

IDENTIFICATION SERVICE

Our identification service is available to all stakeholders who deal with biological materials of policy concern and who need accurate identifications. For species identification requests, please contact us directly or fill in the Request Sample Identification form on our website. If necessary, we can offer you advice on how to preserve and ship your sample(s).

Samples sent to BopCo for identification may involve, for example, whole specimens, body parts, and fresh, dried or processed tissues. Species identification by BopCo is primarily based on DNA barcoding, but if possible may also rely on other species specific features.

The output of each identification request is a report containing the identification of the sample(s), details on the identification procedure, the DNA barcoding sequence(s) if requested, and other relevant background information.

Species identification requests will only be executed insofar they comply with the scope of BopCo and costs may be charged. For more information please visit our website. All services provided by BopCo are subject to the General Terms & Conditions which can be consulted on our website bopco.myspecies.info.

CONTACT DETAILS

- Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)
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- Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA)
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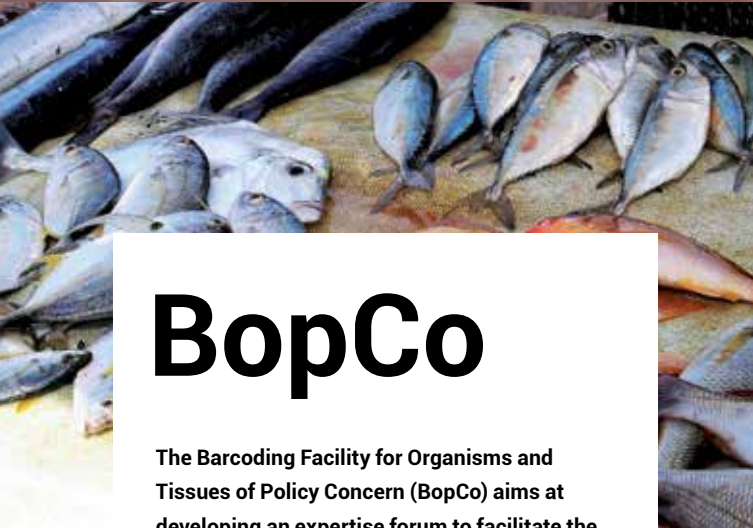
BopCo is supported by:



BopCo

A BARCODING FACILITY
FOR ORGANISMS AND TISSUES
OF POLICY CONCERN





BopCo

The Barcoding Facility for Organisms and Tissues of Policy Concern (BopCo) aims at developing an expertise forum to facilitate the identification of biological samples of policy concern. The project is jointly run by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), and is part of the Belgian federal contribution of the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo) to the European Research Infrastructure Consortium LifeWatch. Within this framework BopCo acts as a focal point for identifying organisms of policy concern and their derived products upon request, by providing access to the necessary expertise and infrastructure.

ORGANISMS OF POLICY CONCERN

Organisms of policy concern often require accurate identifications. They include, but are not limited to, endangered species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Invasive Alien Species (IAS), agricultural pest species, human and veterinary disease organisms and their vectors, organisms of the food chain, species of forensic interest, quarantine species, species with economic impacts, indicator and sentinel species, species that damage or pose risks to human infrastructures and activities, etc.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATIONS

Identifications can rely on traditional morphology-based approaches employing the taxonomic expertise and specimen collections at our disposal in both RBINS and RMCA. However, when morphological identifications are not possible (e.g. early life stages, processed food items), DNA barcoding offers an important additional tool to produce reliable identifications. It uses short DNA sequences as taxonomic 'barcodes', which are compared and matched with well-identified sequences in reference databases. If needed or relevant, other DNA technologies can be applied to identify the biological materials. To perform DNA-based species identifications BopCo has access to fully equipped DNA laboratories at RBINS and RMCA.

BARCODING PROJECTS

A prerequisite to use DNA barcoding is the availability of comprehensive and reliable reference barcode libraries. Therefore, BopCo also contributes to populating DNA barcode databases of taxa of policy concern. To this end, BopCo produces new DNA barcodes, which comply with the Barcode of Life Database (BOLD) standards and which are made publicly available through the BOLD platform. BopCo is constantly looking for partnerships with other taxonomic experts, research teams, governmental agencies, etc. If you are interested in collaborating with BopCo or just want more information on potential joint projects, please do not hesitate to contact us for more details.