

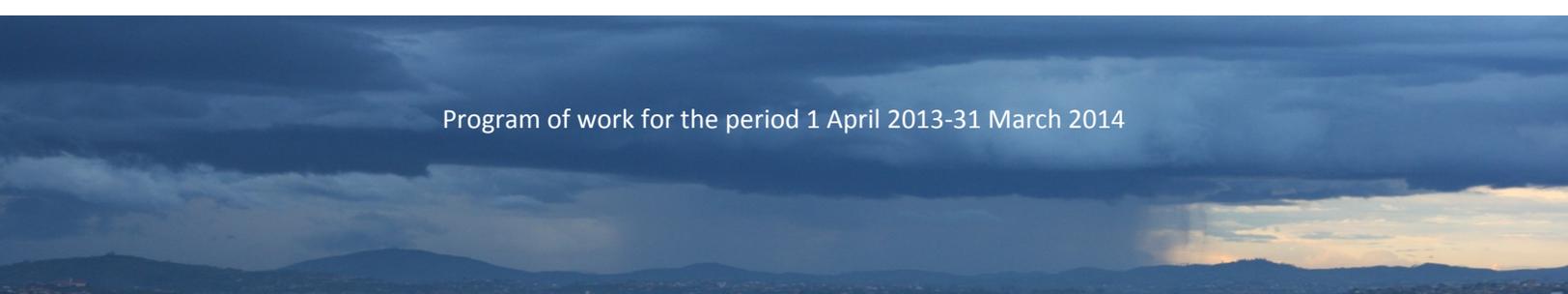
DGD-RBINS
specific convention



Program 2013

Building capacities for biodiversity and development

Program of work for the period 1 April 2013-31 March 2014





Road to a village in Burundi (H. de Koeijer)

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Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
BTC	Belgian Technical Cooperation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora
CNEDD	Conseil National de l'Environnement pour un Développement Durable, Niger
COHERENS	Coupled Hydrodynamical Ecological Model for Regional Shelf Seas
COMIFAC	Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale
COORD	Program Coordination and Management
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSB	Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité
DGD	Belgian Development Cooperation
EDIT	European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy
GTI	Global Taxonomy Initiative
ICCN	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, Kinshasa, D.R. Congo
ICT	Information and Computer Technology
IEBR	Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Hanoi, Viet Nam
IMAB	Inventories Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity
INECN	Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature, Bujumbura, Burundi
ISCNET	Institut Supérieur de Conservation de la Nature, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme , R.D. Congo
ISDR-GL	Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural des Grands Lacs, D.R. Congo
LEGERA	Laboratoire d'Ecologie et de Gestion des Ressources Animales, D.R. Congo
LEM	Law Enforcement Monitoring
MATEE	Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement , Morocco
MIST	Management Information System
MRV	Measurement Reporting and Verification
MUMM	Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NP	Nagoya Protocol
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
PEET	Partnerships for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy
PM	Person Month
PNKB	Parc Nationale de Kahuzi-Biega
PN	Parc National
POL	Policy Support
PTK	Portal Toolkit
RBINS	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
RDC	D.R. Congo

SACEP	South Asia Co-Operative Environment Program
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TST	Trans Sectorial Team
UAC	Université d'Abomey- Calavi , Benin
UA	Universiteit van Antwerpen, Belgium
UB	Université du Burundi
ULB	Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
UNIKIS	Université de Kisangani, D.R. Congo
UNILU	Université de Lubumbashi, D.R. Congo
UOB	Université Officielle de Bukavu, D.R. Congo
VLIR	Flemish Interuniversity Council, Belgium

2013: Junction Year

The 2012 annual program of work marked the end of the 2008-2012 multiannual framework program between the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD) and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS). This 2013 programme will help facilitate the transition towards the new vision inscribed in the coming framework program for 2014-2019. As in previous years, we will continue our training, networking and institutional strengthening activities on biodiversity. But we will also strive to bring about changes in mind-sets, in RBINS and our partners, to integrate the guiding principles of the next framework programme.

As the world recently celebrated the 20 years of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Rio Earth Summit, we can only acknowledge that the longstanding challenges still remain. Although some poverty indicators show improvement, the positive evolution has been unequal and insufficient. As far as biodiversity is concerned, the slight slowing of deforestation rates has not been correlated with progress on halting the species extinction rates. People are integral parts of ecosystems and biodiversity contributes directly and indirectly to many constituents of human well-being, including security, basic material for a good life, health, good social relations, and freedom of choice and action. Increasingly backed by scientific knowledge, we are convinced that both phenomena, poverty and biodiversity loss, are closely linked and both need to be addressed jointly.

In 2013 as in previous years, it is our intention to contribute to combatting poverty and ensuring a sustainable economic and social development by meeting new targets for the conservation of biodiversity and the safeguarding of the ecosystem services it delivers. This year, program components will be presented and, as far as possible redefined, to take into account the new specific objectives identified in the coming framework programme.

Taxonomy (via the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI)), information networks (Clearing House mechanism (CHM)), and 'biodiversity inventories, monitoring and assessments' (IMAB) will continue to be the three pillars of our programme. However, all three sub-programs will progressively put more emphasis on the poverty reduction and ecosystem services. Most of the activities under the GTI and CHM will be consolidated, by focusing primarily on existing partnerships and projects. Some activities (such as 'Taxonomic training through research' and 'Taxonomic training and access to collections in Belgium') will be reviewed with the intention of orientating them towards our new vision. One activity, 'GTI reader: teaching modules for the Global Taxonomy Initiative', will be suspended in order to prepare for a the 6th specific objective dealing with the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. IMAB activities will be amplified with the consolidation of the partnership with "Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature" (INECN) in Burundi and the launching of a new partnership with Benin. These two partnerships will give more opportunities for the integration of an 'ecosystem services' angle to research activities.

Our scientific support to policy issues (POL) will continue as usual. We will devote time, through intense collaboration with D2.4, for the identification and preparation of activities aiming at the enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in Belgian Development Cooperation. Finally, we will take the time to set up the necessary activities to be undertaken as of 2014 in order to bring about the new expected results.

In 2012 Yves Samyn started working in another position within RBINS. It has been decided not to replace him taking in to account the transition towards the new framework programme and a related possible re-orientation of positions. The major part of his salary has been transferred to activities; the other part was used to increase human capacity under IMAB and Coordination. Before these salaries were put under overhead. Anne Franklin also took up another position; she will hopefully be replaced at the start of the 2013 programme.

Program overview

General objective

In its capacity of National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and national reference centre for biodiversity, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences uses the CBD as an overall framework for action.

The general objective of the programme 2014-2019 is to **build scientific and technical capacities for a more effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**, as a contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable development worldwide.

Specific objectives

In its foreseen framework programme for 2014-2019, the RBINS identifies six specific objectives to achieve by 2019. These objectives are grouped into two clusters which highlight how the responsibilities are shared for the programme's implementation.

The RBINS, with its partners aims:

1. To strengthen the **scientific and technical knowledge base** on biodiversity and on its linkages with ecosystem services and poverty reduction;
2. To enhance the **information base** on these issues and on associated governance processes;
3. To **raise awareness and communicate** on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty reduction and sustainable development, and on associated governance processes;

The RBINS, with both its partners and DGD D2.4 aims:

4. To improve the **mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services** in policy sectors that have a high relevance for development;
5. To improve the knowledge on the **measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)** of policy choices and activities linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services;
6. To raise awareness on, and build capacities for, the implementation of the **Nagoya Protocol (NP) on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**.

Some of the activities to be undertaken under the above mentioned specific objectives correspond to components of the program as outlined up to 2012. These overlaps and the opportunities for widening or reinforcing existing activities will be indicated.

Specific objective 1 =

T1. Tackling the taxonomic impediment (GTI)

T2. Supporting biodiversity inventories, monitoring and assessments (IMAB)

Specific objective 2 & 3 =

T3. Enhancing biodiversity information networks (CHM)

Specific objective 4 =

T4. Providing scientific support to biodiversity policy (POL)

Two of the newly determined specific objectives (n°5 and n°6) open new fields of activities for this cooperation programme. Details will be provided on the proposed means for the development of these activities as of 2014.

The last program component is the **Programme Coordination and Management (COORD)** devoted to coordination and management, as well as transversal issues such as project communication, networking and outreach.

