

The **bionet*** bulletin is published by **BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's** Secretariat. It is available in English, Spanish and French and online @ www.bionet-intl.org.

BioNET is a not-for-profit initiative that promotes taxonomy via capacity building, advocacy and its affiliated local partnerships (LOOPs) so that all countries can know and identify their biodiversity and thereby address sustainable development and conservation priorities. BioNET is donor funded; this publication and other international work is currently supported by a grant from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

New Developments

Extinction crisis escalates: Red List shows apes, corals, vultures, dolphins all in danger

2007 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, the world's most authoritative assessment of the Earth's plants and animals, acts as a wake up call on the global extinction crisis. Threatened species include an estimated 51% of invertebrates, 39% of fish, 31% of reptiles and amphibians and 70% of plants. BioNET is an IUCN member. [More...](#)

BioNET-SACNET: Pan-regional commitment to a South Asian biodiversity information system

Participants from leading research organisations convened in May at a joint meeting of Species 2000 Asia-Oceania - BioNET-SACNET, hosted by the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. Each participant committed to establishing SABIS (South Asian Biodiversity Information System) as an open information platform by 2012. SAVIS will provide all countries of South Asia with the means to manage the species information needed to support decision making in conservation, agriculture, fisheries etc. The system will become a major contributor of data to leading global systems such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the Catalogue of Life. Participants appealed to national governments in the region and international bodies to support the establishment of the system. Click [here](#) to read the *Communique*.

BioNET-PACINET: Pacific invasive ant identification training - a student perspective

Biological invasions threaten the ecological integrity of the world's biota. Ants are among the most ecologically successful groups of animals and many species have become invasive and are now considered pests. In the Pacific Islands, a number of invasive ant species have increasing economic, environmental and/or social impacts. A recent invasive ant identification training workshop was attended by entomologists and quarantine officers from 14 Pacific Island countries and territories and expert instructors from the U.S.A. and New Zealand. Click [here](#) for a workshop report by MSc research student Roneil Latchman.

BioNET-SAFRINET: Becoming lucid about LUCID

From 4-8 June 2007, the Plant Protection Research Institute (South Africa), in collaboration with BioNET-SAFRINET, the South African Biosystematics Initiative and the South African National Biodiversity Institute presented a course on the use of [LUCID software](#) in Pretoria and Cape Town, South Africa. Organiser of the course, SAFRINET Regional Coordinator Connal Eardley, reports that the course was well presented by trainers from the Centre for Biological Information Technology (University of Queensland, Australia) and of great benefit to the 18 taxonomists who attended from a number of organizations.

BioNET: Brazil hosts regional DNA barcoding workshop

On 19-20 March 2007, 50 representatives from 13 South and Central American countries attended a regional meeting in Campinas, Brazil on DNA Barcoding, an emerging global standard in molecular diagnostics for species-level identification. Participants learned about "DNA barcoding" as a taxonomic tool, discussed its potential applications and examined the practical steps and capacity building needed to promote barcoding activities in the region. The meeting was made possible by financial support from CBOL, BioNET, the Inter American Biodiversity Information Network, Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology through the Brazilian Research Program on Biodiversity (PPBio), and the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science. Click [here](#) for the meeting report.

Beating the Borer!

The White Stem Borer is a native longhorn beetle, which invades the lucrative coffee crop, *arabica*. It is thought to be the most serious threat to coffee plantations worldwide. A 5 year CABI project has helped farmers in India and Africa find effective control methods. [More...](#)
Source: [CABI](#).

Chinese scientist appointed CGIAR head

Leading Chinese scientist, Wang Ren, was announced as the first Chinese scientist to be appointed director of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a major agricultural research consortium that helps poor countries. An entomologist by training, Wang has been the deputy director general for research at the CGIAR-supported International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines since 2000. He has also served as vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) since 1995. [More...](#) Source: [SciDev.net](#)

Scientists threaten strike over jailing of primatologist

Scientists in Brazil are considering strike action over the case of a primatologist jailed for biopiracy offences, which they say is likely to lead to the treatment of all researchers in the tropics as potential criminals. [More...](#) Source: [SciDev.net](#)

New version of Smithsonian Institution biological collections database

The National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (NMNH) has approximately 10-15% of its 126 million specimens represented in electronic form. Some of the records have minimal data, while a growing subset have literature, archival materials, photographs, illustrations and specimen images attached. [More...](#) NMNH is planning a new version of its biological collections database web interface and needs your help. The survey should take less than 15 minutes and will help us improve access to the data, images, etc., according to your needs. To start the survey click [here](#).

