organising and disseminating vital knowledge about plant health, first, via a network of [plant clinics](#) in the developing world and, second, internationally via a [knowledge bank](#).

### Purpose and overview of the meeting

The Board tasked the current BioNET Secretariat to prepare a plan for a meeting in consultation with the Board that should allow the BioNET-LOOPS and CABI to explore options on how to collaborate from September and best build on the very positive outcomes achieved by the network to date. The goals of the meeting as specified in the Board minutes were:

- Agreeing a strategy for taking BioNET forward
- Agreeing and implementing a new Governance structure
- Agreeing to the CABI proposal for an International Secretariat or to any other proposal for providing the BioNET Global Secretariat / some of its functions
- Agreeing prioritisation and distribution of Secretariat activities
- Agreeing a detailed strategy for synergy with Plantwise

The agenda of the meeting (Annex 7.1) was developed in consultation with CABI UK (Plantwise), the Director, International Liaison (Sarah Simons), the meeting participants (LOOP representatives), and the Board. It defined two main parts of the meeting, with their respective objectives:

#### 1. Organisation and governance of BioNET at the global level

- a. Agreed Roadmap for taking BioNET forward, aiming to secure BioNET's global presence
- b. Agreed prioritisation of Global BioNET functions
- c. Agreed new governance structure for BioNET
- d. Adoption of ToR for LOOPS and the BioNET membership structure
- e. Agree to the CABI proposal for an International Secretariat and to consider additional proposals for supporting/ providing the BioNET Global Secretariat / some of its functions

#### 2. BioNET participation in CABI's Plantwise initiative

- f. Introduce Plantwise to BioNET LOOPS
- g. Identify and prioritise potential BioNET contributions
- h. Define elements for CABI's Plantwise proposal to SDC
- i. Agree a Roadmap for taking forward BioNET's cooperation with Plantwise and links with CABI Centres

### 3. Participants

The meeting gathered 26 participants from around the world (see Annex 7.2 for details):

- 10 out of 12 established and proposed LOOPS were represented at the meeting by 14 LOOP members;
- Margo Leach and Phil Taylor contributed background information on the CABI Plantwise initiative;
- CABI Management was represented by Sarah Simons (Director, International Liaison) and Paul Bridge (Director, Bioservices);
- Richard Smith participated as the outgoing Director, BioNET Secretariat;
- Two external experts offered advice to the meeting, Stella Simiyu (Botanic Gardens Conservation International) and Ian Naumann (Director, SPS Capacity Building Program, Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Fisheries);
- Loke Wai Hong (CABI Southeast and East Asia) and Soetikno Sastroutomo (CABI Southeast and East Asia and Technical Secretary BioNET-ASEANET) were present as hosts of the meeting;
- Facilitation was provided by John Mauremootoo (freelance Regional Programme Officer, BioNET Secretariat), assisted by Chris Lyal (outgoing Chair of the BioNET Board) as co-facilitator during some of the sessions, and Kornelia Rassmann as rapporteur (freelance Global Programme Officer, BioNET Secretariat); despite their affiliation with the BioNET Secretariat or Board, the facilitation team laid great emphasis on remaining completely neutral in their respective roles at the meeting, strictly avoiding to impose opinions or influence decisions, but focus solely on the group and facilitation process.

The workshop was supported financially by SDC's contribution to the current BioNET Global Programme, by CABI-UK supporting the air travel of Phil Taylor and by Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Fisheries which supported Ian Naumann's travel.

## 4. Part 1: Organisation and governance of BioNET post-August 2011

### 4.1. Contributions and facilitation process

#### Contributions

Sarah Simons opened the meeting pointing out that BioNET was at a crossroads and there was the need to take important decisions. The current Secretariat had an extremely important role ensuring the cohesiveness of the network, and the work of the dedicated team was highly valued; the recent evaluation was very successful, highlighting the relevance of taxonomy as well as BioNET's work and the need for a global network. CABI recognised the important role of BioNET and particularly the LOOPS. It had provided support for BioNET in the past and now it offered to continue further assistance through limited financial support and preferred partner status in CABI's Plantwise initiative. The objectives of this meeting were now for the LOOPS to explore whether i) there is merit in implementing the CABI proposal, and ii) what the LOOPS can offer to Plantwise. In addition, in the absence of other donor funding the main immediate objective for BioNET now would be fundraising.

Sarah Simons further conveyed a message from Trevor Nichols, the Chief Executive Officer of CABI, who hoped that the meeting participants would be able to develop a shared plan to continue the excellent work that BioNET carries out. CABI had supported BioNET in-kind and financially in the past, and had small funds available to invest to maintain some of the core functions of the Secretariat. BioNET's potential contribution to Plantwise should only be viewed as part of BioNET's functions. CABI's support should provide a life line to BioNET in this transition phase and support the broad cause of taxonomy, the broader expertise of the network in key development issues and capacity building.



John Mauremootoo introduced the facilitation and meeting ground rules and provided a summary of feed back from his short interviews with the participants to gather their perspectives on the meeting and its goals. The responses conveyed the positive attitude and open mind of participants, a willingness to seek a shared understanding, search for creative, outcome oriented solutions, and share responsibility; there were also concerns not to lose the biodiversity-related momentum BioNET had built in the past and suggestions to explore complementary linkages and funding options with the wider range of BioNET's partners (see [presentation](#), pdf 120kb).

Several contributions followed providing background information on BioNET's current structures and situation, future options and CABI's proposal.

Richard Smith presented an overview on BioNET and the challenges and opportunities for sustaining the global platform. He asked participants to focus on the latter in going forward, emphasising that standing together the network will have a better platform for achieving its goals ("*A network is not about its components, it is the product of the parts' interaction*"). He outlined the global level assets (e.g. e-bulletin, website, GTPF business plan, etc.) and partners of the Global Secretariat (e.g. GTI, UNEP, and CETAF who remained very interested in working with BioNET in the future), and introduced the components of the [BioNET Strategy 2012-16](#) (provided as inf doc to the meeting) including its two focal themes (biodiversity and agriculture/food security) and the six strategic goals, and providing examples of BioNET's work for each of these. He summarised the niche of BioNET as "*BioNET helps to bridge the gap between end-user needs and the taxonomic sector's ability to meet those needs.*"

Drawing on the results of the recent evaluation, he invited participants to build on the achievements of the 2007-11 Global Programme, including the essential support to the CBD and the financial successes (doubling the income, diversifying funders and reducing the reliance on SDC from 90% to 60%). He concluded that there was now a good basis for fundraising, with the many mandates and achievements and potentially the opportunity to build on support being offered by CABI. The transition provided a good opportunity for BioNET members to play a greater role at the international level, e.g. be more involved in the governance of BioNET and delivering its international functions. However, the challenge would be to respond to the reduced funding situation and radically prioritise global BioNET Secretariat functions (see [presentation](#), pdf, 870kb).

Chris Lyal explained the rationale behind the BioNET Board's decision concerning the Global Secretariat and outlined the changes in BioNET's funding model and secretariat functions over time. When BioNET started, the Secretariat was planned to be operational for only a short phase, with LOOPS soon operating independently. Later it was thought that the Secretariat could be sustained through project work of LOOPS, but to date this has not been a sustainable model. The Secretariat has benefited largely from SDC's support and BioNET has benefited greatly from the Secretariat, it has been a huge success. However, the funding situation has now changed and the Board had several options: i) carry on business until funds run out, ii) ask the Secretariat to focus on fundraising on core activities, iii) ask CABI to take over full support, iv) ask CABI to take on some of the functions and the LOOPS what they can support. The latter option was chosen as it was felt that the remaining funds needed to be used to bring key people together to jointly develop a new system. SDC and CABI felt strongly that there is a potential for support through cooperation with Plantwise. This was the end of Secretariat but not the end of BioNET, incredible momentum had been developed by Richard Smith, Cindy Blench, Kornelia Rassmann, John Mauremootoo, Nick King and Tecwyn Jones; now the LOOPS had to take action.

