



SABI FORUM MEETING

SABI was developed to significantly enhance South Africa's capacity to undertake research in biosystematics, thereby establishing a skills base and information platform at the foundation of all scientific endeavour in the life sciences, such that the full potential of South Africa's unique biological resources can be realised and safeguarded for the future benefit of all. SABI is funded by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation

Dear All

SABI FORUM MEETING 2009/10

You are invited to attend the SABI Forum meeting which will be held on the 25 February 2010 in the Eastern Cape. This year's forum meeting will be in celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). "The United National General Assembly declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity to help raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity all over the world. It is an opportunity to:

- Stress the importance of biodiversity for our well being
 - Reflect on our achievements to preserve biodiversity so far
 - Encourage a redoubling of our efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss".
- (IYB 2010 Briefing Document. www.cbd.int/2010).

The theme of the SABI Forum Meeting for 2009/10 is therefore "**THE IMPORTANCE OF SYSTEMATICS IN BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE FOR HUMAN WELL BEING**". This theme will explore the role of systematics in agriculture, health, maintaining ecosystem integrity and services and conservation. Climate change, land use change and degradation, and invasion biology will be considered as cross-cutting issues. Some of the outcomes of this meeting will feed into the next SABI Call for funding.

We look forward to seeing you and/or other representatives of your organization at the SABI Forum meeting. The National Research Foundation will cover the costs of the venue, catering and limited travel and accommodation costs for persons based at museums, universities and research focused NGOs (up to three persons per institution).



**SABI's activities are supported by the Department of Science and Technology
and the National Research Foundation**

**For more information on SABI please see:
<http://www.nrf.ac.za/focusareas/conserve/sabi.stm>**

In addition, SABI will organize “a student workshop” and possibly “a workshop on teaching systematics” back to back with the forum meeting. Participants of these activities will be expected to attend the SABI forum meeting and costs related to the attendance of these events will be covered by the NRF.

Please RSVP to Mr Frank Mazibuko at Tel: (012) 481 4017 or email: fmazibuko@nrf.ac.za by 15 December 2009 indicating:

- Your name
- Your organization/affiliation
- Your contact details (telephone, email and fax)
- If you are interested in attending any of the back to back events i.e. either the student workshop (for postgrad students and postdocs only) or the teaching systematics workshop (for persons actively involved in teaching courses in systematics)
- If you require the NRF to cover the costs of your travel and accommodation. Please include a motivation of why this should be considered.

Details regarding workshop logistics and supporting documents will only be sent to those whom have confirmed their participation in these events.

Please address all queries to Mr Frank Mazibuko (see contact details above).



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