The CEBioS programme
Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences
and
Belgian Development Cooperation

21 May 2015, Cape Town, South Africa
RBINS, OD Nature, CEBioS

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The CEBioS programme

Based at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Funded by the Belgian development cooperation
Provides capacity building on biodiversity policy and research related to biodiversity, thereby promoting sustainable development in developing countries.

Multilateral, European and national framework:
- Convention on the Biological Diversity and CBD strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020
- EU 2010-2020 Biodiversity strategy
- Belgian National Biodiversity Strategy 2020

Policy advice, research, training, awareness raising, mainstreaming in development cooperation, knowledge dissemination on the conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity
Expertise and people at RBINS, OD Nature

**We have expertise in**
- Ecology
- Molecular biology
- Nature conservation and protection
- Biodiversity
- Chemistry
- Hydrodynamics
- Modelling
- Databases
- Image processing

**We are**
- About 100 people
- Spread over 3 locations
- Large and diverse expertise
- Strong reputation in the respective fields

**We cover**
- The terrestrial environment
- The freshwater environment
- The marine environment
- Worldwide
6 strategic objectives (2013-2023)

**Transversal themes**
Biodiversity and ecosystem services for the reduction of poverty

- **OS 1**: Strengthening the scientific and technical knowledge base
- **OS 2**: Strengthening the exchange and the use of information in a.o. governance
- **OS 3**: Contribution to public awareness
- **OS 4**: Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services in the political sectors linked to development cooperation
- **OS 5**: Strengthening knowledge about measuring, reporting and monitoring of political choices and interventions
- **OS 6**: Strengthening awareness and capacities concerning the Protocol of Nagoya in Belgium and in the partner countries
33 countries are eligible for our calls (unless otherwise specified):

This list of countries includes:

- 18 partner countries of the Belgian governmental bilateral cooperation
- Banque Ouest-Africaine de Développement (BOAD)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- East African Community (EAC)
- Mekong River Commission (MRC).
OS 1 : Strengthening the **scientific and technical knowledge base**

**Type 1 grants**: Trainings and access to collections organized in Belgium for individual scientists: skills (e.g. taxonomy, modelling), research, publications, access to collections and archives (15-20 per year)
- Annual calls (each year in December)
- Short-term trainings (3-4 weeks)
- Renewable 2 times if needed and evaluation is positive by Belgian tutor.

**Type 2 grants**: Support for taxonomy-based research and training projects in the South → *in situ* training: individual or in workshops, on data collection, research skills, collection management etc
- Annual calls (each year in February)
- Only open for RBINS researchers to perform field work and *in situ* training in a partner country
OS 2 : Strengthening of the exchange and the use of information in a.o. governance

The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM): a CBD tool for publishing and sharing information on biodiversity

In practice, the Belgian CHM Focal Point offers training courses in the development and maintenance of websites, hosts CHM websites on its web server, offers long-distance support, helps to stimulate networking and the exchange of experiences through the organisation of workshops.
Annual call for CHM reinforcement

To help partner countries boost their contribution to the CHM websites.

The objective of the initiative is to obtain websites that are:
- officially endorsed by the national authorities
- operational both in terms of format and content
- updated with the relevant data
- contain comprehensive information and national documents

Annual call for education and public awareness

Local projects on the dissemination of information to the large public, schools, events, posters, brochures, stakeholders meetings: e.g. in Madagascar, Benin, Niger, Burundi, DR Congo

2015: deadline: 15 June

Themes in 2015

The suggested themes have been chosen in accordance to the first objective of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi target 1):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type 1</td>
<td>Study on suitable indicators for a baseline study on public awareness according to objective 1 of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 of the Convention if not yet defined in the revised National Biodiversity Strategy.</td>
<td>6 months project (to be completed by 31 January 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type 2</td>
<td>Baseline study on the perception of biodiversity based on the indicators chosen in the NBSAP or in an earlier project on indicators.</td>
<td>6 months project (to be completed by 31 January 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type 3</td>
<td>Public awareness project, which aim is to raise the awareness of target audience chosen in the NBSAP or through an earlier indicator project and for which a baseline study has been undertaken.</td>
<td>6 months to 2 years project (to be completed by 31 January 2017)</td>
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OS5: Strengthening knowledge about measuring, reporting and biodiversity (MRV) of political choices and interventions

