

**Report of the BioNET Workshop:**

***Many LOOPS – one BioNET***



The Workshop Participants (Photo: John Mauremootoo)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

APBON	Asia Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network
ATREE	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
BGCI	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
BioNET-Sec	BioNET Secretariat
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CETAF	Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
EDIT	European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy
ESABII	East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Inventory Initiative
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GISP	Global Invasive Species Programme
GTI	Global Taxonomy Initiative
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LCC	LOOP Coordinating Committee (BioNET)
LOOP	Locally Organised and Operational Partnership (BioNET)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NACI	National Coordinating Institute (BioNET)
NC	National Coordinator (BioNET)
NECI	Network Coordinating Institute (BioNET)
NFP	National Focal Point
NI	National Level Partner Institute (BioNET)
RC	Regional Coordinator (BioNET)
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD)
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SSG	Species Specialist Group (IUCN)
ToR	Terms of Reference
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

## SUMMARY

The workshop, organised by the BioNET Secretariat, brought together the secretariat staff with BioNET LOOP representatives to develop a Roadmap to Success for BioNET – the global network of taxonomy - by A. Building a common understanding of the mission, strategy and values of BioNET; B. Assessing the status of BioNET today (“*where are we?*”) and C. Specifying the vision for BioNET in the future (“*where do we want to be?*”).

The workshop was held in the UK from 4-6 June. Over the 2.5 days, the 18 participants took part in plenary, working group and “world café” sessions to identify and examine issues. Participants comprised Regional Coordinators or their representatives, interim Regional Coordinators, National Coordinators, BioNET Secretariat staff, a facilitator and a Monitoring and Evaluation expert.

Before the workshop, a survey of LOOP stakeholders was conducted to assess the status of and future expectations for BioNET from the perspectives of the LOOPS. A draft report on the survey was distributed and presented along with a BioNET monitoring and evaluation concept paper and a template for participants to use when presenting their views on BioNET’s status and future. Workshop participants were provided with background documents describing BioNET’s Global Programme, measures of the impact of BioNET’s work, LOOP mandates and resource materials on BioNET strategy, PR and branding.

Achievement of objectives can be summarised as follows:

### A. Building a common understanding of the mission, strategy and values of BioNET

Participants agreed that there had been a thorough discussion on this issue and that there was much that could be built on. However, some of the LOOP representatives had different perspectives on some issues. Further dialogue is needed to refine a common, current definition of BioNET’s niche.

### B. Assessing the status of BioNET today (“*where are we?*”)

There was agreement that this had been accomplished.

### C. Specifying our vision for BioNET in the future (“*where do we want to be?*”)

A lively dialogue was initiated and ideas for BioNET’s future niche were shared. The importance of retaining a broad vision for BioNET as a whole that can be adapted by each LOOP according to priorities was noted.

### D. Defining the way forward (“*how do we get there?*”)

There was a consensus that much progress was made on defining and conceptualizing elements of the Roadmap to Success. Further work between the Secretariat, participants and other LOOP representatives will be needed to complete the task.

An open exchange of views was encouraged at all times. The workshop benefitted from the active involvement of all participants. Responses to the workshop assessment suggest a generally high level of appreciation for the workshop and a desire for continued and greater dialogue and information exchange. All recognised the importance of the workshop in fostering “bottom up” engagement in assessing and planning work together as “One BioNET”.

## INTRODUCTION

The 2.5 day workshop brought together the BioNET LOOP representatives and the BioNET Secretariat (BioNET-Sec) to **develop a Roadmap to Success** for BioNET – the global network of taxonomy by:

- A. Building a common understanding of the mission, strategy and values of BioNET
- B. Assessing the status of BioNET today – LOOPs, Secretariat and Global Programme: achievements, strengths, shortcomings and barriers to success (“*where are we?*”).
- C. Specifying the vision for BioNET in the future (“*where do we want to be?*”).
- D. Defining the way forward (improving processes, building the BioNET monitoring and evaluation system, developing a good practice guide) (“*how do we get there?*”).

Regional LOOP coordinators were invited to nominate a representative from their LOOP to participate in the workshop – normally the Regional Coordinator themselves or the person they delegate daily LOOP coordination responsibilities to. Other invitees were selected for their potential to further the development of particular LOOPS. Nominees had to be:

1. Actively engaged in leading LOOP activities at the regional level.
2. Committed to preparing for the workshop (for example, prepare a presentation, respond to a survey) and participate actively in the workshop.
3. Committed to disseminating a report on their participation in the workshop to their LOOP Coordinating Committee.

Nine of the twelve (established or planned) BioNET-LOOPS were represented at the workshop. The eighteen participants comprised

- LOOP Regional Coordinators (5)
- Representative<sup>1</sup> of a LOOP Regional Coordinator (1)
- Interim Regional Coordinator (1)
- LOOP National Coordinators (3)
- Invited experts from organisations whose activities are closely aligned with those of BioNET (3)
- BioNET-Sec (3) including Director, Global Programme Officer and Office Manager
- Facilitators (2), namely John Mauremootoo (main facilitator) and Meg Gawler (co-facilitation and M&E expert)

The list of workshop participants, their BioNET designation and their contact details are given in Annex A.

Workshop activities were organised as follows:

### Pre-workshop

- To assess the status of and future expectations for BioNET from the perspectives of the LOOP and to prepare participants for the workshop, an independent consultant (John Mauremootoo) conducted a **survey of LOOP stakeholders**. The workshop participants and other RCs were interviewed by phone and the survey questionnaire was also mailed to the 65 BioNET LCC members for feed back. The consultant prepared a report, a draft of which was distributed to workshop participants prior to the workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> *Muaka Toko, representing the Regional Coordinator of BioNET-WAFRINET, had to cancel at the very last minute because he was unable to obtain a visa. Nonetheless, he sent his presentation for Day 1.*

- BioNET-Sec distributed relevant resource documents to the workshop participants including
  - BioNET business plan 2007-11
  - BioNET 2008-11 log frame
  - BioNET impact in numbers
  - BioNET LOOP mandates
- Further background information on BioNET strategy, PR and branding materials, and BioNET graphics were copied on USB sticks and distributed at the workshop.
- A BioNET monitoring and evaluation concept was developed by an independent consultant (Meg Gawler) and BioNET-Sec and distributed to the participants.
- An adaptive workshop agenda was produced by BioNET-Sec in consultation with the two independent consultants and the workshop participants.
- BioNET-Sec and John Mauremootoo developed a template for participant presentations focusing on BioNET's status and future from the view of the LOOPs.
- Ice breaking activities took place during the e-Biosphere09 Conference (reception at the Natural History Museum, London), which preceded the LOOP workshop, and on the evening before the LOOP workshop (dinner and self-introduction of all participants).

### Workshop Day 1

- 1.1 Welcome, logistics, introduction of the adaptive agenda and meeting ground rules
- 1.2 Workshop background and objectives
- 1.3 Developing BioNET's Road Map to Success:  
***Where are we? - Where do we want to be? - How do we get there?***
  - a) The status of BioNET – report based on the LOOP survey
  - b) The status of BioNET – views from the LOOPs
  - c) The BioNET Global Programme – views from the Secretariat
  - d) A monitoring and evaluation system for BioNET
  - e) Plenary and brainstorming session on the status and the future of BioNET

### Workshop Day 2

- 2.1 Developing BioNET's Roadmap to Success (continued):
  - a) Feedback and discussion on the status and future of BioNET
  - b) Group work on BioNET's Roadmap to Success

### Workshop Day 3

- 3.1 Building BioNET's Roadmap to Success
  - a) Feedback from BioNET-Sec on the group work on Day II
  - b) Plenary: burning issues
  - c) Consolidation of group work on Day II into the BioNET Roadmap to Success – ***"How do we get there and who is responsible"***.
- 3.2 Recap on the achievement of workshop objectives
- 3.3 Closing remarks, overall impressions and next steps

See Annex B for the annotated workshop agenda.

All presentations of this workshop are available to BioNET Coordinators at the following web address: *[to be completed before publication]*.

## DAY I - THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

### 1.1 WELCOME , LOGISTICS, ADAPTIVE AGENDA AND MEETING GROUND RULES

Richard Smith (RS), BioNET-Sec Director welcomed the workshop participants. John Mauremootoo (JM), independent consultant and co-facilitator of the workshop went over the workshop ground rules. The ground rules are listed in Annex C.

### 1.2 WORKSHOP BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

#### Presentation Richard Smith

RS gave an introductory presentation emphasising that this workshop was the first of its kind. Never before have the Secretariat and leading actors from the LOOPs come together in one place to examine how to improve their work together as a team.

RS outlined the history of BioNET and its structure comprising to date ten established, one proposed and one planned LOOP, with their Regional and National LOOP Coordinators (RCs, NCs), LOOP Coordinating Committees (LCCs), Regional and National Coordinating Institutes (NECIs, NACIs), National Level Partner Institutes (NIs), linked by the BioNET Secretariat (BioNET-Sec) and supported by the BioNET Fund Supervisory Board and the BioNET Advisory Group. He emphasised that the main purpose of the Secretariat is to serve the taxonomic sector and stakeholders in developing countries through the LOOPs.

He outlined the logic behind BioNET's regional/global partnership approach, resulting in linkages within and among regions and with international capacity building, technology and policy partners such as the CBD, GBIF and GISP secretariats, and explained that BioNET's mandate comes from government endorsements from 104 countries, from key decisions of the CBD and from the BioNET community (3000+ contacts in the BioNET database). RS further outlined BioNET's focus on demand-driven taxonomy and its advocacy, strategy and policy development activities.

As external barriers to BioNET's success he listed the fact that taxonomy is typically a "hard sell", in particular because development funding must show *immediate relevance* to poverty reduction and other donor priorities. Internal barriers mentioned were disconnects between the LOOPs and global level work, and the variable commitment from coordinating institutes.

RS outlined the workshop's objective of developing a **Roadmap to Success** including an M&E system by finding answers to the questions:

- *Where are we now?*
- *Where do we want to be?*
- *How do we get there?*

#### Discussion

The question was posed as to why representatives of developed countries (chiefly USA, Canada and Europe) had not been brought into the BioNET process. RS explained that in BioNET's first years, developed country LOOPs such as EUROLOOP and AMERILOOP were planned. EUROLOOP was established in the 1990s but formal endorsement from governments was never sought and it is no longer in existence. BioNET's focus since has shifted to strengthening taxonomic networks in the developing world. However, he emphasised that BioNET has become increasingly visible among the European taxonomic community with linkages between BioNET-Sec and e.g. EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy) and CETAF (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities) and that these provide avenues for cooperation between the LOOPs and major European taxonomic centres.

## 1.3 DEVELOPING BIONET'S ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

### 1.3-A BIONET LOOP SURVEY 2009: PAVING THE WAY TO THE ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

#### Presentation John Mauremootoo

The LOOP survey results were presented according to the proposed Roadmap structure introduced in the previous presentation: *where are we now – where do we want to be – how do we get there*. The feed back from the LOOPS was very variable, but with the responses from the RCs being in general more positive than those from the NCs.

Encouraging findings included the fact that there was belief in BioNET's vision, mission, goals and values, and strong support for the BioNET Global Programme and the work of BioNET-Sec. The respondents reported some significant LOOP successes, especially in LOOP consolidation, provision of taxonomic products and services, communications and providing examples of good practice. The idea of creating a "Good Practice Guide to LOOP Operation" was welcomed by many.

Less encouraging findings included a lack of participation of many NACIs, lack of a system to replace Coordinators, insufficient funding, lack of attribution of outputs to BioNET, problematic institutional arrangements impairing the efficiency of regional networking, and a lack of strategic planning and communication.

