

View results

Respondent

13 Anonymous

1914:33

Time to complete

PART I – CANDIDATE INFORMATION / PARTIE I – INFORMATIONS SUR LE CANDIDAT

1. Family Name / Nom de famille *

Mwajjengo

2. First name(s) / Prénom(s) *

Grite Nelson

3. Nationality / Nationalité *

Tanzanian

4. Date of arrival in Belgium / Date d'arrivée en Belgique *

4/20/2025



5. Date of departure from Belgium / Date de départ de Belgique *

5/25/2025



6. Type of visit / Type de visite *

- ☒ Mainly training in taxonomy and collection management / Surtout formation en taxonomie et en gestion des collections
- ☐ Mainly access to collections / Surtout accès à des collections
- ☐ Other

7. Location of training / Lieu de la formation *

- ☐ Institute of Natural Sciences (Brussels) / Institut des Sciences Naturelles (Bruxelles)
- ☐ Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren / Musée Royal d'Afrique Central
- ☐ Botanic Garden of Meise / Jardin Botanique de Meise
- ☒ KU Leuven

PART II – GENERAL INFORMATION / PARTIE I – INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES

8. Describe concisely how you have learned about the Belgian GTI Grants/
Décrivez brièvement comment vous avez pris connaissance des bourses belges pour l'ITM

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I learned about the Belgian GTI Grants through my tutor at KU Leuven, Prof. Dr. Luc Brendonck, who shared the call for applications with me via email.

9. Describe concisely why you needed capacity building in taxonomy and/or collection management / Décrivez succinctement pourquoi vous aviez besoin d'un renforcement de capacités en matière de taxonomie et/ou de gestion des collections *

I needed capacity building in taxonomy to accurately identify and classify large branchiopod species from temporary wetlands in Northeastern Tanzania, a region with limited existing taxonomic data. Strengthening my skills in morphological identification and species documentation was essential for ensuring scientific accuracy in my research and for contributing to biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts.

10. 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 / Décrivez succinctement quel type de support (e.g. formation, accès aux collections,...) vous avez reçu et comment il est lié à la taxonomie et/ou la conservation des collections *

During my visit, I received hands-on training in species identification using morphological traits, as well as access to reference collections and taxonomic keys at KU Leuven. I was also guided in preparation of a taxonomic key, specifically for large branchiopods. This support directly strengthened my taxonomic skills and enhanced my capacity to contribute to biodiversity monitoring and assessment, particularly for large branchiopods in under-studied Afro-tropical wetlands.

11. Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties / Décrivez succinctement comment vos nouvelles capacités vous aideront dans vos obligations professionnelles *

The skills I gained in species identification and taxonomy will directly support my professional duties in research, teaching, and conservation. I will apply this expertise to improve the quality of my biodiversity studies in temporary wetlands, train postgraduate students in taxonomic methods, and contribute to the development of monitoring tools for freshwater ecosystems. Additionally, I will contribute to curriculum development by integrating updated taxonomy and biodiversity monitoring techniques into relevant courses. Furthermore, these enhanced capabilities will strengthen my ability for collaborative research and conservation projects focused on freshwater ecosystems, thereby expanding my role in regional biodiversity conservation. These capacities will enhance scientific output and strengthen conservation impact at my institution, in Tanzania, across the East African region, and beyond.

12. Describe concisely how your gained capacity will help you in your professional duties / Décrivez succinctement comment vos nouvelles capacités seront utilisées dans votre institution *

The skills I gained in species identification and taxonomy will directly support my professional duties in research, teaching, and conservation. I will apply this expertise to improve the quality of my biodiversity studies in temporary wetlands, train postgraduate students in taxonomic methods, and contribute to the development of monitoring tools for freshwater ecosystems. Additionally, I will contribute to curriculum development by integrating updated taxonomy and biodiversity monitoring techniques into relevant courses. Furthermore, these enhanced capabilities will strengthen my ability for collaborative research and conservation projects focused on freshwater ecosystems, thereby expanding my role in regional biodiversity conservation. These capacities will enhance scientific output and strengthen conservation impact at my institution, in Tanzania, across the East African region, and beyond.

