

*Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.*

Contracting Party:	Government of Antigua and Barbuda
<b><i>National Focal Point</i></b>	
Full name of the institution:	Environment Division
Name and title of contact officer:	Diann Black-Layne
Mailing address:	Ministry of Works, Transportation & Environment #1 Prime Minister's Office Drive St. John's Antigua
Telephone:	(1-268) 462-6265/ 562-2568
Fax:	(1-268)460-7278
E-mail:	mail@environmentdivision.info
<b><i>Contact officer for this report (if different)</i></b>	
Name and title of contact officer:	Ruleta Camacho
Mailing address:	Ministry of Works, Transportation & Environment #1 Prime Minister's Office Drive St. John's Antigua
Telephone:	(1-268) 462-6265/ 562-2568
Fax:	(1-268) 460-7278
E-mail:	mail@environmentdivision.info
<b><i>Submission</i></b>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	Ruleta Camacho
Date of submission:	August 3, 2005

*Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material, which was used as a basis for the report.*

This report was compiled The Ministry of Works, Environmental Division of the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

In the process of completing this report several key agencies were contacted and interviews were conducted with the relevant officials from the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS). Along with officials from the Chemistry and Food Technology Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

This report was also based on the relevant books and publications, such as: Integrating Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean; which was a National report done on Antigua and Barbuda.

Transforming Antigua and Barbuda; which is a publication that illustrates of the inventories of the Current status and uses of Modern Biotechnology and Capacity- Building National Projects related to the safe use of biotechnology, was reviewed.

**REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE  
GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE**

**Programme of Work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative  
Annex to Decision VI/8**

**Operational Objective 1. Assess taxonomic needs and capacities at national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Convention**

1. Has your country undertaken any taxonomic needs assessments and identified priorities in this regard?	
a) No (please specify the reasons)	
b) No, but assessment is under way	
c) Yes, some needs assessments made (please provide details)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments made (please provide details)	
Further comments on country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities	
A taxonomic needs assessment was prepared on GMO's by a combined effort by the Central Board of Health (CBH), the Environmental Division, the Plant Protection Unit, and Abbott Farms. The assessment included basic taxonomic research and surveys with focus on protected areas, caves, and other fragile ecosystems.	
2. Has your country worked with other countries in the region to undertake regional taxonomic needs assessments and identify priorities in this regard?	
a) No (please specify the reasons)	
b) No, but some collaborative projects are being considered or planned	X
c) Yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	
d) Yes, many activities undertaken (please provide details)	
Further comments on regional taxonomic needs assessment and identification of priorities	
3. Is your country involved in any activities, as part of a global taxonomic needs assessment?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on the involvement in the activities for the global taxonomic needs assessment	
4. Is your country undertaking any activities of public education and awareness to promote the implementation of the Programme of work for the GTI?	
a) No	
b) yes, some programmes developed and some activities undertaken (please provide details)	X
c) yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken (please provide details)	

Further comments on public education and awareness programmes and activities

**Operational objective 2. Provide focus to help build and maintain the systems and infrastructure needed to obtain, collate and curate the biological specimens that are the basis for taxonomic knowledge**

5. Is your country working to strengthen global and regional capacity building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information <sup>1</sup> ?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	X
b) no, but some programmes under development	
c) yes, limited capacity building (please provide details)	
d) yes, significant capacity building (please provide details)	
Further comments on global and regional capacity building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information	
The reasons for this are: - The lack of skilled labour in the relevant fields. - The lack of technical resources.	
6. Is your country working with other countries to create and/or strengthen the networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy?	
a) no	
b) no, but consultation is under way	
c) no, but some plans and programmes are under development	
d) yes, some activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	X
e) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	
Further comments on strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy	
Antigua and Barbuda is working to strengthen networks by contributing information to the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABN). Also, Antigua and Barbuda contributes information to the website.	

<sup>1</sup> Responses to question 5 are expected to focus on, but not limited to (a) human capacity building; (b) infrastructure capacity building.

