

UVIMA PROJECT

Regional Project Preparatory Workshop

29th June to 1st July 2009

Lukenya Getaway, Nairobi

**To be held back to back with the 1st UVIMA Project
Steering Committee meeting 28th June
and UVIMA Project Planning Meeting 2-3rd July 2009**

**Hosted and organized by
BioNET-EAFRINET, and BioNET Secretariat**

**With support from
SwedBio, and SDC**

INTRODUCTION

Africa has a wealth of natural resources, including a storehouse of biological diversity, which offers significant potential for human, social and economic development. However, also common are widespread land degradation and desertification, loss of biodiversity, loss of arable and grazing land and related challenges, with implications for food security, sustainable resource management, human health and efforts towards poverty eradication. Yet, improved human well being is critical to increasing the range of options, choices and responses people are able to make to mitigate and adapt to these challenges.

Focusing on East Africa, the UVIMA project aims to consolidate and mobilize existing taxonomic information in order to generate tools and products relevant to the environmental crisis, food crisis and poverty crisis in Africa. Indeed, these crises are interlinked and addressing them demands interventions that enhance ecosystem resilience. The project has identified three areas of focus, thus: pollinators, invasive alien species and pests. Pollinator decline in diversity and abundance is likely to induce the next agricultural crisis in Africa. Invasive alien species are key drivers of change in ecosystems, often severely compromising the delivery of ecosystem services. Pests, are a constant, evolving challenge to agricultural productivity and trade..

In implementing this project, funded by SwedBio and SDC, BioNET aims strengthen its Eastern Africa regional Taxonomic Partnership, BioNET-EAFRINET. Through EAFRINET, the project Partners in Kenya (National Museums of Kenya); Uganda (Makerere University) and Tanzania (Tropical Pesticide Research Institute) will mobilize vital taxonomic information to underpin research and develop and disseminate relevant selected products and tools to remove taxonomic barriers related to the management of invasive species; pests and pollinators.

Africa is home to hundreds of invasives –plant, fungi, animal an microbial – but the magnitude of the problem varies from country to country, and from ecosystem to ecosystem¹. The second African Environment Outlook notes that the proliferation of invasives affects the potential of countries to meet their development and environmental objectives. This is because resources spent on trying to control invasives could be redirected to other development initiatives, such as the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) given that currently, Africa spends an estimated US\$60 million annually on the control of IAS.

Pollination services are key to agriculture as insect pollinators are essential for many vegetables and fruits and indeed demand for pollinators increases with increase in productivity. Conservation of pollinators is therefore not only fundamental for plant diversity and therefore ecosystem health, but their absence will compromise food security and national economies that are reliant on cash crops.

The UVIMA project builds on previous and ongoing national and regional initiatives. It will, for example, address some of the end-user priorities and strategic issues identified by the Botanical and Zoological Taxonomic Networks for East Africa (BOZONET) proposal development process.

UVIMA PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS

The broad objective for the UVIMA project is to *“contribute to poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods through equitable, sustainable and productive management of biodiversity resources at all levels - genes, species and ecosystems”*

In order to achieve this objective, the UVIMA project will aim to address the following priorities:

- The first priority is to develop taxonomic knowledge bases of selected invasive species, pests and pollinators in accessible formats. These national electronic lists form the reference for all national planning, prioritization; conservation action; and investment for trade, food security, health agriculture and economic development
- The second priority is to develop user friendly tools and products to mobilize the available technical information, packaged in appropriate formats for end users such as local communities, farmers, entrepreneurs, policy makers, conservation practitioners and regulatory agencies concerned with trade, pests and other controlled organisms.
- The third priority is to disseminate through appropriate forums and media the taxonomic tools, products and services related to invasive species, pests and pollinators to influence policy making and strengthen action at local, institutional, national, regional and international level.
- The final priority is to strengthen the capacity of EAFRINET to deliver timely and locally optimised taxonomic tools and products in an effective, efficient, timely and sustainable manner and provide options for upscaling this at pan African level.

Pests have been a historical challenge to farming systems in Africa because in the tropics, insects are a fact of life to be reckoned with. Insects pose a greater risk to food production, often causing the loss of entire crops and destroying about half of all harvested food in storage. The challenge is heightened given the oscillations in climate, heterogeneity in habitats and continued degradation of the land and ecosystems. Intensification in agriculture has increased yields and contributed much to food security, but tagged to this success is the massive increase in the pest burden.

