



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/LR/dh/48260

5 April 2004

NOTIFICATION

Implementation and Effectiveness of the Global Taxonomy Initiative

Dear Madam/Sir,

Following the process, guidelines and mechanisms approved in recommendation X/12 of the tenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), held in Bangkok last February, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is carrying out activities for the in-depth review of the Programme of Work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI). These activities will be reported at the eleventh meeting of SBSTTA, which will take place before the end of this year.

In order to assist Parties in providing updated information on the level of implementation and effectiveness of the GTI, the Secretariat prepared a questionnaire for a thematic report, addressing the 18 activities identified in the programme of work. This format was sent on 23 April 2004 to GTI and, where GTI focal points had not yet been designated, to CBD National Focal Points with a deadline extended to 31 August 2004. To date, only a total of 34 focal points have sent in their reports on GTI.

As updated information provided by Parties is crucial for a meaningful assessment of the status and effectiveness in implementation of the GTI, I would kindly request you to fill up the attached questionnaire format and send it back to the Secretariat (secretariat@biodiv.org), at your earliest convenience but no later than **25 April 2005**. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the 34 Parties to the Convention which should disregard the information requested in the present Notification.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points of the CBD
GTI National Focal Points



**Format for a Report on Implementation of Programme of Work for the
Global Taxonomy Initiative**

As part of its multi-year programme of work, the Conference of the Parties, in the annex to decision VII/31, decided that the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative will be one of the items for in-depth review at its eighth meeting. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 5 of decision VII/31, also agreed that the review of the programme of work would focus on:

- (i) Assessing the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative;
- (ii) Updating the programme of work if necessary, by retiring or replacing activities and by making adjustments to reflect changes in the international context; and
- (iii) Providing practical support for national and regional implementation.

To this end, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 6 of decision VII/9, requested Parties to report on the status of implementation of the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative. The COP further invited national and international taxonomic institutions to contribute information on their relevant activities to the review of the Global Taxonomy Initiative.

The following format contains a series of questions based on 18 activities identified in the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative annexed to decision VI/8. Responses to these questions will help Contracting Parties to assess the status of implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the Global Taxonomy Initiative and related provisions of the Convention. They will also assist the Conference of the Parties in providing further guidance on ways and means to implement this programme of work and, more broadly, the objectives of the Convention.

To assist with the review of the status of the implementation of the programme of work for the GTI, in responding to the following questions contained in this format, Parties are requested to focus on, but not limited to:

- (a) progress of actions taken at various levels for the implementation of the programme of work;
- (b) impacts of actions taken at various levels for the implementation of the programme of work;
- (c) constraints or impediments encountered in the implementation of the programme of work;
- (d) contributions of relevant actions taken at various levels to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the implementation of thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues under the Convention, the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the 2010 target; and
- (e) Lessons learnt.

While providing further comments as requested, Parties are also encouraged to provide information about the web pages, publications and any other sources of information where more relevant information can be retrieved for review and assessment.

In order to assist with the review and synthesis of the information in the reports, respondents are requested to ensure that information provided is as succinct as possible. There is no set limit in length, but it is anticipated that Parties will be able to provide adequate and useful information in a few pages.

The information provided by Contracting Parties will not be used to rank performance or to otherwise compare implementation between individual Contracting Parties.

Contracting Parties are requested to submit their report on the implementation of the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, in this format, to the Executive Secretary by 30 June 2004. Parties are also requested to submit an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy (preferably in Word) by electronic mail.

An electronic version of this document is available on the website of the Convention at <http://www.biodiv.org>.

Completed reports and any comments should be sent to:

The Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre
393 St.Jacques Street West, Suite 300
Montreal, Quebec
H2Y 1N9 Canada
Fax: 1-514-288 6588
Email: secretariat@biodiv.org

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

Contracting Party:	
<i>National Focal Point</i>	
Full name of the institution:	
Name and title of contact officer:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
<i>Contact officer for this report (if different)</i>	
Name and title of contact officer:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	

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.

**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

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)	
b) yes, comprehensive assessments made (please provide details)	
Further comments on country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities	
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	
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	
Is your country involved in any activities as part of a global taxonomic needs assessment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on the involvement in the activities for the global taxonomic needs assessment	

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)	
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

Is your country working to strengthen global and regional capacity building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information ¹ ?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
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	
1. 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)	
e) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	

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

Further comments on strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy

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

2. 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

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

3. 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)

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

4. 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)	
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	
5. 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)	
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	
6. 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)	
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	

7. 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	
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	
8. 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	
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	
9. 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)	
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	

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

10. 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)	
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	
11. Has your country developed taxonomic support to address the issues of invasive alien species?	
a) no	
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	

12. 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	
b) not applicable	
c) no, but some programmes 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	
13. 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)	
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	

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