Looking to the future, respondents wanted their LOOPS to be much more active and producing more tangible outputs, e.g. leading a regional project, leading the regional/national taxonomic agenda, building capacity and raising awareness. It was hoped that in five years BioNET as a whole would be a global leader in the promotion of taxonomy, be providing financial and funding-related support, be developing and strengthening the LOOPS and have one or more global projects.

It was felt that these objectives could be realised through strengthening actions in each of the four Key Areas of the BioNET Secretariat's Global Programme – namely A) Fortifying the LOOPS (e.g. engaging better with NGOs and scientists that do not have formal LOOP roles), B) Enhancing the provision of taxonomic tools and services (e.g. IAS, plant protection, pan-LOOP projects), C) Policy and communications (e.g. regional / international agendas; outreach and promotion), and D) Resource mobilisation and governance (e.g. an innovative funding platform, enhancing M&E).

There were high expectations for the workshop. These included networking, project development, funding-related considerations, fortifying the LOOPS, initiation of future plans and an increased understanding of BioNET's niche.

#### Discussion and synthesis with a focus on lessons learned / development of shared goals / strategy

The following issues were among those highlighted in the discussion

- BioNET depends for its success on mobilizing governments to develop their taxonomic capacity, yet most, like Bangladesh, still have not even done a needs assessment. BioNET needs to keep addressing strategic constraints such as the omission of taxonomy from National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.
- Some participants felt that BioNET's accomplishments could have been more strongly emphasised in the draft survey report.
- Questionnaires were returned by only 4 of 65 LCC members which could indicate a lack of commitment. However, some thought that this might not have been a fair reflection of LCC member motivation as they were aware that their LOOP would be represented at the workshop anyway.
- There was concern that BioNET has long been process oriented, i.e. building up LOOPS instead of delivering products. The roadmap is our opportunity to decide if we now want to be product oriented.

- There was uncertainty as to which projects should be attributed to BioNET e.g. the need for a mechanism to credit BioNET for projects it started but which were not then implemented under “BioNET”.
- Some participants were interested in the personal opinions of the consultants but it was pointed out that their role was not one of evaluation but of facilitation – helping the participants come to an understanding of issues.
- It was suggested to conduct a SWOT analysis using the survey results.

### **1.3-B LOOP PRESENTATIONS: BUILDING ON BIONET’S STRENGTHS, PAVING THE WAY FORWARD**

#### *Where are we - where should we be going?*

Ten of the thirteen LOOP presentations addressed the following topics/questions:

1. What are the major success factors to be built on in achieving BioNET’s mission and vision in your LOOP?
2. What are the major obstacles to success in achieving BioNET’s mission and vision in your LOOP?
3. How do you see BioNET's future / what would you like BioNET to achieve?
4. Give a Good Practice example from your LOOP or experience in other networks / projects / initiatives.

The three presentations from invited experts described taxonomic initiatives of relevance to BioNET:

- Samy Zalut, Chair, Nature and Science Foundation, Egypt presented on the BioMAP Project.
- Kamal Bawa (Founder trustee and President of ATREE (the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment), University of Massachusetts-Boston) presented ATREE.
- Noriaki Sakaguchi (CBD GTI NFP, Coordination Mechanism Member) introduced the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Inventory Initiative (ESABII) and the Asia Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (APBON), and

Key points from each presentation are highlighted below.

#### **Presentation Julio Mena – NC BioNET-CARINET - Cuba**

1. Success factors: Global level impact can be achieved by integrating capacity building and research between institutions. Cuba has the greatest number of relevant expert institutions in the region and can contribute to regional capacity building in taxonomy.
2. Obstacles: There is a lack of finances, particularly for regional projects. Synergies could be maximised by integrating projects regionally and globally.
3. Future: BioNET should function as a global network with a financing mechanism, there should be more effective cooperation with developed country expert centres.
4. Good Practice: Work on climate change and fungal diversity has been initiated and this can be expanded into a network on climate change and biodiversity in the Caribbean (or Latin America); educational and public awareness materials.

#### **Presentation Soetikno Sastroutomo – Technical Secretary BioNET-ASEANET**

1. Success factors: a coordinated, Secretariat-led, effort linking LOOPS and expert centres to win funding for a global level project to strengthen taxonomic and / or diagnostic capacities. Joint capacity building with partners from developed countries in combination with using national, regional and international experts is very attractive to donor agencies.

2. Obstacles: There is a lack of LOOP interaction, of donor funded projects and of commitment from NACIs and NIs (time, fund, resources) and of mechanisms to renew coordination structures.
3. Future: BioNET should become a prestigious and comprehensive network with strong financial status. It should be the global leader in capacity building for taxonomy and rapid diagnostics.
4. Good Practice: building on needs assessments, ASEANET has achieved a great deal in improving taxonomic capacity for the application of SPS measures to facilitate international trade.

#### **Presentation Wanja Kinuthia – RC BioNET-EAFRINET**

1. Success factors: EAFRINET's main LOOP structures are established (NECI, NACI...), priorities defined through taxonomic needs assessments (though updates are needed), good partnerships to regional organisations and initiatives are established, it is a good communication platform delivering services and products (training).
2. Obstacles: The LOOP is not financially sustainable; taxonomic capacity building and expertise is not sufficient.
3. Future: Taxonomy should be promoted to a level that it is recognized by governments. Forensic taxonomy should be promoted in the region
4. Good Practice: Promotion of taxonomy in terms of its benefit to GDP.

#### **Presentation Posa Skelton – RC BioNET-PACINET**

1. Success factors: a unifying initiative to promote taxonomy / professional development across different fields of expertise; mainstreaming taxonomy; strong position among other global networks; being at the cutting edge of taxonomic capacity building; winning high level commitment to taxonomy; employment of a dedicated person to coordinate BioNET activities regionally / nationally.
2. Obstacles: Lack of funding and other resources; enormity of the task; competing interests with other pressing issues and with other organisations and initiatives; lack of buy-in by end-users; low profile of taxonomy.
3. Future: BioNET should be the global leader in building taxonomic capacity; it should expand to all regions and be more influential than now, leading to a more efficient mobilization of resources.
4. Good Practice: The invasive ant work in the Pacific islands illustrates the need to involve other fields (e.g. software developers, graphic artists, etc.) to assist with the development of tools and other awareness materials and that para-taxonomic training is short-term but has potentially long-term benefits.

#### **Presentation Tsetseg Baljinova – NC BioNET-EASIANET - Mongolia**

1. Success factors: BioNET is recognized by the CBD as a key actor in overcoming the taxonomic impediment; LOOPs are a good platform for joining forces.
2. Obstacles: Lack of funding for LOOPs / project development; lack of awareness among the donor countries and decision makers on the importance of taxonomy to developing country needs.
3. Future: BioNET should be the leader for the application of taxonomy for the achievement of the CBD goals, including ABS regime; it should promote public awareness of taxonomy in popular media and inclusion of taxonomy in curricula.
4. Good Practice: "Ecological and taxonomic study of Mongolian microorganisms and utilisation" joint research project between Department of Biotechnology, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (Japan) and Institute of Biology, Mongolia. Cooperation is fruitful for both developing and developed countries.

### **Presentation José Clavijo – RC BioNET-ANDINONET**

1. Success factors: ANDINONET has strong buy in from the Andean countries; there is full support from the LOOP coordinating institution (NECI) at no cost; we benefit (get projects) because of the visibility provided by the BioNET platform.
2. Obstacles: There are no regional funding organisations; competition for resources among the countries; National Coordinators are not engaged / do not see themselves or their daily work as BioNET.
3. Future: BioNET should be the driving force for capacity building in the region and the leader in promoting taxonomy in the region; develop virtual regional References Centres for different groups of organisms; regional standards for graduate programmes.
4. Good Practice: Training using North-South cooperation, production and distribution of taxonomic research support materials, and development of regional research projects.

### **Presentation Mohamed Kchouk – RC BioNET-NAFRINET**

1. Success factors: Buy-in of vision & mission of BioNET in DCs (e.g. CBD and GEF Focal Points); fair consultations/partnerships with developing countries on all aspects related to biodiversity to underpin ABS regime of CBD; periodical/frequent workshops and training.
2. Obstacles: Lack of communication / buy-in to BioNET in North Africa; poor endorsement of CBD and GTI objectives by developing countries; lack of governance; lack of professionalism in Project/Program management in DCs; poor logistical support in DCs; poor financial support in DCs; language impediments; identifying motivated people; lack of trust in NGOs.
3. Future: Taxonomy should be the main niche of BioNET beyond 2011. Sustainable development is the second niche to work on through development of strong IPR networks (North-South) and development of North-South industrial partnerships.
4. Good Practice: decision management tools linked to GIS; automated Tunisian flora.

### **Presentation Badrul Bhuiya - NC BioNET-SACNET-Bangladesh**

1. Success factors: Global BioNET forums have provided unique opportunities to develop international cooperation. Establishment of LOOPs helps promote capacity building in taxonomy and biodiversity conservation.
2. Obstacles: Lack of initiatives by the government policy makers; lack of initiatives of the designated NECI in the SACNET Regional Network; lack of funding support to implement projects in taxonomic capacity building in the developing countries within SACNET; lack of taxonomic expertise in the region.
3. Future: biodiversity organizations in the SACNET region come under the umbrella of BioNET to agree on capacity development activities; an effective NECI is identified.
4. Good Practice: International Day for Biodiversity seminars in Bangladesh have made local scientists and politicians (Ministers) aware of the importance of taxonomy; training by the NACI involving expertise from expert centres helped developing local expertise; attending the regional DNA Barcoding meeting in Taipei led to the successful submission of a digitisation and Barcoding proposal on leafminer pests to USDA.

### **Presentation Mercedes Lizarralde de Grosso – Interim RC BioNET-LATINET**

1. Success factors: LOOPs can organize effective cooperation between institutions and mobilize resources for taxonomy. BioNET helps understand markets / define user needs.
2. Obstacles: Achievement of BioNET's Vision and Mission is impeded by a lack of training of taxonomists in promoting their own science and its utility; establishment of LATINET has been long delayed.
3. Future: In 10-20 years BioNET should be a network which can help to find economic resources for specific problems between countries and regions; e.g. developing the GTI Special Fund (CBD Decision VIII/3).

4. Good Practice: monitoring of Triatominae (potential vectors of Chagas disease) in Latin America. Joint capacity building of WHO and the governments of Latin American countries effectively coordinated work in making decisions dealing with applied practice on regional diseases.

#### **Presentation Muaka Toko – Assistant RC BioNET-WAFRINET**

Muaka Toko was unable to attend the meeting and his presentation was delivered by RS.

1. Success factors: Taxonomy is extremely important for the livelihoods of humanity; and BioNET is a reputed worldwide for promoting taxonomy.
2. Obstacles: Achievement of BioNET's Vision and Mission is impeded by limited financial resources at the Secretariat level and the resulting consequences (e.g. the limited capacity of BioNET-Sec to help LOOPs achieve their goals, etc.).
3. Future: Unless BioNET-Sec's capacity increases effectively, it should focus on its current mission through a judicious selection of partnerships within the landscape of biodiversity organisations (i.e. avoid continuous spread of efforts).
4. Good Practice: Seed money from BioNET-Sec (through SDC funds) supported the establishment of a Development Plan for West African DNA Barcoding projects and the drafting of a nematode DNA Barcoding concept note.

#### **Presentations from invited experts**

##### **Presentation Samy Zalut – Chair, Nature and Science Foundation, Egypt**

1. Success factors: There are several programmes in Egypt that support the vision and mission of BioNET (e.g. BioMAP, Nature & Science Foundation)
2. Obstacles: Government bureaucracy resulting in slow decision-making, difficulties and delays in implementation of programmes; lack of involvement of NGOs, experts and others; lack of a mechanism to encourage LOOPs to implement their action plans.
3. Future: BioNET-Sec "sells" the products of our scientific work, helps win recognition and funding; LOOPs focus on "basics" e.g. fieldwork, data collecting, publishing; integrate BioNET's vision and mission with international organisations, particularly with GBIF, IUCN, etc; identify global and regional projects and initiate fundraising campaigns; involve more relevant institutions/experts in the LOOPs; "plan B" for when governments become obstacles to our work.
4. Good practice example – BioMAP Egypt.

