

Organization: The National Biodiversity Institute of Costa Rica – INBio

Project Location: Costa Rica

Web Address: www.inbio.ac.cr

Title of Grant: "Bioinformatics Training Workshop – Supplemental Grant"

Grant Amount: \$2,000

Principal Investigator: Erick Mata

Organization Background:

The National Biodiversity Institute of Costa Rica or INBio as it is widely known, is a non-profit public interest non-governmental organization of the civil society. It was established in 1989 to support the efforts on generating knowledge of the biological diversity of the country and promote its sustainable use. It operates in close collaboration with diverse government agencies, universities, enterprises and other public and private institutions in and out of the country.

Its mission is to "promote a greater awareness of the value of biodiversity and thereby achieve its conservation and improve the quality of life of the human beings."

Grant Description:

In response to a call for proposals for travel/study grants made by the Foundation in January of 2009, a workshop entitled "Sharing the experiences of developing and using biodiversity information management systems in the developing world: the INBio experience" was proposed by INBio and approved for funding by the Foundation in April 2009. The workshop took place at INBio's premises, in Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica, on July 13-20, 2009. It had ten participants, six from Kenya, two from South Africa, and two from India. All participants were currently involved in the execution of projects funded by the JRS Biodiversity Foundation.

The main goal of the workshop was to build capacity by discussing the key issues involved in designing and implementing biodiversity information management systems in developing countries and by establishing partnerships to address the main challenges and opportunities.

A final evaluation of the workshop by the participants demonstrated the value of the training and the personal networks that were developed. A \$2,000 supplemental grant was thus made by the Foundation to cover the final costs of all individuals who participated.