

# The ATBI+M manual on field recording techniques and protocols



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## The EDIT ATBI+M project

EDIT WP7 organises and supports the participation of experts in All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring (ATBI+M) projects in conservation areas – with the overall aim to strengthen the input of taxonomic expertise for biodiversity conservation.

ATBI+M are large-scale field efforts to record, identify, and document the entire biodiversity of a given area. These data will form the basis for monitoring biodiversity changes over time.

The first two sites in Europe are now fully operational with excellent opportunities for field work. The lessons learned from these first ATBI+M sites are now used to set up and expand other sites in the developing world.

## Vision of an ATBI+M Field Manual

Inventoring and monitoring efforts can be hampered by not using well-accepted and/or standardised methods.

Students of the EDIT Summer School events on ATBI+M sites expressed a need and wish for more information.

The ATBI+M manual shall be a valuable source of information for interested parties pursuing field work and inventories. The target audience is not the greater public nor senior researchers in their area of expertise – it is the field biologists, graduate students, persons with basic knowledge on biodiversity.

## Formation of authors groups & workshop

Experts in their respective area of research were invited to a dedicated workshop in the Botanical Garden on Gran Canaria in January 2009. An international group of specialists agreed to provide their expertise and to supervise the multi-authored contributions.

In summary, 78 experts from various institutions worldwide are working hard to make this manual happen.



## Contents of the Field Manual

The manual will cover various topics ranging from habitat and taxa oriented methods up to specific technologies and data management:

- Introduction – the ATBI+M concept and experiences
- Challenges and solutions for planning large scale ATBI's
- Records and data management
- Bioacoustics
- Camera-trapping for inventoring terrestrial vertebrates
- Specimen preservation for subsequent molecular analysis
- Sampling arthropods from the canopy
- Sampling soil and litter
- Sampling continental freshwaters
- Sampling the marine realm
- Sampling free-living protists
- Sampling a forgotten kingdom: guidelines for mycologists
- Sampling of bryophytes
- Sampling higher plants
- General techniques for sampling insects
- Light traps for insects
- Flight interception traps for arthropods
- Preserving and specimen handling for invertebrates
- Field methods for monitoring mammals
- Sampling reptiles and amphibians
- Tips for bird surveys and censuses
- Preservation of freshwater fish in the field



## Publication with *Abc Taxa*

The publication is the joint effort of EDIT and the Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative through its journal *Abc Taxa*: a series of peer-reviewed manuals dedicated to capacity building in zoological and botanical taxonomy, in collection management and in good practices in taxonomic and curatorial research.

The ATBI+M field manual will be published as a special issue within the *Abc Taxa* series. It will be freely distributed to contacts particularly in developing countries, and the digital contents will be freely available on the *Abc Taxa* website ([www.abctaxa.be](http://www.abctaxa.be)).

The authors are currently finalising their contributions and the hardcopy of the manual is expected to be available by March 2010.



Workshop 'ATBI+M Manual' Botanical Garden Gran Canaria - Participants

Find more information at [www.atbi.eu](http://www.atbi.eu); [www.abctaxa.be](http://www.abctaxa.be) or contact [christoph.haeuser@mfn-berlin.de](mailto:christoph.haeuser@mfn-berlin.de);

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