##### **Presentation Kamal Bawa – Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)**

- ATREE's mission: to enhance conservation through generation and application of new interdisciplinary knowledge, improvement of policies and institutions, engagement of civil society and increase of social and human capital.
- Products include biodiversity databases and portals e.g. India Biodiversity Portal.
- Success – India Biodiversity Portal platform, networks and communication.
- Obstacles – technology, government, geopolitics – makes collaboration difficult.
- Future: support BioNET networking; joint mobilization of resources; technology know how and systems; help win government support in India.

##### **Presentation Noriaki Sakaguchi – East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Inventory Initiative (ESABII) and Asia Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (APBON)**

Main themes of ESABII

- Development of biodiversity information inventories in the East and Southeast Asian regions to support the creation of information products for decision-making e.g. CITES implementation.

- Action plans needed to promote taxonomic capacity building for the development of biodiversity information and implementation of conservation policies.

#### Background to APBON

- Necessity of clarifying impacts of climate change, habitat destruction and other drivers on global biodiversity.
- Necessity of scientific information to provide for assessment of 2010 target and beyond.

#### Discussion of LOOP / other presentations

The discussions after the presentations focused mainly on the barriers and obstacles to BioNET's success.

Lack of funding was recognized as a perennial challenge. However, the example of ATREE shows that it is possible to attract funding. This success was attributed to quality science and investment in expert people rather than infrastructure.

Some participants felt that taxonomists are not the best people at communication and networking. However, involvement with global partners and sharing of information is essential if networks such as BioNET are to be successful and able to create environments allowing its members to do what they do best.

It was suggested that IPR issues are a barrier to the acceptance of networks such as BioNET. The playing field between North and South was felt not to be level, with the North having the capacity to produce products from which the South does not necessarily benefit.

For some LOOPs, geopolitical issues within the region were seen as barriers to success. India for example has not yet endorsed BioNET-SACNET. Yet others noted that LOOP activities need not depend on the full participation of each potential member country.

The issue of attribution of activities to BioNET (i.e. what constitutes a BioNET activity) was discussed at length with respect to *branding*. Some participants emphasised the importance of enhancing BioNET's visibility e.g. by using the BioNET or LOOP logo when representing any activity related to the mission of BioNET. Others felt that an activity could be branded as "BioNET" only when directly and currently funded through BioNET. The branding issue is related to the *reporting and M&E issue*. While some felt that BioNET is an umbrella network and LOOPs thus should report on all relevant activities in the region, others felt that only projects for which BioNET had successfully applied for grants should be reported as "BioNET activities". It was emphasised that taxonomists will attribute their activities to BioNET only if they see clear benefits of doing so (e.g. increasing their chances for funding by being part of a well-known network with global presence and expertise, being able to communicate activities and results to a wider audience via the BioNET bulletin/website, being able to increase visibility for taxonomy, etc.). However, some benefits of being part of a larger network only apply if the network is visible – which it will only be if its activities are being linked and published under its name.

Opinions differed on the degree to which host institutions (NECIs and NACIs) were supportive of BioNET. Some were very supportive but it was not clear if this support always led to increased awareness of BioNET. Additionally, some participants felt that some of the activities that are being promoted by supportive host institutions as "BioNET activities" may have been undertaken by these institutions even in the absence of BioNET. Reporting of such activities through BioNET suggests these institutions believe BioNET adds value to their work.

### 1.3-C STRENGTHENING BIONET – THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME

#### Presentation Richard Smith

RS gave a presentation on the Global Programme 2007-2011 led by BioNET-Sec and delivered with the LOOPs. The programme was developed in consultation with the BioNET Advisory Group to

strengthen the BioNET LOOPs and promote taxonomy worldwide. It does not replace the LOOP work programmes. The presentation outlined

- the policy context of the Global Programme (MDG, WSSD, SPS, etc.).
- BioNET's Vision and Mission
- the four Key Areas of the Global Programme in terms of their purpose and the degree to which they are being successfully implemented.
  - A – fortifying the LOOPs,
  - B – accelerating the development of taxonomic resources, tools & technologies,
  - C – policy development and communications,
  - D – resource mobilisation and governance

RS defined BioNET's niche as follows: *BioNET provides services to support the institutions and people that practice taxonomy, deliver taxonomic information and use this to develop user-friendly products and services.*

BioNET's major funding partners and their areas of interest were listed. The objectives of funding partners relate to issues such as poverty alleviation, food security, climate change responses, strategic partnerships and management of biodiversity resources. BioNET-Sec's work is defined by the need to address these issues.

## Discussion

Much of the discussion centred on how BioNET should best promote itself and support taxonomy scientifically and logistically. It was suggested that one of the most effective approaches was to promote BioNET through the international conventions. However, awareness of these activities - currently mainly delivered through the BioNET-Sec - appears to be poor at the LOOP level. It may be necessary, therefore, to provide some training to the RCs so that they are aware of global initiatives and their role relating to taxonomy. This may help to create taxonomic champions/ambassadors in the region to work at the country level. Further, the RCs could be supported financially by BioNET-Sec to participate in policy fora and then this process could be decentralised.

Others suggested that a few key issues should be prioritised in order to improve focus. Some felt that it was important for BioNET to be promoting particular taxonomic tools. However, it was pointed out that while there are clear benefits of these tools, it is important that BioNET does not concentrate on only one or two. This may be too narrow a focus and it may influence donors to go down the path of funding only certain tools/technologies.

### 1.3-D STRENGTHENING BIONET – A MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM FOR BIONET

#### Presentation Meg Gawler

MG delivered a presentation on an M&E system for BioNET – *How can we monitor our performance, demonstrate our successes, and grow?* She outlined M&E as an integral part of the Roadmap to Success; presented feedback from the LOOP survey on M&E in terms of its advantages, concerns, objectives and barriers; introduced M&E theory; outlined M&E options; and proposed the way forward.

Monitoring was defined as a continuous function providing indicators of progress that are needed for stakeholders, as well as for good management, reporting and evaluation. Evaluation was defined as objective, evidence-based assessment of progress towards outcomes.

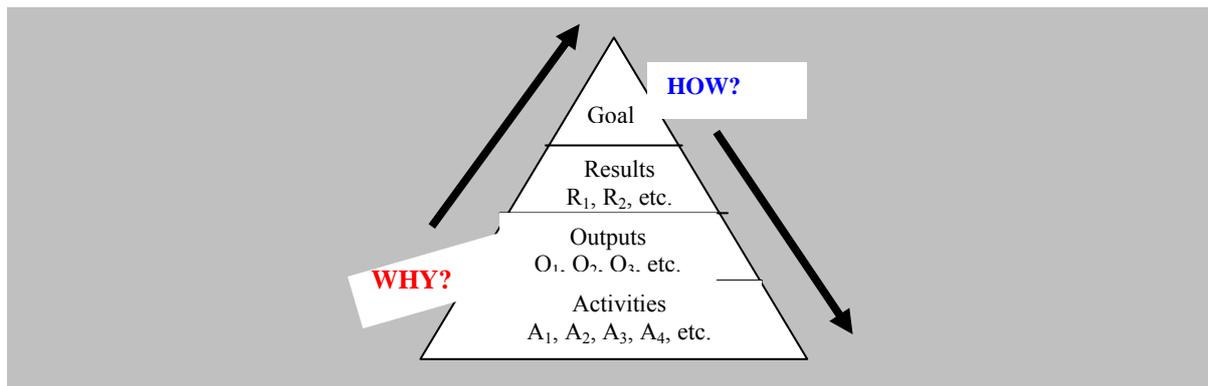
Although 79% of survey respondents agreed that an M&E system for BioNET would be useful there were concerns relating to workload, a lack of clarity on the precise nature of the M&E process and attribution: i.e. to what extent can BioNET claim credit for achievements? An insufficient response rate from the NACIs was identified as the major barrier to reporting.

MG outlined the theory of monitoring in relation to a log frame with indicators for outputs, results, purpose, goal and risks/assumptions. Indicators were defined as “factors that can be measured and illustrate the difference between the current state and the desired state”. However, it is possible to monitor without indicators, e.g. by using “most significant change” (MSC) methodology. Evaluation criteria were defined – relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. Some issues relating to M&E in voluntary networks were outlined.

Several elements that could go into an M&E plan for BioNET were listed. The exact nature of this plan would have to be developed and decided jointly by BioNET coordinators and secretariat.

## Discussion

Some participants were unclear about M&E terminology. This was clarified by MG and others using a pyramid as reproduced below:

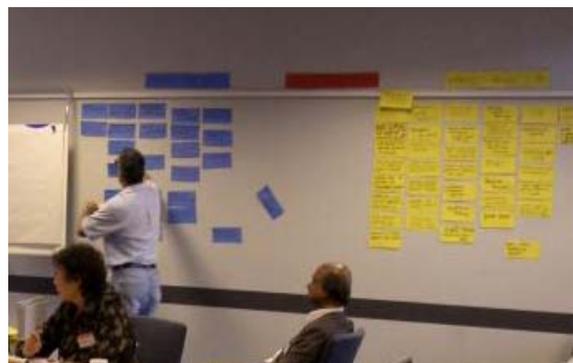


MG explained the importance of thinking about outputs first to make the work plan results-based. She stated that one should not start with activities.

Questions were asked about the frequency of reporting. Biannual reporting (as currently) was considered to be adequate but this should be based on continual monitoring to ensure achievements are not forgotten. It was suggested that it would be useful to offer some training in the implementation of the BioNET M&E system once this was agreed upon.

## 1.3-E PLENARY AND BRAINSTORMING: WHERE WE ARE-WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Participants undertook a brainstorming session on where BioNET is and where they wanted BioNET to be in the future. The results of this exercise would constitute the basis for developing the Road Map to Success and transform the BioNET of today into the strengthened BioNET envisaged by the LOOPs. Each participant filled in key words on blue and yellow cards and put these up on the wall. The cards were then ordered into clusters by the group (see Table 1).



