



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"

C3.5.4-5 Report on cooperation between EDIT partner institutions, ABRS and SANBI

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Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 6 – (NHN)

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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)	

Executive summary

As a result of the workshop held in October 2008 in Copenhagen, organized by EDIT WP3.5, on international collaboration with international organisations and/or networks, the ABRS (Australian Biological Resources Study) and SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute) each drafted a document indicating concrete collaboration opportunities with relevant EDIT partners in order to initiate discussions on further cooperation and how that can be implemented during the 4th JPA (Joint Programme of Activities) of EDIT.

In conjunction with the most recent SPNHC meeting held in Leiden (July, 2009), the directors of ABRS, SANBI and EDIT workpackages met to further discuss short and long term collaboration opportunities, to work out projects and link them to specific funding possibilities in more detail. The present report describes the results of that meeting and includes detailed information on the major areas where collaboration is being pursued:

1. Botanical and Zoological Liaisons Officers Exchange; virtual laboratories and remote microscopy
2. Training and online learning
3. Fieldwork and Biological Survey; role of taxonomy and collections in global change research; analysis of mega-datasets on southern African flora
4. Developing scratchpads as a systematic tool
5. Research grants
6. Publication issues, digitisation and electronic dissemination of taxonomic products

It was agreed that the formalisation of envisaged cooperation documents will be by means of a European-Australian-South African Agreement to Collaborate (AtC) to be signed based on reciprocal benefit.