**Operational objective 3. Facilitate an improved and effective infrastructure/system for access to taxonomic information, with priority on ensuring that countries of origin gain access to information concerning elements of their biodiversity**

7. Is your country involved in the development of a coordinated global taxonomy information system, in particular the infrastructure to access digitized data/information?	
a) no	
b) no, but some plans are being considered	X
c) yes, to a limited extent (please provide details)	
d) yes, to a significant extent (please provide details)	
Further comments on involvement in the development of a coordinated global taxonomy information system	

**Operational objective 4. Within the major thematic work programmes of the Convention include key taxonomic objectives to generate information needed for decision-making in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components**

8. Has your country made any taxonomic studies and inventories at the national level, which provide a basic assessment of forest biological diversity, in particular in areas under current threat for habitat conversion, or of high conservation value?	
a) no (please provide the reasons)	
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
c) yes, some studies and inventories made (please provide details)	X
d) yes, comprehensive studies and inventories made (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic studies and inventories made for a basic assessment of forest biological diversity	
Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABN) Inventories: independent and smaller scale investigations were done on The Great Bird Island and the Codrington Lagoon.	
9. Has your country undertaken any taxonomy-related activities relating to marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular taxonomic work related to identification of ballast water organisms and monitoring health of mangrove systems through their invertebrate fauna?	
a) no	
b) not applicable	
c) no, but some programmes are under development	
d) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	X
e) yes, many measures undertaken (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomy-related activities identified in the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity	
Taxonomic surveys involving ballast water organisms or mangrove monitoring have been published. Additionally, taxonomy-related activities have been taken in relation to birds, lizards, and the runner snake that live on Antigua and Barbuda have been done by IUCN / SSC	

10. Has your country developed taxonomic support for implementing relevant actions identified in the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, in particular identification of key indicator taxa like lichens?	
a) no (please provide reasons and plans for improvement)	
b) not applicable	
c) no, but some programmes are under development	
d) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	X
e) yes, many activities undertaken (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support for implementing the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	
Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABN)	
11. Has your country developed taxonomic support for implementing relevant actions identified in the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity, in particular regional guides to freshwater fish and invertebrates as an input to ecosystem monitoring for river and lake health?	
a) no	
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
c) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	X
d) yes, many activities undertaken (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity	
Various guides classifying the different types of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds have been compiled, and the some steps have been taken to monitor the health and safety of the organisms.	
12. Has your country undertaken any taxonomy-related activities identified in the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity as well as relevant activities identified in the International Pollinator Initiative and the International Soil Biodiversity Initiative?	
a) no	
b) no, but some activities are being planned	X
c) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomy-related activities for the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity	

13. Is your country developing any taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity, in particular identification of biodiversity components unique to mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	X
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
c) yes, limited support (please provide details)	
d) yes, significant support (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity	
14. Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas?	
a) no	
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place and are being implemented (please provide details)	X
d) yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support provided to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas	
The Ministry of Works, Transportation & Environment, Environmental Division has a national statute establishing a network of protected areas. The taxonomic support programmes have mainly been socio- economical. The programs have focused on bio-diversity, and the protected areas, such as The Great Bird Island, Red Head Island and Green Island.	

***Operational objective 5. Within the work on cross-cutting issues of the Convention include key taxonomic objectives to generate information needed for decision-making in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components***

15. Has your country taken any measures to strengthen capacity for the inventory and classification of biodiversity and its components in the development of a national strategy on access and benefit-sharing?	
a) no	
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
c) yes, some measures taken (please provide details)	X
d) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures to strengthen capacity for the inventory and classification of biodiversity and its components in the development of a national strategy on access and benefit-sharing	
Limited primary inventory and classification was done being undertaken by the Environmental Division in cooperation with various environmentalists and The Marine Resource Division.	

16. Has your country developed taxonomic support to address the issues of invasive alien species?	
a) no	X
b) no, but relevant policy and programme under development	
c) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support to address the issues of invasive alien species	
17. Has your country developed taxonomic information system to support the maintenance, preservation and protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities in accordance with Article 8(j) and related provisions?	
a) No	X
b) Not applicable	
c) No, but some programs are under development	
d) Yes, some activities undertaken but a system is not in place yet (please provide details)	
e) Yes, a taxonomic information system in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the taxonomic information system to support the maintenance, preservation and protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities	
18. Has your country undertaken any taxonomy-related activities that support the implementation of the ecosystem approach and the work in the field of assessments, monitoring and indicators?	
a) no	
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place (please provide details)	X
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on programmes and activities to support the implementation of the ecosystem approach and the work in the field of assessments, monitoring and indicators	
Assessments have been done on various reptiles on Antigua and Barbuda, and their populations are currently being monitored by different agencies. The assessments have been done on the Ground Lizard ( <i>Anolis wattsi</i> and <i>Ameiva griswoldi</i> ), and the Anolis Lizard ( <i>Anolis bimaculatus</i> )	

***If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this Programme of work, please do so in the following space***

--

-----