## 1.4 FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS ON RESULTS OF DAY 1

The “one word” summaries of each participant’s feelings about Day I of the workshop were:

overwhelmed (2) | share | learned a lot | deep | good networking | all material informative | useful exercise | understanding | joy | promising | communication

**Table 1: Results of the brainstorming session on Day I****WHERE WE ARE?****Global Recognition**

- Major biodiversity organisations know BioNET
- Strong CBD mandates
- 100+ government endorsements (which does not necessarily equal support)

**Support for global programme**

- Strong support for BioNET vision etc.
- Strong support for BioNET Global Programme
- BioNET Sec support considered to be beneficial
- Support for M&E

**Inadequate funding**

- LOOPs suffer from lack of funding
- LOOPs lack their own financial mechanism

**BioNET's niche**

- BioNET niche is not clearly identified
- BioNET is not equally strong for all taxa

**Limited integration with governments (upstream and downstream)**

- Inadequate communication between BioNET and governments
- BioNET suffers from government bureaucracy
- Poor endorsement of BioNET Vision and Mission by many countries

**LOOP strengths**

- Some LOOP successes in consolidation, provision of products, etc
- Local taxonomic activities taking place but need for BioNET connection
- Strong participation by taxonomists in LOOPs (network includes taxonomic experts)
- Expertise to deliver quality data/control

**LOOP weaknesses**

- Identity crisis
- Disparity in LOOP operations
- Needs for taxonomy haven't yet been identified in each region
- Lack of taxonomic tools
- Cutting edge technology under-utilised by BioNET
- Lack of capacity to carry out taxonomic identification

**WHERE WE WANT TO BE?****Global leader/promoter in Taxonomy**

- BioNET niche well defined
- Very good quality of taxonomic data
- Criteria for quality established

**BioNET helps deliver global targets**

- Achieve global targets (MDG, 2010...)
- LOOPs involved in meeting global targets
- Other (non-CBD) policy mandates (IPPC, CITES, ..)
- Standard public/policy awareness material produced for LOOPs

**Integrating projects (across LOOPs)**

- Implementing a global project
- BioNET contributes to capacity building in taxonomy for implementing CBD

**Recognition and Endorsement**

- BioNET and government each country have cooperative relationship for promoting taxonomy
- Countries endorsement of taxonomy
- Link BioNET with committed institutions and individuals
- Strong links to centres of excellence globally
- Policy makers and civil society supportive of taxonomy
- Institutional arrangements supportive
- BioNET is a recognised player within the biodiversity landscape

**BioNET meets the needs of end users**

- Taxonomic tools developed
- Taxonomy community and users aware of BioNET's benefits
- Products developed that attract the private sector (finance)
- Tangible outputs of world impact
- Barcoding developed

**Taxonomy capacity strengthened**

- Referral centre for taxonomy-related matters
- Adequate taxonomic info (e.g. accurate checklists)
- Remote diagnostic labs established (remote microscopy)
- Strong user friendly, participation platforms for assessments and dissemination of taxonomic databases

**Financial self-sufficiency**

- Endowment fund for BioNET
- Mechanism to raise funds for LOOPs
- Special fund for GTI

**Strong BioNET as a whole**

- Consortium of taxonomists
- Global functional network including USA, Canada and Europe
- Database of experts in taxonomy and related fields
- Working M&E system established with quantifiable contributions (impact, outcomes, outputs, activities)
- BioNET "family" links strong
- Effective communication among BioNET-LOOPs

**Strong BioNET LOOPs**

- NACIs / NECIs champion BioNET-INTERNATIONAL
- Strong inter-LOOP collaboration
- Self-sufficient / autonomous LOOPs
- Self-sustained and service-providing LOOPs
- Regional projects
- Network extended beyond NACI / NECI

## 2.1 DEVELOPING BIONET'S ROADMAP TO SUCCESS (CONTINUED):

### 2.1-A FEEDBACK AND DISCUSSION: WHERE WE ARE - WHERE WE WANT TO BE

#### Discussion

Some participants felt that BioNET could have a niche as an institution assuring the quality of taxonomic data by producing high quality output and/or monitoring and controlling the overall quality of the taxonomic data (including the definition of criteria for quality control). Others felt that BioNET should not be concerned with standard setting.

It was stated that the LOOPs wanted a degree of independence or autonomy but also wanted to work under the BioNET umbrella. "BioNET is the LOOPs, all of them. We see BioNET as us but in each area we need to be independent." This reconciliation of unity and independence is illustrated by the LOOP appellation. For example in "BioNET-EAFRINET" "BioNET" is like the surname and EAFRINET the first name. Ultimately however, it was agreed that BioNET will be judged by what it does not what it says it is.

### 2.2-B GROUP WORK BUILDING BIONET'S ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

#### Group work

Participants<sup>2</sup> separated into three groups to discuss three key topics relating to the process of getting from "where we are now" to "where we want to be", i.e. "how do we get there?"

1. Development of a global BioNET policy/advocacy programme (facilitator – Mohamed Kchouk)
2. How do you get a strong LOOP? (facilitator – Wanja Kinuthia)
3. The development of a BioNET M&E system (facilitator – Meg Gawler)

Each group had half an hour to discuss their topic after which they moved on to the next topic. Thus, all participants were able to contribute to each of the topics with the exception of the facilitators who worked on the same throughout the session ("World café format").

#### Results of Group 1: The development of a global BioNET policy/advocacy programme

##### **Example: a programme to be launched at CBD COP10 in October 2010**

BioNET should:

1. Advocate for taxonomy and its relevance to global conservation, climate change, food security & human health
2. Broaden the constituency for taxonomy to all sectors / initiatives and as such ensure that appropriate funding is allocated
3. Strengthen linkages of LOOPs with global policy forums & initiatives
4. Prepare policy statement or position papers dealing with taxonomic issues for specific meetings of CBD etc, with information on BioNET activities, building on this WS
5. Be actively involved in international policy development related to global policy on taxonomy
6. Promote awareness of BioNET's priorities i.e. taxonomy to help researchers, decision-makers, general public/civil society, private sector, local people, etc.
7. Describe and develop BioNET's relationships with other organizations (IUCN, GBIF, EOL, etc)

BioNET should broaden the constituency for taxonomy by undertaking advocacy directed at the following target groups:

<sup>2</sup> *BioNET-Sec staff did not fully participate in the group work in order to give as much time and space as possible for other participants to develop and express their ideas.*

- Governments
- Professional national/international organizations
- Private sector
- Academic institutions
- NGOs & civil society
- End users of taxonomy
- The global conservation, climate change, food security and human health communities

#### Potential themes

- Taxonomy for:
  - Conservation
  - Public awareness
  - Agriculture, food security and food safety
  - Plant conservation, alien species (IAS)
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Sustainable development
  - Research
  - Human health
  - Assessment of ecosystem & environment
- Molecular taxonomy capacity, including DNA Barcoding and the development of common molecular standards for groups
- Common standards for databases
- Good quality taxonomy (scientific) to every user
- Easy to use tools

### **Results of Group 2: How do you get a good strong LOOP?**

#### Main success factors

- Regional Coordinating institute with good facilities (communications), management and effective networking.
- LCC to procure funding for LOOP sustainability.
- Active coordinators NECI, NACI, NI

#### How to overcome obstacles?

- High-level policy makers sensitised about taxonomy/ advocacy
- BioNET-Sec should work with LOOPs to secure funds for LOOP programmes / activities
- Develop training manuals and communication tools, etc
- Engage expert institutes and personnel.

#### What have been the success factors for those LOOPs that operate effectively?

- Dedicated NECI & NACI
- Well defined niche/ taxonomic need to meet donor funded requirements.
- Funded projects
- Buy-in by the government
- Regional organizations agreeing to work together
- Full time paid coordinator. (Using BGCi format)

#### How did they get there?

- Focused target
- Funded projects
- In-house capacity in project development and implementation
- Support from host institutions
- Some level of taxonomic capacity
- Paid coordinator

#### Responsibilities at different levels (NECI, NACI, NI, RC)?

- Team work
- Clear ToRs for each actor

**Results of Group 3: A Monitoring and Evaluation System for BioNET**

Why monitor:

- A monitoring system allows LOOPs to share what they are doing
- Monitoring will capture the valuable in-kind commitments from coordinators and coordinating institutions

What should be monitored:

- All taxonomy related activities (?)
- BioNET processes

What is needed to monitor:

- ToRs
- Simple log frames

Current obstacles to monitoring:

- Absence of log frames in most LOOPs: at present, only ANDINONET has a log frame; ASEANET has a project log frame, but not one for the LOOP as a whole. All other LOOPs don't yet have log frames. With no programme defined, what do we monitor?
- Identity of BioNET / the issue of attribution: should M&E only apply to BioNET-funded projects?

Monitoring may increase NACI input

In addition to monitoring and reporting on what each country has done (NACI outputs during the reporting period), the Regional Coordinators could summarise the performance of NACIs during the reporting period in a matrix like the one below:

NACI	Good	OK	Poor	Don't Know
W	x			
X				x
Y			x	
Z				x

This could serve as an accountability mechanism for NACI performance including reporting, providing a means for measuring how well the NACIs did in delivering its LOOP mandate.

Ideas for indicators to measure capacity building activities

- Number of participants
- Exam at the end of a training course to identify key organisms in which at least 80% of participants score  $\geq 90\%$  at end of training course
- Geographic spread of participants
- Percentage of participants working with knowledge acquired one year after the training
- Number of papers published and conferences delivered by participants on the subject of the training

It is important to monitor risks and assumptions as well as intended results. When projects fail, many times it is because the assumptions have not held. The method based on the log frame is simple. The frequency of monitoring should be a minimum of every six months, but every three months is better if you want to use the monitoring for adaptive management.

Example of a Monitoring Matrix

Interven-tion logic	Indicator	Source of Verification	Status	(Any problems encountered)	Action(s) taken
Goal					
Purpose					
Result A <sub>1</sub>					
Assumption A <sub>1</sub>					
Result A <sub>2</sub>					
etc.					

- The three columns on the left come from the log frame
- Use additional rows for multiple indicators.

Areas of Agreement

- M&E should focus on demonstrating impact.
- Monitoring should take place every 6 months (as the current reporting to BioNET-Sec).
- Monitoring format should be a matrix based on a simple log frame.
- Log frames are needed for each LOOP (which should distinguish between elements funded and those not yet funded).
- The Most Significant Change approach was endorsed: each LOOP should provide one story every 6-12 months (successes or failures, either related to BioNET programme, or lessons learned elsewhere).
- Evaluation could be formative (in the beginning or middle of an intervention – intention of improving strategy and enhancing results); and / or summative (at the end of an intervention – assessment of merit or worth and generates lessons learned). A rights-based approach is imperative.

**2.2 ADDRESS TO THE WORKSHOP BY IAN BARRY (BIONET BOARD MEMBER)**

Ian Barry spoke of the fact that BioNET is not an organisation but a network of regional partnerships. The LOOPs are vitally important to it and it has been a great opportunity that they have been represented here and at the e-Biosphere workshop.

He was also interested in the feedback from the LOOPs concerning the BioNET M&E system. He believed that logframes can provide important indicators but we need to ensure that they focus not just on short term outputs and outcomes but particularly on the longer term impact.

He emphasised the importance of interactions with other organisations and BioNET’s unique mandate which is what BioNET gets funding for. He stated that BioNET must identify itself as a network that can do things that other networks or organisations cannot do.

**2.3 FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS ON RESULTS OF DAY II**

The “one word” summaries of each participant’s feelings about Day II of the workshop were:

fulfilled | digesting | hopeful (2) | sorry | amazing | powerful | deep |  
intrigued | clearer | changeable | vision | privileged | on our way

## DAY III - SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

### 3.1 OUTLINING BIONET'S ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

#### 3.1-A FEEDBACK FROM BIONET-SEC ON THE RESULTS OF THE GROUP WORK ON DAY II

##### **Presentation Richard Smith**

RS presented feedback from BioNET-Sec on the three group work presentations delivered at the end of Day II.

Theme I: Policy / Advocacy: RS found the results of this discussion to show great potential. However, responsibilities (LOOP Coordinators / BioNET-Sec) were not stated. Such work needs to be partnerships between the wider LOOP community & BioNET-Sec.

Theme II: Good LOOP: RS was very encouraged by the outputs. He emphasised that the LCCs had responsibilities for securing resources and that fundraising was a partnership activity of the LOOPS and the Secretariat. ToRs that describe the responsibilities of the Secretariat and the RCs and NCs in more detail would provide a means to improve their performance.

Theme III: M&E: RS made two observations addressing the suggestion that LOOPS only monitor projects are "BioNET-funded". First, if the implication is that funder is BioNET-Sec what then of the responsibility of LOOP Coordinating Committees – described in their mandates - to secure funding? The institutions comprising the LOOPS are "BioNET"; the Secretariat has a facilitating function, providing, among other functions, services to support long-term and short-term fundraising goals. Advocacy, policy and strategy development support long-term sustainability of taxonomy. Model projects (e.g. UVIMA), agreements with partners, sharing of project ideas, liaison with funders etc support short-term fundraising objectives. Second, the commitments Coordinating Institutions make when adopting LOOP mandates mean there is a great deal to monitor in addition to paid projects. There needs to be incentive to increase performance; the suggestion that NECIs monitor the performance and reporting of NACIs is interesting.