Table 1: Indicative budget 2013

		Operations	Missions	Total
	T1. Tackling the taxonomic impediment			
T1-GTI-01	Training-through-research	30.000 €	0 €	30.000 €
T1-GTI-02	Training and access to collections in Belgium	47.500 €	0 €	47.500 €
T1-GTI-03	Taxonomic workshops <i>in situ</i>	4.000 €	4.000 €	8.000 €
T1-GTI-04	Cooperation with selected institutes	6.000 €	0 €	6.000 €
T1-GTI-05	<i>Abc Taxa</i> manuals	20.000 €	0 €	20.000 €
T1-GTI-06	GTI teaching modules	0 €	0 €	0 €
T1-GTI-07	Workshops and conferences on taxonomy	0 €	2.500 €	2.500 €
	Salaries ML Susini et K. Vrancken (9 + 2 pm)			48.000 €
	Sub-total	107.500 €	6.500 €	162.000 €
	T2. Supporting biodiversity inventories, monitoring and assessments			
T2-IMAB-01	Inventories and assessments (field training) in Kisangani	27.500 €	2.500 €	30.000 €
T2-IMAB-02	Monitoring of habitats in protected areas	50.000 €	13.500 €	63.500 €
T2-IMAB-03	Integrated coastal management: COHERENS	21.000 €	3.000 €	24.000 €
	Salaries F. Muhashy, K Vrancken, P. Luyten, K. Baetens (12 + 4 + 1 + 4 pm)			122.000 €
	Sub-total	98.500 €	19.000 €	239.500 €
	T3. Enhancing biodiversity information networks			
T3-CHM-01	Training webmasters / content managers	25.000 €	5.000 €	30.000 €
T3-CHM-02	Remote learning via CHM website	0 €	0 €	0 €
T4-CHM-03	Technical support for CHM websites	24.000 €	0 €	24.000 €
T4-CHM-04	Networking at national level	0 €	0 €	0 €
T4-CHM-05	Networking at supra-national level	28.000 €	4.000 €	32.000 €
T3-CHM-06	Public awareness through the CHM	20.000 €	0 €	20.000 €
T3-CHM-07	CHM conferences and meetings		2.000 €	2.000 €
	Salaries H. de Koeijer + M.-L. Susini + K. Vrancken (12 + 3 + 2 pm)			86.000 €
	Equipment			4.000 €
	Sub-total	97.000 €	11.000 €	198.000 €
	T5. Providing scientific support to biodiversity policy			
T5-POL-01	Scientific consultancy services	0 €	6.000 €	6.000 €
	Salary program coordinator (6 pm)			35.000 €
	Sub-total	0 €	6.000 €	41.000 €
COORD	Project coordination and management			
	Representation, networking, communication, management	0 €	500 €	500 €
	Salaries V. Pinton, program coordinator + M. Agarad (12 + 6 + 6 pm)			93.000 €
	Sub-total	0 €	500 €	93.500 €
	Structural costs			
	Calculated with TMA of max 7,75%			54.000 €
	Grand Total	303.000 €	43.000 €	788.000 €

Comments on the indicative budget

As compared to 2012, the changes are the following: GTI -28.000€; IMAB +32.500€; CHM +13.500€, POL - 6.000€, COORD + 11.000€.

The changes can first be explained by the fact that Yves Samyn, who was responsible for the GTI sub-program, left the team on April 1st 2012. We chose not to look for a replacement for his position but to use the budget released by his departure in order to :

- transfer salaries that were accounted for in overheads 2012 to the budget in 2013;
- transfer from POL back to CHM the money used in 2012 to prepare and participate in COP11
- further support strategic activities of the GTI and IMAB components.

Staff 2013

The 2013 work program will cover the salary costs of the following staff members:

- Baetens Katrijn (4 person-months (PM)): Ecosystem management, modelling (T2-IMAB / COHERENS)
- de Koeijer Han (12 PM): Biodiversity information management (T3-CHM)
- Luyten Patrick (1 PM): Ecosystem management, modelling (T2-IMAB / COHERENS)
- Muhashy Habiyaremye François (12 PM): Biodiversity monitoring (T2-IMAB)
- Pinton Vincent (12 PM): Accounting and logistics (T6-COORD)
- Susini Marie-Lucie (12 PM): Taxonomy officer for GTI and support for CHM teaching activities (T1-GTI & T3-CHM)
- Program coordinator (12 PM): Management and coordination, policy support (T5-POL, T6-COORD)
- Vrancken Kristien (8 PM): Graphics, layout, web development for the GTI, IMAB and CHM program components (T1-GTI, T2-IMAB & T3-CHM)
- Agarad Mariam (6 PM): secretariat and logistics.

The total indicative amount of staff members on the project is 79 person-months, of which 53 person-months of scientific staff and 26 person-months of support staff.

In 2012, the staff was 86 PM, of which 68 PM of scientific and 18 PM of support staff. The changes are the result of the departure of Yves Samyn (12 PM, GTI) leaving more budget for activities and support staff, which will be needed for this transitional year.

The salaries of P. Luyten, K. Baetens, K. Vrancken and M. Agarad will be complemented by other sources of funding.

In addition, the program will receive considerable support from other RBINS staff:

- P. Balhaut will help with secretarial and logistics work, including travel arrangements of visitors and the dissemination of the *Abc Taxa* manuals.
- B. Lauwaert (RBINS-MUMM) will provide help for all matters related to COHERENS.
- E. Verheyen will implement activity T2-IMAB-01 (cooperation with UNIKIS).

- About a dozen researchers and technical staff will be involved in the training activities, notably in the fields of taxonomy and biodiversity monitoring (GTI, IMAB).
- Several IT experts will offer their technical support for the hosting and management of websites (CHM) and for the set-up of the helpdesk related to the modelling of coastal ecosystems in the COHERENS activity (IMAB).
- Staff from the communication department will offer support in the promotion of the activities of the program of work.
- Staff from the Accounting Department will help V. Pinton in processing and taking care of all the financial transactions.

Summary of main institutional partnerships

Formal agreements signed by the RBINS
Institute of Ecology and Systematics, Havana, Cuba (2006)
National Museum of Natural History of Havana City, Cuba (2006)
Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Hanoi, Vietnam (2007)
Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), Kinshasa, D.R. Congo (2007)
Université de Kisangani, Kisangani, D.R. Congo (2010)
WWF and ERAIFT, D.R. Congo (2010)
Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (INECN), Burundi (2010)

Semi-formal agreements (marine modeling) 2008-2012
Instituto del Mar del Peru, Callao, Peru
Institute of Marine Environment and Resources, Hai Phong, Vietnam
Numerical Modeling Laboratory of Oceanic Processes, Instituto Oceanografica, Univ. Sao Paulo, Brazil
Bandung Institute of Technology, Bandung, Indonesia
National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, India
National Marine Environment Forecast Centre, Beijing, China
Centro de Investigaciones Oceanográficas e Hidrográficas, Colombia (since 2011)

Main CHM partners since 1999
Formal agreement
Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (INECN), Burundi
Long term partnerships
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Burkina Faso
Direction Générale des Forêts et des Ressources Naturelles, Benin
Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature et du Développement Durable, Cameroon
Centre National de Floristique, Université de Cocody, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Ministère de l'Environnement, Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme, D.R. Congo
Direction Nationale de La Biodiversité et des Aires Protégées, Guinea
Office National pour l'Environnement, Madagascar
Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (MATEE), Morocco
Conseil national de l'Environnement pour un Développement durable (SE/CNEDD), Niger
Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement, Algeria
Agence de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Assainissement, Mali
Commission des Forêts d'Afrique centrale (COMIFAC)
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

Partnerships under consideration
Institut Supérieur de Conservation de la Nature, Environnement et Tourisme, D.R. Congo
Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques de l'Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Benin

Specific objective 1. The RBINS strengthens the scientific and technical knowledge base on biodiversity and on its linkages with ecosystem services and poverty reduction.

Background

Through two of its sub-programs, “Tackling the taxonomic impediment” (GTI) and “Supporting biodiversity inventories, monitoring and assessments” (IMAB), our cooperation program has long been strengthening the scientific and technical knowledge base on biodiversity. It has been doing so by capitalizing on the robust expertise of RBINS in the following aspects : i) the identification, monitoring and assessment of components of biodiversity (from taxonomic identification to ecological studies), (ii) the study and modelling of ecosystem functioning and (iii) the scientific foundations of conservation biology. Our mission of building scientific capacities in developing countries has proven efficient and will remain central in the coming framework program.

Recent developments in biodiversity sciences have come to highlight the importance of biodiversity for general human well-being. The ecosystem services, i.e. the benefits derived from ecosystems, are an exceptional tool for conceptualizing the links between human development and biodiversity. Acknowledging the relevance of this perspective for poverty reduction, we are resolute in addressing it in our capacity-building activities for the 2014-2019 program. Both sub-programs, GTI and IMAB, will strive to improve the scientific and technical knowledge on the above mentioned linkages. These efforts will already start during this transitional year, on a limited scale.

Expected results

- Scientific and technical expertise is built.
- Quality scientific knowledge is produced.
- Scientific outputs are made accessible to users.

Sub-program T1. Tackling the taxonomic impediment (GTI)

Taxonomy is the science of exploring, sampling, identifying, naming and, according to the theory of evolution, classifying all organisms that populate or have populated our planet. Taxonomy considers all available geological and biological information in its scientific process and, by doing so delivers data that allow meaningful understanding of biological diversity. This knowledge in turn underpins the implementation of all three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Despite technological advances such as DNA barcoding or cyber taxonomy and large scale programs such as the European EDIT or the United States' PEET project, taxonomic knowledge remains scarce and there seems to be only little, if any, speeding up of the rates of species description. To make matters worse, capacity needed to maintain and build taxonomy and taxonomic collections is fragmented or even non-existing in developing countries where the bulk of biodiversity is situated. Governments, through the Convention on Biological Diversity, have acknowledged the existence of this problem and have termed it the "taxonomic impediment". To alleviate this obstacle the *Global Taxonomy Initiative* has been installed and made operational.

