Association Swiss Barcode of Life
c/o Info fauna – CSCF
Avenue de Bellevaux 51
2000 Neuchâtel

SWISS BARCODE OF LIFE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the SwissBOL general assembly of March 18 2022 13h30 – 16h30

Organized online on the Zoom platform

Members present (26): Alther Roman, Alvarez Nadir, Apotheloz Laure, Carrasquer Inés, Christe Camille, Cibois Alice, Dusej Goran, Ferrari Benoit, Gattolliat Jean-Luc, Gauthier Jérémy, Gugerli Felix, Kiebacher Thomas, Lentendu Guillaume, Litsios Glenn, Maccagni Alessio, Miche Sébastien, Mitchell Edward, Montoya Juan, Naciri Yamama, Pawlowski Jan, Sartori Michel Schlegel Markus, Stucki Pascal, Treindl Artemis, Ungricht Stefan, Vuataz Laurent.

Excused (4) : Gross Andrin, Pouchon Charles, Price Michelle, Wyler Sofia

1) Opening – Agenda

Mathieu Perret opens the General Assembly and welcomes all participants to the 2022 virtual meeting of the SwissBOL association. Participants are notified that the meeting is recorded to help in the drafting of the minutes. Decisions will be taken by anonymous voting in Zoom.

The agenda included in the invitation email is the following:

1) Opening – Agenda
2) Information on the minutes of the GA 2020
3) Statutory part : a) members, b) committee, c) accounting, d) changes in the status, e) taxes exemption
4) President report on SwissBOL participation to international networks (iBOL, BIOSCAN-EU, Biodiversity Genomics Europe) & Information on the national initiative SwissSpecimen and SwissCollNet projects involving SwissBOL.
5) Secretary report on 2021 : current state and perspectives for genetic data with the GBIF.ch
6) Scientific reports

2) Information on the minutes of the GA 2020

The minute of the General Assembly held on Zoom on May 31 2021 has been deposited on the SwissBOL website (http://www.swissbol.ch/swissbol/home/association.html). No questions nor comments were received by SwissBOL members.

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3) Statutory part

a) Members

The association has 58 members from different horizons (academics, private companies, non-professional experts) and from different regions in Switzerland.
This year SwissBOL welcome 10 new members: Felix Gugerli, Maria Holzmann, Guillaume Lentendu, Glenn Litsios, Alessio Maccagni, Sébastien Miche, Charles Pouchon, Markus Schlegel, Artemis Treindl, Laurent Vuataz.

The president indicates that SwissBOL would be glad to attract more new members and encourages the current members to speak about the association to any person potentially interested. Inscription can be done by sending an email to mathieu.perret@ville-ge.ch. There is no fee.

b) SwissBOL committee

Sofia Wyler expressed to the board (email of Mach 1 2022) the wish to leave the SwissBOL committee after this GA.

Sofia has been active in SwissBOL since its creation 10 years ago. She contributed to its evolution and secured the essential link between SwissBOL and the GBIF.ch during these years. Within the board, Sofia cumulated the secretary and treasurer taskes and handled all the administrative duties essential for the operation of the association.

The board warmly thanks Sofia for her long-term commitment and efficient work

In order to maintain a strong link with the GBIF.ch, the board proposes to replace Sofia Wyler by Glenn Litsios, who kindly accepted to join the committee.

Following these changes, the board for SwissBOL is composed by:

- Glenn Litsios (info fauna)
- Alice Cibois (Muséum d'Histoire naturelle de Genève)
- Andrin Gross (Institut fédéral WSL)
- Edward Mitchell (Université de Neuchâtel)
- Jan Pawlowski (Université de Genève)
- Thomas Kiebacher (UniZ)
- Roman Alther (eawag)
- Nadir Alvarez (Muséum cantonal des sciences naturelles, VD)
- Mathieu Perret - Président (Conservatoire et jardin botaniques de Genève)

Decision : The members accept this board composition by 23 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

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c) Financial report

The 2021 accounting is presented by Mathieu Perret and is summarized in the table below:

	Crédits	Débits	
Donation (Fondation Paul Broennimann)	204.50 CHF		
Fee for iBOL (5000 CAN$)		3 692.00 CHF	
Banking fees (Post Finance account)		122.00 CHF	
Total	209.50 CHF	3 819.00 CHF	
Exercice 2021			**- 3 609.50** CHF
Solde 2020			12 351.00 CHF
Solde 2021			**8 741.50** CHF

The main annual expense is the fees to be member of iBOL. The board will have to seek for new sources of income to cover this expense in the future.