Sarah Simons provided an introduction to the CABI proposal on supporting a BioNET Secretariat post-August 2011. The current proposal still lacked detail, but it would be elaborated to reflect the results of this meeting. The CABI proposal was two-pronged, supposed to i) single-handedly provide a decent level of support to BioNET, and ii) support the BioNET-LOOPS through the Plantwise programme for which LOOPS will be given priority in tenders to specific regions. It offers 30% of Sarah Simon's time to BioNET Secretariat activities, as well as a full time scientist based under BioNET-ASEANET, whose role is dedicated to BioNET globally to support communication among the LOOPS, working closely with

Lum Keng Yeang. It will also provide limited direct costs to communication and coordination activities to ensure that the good linkages among LOOPS are not lost. BioNET-ASEANET would be ideally suited for this role as it is a strong BioNET LOOP with a long history and the only LOOP with an independent legal constitution, which may well be important for the future sustainability of BioNET. Sarah Simons reminded participants that funding could not be provided at previous levels and a rigorous prioritisation process of activities and functions would be needed. She promoted Plantwise as a big opportunity for the LOOPS and hoped to catalyse discussion on how capacity building, diagnostics, and taxonomy can benefit from BioNET and Plantwise working together. The Plantwise proposal would still be at draft stage and input from the LOOPS would be appreciated. Both the Plantwise and the CABI proposal would run for five years, but would be reviewed on annual basis. This meeting would now offer the opportunity to define how best a genuine partnership of BioNET and Plantwise could be built.

Responding to questions in the following plenary discussion, Sarah Simons clarified that CABI offers support under the understanding that BioNET will try to secure additional funding for its global activities as there would be a need to bring other donors in. CABI specifically invites inter-LOOP proposals to present to donors as it will appeal to donors to see regions working together to solve problems. Regional and national coordinators would need to work together to develop these proposals and CABI would input its expertise to target these to specific donors. Sarah Simons also emphasised that CABI will implement an annual assessment of its investment into BioNET.

On Day 2, Lum Keng Yeang offered a perspective from BioNET-ASEANET on how the LOOPS could continue to operate effectively post-August 2011. He explained the relationship of ASEANET to ASEAN, the intergovernmental body representing all 10 ASEAN nations, and the mechanism followed to secure recognition as an official entity. Elaborating on the funding sources for ASEANET, he stated that when the seed funding from the BioNET Fund ended, they succeeded to obtain further funding for applied uses of taxonomy, particularly in the phytosanitary area, working with diverse ASEAN working groups in this field. Through their dedication to ASEANET and a good working relationship with CABI it was possible to 'wear 2 hats' and represent ASEANET as well as CABI. ASEANET projects involve e.g. the SPS capacity programme in partnership with the Australian Government (delivery of workshops, logistics). The projects generate funding that keeps the LOOP together. The arrangement with CABI is to offer CABI SEA a first right on refusal for specific project collaborations. The network now has contacts in all 10 ASEAN countries and through these provides synergies and benefits to CABI SEA. Moving forward, Lum Keng Yeang suggested for the LOOPS to be more independent and the LOOP representatives to take a bigger role in promoting BioNET by being active in their region. There would be a need for dedicated individuals to ensure that there is better support from host institutions (who's ToRs needed to be reviewed respectively) and to enhance better regional networking. The role of the Global Secretariat would be to coordinate global/pan-LOOP projects and to find synergies with like-minded partners for joint fundraising (see [presentation](#), pdf 1Mb).

Also on Day 2, Chris Lyal presented a potential new governance mechanism for BioNET, needed as the current BioNET board will disband at the end of the year. The current Board's functions were to manage the BioNET Fund and to oversee the Secretariat – both of which were no longer needed. Yet, BioNET requires a new global body in order to be seen as a cohesive structure, gain visibility and to successfully build on synergies among the LOOPS. Chris Lyal then outlined possible options for the deliverables of the new governance body, its membership, mode of operation, voting system, and immediate tasks (see [presentation](#), pdf, 150kb).

### Facilitation process

Group work and plenary sessions took place to achieve the following objectives:

- agree on the future BioNET strategy (WHY)
- prioritise the global secretariat functions, assets and partners (WHAT)
- define responsibilities for specific functions and activities (WHO)



Three working groups (yellow, green, pink) with 6-8 members were established comprising representatives from each of the participant categories described above (see section 3). The facilitators (John Mauremootoo, Chris Lyal), the rapporteur (Kornelia Rassmann), Sarah Simons, Richard Smith and Loke Wai Hong did not participate in a particular group but acted as resource persons. The groups consisted of:

**Yellow:** Posa Skelton, Soetikno Sastroutomo, Wanja Kinuthia, Paul Bridge, Vincent Saka, Ian Naumann, Badrul Bhuyia.

**Pink:** Margo Leach, Michael Dike, Banpot Napompeth, Reneé Fortunato, Herbert Talwana, Mohamed Kchouk, Naima Barbouche.

**Green:** Mariette Truter, José Clavijo, Stella Simiyu, Lum Keng Yeang, Phil Taylor, Tsetseg Balinjova.

Relevant documents were circulated before the meeting; in addition, the working groups were provided with the BioNET Strategy 2012-16 document developed together with the LOOPs, as well as lists of the Secretariat functions, its assets and partners (describing global level linkages).

While the participants quickly agreed upon a consensus on the future Strategy for BioNET (results see 4.2.1), several rounds of group work, plenary discussions, summaries by the facilitators, and plenary sessions of consensus finding were needed on Day 1, 2 and 3 to develop a prioritised list of global level secretariat functions, collect ideas on how to maintain these, and define clear responsibilities. A final list was agreed in plenary by consensus on Day 3 (see 4.2.2).

On Day 2 Richard Smith briefly explained the content and use of the current model Terms of References for the Global Secretariat, LOOP Coordinating Committee, and the national and regional coordinating institutes. Originally, the latter were meant to be reviewed by the meeting, yet, due to time constraints this was de-prioritised by the meeting coordination team after Day 1. The same working groups met to discuss their ideas on a potential BioNET LOOP Council. The groups reported back to plenary and the results were discussed.

After the official agenda ended on Day 2, the LOOP representatives met at a "*ad hoc* LOOP meeting" to discuss and find consensus on the options for a global governance body, the CABI proposal, the BioNET-Plantwise collaboration and any other proposals or collaborations BioNET might seek. All LOOP participants were present in this meeting except Badrul Bhuyia and Banpot Napompeth. The results and consensus decisions from the LOOP meeting were reported back to plenary on Day 3 and the two non-attending LOOP representatives were consulted in plenary for their agreement with the decisions taken at this LOOP meeting.

Day 3 saw official agreements taken in plenary on i) the CABI proposal (see 4.3.4), and ii) the governance arrangements and responsibilities (see 4.3.4). The respective text was drafted by the rapporteur and consensus decisions on these two key issues were taken on behalf of their LOOPs by the following LOOP representatives:

BioNET-ANDINONET: José Clavijo

BioNET-ASEANET: Soetikno Sastroutomo, Banpot Napompeth

BioNET-EAFRINET: Wanja Kinuthia, Herbert Talwana

BioNET-EASIANET: Tsetseg Baljinova

BioNET-LATINET: Renee Fortunato

BioNET-NAFRINET: Mohamed Kchouk, Naima Barbouche

BioNET-PACINET: Posa Skelton

BioNET-SACNET: Badrul Bhuyia

BioNET-SAFRINET: Vincent Saka, Mariette Truter

BioNET-WAFRINET: Michael Dike

(BioNET-CARINET and BioNET-MESOAMERINET were not represented at this meeting).