In Belgium, the Royal Belgian institute of Natural Sciences, as the National Focal Point to the GTI, coordinates and organizes the activities needed to implement the objectives of the GTI.

In 2013, we will finalize the activities and collaborations carried out during the 2008-2012 program and build upon them with a view towards the next framework program. Activities will still focus on the provision and/or facilitation of taxonomic training both in Belgium and in partner countries : transfer of technology to selected institutions, delivery of taxonomic expertise to colleagues in the South, and liberation of taxonomic data via our website. When possible, we will orientate activities such as research projects so as to favour the integration of a poverty-reduction vision. We will continue to support the series *Abc Taxa* by the publication and distribution of one new manual, along with the distribution of already published manuals.

T1-GTI-01: Taxonomic training through research and/or collection management.

The training-through research program enables RBINS experts to transfer their knowledge to professional academicians and students of partner institutions by involving them in the various stages of their research projects.

A new internal call for proposals will be addressed to researchers of the RBINS in 2013. Since next year will be a junction year between two multi-annual programs, we will first prioritize projects which had already been funded during the 2008-2012 program. That way, whenever possible and relevant, ongoing collaborations will be able to come to a closure. So as to prepare for the ecosystem services and poverty-reduction perspective, a second parameter will help select submitted projects. In order to be supported, the applicants will indeed have to demonstrate:

- How they used their former projects to advance research in their field, notably through dissemination strategies (poster, publication, diploma, oral communication, etc...);
- How their project contributed or will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and/or ecosystem services in the partner country;
- How their project could (in a long or medium term) contribute to fight against poverty in the South.

As usual, at the end of the project, researchers will be asked to provide a list of their outputs such as publications in scientific journals, posters, presentations given at international meetings, etc. The outputs will be published on our website www.taxonomy.be for public awareness and knowledge dissemination.

We plan to fund 4 projects but this is subject to change regarding the number and quality of received submissions. If more than 4 good-quality project applications are received, priority will be given to projects meeting the above-mentioned criteria.

T2-GTI-02: Taxonomic training and access to collections in Belgium

In 2013, we will launch our 10th external call for proposals for individual grants. This call will enable young or professional taxonomists to access collections or expertise based in Belgium¹. Only taxonomic projects or biodiversity assessment projects with a strong taxonomic component will be eligible for our support. This call will be special: it will only be open for people who already benefited from a GTI funding in the past 5 years (2008-2012). Indeed, the purpose of this last call for proposals is to help former grantees continue and complete research already initiated during our last program. Applications from people who never benefited from our grants will not be considered.

As for *T2-GTI-01*, we will use a new set of criteria for the selection of 2013 visitors, so as to prepare for the next program vision. In their project outline, applicants must clearly state:

- How they used their former projects to advance research in their field, notably through dissemination strategies (poster, publication, diploma, oral communication, etc...);
- How their project contributed or will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and/or ecosystem services in the partner country;
- How their project could (in a long or medium term) contribute to fight against poverty in the South.

Depending on the different visit costs (plane tickets, etc.), we plan to fund up to 15 short-term visits in Belgium, with a duration of 2 to 3 weeks per visit. In former years we funded up to 10 visits, this year's increase in number of visits is possible thanks to re-allocation of funds that were earmarked for the salary of Yves Samyn.

¹ Before the student comes to Belgium, we ask sister Institutes in Belgium and other countries in Europe for Holotype material for the family the student is studying. It may happen that these sister Institutes, even though contacted long time in advance, do not send the types to us. To enable the student still to profit most from his stay, we sometimes do allow the student to visit one of those sister Institutes for a few days, within the Schengen zone.

During their stay, selected trainees will be asked, whenever possible, to give a short powerpoint presentation at the RBINS in order to disseminate their work and meet other scientists from their discipline. This is fully part of our capacity building initiative to train our visitors (especially the young ones) in oral communication and presentation of their research in front of a scientific audience.

T1-GTI-03: Taxonomic workshops in situ

In 2013, we plan to fund one taxonomic workshop *in situ*.

We have already received a request from Dr. Jérôme Degreef, from the National Botanic Garden of Belgium, to co-fund a training on edible mushrooms that would take place in Burundi in 2013. This workshop will be achieved in collaboration with Congolese and Burundese academicians. Some of these academicians have already received support and/or training in biodiversity management and assessment (via IMAB activities) or in taxonomy (via GTI activities) from our program, either in Belgium or in their home land. They are now trustable partners. These teachers, along with students from Burundese and Congolese universities, will be trained on mushroom taxonomy. During this workshop, Dr. Jérôme Degreef will extensively use the 10th *Abc taxa* manual on edible mushrooms of Central Africa that he co-authored. This workshop is a demonstration of how taxonomy can be a key tool for sustainable development and for fighting against poverty in our partner countries.

T1-GTI-04. Cooperation with selected institutes in privileged partner countries

This part of the GTI program will enable us to provide our partners with equipment (such as microscopes, books, *etc.*) necessary for their research.

In 2011 and 2012, we provided support to the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR) in Hanoi, Vietnam by funding the inventory and collection management project "A step further in the Entomodiversity of Vietnam" guided by Mr Constant of the RBINS and of several of the staff members of the IEBR. We also equipped the IEBR with collection material and consumables as well as with a dissection microscope with a digital camera. Further we gave support to IEBR staff member T PHAM in submitting several projects to other funders.

In 2012 we set up a privileged cooperation with the École Nationale des Sciences Appliquées d'Al Hoceima in Morocco, university at which GTI alumnus A. BOUGHROUS has been appointed assistant professor.

In 2013 we will continue our support to the IEBR and the École Nationale des Sciences Appliquées d'Al Hoceima. We will also continue the support to the INECN and the GTI students Benoit Nzigidahera and Longin NDAYIKEZA through the T3-CHM-03 project

T1-GTI-05. *Abc Taxa*: a series of manuals for taxonomic capacity building

Although, Yves Samyn the chief editor of the *Abc taxa* series is no longer a member of our team, we plan to further support the publication of the *Abc taxa* series. For 2013, we will provide funding for the publication and distribution of one volume on the “world-wide taxonomy of ants” and for the distribution of the already published manuals.

T1-GTI-06. GTI reader: teaching modules for the Global Taxonomy Initiative

In 2013, there will be no module developed regarding taxonomy *per se*. This year will be devoted to the preparation of the 6th specific objective of the proposed framework program (see below Specific objective 6).

T1-GTI-07. Participation to workshops and conferences

In order to deliver the best adapted assistance to our partners, there is a constant need for us to network and to be kept informed on the latest and most challenging issues regarding information sharing in developing countries, especially in Africa. For that purpose, Marie-Lucie Susini will attend the 8th eLearning Africa conference. This conference will take place in May 2013 in Windhoek, Namibia. At this international meeting, known as the Africa's largest annual conference on ICT for development, education and training, she will have the opportunity to give a presentation on the work accomplished via this program to support research on taxonomy and information sharing on biodiversity, and in particular on the Portal Toolkit used to develop the many websites hosted at the RBINS. These websites, along with well-trained scientists, are the key instruments for a better implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in partner countries.

Subprogram activities in case of budget indexation

In case of an indexation of the program budget, the totality of the 3 % extra-budget will be allocated to the activities under GTI-02 (Training and access to collections in Belgium). Each year, we receive a large number of high quality applications, many of which cannot be accepted because of a lack of fund. For instance, for the 2012 call, we received 60 applications among which 30 were of good scientific quality and could have benefited from our support. Unfortunately only 15 of them received our support.

Table 2 :Budget for the 2013 GTI activities

Component	Activities and targets	Operations	Missions	Total
T1-GTI-01	- Four training-through-research projects are continued	30.000 €	0 €	30.000 €
T1-GTI-02	- Up to 15 foreign taxonomists are invited to Belgium	47.500 €	0 €	47.500 €
T1-GTI-03	- One taxonomic training workshop is organised <i>in situ</i>	4.000 €	4.000 €	8.000 €
T1-GTI-04	- Equipment is provided to partner institutes	6.000 €	0 €	6.000 €
T1-GTI-05	- One <i>Abc Taxa</i> volume is published and distributed	20.000 €	0 €	20.000 €
T1-GTI-06 (see Specific objective 6)	-	0 €	0 €	0 €
T1-GTI-07	- 1 international meeting attended (eLearning Africa)	0 €	2.500 €	2.500 €
Salaries (9 PM M.-L. Susini, 2 PM K. Vrancken)				48.000 €
Total		107.500 €	6.500 €	162.000 €

Sub-program T2. Supporting biodiversity inventories, monitoring and assessments (IMAB)

The collection of biodiversity data is carried out through inventories, assessments and monitoring programs:

- **inventories** allow to identify the species, populations and ecological communities present in a given area, as well as their distribution and abundance,
- **assessments** evaluate the status of biodiversity (species, genes, ecosystems), the general environmental conditions, as well as the threats to the ecosystem,
- **monitoring programs** are conducted to observe the trends in biodiversity through time, including the identification of reductions in existing threats or the appearance of new threats.