Accounting have been checked by Laure APOTHELOZ-PERRET-GENTIL & Camille CHRISTE
Thank you !

Decision : The members accept the 2021 accounting by 23 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

d) New status

The board proposes a new formulation of the SwissBOL status to promote our chance to be fully exempt from the obligation to pay taxes. A document with the new formulation of our status has been sent to all members with the Zoom invitation email.

Mathieu Perret explains that currently SwissBOL is an association with ideal aim (à but idéal) and pays taxes only if the benefice is over 20'000 CHF. According to the decision (10.11. 2020) of the « Service des contributions du canton de Neuchâtel», our association does not meet two criteria to be fully exempt from taxes: 1) the association is not "selflessness»/désintéressée", 2) the association is not of general interest.

To address this issue, the board proposes the following changes in the articles 3 and 4 (original text in French).

Article 3 Buts

SwissBOL est une association à but non lucratif qui vise la coordination centrale des activités liées à la documentation de la diversité génétique en lien avec l'étude et la conservation de la biodiversité en Suisse. Les buts de SwissBOL sont de :

a) Créer un réseau de compétences national en matière de séquençage de l'ADN et d'analyses génétiques appliquées à l'étude et au suivi de la biodiversité en Suisse ;

b) Développer des pratiques communes qui facilitent l'acquisition, l'enregistrement et l'échange d'informations génétiques sur la biodiversité en Suisse, tout en garantissant l'accès public à ces données ;

c) Promouvoir l'utilisation des approches génétiques (comme les codes-barres ADN) pour faciliter le recensement et la conservation de la biodiversité en Suisse ;

d) Renforcer la collaboration et les échanges avec les particuliers, institutions ou initiatives nationales et internationales actives dans le même domaine.

L'Association peut utiliser tous les moyens d'action permettant d'atteindre ces buts.

Article 4 Membres

Peuvent devenir membre de l'Association :

a) toutes personnes ayant un intérêt pour les sciences naturelles et la biodiversité suisse, et souhaitant s'informer ou contribuer à l'inventaire génétique de la biodiversité suisse ;

b) des scientifiques appartenant aux services cantonaux ou fédéraux, aux instituts fédéraux, aux centres de données, aux hautes écoles, ou des indépendants de la recherche;

c) des représentants des Musées d'Histoire Naturelle et des Jardins et Conservatoires botaniques et zoologiques ;

d) des représentants d'associations, d'organisations non gouvernementales, et de sociétés savantes intéressés par l'application des méthodes génétiques à la systématique et au monitoring environnemental ;

e) des représentants d'entreprises privées actives dans la gestion de l'environnement.

Decision : The members accept the new status by 23 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention. Mathieu Perret will submit a new demand of taxe exemption to the « Service des contributions du canton de Neuchâtel».

4) President report

SwissBOL participation to Bioscan-EU network

- Since March 2021, SwissBOL is a member of the Bioscan-EU network (https://www.bioscaneurope.org/).
- The goal of this network is mainly to seek for funding barcoding of life projects at the scale to the EU. It meets periodically: Jan. 31st 2022, next March 28th (16:00h-17:30h CET)

SwissBOL expression of interest to be part of a EU Horizon CL6 2021 project

- On April 2021, SwissBOL expressed its interest to be part of a EU Horizon CL6 2021 project initiated by BIOSCAN-Europe et ERGA (European Reference Genome Atlas, https://www.erga-biodiversity.eu/).
- SwissBOL was not selected for the call.
- The proposal entitled « Biodiversity Genomics Europe (BGE)" has been submitted. It includes 29 partners from 19 countries: Naturalis NL, RBGE GB, Sanger GB, IZW DE, UNIFI IT, SNSB DE, JYU FI, CIBIO-InBIO PT, Genoscope FR, ZFMK DE, UT EE, SciLifeLab NO, CNAG-CRG ES, ELIXIR / EMBL GB, NTNU NO, CSIC ES, UiO NO, NHM GB, CETAF BE, UP SI, UniLodz PL, AUTh GR, NHMC GR, UniZagreb CR, HNHM HU, UNIL CH, iBoL CA, Rockefeller US, EBP US.