How do we get there? RS noted that this was not the time to decide precisely what BioNET will do, but to define where it wants and needs to go. RS was encouraged by the ambition of the participants' vision. He felt that they fully embraced the goals of the Global Programme. RS closed by stating that if BioNET is not internal to everybody's work/heart then we will not succeed in achieving our goals.

##### **Discussion**

Funding (from BioNET-Sec) and attribution of activities to BioNET: These issues were raised once again with some participants stating that only if BioNET-Sec provided funds will the BioNET logo be put on the work. Some people felt that the funder would object if the BioNET logo was put on and no direct funding (from BioNET-Sec) had been received. This contrasts with opinions expressed earlier i.e. BioNET often does not get credit / due attribution for activities it helped to start.

RS reminded participants that the BioNET model assumes that LOOPS are locally owned and operated i.e. they are not dependent on BioNET-Sec. He cited the example of the establishment of a full-time coordinator for PACINET. The position was established and funded by institutions in the region demonstrating their buy-in both to the importance of the partnership approach to address taxonomic needs and to being part of BioNET. BioNET-Sec plays an ongoing facilitation and technical support role but is not a funder.

Further, the parallel between BioNET and the IUCN Species Specialist Groups (IUCN SSG) was raised. The SSGs are voluntary groups who report to IUCN about activities in areas relevant to the Specialist Group. The information given does not imply that the respective SSG carried out the work

itself. Rather the SSG acts principally as a conduit for relevant information which is circulated globally.

The question was raised why individuals or institutions would seek to be part of BioNET. Would it be useful to their work? One participant stated that ultimately it was an individual decision whether one chooses to work in a network or not. People needed to understand the philosophy of BioNET and then decide if they wished to participate.

Relationship between BioNET-Sec and the LOOPs: Some participants pointed out that the Secretariat was short-staffed. The need for a fundraiser to help the LOOPs (either within the Secretariat or within the LOOPs) was identified though resources for this would have to be found. One felt that BioNET-Sec was using the LOOPs to fundraise but that nothing was coming back. Others, especially those new to BioNET, felt that they did not benefit from being part of the network. It was suggested that BioNET-Sec should review and more clearly define its responsibilities to the LOOPs. This relates to the issue of ToRs highlighted below.

Terms of Reference: Some of the participants felt that certain structures and processes within BioNET were not clearly defined, e.g. responsibilities and the relationships among LOOPs and BioNET-Sec, which has led to a feeling that not everybody is ‘on the same boat’. However, those who had worked with BioNET over many years felt that things were not clear principally for those who had not been with BioNET from the beginning. It was agreed that simple ToRs would be useful. Much of the information that would go into these ToRs is already available (for example in the LOOP mandates or in the log frame of the global programme) but presentation is too complex and needs to be distilled. Only two of the participants had looked at the Global Programme log frame in detail which would appear to indicate that it needs to be simplified.

Formation of LOOPs: It was suggested that the process of obtaining written government endorsements for LOOP Formulation Proposal can take too long. For example it was felt that BioNET-SACNET, where three countries have signed, could begin straight away and seed funds could be disbursed to those countries that have signed.

Lack of buy-in from NACIs: This was highlighted by one participant who stated that if there is no buy in from NACIs then the NECIs and the Secretariat will fail. As stated previously, this lack of NACI support has implications for M&E.

BioNET’s niche: Some felt that BioNET potentially has a niche that involves the delivery and control of quality taxonomic data. Others felt that its niche was networking and gathering information for the benefit of all.

BioNET’s policy and convention-related work: Several people did not see how BioNET’s (mainly BioNET-Sec’s) policy and convention-related work helped address LOOP priorities. Using the example of the CBD, RS explained that the MoU between BioNET-Sec and the CBD Secretariat facilitates collaboration in and with the LOOPs and that CBD decisions supporting taxonomy and specifically the role of BioNET should be used to attract funding for LOOP activities as they have done for the Secretariat. The Secretariat routinely encourages LOOPs to be involved in policy development. However, RS recognised the need for the Secretariat to ensure the outcomes of policy work are communicated to LOOPs and to work more closely with more LOOPs to translate policy mandates to fundraising successes.

### **3.1-B BURNING ISSUES**

The participants were asked if there were any “burning issues” – issues that they felt had not necessarily been addressed but that they wanted to bring up before the end of the workshop. Given the time that remained it was unlikely that these issues could be resolved during the workshop but at least they would have been raised and noted. Action could be taken on them following this workshop.

Noriaki Sakaguchi: Each LOOP needs a regional action plan – a framework to promote taxonomy. A log frame, clear strategy and action plan are needed and this must be connected to the GTI.

Konny Rassmann: The Secretariat's resources are limited, we need to prioritise these and therefore appreciate input from the LOOPs which activities would be of best service to them.

Wanja Kinuthia: Finding a way of having support (e.g. for travel costs).

Soetikno Sastroutomo: Funding.

Kamal Bawa: There are structural/operational issues which stem from inadequate participation and a top down approach. These issues need to be addressed within the remaining two hours of the workshop. A mechanism needs to be found to discuss these essential issues. Dialogue must continue (after the workshop).

Pepé Clavijo: The BioNET board should be reorganised and needs to include LOOP representatives.

Julio Mena: The structure of BioNET needs to be changed.

Ticky Lizarralde de Grosso: We have to find new tools to update some mandates of BioNET and its LOOPs.

Mohamed Kchouk: BioNET should ensure funding for NACIs and NECIs; RC needs to follow what the LCC decides, but the LCC makes decisions that are not in the interest of BioNET (e.g. that each NACI gets £3,000 for digitisation).

Badrul Bhuiya: A proposal for a taxonomic needs assessment in Bangladesh was produced but never submitted. BioNET should help facilitate this.

Tsetseg Baljinova: The Secretariat needs to understand that the LOOPs need it to help with fundraising. We can help each other in this matter because the LOOPs know the local situations and the Secretariat through participation in the CBD and other international meetings knows international trends and hot-spots.

Posa Skelton: BioNET - from what to why. How can we develop a model for the sustainability of BioNET, e.g. through membership fees or an endowment fund?

Samy Zalut: Fundraising; a system for government endorsement; we need outputs to feed into international organizations, a niche and clear projects. For now it is not clear what our M&E is going to monitor.

Meg Gawler: We need to update the basis on which to build M&E.

Richard Smith: The Secretariat has limited resources / personnel. If we only write funding proposals for the LOOPs, what happens with the other Key Areas of the Global Programme, all of which you have said are of importance? How can we go to any funder if we don't have a clear strategy/vision and strengthened LOOPs (Key Area A)? How can we get the governments to support taxonomy in their institutions unless we have advocacy (Key Area C)? The question is: what you want us to do each day: proposal writing, policy level work, communication, information sharing (do you not want us to have a website and bulletin), partnership building with technology and capacity building partners, etc.? We could take this message to the Board, i.e. redefine the Secretariat and devote its time to writing proposals. But we don't believe that this will have long term success.

### **3.1-C CONSOLIDATION OF GROUP WORK ON DAY II INTO THE BIONET ROADMAP TO SUCCESS**

#### **Presentation John Mauremootoo**

Day II presentations on the group work were consolidated into a single presentation delivered by John Mauremootoo, addressing the questions "How do we get there?" and "Who is responsible?" This presentation is reproduced below.

#### **1. Definitions**

**BioNET:** Refers to “BioNET as a whole” including its institutional actors (RCs, NCs, NECI, NACI, LCC; NIs, the Secretariat, the Board including the host organisation of the Secretariat) and its programmes (the Global Programme of the Secretariat and the LOOP work programmes).

**BioNET LOOPs:** The regional partnerships of BioNET, their objectives and the mandates of their governance and coordinating bodies as described in the LOOP formulation workshop proposals and sometimes also in work plans, business plans and other strategy documents.

**BioNET Secretariat:** Currently hosted by CABI–Europe (UK), linking the LOOPs and other global policy, technical and capacity building partners and leading delivering of the Global Programme with its four key areas to support the LOOPs.

## **2. Recommended actions**

### **(grouped under the four key areas of BioNET’s Global Programme)**

#### Key Area A: Fortifying the LOOPs

- Active NECI, NACIs, NIs
- NECI with good facilities (IT), management and effective networking.
- Dedicated national and regional coordinators
- Full time paid coordinator (using BGCI Format)
- Support from host institutions.
- Engage expert institutes and personnel.
- Regional organizations agreeing to work together
- In-house capacity in project development and implementation
- Some level of taxonomic capacity
- Well defined niche/ taxonomic need to meet donor funded requirements
- Buy-in by the government
- Inclusion of developed country networks (EUROLOOP & AMERILOOP)

#### Key Area B: Provision of Products and Services

- Have a specific LOOP and/or inter-LOOP projects
- Help support collections to be updated and maintained
- Digitise LOOP collections & data sharing
- Develop training manuals and communication tools, etc.

#### Key Area C: Policy and Communication

- Effective communication between the LOOPs and CBD focal points
- GTI country focal points to be involved in BioNET
- Advocate the importance of taxonomy in all sectors / initiatives and as such ensure that appropriate funding is allocated
- Prepare policy statements or position papers dealing with taxonomic issues for specific events (COP, CBD)
- Create case studies for public awareness at all levels (schools, policy/ decision makers, farmers and extension officers etc)

#### Key Area D: Resource Mobilisation and Governance

- Procure funding for LOOP sustainability
- Secure funds for capacity building and projects
- Boost funds for LOOPs for LCC meetings
- Clear ToRs for each actor
- Log frames for every LOOP
- Monitor and report on what NACIs do

## **3. Who is responsible?**

- Team work
- Have a specific LOOP and/or inter-LOOP projects assisted by BioNET- SEC
- BioNET-Sec should work with LOOPs to secure funds for LOOPs programmes / activities
- Define mechanism to foster implementation of NECI, NACI, and NI mandates

- LCC to procure funding for LOOP sustainability
- Boost funds for LOOPs from BioNET-Sec (for LCC meetings)

#### 4. Example of a global BioNET project

As suggested by Posa Skelton, a BioNET activity with high impact could be the development of a global BioNET policy/advocacy programme. For example one to be launched at CBD COP10 in October 2010. But who is responsible - which parts of the project will be delivered by BioNET-Sec, which by the LOOPs?

There followed a group discussion on the possibilities for implementing such a project, the results of which are summarised below:

- This global and regional initiative can successfully promote BioNET's identity
- The CBD suffers from a lack of involvement from scientists. This project could showcase the relevance of scientific input leading to tangible outcomes which make it clear that there is a need for the taxonomic sector. All this must be linked to the goals of the CBD and needs to be linked to the SBSTTA agenda.
- Each LOOP can send an image or images to the Secretariat stating why it is important. One could select a species that you are working on, give its scientific name, its importance (cultural, ecological, IAS, etc.). All this costs very little or no money.
- BioNET-Sec could put all the inputs together.
- Each LOOP could identify taxonomic priority areas and this information could be promoted by BioNET-Sec at COP10, e.g. five slides from each region on priorities.
- Most participants were happy for their LOOP to be represented by the BioNET-Sec but felt it would be useful if at least one LOOP representative was present as well. Previously, the Secretariat had encouraged LOOP representatives to attend CBD meetings and BioNET Coordinators had sought inclusion in their government delegations. While this approach is not always successful, it is important to be aware of this possibility.
- It was stated that it is very important that the BioNET-Sec communicates before the event so that information can be circulated within the region/country in good time. If this is the case the LOOPs can make a delegation to talk to their governments and influence them. For example the Secretariat can send a position paper, e.g. to SBSTTA Sec or a lobbying paper which the LOOPs can take to their governments to get their focal points to adopt.
- It appeared that the exact approach taken would depend on the LOOPs/countries concerned. Some participants felt that for them it would be better if BioNET-Sec approaches national focal points directly (notably in countries which have not yet endorsed the position of RCs and NCs) while others favoured a more bottom up approach. All approaches, however, demanded commitments from the LOOPs and from the Secretariat.
- It was suggested that a change in the composition of the BioNET board would make BioNET look more international and this would help encourage initiatives of this kind.