These generate knowledge on the size, distribution and ecological status of populations of living organisms. In addition, they provide insights on the changes in biodiversity, and on the potential impacts these changes can have on ecosystem functioning. Ecosystem functioning is what guarantees the existence of the ecosystem services necessary for human activities. Being able to evaluate future situations on the basis of existing conditions and predict changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning is thus not only crucial for the design and implementation of conservation plans but also for assessing the availability of ecosystem services and its potential impact on poverty.

In 2013, the activities will still focus, as previously, on three distinct programme components:

- the support to the biodiversity activities of the University of Kisangani (D.R. Congo), as part of the broader set up of the 'Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité' (CSB).
- the support to the monitoring and research activities of conservation institutions in Africa, among which our longstanding partnership with the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (D.R. Congo). In 2013, we will initiate an evolution of our approach towards the integration of an ecosystem services angle.
- the support to the capacity building activities of the COHERENS project on coastal ecosystem monitoring, for which technical workshops and study visits will be organised.

T2-IMAB-01. Cooperation with the University of Kisangani for the taxonomic study and the monitoring of lowland forests

The role of the DGD-RBINS specific convention continues to support the training of Congolese scientists of the LEGERA (Laboratoire d'Ecologie et de Gestion des Ressources Animales) team of the Faculty of Sciences. Even though the framework of the cooperation with UNIKIS has now become broader (with the formal set up of the Congo 2010 consortium), the DGD-RBINS program will continue to provide support for capacity building in 2013 with the scientists of the Faculty of Sciences as its main target.

It is our intention that the training of the newly appointed, mostly very young, scientists of the "Centre de Surveillance de la biodiversité" will be focused upon by the new framework agreement that is currently being developed. The efforts of the DGD-RBINS specific convention that targets training of the LEGERA team, will help to provide for a strong scientific local support for the young CSB-team. Our continued contribution towards the development of the scientific capacity of the Faculty of Sciences of UNIKIS will be combined with other sources of funding, as explained below.

1. Training in Belgium (trainees from D.R. Congo)

As during previous years, we will organize two grants for a period of 3 months in Belgian institutions. Below a summary of our planning for next year as budgeted for 2013:

- Type Tazole Tamiley (Ichthyology, University of Antwerp, Marijke Verpoorten, supervisor) - (period yet to be determined).
- Jean Claude Mukinzi (Mammalogy, University of Antwerp, Herwig Leirs, supervisor & Koenigs Museum Bonn, Rainer Hutterer, supervisor) - (period yet to be determined).

Achievements and expected outputs

- Dr Falay Sadiki Désiré (who participated in the Congo 2010 expedition as the doctor of medicine) has become actively involved in the study of various zoonoses of small rodents, and how these might affect the health of villagers working in the fields. He will defend his master this academic year (April 2013). Title: « Impact des maladies émergentes sur la santé des enfants de la ville de Kisangani ».
- Nicaise Amundala is a UNIKIS PhD student (who participated in the Congo 2010 expedition) supported through a VLIR micro-project, but whose research project oriented to crop damage by rodents has come up with unexpected taxonomical issues. In 2012, he received assistance to address these issues. He will defend his thesis « Ecologie des populations des espèces des rongeurs champêtres dans une perspective de gestion d'espèces nuisibles aux cultures à Kisangani » during this academic year.

- Both Sylvestre Gambalemoke and Célestin Danadu will defend their theses, respectively titled « Zoogeographie, taxonomie et fylogénie de musaraignes du bassin de Congo » and « La diversité et l'écologie des poissons chat Synodontis dans la région de Kisangani », this academic year.

Scientific publications will be made. PhD students will be stimulated to publish up to three publications in international journals prior to their defence.

2. Financial support for specific needs in relation to capacity building.

As was the case in 2012, we forecast a number of targeted interventions in 2013. More specifically, (1) the purchase of books or software, (2) expenses to ship scientific material (and/or collections) to Kisangani are scheduled and (3) expenses related to fieldwork in the context of the activities of the recipients of grants; depending on the needs as they become apparent throughout the year.

Erik Verheyen will go for about 10 days to UNIKIS to allow better interaction with the local PhD students, and to give a seminar on “evolutionary biology”.

Table 3: Budget for T2-IMAB-01:

Activities	Targets	Operations	Missions	Total
1. Training in Belgium 2012	Training in Belgium is provided for 2 researchers	25.000 €	0 €	25.000 €
2. Additional expenses for capacity building	- Purchase and shipment of material - Local follow-up of PhD students + seminar	2.500 €	2.500 €	5.000 €
Total		27.500 €	2.500 €	30.000 €

T2-IMAB-02. Cooperation with conservation institutions for the sustainable management of protected areas.

Background

This program still consists of two components: (i) the training of park rangers and scientific staff and (ii) the support to university students who undertake research in protected areas. Both components contribute greatly to the strengthening of the scientific base in partner countries and to its practical use by distinct stakeholders. The 2013 activities will consolidate our preceding achievements and pave the way for the new framework program with the progressive incorporation of an ecosystem services and poverty reduction perspective.

Our partnership with the 'Institut Congolais de la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)' remains a pillar of this program. Since 2007, our capacity building activities supports the 'Law Enforcement Monitoring' (LEM) program of the ICCN, which ensures the follow-up of the application of wildlife protection legislation and the monitoring of illegal wildlife trade. The data generated on wildlife and habitats serve as a basis for the management of the protected areas.

Our successful work with ICCN inspired the Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (INECN) of Burundi, which expressed its interest in starting a similar collaboration with us in 2010. Although limited, the activities undertaken in 2012 were fruitful and will serve as a basis for the consolidation of operations in 2013 and a bigger-scale institutional partnership in the multi-annual program, in synergy with the T3-CHM component.

The Université d'Abomey- Calavi (UAC) in Benin expressed its strong interest in the methodology implemented in ICCN and INECN parks. UAC's scientific research on ecosystem dynamics appears to be advanced. The Université d'Abomey- Calavi wishes to draw on our expertise in order to popularize this knowledge and valorize it for the management of ecosystems in Benin. As part of this year program, we will assess the potential of this new partnership.

The enhancement of the capacities of our partners is mostly focalised on the sector of forests, which is one of the most relevant ecosystem to the Belgian Development Cooperation. Our special interest in tropical forests is also justified by the enormous value of their biodiversity and the considerable value of the services it provides for local human development (food, medicines, fuel,...) as well as global ecological stakes (such as carbon sequestration).

Activities

Partnership with ICCN staff in R.D. Congo

1. Monitoring of habitats

The 2013 activities are a follow-up of the program carried out in 2012. The main focus will be the analysis and use of the data collected during the six-month campaign in 2012. For that purpose, we will explore synergies with other available instruments and data on fauna, an underestimated aspect of LEM files. For example, we will exploit and possibly adapt the MIST Software, a database management system with a stronger emphasis on fauna which has been used in other protected areas. We will however continue to help put in practice the capacities acquired during the earlier work programs through the supervision of the implementation of the 'LEM Habitats' in the field. This year, this support will be provided through 'remote training'. We will respond to questions issued by the rangers and deliver information on the basis of photographs we receive from them. Complementary to this support is the supply of further equipment for two herbaria (the department of biology of UNIKIN and the Faculty of Sciences of UNILU) in order to improve their conservation as rangers use them as a reference for the identification of plants in the monitored habitats. The support will hence consist in the following activities:

- The continuation of the review and analysis of recorded data through the LEM program.
- The use of the data collected through the LEM program and other available data to interpret the relations between habitats and fauna.
- The provision of basic equipment for the herbaria.
- The 'remote training' of rangers on a demand-driven basis.

As part of this activity, a mission is planned to attend the CoCoCongo meeting, i.e. the general assembly of the ICCN and its partners.

2. Support to research

As in 2013, financial and/or scientific support will continue to be provided to researchers whose activities are being conducted in the protected areas managed by the ICCN.

- Dr Cephas Ndabaga Masumbuko (Université officielle de Bukavu / Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)) defended his PhD thesis in February 2011, which had for theme 'Ecology of *Sericostachys scandens*, an invasive liana in the Mountains Forests of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, D. R. Congo'. He discussed among other things how these habitats changes could affect gorilla populations. In conclusion of his thesis, he made a number of recommendations focused on mitigation of the invasion.

In 2013, we will continue supporting him so that he can test his recommended strategies for the control of the invasive liana in various plots. A publication intended to popularize these strategies for parks staff is foreseen.

- Mr Mangambu Mokoso Jean de Dieu (UOB/ UA) is completing his PhD thesis on the “Ecologie et Taxonomie des ptéridophytes de l’Ecosystème forestier de Moyenne et Haute altitude du PNKB, R. D. Congo”.

