

Taxonomy's Value to Society: Call for Case Studies

Introduction: A real need has been expressed in various fora for case studies that demonstrate where taxonomy (or the lack of it) has had profound impacts on society. A solution was proposed at a recent meeting¹ on the Global Taxonomy Initiative organised by the Secretariat of the CBD, UNESCO-MAB Programme and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL: the Global Network for Taxonomy. This was to call for, and make available online to anyone who may want to use them, as many case studies as possible. BioNET-INTERNATIONAL's Technical Secretariat has agreed to assist with this process. This is the call for case studies.

Aim: To provide summary case studies of how taxonomic knowledge and resources have been used to meet user needs and benefit society, or how the lack of taxonomic resources and information has led to poor decision-making, negatively affecting society in some way.

Process: The submitted case studies will be made available on-line in freely downloadable format, at www.bionet-intl.org. Submission of material expressly acknowledges it will be *non-copyright* and available to be used by anyone needing good examples of why taxonomy is important when submitting proposals for funding, talking to decision-makers, etc. Provision for acknowledgement of source is made.

Guidelines to Contributors: Provide a one-page narrative of a case study that includes the following elements to: bionet@bionet-intl.org.

1. **Title:** Clear and informative title. State any impacts, positive or negative, in the title if possible (e.g., "*Correct Identification of Pest Saves Millions*").
2. **Relevant Sector:** Clearly specify thematic area/societal sector and economic area/s to which your case study applies e.g. agriculture (or subsectors), forestry, inland waters, marine and coastal, invasive alien species, pollination, biodiversity conservation, trade, human health, disease vectors, pharmaceuticals, etc.
3. **Geographic Location:** specify where (country/region) the activity took place and where the impact was felt.
4. **Problem Statement:** Describe the specific (non-taxonomic) problem or question that was addressed.
5. **Methods:** Include a non-technical statement of methods and procedures used. Specify taxonomic approach and applications used.
6. **Lessons:** State the particular taxonomic issue that was addressed, or should have been addressed.
7. **Outcomes and Impacts:** Present the benefits/impacts to society of taxonomy/lack of taxonomy, lessons learned and conclusions
8. **Reference:** If possible, cite one or more key reference documents/websites etc. for follow-up by interested persons.
9. **Contact Information:** Provide author's name, affiliation, and contact information (including weblinks). If further acknowledgement of source is required, include the citation to be used.

We look forward to receiving your contributions and in providing you with access to numerous other case studies.

¹ Implementing the CBD GTI Programme of Work: a Follow-up Workshop to the 3rd Global Taxonomy Workshop (3GTW), UNESCO, Paris, 12-14 Feb, 2003