

**Report on  
Individual and Institutional Capacity Building in Taxonomy and Collection Management**

as provided by the

**Belgian Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative  
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences – Rue Vautier 29 – 1000 BRUSSELS - Belgium**

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## **1. Coordinates trainee**

*Name:* KABLAN Kan Aurore Bel Martine

*Country:* Côte d'Ivoire

*Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium:* from 03 November to 20 November 2008

*Number of training days:* to refer to the programme below:

- 04/11/08:- Morning: KBIN- administration  
- Afternoon: RMCA- training's organization
- 05/11/08:- Morning and afternoon: KBIN- Taxonomy's theoretical course
- 06/11/08:- Morning and afternoon: RMCA- species identification
- 07/11/08:- Morning and afternoon: KBIN- Taxonomy's theoretical course
- From 08/11 to 11/11/08:-Week end and holiday
- From 12/11 to 19/11/08: Morning and afternoon: RMCA- training about Myriapoda Diplopoda.

*Location of training (e.g. RBINS, RMCA, RBG, ...):* Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)  
and Royal Museum of Central Africa (RMCA)

*Taxon for which training was received:* Myriapoda Diplopoda

## **2. General Information**

*Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project.*

Information was given to us by Prof TONDOH. He is the teacher-researcher, who directs the training course that we make with the aim of validating the Control.

Indeed, there is in his laboratory a student, N'DRI Julien, who, a few years rather, had profited from the formations given by the Belgian GTI project. He studies dust mites.

*Describe concisely why you needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management.*

Our study's objective is the training of an expert in environment, who will be specialist in the study of Diplopoda. This scientist must recognize species; differentiate them from/to each other and to be able to name them. Thus, he will be able to constitute and manage collections.

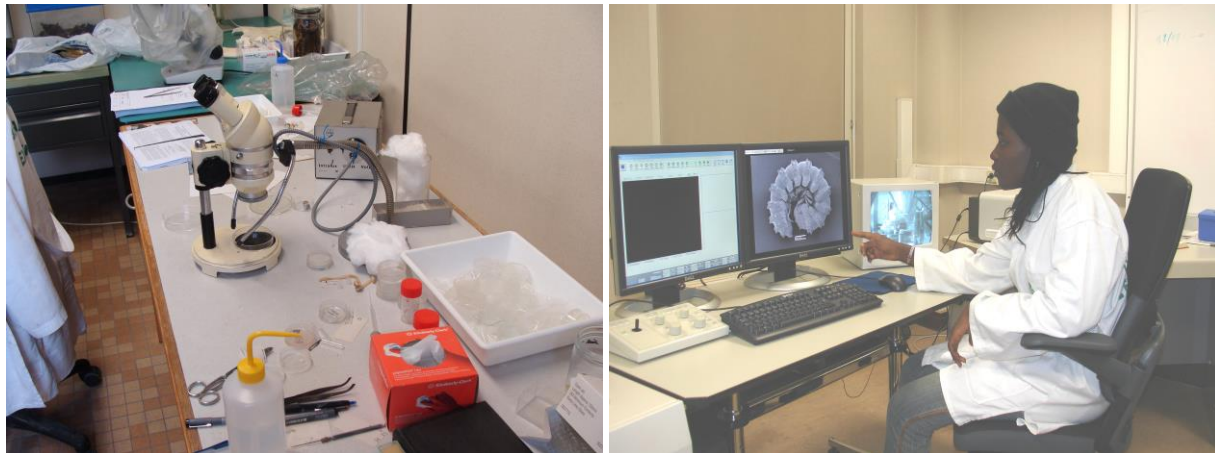
Also, his formation must it contain on the one hand the initiation with the taxonomy and more particularly with that of Diplopoda and on the other hand, initiation with the making and the management of collections.

Consequently, we needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management to receive the appropriate training and eliminate the lack, which exists since the death of Prof AOUTI.

*Describe concisely what training you have received and how this training can be related to taxonomy and /or curation.*

The training, that we have received, comprised two principal parts; theoretical courses and practical courses.

The theoretical courses taught us biodiversity and the danger, which threatens it; Taxonomy, which is a discipline to know our environment; and how can we save biodiversity. The practical courses allowed us to work directly on the taxon, that we study, i.e. Myriapoda Diplopoda. We learned how to collect them, how to identify them and how to preserve them. With this training, it will be simpler to us to constitute a collection for a taxonomic study. The curation of this collection will make easier the next taxonomic studies in our areas bus for the moment; we do not have any collection of reference.



Photography2: Laboratory and electron microscope's room of RMCA, where I received practical training on Myriapoda Diplopoda.

*Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties.*

Before the training, my knowledge was very theoretical. Then, I carried out a sampling, which presents enormous uncertainties. My results are not very real. The formation enabled me to include the interest of each sampling procedure. Henceforth, I will apply them in my samplings.

I also learned how to determine the species. From now on, I will know what it is necessary to observe to identify a species. In the future, I will work with much ease.

*Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution.*

For this time, we do not have the level yet to give courses. Nevertheless, we can already discuss with other students in order to lead them to have a particular interest for the conservation of biological diversity and for Taxonomy. The goal is to reduce the lack of information about the African zoology and more particularly about the ground's fauna.

When it is the moment to teach, then we will integrate the study of Myriapoda Diplopoda in university's program.

*Did the received training come to terms with your taxonomic and / or curatorial needs?*

The received training was a very good opportunity in our formation of future expert in Environment. It taught us the bases of this science which is Taxonomy.

Nevertheless, considering there is less of specialist, it would be more convenient to enable us to carry out other training courses until we are considered it ready to train other people.

*Describe concisely if you or your institution need other training.*

The received training enabled us to make practical our knowledge and also to learn some things that we did not know. However, there are still other things that we would wish to learn like Diplopoda from forest, Diplopoda's ethology, their environmental impact...

On the whole, we want to have the arguments necessary to sensitize everyone with the conservation and the restoration of natural ecosystems.

*Describe in detail what other infrastructural resources you or your institution need to become fully operational.*

The "Laboratoire des Ecosystemes Terrestres" of the "Centre de Recherche en Ecologie" need some basic equipment to become fully operational: bionocular, soil thermometers, a drying oven, a labtop, a complet set of Winkler-bags.

*Describe how you think the Belgian Focal Point to the GTI can further construct capacity for you or your institution.*

As I said earlier, filed campaign for Diplopoda collection will start by March-April 2009 in the surrounding area of the Taï National Park. The objective will be to assess the response of Diplopoda's communities to forest disturbance. I will need another training of 2 to 3 months that will help me identifying the new specimens. This training will be useful for the preparation of the field studies for my PhD.

**THIS QUESTIONNAIRE MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY (OR BY FAX)  
WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE OFFICIAL CLOSURE OF THE TRAINING.**

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