In 2013, he will continue receiving advice regarding the interpretation of the gathered data and for the redaction of his thesis. He will also submit a peer reviewed article for publication in an international journal.

- This year a new research subject will be started : the assessment of the uses of plant species most consumed in the Réserve et Domaine de chasse de Bombo-Lumene. This project is an ambitious complement to the lexicon elaborated in 2012. The data gathered in the lexicon will serve as a basis for the analysis of local consumption habits. The results will be published in an annex document to the lexicon. This research will be carried out by a student of the Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques UNIKIN. François Muhashy Habiyaemye will undertake one mission to prepare this research. He will also take the opportunity of his participation to CoCoCongo to supervise the research.

This research is a step towards the assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services : how the local population uses and benefits from the plant diversity. This research project is seen as the foundation for further investigation exploring the links with development and poverty reduction. The final goal is to assess the evolution and vulnerability of commonly used plants in relation to habitat change and their potential impact on human well-being. This will hopefully be undertaken as of 2014.

Partnership with INECN staff in Burundi

1. Monitoring of habitats

In 2013, we will continue to help put in practice the capacities acquired during the workshops (2012), through the supervision of the implementation of the ‘LEM Habitats’ on the field. Rangers will continue to be trained, using the same method as mentioned for ICCN rangers in R.D. Congo. The standard LEM file will be adapted to better correspond to local staff needs and context in order to improve its implementation. The collection of data is planned along three ecological paths established in the PN Kibira, Ruvubu and in the Réserve de la Rusizi. Just like for R.D. Congo, the supply of further equipment for the herbarium of specimens is necessary in order to improve their conservation since rangers use them as a reference for the identification of plants in the monitored habitats. Some basic trekking equipment may also be provided to rangers.

In addition, we will initiate the elaboration of two illustrated lexicons of vernacular names of the main plants of the PN de la Kibira and Ruvubu. Such lexicons are designed to be used on the field, as a tool for the monitoring of habitats. The lexicons are to be published in hard copy, as the product is designed to be used on the field. Only the lexicon regarding the PN de la Kibira is planned to be completed, published and distributed in 2013.

The support will thus consist in the following activities:

- The 'remote training' of rangers on a demand-driven basis.
- The provision of basic equipment for the conservation of the herbarium of specimen and for rangers.
- The launching of data collection by INECN staff.
- The subsequent adaptation of the LEM file to INECN context.
- The supervision of all data collection and data feeding processes.
- The elaboration and distribution of one lexicon.

2. Support to research

The consolidated partnership with INECN and the transition towards the new framework program open opportunities for new research fields. In 2013, we intend to build on scientific knowledge already acquired through another element of our cooperation program to start research in direct relation with human well-being and ecosystem services. In 2011, Jérôme Degreef (from the National Botanic Garden of Belgium) contributed, among others, to the redaction of volume n°10 of *Abc Taxa* dealing with edible mushrooms of Central Africa. His expertise will be valorised to carry out new research in Burundi: the analysis of the availability of edible mushrooms in relation to the evolution of habitat dynamics. The research will be undertaken by a student of the Université du Burundi (UB) with the active supervision of Jérôme Degreef. The student (who remains to be designated) will benefit from the additional supervision of Doctor Gérard Rusuku from the Faculté des Sciences agronomiques (UB). This activity reinforces synergy with the GTI subprogram (see Taxonomic workshops in situ).

Partnership with UAC in Benin

The Université d'Abomey- Calavi (UAC) in Benin wishes to benefit from our expertise to promote the practical implementation of their scientific knowledge for the monitoring of habitats. The UAC appears to possess robust scientific data on the impacts of fire and grazing on the habitats in the National Park Pendjari. Fire and grazing are two serious causes of deforestation and land degradation in West Africa and pose a great threat for biodiversity and (as a consequence) human well-being. In order to lay the foundations for a new capacity-building partnership and guarantee its fruitfulness, we will organize an exploratory mission. During this mission, François Muhashy Habiyaemye will meet relevant stakeholders who may be involved in the foreseen partnership activities.

Digitisation and dissemination of archives on national parks

In addition to these activities, we will pursue the digitisation of archives on national parks. We will proceed with the digitisation of paper publications, as well as the encoding of data. The website with all the relevant information is publicly available at <http://www.apncb.be>. We will also continue shipping publications to interested institutions in D.R. Congo and neighbouring countries (e.g. Burundi). In 2012, the following institutions have received publications: the Institut Supérieur Agricole de Mweso (R.D.C.), the Institut Supérieur Pédagogique (ISP) de Goma (R.D.C.), the Institut Supérieur de Conservation de la Nature, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme (ISCNET) in Rumangabo (R.D.C.) and the Université officielle de Bukavu (UOB) – RDC. Other institutions in R.D. Congo and Burundi have requested to receive publications, such as ICCN (R.D.C.), the Institut national pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (Burundi) or the Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural des Grands Lacs à Goma (ISDR-GL) (R.D.C.).

Table 4: Budget for T2-IMAB-02:

Activities	Targets	Operations	Missions	Total
Monitoring of habitats by ICCN staff (D.R. Congo)	The ICCN records are reviewed and analyzed	0€	0€	0€
	Available data is used to analyze the habitats-fauna interrelations	3000€	0€	3000€
	Equipment is provided for the herbarium	3000€		3000€
	Remote training is provided to rangers	0€	0€	0€
	One RBINS staff participates in the CoCoCongo annual meeting (the ICCN general assembly) and supervises research in RDCBL	0€	4.000€	4.000€
	Contribution to a symposium on the uses of wild plants in the Congolese basin	0€	0€	0€
Monitoring of habitats by INECN staff (Burundi)	LEM file is adapted to INECN context	0€	0€	0€
	Equipment is provided to INECN rangers & herbarium	3500€	0€	3500 €
	INECN staff collect new records along three ecological paths	6000€		6000€
	Remote support is provided to rangers	0€	0€	0€
	1 lexicon is edited and distributed to their target audiences	4000€		4000€
Monitoring of habitats (Benin)	Preparation of new capacity-building partnership	0€	6000€ ²	6000€
Support to research projects in protected areas (D.R. Congo)	Research in ICCN-protected areas is completed by 2 researchers	12000€	0€	12.000€
	Two articles are published on the data gathered by the 2 researchers	0€	0€	0€
	Research in ICCN-protected areas is completed by one student & results are published in an annex to	5000	3500	8500
Support to research projects in protected areas (Burundi)	Research on the availability of mushrooms in relation with habitat dynamics is carried out.	6.000€	0€	6.000€
4. Dissemination of archives on national	Archives are sent to up to 4 institutes or requesting organizations in D. R. Congo	7500€	0€	7500€
Total activities		50.000€	13.500€	63.500€
Salaries (F. Muhashy 12 PM + K. Vrancken 4 PM)				91.000€
Total IMAB-02				154.500€

² During this mission F. Muhashy will also visit the Pendjari national park in the north of Benin to select with expert the best habitats for conducting a possible training. As it is an exploration mission we cannot yet make a project for expenses like vehicle renting, *per diems* for national experts. These expenses have therefore been added to the mission costs.

T2-IMAB-03. Application of the COHERENS model to integrated coastal management and monitoring

COHERENS is a mathematical model used for the monitoring and management of the near-coastal zone, estuaries, lagoons, reservoirs and lakes (<http://www.mumm.ac.be/coherens>). It has been developed at RBINS-MUMM and is publicly available in the form of free software code.

This model serves to forecast the reactions of coastal ecosystems under different sets of physical, chemical and biological conditions. It is particularly useful for environmental impact assessments (e.g. dispersion and impact of potential pollutants) and for the management of coastal seas (e.g. establishment of protected areas or of aquaculture farms). Since its official release in 2000, more than 1,000 potential users have registered to use the model worldwide. Many of these users are based in developing countries. Seven institutes have been selected as partners for this capacity building activity. The aim is to offer them all the tools to apply the model most efficiently to local conditions and to enable them to further disseminate knowledge in using the model.

1. Training workshops

In 2012, there was no training course as such. Instead, two user meetings were planned in Sao Paulo, Brazil and in Bogota, Colombia. These meetings had a focus on implementation of the skills obtained during earlier training workshops.

This will be the case again in 2013 with the organization of three user meetings. Two of them will take place respectively in Peru and in Vietnam. The location of the third meeting remains to be decided (Indonesia or India).

2. Training visits in Belgium

In 2013, we foresee the hosting of 4-5 visitors from Colombia, Vietnam and Peru. No definite planning has yet been made.

3. Helpdesk & user support

As expected from the beginning of the project, the time spent on user support and the hosting of visitors increases each year. User support covers the electronic support for user applications, started in the previous and next years, the assistance of scientists during their visit, the development of new model code to resolve common problems and extending/improving the User Documentation.

In 2013, we will continue the efforts undertaken in 2012 to ensure that the best conditions exist for the implementation of the models. Staff time will therefore be unchanged for this activity.

