



Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT

Project title: Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

Instrument: Network of Excellence

Thematic Priority: Sub-Priority 1.1.6.3: "Global Change and Ecosystems"

C7.2.11 Signed agreement for establishment of a 2nd non-European ATBI+M pilot site

Due date of component: Month 40

Actual submission date: Month 39

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: Partners 12 and 30 – SMNS and MfN

Revision [end version]

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level ("X" in the relevant box)		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

The DFG Research Unit 816 "Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of a Megadiverse Mountain Ecosystem in South Ecuador"

and

The EDIT Work Package 7 "All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory + Monitoring"

The DFG Research Unit 816 "Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of a Megadiverse Mountain Ecosystem in South Ecuador" (hereinafter the RU 816) and the EDIT Work Package 7 "All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory + Monitoring" (hereinafter EDIT WP7),

in the conviction

that there is an urgent need for comprehensive taxonomic information and ecological knowledge about the biodiversity hotspot of southern Ecuador,

and the need to foster scientific research and public awareness of the unique richness in biological diversity of South Ecuador,

recognizing

the ongoing biodiversity crisis associated with global environmental changes also in South Ecuador,

and appreciating

the endeavours of the Republic of Ecuador to establish the UNESCO biosphere reserve "Podocarpus - Cordillera de Condor" in South Ecuador,

have decided to combine their research activities in the Reserva Biologica San Francisco (South Ecuador)

and have agreed as follows:

Article I

Research permission, legal regulations and conduct

1. Both parties to this memorandum (hereinafter "both parties") shall apply independently for research permission to the relevant authorities (see template in appendix 2). These are

- the foundation "Nature and Culture International" (NCI) as the owner of the Reserva Biologica San Francisco (RBSF) and of the Estacion Cientifica San Francisco (ECSF),
- and the Ministerio del Medio Ambiente of the Republic of Ecuador.

As far as possible, RU 816 will support EDIT scientists in their endeavour to obtain research permission from the Ecuadorian authorities.

2. If a member of RU 816 plans a project in the scope of EDIT WP7, a separate research permission for that project must be applied for.

3. Both parties will provide short annual reports on the achieved results in an appropriate format (with a copy to the speaker of RU 816 and the Leader of EDIT WP7), which are required for the annual extension of the research clearance;

4. Both parties will ensure compliance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Ecuador, especially with regard to provisions relating to biological resources and materials in the sense of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Deposition of collected materials and specimens will be a matter of the respective research permission.

5. Both parties will conduct field work and behave in accordance with generally accepted standards of best practise and common sense. When collection of material is necessary, researchers will collect always in a responsible and respectful manner, also keeping material which might be of interest to other taxonomists and researchers.

6. Each party is responsible for the compliance with the regulations of its own members. RU 816 and the local authorities or counterparts are not responsible for individual travel or health insurance of EDIT researchers, and can not accept any claims of loss of or damage to property or health resulting from their participation in the research activities.

Article II

Institutional cooperation

1. Both parties will mutually inform each other in due advance in detail about planned fieldwork and experiments. For the time being the description of the projects of RU 816 are presented in the application booklet 2007-2010.
2. RU 816 together with the foundation "Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional" operates the research station Estacion Cientifica San Francisco (ECSF), which is also open to international co-operative ecosystem research. Two station managers, employed by RU 816, care for the station and supervise the research area "Reserva Biologica San Francisco" (RBSF). This area is proposed, and agreed upon by the RU 816, as an extra-European ATBI+M site of EDIT.
3. EDIT WP7 will apply for its own research clearance at the relevant local authorities (currently: Ministry of the Environment, NCI foundation). This process will be conducted in close collaboration with the RU 816 station manager(s) who will support the application and will advise the Leader of EDIT WP7. Project descriptions and personal records of the EDIT researchers should be submitted to the speaker of RU 816 with copy to the ECSF station manager(s) at least 8 weeks in advance of the planned field work (according to appendix 2). This information will be passed on to NCI, which also has to approve the application. Any visit of the ECSF by an individual EDIT researcher should be announced to the speaker of RU 816 and the station manager(s) at least 8 weeks in advance of the planned field work.
4. RU 816 provides to EDIT members access free of charge to the RBSF research area and, according to the agreement with NCI, shall support EDIT in getting access to RU 816 - satellite research areas that are not in the ownership of NCI.
5. RU 816 will provide free of charge lodging at ECSF to EDIT members during their field campaigns as far as free capacity is available. Availability can be checked via the online booking system (www.TropicalMountainForest.org), and has to be arranged case by case; board is offered to EDIT members at cost price.
6. Use of RU 816 equipment and facilities by EDIT researchers depends on availability and must be arranged with the station managers.
7. For using RU 816 facilities, EDIT members will register to the RU 816 administration portal (www.TropicalMountainForest.org) before starting research in the RBSF area, thereby accepting the bylaws of RU 816, the "Station Use Agreement", the "Supplement to the Station Use Agreement", and the "Data Use Agreement".
8. Like the members of RU 816, EDIT members will observe and follow instructions from the station managers, from the speaker and the scientific advisory board of RU 816. Selection of research plots shall be done together with the station managers.