Structure:
partnership between

- National focal point to the CBD or CHM
  - For the policy aspect: coordination, implementation and reporting
- Research institute (university or research center)
  - For the scientific aspect: collection and processing of data

Annual MRV Calls for one-year funding
Follow-up and scientific support by CEBioS and relevant Belgian experts, in collaboration with GBIF and BIP

1st call launched end of March 2015

Opening meeting in Brussels
Closing regional meeting in one of the elected countries

2 meetings to bring people from all selected projects together
- exchange of ideas, best practices and problems

Output:
- Development, assessment or implementation of indicators in the framework of NBSAPs

Eligible countries in 2015:
Benin – Burkina Faso – Burundi – DR Congo – Ivory Coast – Mali – Morocco – Niger
The CEBioS programme

http://cebios.naturalsciences.be
Biodiversity and sustainable development go hand in hand

"Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development" (CEBioS) at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) promotes capacity building and development in developing countries involved in research, training, mainstreaming, dissemination, awareness raising, and policy advice on the conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity (species, ecosystems, genetic diversity) through the Protocol of Nagoya. Capacity building on the Clearing House Mechanism (web-based information dissemination network) in national focal points for biodiversity and in the context of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) is undertaken under the umbrella of the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity. CEBioS is involved in institutional strengthening with selected partners in nature conservation.

The activities are funded by DGD (Belgian Development Cooperation), as part of the implementation of the Aichi targets, the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 and the Belgian biodiversity strategy 2020.

Countries eligible for CEBioS support are:


http://cebios.naturalsciences.be
coordinating: lamenssen@naturalsciences.be

CEBioS
Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

Online
- http://cebios.naturalsciences.be

Supporting biodiversity & sustainable development
- Short term research grants (taxonomy & marine modelling)
- Workshops in the South (taxonomy, ecology, marine modelling)
- Institutional cooperation with nature conservation agencies & universities in Benin, Burundi, DR Congo, Peru & Vietnam
- Capacity building for information exchange in eg.: Sub-Saharan Africa
- Awareness raising activities on biodiversity
- Special publications
Royal Museum for Central Africa

- To conduct top quality research at an international level
- To conserve, manage and make available the rich collection of African organisms and associated data
- To stimulate knowledge transfer, in particular towards partners in Africa

Contact person at RMCA: Patricia Mergen
patricia.mergen@africamuseum.be
Training & Access

• Priority: African partners
• Individual training
• Group courses
• In-situ & ex-situ

Data dissemination

• Priority: African partners
• Global networks
• Open Access
• Visibility and fitness for use
Congo Biodiversity initiative

- Consortium of four institutes (RMCA, RBINS, NBGB, UNIKIS)
- Inventory of the biodiversity of the Congo basin (fauna & flora, terrestrial and aquatic)
  - Multidisciplinary expeditions 2009 & 2010
- Capacity building
  - Training and PhD programmes, collaborative projects
  - Creation of a regional Biodiversity Centre (Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité)
  - Rehabilitation of the Herbarium of Yangambi

www.congobiodiv.org
Ichthyology RMCA founding member of international FishBase consortium and responsible for information on African fishes.

- www.fishbase.org with 9 mirror sites
  - > 35 million hits per month
  - > 1000 citations, including 8 in Nature and 20 in Science
- www.fishbaseforafrica.org
Collaboration with GBIF

Sub-Saharan African Biodiversity Information Network

Project CABIN (Central African Biodiversity Information Network) financed by the Belgian cooperation from 2008 onwards.

More info at:
http://cabin.cybertaxonomy.africamuseum.be/