



Workshop Report



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Back: Ernst Swartz, Seth Agyakwah, Dickens Odeny, Cyprian Katongo, Krishen Rana, Celestin Danadu, Dennis Tweddle, William Ojwang, Sarah Goodier, Dismas Mbabazi, Robert Hanner, Jos Snoeks

Middle: Poogendri Reddy, Translator, Blandina Lugendo, Gaspard Banyankimbona, Philippe Laleye, Kibnow Atuatu, Birnanu Rekie

Bottom: Emmanuel Vreven, Antoine Nsabimana, Armel Ibala-Zamba, Paul Skelton, Luis da Costa, Domingos Neto, Gavin Gouws, Dinka Zewadie, Eshete Dejen, Monica Mwale

INTRODUCTION

The first African Fish Barcode of Life initiative (FISH-BOL) Regional Working Group workshop was hosted in association with the fourth Pan-African Fish and Fisheries Association (PAFFA) conference in Addis Ababa on the 21st of August 2008. The workshop was sponsored by the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) in partnership with the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB). The FISH-BOL African Regional Working Group, SAIAB and the PAFFA organizing committee organized the workshop. Most of the 25 participants were already active in FISH-BOL, but some new African regional working group partners from various research institutions were sponsored to represent the different African regions (see, Appendix 1, List of delegates).

The major objective of the meeting was to develop funding proposals for the collection of DNA barcodes for all African freshwater and marine fish species.

MEETING STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The workshop began with a welcome from the African RWG chair and introductions from the participants and their expectations from the workshop. This was followed by presentations on the global objectives of the FISH-BOL project and the status of FISH-BOL in Africa (see Appendix 2 for Agenda and list of presenters). Selected participants also gave presentations on some results of their current barcoding projects and the resources available to their regions in terms of ongoing work, field collections, institutional support, funding agencies funding their projects and identified priority areas for fish DNA barcoding. The major aim of the presentation session was to introduce participants to the organization of FISH-BOL, to stimulate interest in the current African initiatives as well as to explore new funding avenues for projects. The various questions that were raised and later discussed from this session were;

1. The priority areas for fish DNA barcoding in Africa and the interests of the people at the meeting and their priorities?
2. The existing African projects that can be used as leverage for further funding?
3. The resources available at local facilities in terms of ongoing work in barcoding, how much can be done with these and possible collaborations between people for infrastructure support?
4. The status of collections and DNA vouchers in African institutions
5. Which funding agencies are already funding barcoding projects, what national commitments or NGO's could be harnessed to support the international collaborations that currently exist

The afternoon session was a discussion section where the issues that were raised in the first session were addressed as well as the discussion topics listed in the agenda (see Appendix 2). This session was conducted as an open discussion of all meeting participants and involved summarizing the output of the presentations and synthesizing these ideas into a list of potential next steps towards funding proposals.

MEETING RESULTS

The major outcome for the discussions was that a regional approach would be more beneficial for the African RWG in terms of establishing barcoding projects. Because FISH-BOL is a global project, harnessing national commitments for DNA barcoding to support the international collaborations that currently exist among regions would be advantageous, but not possible for all countries in Africa. It was felt that regional projects were more likely to

receive support through regional agreements among African countries and from international funding agencies. FISH-BOL in Africa is currently, however, mainly supported through existing researcher based projects. It was therefore decided that an overall FISH-BOL proposal should list these diverse projects as stand-alone projects, so that a potential funder can consider FISH-BOL in Africa as a whole or any of the individual projects for funding. Further results are summarized under the workshop themes.

1. High-priority barcoding projects

A list of African projects was identified as priority for the African region in terms of funding as well as potential collaboration among participants and African regions (table 1). These include current on-going projects as well as new projects that could be promoted for the African FISH-BOL initiative and that should be listed in an overall African FISH-BOL funding proposal. These were identified as high priority projects that participants could contribute to or become part of. It was suggested that some on-going projects be selected for use as leverage to get dedicated funding for the RWG.

Table1: List of priority African FISH projects

Priority projects	Managing Institution	Participating countries
<i>On-going projects</i>		
Fishes of the Western Indian ocean	SAIAB	South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles
Fishes SE Atlantic	SAIAB	S. Africa, Angola, Namibia
Southern African freshwater fishes	SAIAB	S. Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho
East Africa Cyprinids	National Museums of Kenya	Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi
Congo Basin	Royal Museum for Central Africa and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Belgium, DRC, Rep. of Congo
Kwanza, Angola	SAIAB and INIP	Angola
<i>Potential projects</i>		
Fishes of the Niger basin (and tributaries)		Ghana, Cameroon, Benin, Senegal (SAIAB)
Great lakes projects		Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi

Other potential areas for barcoding were identified as being relevant because they relate to current regional biodiversity initiatives and opportunities and would therefore easily attract institutional and government support by servicing their international commitments as well as funding agencies already involved in fisheries development in Africa. For example, it was suggested that projects involving general biotic surveys would be welcome in most nations if they also addressed climate change, fisheries and economic development issues. Other topics discussed as being relevant for barcoding projects in Africa included food quality and export, invasive species monitoring as well as biodiversity conservation. On the whole studies on major African river systems (e.g. Zambezi, Congo, Niger) were considered as being good regional projects as they would require collaboration between various countries.

