



# 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](mailto:cbd-gti@naturalsciences.be)) is strongly encouraged.

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:	Do
First name(s):	Van Tu
Nationality:	Vietnam
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	30 June 2018/28 July 2018
Number of training days:	28
Type of visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly access to collections <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i> Learn about phylogenetic analysis
Location of training:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren <input type="checkbox"/> Botanic Garden of Meise <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i>

## PART II - GENERAL INFORMATION

Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Project	I have received the information about the Belgian GTI Project from Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI). Then, I have learned about the Belgian GTI Project from the website <a href="http://www.taxonomy.be/">http://www.taxonomy.be/</a> , <a href="http://cebios.naturalsciences.be">http://cebios.naturalsciences.be</a>
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	I have received the information about this specific call for proposals from Belgian GTI Project from Belgian National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative and my tutor
Describe concisely why you needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management	I am working on the field of taxonomy of molluscs and malacostraca (crabs and shrimps). I have a collection of many mollusc and malacostraca specimens. However, my knowledge in taxonomy and collection management is still limited. Moreover, I really want to develop the international collaboration in studying, publishing and data sharing. That is why I need capacity building in taxonomy and collection management.
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	I have been trained in taxonomy, especially modern techniques such as DNA extraction, Polymerase chain reaction (PCR), sequencing, editing DNA sequence data using softwares as MEGA, Codoncode and phylogeny analysis (Neighbor Joining Trees, Parsimony, Maximum Likelihood, Bayes Inference, etc.). Understanding molecular evolution is very important in taxonomy studies.

Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties	The knowledge I have learnt in the training will help me conduct integrative studies in taxonomy and phylogeny which based on both morphology and molecular data.
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution	I will propose the research projects to study biodiversity and taxonomy of freshwater mussels and crabs. These projects will be mainly implemented in my institution, What I have learnt from the training will be very important to propose and also conducted these project. I will share my knowledge with my colleagues and students when we work together.
Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need	I will need the cooperation projects which I can continue to work with my supervisor and his team in Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.
Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional	My institution and I still need help to enhance research capacity in taxonomy including knowledge and equipment such as PCR Thermal Cyclers, DNA sequencers. So that we can conduct the integrative taxonomy studies. In addition, we also need support in collection management such as good containers for preserving specimens, specimen digitization, data management, publishing and sharing.
Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution	Belgian GTI National Focal Point can continue to support training me to improve my knowledges in taxonomy; granting the collaboration projects in terms of biodiversity, taxonomy and conservation; assisting in purchasing research equipment, as well as building and managing the specimen collection.

### PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

<p>What is your taxon of interest</p>	<p>I am very interested in mollusca including gastropoda and bivalvia. I am also interested in studying taxonomy of freshwater crabs and shrimps (Atyidae, Palaemonidae, Potamidae).</p>
<p>Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues</p>	<p>I usually write scientific papers to publish in international journals. Moreover, I intend to publish my taxonomic data to through Vietnam National Biodiversity Database System (NBDS) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).</p>
<p>Describe how your taxonomic work helps improving the status of biodiversity in your country</p>	<p>Vietnam has a high diversity of molluscan and crustacean fauna. However, the studies of this group are limited. The available data does not fully reflect the biodiversity in our country, and the information about the species is deficient and their taxonomy is out of date. In the past few decades, the degradation and pollution of the environment has placed many species of Vietnamese molluscs and crustaceans in Threatened status. My taxonomic works will be important inputs to better understand molluscan and crustacean fauna in Vietnam and Asia as well as the basis for the exploitation and conservation of biodiversity.</p>
<p>Describe how your project could help reduce poverty in your country</p>	<p>The poverty rate in Vietnam is still very high. The lives of the poor people often depend primarily on the exploitation of the natural resources available around them. Therefore, if we have a better understanding, better conservation of biodiversity and rational exploitation, we will help to reduce poverty in our country.</p> <p>Freshwater molluscs and crustaceans (crabs and shrimps) have a vital role in the freshwater ecosystems and the daily lives of Vietnamese. Many studies have shown that freshwater mollusc and crustacean diversity has high levels of endemism. Results of the project will be the key materials for further research on the biology, ecology (e.g. studies on degradation and recovery of ecosystems, forecast ecosystem changes under the influence of natural factors, urbanization and industrial development), invasion biology, pollution (i.e. using mollusc biological indicators to assess the level of pollution), etc. Data collected from the project will be the basis for the sustainable exploitation and as well as the conservation of biodiversity in general and freshwater mollusc and crustacean in particular in Vietnam. The research results of the project will contribute to promoting the task of establishing inland water conservation zones in our country, contributing to argumentative science technology, speeding up the consideration in authorities for decision-making on the system of inland water conservation areas will be established in our country in the coming time.</p>