

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007**

South African National Committee (SANC) of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)

1. Executive Summary

Yashica and Baijnath

Categories	Activities completed- January to December 2007		Activities planned- January to December 2008
2. Background & Composition of National Committee	Dr L. Holtman (Chair) Prof. H. Baijnath Prof. S. Hanrahan Mr F. Kigozi Dr M. Mwale Ms. Y. Singh Mr M. Nxumalo	University of the Western Cape University of KwaZulu-Natal University of Witwatersrand PE Museum SA Institute of Aquatic Biology, Rhodes University South African National Biodiversity Institute Secretariat, NRF	
3. Participation by South Africans in IUBS activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Hugh Glen, Cultivated Plant Specialist at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) attended the 5th International Symposium on Cultivated Plant Taxonomy in Wageningen in October 2007. The symposium was organised by the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) and is responsible to IUBS for the revision and publication of the 'Cultivated Code'. At the Symposium, Dr Glen was elected Vice-President (Africa) of the International Association for Cultivated Plant Taxonomy (IACPT). The ISL section of the NRF is thanked for sponsoring this participation. • (Shirley) The organisation for the International Congress of Entomology (ICE2008) is going very well; the scientific programme has been prepared with 18 parallel sessions, a trade exhibition and a live interactive arthropod exhibition planned jointly with the Durban Natural Science Museum and the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences University of KwaZulu-Natal Durban which will be available to schools and the public. • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANC to meet Jan setup a Local organising Committee to facilitate the 30th General Assembly of IUBS in 2009. • (Shirley) The International Congress of Entomology will be hosted by the Entomological Society in Durban From 6-12th July at the Durban ICC

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3.1. Size of local community		
3.2 South Africans serving on IUBS or its subsidiary bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Monica) DR M Mwale is serving on the steering committees of the South African Biosystematics Initiative (SABI) and the African chapter of the Census of Marine life (CoML) • Dr. Holtman serves as Africa representative on the Executive of the Commission on Biology Education and the Executive of IUBS. 	
3.3 Attendance of International Congresses/Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of conferences attended • Number of South African delegates • Number of papers presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of a SANBI delegation, Ms Singh attended the 18th Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa (AETFAT) Congress in Yaoundé, Cameroon in Feb. and presented a poster on <i>Hypoxis</i>. • (Shirley) S.A.Hanrahan attended the 55th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America held in San Diego in December and presented an invited paper on the possibilities of the development of an International Branch for the Society. (S.A. delegates 2) (No. papers 2) • (Monica) Dr M. Mwale attended the first international training workshop on Barcoding of marine animals in Lucknow, India in April 2007. This workshop was organised by the Census of marine life and consortium of the barcode of life which are both international initiative on biodiversity. <p>The WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association) held their 8th symposium in Durban South Africa which was hosted by the South African Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI). It was attended by delegates from African WIO countries and Africa.</p> <p>I presented two posters and one paper.</p> <p>The first symposium of the South African Antarctic Programme (SANAP) was held in Stellenbosch in October 2007. All South African research involved in Antarctic research were invited. I presented one poster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Holtman led the South African delegation at the General Assembly and Scientific Symposium ("Biological Sciences for the 21st Century: Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Development in an Era of Global Change") of IUBS, 9-13 May, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members have identified a number of conferences and workshops they will attend, e.g.: • SANC representation at ICSU meeting in Mozambique, in 2008 • June 2008 – BioEd 2008 conference • August 2008 Officers meeting (Lorna), France

