

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

Contracting Party:	SWEDEN
<i>National Focal Point</i>	
Full name of the institution:	Swedish Biodiversity Centre
Name and title of contact officer:	Dr Torbjörn Ebenhard
Mailing address:	Swedish Biodiversity Centre Box 7007 SE-705 07 Uppsala SWEDEN
Telephone:	+46 18 672 268
Fax:	+46 18 673 537
E-mail:	torbjorn.ebenhard@cbm.slu.se
<i>Contact officer for this report (if different)</i>	
Name and title of contact officer:	Dr Anders Silfvergrip
Mailing address:	Swedish Museum of Natural History SE-104 05 Stockholm SWEDEN
Telephone:	+46 8 5195 4114
Fax:	+46 8 5195 4212
E-mail:	anders.silfvergrip@nrm.se
<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	30 August 2004

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 prepared by the Swedish Museum of Natural History (www.nrm.se), the largest taxonomy capacity carrying institution and authority in Sweden, with far-reaching responsibilities for natural history collections in Sweden, founded in 1739, and with national, regional, and global collections and type collections dating back to the 18th century.

A draft version of this document was sent for review and benefitted from the helpful comments from the Ministry of Environment, National Board of Forestry, Swedish Species Information Centre, Swedish Biodiversity Centre, and the Swedish Scientific Council on Biological Diversity/Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The appended description of the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative was prepared by the Swedish Species Information Centre. Due to time constraints consultations with NGO:s have not been possible.

**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
b) yes, comprehensive assessments made (please provide details)	
Further comments on country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities	
<p>Sweden has made brief assessments of national needs and capacities resulting in running activities, and, contributed to the document 'Supporting European Taxonomy – current state and future actions' published by EPBR (European Platform for Biodiversity Strategy, 2003).</p> <p>The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative, at the Swedish Species Information Centre (www.artdata.slu.se), was launched in 2002 with the goal to describe every multicellular species in Sweden within a 20 year period, with priorities given to poorly known groups of species. It is evident that most, if not all, biodiversity monitoring projects mentioned below suffer from a substantial lack of taxonomic knowledge of many groups of species and will benefit significantly from the initiative. (Please, see the appended description for details.)</p> <p>The initiative is part of Sweden's efforts concerning biodiversity and sustainable development resulting in a large scale venture with the title 'Inventories and studies of current Swedish species, their requirements, natural behaviour and roles in the ecosystem. Implications for conservation and environmental control'.</p> <p>The venture has been given a governmental grant during the period 2002-2004, which goes to the Swedish Species Information Centre and the two research councils Vetenskapsrådet ('The Swedish Research Council', www.vr.se) and FORMAS ('The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning', www.formas.se); the grants distributed by FORMAS have in part been set aside for the digitization of the natural history museum collections in Sweden.</p> <p>This venture is an acknowledgment of the fundamental importance of highly developed taxonomic competence and thriving natural history museums to all aspects of biological research, conservation, and environmental monitoring. For the fulfillment of Sweden's commitment to the CBD, it is essential that these efforts are given continued support.</p>	
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	
Sweden is through the Swedish Museum of Natural History member of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF), has contributed to the document 'Supporting European Taxonomy – current state and future actions' published by EPBRS (European Platform for Biodiversity Strategy, 2003), and participated in the workshop 'Building Capacity for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) in a larger Europe' (21-23 June 2004).	
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	
Sweden is a member of IUCN, GBIF, and ICOM (International Council of Museums, an international organisation of museums which is committed to the conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible).	
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)	
c) yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken (please provide details)	X
Further comments on public education and awareness programmes and activities	
Sweden has an extensive programme of public education and awareness much of which coincides with the programme of work for the GTI. The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative, GBIF, FishBase, natural history museums, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (www.naturvardsverket.se), and many other governmental agencies in Sweden all have activities which in part promote the implementation of the programme of work for the GTI.	

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	
c) yes, limited capacity building (please provide details)	
d) yes, significant capacity building (please provide details)	X
Further comments on global and regional capacity building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information	

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

Sweden is actively participating in capacity building projects both at the regional and global levels and has a track record of transboundary capacity building projects, which include both human and infrastructure capacity building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (www.sida.se) has several programmes with focus on biodiversity.

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)	
e) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	X

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

Sweden is participating in as well as promoting several network capacity building projects at the regional level, including, but not limited to, CETAF, SYNTHESYS, ENBI, BioCASE, and EUNIS.

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 digitised 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)	X

Further comments on involvement in the development of a coordinated global taxonomy information system

Sweden is actively participating in network capacity building projects at the global level, including, but not limited to, GBIF and FishBase.

