

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

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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.

The present document is a completed questionnaire for a Report on Implementation of Programme of Work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was drawn up with the support from:

- Consulting experts in the Iranian Department of Environment (DoE) and other organizations;
- Telephone conversation with experts of the relevant ministries and their offices;
- Review of the existing documents in the National Museum for Natural History and the Biodiversity Secretariat (NBSAP) and Zagros Project Office;
- Review of the reports from Taxonomy Seminar held on June 2002;
- Review of the reports from workshop on Taxonomy held on September 2001;
- Literature review: Comprehensive field studies have been done on the Flora and Fauna of Iran and valuable books are available in national libraries, specifically related to butterflies, reptiles, birds, mammals and flora of Iran

**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	
<p><i>A seminar and a workshop have been held by DoE in this regard:)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Workshop on Global Taxonomy Initiative, Tehran September 2001;</i> - <i>Seminar on Biodiversity and Taxonomy, Karaj, June 2002.</i> 	
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)	X
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Lack of scientific sources</i> - <i>Lack of experts</i> - <i>Not enough attention being paid by decision makers</i> 	
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	
<i>Please refer to operational objective N-1, question N-2.</i>	

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	
<i>- Replied in answer to the 1st question.</i>	

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 ¹ ?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) no, but some programmes under development	X
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	
<i>Islamic Republic of Iran is working to build the National Capacity to access and generate information. A national CHM team are working with NBSAP Secretariat to develop a National Taxonomy Intranet. Lack of expertise and access to a reliable Internet service are major barriers which defined in the feasibility study phase.</i>	
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	X
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

There has been some proposals on:

- *Holding regional periodical meetings;*
- *Developing trans-boundary projects;*
- *Developing regional marine agreements in the Caspian Sea (CEP) and Persian Gulf (ROPME).*

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

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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

The DoE undertook different studies and the results of these studies were issued in several journals and books.

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	
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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	
<p>- <i>There have been different studies undertaken by DoE, in cooperation with the Research Institute of Fishery in 2003.</i></p> <p>- <i>There has been a risk assessment study conducted by the Global Ballast Programme for the Khark Area undertaken by the Iranian Ports and Shipping Organization and supported by the programme, coordination unit at IMO (International Maritime Organization)</i></p> <p><i>(ref: Global Ballast Water Management Programme, Ballast water news, Jul-Sep: 2003)</i></p>	
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	
<i>Please refer to operational objective 4, No. 7</i>	
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	
<i>DoE conducted different projects on identification of Inland Fresh Water Fishes.</i>	
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	X
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	
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	
<i>Different organizations and universities are implementing some scattered programmes. MoAJ and MMTT also have several studies in the Zagros Mountainous regions.</i>	
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	
<i>The DoE has conducted some surveys on 30% of the P.As under conservation of the Department of Environment, and made an inventory of Fauna and Flora in cooperation with the relevant ministries and research institutes.</i>	

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	X
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	
<i>There are several projects proposed for the Fourth National Development Plan (4th NDP) of Islamic Republic of Iran.</i>	

16. 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)	X
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support to address the issues of invasive alien species	
<i>There are several projects in the Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf.</i>	

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	
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)	X
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	
<i>Some studies undertaken and some books are published.</i>	
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	X
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

Since GTI is a new initiative and has a few references in the national legislation and administration systems, the Cabinet proposed some articles to the Parliament for the Fourth National Development Plan (4th NDP) of Islamic Republic of Iran to be

implemented from 2005 to 2009. More details and progress reports are available in www.biodiversity.ir and www.irandoe.org websites.