### 3.2 RECAP ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop participants were asked to what degree the workshop objectives had been accomplished.

#### A. Building a common understanding of the mission, strategy and values of BioNET

Participants agreed that there had been a thorough discussion on this issue, that the group had come a long way and that there was much that could be built on. However, while there was certainly more understanding, it was not necessarily "common". On some issues there was still a difference in perspective between the Secretariat and some of the LOOP representatives. Some expressed the feeling that BioNET's niche has still to be adequately defined.

#### B. Assessing the status of BioNET today – LOOPs, Secretariat and Global Programme: achievements, strengths, shortcomings and barriers to success ("where are we?")

There was agreement that this had been accomplished.

### C. Specifying our vision for BioNET in the future (“where do we want to be?”)

One participant expressed the sentiment that the vision for BioNET in the future is “under construction”. Another participant felt that BioNET’s vision needs to be very general and that each region will pick up different issues. The issue of prioritisation was identified as being very important to the LOOPs. These priorities can be translated into project ideas which can be developed in conjunction with the Secretariat. It was perceived to be very important to integrate these activities with other initiatives. It was suggested that BioNET-Sec could look for funds to support regional workshops to prioritise issues to work on with the support of expert centres in the developed world.

### D. Defining the way forward (improving processes, developing a good practice guide, building the BioNET monitoring and evaluation system) (“how do we get there?”)

There was a consensus that tremendous progress had been made on defining and conceptualizing elements of the Roadmap to Success. The way forward had not been clearly defined yet. Further work between the Secretariat, participants and other LOOP representatives would be needed to complete the task i.e. clearly define a way forward for the LOOPs and Secretariat.

## **3.3 CLOSING REMARKS, OVERALL IMPRESSIONS AND NEXT STEPS**

### **Closing remarks – Richard Smith**

The Secretariat had learned a tremendous amount at this workshop and much appreciates people’s interest in being more involved. This opportunity to develop much more bottom up engagement in BioNET is greatly welcomed by the Secretariat. Indeed, this workshop was implemented as a priority after new secretariat funding was secured late in 2008.

The Secretariat supports the notion that there should be LOOP representation on the BioNET Board.

The LOOP support for all the four Key Areas of the Global Programme was welcomed. The Secretariat understands that there are several issues still remaining unclear to some, for example, how BioNET fits within the landscape of global biodiversity organisations and the precise niche of BioNET. The dialogue between the Secretariat and the LOOPs needs to be enhanced and, as an immediate step, the Secretariat needs to make reports to the Board available to the LOOPs and the LOOPs should input to the planning and priority setting of the Secretariat. RS reaffirmed that the Secretariat’s work is LOOP driven. For example, implementation of each Key Area of the Global Programme will depend on ideas, interests and commitments from the LOOPs.

### **Discussion**

A question was raised on exactly how the BioNET umbrella helps LOOPs to get funding. Replies concerned help with formulating proposals (such as GBIF mentoring proposals) either directly from BioNET-Sec or alternatively from other LOOPs that already had experience with this. Some felt that the BioNET-Sec needed more human resources which, however, would require more funding. It was suggested that a volunteer group could be assembled by the Secretariat to write proposals.

Some participants felt that the BioNET model did not work in all countries/regions. In some cases the national authorities want to talk directly with the Secretariat. RS replied that LOOPs need to be country driven. There could be direct interaction between BioNET-Sec and the national level, but the RC is primary channel for communication between each LOOP and BioNET-Sec. It was agreed that there are different situations in different regions. It is clear that the model must be flexible to cope with diverse circumstances. Always working through LOOPs may not be appropriate in all regions as institutions vary in their strength / capacity.

One participant stated that there had been no outputs from his LOOP in two years so that forced him to analyse the causes for this, e.g. language barriers, lack of national endorsement, lack of

involvement with CBD focal points, political problems. RS responded that it was important to use local expertise to analyse what is needed, and then come back to the Secretariat and jointly consider the way forward. In this context, it was suggested that communication between the Secretariat and the LOOPs should involve speaking to people not only through email communications.

One participant pointed out that it was essential that the benefits of being part of BioNET were clear to all. This would increase buy-in and move BioNET forward.

RS closed the discussion by thanking the participants for their openness which was crucial as BioNET could only go forward to build stronger taxonomy by facing facts. There had been so many benefits of the workshop, e.g. LOOPs talking to each other and sharing problems and ideas. The Secretariat would do its best to capture the workshop contributions and provide a draft report as an output of workshop. This report would be circulated to the participants for revision before being finalised. RS ended by stating that “we need to champion BioNET and taxonomy together.”

### **Overall impressions and next steps**

To close the workshop the participants (and facilitators) were asked to briefly comment on their overall impressions of the workshop and the next steps that need to be taken to move things forward following the workshop:

Konny Rassmann: The Secretariat has learned an immense amount. The workshop was great for enhancing communication with the LOOPs and among the LOOPs (e.g. interactions between NAFRINET and ANDINONET on how to involve NACIs and government). The next step is to consider very carefully what the LOOPs have said and define our (BioNET-Sec’s) responsibilities and actions.

Noriaki Sakaguchi: LOOPs need a strategy and structures to meet their needs.

Samy Zalut: In general, the results were good and the workshop was a good achievement. On some issues there seemed to be conflicts of interest between the Secretariat and the LOOPs. It is good to have the workshop outputs on paper but we need to turn these into actions together. Next step: a second workshop to see how BioNET-Sec can help the LOOPs.

Wanja Kinuthia: The workshop was good. It was good to meet with the coordinators and other collaborators. Next step: would like to see more tangible communication from the Secretariat such as calls for proposals.

Soetikno Sastroutomo: The workshop objectives were not completely achieved but the activities were clearly defined. Now we must focus on fund raising.

Pepé Clavijo: The next step is to make taxonomists think about BioNET.

Julio Mena: The workshop was wonderful, with lots of information on BioNET. We need to find a new work strategy in BioNET to modify the structure to achieve better functioning LOOPs.

Ticky Lizarralde de Grosso: There was lots of enthusiasm. We need more communication.

Mohamed Kchouk: It was a very nice workshop. We should have more. Next step: more support from BioNET-Sec to work together on the same mission - how to sustain LOOPs.

Badrul Bhuiya: The workshop was very successful, indeed excellent. Next steps: hold a Global Taxonomy Workshop in a country where there are needs as in the NAFRINET countries.

Tsetseg Baljinova: Very useful: now I understand that I am not alone. Others have the same difficulties as I have. Yet, there are different opinions and different stages of ripening in the diverse LOOPs. But BioNET should exist because taxonomy is important for conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and assessing its status. The coordination mechanism from the Secretariat is important to the LOOPs and also for fostering cooperation between LOOPs. Next step: We need more guidance from BioNET-Sec.

Posa Skelton: The workshop was good. I came with low expectations - to meet face to face with my fellow LOOP coordinators (and Cindy) and to raise the idea of 'Taxonomy in Motion' for the COP 10 meeting. Way forward: communication.

Richard Smith: I greatly appreciate your openness. Thank you for your suggestions. You have given much of your valuable time. You want more involvement with the Secretariat and that is very heartening. We strive to be a bottom up initiative. We need to digest the many ideas that have been discussed at this workshop. There is no magic wand on funding, but we can respond positively to many of the suggestions you have made for improving our work with LOOPs, communicating more, involving LOOPs in priority setting etc.

Meg Gawler: The meeting has been very enriching and it has been great working with you on M&E. We cannot put the cart before the horse. Next step: Continue dialogue on email and I will follow up on the collaborative development of an M&E system, together with everyone.

John Mauremootoo: It was a brilliant workshop and I am very optimistic about the future of BioNET without trivialising the magnitude of the task ahead. Next step: write up the workshop report!!

## **ANNEX**

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## ANNEX A - WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

LOOP BioNET-	Name	BioNET designation * job title if not yet formally involved	Country (where presently located)	Employer	Email	Telephone o: office s: secretariat m: mobile
ANDINONET	Jose Alejandro Clavijo Albertos	Regional Coordinator	Venezuela	Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola Francisco Fernández Yépez (MIZA), Facultad de Agronomía, Instituto de Zoología Agrícola, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Apdo Postal 4579, Aragua 2101A, Venezuela	pepeclavijoa@gmail.com	o: +58 243 550 7426
ASEANET	Soetikno Slamet Sastroutomo	Technical Secretary	Malaysia	Malaysian Agricultural Development Institute, Permanent Secretariat at CAB INTERNATIONAL, Asia Regional Centre, PO Box 210, 43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia	s.soetikno@cabi.org	o: +60 3 8943 2921 o: +60 3 8943 3641
CARINET	Julio de Jesus Mena Portales	National Coordinator Cuba	Cuba	Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática (CITMA), Finca "La Chata", Carretera de Varona Km. 3.5, Capdevila, Boyeros, AP 8029, 10800 Ciudad de la Habana CP, Cuba	julio.mena@infomed.sld.cu	o: +53 7 205 9489
EAFRINET	Margaret Wanja Kinuthia	Regional Coordinator	Kenya	National Museums of Kenya (NMK), Department of Invertebrate Zoology, PO Box 40658, Nairobi, Kenya	eafrinet@africaonline.co.ke	o: +254 (0)20 208 8478
EASIANET	Tsetseg Baljinova	National Coordinator Mongolia	Mongolia	Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Biology, Zhukov Street, Ulaanbaatar 51, Mongolia	taxon_mn@yahoo.com	o: +976 11 453978
EASIANET	Noriaki Sakaguchi	*Deputy Director, Biodiversity Centre of Japan	Japan	Nature Conservation Bureau, Biodiversity Center of Japan, Ministry of the Environment, 5597-1 Yoshida -Kenmarubi, Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi 403-0005, Japan	Noriaki_sakaguchi@env.go.jp	o: +81 555 72 6033
LATINET	Mercedes Sara Lizaralde de Grosso	Interim Regional Coordinator	Argentina	Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Miguel Lillo 205, 4000 Tucuman, Argentina	ticky@csnat.unt.edu.ar	o: +54 381 423-0056
NAFRINET	Mohamed Elyes Kchouk	Regional Coordinator	Tunisia	Unité des Plantes Aromatiques et Médicinales, Centre de Biotechnologie - Technopôle de Borj Cedria, BP901 - Hammam-Lif 2050, Tunisia	mohamedelyes@gmail.com	o: +216 79 412 738 o: +216 430855
NAFRINET	Samy Zalat	Chair, Nature and Science Foundation, Egypt	Egypt	BioMAP, 30 Misr Helwan El- Zyrae Rd., 7th flr., Al Maddi, PO Box 11728, Cairo, Egypt	samy@biomapegypt.org	o: +20 (0)202 5265887
PACINET	Posa Skelton	Regional Coordinator	Fiji	(USP) (SPC) (SPREP), c/o Institute of Applied Science, University of the South Pacific, Private Bag, Suva, Fiji	skelton_p@usp.ac.fj	o: +679 (323) 2708 m: +679 (908) 9286
SACNET	Badrul Bhuiya	National Coordinator Bangladesh	Bangladesh	University of Chittagong, Department of Zoology, Chittagong - 4331, Bangladesh	badrulbhuiya@yahoo.com	o: +88 31 726311-14 ?: +88 31 716552
SACNET	Kamal Bawa	*Founder-trustee and President of ATREE, India	USA & India	University of Massachusetts, Boston & Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Royal Enclave, Srirampura, Jakkur Post, Bangalore-560064, India	Kamal.bawa@umb.edu	o: +1 617 287 8657
WAFRINET	Muaka Toko	Assistant to Braima James, Regional Coordinator	Benin	Centre Africain de Lutte Biologique, Institut International d'Agriculture Tropicale (IITA), Station du Benin, 08 BP 0932 Tri Postal, Cotonou Republic of Benin	m.toko@cgiar.org	o: +229 (21) 35 01 88
Secretariat	Richard Smith	Director	United Kingdom	BioNET-Secretariat, CAB-International, Bakeham Lane, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9TY, United Kingdom	r.smith@bionet-intl.org	o: +44(0)1491 829038 m: +44 (0)7815 107973
Secretariat	Cindy Blench	Office Manager	United Kingdom	BioNET-Secretariat, CAB-International, Bakeham Lane, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9TY, United Kingdom	c.blench@bionet-intl.org	o: +44(0)1491 829036
Secretariat	Kornelia Rassmann	Global Programme Officer	Germany	Independent consultant, rf-projektagentur, Sonnenstrasse 4, 82547 Eurasburg, Germany	k.rassmann@rf-projektagentur.de	o: +49 (0)8171 3864342 m: +49 (0)172 7055336
	John Mauremootoo	Facilitator	UK	Independent consultant, 25A Southside, Congresbury, North Somerset, BS49 5BS, United Kingdom	jmauremootoo@gmail.com	o: +44 (0)1934 876565 m: +44 (0)784 621 9689
	Meg Gawler	Co-facilitator, M&E Expert	France	Independent consultant, ARTEMIS Services for Nature Conservation and Human Development, 3 Rue de Rogeland, 01170 Gex, France	meg@artemis-services.com	o: +33 4 5040 7870