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	<p>2007 in Washington D.C., USA. She brought back a number of resources and made a number of contacts for SANC. While in Washington D.C., she visited the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and was able to secure 500 DVDs dealing with the teaching of evolution – these will be provided to FET Life Science teachers as resource material.</p>	
<p>3.4 Capacity Building with regard to Membership of National Committee and involvement of young scientists in International Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Holtman was elected Chairman of the SANC in 2007. She is the first female to hold the position. • In May 2007 at the 29th GA in Washington D.C. Dr Holtman was elected as Executive Member of IUBS. • Dr Syd Ramdhani was identified by the SANC and supported by the NRF ISL to attend the XVII Annual Conference of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Seminar on Changing Scenario in Angiosperm Systematics. The event took place at the Shivaji University, Kolhapur in Nov. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit new members preferably from provinces that lack representation. • Identify suitable young scientist to attend the 1st African Digital Curation Conference in Pretoria in February.
<p>3.5 Organisation of IUBS related Conferences in South Africa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Shirley) The Zoological Society of South Africa held a very successful biannual meeting in Potchefstroom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Congress of Entomology to be held in Durban 6-12 July, 2008. Proceeding to plan. • Plans are ahead to setup a Local organising Committee to co-ordinate the 30th IUBS GA in Cape Town in Nov 2009. A scientific symposium will be sandwiched between the start and end of the GA. A LOC will be put together. BioEd strand to be included in the symposium.
<p>3.6 Contribution by members to documents and publications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Baijnath served on the NRF panel that evaluated projects for funding in <i>Systematics and Biogeography of terrestrial and aquatic species</i> in Oct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of a Biology Teachers Journal will be explored.
<p>3.7 Report back on recommendations made during the in depth review</p>		
<p>4. Value to the Community and Benefit to South Africa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inaugural Lecture of the Committee’s Prestigious Lecture Series took place in June in Durban. The guest speaker was Prof. Eugene Moll, President of the Botanical Society of South Africa. Prof. Moll spoke on the <i>Enigma of grass/bush dynamics – 50 years on</i>. The lecture also commemorated the 80th Birthday of Durban based Ecologist, Mr Roddy Ward. It was an open lecture and 150 persons from the scientific community and the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second lecture is scheduled for Cape Town and it intends to invite Prof. Himla Soodyall of the University of the Witwatersrand, as the guest speaker.

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	<p>attended. The NRF funded the event and it was extremely successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Holtman represented SANC as its chairperson at the Inaugural lecture and gave an overview of the work of IUBS locally and internationally. • (Shirley) ICCE2008 will be the first such congress to be held in Africa and it has raised the international profile for our entomologists in S. Africa and the whole continent of Africa. • 	
<p>5. Public Society Interfaces and Outreach Programmes – self initiated or facilitated by ICSU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Fred and Monica) A one week long exhibition of IUBS was put up at the National science festival, SCIFEST in Grahamstown during March. The SANC of IUBS is now recognised as an important contributor to the festival, 2007 being its 3rd successive year at this event. The SANC exhibition comprised of posters, themed static display of mounted animals and live plants, interactive display involving the sense of smell and IUBS brochures. The exhibition was funded by NRF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Fred and Monica) SANC accepted the invitation from SCIFEST and has registered to exhibit at the festival in April.
<p>6. Research Highlights/ New Initiatives in South Africa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mwale was awarded her PhD and has a clear publication plan. 	
<p>7. Science Education (Any activities involving teachers, students, school curriculum development, graduate student development)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Holtman hosted and facilitated a workshop for Curriculum Advisors and Teachers at UWC in July (25-27, 2007) which focused on materials development for the teaching of evolution in the school Life Science curriculum. A publication was produced by the WCED as a result which will be used by teachers as background material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Holtman together with the Africa Genome Education Institute will host teacher workshops to improve Life Science teacher content knowledge and practical skills development.
<p>8. Financial assistance received by South Africans direct from ICSU bodies during 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUBS funded Dr. Holtman’s trip to the GA in Washington. • Dr Syd Ramdhani was funded by the NRF ISI to attend a conference in India. • Dr Hugh Glen, Cultivated Plant Specialist at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) attended the 5th International Symposium on Cultivated Plant Taxonomy in Wageningen in October 2007. ISL sponsored the trip. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source funding for conference and meeting attendance mentioned in 3.3.

