Reference number of GTI application: *CBD/GTI-02/2014*
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

Dr M-L Susini
Belgian Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative,
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Vautierstraat 29,
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 627 45 90
Fax: +32 2 627 41 41
Email: cbd-gti@naturalsciences.be

PART I – CANDIDATE INFORMATION	
Family name:	VARGAS
First name(s):	GABRIELA
Nationality:	ECUADORIAN
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	07/09/2014 04/10/2014
Number of training days:	29
Type of visit	X☐ 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 X☐ Other, *specify* MUCL, Louvain-la-Neuve

PART II - GENERAL INFORMATION	
Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project	I have learned, through information provided in the internet and through the director of the project where I work.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	My boss in the work informed me about this training by Dr.Decock.
Describe concisely why you needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management	Because in the institution where I work is needed to implement a reference mycoteque and also we need to know how to preserve a collection of fungi isolated in the forest of Ecuador. The objective of the training was to develop an *in vitro* Fungal collection for *ex-situ* valorization (biotechnological applications, agriculture, industry, and environment).
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	In the MUCL the technicians showed me the conservation methods that they have for isolated strains, and also the equipment and the organization that have in this institution.

Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties	Whit the gained capacity I can and adapt the conservation techniques that I learned in MUCL to the techniques that we use in the institution where I work.
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution	In the laboratory we can apply the same methods for strains conservation and also we can implement an informatics system for organize the information that we have about the fungus insolated in the forest. The first objective is to improve the knowledge on Fungal diversity (taxonomy and ecology). The second objective is to develop an *in vitro* Fungal collection for *ex-situ* valorization (biotechnological applications, agriculture, industry, environment).
Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need	Maybe we will need more information about new techniques of strains conservation and standard procedures for apply in our laboratory.
Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional	Maybe we will need more equipment like a liofilizator for the conservation of the strains, and a freezer for keep them.
Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution	By sending information of publications and also whit more opportunities for training. Training in fungal taxonomy will strengthen the mycological expertise in Ecuador to address the challenge of describing the vast fungal diversity of the country as a base for the in situ management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in Ecuador.

PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION	
What is your taxon of interest	Mycota, Ascomycota, and Basidiomycota, for training in long term preservation of living cultures and culture collection managment Basidiomycota, Polyporales, Polyporaceae for taxonomic training
Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues	The result – mainly the training into long term preservation - will be first disseminated at the level of laboratory - to colleagues presently working on the Fungal collection -) and school of bio-analysis – the undergraduate students - through specific lectures dealing with culture collection, preservation, and Management. A Culture collection “manual” will be developed for good practices.
Describe how your taxonomic work helps improving the status of biodiversity in your country	Training in fungal taxonomy will strengthen the mycological expertise in Ecuador to address the challenge of describing the vast fungal diversity of the country as a base for the in situ management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in Ecuador.
Describe how your project could help reduce poverty in your country	Knowledge of fungal diversity can open doors to various biotechnological applications that provide solutions to problems in agriculture, food, medicine, bioremediation. Wood-decaying enzymes such as lacases, peroxydases, or cellulases are widely used in industrial applications worldwide. Biotechnological applications could contribute to develop local economic sectors.