



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"

C7.5.6 Survey from user feedback of ATBI+M results by conservation community and stakeholders

Due date of component: Month 43

Actual submission date: Month 47

Start date of project: 01/03/2006

Duration: 5 years

Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: Partner 12-SMNS and 30-MfN

Revision [final]

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)	

The third and the second year of field activities at the ATBI+M pilot sites Mercantour/Alpi Maritime and Gemer Area, respectively, have been concluded. At present, 4709 and 1419 species of animals, plants, and fungi have been collected, observed or recorded from available literature for the both sites, respectively. One of the major goals of inventorying the biodiversity in these protected areas is to enable the local management/stakeholders to implement long-termed conservation strategies and to improve land use. Certainly, also citizens inhabiting the surrounding region of the parks need to be involved, for instance by means of classes and trips for children and adults.

For EDIT it is important to learn in which way the data obtained during ATBI+M activities are being employed by local authorities / stakeholders to achieve these goals.

ATBI+M pilot site Mercantour/Alpi Maritime

The Mercantour National Park could benefit from the data collected for the definition of a list of its natural heritage (endemic, rare and/or protected species). This list is included in the Charta, an official document which defines the major orientations of the institution for the next fifteen years. Thanks to the efforts of the scientific community during these three years, the future land management actions could be defined as efficiently as possible.

Marie-France Leccia also took the opportunity to illustrate the ATBI+M Mercantour/Alpi Maritime during a lecture given to students coming from Bachelor's degree "Analyses and Techniques of Biodiversity Inventories", University Claude Bernard Lyon 1. The students seemed particularly interested in the project's technical and scientific aspects.

In addition, the Alpi Maritime Natural Park began a one-year-course for primary school pupils (called "Biodiversità in Valle Gesso") on natural biodiversity, mainly focussed on what is biodiversity, how taxonomists study it and why. This course will hopefully continue for more years, as the response from pupils and teachers was extremely positive.

ATBI+M pilot site Gemer Area

The three Slovakian National Parks Muránska Planina, Slovenský Raj, Slovenský Kras of the Gemer Area could use the recorded species richness and biodiversity information, which is given on the Gemer ATBI+M webpages (www.atbi.eu/gemer; www.atbi.eu/gemer/?q=node/38), for enforcing the attractiveness of the parks to the international science community, but also to ecotourism. In addition the awareness of species diversity in these protected areas could also be used for policy issues. Up-to-now little feedback has been given by the Slovakian conservation community and the stakeholders about their use of the ATBI+M results.

By hosting the international Summerschool "From field to Web - studying biodiversity with the taxonomist's toolbox" in Muránska Planina in 2009 the international degree of popularity for these Slovakian natural heritages has assumedly increased. Also the planned local Biodiversity Action Day "Bioblitz" (an event for raising awareness for taxonomy by involving the public to inventory species together with experts in one day) in the ATBI+M sites in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, is going to support the popularity of the parks. The ATBI+M results are also intensively used by the ATBI+M Gemer team leader Eduard Stloukal (based at the Comenius University Bratislava) who is building up a Slovakian taxonomic database (see www.atbi.sk).

Overall it can be stressed that for the ATBI+M pilot site Gemer Area more feedback is desired from the Slovakian stakeholder and the conservation community to reflect their needs.