## 4.2. Results and agreements

### 4.2.1. BioNET's Strategy 2012-16

To find an agreement on the future purpose and strategic focus of BioNET, the three working groups were asked on Day 1 to discuss whether they would a) agree in principle with the strategy as developed together with the LOOPS over last two years, b) mostly agree but with major modifications, or c) disagree with the strategy as formulated; and to define major suggestions/modifications, if any. The results of the work groups was then discussed in plenary:

All LOOP participants agreed in principle to the drafted BioNET Strategy 2012-16, encompassing the proposed purpose, focal themes (biodiversity and agriculture/food security), niche, mission and six strategic goals, and suggesting only minor modifications (e.g. to sharpen the mission and include more details, e.g. define the LOOP, Inter-LOOP and Secretariat activities more clearly, such as fundraising / proposal writing for secretariat, and strengthening the networks in country).

The consensus was to develop a future refined strategy on the basis of the existing BioNET Strategy 2012-16 (as a deliverable of the new Interim BioNET Council, see 4.2.3).

As a general strategy it was stressed at several points at the meeting that BioNET and its fundraising activities should focus on what products / services it has to offer the world. Stella Simiyu proposed BioNET should be seen as global source for taxonomic knowledge; the network will be funded to provide answers and solutions to taxonomic questions and problems (e.g. to Plantwise), not to maintain itself. Such funding then has to cover downstream costs the process of maintaining a viable and productive network (e.g. capacity building, communication, etc.). This was supported later by Chris Lyal, suggesting that taxonomic capacity building cannot exist without what it is for. Capacity building had to be connected with what it is supposed to deliver. He referred to BioNET as a mechanism for both capacity building and producing high quality taxonomic support for information delivery and quality control. Richard Smith further augmented this approach, citing previous exploration of the potential to develop a global "expert registry" to provide services to e.g. CABI (Plantwise), IPBES, CBIT (Identify Life) and Encyclopedia of Life.

### 4.2.2. BioNET's global organisation (global secretariat functions, assets, partners)

Group work on Day 1 and Day 2 of the meeting served to prioritise the functions, assets and partners that will be essential for BioNET to maintain on a global level:

Five priority functions were agreed: 1) Fundraising for the Global Programme; 2) Knowledge exchange / coordination; 3) Marketing, branding, communication, PR, and awareness raising; 4) Maintaining partnerships and linkages; and 5) Monitoring and Evaluation.

The consensus was that all existing linkages to global partners should be maintained.

The priority assets that were proposed by all three working groups to be kept comprised the website, the contacts database, and the current M&E and governance documents.

Assets with lower priority (listed by two groups) were the e-bulletin and the GTPF project as a fundraising platform; the PR resource materials and the knowledge about BioNET and partners (human resources) were suggested by only one group each to be maintained.

Priorities and responsibilities were discussed and agreed in plenary as follows:

**Agreed global secretariat functions and responsibilities**

ACTIVITY	Responsibilities / lead (names)
<b>Fundraising for GP</b>	
Overall coordination of fundraising activities	Sarah Simons (Int. Secretariat as focal point)
Funder research: list of regional & national potential donors sent to Int Sec, what are their priorities	RCs & NCs, Posa Skelton (coordination / focal point)
Donor liaison: approach donors, report against funder list and sent to Int Sec	José Clavijo, Sarah Simons (coordination)
Refine BioNET Strategy 2012-16	Mariette Truter (lead), Posa Skelton
Update PR materials (opportunistic, dissemination via website)	All
<b>Knowledge exchange</b>	
e-bulletin with news, LOOP activities, events, new publications;	Tsetseg Baljinova (lead); Mariette Truter, Sarah Simons, Posa Skelton; to clarify methodology and dissemination
Provide content to website	Tsetseg Baljinova (lead); Mariette Truter, Sarah Simons, Posa Skelton; to clarify methodology.
<b>Marketing / branding</b>	
Include BioNET brand in new and ongoing projects	All
Investigate modalities of using facebook and twitter as marketing tools	José Clavijo
Use existing physical material (where?)	All
<b>Partnership and linkages</b>	
Representing BioNET at key meetings of partners (e.g. CBD)	Sarah Simons (coordination)
Foster relationships at meetings you attend and report back to Int Sec	Sarah Simons (coordination), all
<b>M&amp;E</b>	
Monitoring of activities on a regular basis – report to central coordinator	Sarah Simons (coordination), RCs & NCs
<b>Fundraising, Knowledge exchange, Partnerships</b>	
Keep website up to date (carry on current arrangement during transition phase, set up new BioNET website in 2012).	Kornelia Rassmann to be the focal point during transition phase. Renee Fortunato, Soetikno Sastroutomo, Posa Skelton to explore options to host the website. Sarah Simons, Soetikno Sastroutomo, Kornelia Rassmann, to liaise on updated content and development of a new website.
<b>Knowledge exchange, Partnerships</b>	
Maintain contacts db, capture contacts (and feed back to LOOPs)	Mariette Truter (lead), Sarah Simons
<b>Fundraising, Marketing / branding</b>	
Use existing PR materials	All

Future tasks are likely to involve the development of a new BioNET website and a refined branding for BioNET.

#### 4.2.3. BioNET's new governance mechanism

After Chris Lyal's presentation on Day 2 introducing the options and modalities for a new global governance mechanism for BioNET, an open vote was taken in plenary and a clear consensus was reached that there should be a new global BioNET governance structure.

During the working groups and plenary sessions it was then discussed what this governance structure should look like, who should be in it, how it should operate, what its (short-term) Terms of Reference were, and who could make an immediate commitment. The results from this work served as input to an *ad hoc* meeting in which exclusively the LOOP representatives took part ("*ad hoc* LOOP meeting"), taking place in the evening of the same day. The decisions of this meeting were reported back to plenary on Day 3:

The meeting resulted in the constitution of a new governing body of BioNET, the Interim BioNET Council (IBC), for a maximum period of 1 year. The following text, based on the results of the "*ad hoc* LOOP meeting" and input from plenary, was agreed by consensus in plenary on Day 3:

1. The LOOPS agreed an interim BioNET Governance body should be constituted;
2. An 'Interim BioNET Council' was elected for 1 year until the next body has been established;
3. The IBC will be composed of 1 representative per LOOP, a representative of the International Secretariat (Sarah Simons), two invitees to be co-opted (to ensure continuity: the former chair of the current board Chris Lyal, and the former Director of the BioNET Secretariat Richard Smith). Other members are optional.
4. Mohamed Kchouk was proposed as Chair and José Clavijo as Vice Chair; both accepted.
5. Mode of operation needs further specification, there will be a need for frequent virtual meetings, but there is also a strong request for a physical meeting in the near future.
6. Lean ToR will need further specification sufficient for operation by 30 Sep.