2. The status of collections and DNA vouchers in African institutions

It was discussed that the status of DNA collections and museums in most African countries is non-existent or in dire states in places where there are facilities. There is also very little information on the locations of these facilities, the available capacity and the available resources. It was decided that participants would be sent a document in which they would indicate the available resources and infrastructure for barcoding to the working group. This information would be the first step in discovering potential links, building networks for collaborations within regions and for the RWG as a whole. It was considered important for the RWG to identify the available infrastructure or museums (e.g. National Museums of Kenya for east Africa and SAIAB for southern Africa) that could be set up in various regions to provide assistance and services for barcoding projects as the most cost effective option.

3. Funding opportunities

It was noted that there is currently no dedicated funding for the FISH-BOL projects and the African RWG. Therefore workshop participants discussed ways of obtaining funding and the approach that would be used to get this funding. The workshop participants identified several initiatives and organisations that could be approached for possible funding for specific research priorities that align within national and international commitments (see table 2). It was also noted that there is a need to create awareness of the global barcoding initiatives and success stories within government agencies. Bilateral agreements between countries were identified as unique opportunities to get two or three countries together into a regional barcoding programme. It was noted that a list of the taxa that have already been barcoded as well as the research groups and funding organisations already involved could provide good motivation for further funding.

Table 2: Potential funding organisations

Priority area	Some topics	Identified funding agencies
Conservation/ Biodiversity	Invasive species/ Ornamentals Climate change	CBD, CITES, Traffic, WWF, BIONET, IUCN, and other NGOs
Food quality / export	Illegal trade	UNEP, Niger and Chad authorities (for West Africa), Bilateral agreements, Government support, Regional NRF (SADC support), NEPAD
Fisheries/Economic development	Wild stock assessment and strain ID	National funding institutions, FAO, World Fish Centre, GTZ, Large marine ecosystem programmes
General Biotic Survey	Conservation, EIA's	National Geographic, Oil companies, Nile Basin Initiative (10 countries) in kind support

A WAY FORWARD

It was decided that a broad prospectus type proposal be written that highlights the African FISH-BOL project as a whole, but that also lists individual projects and initiatives. It should be written in such a way that a potential funder can ask for a more formal proposal for the overall project or for smaller individual projects that it may be interested in funding. The RWG chairs were given the task to prepare a draft prospectus/proposal that will be circulated to all the RWG participants. Project leaders will be identified that will summarize

their regional or local projects and the RWG chairs will act as editors to combine all these efforts in the final project. No time-frames were decided on, but it is recognized that this task should be completed as soon as possible.

APPENDIX 2

PARTICIPANT LIST

Participant Name	Affiliation	E-mail
Abebe Getahun	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia	abebe12002@yahoo.com
Birmanu Rakie	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia	birr2001@gmail.com
Dinka Zewadie	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia	dinkshet@gmail.com
Kibrneow Atuatu	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia	kibr99@yahoo.com
Eshete Dejen	ARARI, Ethiopia	dejeneshete@yahoo.com
Domingos Neto	INIP, Angola	dgosneto@hotmail.com
Armel Ibala-Zamba	K U Leuven, Congo	ibalaszamba@yahoo.fr
Gaspard Banyankimbona	K U Leuven, Congo	gaspard.banyankimbona@student.kul euven.be
Antoine Nsabimana	KIST, Rwanda	nsabimanant@yahoo.fr
William Oweke Ojwang	KMFRI, Kenya	w_ojwang@yahoo.com
Dismas Mbabazi	NaFIRRI - Uganda	mbabazidismas@yahoo.com
Dickens Odeny	National Museums of Kenya	dodeny@yahoo.com
Emmanuel Vreven	RMCA, Belgium	emmanuel.vreven@africamuseum.be
Gert Boden	RMCA, Belgium	gert.boden@africamuseum.be
Jos Snoeks	RMCA, Belgium	jsnoeks@africamuseum.be
Mark Hanssens	RMCA, Belgium	mark.hanssens@africamuseum.be
Tobias Musschoot	RMCA, Belgium	tobias.musschoot@africamuseum.be
Denis Twedde	SAIAB, SA	d.twedde@ru.ac.za
Ernst Swartz	SAIAB, SA	e.swartz@ru.ac.za
Gavin Gouws	SAIAB, SA	g.gouws@ru.ac.za
Monica Mwale	SAIAB, SA	m.mwale@ru.ac.za
Paul Skelton	SAIAB, SA	p.skelton@ru.ac.za
Poogendri Reddy	SAIAB, SA	p.reddy@ru.ac.za
Celestin Danadu	Universite de Kisangani, DRC	danaducele@yahoo.fr
Phillipe Laleye	University of Abomey-Calav, Benin	laleyeph@yahoo.fr
Sarah Goodier	University of Cape Town, SA	sarah.goodier@gmail.com
Blandina Robert Lugendo	University of Dar es Salaam	blugendo@udsm.ac.tz
Robert Hanner	University of Guelph	rhanner@uoguelph.ca
Luis da Costa	University of Lisbon	ldcosta@fc.ul.pt
Krishen Rana	University of Stellenbosch, SA University of Stirling, Scotland	kjr3@stir.ac.uk
Cyprian Katongo	University of Zambia	ckatongo@unza.zm
Melanie Hauber	University Wurzburg, Germany	melhau@wcb.de
Seth Koranteng Agyakwah	Water Research Institute, Ghana	agyaseth@yahoo.com