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<https://bopco.be/>



<https://speciesid.be/>



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BopCo



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BopCo

Species identification services
for biological samples
of policy concern

African Clawed Frog
Invasive species

Female Kestrel
CITES – Protected species

What is BopCo?

BopCo is a species identification unit jointly run by the Institute of Natural Sciences and the AfricaMuseum. It is funded by the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo). BopCo specializes in the **identification of policy-relevant organisms** and their **derived products**, using DNA analysis tools and expert taxonomic knowledge. Our services are available to various stakeholders, including governments, researchers, and private organizations to address issues such as **invasive species**, **protected wildlife**, **agricultural pests**, and more.

Organisms of policy concern

BopCo focuses on accurately identifying species relevant to policy, including:

- **Endangered** species (e.g. CITES list)
- **Invasive** alien species
- **Pest** species
- Human/animal **disease organisms** & their vectors
- **Food chain** organisms
- **Forensic & quarantine** species
- **Economically impactful** species
- **Indicators & sentinels**

Asian Bush Mosquito
Public health



Wild meat
Public health, Protected species

How do I request an identification?

Contact us via **email** or fill in the **Request Sample Identification form** on our website.

Who can use this service?

Anyone handling **biological materials of policy concern** who requires accurate species identification.

What kind of samples can I send?

We accept **whole specimens**, **body parts**, and fresh, dried, or processed **tissues**. Protocols on how to send us your samples can be found on our website. If needed, we can advise you on how to preserve and ship your samples properly.

How is the identification done?

Primarily through **DNA barcoding**. However, depending on the requirements of the client and nature of the request **other techniques** (eDNA, qPCR, ancient DNA, microsatellite analysis ...) can be applied as well.

Species identification

Species can be identified via traditional **morphology**, using the taxonomic expertise and reference collections at the Institute of Natural Sciences and the AfricaMuseum. When morphology doesn't suffice (e.g. early life stages or processed items), **DNA barcoding** is used – matching short DNA sequences ('barcodes') to reference databases. Other molecular tools may also be used, depending on the request.

What will I receive?

A **detailed report** that includes identification results, description of the procedure, DNA barcoding sequences (if requested), and relevant information on the identified species.

Are there any limitations or costs?

Requests must fall within BopCo's **scope of services** and an **estimate of the costs** will be made as you apply for your request.

Seafood
Food chain verification



Barn Owl
protected species

Australian flatworm
Invasive species