In order for the new BioNET governance body to start operation, the present Board needed to take a decision on whether some of its current responsibilities should be passed on to the new BioNET Council. Hence, the members of the current BioNET Board present at the meeting (Chris Lyal, Richard Smith, Mohamed Kchouk, José Clavijo), forming a quorum, met *ad hoc* to agree on these modalities with the understanding that the non-present Board members would be informed immediately after the meeting (see 4.3.3). The Chair of the current Board (Chris Lyal) reported back to plenary the decision taken:

The BioNET Board decided that the Board should cede its responsibilities for advice on Strategy to the Secretariat to the Interim BioNET LOOP Council with effect from 1st September 2011, provided the LOOP representatives sitting on the Council were identified by that time. The sole responsibility of the BioNET Board will, for the remainder of its existence, be "*Oversight of the administration and management of the BioNET Fund to ensure that the assets of the Fund are invested securely and responsibly and that they are expended rationally on legitimate activities as prescribed in the description of the Fund and in accordance with the Regulations of the Fund and agreements with Contributors to the Fund, to meet the purpose of the Fund*". This will extend until the fund is fully expended and accounted for. This decision was subsequently also agreed by Board members not present at the meeting. The International Secretariat (Sarah Simons) will be acting as the coordinating body. Two members of the current Board are the Chair and the Vice Chair of IBC. This is considered sufficient guarantee that the funds are being used appropriately.

Since the "*ad hoc* LOOP Meeting" elected a Chair and Vice Chair of the IBC, but not the other LOOP representatives serving on the Council, the LOOP participants were asked to nominate representatives in writing on a flip chart and indicate, whether these were already confirmed (i.e. had agreed to their membership on the Council) or needed to be confirmed after the meeting (by 1. September 2011). The following representatives were listed:

**IBC members listed on flip chart (to be confirmed by 1 Sep):**

BioNET-NAFRINET:	Naima Barbouche (confirmed)
BioNET-CARINET:	(not represented at meeting)
BioNET-SAFRINET:	Mariette Truter
BioNET-PACINET:	Randy Thaman (LCC Chair)
BioNET-WAFRINET:	Michael Dike
BioNET-EAFRINET:	Herbert Talwana (LCC Chair by proxy)
BioNET-ASEANET:	Lum Keng Yeang
BioNET-LATINET:	Mercedes Lizeralde
BioNET-SACNET:	Badrul Bhuyia
BioNET-EASIANET:	Tsetseg Baljinova
BioNET-ANDINONET:	?

**4.2.4. The CABI proposal**

CABI's proposal for support of limited secretariat functions for BioNET, running for five years on a one year renewable condition, was discussed and much appreciated by the "*ad hoc* LOOP Meeting" on Day 2. The following text, drafted by the rapporteur, was based on the results from this meeting with input from the group work and plenary sessions. It was agreed by all LOOP representatives on Day 3:

The BioNET LOOPS agree to accept the CABI proposal as a non-exclusive proposal, providing at a minimum 30% time from the International Secretariat (Sarah Simons) and a full time officer located at BioNET-ASEANET. Other direct costs (e.g. website) will have to be negotiated with CABI and will need prioritisation and costing.

Further decisions at the "*ad hoc* LOOP meeting" were that

The CABI-BioNET relationship will have to be reviewed by the IBC after one year. Also, the Council will need to develop Terms of References for the International Secretariat (including line-management) and for the new IBC. For example, the IBC needs to decide at which global fora BioNET-INTERNATIONAL will be represented. A list of events / actions for the International Secretariat will be developed.

Several points concerning the CABI proposal needed further clarification, e.g. the expectations from CABI (and vice versa) and the modalities of the LOOPS participation in Plantwise.

The proposal was seen as a lifeline for BioNET; it was emphasised that there is a need to develop further proposals to support global BioNET Secretariat functions (or a Global Secretariat) to accommodate themes and interests not supported by CABI / Plantwise. Specifically it was discussed at the "*ad hoc* LOOP Meeting" that CETAF, the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities, would see synergies between their goals and what the BioNET Secretariat has been doing; the potential for collaboration would need to be explored.

## 5. Part 2: BioNET participation in CABI's Plantwise initiative

### 5.1. Contributions and facilitation process

#### Contributions

On Day 1, [Phil Taylor](#) provided an introduction to CABI's Plantwise initiative and its historical background. The programme has its origin in the Plant Clinics that CABI has helped to establish as part of an independently run plant health care network since early 2000. The initiative is coordinated out of CABI-UK (Egham) and started with relatively little budget; with input from external advisors (LEK consultancy) it has now grown and can draw on considerable funding. It embraces the philanthropic mandate of CABI to help people across the world. CABI has now scaled up the Plant Clinics, aiming to expand their spread across countries and the world, and has rebranded the project as "Plantwise" with two focal areas: the Plantwise Knowledge Bank (introduced by Margo Leach later) and the Plantwise Plant Clinics. One purpose of the original Plant Clinics was to bolster CABI's database of pest species (Compendium) and similarly the Plantwise Plant Clinic data will be used in CABI's Plantwise Knowledge Bank. Phil Taylor explained how the Plant Clinics work (field diagnosis: farmers bring samples into the Clinics and receive a diagnosis and 'prescription' from the 'plant doctor'), how the process is documented, that the Clinics are owned by the countries (not CABI), that the service is currently provided for free, but that a business model will be developed as the programme is being scaled up (in +3yrs?). The vision is to establish a plant health system with several components providing specific roles and working together: plant doctors, diagnostic laboratories, farmers, pharmacists; potentially also extension workers, regulatory bodies, research groups, etc.. A potential role for BioNET could be supporting research provided by BioNET's member institutes and universities. The challenges of Plantwise lie in integrating all these aspects of a plant health system, quality assurance of the advice given, backstopping the plant doctors with regular and reliable diagnostics and reassurance, identifying new and emerging plant diseases, and validation of the validation process. Phil Taylor ended his talk outlining that plant disease records had increased over the last decade and that Plantwise was trying to help farmers to deal with this (see [presentation](#), pdf, 2Mb)

On Day 2, [Margo Leach](#) introduced the Plantwise Knowledge Bank ([www.plantwise.org](http://www.plantwise.org)) and offered a demonstration of the online database. The vision of Plantwise is to "Lose less, feed more" by improving food security; reducing poverty; supporting farmers via free local clinics; strengthening national plant health systems; providing open access data and tools and global vigilance of emerging threats; allowing adaptation to climate change; and facilitating trade. It is hoped to achieve this through CABI's Plant Clinics which so far, however, are working in isolation. The Plantwise Knowledge Bank is conceptualised to collate information from the Plant Clinics and use it, e.g., to mitigate the impact of climate change on food production and input into plant health systems. The Knowledge Bank should capture key information on the ground ("what pests are coming in; what is being done"), creating a constant cycle of improvement (idea of citizen science with a potential community element for quality control) and a means of measuring impact, as well as providing a surveillance and vigilance mechanism. Plantwise Knowledge Bank version 2 is currently being developed and will be released in March 2012. BioNET should consider what activities it can contribute towards this programme (e.g. input to user requirements, customer acceptance criteria). Margo Leach then illustrated the use of several features of the online Knowledge Bank, including the 'pest distribution map', a technical researcher tool; and the 'pest management section', a database to screen for potential pests/diseases (see [presentation](#), pdf, 4.7Mb).

The following discussion highlighted how the programme could be rolled out on the national level (pilot countries to work with institutions to build a country tool, that then can be rolled out to other countries), and how the Knowledge Bank could link to existing national plant health systems (Plant Clinic fact sheets should feed into existing national information tools in use). On the issue of open



access of data it was confirmed that Plantwise is collaborating with GBIF, that open access data that is being re-used by Plantwise would always be linked back to the original data set; and that the original data would be kept and provided free of charge. Further, CABI would be paying for creating and feeding more data into Plantwise.

