

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

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<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	29 th June, 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 that was used as a basis for the report.

This report was prepared at the BEST Commission, by officers who are involved in biodiversity-related activities. The Commission maintains a National Biodiversity Subcommittee, which includes a Taxonomy Working Group. The Commission's records of this Working Group's activities form the basis of the information presented in this report.

The Taxonomy Working Group consists of members representing: The Department of Agriculture, The Botanical Gardens, The Nature Conservancy, The Bahamas Environmental Research Centre – College of the Bahamas, The Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey. The Biodiversity Subcommittee includes further representatives of: The Bahamas National Trust and The Department of Environmental Health Services.

The principal document utilised as an information source has been the Provisional draft of the CAB International report: "Biodiversity Enabling Activities: Needs Assessment for Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening in Taxonomic Research and Development in The Bahamas".

Stakeholders consulted for the needs assessment exercises conducted by CAB International included: general users (and user groups) of taxonomic information, taxonomic institutions, managers of specimen collections, and librarians, also members of the Commission's Taxonomy Working Group.

Other country-level studies of relevance to the CABI assessment included: the Biodiversity Country Study (BEST, 1995), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BEST, 1999) and a report from a project to examine Data and Information Management for the Conservation of Biodiversity in The Bahamas ("The Biodiversity Data Management Project" - BBDMPT, 1997).

CABI also consulted the following publication for relevant information in the context of regional co-operation: Carey, E (1996) *Consultants' Reports on Needs Assessment Survey of Biosystematic Collections in the Sub-region: Bahamas*. In *Proceedings of the First Meeting of the LOOP Co-ordinating Committee CARINET, the Caribbean LOOP of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, November 4-5, 1996, Port of Spain, Trinidad* (eds St C. Forde & R. Barrow), pp.16-18. CARINET, Trinidad & Tobago.

**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)	Yes
d) yes, comprehensive assessments made (please provide details)	
Further comments on country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities	
<p>The following taxonomic capacity assessments are being completed by CAB International under the Biodiversity Enabling Activities Project, scheduled for completion in July 2004:</p> <p>Assessment of existing knowledge about national biodiversity Assessment of current national taxonomic infrastructure Assessment of current national human resources in taxonomy Assessment of national user needs for taxonomy Development of relevant databases, and plans for training and to ensure accessibility of information for target groups.</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)	No
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	
<p>The above-mentioned exercise under the BEA project is The Bahamas' first attempt to identify national needs so that the country can begin to address this issue and move forward.</p>	
3. Is your country involved in any activities, as part of a global taxonomic needs assessment?	
a) no	No
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	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	
However, the intent is to develop programmes in this area, upon completion of the BEA project.	

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	No
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 Bahamas is involved in discussions with other Caribbean countries on the development of a network for the exchange of taxonomic information.	
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	No
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)	
Further comments on strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy	
The Bahamas as a member of CARIFORUM has some involvement with CARINET - the Caribbean LOOP of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, which undertakes regional activities relating to 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

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

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	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

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)	Yes
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 Department of Lands and Surveys has completed some inventories for the establishment of forest reserves.	
The Bahamas National Trust has done some assessment of forest biological diversity within the national parks system.	
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	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	

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)	No
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	
The Bahamas has just begun to look at a programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, and at actions that need to be taken for its implementation.	
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	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	
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	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	

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	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	
Not applicable (no mountains).	
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	No
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	
The Bahamas is a participant in the Caribbean Regional Amenity Areas (CREP) Programme, which will involve taxonomic identification of species within the Central Andros National Park (CANP).	
The Bahamas National Trust is developing a project that will do the same for other areas within the national parks system.	

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	No
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	
The Bahamas is developing a National Biosecurity Strategy that will address 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)	Yes
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support to address the issues of invasive alien species	
The Bahamas has developed a national invasive species policy and strategy with priority species for the actions identified. The Bahamas is proceeding to implement the strategy and to develop management plans for priority species.	
17.Has your country developed a 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	No
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	No
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

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