Table 5: Budget for T2-IMAB-03:

Activities	Targets	Operations	Missions	Total
Training workshops	Three user meetings are organized (Vietnam, Peru, India or Indonesia)	9.000€	3.000€	12.000€
Training visits in Belgium	4-5 visitors from Colombia, Vietnam and Peru receive training in Belgium	12.000€	0 €	12.000€
Helpdesk and user support	Helpdesk and user support is provided to all project partners			Staff time
Total activities		21.000€	3.000€	24.000€
Salaries (P. Luyten 1 PM + K. Baetens 4 PM)				26.000€
Grand total				50.000€

Specific objective 2. The RBINS plays a leading role in the enhancement of the information base on biodiversity, on its linkages with ecosystem services and poverty reduction and on associated governance processes.

Sub-program T3. Enhancing biodiversity information networks (CHM)

Background

The CBD's 'Clearing-House Mechanism' (CHM) is an essential tool for the implementation of biodiversity policy. It develops and strengthens cooperation and networking between stakeholders of various fields of biodiversity – governments, NGOs, consultants, academic institutions, environmentalists and others. By doing so, it enables the mainstreaming of scientific information into policies and plays a role in raising the awareness of all types of audiences on the importance of biodiversity.

The development of networks of websites forms the main pillar of the CHM approach for this transition program. These websites are designed to host electronic information (policies, best practices, scientific papers, etc.) and databases (species, habitats, experts, etc.). As a corollary to the electronic networks, the CHM also fosters strong and active human networks, which are crucial for the gathering and restitution of the information and data

The Belgian CHM partnership is unique under the Convention on Biological Diversity and has proven its usefulness over the years. We will therefore continue our work, taking into account both the requirements from the new CBD Strategic plan 2011-2020 and the newly formulated vision for our next framework program.

The 2013 program will continue providing several training opportunities at national level, as well as its recurrent support to CHM and public awareness activities. A regional workshop will also be organised. We will capitalize on the work achieved so far to prepare for the next multi-annual work program, particularly in the consolidation of our contribution to governance processes.

Expected results

- Expertise in information management is built.
- Information flows are improved.
- Information is used to advise governance processes.

T3-CHM-01. Training of CHM webmasters and web content managers and T3-CHM-04. Networking activities at national level (merged together for practical reasons)

One of the main roles of the CHM is to be a network of networks. To be able to fulfil this role, the CHM focal point must not only be able gather information to be put on the web, but it also needs to mobilise biodiversity stakeholders around specific issues. This is why we nowadays organise webmaster training sessions and networking workshops together, generally in the form of a one-day of networking back-to-back to the webmaster training course.

In 2013, we plan to provide several training sessions at national level and one or two training courses in Belgium. Priority will be given to the training of CHM focal points, webmasters and web content managers from countries where no training on the 'Portal Toolkit' has been given before (e.g. Burkina Faso, Mali and Rwanda). Our aim at the end of the 2008-2012 work program was to have at least two people per country who are able to master the content management system and to maintain the national CHM website. In 2012, this was not possible due to civil strife in Mali and change of national focal point in Burkina Faso. We will therefore try to attain this objective in the course of this interim year.

We will pursue our efforts to increase synergies with activities under IMAB-01, especially between the activities of the Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité (CSB) in Kisangani and the potential revival and development of the CHM in DRC. This responds to the continued interest expressed by the Congolese CHM focal point to involve the UNIKIS and the CSB in the Congolese CHM.

We will also continue synergies with the Dutch CHM, which supports the CHMs of Ghana, Palau and Grenada. We will continue to follow up on questions from former partner countries like Comores, Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Tchad and Togo, which started their CHM through GEF funding and/or with our assistance, but are not eligible anymore to participate in the formal partnership.

The promotion of South-South Cooperation (SSC) launched by the more active of our partners remains an important aspect of the national training courses that we will organise. For example, we will facilitate the attendance of participants coming from partner countries of our own partners (e.g. Benin, Morocco and Madagascar have established SSC with a number of countries; we have invited these countries to our workshops in 2011 and 2012, with the support of Morocco and Madagascar).

T3-CHM-02. Remote learning through the Belgian CHM

Partner countries have expressed the need to have written guidelines and online training modules to assist them to install and develop their national CHM. We have answered this recommendation by developing teaching modules and exercises available on the Internet. The teaching modules are developed in French and English and are posted on the CHM training website (<http://training.biodiv.be/formationptk>). These modules serve as

remote learning material for our partners and for any other interested party. We also provide distance follow-up to future and former trainees.

In 2013, we will continue developing and updating our online learning modules on the functionalities of the PTK. In 2012, the effort was put on manuals explaining advanced functions of the PTK. These manuals are addressed to website managers and should help them properly handle the “Administration” functions of their websites (such as map management, portal statistics, syndication, etc.). We will continue developing these manuals and translating them both into French and English.

As already initiated, we will keep on using e-coaching, consisting of two distinct phases. The first phase is the online ‘pre-course’ preparatory phase: it enables the trainers to stimulate the future participants to a CHM training course to surf their national CHM Portal Toolkit (PTK) website before the training, and to look at the online presentations available on our e-learning training website. Two weeks before the training, participants are asked to create a user account on the PTK training website and to carry out several basic exercises. This phase is a precious time saver since it familiarizes trainees with the PTK before the ‘face-to-face’ training. It is also a way to better involve people before the training. The second phase of the e-coaching takes place after the training. It is a way to encourage people to use what they have learnt during the training. This follow up will be made through e-mails and discussion forums. We have also decided to start distributing CD-Roms with the PTK manuals to every participant at the CHM trainings. This CD-Rom will help the trainees remember what they were taught if they cannot access the material available on our online training website.

New manuals will have to be developed regarding the new lay-out of the PTK, since most of our partner websites have recently been updated to the version CHM 3.0 of the PTK. They will need assistance for the management of the new lay-out and functionalities.

Some manuals might also have to be developed (along with e-coaching and/or face-to-face training) regarding a database that is currently being developed to follow-up on the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies to achieve the 20 Aichi targets (set at COP10). This database will use the PTK and will certainly be included into the national CHM websites, as recommended by the latest relevant COP decisions.

T3-CHM-03. Technical support and cooperation for the maintenance of CHM websites

For the past few years, we have complemented our training offer by directly supporting the work of the CHM focal points, as the development and maintenance of CHM websites of partner countries is often hindered by various technical problems (e.g. slow bandwidth, frequent power shortages, decentralised offices with little or no equipment, lack of manpower, etc). We usually organise calls for project proposals, as we have seen that this stimulates strategic thinking and planning of CHM activities.

In 2013, there will be a new call for proposals that will enable three to four projects to be accepted.

We will continue our support of the work of the Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (INECN) in Burundi, as a follow up on the two-year agreement we have signed in 2010. Among others we will continue with the two lines of action initiated in 2012:

- We will support the lease for the Internet connection so that the CHM focal point and his team can access the web and update the CHM website, as well as undertake their other activities (such as to publish online the scientific bulletin of the INECN).
- In synergy with the IMAB-02 program, we will help the INECN implement its activities on the monitoring of habitats. A workshop was organised in 2012 under the IMAB-02 program. The CHM program will support the follow-up of the workshop, and in particular the gathering of data on habitats as well as its publication online on the CHM website. The creation of a new section on the habitats of Burundi on the CHM website could not be carried out in 2012. It is therefore foreseen for the year 2013.

An evaluation will be made on the effectiveness of this activity and the way ahead in a next 6 year plan. This will take place during a meeting with the INECN staff in March 2013.

T3-CHM-05. Networking activities at supra-national level

Networking activities are encouraged also at supra-national level, as to foster cooperation and links between countries. Our support takes the form of regional training courses or workshops involving participants from several countries in a given region or sub-region.

In 2013, we will organise a regional meeting based on requests from the 'Commission des Forêts d'Afrique centrale' (COMIFAC), South Asia Co-operative Environment Program (SACEP) and their member countries. We will support on demand trainer costs, participation of a few countries and actively look for other donors if one of the regional organisations organises a training or workshop.

If there are demands from other regions for assistance in the development of the national CHMs in their region, we will evaluate on case to case basis how we can assist them by sharing our and our partner countries experiences. If called for, it is possible that we finance one of our partner countries representatives' participation in such meetings.

T3-CHM-07. Participation in CHM meetings and conferences

Typically, we participate in meetings organised by the CBD Secretariat (for the global CHM) and by the European Environment Agency (for the European Community CHM). In 2013 there will be probably be one CHM-IAC meeting back to back to a SBSTTA meeting and several skype conferences, a regional meeting for the EU CHM, a workgroup meeting for the development of the PTK, a regional meeting on NBSAPs as well as a ABS-CH IAC meeting organised by the CBD Secretariat and more. The participation in some of these meetings will be ensured by the organisers.

Specific objective 3. The RBINS contributes to awareness raising and communication on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty reduction and sustainable development, and on associated governance processes.

