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Foreword

The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) was developed by governments through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) after acknowledging the existence of taxonomic impediment to the sound management of biodiversity. The main aim of the strategy is to develop the human resources and infrastructure necessary to generate, disseminate and use taxonomic knowledge and information in a manner that assists parties in effectively implementing the convention. The National Taxonomy Committee (NTC) is a committee mandated to drive the Global Taxonomy Initiative programme of work in Botswana.

The Botswana Taxonomic Needs Assessment of 2014, carried out by the NTC, revealed that there was limited information sharing amongst institutions working on biodiversity/taxonomy. It also revealed the absence of taxonomy networks in the country. Subsequent to that the NTC agreed to organize the Botswana Biodiversity Symposia where researchers in biodiversity and taxonomy would come together and share their research findings. The NTC and the Department of National Museum and Monuments (Secretariat) held the first Botswana Biodiversity Symposium in February 2016 under the theme “Knowing what you have... key to sustainable biological heritage”. Following the success of the first Symposium the Committee decided to hold the Symposium biennially. The second Symposium was held in February 2018 under the theme “Biodiversity Management - A Strategy for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”. The objectives of this Symposium were to: showcase recent advances in taxonomic research and development, provide a platform for national biodiversity experts to network, share research and development experiences, and provide opportunities for various institutions to showcase their activities through displays/exhibitions.

Thirty eight oral presentations and four posters were made during the Symposium. The presentations were very informative and can inform policy formulation and implementation with regards to biodiversity conservation in Botswana. We hope that the three out of thirty eight presentations compiled in this journal will be valuable to researchers and the public at large.

Marumo Kedumetse Marumo

NTC Focal Person

Table of Contents

Foreword	ii
Marumo Kedumetse Marumo	
Climate change and plant pathogen biodiversity: The case of witches' broom outbreak on <i>Vachellia xanthophloea</i> (Benth.) Banfi & Galasso) in Botswana.....	1–7
E.B. Khonga	
Classification, description and mapping of the vegetation in Khutse Game Reserve, Botswana	8–23
T. Lori, M.K. Dithlogo, M.P. Setshogo and P. Koosaletse-Mswela	
Biodiversity and climate change perceptions in arid lands-implications for sustainable development in Botswana	24–31
J.R. Atlhopheng, M.G. Moshoeshoe, G. Phunyuka and W. Mokgopa	