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	
Sweden has projects which provide a basic assessment of forest biological diversity, also in areas under current threat for habitat conversion, or of high conservation value, notably under the auspices of the National Board of Forestry (www.svo.se) and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.	
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	
Sweden has several permanent monitoring activities relating to marine and coastal biodiversity, notably under the auspices of the National Fisheries Board (www.fiskeriverket.se) and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, as well as activities run from FishBase.	
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	X
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	
Sweden is actively supporting taxonomic capacity building in several transboundary projects in dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, like Flora Ethioptica, GBIF, and FishBase. Otherwise, the programme is largely not applicable within Sweden.	
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)	
d) yes, many activities undertaken (please provide details)	X

Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity	
Sweden has several, permanent monitoring activities relating to inland waters biodiversity, notably under the auspices of the National Fisheries Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (www.slu.se), as well as activities run from the Swedish Museum of Natural History and FishBase.	
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	
Sweden has made available an action plan described in the document 'The Environmental and Rural Development Plan for Sweden 2000 - 2006' which includes monitoring activities notably under the auspices of the Swedish Board of Agriculture (www.sjv.se), the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and the Swedish Board of Antiquities (www.raa.se). The Swedish Species Information Centre runs The Swedish Wild Bee Project.	
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)	
d) yes, significant support (please provide details)	X
Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity	
Sweden has a strong and explicit focus on the mountain biodiversity which includes monitoring activities notably under the auspices of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The mountain taxonomic capacity building is further realized by the Ajtte Museum (www.ajtte.com) which has a focus on the Swedish mountain flora.	
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	

Sweden has several ongoing projects related to protected areas which include monitoring activities notably under the auspices of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Species Information Centre (www.artdata.slu.se) which serves as the focal point for information on threatened species and biodiversity in Sweden and prepares the national Red List and Red Data Books.

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	
Sweden welcomes the equitable and fair access and sharing of benefits from use of genetic resources by developing appropriate legal and policy measures to implement the CBD Bonn Guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing.	
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	
Sweden recognizes the issue of invasive species; it was formulated in the Swedish Action Plan on Biological Diversity (1996). So far, very few species have been targeted for policies. Comprehensive policies and programmes are under joint development by several actors, e.g. the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the National Fisheries Board, and the Swedish Biodiversity Centre (www.cbm.slu.se). The AquAliens (www.aqualiens.tmbi.gu.se) is a research programme aimed at increasing our knowledge on how to assess the risks posed by introduced aquatic species and their impact on ecosystems and economy in Sweden.	
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	
Sweden has ongoing projects which in part support Article 8(j) and related provisions, notably under the auspices of the Swedish Biodiversity Centre.	
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)	
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place (please provide details)	X
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	
Sweden has several permanent monitoring activities using an ecosystem approach, notably under the auspices of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative explicitly promotes taxonomic studies which supports 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

Sweden has numerous local NGO:s with activities which in part coincides with the programme of work for the GTI. These include, but are not restricted to, the Swedish Ornithological Society (www.sofnet.org), the Entomological Society of Sweden (www.sef.nu), and the Swedish Botanical Society (www.sbf.c.se).

The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative

In 2002, the Swedish government launched the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative (STI). The STI aims to fully chart, taxonomically describe, and revise the Swedish flora and fauna of multi-cellular organisms within 20 years, a task encompassing more than 50,000 species. To that end, grants are distributed to established taxonomists and skilled 'amateurs' for taxonomic revisions as well as for education of new taxonomists.

Priority is given to projects of a high scientific quality, which are expected to contribute substantially to the knowledge of Swedish species through, e.g., description of new species or elucidation of difficult species complexes. The projects should deal with groups of multicellular

organisms as yet poorly investigated in Sweden. Where this is required, the project may also include taxonomic investigations at higher taxonomic levels, and the geographic area covered may extend outside Sweden. The results are to be published in current scientific literature, but part of the material must be put at the disposal of The Swedish Taxonomy Initiative for publication in The Swedish Flora and Fauna Encyclopedia.

So far the STI supports taxonomic research in a range of poorly known taxonomic groups within e.g. Hymenoptera, Diptera, Ascomycetes , Basidiomycetes, Annelida, Nemertea, and Mollusca. About 14 million SEK have been granted to 30 different projects during STI's first three years. Two inventories have been started, one of terrestrial insects (focussing on Hymenoptera and Diptera) using about 50 Malaise traps in selected habitats throughout Sweden, one marine, focussing on marine invertebrates along the Swedish west coast.

All species that can be identified without access to specialized techniques will be presented in Swedish in the Swedish Flora and Fauna Encyclopaedia. It will give easy-to-use illustrated identification tools covering all species. Each species will be described and basic information on its distribution, biology and conservation status in Sweden will be given. The Encyclopaedia will serve a multitude of purposes: it will make critical biodiversity information available to decision-makers, it will provide a means for students to appreciate the richness of local diversity, and it will make it possible for interested amateurs to contribute to the monitoring of biodiversity.

- - - - -