## ANNEX B – WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

BioNET Workshop, 4-6 June 2009

Many LOOPS – one BioNET

**Venue:** The Lensbury Hotel and Conference Centre,  
Broom Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 9NU.  
Tel: (+44) 020 8614 6400, <http://www.lensbury.com/>

### OBJECTIVE

Develop a **Road Map to Success** including a monitoring and evaluation system by:

- A. Building a common understanding of the mission, strategy and values of BioNET
- B. Assessing the status of BioNET today – LOOPS, Secretariat and Global Programme: achievements, strengths, shortcomings and barriers to success (“*where are we?*”).
- C. Specifying our vision for BioNET in the future (“*where do we want to be?*”).
- D. Defining the way forward (improving processes, developing a good practice guide, building the BioNET monitoring and evaluation system) (“*how do we get there?*”).

### PRIOR TO MEETING

- 1st June Mon, evening Welcome to the Natural History Museum (NHM, London) by Dr Christopher H C Lyal, Chair, BioNET Board; followed by reception hosted by NHM, London for e-Biosphere 09 conference participants.
- 3rd June Wed, 17.00 Transfer from the e-Biosphere 09 conference venue to the BioNET workshop venue.
- 3rd June Wed, 20.00 Dinner and self-introduction of all participants, BioNET Secretariat staff and facilitators: Name, country, position, LOOP role / engagement with BioNET to date, expertise, surprise factor (something personal that no-one would ever guess or imagine) (30 min)

### 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE DAY 1

#### 9.00 – 10.30 MORNING SESSION 1 (WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, SETTING THE SCENE / STATUS OF BIONET)

- 1 Welcome, logistics, adaptive agenda, meeting ground rules  
(*Richard Smith & John Mauremootoo*) (20 min)
- 2 Workshop introduction and objectives (Richard Smith) (20 min + 5 min questions)
- 3 How is BioNET? A “health check” – views from the LOOPS
  - a. Summary report on the results of the LOOP survey (*John Mauremootoo*) (25 min)
  - b. Discussion and synthesis with focus on lessons learned / development of shared goals / strategy (*plenary*) (15 min)

#### 10.30 – 11.00 TEA / COFFEE

#### 11.00 – 13.00 MORNING SESSION 2: STRENGTHENING BIONET – OPPORTUNITIES AND OBSTACLES

- 4 Building on BioNET’s strengths: paving the way forward / where are we, where should we be going  
(13 presentations of up to 10 min with a max. of 5 min discussion = 3.15 hrs) on

- a. What do you consider to be the biggest success to be built on / obstacle to success in achieving BioNET's Mission and Vision? Use an example from your experience with BioNET or other initiatives and projects (2 min)
- b. how do you see BioNET's future / what would like BioNET to achieve (4 min)
- c. give a Good Practice example from your LOOP or experience in other networks / projects / initiatives (illustrating examples from 1 or 2 if appropriate) (4 min)

**13.00 – 14.15 LUNCH**

**14.15 – 15.45 AFTERNOON SESSION 1: STRENGTHENING BIONET – OPPORTUNITIES AND OBSTACLES**

4 *continued*: Building on BioNET's strengths – views from the LOOPS

Discussion (addressing common themes in the presentations: successes / obstacles) (*plenary*) (20 min)

**15.45 – 16.15 TEA / COFFEE**

**16.15 – 18.00 AFTERNOON SESSION 2: STRENGTHENING BIONET – THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME AND A MONITORING & EVALUATION SYSTEM**

- 5 Overview on Global Programme (vision, mission, strategy) –. What the Secretariat is doing to address obstacles to success, what the funders want, what the Secretariat needs from Coordinating Institutions and Coordinating Committee members if we are to succeed. (*Richard Smith*) (20 min + 10 min discussion)
- 6 A Monitoring and Evaluation System for BioNET: how can we monitor our performance, demonstrate our successes, and grow?
  - a. Developing a monitoring and evaluation system for BioNET: the theory; advantages and concerns; building on feedback from the survey (*Meg Gawler*) (20 min)
  - b. Discussion: Options for M&E as an integral part of the Roadmap (*plenary*) (15 min)
- 7 Plenary and individual brainstorming on *Where We Are* and *Where We Want To Be* (*Meg Gawler*) (30 min)
- 8 Feedback from participants on results of Day 1: Sum up your experience of today in one word (5 min)

**5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE DAY 2**

**9.00 – 11.00 MORNING SESSION 1: BIONET'S ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS**

- 9 Plenary: Feedback and discussion on individual brainstorming on *Where We Are* and *Where We Want To Be* (*Meg Gawler*) (30 min)

**11.00 – 11.30 TEA / COFFEE**

**11.30 – 13.00 MORNING SESSION 3 (BREAK-OUT GROUPS ON BIONET'S ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS)**

- 10 World café break-out groups define a Road Map to Success on 3 key topics for *How do we get there?* (*instructions 10 min; 3 groups, each works 30 min on each topic in rotation*):
  1. Development of a global BioNET policy/advocacy programme, for example one to be launched at CBD COP10 in October 2010

2. How do you get a good LOOP? A) How could we overcome the obstacles to success? B) What have been the success factors for those LOOPS that operate effectively? How did they get there? C) Responsibilities at different levels (NEICs, NIs, NACIs, RCs? D) Specific recommendations.
3. Key elements of a Monitoring and Evaluation system for BioNET.

Break out groups report back to plenary (3 x 10 min).

**13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH**

**14.00 – 15.00 AFTERNOON SESSION (BIONET’S ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS, CONT.)**

- 11 Plenary discussion of each topic (3 x 15 min):
- 12 Discussion of priorities for Day 3 (10 min):
- 13 Address to workshop from Ian Barry (BioNET Board Member)
- 14 Participant feedback on Day 2 (5 min):

**15.00 – 19.00 AFTERNOON EXCURSION**

**19.00 – 20.00 WORKSHOP STEERING GROUP MEETS**

**20.00 – DINNER**

## **6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE DAY 3**

**9.00 – 10.30 MORNING SESSION 1 (OUTLINING BIONET’S ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS)**

- 15 Feedback from the BioNET Secretariat on the WorldCafé results (Richard Smith) (5+60 min)
- 16 Burning issues

**10.30 – 11.00 TEA / COFFEE**

**11.00 – 13.00 MORNING SESSION 2 (RECAP)**

- 17 How do we get there and who is responsible? Based on the work of Friday afternoon (John Mauremootoo) (10+50 min)
- 18 Recap on achievement of workshop objectives
- 19 Workshop evaluation
- 20 Closing session, overall impressions and next steps

**13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH**

## ANNEX C – PROPOSED GROUND RULES

Completing our objectives in the time frame available is going to be a challenge. And the stakes are high – there are big expectations for good results from this workshop. Since we have an important and difficult job to do, we will need to be both creative and disciplined. We will be more effective if we agree together in advance on the ground rules for the workshop.

The ground rules here are standard for this type of workshop, and are presented as a proposal to the workshop participants. We will review them together, and participants will decide together on any additions, deletions, or modifications.

Participants agree to:

1. Share their experiences, but also think “big picture”, in terms of what is best for the group.
2. Arrive at least two minutes early for each session, so that the work can begin on time.
3. Contribute actively, and as a team player, to the entire workshop in support of the agreed objectives.
4. Turn off any mobile phones.
5. Turn off laptops (unless you are a designated scribe).
6. Listen carefully. Ask for clarification if necessary.
7. Never interrupt – only one person talks at a time.
8. Not engage in parallel conversations during the workshop sessions. Conduct any additional business during the breaks, or after the close of the workshop sessions.
9. Offer constructive responses. Don’t just critique ideas – offer solutions.
10. Be concise; don’t ramble, and don’t repeat. Limit your speaking time during discussions to approximately 30 seconds – this is important in order to complete the workshop objectives, and out of respect for the other speakers. If you have trouble with this, note down your intervention before raising your hand.
11. If English is your mother-tongue, speak slowly, but also count slowly to ten before intervening (this helps to encourage participation from the non-native speakers).
12. Share the tasks of facilitation: facilitating break-out groups as necessary, rapporteuring, setting up the room, capturing the discussions, gluing the cards, and typing up as needed.
13. Help everyone have a good time.

Facilitators agree to:

1. Start and end the sessions on time.
2. Encourage everyone to participate.
3. Promote transparency every step of the way.
4. Listen actively to what each participant has to say, and accurately record all contributions.
5. Ensure that interventions are clear to all – ask questions of clarification as necessary. Help ensure robustness of the outcomes by playing “devil’s advocate” as appropriate.
6. Help the group to visualize the discussions and results. Note key points for follow-up on flip charts.
7. Help participants to arrive at their own agreements (or objectively record differing viewpoints if consensus is not possible).
8. If a facilitator feels it would be good to participate substantively in a discussion, and the participants have given permission for this, tell everyone you are taking off your facilitator hat, and putting on a participant hat.
9. Be flexible, and adapt the process as necessary as the workshop progresses.
10. Keep the process on track to help ensure that the workshop attains its objectives (sometimes this means cutting short discussions that are not directly related to the aims of the workshop).
11. Help everyone enjoy the process.

## ANNEX D – WORKSHOP EVALUATION

The evaluation is presented in two parts: first, unsolicited responses from participants that were received by BioNET-Sec after the workshop. Second, the results of evaluation forms distributed at the end of the workshop are summarised. The forms were prepared by BioNET-Sec and returned anonymously to Meg Gawler, who prepared the analysis presented in the tables and graph below.

### Unsolicited participant's responses

#### *S. Sastroutoumo*

I would like to thank all of you for inviting me to participate in the above workshop held very recently.. In my opinion the Workshop was very successful in strengthening relationship between TecSec and LOOPs and between LOOPs. I have learnt a lot, both successful and failure experiences in running the LOOPs as well as good and excellent activities of the TecSec and will use these successful lessons in our LOOP, especially in project development. I am confident on the "bright future of BioNET" as long as we are working together as one family, with frequent communication, and helping each other. For this reason, I fully supported the idea of having regional representation in the BioNET Board.....