13. Describe concisely what other support you eventually would need / Décrivez succinctement quel autre support pourrait vous être encore utile *

Additional support that would be valuable includes opportunities for advanced training in molecular techniques for species identification and biodiversity monitoring; funding for biodiversity data mobilization and publication; and extended fieldwork and laboratory analysis to deepen taxonomic studies. Access to international research networks for collaboration and knowledge exchange is also essential. Support in acquiring updated software and databases for species identification and data management would enhance research efficiency. Furthermore, assistance in conducting outreach and capacity-building initiatives would help disseminate knowledge and strengthen conservation efforts both locally and regionally.

14. Describe concisely what infrastructural and human resources you and your institution still need to become fully functional / Décrivez succinctement de quelles infrastructures et ressources humaines vous et votre institution auriez éventuellement besoin pour un meilleur fonctionnement *

To become fully functional, my institution requires improved infrastructural resources such as well-equipped laboratories with advanced microscopes and molecular analysis tools to support detailed taxonomic research. Additionally, enhanced access to comprehensive biological collections and databases would greatly benefit ongoing studies. On the human resources side, there is a need for more trained taxonomists and technical staff to support specimen processing and data management, as well as capacity building programs to continuously update skills among researchers and students. Strengthening these resources will significantly improve the quality and impact of our biodiversity research and conservation efforts.

15. Describe concisely how you think the Belgian GTI National Focal Point could further construct capacity for you and your institution / Décrivez succinctement comment vous pensez que le Point focal Belge pour l'ITM peut encore augmenter votre capacité ou celle de votre institution *

The Belgian GTI National Focal Point can further enhance capacity by facilitating access to advanced training programs, especially in molecular taxonomy and bio-informatics. Providing funding opportunities for biodiversity conservation research, development of institutional biodiversity data portal, and data mobilization and publication would significantly improve our research capabilities. In addition, support in establishing institutional partnerships and collaborative biodiversity conservation research projects would strengthen our scientific network and resource sharing.

PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION / INFORMATIONS SPECIFIQUES AU TAXON

16. What is your taxon of interest ? / Quel est le taxon qui vous a intéressé ? *

My taxon of interest is freshwater macroinvertebrates.

17. Describe concisely the steps to be taken to manage collections of your taxon / Décrivez succinctement la conduite à tenir pour la gestion des collections de votre taxon *

Managing collections of freshwater macroinvertebrates involves several key steps: (i) proper collection using standardized sampling methods; (ii) careful preservation of specimens in suitable mediums (e.g., ethanol); (iii) accurate labelling with detailed metadata (i.e., location, date, habitat etc.,); (iv) systematic identification and taxonomic verification; (v) organization and cataloging within a database; (vi) regular maintenance and monitoring of collection conditions; and (vii) facilitating access for research and educational purposes. Additionally, (viii) digitization of collections and data sharing through online platforms enhance accessibility and long-term conservation.

18. Describe concisely how you intend to make your taxonomic data available to other colleagues / people in your homeland / Décrivez succinctement comment vous pensez diffuser vos données taxonomiques auprès de vos collègues ou d'autres interlocuteurs dans votre pays

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I intend to share my taxonomic data through multiple channels; including publishing in scientific journals, presenting findings at national and regional conferences, training postgraduate students and organizing workshops for researchers and stakeholders in my region. Additionally, I plan to collaborate with local conservation agencies and biodiversity networks to integrate the data into national databases and monitoring programs, ensuring wider accessibility and practical application in Tanzania.

19. Describe how your taxonomic work helps improving the status of biodiversity in your country / Décrivez succinctement comment votre travail aide à améliorer l'état de la biodiversité dans votre pays

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My taxonomic work improves biodiversity status in my country by providing accurate species identification and documentation, which are essential for effective biodiversity monitoring and conservation planning. By clarifying species diversity and distribution, my research helps identify vulnerable or endangered species and critical habitats that require protection. This information supports policymakers, conservationists, and local communities in making informed decisions to safeguard freshwater ecosystems, particularly temporary wetlands, and promote sustainable management of natural resources.

20. Describe how your project could help reduce poverty in your country / Décrivez succinctement comment votre travail aide à lutter contre la pauvreté dans votre pays

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My project contributes to poverty reduction by supporting the sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems, which are vital for local livelihoods such as fishing, agriculture, and livestock keeping. By improving knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem health, the project informs conservation and restoration efforts that ensure long-term availability of water and natural resources. This helps strengthen community resilience, promote food security, and create opportunities for eco-tourism and environmental education, ultimately contributing to improved income and well-being in rural communities.