

View results

Respondent

3 Anonymous

257:24
Time to complete

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

1. Family Name / Nom de famille *

Mwaijengo

2. First name(s) / Prénom(s) *

Grite Nelson

3. Nationality / Nationalité *

Tanzanian

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

6/29/2026

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

8/3/2026

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

I learnt 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 freshwater taxonomic information. 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 of temporary wetland systems.

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, taxonomic keys and literature at KU Leuven. I was also guided in the 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 under environmental change.

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 acquired will directly reinforce my professional responsibilities in research, teaching, and conservation. They will enable me to improve the rigour of biodiversity studies in temporary wetlands, provide advanced training in taxonomic methods to postgraduate students, and contribute to the design of monitoring tools for freshwater ecosystems. Furthermore, I will integrate updated taxonomy and biodiversity monitoring approaches into curriculum development, ensuring that academic programmes remain current and impactful. These enhanced competencies will also strengthen my ability to engage in collaborative research and conservation initiatives, thereby broadening my contribution to regional and global biodiversity conservation efforts.

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 and knowledge I acquired will be applied directly within my institution through enhanced biodiversity research in temporary wetlands, postgraduate training in aquatic biodiversity and taxonomic methods, and the integration of updated monitoring techniques into teaching curricula. These capacities will also strengthen collaborative projects and support conservation initiatives, thereby advancing the institution's role in freshwater ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation.

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

Additional support that I would like to receive includes opportunities for funding for freshwater biodiversity data (specifically microinvertebrates) mobilisation and their publication in the recognised biodiversity database, e.g., GBIF. I would also benefit from funds for advanced training in molecular techniques for Tanzania's macroinvertebrate species identification and the use of eDNA in freshwater biodiversity monitoring. In addition, support in acquiring capacity for the development of Tanzania's freshwater biodiversity data management platform/database, which can be linked with GBIF, would greatly enhance the availability of freshwater biodiversity information. Furthermore, assistance and funding to conduct workshops aimed at sensitising communities on the mobilisation of freshwater macroinvertebrate biodiversity, the co-conservation of small and temporary aquatic systems, their critical biodiversity, and keystone species would be highly valuable.

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 laboratory facilities 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 programmes to continuously update skills among researchers and students. Strengthening these areas will significantly enhance the institution's ability to conduct high-quality research, deliver effective training, and contribute meaningfully to biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.

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 could further build capacity by supporting advanced training in morphological and molecular taxonomy and bioinformatics, providing funding for biodiversity data mobilisation and publication, and facilitating the development of institutional biodiversity data portals. In addition, fostering institutional partnerships and collaborative conservation research projects would strengthen both individual expertise and institutional impact.

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 *

Steps to Manage Macroinvertebrate Collections • Specimen Collection and Documentation: Collect specimens systematically, ensuring proper labeling with date, location, habitat, and collector details. • Preservation and Storage: Use appropriate preservation methods (e.g., ethanol for morphological and DNA studies, pinned/dried for morphology) and store in climate controlled conditions. • Taxonomic Identification: Identify specimens using updated keys, molecular tools, and expert verification. • Cataloguing and Digitization: Maintain detailed records in institutional databases, with digital catalogues linked to global biodiversity platforms. • Quality Control: Regularly check specimen condition, update identifications, and verify metadata accuracy. • Accessibility and Sharing: Facilitate access for researchers and students, and share data through institutional and global portals and international networks. • Capacity Building: Train staff and students in collection management, taxonomy, and data handling to ensure sustainability.

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 undergraduate and postgraduate students, and organising 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 and international databases and monitoring programmes, ensuring wider accessibility and impact for biodiversity conservation.

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 will improve the status of biodiversity in my country by providing accurate species identification and documentation of temporary wetland systems, which are essential for effective monitoring and conservation planning. By providing accurate species diversity and distribution, my research will provide highlights of vulnerable species and critical habitats requiring protection. This information will support researchers, policymakers, conservationists, and local communities in making informed decisions to safeguard freshwater ecosystems, particularly small and temporary aquatic systems.

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 can help reduce poverty by generating knowledge and tools that support the sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems, which are vital for fisheries, agriculture, and clean water supply. By improving biodiversity monitoring and conservation, the project strengthens ecosystem services that local communities depend on for food security and livelihoods. In addition, training postgraduate students and engaging communities through workshops builds local capacity, creates employment opportunities, and empowers people to participate in conservation and resource management, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.