Events | Only newly posted events are listed here. For a full listing, click [here](#).

17 -28 September 2007

The Smithsonian Institution's monitoring and assessment of biodiversity training course: "Introduction to field techniques", Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park, USA. This course will provide participants with an introduction to various field techniques used to inventory, assess, and monitor species. **Contact:** Chris Ros **Email:** rosc@si.edu [Website](#).

18-19 October 2007

Buffon International Symposium, Paris, France. Natural History Museums and Institutions in the 21st century: Impact on our common future. [More...](#)

6-16 January 2008

Training Course: "Effective leadership and communication tools for environmental management and conservation, "Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park, USA. This course will provide participants with the knowledge and understanding of the communication and leadership capacities of environmental leaders, decision makers, and business executives. **Contact:** Chris Ros **Email:** rosc@si.edu **Website:**

24-29 November 2008

VIII Latin-American Congress of Herpetology, Sancti Spiritus, Cuba.
Contact: Roberto Alonso Bosch **Tel:** (537)- 6438266 | 6438010, **Fax:** (537)-6438090,
Email: ralonso@ecologia.cu

Publications

New publications from CABI

- *Aphids as Crop Pests
- *Redesigning Animal Agriculture: the challenge of the 21st century
- *Biological Control: a global perspective
- *Fungal Families of the World
- *Seed Dispersal: theory and its application in a changing world
- *2007 Edition of the Crop Protection Compendium, including:- 26 new full datasheets on pests and crops,- revised and updated datasheets, including the taxonomy and hosts for more than 100 fungi - over 100 new pictures

Email: orders@cabi.org

Centre for Biological Information Technology (CBIT) Newsletter, August 2007

Read [Newsletter](#) for the latest on world-leading Lucid key development software, training workshops in South Africa and more.

Grants

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): Seed money request for proposals

The call is for GBIF data content development in response to data needs associated with clearly identified global biodiversity issues, such as (but not limited to) global climate change, invasive alien species, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, 2010 indicators or pollinators. Projects may be to provide dataset(s) of occurrence data, taxon names data, or both. **Deadline:** 1 November 2007. Click [here](#) for RFP text and [here](#) for announcement.

Email: dremesen@gbif.org

The ATSE Crawford Fund fellowship for 2007: call for nominations

The aim of the Fellowship is to provide further training of a scientist in agriculture, fisheries or forestry from a selected group of developing countries whose work has shown significant potential. The training will take place at an Australian agricultural institution and will emphasize the application of knowledge to increased agricultural production in the Fellow's home country. The Fellowship will be offered biennially to an agricultural scientist below the age of 35 years. **Deadline:** 5 November 2007. [More...](#) Email: tlangley@mira.net

The Christensen Fund graduate fellowship program in plant conservation

The Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, USA. is offering fully funded fellowships to students from tropical America, Africa, Madagascar, Asia, Malesia and the Pacific Islands with strong leadership and research potential in applied plant conservation. This fellowship is available to individuals with applied plant conservation experience and strong academic credentials for studies leading to a M.S. or Ph.D. degree. **Deadline:** 15 January 2008. [More...](#) For application forms click [here](#). **Email:** iss@umsl.edu

BioNET LOOP contacts

Established LOOPS

ANDINONET

<http://www.andinonet.org.ve>

Regional Coordinator:

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ASEANET - [profile](#)

<http://www.aseanet.org>

Secretariat:

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CARINET

<http://carinet.ecoport.org>

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Ron Barrow: carinet@trinidad.net

EASIANET

<http://www.easianet.nies.go.jp/hk>

Regional Coordinator:

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EAFRINET - [profile](#)

Regional Coordinator:

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EuroLOOP

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NAFRINET - [profile](#)

Regional Coordinator:

Contact BioNET

PACINET - [profile](#)

Regional Coordinator:

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SAFRINET

<http://safrinet.ecoport.org>

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Connal

Eardley:

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WAFRINET [profile](#)

<http://www.iita.org/wafrinet/>

Regional Coordinator:

Dr Braima James: b.james@cgjar.org

SACNET – South Asia

<http://www.biodiversityasia.org/sacnet>

Interim Regional Coordinating Institute: IUCN-

Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia.

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LOOPS under development

LATINET – South America

Southern Cone - [profile](#)

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Interim Regional Coordinating Institute:

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Contact Alvaro

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