Lum Keng Yeang outlined the ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network (ARDN) model as a possible contribution to Plantwise that other LOOPS could adapt. He presented the history of ARDN, starting in 2003 with the proposal for the ASEAN Plant Health Cooperation Network (APHCN) as a "virtual ASEAN PLANTI" which was then endorsed e.g. by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in 2003. In 2005 Malaysia proposed ARDN as a key activity of the APHCN and in 2007 the ARDN Operationalization plan was endorsed. BioNET-ASEANET was designated the Technical Secretariat and tasked to take a leadership role to make ARDN functional. In 2009 the ARDN Strategic Plan was developed with support from the Australian SPS Capacity Building Programme. The goals of ARDN are to provide accurate, timely and confidential identifications that are accessible to all potential users in ASEAN. It operates through a directory of diagnostic experts and laboratories and offers mechanism both for sharing and enhancing diagnostic expertise at national and regional levels. ARDN supports production, regulatory and compliance systems. The BioNET-ASEANET Secretariat is now functioning as an independent Clearing House for ARDN answering to ASEAN. It has established an international expertise register and agreed protocols for handling samples, e.g., for sharing samples among countries, able to address sensitive data (confidentiality). It is supported beyond ASEANET by national networks through National Plant Protection Organisations and can draw on the development of diagnostic tools and training to develop and maintain skills. There is yet no business model for ARDN; it is currently supported by donors, but it is planned to secure sources from the private sector or through fee for service in the medium term. In the long term (>11 years), it is expected that the need for major funding will decrease as national capacity increases and fewer specimens will be submitted to the Network; regional experts could then provide the services gratis. Lum Keng Yeang then outlined the synergies between BioNET and Plantwise, pointing to the apparent disconnect between the Plant Clinics and the Knowledge Bank. BioNET as a diagnostic network could be the link in the middle functioning as a body to authenticate the data. It could offer diagnostic tools, reliable Identifications, validation/records, reference laboratories, and capacity building (see [presentation](#), pdf, 1.5Mb).

### Facilitation process

After their respective introductions to the Plantwise Plant Clinics (Phil Taylor) and Knowledge Bank (Margo Leach), both facilitated a group exercise on Day 2, where the same three groups as on Day 1 were asked to explore BioNET's potential contribution to Plantwise. The groups reported back to plenary and the options were discussed. The results of the group work and plenary discussions were summarised by Margo Leach on Day 3 and the LOOP representatives were asked to flag their interest with respect to the identified activities and specify what BioNET could in principle contribute to Plantwise. The Plantwise / BioNET collaboration was also discussed at the "ad hoc LOOP meeting".

## 5.2. Results and agreements

The LOOP representatives present at this meeting took a general decision that there was interest in principle from BioNET to participate in Plantwise. In order to define this participation in more detail, the LOOP representatives will need to take back the results of the meeting to their LOOPS and discuss the opportunities; for this, further information and clarification on the Plantwise initiative will be needed.

To explore options for collaboration, the working groups on Day 2 were instructed to look at three questions: i) What activities can BioNET contribute towards Plantwise? ii) What would be in it for BioNET? and iii) Next steps to get these ideas approved / going. The following Roadmap to realise a

BioNET / CABI Plantwise collaboration was then developed in plenary the next day, specifying potential focal areas, participating regions, regional contacts, and also for which activities specific commitments will have to be confirmed before the final Plantwise proposal has to be submitted to SDC by end October:

#### A provisional BioNET/Plantwise Roadmap:

Activities	Who
<b>Pre-Proposal</b>	<b>BioNET-</b>
Assistance in expansion of PW networks into new countries and regions, through LOOP contacts, according to PW strategy	NAFRINET: Naima Barbouche, Mohamed Kchouk WAFRINET: Michael Dike EAFRINET: Wanja Kinuthia SAFRINET: Mariette, Vincent LATINET: Renée Fortunato PACINET: Posa Skelton
Support diagnostic and identification needs of in existing PW countries; set up new diagnostic links in new PW countries	NAFRINET: Naima Barbouche WAFRINET: Michael Dike EAFRINET: Herbert Talwana EASIANET: Tsetseg Baljinova ANDINONET: José Clavijo
Information Quality Assurance for KB: supply up-to-date taxonomic information, pest information, editing datasheets, help tailor factsheets to region	SAFRINET: Mariette Truter ANDINONET: José Clavijo LATINET: Renee Fortunato
Assistance in the training of 'Plant Doctors' in new target countries, according to PW strategy	NAFRINET: Naima Barbouche WAFRINET: Michael Dike SAFRINET: Vincent Saka ANDINONET: José Clavijo
Contribution of appropriate data and content to KB: pest and crop distribution data, datasheet information, factsheets, images	EAFRINET: Wanja Kinuthia SAFRINET: Mariette Truter ANDINONET: José Clavijo SACNET: Badrul Bhuyia LATINET: Renée Fortunato
Assist in the development of the PW image library, through links to existing banks, and through contribution of new images from diagnostic activities	EASIANET: Tsetseg Baljinova ANDINONET: José Clavijo SACNET: Badrul Bhuyia
<b>Post-Proposal</b>	
Assistance in targeting potential funds for PW in LOOP regions, where appropriate to PW strategy	NAFRINET: Naima Barbouche WAFRINET: Michael Dike EAFRINET: Wanja Kinuthia LATINET: Renée Fortunato
M & E services for PW schemes in region, where appropriate	EAFRINET: Herbert Talwana SAFRINET: Vincent Saka ANDINONET: José Clavijo

The resulting high level input from the LOOPS will be taken back to the Plantwise Board by Sarah Simons and Margo Leach to make sure that the Plantwise team is comfortable with what has been offered. The results of their discussion will then be brought to the IBC for sign off.

Similarly, the LOOP representatives will take the results back to their LOOPS to confirm their interest in contributing to Plantwise, explore further areas of collaboration and source further input and specific commitments.

The Plantwise proposal to SDC has not been finalised yet and there may be the need for several iterations to develop a collaborative proposal until end October.

Chris Lyal pointed out that BioNET would not only benefit Plantwise at the LOOP level but the network could also provide solutions for global level issues ("pest management across LOOPS"). Sustaining a coordinating global BioNET secretariat would be essential to access this information. He ended this session reminding participants that reporting of LOOP activities (for Plantwise or other activities) and branding these as BioNET activities will be extremely important to maintain the global visibility and presence of BioNET.

## 6. Next steps

At the end of the meeting, Sarah Simons identified two immediate problems: first, there will be logistical issues when the current BioNET Global Secretariat will be disbanded end of August. She proposed not to change the website and hosting just now since there was the need for ongoing communication with the world. Second, BioNET needed to 'push through' with Plantwise as this was currently its best bet for sustaining its position during this time of reduced funding; any further input from the LOOPS would be highly appreciated. She extended her invitation to the LOOPS to contact the International Secretariat as coordinating person for BioNET global activities.

### The meeting identified the following action points

#### BioNET organisation and governance

- Sarah Simons to carry back results from this meeting to the CABI Management for approval.
- Sarah Simons to clarify expectations from CABI concerning results of the BioNET network, i.e. how will CABI assess results each year (M&E).
- Current BioNET Board to relinquish its responsibility for strategy to the IBC from 1 September.
- LOOP representatives to confirm nominations (LOOP representatives listed on flip chart) for IBC by 1. September.
- Chair of IBC to define when and where next IBC meeting will take place.
- IBC to develop Terms of Reference for the International Secretariat by 30 September, including a list of international fora and partners where the International Secretariat should represent BioNET (e.g. SBSTTA, GBIF, CBD, Commission on phytosanitary measures; see report of Chair of IBC, Annex 7.3).
- IBC (Marianne Truter as lead and Posa Skelton) to refine BioNET Strategy.
- Posa Skelton, regional and national coordinators to conduct funder research for the Global Programme and José Clavijo and Sarah Simons to liaise with funders.
- Renee Fortunato, Soetikno Sastroutomo, Posa Skelton to explore options on website hosting.
- Sarah Simons, Soetikno Sastroutomo, and Kornelia Rassmann to liaise on updated content and development of a new BioNET website.
- Tsetseg Baljinova (lead) to clarify methodology and dissemination of e-bulletin.

