

ICGN Steering Committee
Minutes Teleconference November 15, 2010

Participants teleconference November 15, 2010

Philippe Lashermes, Chair ICGN Steering Committee and Coordinator WG3 Genome Sequencing

Marcela Yepes, Executive Secretary ICGN

Charles Agwanda, ICGN Coordinator WG1 Biodiversity

Thierry Leroy, ICGN Coordinator WG2 Genetic Mapping (contacted Alan Andrade, Coordinator WG4 Transcriptomics who was unable to participate on the call)

H. L. Sreenath, ICGN Coordinator WG5 Gene Validation (tried to connect but could not so teleconference topics were discussed via e-mail)

André Charrier, Former ICGN Chair (participated in phone conference November 22nd and on discussions with Bioversity)

Prior to this teleconference discussions were also initiated with Bioversity regarding how to improve the www site, update the mailing list, and conduct an on line survey

Ehsan Dulloo, Bioversity Italy

Nicolas Roux, Bioversity France

Thomas Vidal, Bioversity, ICGN www site technical support

Steering Committee Conference call Agenda

1. Summary update of ongoing ICGN projects
2. Discussions on ICGN current and future organization
3. Discussions on how to enhance the www site to facilitate communications with ICGN members: this topic is being followed up with Bioversity, who has kindly supported at no cost our ICGN www site since 2005 and has already expressed interest to continue their support.
4. Preparation of a survey with all ICGN members to have their input on: areas and proposals of interest to the ICGN community for the next five years, as well as network organization. As part of the survey members will be asked to update current member information in the www site. Researchers and Institutes interested on joining the network will be contacted and asked to submit their application on line.

Update Working Group Coordinators

WG1 Diversity. *Charles Agwanda, Coordinator.* ICGN is trying to explore in collaboration with ICO the launching of a global strategy for diversity characterization, enhanced utilization and conservation of *Coffea* diversity. In the past, it has been difficult to secure international funding for conservation efforts in *Coffea* despite the great importance for the coffee scientific community worldwide. Activities such as the inventory and phenotypic evaluation of *in situ* and *ex situ* germplasm collections, and the establishment of multi-local trials of representative genotypes are being discussed. The importance of rigorously identifying the biological resources used by the different partners that could be shared or selected as references was pointed out. ICGN and ICO

will distribute a survey to identify which countries and research institutes may be interested on working in this topic particularly with the challenges of climate change and the need to enhance the utilization of diversity in breeding programs to ensure adaptation of the crop.

WG2 Mapping. *Thierry Leroy, Coordinator.* As the coffee high-density genetic mapping information is generated and released, a follow up topic of interest for the community will be association mapping. ICGN will explore community interest on working on this topic to identify countries and institutions interested. As reported at the ASIC meeting in Indonesia, an international high density reference genetic map for *Coffea canephora* Pierre is being constructed in collaboration with R&D Nestlé Center and the Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute. The high-density mapping information will be required to anchor the genome sequences to the chromosomes. The mapping information will be used once the first genome assembly is completed later this year and will be instrumental to help develop tools needed for coffee breeding for economically important traits.

WG3 Coffee Genome Sequencing. *Philippe Lashermes, Coordinator.* With funding from the French Agency ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche), several institutes (Genoscope-CEA, IRD, CIRAD) are combining their scientific resources and expertise to sequence, assemble, and annotate the entire genome of *C. canephora*. The *C. canephora* genome consists of 11 chromosomes, is about 710 Mb in size, and is being sequenced *de novo* with deep coverage using different sequencing platforms to obtain a reference genome for *Coffea*. The overall sequencing strategy was described during the ASIC meeting in Indonesia, and progress on genome assembly was presented at the upcoming Coffee Genomics Workshop organized by ICGN as part of the Plant and Animal Genome Meeting in San Diego (see <http://www.intl-pag.org/19/19-coffee.html>) for workshop information, and <http://www.intl-pag.org> for meeting information).

WG4/WG5: Functional Genomics. *Alan Andrade and L. Sreenath, Coordinators.* Unfortunately Alan Andrade and L. Sreenath did not participate in the teleconference. Alan Andrade was contacted by Thierry LeRoy, and L. Sreenath by Marcela Yepes to update them on the discussions and ask them to provide their comments by e-mail.

WG6: Bioinformatics. *Lukas Mueller, Coordinator* As the coffee genome sequences and the mapping information is released coordinated bioinformatics efforts will be indispensable. At our next ICGN meeting, we will organize a bioinformatics section and Lukas Mueller will present as an example how the SGN (Sol Genomics Network) and other networks are organized, and possibilities to coordinate internationally efforts through mirror web sites and web-services.

ICGN Web Site Enhancement

It was of general consensus at the ASIC meeting in Indonesia that the Web site should be enhanced as it is a major link for communications between all ICGN members. ICGN is discussing currently with Bioversity how to enhance the www site to promote network development particularly as the coffee genome sequencing and mapping information

becomes available.

Survey and Membership: • The Steering Committee will explore through a survey projects and areas of interest for the community, as well as what members may be interested on having a leadership role to help prepare and secure funding for projects. The survey will be conducted at the regional level to promote ICGN efforts and encourage new members to join the network.

Next ICGN Meeting:

The next ICGN meeting will be organized in conjunction with the Coffee Genomics Workshop offered as part of the Plant and Animal Genome Meeting in San Diego, California, January 15-19, 2011 (<http://www.intl-pag.org>).