Reference number of GTI application: *CBD/GTI-02/2015/*
Date of reception:

Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative

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REPORT

Taxonomic training & access to collections in Belgium

NOTICE

The present questionnaire must arrive with the Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative within one month of the official closure of the capacity building visits. Electronic submission on the general e-mail address of the Belgian GTI NFP (cbd-gti@naturalsciences.be) is strongly encouraged. If electronic submission should however be impossible, paper copies may be sent by fax or ordinary mail. The Belgian GTI NFP will acknowledge receipt of all project reports.

If grantees have **relevant pictures** to illustrate their capacity building visit, these may be annexed to the report. The Belgian National Focal Point might use some of these pictures in one of its reporting activities, but only after the copyright holder has given his permission.

Contact and further information

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PART I – CANDIDATE INFORMATION	
Family name:	Muhereze
First name(s):	Ronald
Nationality:	Ugandan
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	08/11-10/12/2015
Number of training days:	32
Type of visit	☒ Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management ☐ Mainly access to collections ☐ Other, *specify*
Location of training:	☒ Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels ☐ Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren ☐ Botanic Garden of Meise ☐ Other, *specify*
PART II - GENERAL INFORMATION	
Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project	This was through my first taxonomic training at Royal Belgian Institute offered by the VLIR-UOS KULEUVEN, The GTI websit.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	This was through the GTI website, Global taxonomic initiative staff (Dr.Marie-Lucie Susini Biodiversity programme officer and the GTI NFP and Luc janssens de Bisthoven the Coordinator of the CEBioS programme)
Describe concisely why you needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management	Ants play important roles to include; soil engineers, increase nutrient recycling, serve as biologic pest control, etc. But certain ant genera are also considered pest species that can cause economic losses for the farmers. Some are important polonisators, for some species their nests serve as reproduction, hibernating place. Therefor it was important to establish the knowledge of insects/ analyse system dynamic changes, habitats, specific family groups and species names. Since species numbers may not be significant rather to consider individual species because they show signals to first environmental changes especially ants.
Describe concisely what support (e.g. training, access to collections,…) you have received and how this training can be related to taxonomy and /or collection management	Access to collections and general management have given an idea of how different diversities can be preserved, stored, managed and later be used for reference/ study purposes or adventure, in addition, trainings have given full information on how morphological structures can be interpreted, how reference collection can be used in identification of new and already extinct species and need for biodiversity conservation.

Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties	The GTI scholarship has helped me to process entomofauna samples at RBINS in Belgium. Besides the access to specific material for entomology research (mounting equipment, an African reference collection, literature) I will be able to consult on a regular basis both experts such as Dr. Dekoninck and the large collections available at the RBINS. The experience I have gained by spending another period working at the RBINS which have increased my professionalism and expertise in taxonomy and entomologic research and myrmecology in particular.
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution	Through sensitisation, forming focus groups, student association groups to include Namasagali Wildlife Conservation Network Where am a member and Namasagali Environmental Conservation Initiative am where I have been A president. I also look forward to spearhead the implementation of community sensitization on the role biodiversity conservation in relation to food security in around the University.
Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need	Organisation of More capacity building trainings in taxonomy and collection management in Uganda, materials to use in biodiversity assessment to include insect tool kits and more exchange visits to countries in collaborations implementing these strategies.
Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional	Entomology laboratory with all necessary materials and laboratory technicians or entomology experts. We only have a few field materials that's why most of the materials have always been borrowed from RBINS
Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution	University Partner ships strategies, Student partnership strategies, offering training scholarships and student exchange visits, Support biodiversity conservation projects and groups in Uganda with similar goals in question.

PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION	
What is your taxon of interest	Arthropoda/Insecta/Hymenoptera/Formicidae/many genera
Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues	The results of this study will be published in different scientific articles. Besides this we would like to publish at least one or two articles in collaboration with Koen Vanderhaegen and Wouter Denkoninck, presenting some of the new ant species identified during this research. The results will be used during classes on taxonomy and entomology given by myself at Busitema University. Furthermore, a duplicate of the collection specimens will be donated to the entomology department of NaFORRI in Uganda where many people can easily access them.
Describe how your taxonomic work helps improving the status of biodiversity in your country	To improve the conservation of biodiversity in Uganda public awareness and political/financial support has to be obtained. Currently very few is known about local biodiversity and its importance for the Elgon region. This study aims to indicate the role of agroforestry systems for the conservation of biodiversity in human-modified land use systems outside the borders of the Mt. Elgon National Park in Eastern Uganda. The project aims to demonstrate that the use of indigenous shade tree species combined with sustainable management practices can increase the provision of ecosystem services by coffee gardens. Increased provision of ecosystem services and a higher resilience/sustainability of the coffee production are important goals for coffee certification organizations. Also in PES (payment for ecosystem services) schemes such as carbon sequestration projects these ecosystem services are important co-benefits that can increase the carbon credit's values and attractiveness of projects. Since land use changes around Mt. Elgon are happening on a large scale and often in an irreversible way this study is of high importance for the documentation and taxonomy of species that might get lost very soon.
Describe how your project could help reduce poverty in your country	Our project can contribute to poverty reduction by promoting sustainable ways of coffee production in the Mt. Elgon region. The study of ant communities in small holder coffee plantations around Mt. Elgon will indicate the effects of different management systems on biodiversity. It will provide evidence that can convince policy makers and foreign donors to support the extension of sustainable management practices, certified coffee production or PES schemes in the region.

Training	This has been mainly capacity building in taxonomy and collection management. Skills acquired include: Sample separation, Ants identification, collection management, access to digital materials, and literature via Antweb, AntCat and other sources and the collections in the museum. I was also able to digitize part of our collection using the professional materials available at the RBINS by the recently developed mass digitization equipment (Brecko et al., 2014, http://dx.doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.464.8615). Made New networks, contacts and Got to interact with experts and international network of contacts during the conference, and in the due course of training at the RBINS and at the hotel.

Field samplings and methodology used in data collection.

Sample processing and digitizing

Digitized out put of identified species

Hagensia peringueyi