Article III**Sharing of data and information**

1. To strengthen collaboration, both parties shall mutually customize their scientific results by sharing data and information through contemporary use of the Data Warehouse of RU 816. In general, all data shall be geo-referenced and presented in the appropriate file format.
2. The station manager and the RU 816 database engineer, in collaboration with EDIT WP7, will provide guidelines for recording and geo-referencing of primary occurrence data, including digital templates for data capture.
3. EDIT researchers are encouraged to contribute to the annual status symposium of the RU 816 in Loja and to support capacity building by collaborating with relevant scientists of the local universities (UTPL, UNL), by supervising theses and by offering (taxonomic) courses.
4. EDIT scientists and RU 816 members are encouraged to compile joint papers; publications of results authored by EDIT scientists only must encompass appropriate acknowledgments of the DFG RU 816, as well as acknowledging NCI and ECSF.

Article IV**Collaboration with Ecuadorian authorities**

Like the members of RU 816, EDIT researchers shall as far as possible and as appropriate support the activities of Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional regarding nature conservation and cooperation with relevant local authorities.

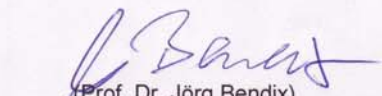
This shall also apply to the relevant endeavours of the Ecuadorian Universities collaborating with RU 816.

Article V**Entry into force and termination**

1. The Memorandum will take effect with the date of signature by the speaker of RU 816 and the Leader of EDIT WP 7.
2. The life-time of RU 816 is scheduled for 6 years, with current funding granted until 2010. Therefore this Memorandum of Cooperation will tentatively expire by March 31st 2010, but shall be extended for another three-year period if funding of RU 816 will be granted for the second period until March 2013 or another term of different duration.
3. If necessary and agreed by both parties, this Memorandum may be reviewed and amended appropriately.

25. VI. 2009

Signed on behalf of DFG RU 816



(Prof. Dr. Jörg Bendix)

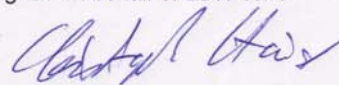
The speaker

University of Marburg

Faculty of Geography

19. VI. 2009

Signed on behalf of EDIT WP7



(Dr. Christoph Häuser)

Work Package Leader

Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin

Appendix 1

The individual EDIT researcher

Hereby I confirm that I have taken note of and agreed with the terms of this MoC:

Name:

Place and date of birth:

Nationality:

Address:

Postal code and city:

Country:

Phone:

E-mail:

Passport No.:

(Place, date)

(Signature)

Appendix 2:

Questionnaire to be completed by every EDIT project or scientist prior to undertaking any field work at ECSF. This is also a template for the application of the research permission. A complete copy must also be sent to the station manager (currently: Jörg Zeilinger, Felix Matt), and to the speaker of RU 816 (currently: Prof. Jörg Bendix, University of Marburg, Germany) at least 8 weeks before the start of the field studies.

1. Title of the project
2. Name of the EDIT project leader and EDIT staff involved in the field studies
3. CV of the EDIT project leader
4. Photocopy of the passport(s)
5. Aims of the project
6. Description of the project:
 - 6.1 Methods, equipment, marking techniques, possible environmental contaminations and/or disturbances, any other impact, kind of manipulation (as far as applicable)
 - 6.2 Background, justification and relevance of the project
 - 6.3 Expected results
 - 6.4 Time schedule of the planned work
7. If applicable; study area(s) outside the RBSF to be visited
8. Justification for the number of samples/specimens to be collected and for the necessity of exporting material (if applicable)
9. If applicable; how and when will samples/specimens be exported (e.g., flight date, flight number, airport, stopover at airport) and where outside Ecuador the samples will be examined, classified and deposited
10. If applicable, where samples/specimens will be deposited in Ecuador (if not at UTPL, UNL)