

View results

Respondent

1 Anonymous

691:51

Time to complete

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

1. Family Name / Nom de famille *

Nyirarukundo

2. First name(s) / Prénom(s) *

Brigitte

3. Nationality / Nationalité *

Rwanda

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

3/10/2025



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

4/4/2025



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
- ☐ Other

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 have learned about the Belgian GTI Grants through the official website of the Belgian National Focal Point (NFP) to the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), hosted by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS). The GTI is a program established under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to address the "taxonomic impediment" the shortage of taxonomic knowledge and expertise that hinders biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The Belgian GTI NFP, through its CEBioS program, aims to strengthen taxonomic and curatorial capacities in partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation.

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 and collection management to address the significant shortage of trained taxonomists and curators—a global issue known as the “taxonomic impediment” which hampers biodiversity conservation efforts, particularly in biodiverse yet under-resourced regions like Rwanda. Enhancing my skills in species identification, specimen curation, and data management is essential for accurate biodiversity assessments, effective conservation strategies, and sustainable ecosystem management. This training also enables me to contribute to national and regional biodiversity initiatives, ensuring that biological collections are properly maintained and accessible for research, education, and policy-making.

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 *

I received comprehensive training through the GBIF Biodiversity Data Mobilization Course, which provided essential skills in taxonomy and collection management. The course covered key areas such as data capture, management, and publishing and tools like the Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT) for sharing biodiversity data online. This training enhanced my ability to digitize and curate biological specimens, ensuring accurate species identification and effective data management, which are critical components of taxonomy and collection management.

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 from the GBIF Biodiversity Data Mobilization Course have significantly enhanced my professional capabilities in taxonomy and collection management. Through comprehensive training in data capture, management, and publishing, I learned how to digitize and share biodiversity data effectively. This proficiency enables me to improve the quality and accessibility of taxonomic information and specimen collections, facilitating better research, conservation planning, and policy development. Additionally, the course equipped me to train colleagues in best practices for biodiversity data management, fostering institutional capacity and contributing to the global biodiversity information network.

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 *

Repetition question Qn 11 and Qn12

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

In the future, I would benefit from additional support in advanced taxonomic research techniques, such as molecular taxonomy and DNA barcoding for enough time, to enhance my ability to accurately identify species and understand biodiversity at a genetic level. would also require access to international databases and collections to expand the scope of my research and improve specimen curation. Further professional development in data analysis tools, bioinformatics, and the integration of digital platforms for managing large biodiversity datasets would help improve the efficiency of my work in taxonomy and collection management. Lastly, networking opportunities with international experts and participation in collaborative research projects would be invaluable for exchanging knowledge and staying updated with the latest advancements in the field.

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, we require improved infrastructural resources, including high-performance computing systems, reliable internet access, and field equipment such as camera traps and GPS devices. On the human resources side, we need trained personnel in artificial intelligence, data science, and wildlife ecology, as well as capacity-building opportunities to upskill existing staff in advanced analytical tools and conservation technologies.

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 (Global Taxonomy Initiative) National Focal Point could further build capacity for me and my institution by providing access to specialized training in AI-driven taxonomy and species identification, facilitating research collaborations with Belgian institutions, and supporting data-sharing initiatives or joint biodiversity monitoring projects. Additionally, short-term scientific exchange programs and funding for equipment or software needed for AI applications in wildlife research would significantly enhance our institutional capabilities.

PART III – TAXON SPECIFIC INFORMATION / INFORMATIONS SPECIFIQUES AU TAXON

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

The interest of my taxon is that I want to know how can I identify ant species up to species level

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 *

To manage collections of the ant species(Formicidae), the first step is to conduct systematic field sampling using standardized methods such as pitfall traps, leaf litter sifting, and Winkler extractor. Collected specimens should be properly preserved, typically in ethanol for DNA studies or mounted on pins for morphological examination. Each specimen must be accurately labeled with collection data including date, location (with GPS coordinates), habitat type, and collector's name. In the lab, specimens should be sorted, identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible using keys and reference collections, and catalogued in a database. Proper storage conditions—such as climate-controlled cabinets for pinned specimens and sealed containers for those in alcohol—must be maintained to prevent deterioration. Finally, digitalizing the collection through high-resolution imaging and integrating it into accessible online databases enhances data sharing, research collaboration, 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 make my taxonomic data on ant species (Formicidae) accessible to colleagues and researchers in my country by creating a digital database that includes species descriptions, images, distribution records, and ecological notes. This database will be shared through institutional websites, local biodiversity platforms, and open-access repositories. I also plan to publish findings in national journals and present them at local scientific conferences and workshops. Additionally, I will collaborate with universities, museums, and conservation agencies to integrate the data into educational programs and biodiversity monitoring initiatives, ensuring broad accessibility and practical use.

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 on ant species contributes to improving the status of biodiversity in my country by providing critical baseline data on species diversity, distribution, and habitat preferences. This information supports accurate biodiversity assessments, informs conservation planning, and helps identify areas of high ecological value or those under threat. By discovering and documenting native or potentially endangered ant species, my work aids in setting conservation priorities and contributes to national and regional biodiversity inventories. Additionally, raising awareness about the ecological roles of ants enhances public and institutional support for habitat protection and sustainable environmental management.

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 on the distribution and taxonomy of ant species can help reduce poverty in my country by supporting sustainable ecosystem management and improving agricultural productivity. Ants play vital roles in soil health, pest control, and seed dispersal, which are essential for maintaining fertile land and increasing crop yields especially for smallholder farmers. By understanding and promoting these ecological services, the project can inform eco-friendly farming practices that reduce reliance on costly chemical inputs. Additionally, the project can create opportunities for local employment through field surveys, training programs, and community-based biodiversity monitoring, empowering rural communities with scientific knowledge and practical skills that support both environmental conservation and livelihood development.