**BioNET collaboration with Plantwise**

- Sarah Simons to report back results from this meeting to the Plantwise Board.
- Sarah Simons to advise on priority Plantwise themes and geographic areas / countries for inclusion in the SDC proposal.
- LOOP representatives to confirm decisions of the meeting with their LOOPS and discuss further opportunities.
- Sarah Simons to coordinate BioNET inputs to the SDC proposal.
- Plantwise team to develop questionnaire or similar expressing needs, for distribution in LOOP countries;
- Plantwise team to develop a 1-page brief about the Plantwise initiative, and a summary of potential benefits Plantwise offers BioNET.
- Clarify expectations and timelines of which commitments are to be delivered when.

## 7. Annex

### 7.1. Final adapted agenda



#### Programme

## Building BioNET's future

A meeting jointly organized by BioNET and CABI

Version 19.08.2011

17 – 19<sup>th</sup> August

Hotel Equatorial Bangi, Putrajaya (near Kuala Lumpur), Malaysia

### Meeting objectives

1. Organisation and governance of BioNET at the global level
  - a. Agreed Roadmap for taking BioNET forward, aiming to secure BioNET's global presence
  - b. Agreed prioritisation of Global BioNET functions
  - c. Agreed new governance structure for BioNET
  - d. Adoption of ToR for LOOPs and the BioNET membership structure
  - e. Agree to the CABI proposal for an International Secretariat and to consider additional proposals for supporting/ providing the BioNET Global Secretariat / some of its functions
  
2. BioNET participation in CABI's Plantwise initiative
  - a. Introduce Plantwise to BioNET LOOPs
  - b. Identify and prioritise potential BioNET contributions
  - c. Define elements for CABI's Plantwise proposal to SDC
  - d. Agree a Roadmap for taking forward BioNET's cooperation with Plantwise and links with CABI Centres

## 17 August – Day 1

09:30 Welcome address (*Wai Hong Loke, RD CABI SEA*)

09:45 Self-introduction by participants [describing their current BioNET affiliation or role]

### Part I - Organisation and governance of BioNET post-August 2011

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#### Session 1: BioNET – Background and status

10:00 Introduction: objectives of the meeting (*Sarah Simons*)

10:20 Introduction: i) Summary of feed back from interviews, ii) Facilitation and ground rules  
(*John Mauremootoo*)

10:30 BioNET today. Opportunities and challenges for sustaining the global platform  
(*Richard Smith*)

11:00 TEA & COFFEE

11:30 Rationale behind the BioNET Board's decision concerning the Global Secretariat (*Chris Lyal*)

11:35 Introduction to the CABI proposal on supporting a BioNET Secretariat post-August 2011  
(*Sarah Simons*)

12:50 Question & Answer Session on the talks of Richard Smith, Chris Lyal and Sarah Simons

12:15 Introduction to Plantwise / demonstration (*Phil Taylor*)

12:45 Question & Answer Session on CABI's Proposal and Plantwise

13:15 LUNCH

#### Session 2: Securing BioNET's global presence (*facilitation: John Mauremootoo*)

14:10 Group exercise: Review of BioNET Strategy & 14 Sec functions (I)

15:45 TEA & COFFEE

16:10 Groups report back to plenary

16:25 Group exercise: Review of BioNET Strategy & 14 Sec functions (II)

16:45 Groups report back to plenary

17:00 Plenary to outline a first Roadmap to secure BioNET's global presence: reach a consensus on BioNET Strategy, prioritise Secretariat functions, and collect ideas on how to maintain these and present clear proposals for funding these functions.

17:40 One word evaluation

17:50 Meeting coordination team meeting to reflect on Day 1 and plan Day 2  
(participants: Sarah, Richard, Chris, John, Konny, Posa, Margo, Mariette, Kchouk, Pepe, Phil, Stella)

18:30 End of Day 1



## 18 August – Day 2

09:00 Recap on Day 1: Building a Roadmap to secure BioNET's global presence  
(John Mauremootoo)

### **Session 2 - continued: Securing BioNET's global presence (facilitation John Mauremootoo)**

09:20 Group exercise: Review of BioNET Strategy & 14 Sec functions (III)

10:15 TEA & COFFEE

10:50 Groups report back to plenary

11:15: Looking forward: A perspective from ASEANET on how the loops can continue to operate effectively post-August 2011. (*Lum Keng Yeang*)

11:30 Terms of Reference for BioNET's components (*Richard Smith*)

### **Session 3: Renewing BioNET's global governance model (facilitation Chris Lyal)**

11:35 BioNET's Governance Structure (*Chris Lyal*)

11:45 Group exercise: Outlining BioNET's future Governance Structure

13:00 Groups report back to plenary

13:30 LUNCH

## Part II - BioNET participation in CABI's Plantwise initiative

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### **Session 4: Plantwise and BioNET (facilitation: Margo Leach, Phil Taylor)**

14:25 Demonstration of the Plantwise database (*Margo Leach*)

15:00 Q/A – Discussion

15:30 Group exercise: BioNET's contribution towards Plantwise

16:00 TEA & COFFEE

16:30 Groups report back to plenary

17:00 Q/A – Discussion

17:30 Regional Diagnostic Networks – the ARDN model: a possible BioNET contribution to Plantwise (*Lum Keng Yeang*)

17:30 Day 2 rapid evaluation and close

17:45 LOOP meeting

19:00 End of Day 2

## 19 August – Day 3

- 09:00 Workshop coordination team meeting to coordinate agenda of Day 3
- 10:45 Recap of Day 2 (*John Mauremootoo*)
- 10:50 Report on the LOOP Meeting end of Day 2 (*Mohamed Kchouk*)
- 11:00 Questions & Answers

### Part III – Decisions and next steps

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#### **Session 5: Agreement on key issues (*facilitation John Mauremootoo*)**

- 11:15 1. Decision on the CABI proposal
- 12:00 2. Decision on governance arrangements and responsibilities
- 12:45 Meeting of current BioNET Board members**  
(Board members present: Sarah, Chris, Richard, Kchouk, Pepe)
- 13:15 Chair of current BioNET Board reports back to plenary (*Chris Lyal*)
- 13:30 LUNCH
- 14:30 Plenary: Agree functions and responsibilities for the BioNET Roadmap  
(*facilitation: John Mauremootoo*)
- 15:30 TEA & COFFEE

#### **Session 4 - continued: Plantwise and BioNET (*facilitation: Margo Leach*)**

- 15:50 Recap of Plantwise group sessions Day 2 (*Margo Leach*)
- 16:00 Developing a Roadmap to realise cooperation with CABI Plantwise initiative

#### **AOB**

- 16:40 'Open issues on 'Parking lot'
- 16:45 Session 5: Brief summary and next steps**
- 16:50 Appreciations
- 16:55 Workshop evaluation
- 17:00 CLOSE OF MEETING**