I enjoyed the discussions and exchange of ideas during the workshop and certainly hope that the successful funding (by SDC and Sweden) of the project on invasive species in Africa could be repeated in other LOOPs, especially ASEANET with the help (in partnership) of TecSec.

#### *M. Kchouk*

Back home, I would like to send you my best greetings for this new friendship hoping it to be for ever.

I'm sure that I got a lot from this week, from e-Biosphere09, but most of all from Lensbury WS. I have now more knowledge on BioNET "concept" and a better understanding of my task; I'm sure that with your experience I'll even have more inputs in my region for the benefits of all. Again, many THANKS and All the best for future actions and meetings.

#### *B. Bhuiya*

My sincere thanks also to all of you. Since birth of BioNET, Lensbury Workshop, I believe, was the best of all. Each and every participants was so open and the discussions were so lively that I think we'll have a better future of the Network in achieving our goal.

#### *N. Sakaguchi*

The workshop was a valuable opportunity for me. I got enormous information on current situation of taxonomy in each region from BioNET members and secretariat. Such info could be crucial to successfully develop ESABII in our region.

I was also so impressed with all your enthusiasm to raise taxonomic status and capacity in your region...I'm looking forward to seeing you in Nagoya, Japan at CBD COP10.

#### *K. Bawa*

I too greatly benefited from the meetings and have come back here with a renewed commitment to promote taxonomy in India, South Asia and beyond. I have already contacted Vishwas and we had a good discussion about the strategy to promote India' membership in GBIF and BioNET.

#### *W. Kinuthua*

It was a great pleasure meeting all you at the BioNET workshop, most of you for the first time... I believe we had a successful meeting and have to congratulate Cindy, Richard and Konny for perfect organization. To the facilitators John and Meg, your grip of issues helped to keep the meeting focused. We all look forward to the report and implementation of recommendations.

#### *S. Zalat*

I really enjoyed joining the workshop, I learnt a lot and almost have clear idea about what BioNET is all about. Many thanks to you Richard, Cindy, Konny for perfect organization... Although the workshop sessions were hot it means people are keen and willing to move forward and I hope we all support each other in order to make BioNET the proper gate for taxonomy and get respect and recognition from other international organisation. Thanks to John and Meg for managing the workshop in order to accomplish the aim we gathered for. Let's consider this workshop the starting point to initiate our collaboration and help each other. I already sorted a programme with Dr. Mohamed Elyes for NAFRINET and I'm ready to give help and support to any person or loop who are interested in mapping their data like what we're doing in Egypt.

#### *T. Baljinova*

Many thanks to secretariat for arranging for us those useful workshops. I was very glad to see all of you and learn a lot of about the network. Hope to continue our collaboration for the development of taxonomy in different regions. Please be in contact. As for COP-10, maybe we can make some progress report on development and application of taxonomy in our countries/regions?

#### *J. Clavijo*

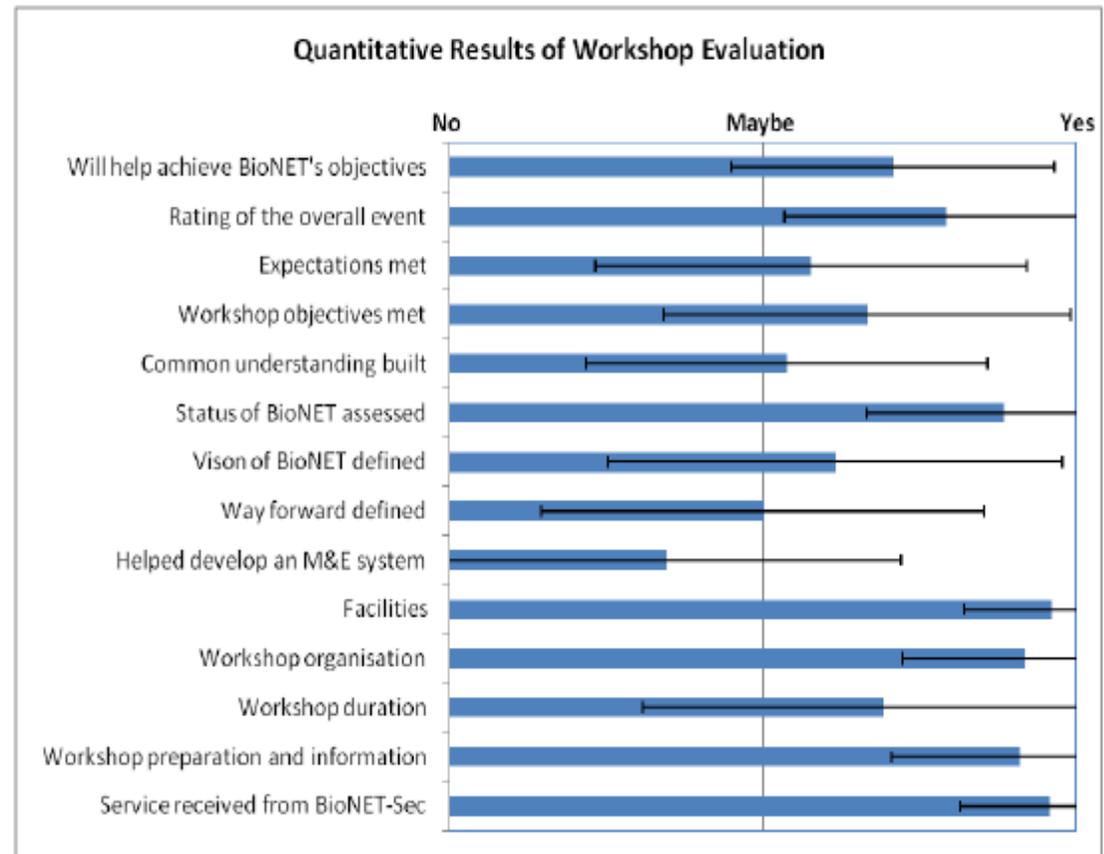
It was a really pleasure to meet all of you, "old faces" and new ones for me. Thanks Richard, Cindy and Koni, and our new friends, Meg and John, which organized a very good meeting. The meeting was very good and for me the more important aspect was that at the end, we all knew that BioNET = us = our daily activities...

## Responses to the workshop evaluation form

Was the workshop useful to you?	Average Score*
* Scoring: 1 = No; 2 = Maybe; 3 = Yes	
<b>To what extent will the knowledge acquired help you contribute more effectively to achieving BioNET's objectives?</b>	2.4
<b>What was the most useful part of the workshop for you?</b>	
Country / LOOPs presentations	
Saturday	
All equal	
I know current situation, obstacles for each LOOP's activities	
Open exchange of views	
The last day of the workshop	
Strengthening BioNET session & roadmap	
Sharing ideas on "who" or "what" BioNET is	
Break-out discussion	
The <i>Where We Are</i> and <i>Where Do We Want To Be</i> discussion	
Understanding that I have the same difficulties with others	
BioNET's vision and future plans	
<b>What was the least useful part of the workshop for you?</b>	
None	
Same particular discussion, e.g. repetition of themes	
End session	
I can't see a common direction of all LOOPS	
M&E	
M&E	
M&E because we did not discussed in details the way forward!! & Priority activities	
Discussing the <u>details</u> of M&E (but concept of M&E very fruitful)	
M&E	
The M&E discussion	
-	
Every part was useful, but the program could have been more coherent	
<b>Workshop goals &amp; objectives</b>	
<b>How would you rate the overall event?</b>	2.6
<b>Were your expectations met?</b>	2.2
<b>Were the objectives of the workshop met?</b>	2.3
<b>Did the workshop contribute to build a common understanding of BioNET's vision, mission, strategy, values and global programme?</b>	2.1
<b>Did the workshop contribute to assess the status of BioNET today?</b>	2.8
<b>Did the workshop contribute to defining our vision for BioNET in the future?</b>	2.2
<b>Did the workshop contribute to defining the way forward?</b>	2.0
<b>Did the event help to develop a monitoring and evaluation system that will enhance BioNET's impact and maximise shared learning?</b>	1.7
<b>Any comments on achievement of the workshop objectives?</b>	
Not enough time for discussion and analysis	
The workshop could achieve that all participants understand the situation of BioNET	
In general it was achieved	
Strengthen the Secretariat and LOOPs	
We have the same difficulties	
I cannot comment because I missed the last session that was to sum up the achievements	
<b>Logistics</b>	
<b>Facilities</b>	2.9
<b>Workshop organization</b>	2.4
<b>Duration of the workshop</b>	2.8
<b>Quality of pre-workshop information &amp; preparation</b>	2.9

<b>Did you have any language difficulties?</b>	
No	
Some	
A few	
Some	
No	
No	
Some	
Hearing	
Yes	
No	
<b>How was the quality of service received from BioNET-Sec?</b>	
<b>Did you encounter any problems with regard to travel arrangements, payments, accommodation arrangements, etc.?</b>	
No	
No	
Excellent	
No	
No	
Excellent	
Some	
No	
<b>General comments</b>	
<b>Should BioNET repeat workshops of this nature? Do you have any suggestions for such future workshops?</b>	
Always good to self-assessment	
Yes	
Yes, but for building general projects and LOOPS communication – interaction concerning real work in taxonomy	
Yes, if affordable, annually	
Yes, it would be very useful to have this workshop every two years, using venue like Osimian, than the e-biosphere, COP, etc.	
Yes with focus on fundraising for LOOPS	
Yes	
Yes, annually	
Yes BioNET will be organised this type of workshop	
Yes – but not too often as we are poor. Let's try and have regional workshops e.g. Pacinet, Eanet, Seanet, etc.	
Yes; make more suggestions from Secretariat: can give through email	
Yes; there should be common understanding of the agenda right from the beginning.	
<b>Any other comments?</b>	
LOOP need a regular funding from BioNET	
Thank you!	
John Mauremootoo did an excellent work. Congratulation!!!! I think after this workshop many of the participants know that BioNET = LOOP = US.	
Workshop very useful to me	
Good initiative by Sec	
Workshop very useful to me	
Workshop very useful to me	
Need enough time. Need a tough facilitator. – Good learning experience (this 1 <sup>st</sup> workshop)	
Was very useful in understanding of network working	
I think it is important for effective workshops to end with enthusiasm and new sense of purpose. I did not get this feeling though personally I was enthused and wanted to jump right into the implementation of BioNET's agenda	
Venue not ecological enough for an organisation dedicated to biodiversity conservation: overly air-conditioned (despite the cold weather); no policy for inviting guests to re-use towels to conserve water and minimise pollution from unnecessary laundry; styrofoam cups; could not open windows.	
Venue good, but not ideal: constant air-conditioning; nature of chairs; tidying up, drinks facilities inadequate, etc., but certainly better than many venues. Pleasant staff, rapid response to requests.	

	<b>Avg</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>n</b>
Will help achieve BioNET's objectives	2.4	0.5	12
Rating of the overall event	2.6	0.5	12
Expectations met	2.2	0.7	13
Workshop objectives met	2.3	0.7	12
Common understanding built	2.1	0.6	13
Status of BioNET assessed	2.8	0.4	13
Vison of BioNET defined	2.2	0.7	13
Way forward defined	2.0	0.7	13
Helped develop an M&E system	1.7	0.8	13
Facilities	2.9	0.3	13
Workshop organisation	2.8	0.4	12
Workshop duration	2.4	0.8	13
Workshop preparation and information	2.8	0.4	11
Service received from BioNET-Sec	2.9	0.3	12



N.B.: Scoring of quantitative results: No = 1; Maybe = 2; Yes = 3