UVIMA Regional Project Preparatory Workshop

Purpose

The Regional Preparatory Workshop will bring together key stakeholders to:

- (a) analyse the current situation and agendas at regional and global level in relation to the three themes,
- (b) review the outcomes of the baseline reviews and ‘taxonomic tools and products’ needs assessments undertaken as part of the UVIMA project,
- (c) undertake a gap analysis for the three themes and define priorities for action by the UVIMA project,
- (d) define key stakeholders and end users and define institutional roles and responsibilities in the UVIMA project,
- (e) identify and mobilize additional resources for the implementation of the project,
- (f) define the action plan for implementation for the UVIMA project.

Linkages

Through this workshop, UVIMA participants will make linkages with the following strategic initiatives and partners:

- Potential technical partners from Africa and world-wide e.g. API, GBIF, the JRS/BGCI East Africa Project, CBITETI, Smithsonian Institution and other BIONET LOOPs in Africa
- Potential end-users of UVIMA products
- National research, policy and educational institutions such as universities, national environmental and science councils,
- Biodiversity and natural history institutes
- Dissemination and technical support agencies from agriculture, plant health and quarantine,
- Farmers and local communities
- Communication experts

Content

The Workshop will comprise (loosely) of Four Sections as follows:

- I. Establishing the Operational Framework - Presentation by key speakers on the three themes outlining key and emerging agendas at the global level
- II. Situation Analysis - Presentations on the Baseline Reviews and Needs Assessments for Tools and Products undertaken April -May 2009
- III. Priority Setting and Stakeholder Analysis- (Group Work Based on Themes)
- IV. Action Planning for project implementation - priority actions related to development of information management systems, tools and products with

definition of resources available, institutional roles and responsibilities and milestones

The format of the workshop will comprise presentations by experts during the Plenary sessions, group discussions to come up with agreed directions followed by presentations in a further plenary session.

The Sessions

- I. Establishing the Operational Framework – Presentation by key speakers in the three themes outlining key and emerging agendas at national, regional and global levels.
 - PollinatorsInternational Pollinator Initiative
 - IAS – CABI African Regional Office
 - Pests – IITA/WAFRINET
- II. Situation Analysis – Presentations on the Baseline Reviews and Needs Assessments for Tools and Products undertaken May – June 2009
 - Overview of Needs Assessments - A Regional Synthesis –Matthias Behangana
 - Regional Baseline Review IAS – Gadi Gumisiriza
 - Regional Baseline Review Pests – Fabian Hass
 - Regional Baseline Review Pollinators – Muchai Muchane

Presentation from Strategic Partners on available/ exemplar databases, tools and products ((Smithsonian Institution, LUCID, GBIF, ETI)

- II. Priority Setting and (Group Work Based on Themes)
 - What are the data needs?
 - What are the key tools and products needs?
 - Which ones are the priorities for the UVIMA project?
 - What should be done about the others not addressed by the UVIMA project?
 - What additional resources are available?
 - What is the most effective and efficient institutional landscape to deliver the priority datasets, tools and products?
- III. Action Planning - Action Planning for project implementation - priority actions related to development of information management systems, tools and products with definition of resources available, institutional roles and responsibilities and milestones
- IV. Agree by consensus outcomes of group work
 - Agree Way Forward

Roles:

Richard Smith	√ Invitation for international partners, ok programme
Wanja Kinuthia	√ Invitation for regional partners and ok programme
National coordinators	√ Invitation for national Partners and contribute to programme
Stella Simiyu	√ Provide support for workshop planning
Kornellia	√ Oversee budgets and reporting of the workshop
Patricia Karani	√ Oversee logistics for the workshop
Matthias Behangana	√ Oversee NA aspects of the Programme
Thematic Leaders	√ Oversee Work on respective themes - presentations, participants, Group work etc
Facilitator	√ Ensure effective delivery of workshop objectives
Risky Agwanda	√ Hospitality and logistics

Back to Back Meetings:

Two other Meetings will be held back to back with this workshop to maximize on expertise available, make efficient use of resources, support proposal development for UVIMA co-finance and mobilize other activities beyond the UVIMA project. These are:

- **UVIMA project Regional Steering Committee Meeting**
- **UVIMA Project Planning Workshop**