T3-CHM-06. Public awareness through the CHM

Background

The wide understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem services is crucial to achieving its conservation and sustainable use for the benefit of all. For many years already, the CHM focal points have been playing a major role in the dissemination of information and outreach to various audiences. Support to CHM of partner countries not only targets the increase of CHM visibility, but also the visibility of biodiversity as a crucial component for sustainable development.

Over the years, we have worked through calls for project proposals launched annually. These calls for proposals have proved quite successful, with 20 projects undertaken since 2005. Raising awareness has of course been the core of these calls. However, measuring the state and evolution of public awareness has lately been at the centre of our concern. In 2013, we will continue to support awareness raising activities through calls for proposals whilst pursuing our reflexion towards the establishment of baselines and the identification of suitable indicators. These elements will subsequently form the second pillar of our activities in the next multi-annual program.

Expected results

- Awareness and engagement are raised.

At this transition stage, the provision of baselines will not be part of our expected results although pilot projects may arise through this year call for proposals.

Activities

In 2013, we will organise a call with specific themes such as the international year on water, the UN decade and, as a step towards the next framework program, the elaboration of baseline studies on Target 1 of the Aichi targets. As in earlier years, 4-5 projects will be supported based on the quality of the project proposal and the possible duplication of the activity in other partner countries.

Priority will be given to projects that best meet the above-mentioned criteria.

Equipment:

RBINS has changed its in-house printing policy in 2012 by replacing all small printers by network printers. We proposed to RBINS that relatively new printers could be sent to our main partner Institutes instead of being trashed. The Direction agreed with our proposal. We will ship this year printers and cartridges to the INECN and the CSB to improve their capacity.

Table 6: Budget for the 2012 CHM program (specific objectives 2 & 3)

Activities and targets		Operations	Missions	Total
T3-CHM-01	Training is provided at national level (2-4 training sessions) and in Belgium (1-2 sessions)	25.000 €	5.000 €	30.000 €
T3-CHM-02	Remote learning is provided via the CHM website	0 €	0 €	0 €
T3-CHM-03	Technical support for CHM websites is provided (3-4 projects accepted, support to INECN Burundi)	24.000 €	0 €	24.000 €
T3-CHM-04	Networking at national level (see CHM-01)	0 €	0 €	0 €
T3-CHM-05	Networking at supra-national level is achieved in the form of one workshop (in Africa)	28.000 €	4.000 €	32.000 €
T3-CHM-06 (Specific objective n°3)	Public awareness is undertaken via the CHM (4-5 projects)	20.000 €	0 €	20.000 €
T3-CHM-07	Participation in a limited number of meetings is ensured		2.000 €	2.000 €
	Salaries H. de Koeijer, M.-L. Susini, K. Vrancken 12+3+2 PM)			86.000 €
	Equipment			4.000 €
	Sub-total	97.000 €	11.000 €	198.000 €

Specific objective 4. The RBINS and DGD unit D2.4 improve the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in policy sectors that have a high relevance for development.

Sub-program T4. Providing scientific support to biodiversity policy (POL)

Background

As a research institution, the RBINS possesses a long-running expertise on biodiversity and ecosystem management. As a museum, its educational activities are key instruments for the spreading of scientific knowledge. And through its mandate as Belgian National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its involvement with other agreements such as the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES, it has acquired experience at the policy level. Over the years, this unique position has generated a valuable expertise at the interfaces of science, policy and education. The 'biodiversity team' of the RBINS puts this expertise at the service of the Belgian Development Cooperation and of other interested parties in Belgium, in order to enhance the dialogue and develop strong partnerships between scientists, decision-makers and society.

Expected results

- Expertise of Belgian Development Cooperation is built.
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services are mainstreamed in activities supported by the Belgian Development Cooperation

The POL program in 2012

For the past few years, we have been most active in the 'indirect cooperation' arena of DGD, participating in a number of meetings and events as one of the scientific institutions involved in development cooperation. We have also been involved in supporting the multilateral processes linked to the CBD through our support to the 'multi' unit of DGD and our participation in the national coordination process on biodiversity (through the Coordinating Committee on International Environmental Policy).

In 2013, we will continue to provide these services. We will also continue our work to raise the profile of biodiversity across sectors, not only within the development cooperation arena but also across other sectors dealing with economy and trade. For this transition year, the means to do so will remain fairly classical, as for example through meeting attendance, awareness raising, networking and lobbying. However, we expect that closer collaboration with D2.4 will help determine new activities aiming at building a strong and permanent

expertise of the various actors of the DGD on the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services for development. Amongst possible activities, we can note the provision of training workshops for distinct stakeholders of the Belgian Development Cooperation (BTC, NGOs, relevant departments of DGD).

T4-POL-01. Scientific consultancy services on issues linked to biodiversity and development

For the year to come, this activity will continue to be carried out on a demand-driven basis. Our team will strive to answer the various requests for scientific support that arrive at the RBINS.

Examples of support include:

- advice on the implementation of biodiversity-related activities in partner countries,
- advice on proposed, submitted or running projects financed by DGD,
- participation to the preparation of 'commissions mixtes' of bilateral cooperation,
- support to environmental mainstreaming e.g. in « Trans-Sectorial Teams » (TSTs),
- support for the follow-up of multilateral agreements,
- support to the decision-making process of the ministerial office,
- contribution to publications and other outreach activities of DGD,
- raising the profile of biodiversity during thematic meetings organised by DGD,
- attendance to meetings discussing biodiversity and development issues,
- identification of people, institutions and organisations working for biodiversity worldwide,
- providing training on biodiversity issues, i.e. illustrating the importance of biodiversity for economic and social development and poverty reduction.

T4-POL-02. Biodiversity training in Belgium

Most of the activities undertaken in our program strive to build capacities within the scientific community of partner countries, acknowledging the critical role of scientific knowledge for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

In 2010, we had the opportunity to start a capacity building program in our own country. This was rather opportunistic, but it was well in line with our goal to disseminate and raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity. The development of training courses for a wider public is also crucial to further support the integration of biodiversity considerations in (economic) development strategies.

In 2012, we organized training workshops for federal agents and personnel of four distinct federal institutions. This project, funded by the Federal Public Service Environment and undertaken in collaboration with the National Botanic Garden of Meise and the Factor X consultancy, reinforced our recent expertise in providing tailor-made training with high relevance for development issues. In the foreseen framework programme we

could take advantage of this expertise and use it for the DGD. The year to come will be the occasion to discuss this possibility with D2.4. In 2013, no specific training activity has yet been identified.

Table 7: Budget for the 2013 POL program

Activities and targets		Operations	Missions	Total
T4-POL-01	- Advice is provided on-demand - The follow-up of issues of interest to DGD is ensured during SBTTA-17 and other international meetings	0€	6.000€	6.000€
T4-POL-02	- Support is provided on 'global issues' during biodiversity trainings provided to Federal Public Services	0€	0€	Staff time
	Salary of program coordinator (6 PM)			35.000€
	Sub-total			41.000€

Specific objective 5. The RBINS and DGD unit D2.4 improve the knowledge on the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of policy choices and activities linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The RBINS, as CBD National Focal Point, has been the coordinator of the Belgian reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Till recently, such reporting under the CBD was largely confined to descriptive information. With the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, countries will have to formulate indicators and gather data that will populate these.

The elaboration and formulation of indicators (largely a regional competence in Belgium) and the establishment / follow-up of formal 'MRV' processes is a relatively new field of expertise for us and we will need to build our own capacities before being fully operational. This transitional year will be used to explore the most relevant means of building our capacities in synergy with DGD Service D2.4, which benefits from many years of experience in the follow-up of all three Rio conventions (climate, biodiversity, desertification).

As specific activities are not planned for the year 2014, no budget is required yet.

Specific objective 6. The RBINS and DGD unit D2.4. raise awareness on, and build capacities for, the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing in Belgium and in developing countries.

Background

The RBINS and D2.4 both have limited experience on genetic resources, access and benefit sharing provisions or traditional knowledge associated to the use of genetic resources. They have followed the issue in their respective work related to the Convention on Biological Diversity, but without necessarily developing expertise or playing an active role in the process. At the Belgian level, other interested parties are in a similar situation.

The new program framework rightly makes of the Nagoya protocol the sixth pillar of our activities. As a preparation for years to come, members of the team will start documenting and building capacities on this matter. We have put expenses related to this activity under the budget post T1-GTI-06. GTI reader: teaching modules for the Global Taxonomy Initiative this year to avoid making new budget lines. The Nagoya Protocol will have implications for taxonomists and other researchers when collecting and exchanging specimen for research. Also, the ABS-Clearing House will be linked to the national CHM.

Expected results

- The RBINS and DGD are familiar with the obligations under the Nagoya Protocol.

As outlined in the section below, capacities will first be built within RBINS. Information and training for other stakeholders, including DGD, will start as of 2014.

Activities

This year will be devoted to the follow-up of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, its ratification and implementation at the Belgian, European and international level. The consolidation of intern capacities is a prerequisite for the provision of training and support to DGD, our partners and any other relevant stakeholder.

