

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT OF A GLOBAL NETWORK

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Abstract:

The Global Biological Resource Centre Network (GBRCN) Demonstration Project aims to network collections to give better access to high quality resources and improve their use in research. No one single collection can provide the needs of the life sciences and biotechnology, a collaborative approach is necessary. Networking and co-ordinated effort will provide the authentic high quality resources that will enable better use of microbial diversity and contribute globally to answering the big questions of climate change, healthcare, food security and poverty alleviation. A global BRC network will deliver a wide range of expert services and several outputs will have social impact in several areas for example: Biopiracy: Mechanisms for legitimate access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits will be implemented Bioterrorism: This extremely important and emotive issue a GBRCN can help control access against misuse through implementation of best practice and a code of conduct Employment: The development of the infrastructure and improved delivery of materials and information into the bioeconomy will generate employment opportunities Poverty eradication: helping establish MRCs in the countries of developing economies with outputs that impact on the livelihoods of local communities International development: MRCs can impact directly on development providing mechanisms to utilise biodiversity within country for the direct benefit of the local population. Supporting in-country capacity building in human resource development, facility enhancement and implementation strategy. The GBRCN has a small secretariat currently funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research, this is essential for a network to function. It provides a dedicated workforce to ensure tasks are completed in a timely fashion working for the network members. Currently most scientific organisations rely heavily on volunteers giving the time they can afford driven by other priorities. The GBRCN Secretariat will continue to work with its collaborators, users and policy makers to deliver social, economic, scientific and community impact from the global network.

Key words: BRC, GBRCN, WFCC, Biopiracy, Bioterrorism