



**Belgium**  
partner in development

# 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

Dr M-L Susini Ondafe  
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](mailto:cbd-gti@naturalsciences.be)

PART I – CANDIDATE INFORMATION	
Family name:	Venuste
First name(s):	Nsengimana
Nationality:	Rwandese
Date of arrival and departure in / from Belgium	Arrival: 6 October 2019 Departure: 31 October 2019
Number of training days:	
Type of visit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management (X) <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly access to collections <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>specify</i>
Location of training:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels (X) <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	This was the third time I attended such kind of training. I was aware of the project even before. For the first time, I learned about the Belgian GTI project from the information sharing platform based in the centre of excellence in Biodiversity and natural resources management, base in the college of science and technology, university of Rwanda.
Describe concisely how you have learned about this specific call for proposals	A call was launched on <a href="http://www.taxonomy.be/">http://www.taxonomy.be/</a> website. My supervisor, Dr Wouter informed about the call, but also colleagues and the biodiversity program office D Marie Lucie Susini informed us about the call.
Describe concisely why you needed capacity building in taxonomy and collection management	Taxonomy is key for biodiversity conservation and natural resources management. Through taxonomy, we have the information about which species, and then we relate it to its habitat and its ecological importance. Collection management is related to taxonomy, as we don't have always go on the field for data collection, specimen collections serve as the reference. So, skilled persons are needed for effective management of these collections.
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 got support to identify my specimens of ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) that have been collected from Rwanda. Specimens were identified to species level, and the names were confirmed after consulting the specimens stored at the Royal Belgium institute of natural sciences
Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties	Through the skills and knowledge gained from the capacity building training, I am now able to the identification of ants to species level. I have started to store collected specimens in the zoological collection of the centre of excellence in biodiversity and natural resources management based in the college of science and technology, university of Rwanda.

Describe concisely how your gained capacity will be implemented in your institution	As I am a lecturer of Biology and the deputy director in the centre of excellence in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management based in the University of Rwanda, gained capacity is shared with office staff, researchers, students, and lecturers through seminars and workshops that are organized twice per month. In addition, they are applied in data analysis and in publications that are accessible by a wide audience worldwide.
Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need	I am still challenged by the lack of materials used in taxonomy specifically microscope and related accessories, reagents, materials for collecting specimens, and the boxes for storing identified specimens. Finally, the training is continuous. I shall be grateful to receive a continuous training in taxonomy, particularly that of ants as my preferable domain of research
Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution eventually still need to become fully functional	Few personnel are trained in taxonomy. By this moment, we don't have any equipped zoological collection that can serve as a reference. In addition, as I mentioned it in the above paragraph, we don't have materials that are used in taxonomy, specifically taxonomy of ants
Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution	There 2 possibilities: (1) Having experts from Belgian GTI coming to Rwanda, and train not only me, but also other staff who are interested in taxonomy of insect / ants (2) Provide other chances for me, so that I may continue updating skills I have got from the training

### PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION

What is your taxon of interest	Ants = Hymenoptera / Formicidae
Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues / people in your homeland	I use seminars and workshops. I also use publications in peer review journals. Published paper are availed to all concerned researchers, lectures and students
Describe how your taxonomic work helps improving the status of biodiversity in your country	Less is known about the biodiversity of ants (species diversity, ecology). Some of them are beneficial to human being while others are invasive and cause serious problems to humans. Taxonomy contributes to the knowledge of ants and answers some of the questions: which ones are beneficial? Which ones are harmful?
Describe how your project could help reduce poverty in your country	Poverty occur in different ways and may be related to the damage of crops and plants due to negative effects of ants. However, some other species may reduce poverty due to their ecosystem services such as the improvement of soil properties, and hence the increase of soil fertility. We have to rely on taxonomy with the main purpose of identifying which species are susceptible to reduce poverty and hence need conservation strategies, and which ones are harmful so that management measures are fully developed