## 7.2. Participants list

version 12.08.2011

**CABI / BioNET-LOOP Meeting August 17-19 2011 - PARTICIPANTS**

Affiliation	Name	BioNET designation	Country	Employer	Position	Email	Telephone	Mobile
BioNET-ANDINONET	Jose Alejandro Clavijo Albertos	BioNET Board Member, Regional Coordinator	Venezuela	Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola Francisco Fernandez Yopez		pepeclavijo@gmail.com	+58 243 550 7426	+58 414 4509716
BioNET-ASEANET	Lum Keng Yeang	LCC Chair, Regional Coordinator	Malaysia	CABI	Chief Scientist	ky.lum@cabi.org	+60 (3) 9437430	
BioNET-ASEANET	Banpot Napompeth	National Coordinator	Thailand	National Biological Control Research Centre (NBCRC)	Executive Director	agriban@nontri.ku.ac.th	+66-2579 3649	
BioNET-EAFRINET	Margaret Wanja Kinuthia	Regional Coordinator	Kenya	National Museums of Kenya		eafri-net@africaonline.co.ke	+254 (20) 208 8478	+254 (0) 722-601 850
BioNET-EAFRINET	Herbert Talwana	Representative of LCC Chair	Uganda	Makerere University	Lecturer/Plant Nematologist	hhtalwana@agric.mak.ac.ug	+256 41 533580	+256 772 521 685
BioNET-EASIANET	Tsetseg Baljinova	National Coordinator	Mongolia	Mongolian Academy of Sciences	Director, Division of Microbiology	taxon_mn@yahoo.com	+976 11 453978	
BioNET-LATINET	Reneé Hersilia Fortunato		Argentina	Instituto de Recursos Biológicos	Curadora del Herbario, Directora del Instituto de Recursos Biológicos del INTA Castelar	rfortun@cirn.inta.gov.ar	+54 (11) 4621 1819	-1545790183
BioNET-NAFRINET	Mohamed Elyes Khouk	BioNET Board Member, Regional Coordinator	Tunisia	Centre de Biotechnologie - Technopôle de Borj Cedria	Unit Head, Aromatic & Medicinal Plant Unit	mohamedelyes@gmail.com	+216 430855	+216 98 340 331
BioNET-NAFRINET	Naima Barbouche	National Coordinator	Tunisia	Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie		barbouche.naima@inat.agri.net.tn		
BioNET-PACINET	Posa Skelton	LCC Member	Samoa	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme	Coordinator Pacific Invasives Learning Network	posas@sprep.org	+685 66276	+685 20231
BioNET-SACNET	Badrul Bhuiya	National Coordinator	Bangladesh	University of Chittagong	Professor of Entomology	badrulbhuiya@yahoo.com	+88 31 726311	
BioNET-SAFRINET	Marfette Truter	National Coordinator	S Africa	ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute	Manager: Identification Services	truter@arc.agric.za		+27 82 896 2900
BioNET-SAFRINET	Vincent Saka	National Coordinator	Malawi	University of Malawi	Professor	vwsaka@yahoo.com	+265 277 222	
BioNET-WAFRINET	Michael Dike	National Coordinator	Nigeria	Ahmadu Bello University	Professor of Agricultural Entomology	mikedike2004@yahoo.co.uk	+234 069 551 069	+803 7031420

Affiliation	Name	BioNET designation	Country	Employer	Position	Email	Telephone	Mobile
CABI	Sarah Simons		Kenya	CABI	Director, International Liaison	s.simons@cabi.org		
CABI	Paul Bridge		United Kingdom	CABI	Director, CABI Europe - UK	p.bridge@cabi.org	+44 (0) 1491 829042	
CABI	Phil Taylor		United Kingdom	CABI	Global Plant Clinic Coordinator	p.taylor@cabi.org		
CABI	Margot Leach		United Kingdom	CABI	Head of Project Development, Plantwise Knowledge Bank	m.leach@cabi.org	+44 (0) 1491 829305	
EXTERNAL	Ian Naumann		Australia	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Fisheries	Director, SPS Capacity Building Program	ian.naumann@daff.gov.au	+61 02- 6272 3442	+61 (0) 412 678 463
EXTERNAL	Stella Simiyu		Kenya	IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office	SCBD/BGCI Program Officer Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	Stella.Simiyu@iucn.org	+254 20 890605	+254 (0) 721 364 289
<b>Resource personnel</b>								
Host	Loke Wai Hong		Malaysia	CABI Southeast and East Asia	Regional Director	loke@cabi.org	+60 (0) 3 89432921	
Host	Soetikno Sastroutomo	Technical Secretary, BioNET-ASEANET	Malaysia	CABI Southeast and East Asia	Senior Scientist	s.soetikno@cabi.org	+60 3 8943 2921	
Facilitator	John Mauremootoo		United Kingdom	Independent Consultant		jmauremootoo@gmail.com	+44 (0) 1934 876565	+44 (0) 784 621 9689
Co-facilitator	Chris Lyal	Chair of BioNET Board	United Kingdom	Natural History Museum	Beetle Diversity and Evolution Programme	C.Lyal@nhm.ac.uk	+44 (0) 207 942 5113	+44 (0) 7944 099 902
Rapporteur	Kornelia Rassmann		Germany	Independent Consultant		k.rassmann@rf-projektagentur.de	+49 (0) 8171 343864342	+49 (0) 172 7055336
BioNET Global Secretariat	Richard Smith	Director	United Kingdom	CABI	Director BioNET Secretariat	r.smith@cabi.org		+44 (0) 7815107973

### 7.3. Report on the LOOP meeting by the Chair of the Interim BioNET Council

#### Acknowledgements:

- Former Sec (Richard, Cindy, Konny, John)
- Former Board members and chair (Chris)
- Participants
- (John) Report of this meeting

#### Discussions:

- BioNET:
  - Governance / Interim Council / LOOPs representation / members
  - BioNET Representation in international Forums
    - SBSTTA / GTI
    - GBIF meeting in BA (Argentina)
    - Nagoya Protocol
    - Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (governing body of IPPC)
  - Fund raising :
    - Donors,
    - Governments
- CABI proposal:
  - Review relationship after a year / clarify what is expected from CABI (and vice versa).
  - Plantwise: Clarifications about LOOPs participation
- Collaborations
  - CETAF (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities) – sees a synergy between what they are hoping for and what BioNET Secretariat has been doing – to explore
  - others

#### BioNET Interim Council :

- **Agreed:** Composition of the Council:  
All LOOPS; Interim Chair – Mohamed; Interim-Vice Chair – Pepe

#### CABI: BioNET Secretariat & CABI-ASEANET

- **Agreed:** to accept CABI's offer of 30% Sarah's time and to provide secretariat support
- **Agreed:** Develop ToR for Sarah and the BioNET International – including line-management!  
Ensure that the Interim Council is able to assist with deciding on which meeting for BioNET to be represented
- **Agreed:** List of events/actions to give to Sarah for actions

#### Next to come:

- Interim Council meeting (when? Where?)
  - Adopt Sec Business Plan
  - LOOPs participation to Plantwise

## 7.4. Day 1 and Day 2 rapid evaluations

### Day 1 – One word feed back:

Good start, hopeful, progressing, change, excellent, ok – group discussion a bit wide, encouraging, progressive, excellent, interesting, fluctuating, progressing, very interesting discussions – I am very happy, mainstreaming, reflective, interesting, I'm happy, complex, pragmatic.

### Day 2 – One sentence feed back:

- Good.
- Don't forget the cars in the parking lot.
- The synergies exist, the challenge is to make the link.
- Good progress made, some way still to go.
- Many constructive comments and some innovative threads developing; now the challenge is to pull them together.
- We are getting close.
- I am more happy than yesterday.
- Heartening meeting with plenty of opportunities (for all).
- Worthwhile progress in dealing with key / critical issues.
- In spite of conflicting discussion, progress has been made in forging partnerships between BioNET and Plantwise in solving food security problems.
- Progressing more.
- Important presentations, valuable discussions and good Q&A sessions lapsing near the end into discursive speechifying.
- Good progress so far. The synergies among food security, CABI and BioNET – the global network for taxonomy will crucially add value to BioNET. Additionally the creation of a governance structure for BioNET will give it a new look and a transparent way of doing things, which I believe shall enhance donor funding for the networking.
- Good outputs for day 2), ensure defined role / actions for BioNET LOOPS.
- LOOONG DAY!!! - Needed an energiser.

