

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

Contracting Party:	Greece
<b><i>National Focal Point</i></b>	
Full name of the institution:	(to be confirmed) Zoological Museum of the University of Athens
Name and title of contact officer:	Anastasios LEGAKIS, Assnt. Professor
Mailing address:	Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Athens, Panepistimioupolis, GR-157 84 Athens, Greece
Telephone:	+30-210-72774372
Fax:	+30-210-7274249
E-mail:	alegakis@biol.uoa.gr
<b><i>Contact officer for this report (if different)</i></b>	
Name and title of contact officer:	Eleni TRYFON
Mailing address:	Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Directorate General for the Environment, Environmental Planning Division, Nature Management Section, 36 Trikalon Str., GR115 26, Athens, Greece
Telephone:	+30 210 6918202
Fax:	+30 210 6918487
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:e.trifon@dpers.minenv.gr">e.trifon@dpers.minenv.gr</a> , <a href="mailto:tdfp@minenv.gr">tdfp@minenv.gr</a>
<b><i>Submission</i></b>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	Mr. J. VOURNAS Director General for the Environment
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.***

This report was drafted by the Zoological Museum of the University of Athens and reviewed by the Ministry for the Environment Physical Planning and Public Works. It was based on information collected during the drafting of the first and second national reports to the Convention, through personal contacts with relevant scientists working in Greek universities and research institutions as well as with other scientists and leading parataxonomists, and through questionnaires addressed to all the Greek institutions that carry out biodiversity-related work. It was also based on databases on fauna, flora and ecosystems such as Chloris (fauna), Grefaun (fauna), Biogreece (ecosystems) and on the extensive archives on the fauna of Greece held by the Hellenic Zoological Society.

**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	X
c) yes, some needs assessments made (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive assessments made (please provide details)	
Further comments on country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities	
Assessment is under way by an initiative of collaborating Universities and the Hellenic Zoological Society.	
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	
c) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	X
d) yes, many activities undertaken (please provide details)	
Further comments on regional taxonomic needs assessment and identification of priorities	
Collaborative projects between the Balkan countries are being considered. The Zoological Museum of the University of Athens has been collaborating with other European institutions for the coordination of a European taxonomic needs assessment.	
3. Is your country involved in any activities as part of a global taxonomic needs assessment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the involvement in the activities for the global taxonomic needs assessment	
The Zoological Museum of the University of Athens has been involved in the organization of the global taxonomic needs assessment as one of its members of staff has participated in the Coordination Mechanism of the GTI.	

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	X
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**

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)	
b) no, but some programmes under development	
c) yes, limited capacity building (please provide details)	X
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	
Taxonomy is not considered as a priority issue by administration and therefore, there is limited capacity building promoted. Promotion of capacity building, which is more or less internally organized by individual institutions, is concentrated mainly in the universities, research institutes and certain NGOs that carry out taxonomic research, employ taxonomists and house collections. Universities and research institutions are regularly subsidised from the national budget. Occasionally, some government funding is also provided to non governmental bodies.	
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	
Some institutions (universities, university museums and research institutions) are collaborating at European level to strengthen European networks for the advancement of taxonomy.	

<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	
Plans are being considered to participate in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.	

**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	
At national level, limited studies have been carried out in forest areas that are part of the European protected areas network Natura 2000. In these areas, an assessment of the status of species included in the Habitats and Birds Directives as well as a mapping of habitat types has been undertaken. Relevant research has been carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and is summarized in the report on Criteria and Indicators for the sustainable forest management in Greece (Ministry of Agriculture - 2000). The flora of forest areas has also been studied in more detail by individual universities and research institutes (mainly the National Agricultural Research Foundation).	
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	
Several projects have been undertaken for the study of marine and coastal biodiversity, especially in areas with high diversity such as <i>Posidonia</i> sea grass meadows and hard substrate marine ecosystems. Issues of identification of ballast water species are undertaken by the Hellenic Center for Marine Research. This institute is in collaboration with the Ministry of Merchant Marine for the implementation of Ballast Water EC Directive and has submitted a relevant project proposal. Mangrove ecosystems do not exist in Greece.	
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	X
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	
Several projects have been undertaken for the study of the diversity of Mediterranean-type ecosystems, the dominant type of terrestrial ecosystem in Greece. However, the identification of indicator species has not been promoted to a great deal. Particularly for lichens studies for identification of indicator taxa on dry and sub-humid lands have not been conducted.	
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	
Several projects have been undertaken for the study of inland water ecosystems, mainly on plant and algal biodiversity and on freshwater fish. Within the framework of the Water Frame Directive, a project is planned for monitoring of biological components of inland water bodies (invertebrates, fish, phytoplankton, makrophytes). For freshwater fish there exists a check list of species and their distribution : "Economidis P.S., 1991. Check list of the freshwater fishes of Greece (recent status of threats and protection). Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature. Special publication. 48 p.». Moreover, general guides for the identification of existitng species (not necessarily Greek editions) are sold in specialized bookstores. For invertebrates, "Illies (1978). Limnofauna Europa.» covers satisfactorily the existent taxa.	
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	
c) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	X
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	
A limited number of activities have been carried out on agricultural biodiversity. One in particular (University of the Aegean) is related to the International Pollinator Initiative. A few more are concentrated on soil biodiversity in agroecosystems (University of Thessaloniki, University of Athens).	
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	
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
c) yes, limited support (please provide details)	X
d) yes, significant support (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity	
A few projects have been undertaken for the study of mountain biodiversity, concentrating especially on the flora and the invertebrate fauna and on components that are endemic to mountainous areas in Greece. A database on mountain floral diversity is kept in the University of Patras.	
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	
A number of studies have been carried out in areas that will be part of the European protected areas network Natura 2000. These have so far concentrated mainly on floral and phytosociological studies (mapping of habitat types). Plans are under way to launch a coordinated study for the fauna of these sites. Several floral and faunal surveys have been carried out in the National Parks and the Ramsar sites that exist in Greece by individual universities, research institutes and NGOs.	