Several members of the team are already part of both the Belgian and European working groups on the Nagoya Protocol and have attended the meetings and workshops held in 2012 regarding this matter (such as the European Commission technical workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing held on the 23rd October 2012 at Brussels).

In our team, Marie-Lucie Susini is in charge of the follow-up of “noncommercial research” aspects of the Nagoya Protocol. She will be the interlocutor of RBINS scientists and curators regarding their rights and obligations arising from the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol in Belgium and its partner countries in the South. Han de Koeijer will follow-up on the development of the ABS Clearing House (CH) and hopefully be appointed member of the ABS CH Informal Advisory Committee on behalf of Europe.

Program coordination and management

Sub-program T5.

The role of the program coordination is to ensure the coherence and integration of the various components of the specific convention. It also plays an important role of synchronisation with the activities of all project partners: the other RBINS departments, other institutions such as the RMCA, NBGB and universities, NGOs, as well as administrations in Belgium and abroad.

Among other tasks, the coordination is responsible for:

- maintaining regular contacts with the DGD administration, the VLIR, CUD, BTC and others
- the elaboration of the work programs,
- the adaptation of activities during the program period whenever necessary,
- the evaluation and reporting of yearly activities,
- the management of accounts,
- the logistic support to the organisation of training activities,
- the supervision of the daily work of the program's personnel,
- the hiring of staff,
- general aspects of representation, networking and communication.

As part of our networking activities, we will continue to exchange information and experiences with other Belgian and international actors involved in biodiversity-related issues. Among our usual partners, we will continue working closely with the CBD Secretariat, in Montreal, as well as with other UN-agencies and programs and with IUCN.

In 2013, the main task of the coordination will be to prepare the transition towards the next multi-annual program of work. Extensive consultations with the staff and partners involved in the current activities, as well as with DGD and the program's steering committee will be necessary in order to translate newly identified objectives into concrete activities.

Table 8: Budget for the 2013 Coordination

Activities and targets		Operations	Missions	Total
COORD	Representation, networking, communication, management ensures a smooth implementation of the program	0€	500€	500€
	Salary V. Pinton + program coordinator + M. Agarad (12 + 6 + 6 PM)			93.000€
	Sub-total			93.500€

Annex 1: Log-frame matrix

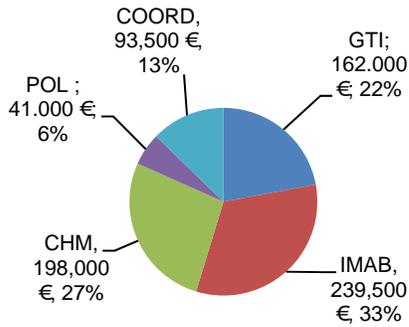
Overall objective		Indicators (OVI)*		Source of Information (SOV)	Assumptions
To build scientific and technical capacities for a more effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as a contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable development worldwide		The loss of biodiversity is significantly reduced (global headline indicators)		International reports such as the Global Biodiversity Outlook and others	Governments, organisations and stakeholders have taken actions to stop the loss of biodiversity. Indicators are available to measure this.
		Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs). Integration of biodiversity issues in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.		National and thematic reports of countries submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Policy makers have the information they need to take good decisions on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Governments are committed to CBD implementation.
Specific objectives (SO)	Expected results (ER)	Key indicators (OVI)		Source of Information (SOV)	Assumptions
SO1 To strengthen the scientific and technical knowledge base on biodiversity and on its linkages with ecosystem services and poverty reduction (GTI + IMAB)	1. Scientific and technical expertise is built	SO1.1	People trained per year in Belgium and in partner countries: - IMAB: 50+ both in Belgium and in country - GTI: 10+ in Belgium and 10+ in country	Number, names and affiliations of persons, object of training, place of training	The requested expertise is found in at the RBINS and in Belgium. Trained professionals are able to put their acquired knowledge in practice. Authors and reviewers are available to contribute to the AbcTaxa manuals and to the teaching material.
	2. Quality scientific knowledge is produced	SO1.2	Research results and other positive outcomes published by PhD trainees and research staff: 2+ articles published	Degrees, peer reviewed scientific publications, new projects, data produced, workshops, etc.	
	3. Scientific outputs are made accessible to users	SO1.4	Supporting materials produced and distributed: 1 <i>Abc Taxa</i> 1 lexicon 1 annex to 1 st lexicon	Number and content of <i>Abc Taxa</i> manuals, GTI website with teaching material and information. Number and type of content of teaching materials; purchase and shipment of small equipment	

Specific objectives (SO)	Expected results (ER)		Key indicators (OVI)	Source of Information (SOV)	Assumptions
<p>SO2</p> <p>To enhance the information base on these issues and on associated governance processes (CHM)</p>	1. Expertise in information management is built	SO2.1	People trained per year in Belgium and partner countries: 25+ people trained,	Number, names and affiliations of persons, object of training, place of training	<p>Trainees stay in post after the training and are able to put the acquired knowledge in practice. Managerial and logistic issues the updating and on-line publication of CHM websites. Partners have sufficient human resources to undertake non-Internet activities.</p>
	2. Information flows are improved	SO2.2	CHM websites running and regularly updated: 50% of websites updated	Websites, web statistics	
	3. Information is used to advise governance processes	SO2.3	Level of activity of the network of partners: One regional workshop organised	Workshops organised, meetings at national, regional and international level, etc. public awareness projects	
<p>SO3</p> <p>To raise awareness and communicate on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty reduction and sustainable development, and on associated governance processes</p>	1. Awareness and engagement are raised	SO3.1	Number of public awareness projects completed, number of related communication material (posters, brochures, ...), number of people attending awareness raising events or receiving material, etc.: 4-5 public awareness projects completed	Public awareness projects reports	Partners have sufficient human resources to undertake non-Internet activities.
Specific objectives (SO)	Expected results (ER)		Key indicators (OVI)	Source of Information (SOV)	Assumptions
<p>SO4</p> <p>To improve the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in policy sectors that have a high relevance for development</p>	1. Expertise of Belgian Development Cooperation is built	SO4.1	Training provided: (Based on request)	Number and type of trainings given, degree of satisfaction	RBINS staff is requested to undertake these activities.
	2. Biodiversity and ecosystem services are mainstreamed in activities supported by the Belgian Development Cooperation	SO4.2	<p>Number of consultancy requests from DGD staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up of at least 5 processes - At least 8 consultancy requests honoured on demand 	Attendance to meetings, e-mails answered, notes elaborated, reports, briefing notes, workshops attended, etc.	DGD staff and Belgian decision-makers are aware of RBINS expertise.

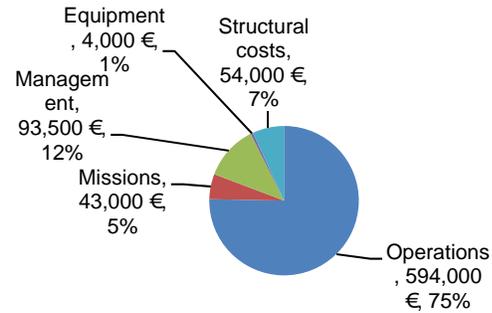
Specific objectives (SO)	Expected results (ER)		Key indicators (OVI)	Source of Information (SOV)	Assumptions
<p>SO5</p> <p>To improve the knowledge on the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of policy choices and activities linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>	(as of 2014)		(as of 2014)	(as of 2014)	(as of 2014)
<p>SO6</p> <p>To raise awareness on, and build capacities for, the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing</p>	<p>1. The RBINS and DGD are familiar with the obligations under the Nagoya Protocol</p>	SO6.1	Number of staff members aware of the implications of Nagoya Protocol implementation: 2 members of staff trained	Follow-up reports	RBINS staff is involved in national and international platforms on ABS

Annex 2: budget visualization

2013 budget

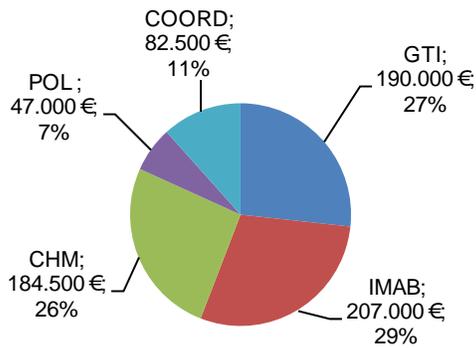


(a) Expenses per program component

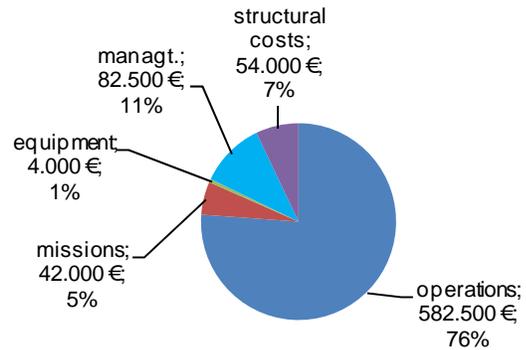


(b) Expenses per type of expense

2012 budget



(c) Expenses per program component



(d) Expenses per type of expense