Unil is the only Swiss institution involved in the proposal.

IBOL events

- iBOL Science Committee meeting (last August 31 2021): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mllbhNoZOYc
- iBOL Consortium has lauched its BIOSCAN: Illuminating Biodiversity webinar series (https://ibol.org/news-and-media/news-and-events/). Recordings of these presentations are available on youtube.
- Inernational Confernce on DNA Barcoding and Biodiversity in Sofia, Bulagaria, 25-27 May 2022

National initiatives involving SwissBOL

- SwissCollNet (2022-2024) - december 2021 call. One project involving SwissBOL has been submitted: *Digitization of the Swiss botanical biobanks for Seeds and DNA* (submitted by Mathieu Perret and Andreas Ensslin on December 2021)
- Nadir Alvarez presents briefly the *SwissSpecimen* proposal (2025-2028)**:** making Swiss biobanks and natural history collections accessible to science and society (submitted by Nadir Alvarez to the FNS on December 2021).

5) Secretary report (This part has been presented by Glenn Litsios in the absence of Sofia Wyler)

Some 2021 achievements in the databasing of genetic data within the GBIF.ch

1. Publication of national checklists → complete inventories for groups with few information and use barcodes to better assess species circumscription.
2. Publication of SwissBOL datasets related to museum specimens (e.g., connections between observations, BOLD data and specimen information for butterfly).
3. Progress on genetic referential for orthopterans, molluscs in relation to the preparation of red lists.
4. Database improvement within the GBIF.ch that now includes concepts allowing the inclusion of genomic and NGS sequencing data.
5. Participation to the French translation of the GBIF guide to publish DNA-derived data.

Still in progress:

1. Proposal of the best practices concerning eDNA data. Now this technique is largely used by the cantons to assess aquatic biodiversity. The idea is to safely store this type of data and uniformize the practices to make possible data reuse.
2. Development of database to allow the management of DNA collections (DNA bank)
3. Improve the taxonomic coverage of groups with DNA-derived datasets
4. Integration of Neobiota in the Swiss biodiversity inventory logic and development of barcoding procedures to identify them
5. Development of the PICT+ to allow the integration of difference source of data (observations, museum specimens, genetic barcoding data) and to avoid the duplication the different information related to a same specimen.
6. Development of a central Swiss portal

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Question1 (by Juan Montoya): How far are you in the development of best practices for eDNA? Is an evidence of a species occurrence obtained by eDNA data is considered a valid observation?
Response1 (by Sofia Wyler): *Le but est de proposer aux cantons/confédération (mandataires d'études de suivi aquatique basé sur l'eDNA) des recommandations en ce qui concerne les informations nécessaires à la validation des données transmis à infospecies pour la présence/absence d'espèces. L'idée est que les labos mandatés pour réaliser les analyses (compagnies privées pour la plupart) fournissent avec les rapports d'études une matrice détaillant les processus et garantissent que les données brutes soient publiquement accessibles. Les occurrences d'espèces identifiées par la génétique peuvent ainsi être validées selon l'interprétation de ces informations primaires. Le tout est coordonné avec les guidelines internationales pour le mapping des données DNA-derived.*

Question2 (by Mathieu Perret) : There is an urgent need to make the genetic data visible and accessible through a dedicated portal. What could be done to improve the current state? Shall we develop a project?
Response (by Glenn Litsios): I agree with this because at the moment all the barcoding datasets are not visible beside a pilot project on butterfly and this situation is not satisfactory. It is something we will quickly improve and that we have on our "to do list".

6) Scientific reports (15 min each)

- Laure Apothéloz (UniGE): "Environmental DNA in aquatic monitoring: applications in Switzerland"
- Guillaume Lentendu (UniNE) "Strategies for group specific eDNA metabarcoding of soil eukaryotes"
- Artemis Treindl (WSL): "A new study design for the revision of the Red List of Swiss fungi – combining traditional field surveys and modern metabarcoding approaches"
- Felix Gugerli (WSL): "GenDiB — Feasibility study for a new national database on geo-referenced genetic diversity in populations of wild species