



Terms of Reference

for individual participation in EDIT Work Package 7

"All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory + Monitoring" (ATBI+M) activities

in Gemer National Parks and protected areas, Slovakia

1.1 General remarks

All individual staff and associates of EDIT partner institutions, as well as any other researcher or individual who will actively participate in EDIT WP7 (ATBI+M) activities, will be required to take note of the following Terms of Reference (ToR), and confirm his/her acknowledgement by signature.

In addition to these ToR, all participating researchers will be requested to take note of and comply with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and/or any other agreement(s) between EDIT WP7 and the relevant local authorities. It is anticipated that a separate MoU or agreement will be concluded for each EDIT WP7 ATBI+M site.

1.2 The goals of the EDIT WP7 (ATBI+M) activities

EDIT WP7 organises biodiversity inventory and monitoring fieldwork for taxonomists in selected sites of conservation value, within and outside the European Union. Particularly EDIT partner institutions are encouraged to support participation in ATBI+M activities by their staff and associates as part of their regular duties. However, all interested taxonomists and researchers are invited to participate under these ToR at designated ATBI+M sites. For their participation, EDIT WP7 offers limited support for travel and accommodation to taxonomists. Additional funding and in kind contributions will be needed to cover full costs of the operations. Participants will benefit from general agreements and permits arranged for by EDIT WP7, but taxonomists need to submit details about the groups to be studied, collection methods to be applied and other specifics in advance. Participants will be assigned as members to international teams for carrying out short-term visits to the ATBI+M sites, with the main purpose to gather geo-referenced primary occurrence data for specific taxonomic groups of their expertise. By participating in EDIT WP7 activities, all researchers agree to share and hand over these primary occurrence data to local authorities and EDIT WP7 for integration into an ATBI+M database. The general goal to promote the free use of those data for biodiversity conservation, particularly by local authorities, and for further dissemination through digital information facilities (e.g. GBIF) should also be endorsed by all participants.

1.3 General conditions for individual participation

- Participants who take part in EDIT WP7 (ATBI+M) activities do so in their individual capacity and will not be employed or contracted for that purpose by EDIT WP7, or by the State Museum of Natural History, Stuttgart (SMNS) as WP7 leader. Consequently, EDIT WP7 or SMNS do not assume any responsibilities of an employer or contractor, and participants must ensure that all conditions of participation and prevailing regulations are in agreement with their institutional or private employer;
- Participants should concentrate their activities within the designated ATBI+M sites, but may extend their research beyond these core areas. In such cases, researchers may have to make their own arrangements with relevant authorities concerning access and work permits;
- EDIT WP7 and local authorities or counterparts are not responsible for individual travel or health insurance of participants, and will not accept any claims of loss of or damage to property or health during participation in ATBI+M activities.

1.4 Responsibilities of the individual participant:

- To take note of and conform with all relevant local legislation and regulations, as well as with the annexed guidelines for individual participation in ATBI+M activities;
- To conduct field work and to behave according to generally accepted standards of best practise and common sense;
- To observe and follow instructions from the EDIT WP7 management, the respective site coordinators, and team leaders, as well as from local authorities and relevant counterparts;
- To deliver primary occurrence data in an agreed digital format to EDIT WP7 management directly or indirectly through team leaders and/or site/scientific coordinators (for details, see annexed guidelines for participation, on data formats);
- To agree that the primary occurrence data delivered will be made publicly available through EDIT WP7 portals (e.g., via the GBIF network), and that such data can be used and consulted by relevant authorities, nature conservation organisations, and other third parties, with due attribution of credit;
- To provide additional information about specific organisms of national heritage value and their conservation needs (if appropriate and/or required by local authorities);
- To collect always in a responsible and respectful manner, also keeping material which might be of interest to other taxonomists and researchers;

- To generally deposit voucher specimens within EDIT institutions, unless previously agreed otherwise by EDIT WP7, while accepting that the deposition of holotypes will be subject to special regulations by the local authorities and host country;
- To publish species descriptions and other relevant publications preferably in open access format or with publishers who allow access to pdf-files without additional charges.

1.5 Responsibilities of EDIT WP7:

- To provide financial support within agreed terms and limits for travel and accommodation during participation in an ATBI+M activity (for details, see annexed guidelines);
- To provide general arrangements for logistics, accommodation, and inventory/monitoring work at the ATBI+M site(s), including provision of relevant permits and organisation of meetings;
- To provide guidelines for recording and geo-referencing of primary occurrence data, including digital templates for data capture;
- To facilitate on-line reporting of field activities and electronic publication of results of ATBI+M work;
- To establish data portal(s) for online presentation of primary occurrence data from ATBI+M sites, and to enable linkages with open access systems (e.g. GBIF) and other relevant networks.

Name: _____

Address line 1: _____

Address line 2: _____

Postal code and city: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Hereby confirms that he/she has taken note and agreed with these Terms of Reference:

[place, date]

[signature]