

FINANCIAL NEWS

A proposal of training through research and mobility to strengthen the botanical expertise in Malesia has been submitted to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the MacArthur Foundation to support our proposal this time due to limited resources, although the importance of the work was recognised and our project was called very worthy and appealing.

As experience has shown that direct funding of the Flora Malesiana project is very difficult to obtain, this model of training in combination with research will have to be developed further. Therefore, the same proposal has been submitted by L on behalf of the other participants (BO, K, FRIM, LAE, PNH) to the European Union for funding in the Science and Technology for Developing countries programme. The proposal comprises two post-doctoral fellowships (the European participants) and four PhD-projects (the Malesian participants) to form a working team and study a number of Euphorbiaceae tribes; the postdocs and PhD-students will act also as liaison officers for their respective home countries.¹

¹ Just before this issue of the Flora Malesiana Bulletin was processed, the news came that this proposal has been rejected on formal grounds. According to the committee of the European Union it does not fit the criteria of this programme; no qualitative judgement was given. By the end of this year the European Union will launch a new programme, in which, following the Biodiversity Convention of the Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), biodiversity studies will get more emphasis.

Two independent funding programmes related to biodiversity conservation may soon benefit floristic and faunistic research in Indonesia.

First, the Government of Indonesia is in the final stages of preparing a five-year, ten million dollar, "Biodiversity Collections" project for prospective funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), under the aegis of the World Bank. It is expected that a GEF grant of \$ 7.0 million will be in place by June this year to support the restoration and development of the collections at BO and the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, including systematics training and specimen databasing components.

Second, under a joint "Biodiversity Conservation" initiative by the Governments of Indonesia, Japan, and the USA, it is proposed that up to \$ 15 million (of \$ 40 million total) will be made available for building a new air-conditioned zoological museum in Cibinong (Java) to re-house the existing collections of the Research and Development Centres of Biology and Oceanology. Future funding activities under this programme are expected to include support for research, training, and biodiversity data management.