**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	
Some studies have been undertaken to survey and record the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and animal races in order to assist towards the development of a national strategy on access and benefit sharing mainly by Universities and research institutes.	
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	
Work on the alien flora and fauna of Greece has been limited mainly to references in floristic studies or studies of particular species. An early review was carried out by Yannitsaros (1982-1991) and a recent by Economidis et al (2000).	
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 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	
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

The major initiative to identify the species diversity in Greek territory was directly linked to the implementation of two EU Directives: 92/43/EEC "on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora" and 79/409/EEC "on the conservation of birds" (1994-1995). The major recent national inventory programmes at ecosystem level were:

- "Inventory, Identification, Evaluation and Mapping of the Habitat types and Flora and Fauna Species in Greece (Directive 92/43/EEC)".
- Greek Wetland Inventory project.
- "Identification and description of habitat types in areas of interest for nature conservation (Directive 92/43/EEC)". (1999 -2001).
- Inventory of forest ecosystems.

Several data bases which contain information on certain flora and fauna species are being maintained by Universities, scientific societies or NGOs. These are updated more or less on a regular basis. The most noteworthy are the following:

- GRFAUNA, Hellenic Zoological Society, on the fauna species of Greece.
- Database on the fauna of South Crete, Natural History Museum of the University of Crete.
- Database on birds, Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS).
- CORINE database, National Technical University of Athens.
- The database Flora Hellenica,
- The "Chloris" database on endemic, rare and threatened plants of Greek flora, Section of Botany of the University of Athens.
- The database on mountain floral diversity, Section of Plant Ecology of the University of Patras

Ongoing, as well as, recently finished monitoring programmes at species level concern mainly species included in Annex II of the EU Directive 92/43/EEC.

Monitoring of the endemic, rare, threatened and protected plant species of Greece is implemented by the Section of Botany, Faculty of Biology, University of Athens. Monitoring of the freshwater fishes of Greece has been implemented, since 1990, by the Institute of Inland Waters of the Athens National Marine Research Centre. Additionally, NGO's conduct monitoring programmes on certain fauna taxa like birds, marine turtles, monk seals, brown bears.

Some projects related to monitoring and the use of indicators are under way by various Universities, research institutes and other bodies. They involve monitoring and indicators of water quality, of protected and threatened species and of the effects of some activities such as fishing.

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

Although Greece has a high biodiversity at all levels, its components have not been studied and surveyed at a satisfactory level. Most research was undertaken in the past by foreign naturalists and researchers who collected samples and made observations, which were later published in foreign journals. Most of the collected material is nowadays found in museums and other institutions outside Greece. During the past 30 years, research by Greek scientists has increased and has become more focused on areas and species of particular importance. However, this research has not been coordinated and targeted at any level and relies on the interests of the scientists involved. The

provisions of the Habitats Directive of the European Community have recently provided a target and an incentive for coordinated activities at the national level. However, capacity building has been limited, both at the human and at the infrastructure level, young taxonomists cannot find jobs easily, the maintenance and growth of collections are left at the initiatives of their curators and most of the projects from which funds for taxonomic work are secured, are aimed at almost irrelevant issues. No links have so far been established towards the 2010 target and few links exist between taxonomic work and sustainable development.

Several databases on the fauna, the flora, the ecosystems and the cultivated plant and animal race diversity of Greece have also been produced. None is yet publicly available through the Internet.

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