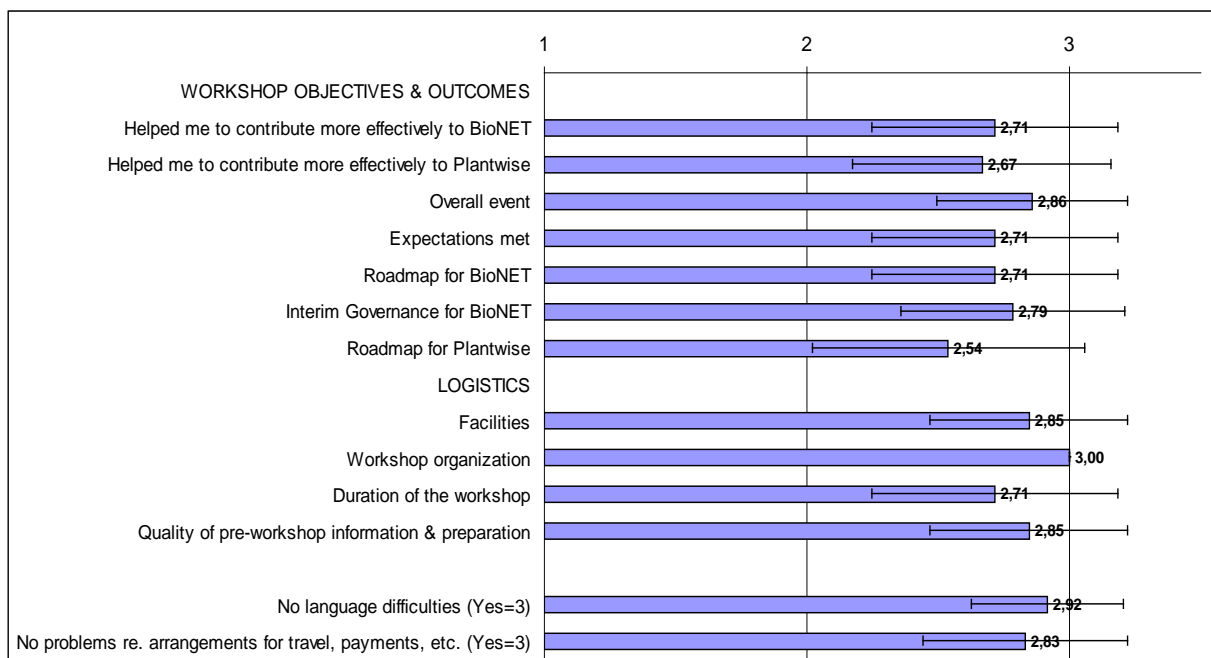


## 7.5. Workshop Evaluation

Meeting evaluation	yes / excellent	maybe / adequate	no / poor	no re- sponse	n	mean*	SD
Was the workshop useful to you							
To what extent will the knowledge acquired help you contribute more effectively to building BioNET's future?	10	4			14	2,7	0,5
To what extent will the knowledge acquired help you build the Plantwise-BioNET collaboration?	8	4		2	12	2,7	0,5
<b>What was the most useful part</b>							
<i>LOOPs volunteering for Sec functions</i>							
<i>Decisions on positive way forward for BioNET</i>							
<i>The way forward for BioNET</i>							
<i>Interacting with LOOP coordinators in consensus building</i>							
<i>Group discussions</i>							
<i>The creation of the governance structure, strategy plan and indeed the BioNET-Plantwise</i>							
<i>Plantwise link to develop BioNET bridge to the future</i>							
<i>ASEANET Presentation</i>							
<i>WG &amp; plenary discussions</i>							
<i>Recognized by BioNET that is a network (an international) and CABI / PW one donor</i>							
<i>Elaboration of Plantwise by CABI and identification of BioNET's possible contribution to PW</i>							
<i>To have the opportunity to discuss face to face all the aspects involved</i>							
<b>What was the least useful part</b>							
<i>Partitioning functions initially into must have &amp; like to see.</i>							
<i>Long periods</i>							
<i>None</i>							
<i>N/A</i>							
<i>No</i>							
<i>None</i>							
<i>None</i>							
<i>None</i>							
<i>To implement a LOOPs interactions</i>							
<i>Governance discussions were important but less relevant to my employer's agenda.</i>							
<i>We did not have some details about Plantwise so we could not have more efficient answers</i>							
Workshop goals and objectives							
How would you rate the overall event	12	2			14	2,9	0,4
Were your expectations met	10	4			14	2,7	0,5
Did the workshop help to build a Roadmap for taking BioNET forward?	10	4			14	2,7	0,5
Were the objectives of the workshop met concerning an interim global governance mechanism of BioNET?	11	3			14	2,8	0,4
Did the workshop contribute to build a Roadmap for BioNET LOOPs participating in Plantwise?	7	6		1	13	2,5	0,5
<b>Any comments on achievement of the workshop objectives?</b>							
<i>Participation / contribution by participants was exceptionally</i>							
<i>Partial as a whole; Substantial for BioNET.</i>							
<i>There is still work to be done to create a common vision and purpose to tally around.</i>							
<i>Fully met.</i>							
<i>Not sure how hand over by end of August will be done. How communication from Sec now to CABI-Sarah.</i>							
<i>Good job.</i>							
<i>Recognized by BioNET how to help PW</i>							
<i>Most of them were covered but Plantwise needs from BioNET</i>							

## Meeting evaluation

	yes / excellent	maybe / adequate	no / poor	no re- sponse	n	mean*	SD
<b>Logistics</b>							
Facilities	11	2		1	13	2,8	0,4
Workshop organization	14				14	3,0	
Duration of the workshop	10	4			14	2,7	0,5
Quality of pre-workshop information & preparation	11	2		1	13	2,8	0,4
There were no language difficulties	11	1		2	12	2,9	0,3
There were no problems with regard to travel arrangements, payments, accomodation arrangements, etc.	10	2		2	12	2,8	0,4
<b>General comments</b>							
<i>Facilitation was excellent.</i>							
<i>Generally good.</i>							
<i>Need more microphones so that people speak through them loud and clear.</i>							
<i>This was a good start; challenge is to keep momentum.</i>							
<i>Thanks to CABI for a very good proposal towards the cause for taxonomy &amp; biodiversity</i>							
<i>Made new friends which I intend to continue to contact</i>							
<i>Would have liked to leave the morning after the meeting; BioNET to be made a legal entity under Malaysia law-ASEAN</i>							
<i>I am more happy than on the 1st and 2nd day.</i>							
<i>Excellent opportunity to make some new, long-range contats and identify project opportunities completely outside meeting's formal agenda</i>							
<i>Congratulation for the organizers and facilitation team (Konny, John, Richard and Chris)</i>							



## 7.6. List of acronyms

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APHCN	ASEAN Plant Health Cooperation Network
ARDN	ASEAN Regional Diagnostics Network
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBIT	Centre for Biological Information Technology
CETAF	Consortium of European Taxonomy Facilities
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility - Deutschland
IBC	Interim BioNET Council
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
LCC	LOOP Coordinating Committee
LOOP	Locally Owned and Operated Partnerships, the regional BioNET networks
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
ToR	Terms of Reference

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