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

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Date of submission:	29/06/2004

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 has been prepared by the above contact officer in consultation with other relevant services of the European Commission.

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)	X
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	
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	
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 commments on the involvement in the activities for the global taxonomic needs assessment	
See pages 11-13	

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	
See pages 11-13	

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	
See pages 11-13	
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	
See pages 11-13	

[1] 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	
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	
See pages 11-13	

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	
See pages 11-13	
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	
See pages 11-13	
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	
See pages 11-13	
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	
See pages 11-13	
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	
See pages 11-13	
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	
See pages 11-13	
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	
See pages 11-13	

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	
See pages 11-13	
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	
See pages 11-13	
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	X
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	
See pages 11-13	

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

The European Community is supporting implementation of the GTI work programme mainly through supporting specific projects under its Research and Technological Development Framework Programmes and its Development Cooperation Programmes.
We were as yet not able to analyse in detail how all these EC-supported activities supported the specific elements of the CBD GTI and related work programmes, but it is expected that nearly all activities of the GTI programme were supported at least to some extent. More details about EC-supported activities can be found under the following specific URL's:

A. Some examples of projects funded through the EC Development Aid programmes related to implementation of the GTI internationally and in developing countries:
1. FishBase http://www.fishbase.org/home.htm is a EC funded project. FishBase is a comprehensive electronic encyclopedia on fish. It includes available information on the taxonomy, biology, ecology, occurrence and utilization of fish. FishBase has been developed by the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) in collaboration with FAO and other partners.
2. The Plant Resources of South East Asia (PROSEA) initiative http://www.proseanet.org/index.htm , co-funded with the Netherlands, produced a number of high quality scientific and popular publications with monographs on economically useful plant species of South-East Asia, including taxonomic aspects.
3. A similar initiative has been funded in Africa, called PROTA (www.prota.org). The programme PROTA is an initiative of Wageningen University, Netherlands. In cooperation with institutes in Africa and Europe, the programme intends to survey, compile, edit, publish and disseminate existing knowledge on some 7000 useful plants of Tropical Africa.
4. The African Mammals Databank http://www.gisbau.uniroma1.it/amd/homepage.html and The South Asian Mammals Databank http://www.ieaitaly.org/samd.htm projects developed a GIS-

based databank on the distribution and conservation of all the big and medium-sized mammals over the whole African continent and South East Asia. The databanks have been implemented by the IEA (Institute of Applied Ecology), in co-operation with several institutions in Africa and Asia.

5. The TRP Agarwood project http://www.agarwood.org.vn/page7a.htm aims to establish economic and environmentally sustainable Agarwood production, to prevent extinction of forest trees, and to support socio-economic development by improving rural people's income; to build a socio-economic and agro-forestry development model that can be applied worldwide.

6. The Coastal Biodiversity in Ranong project http://www.nhm.ac.uk/science/projects/ranong/checklists.html aims to provide both primary biodiversity information and training to underpin biodiversity assessment and long-term environmental monitoring.

B. Examples of projects funded through the RTD framework programmes related to the GTI.

The salient point of all these projects is that they provide or improve access to collections. They are in general not research or taxonomic projects in themselves. They have no remit to advance taxonomy or systematics.

The main European collection-based projects include:

1. ERMS http://www.vliz.be/vmdcdata/erms/ *European Register of Marine Species* produced a register of marine species in Europe, linked with a bibliography of identification guides, register of taxonomic experts, locations of collections of reference specimens, and an Information Pack on European marine biodiversity.

2. EuroMed: http://www.euromed.org.uk. The Euro+Med Project provides an on-line database and information system for the vascular plants of Europe and the Mediterranean region, against an up-to-date and critically evaluated consensus taxonomic core of the species concerned.

3. EuroCat enumerates and provides web access to basic taxonomic information on all known species of plants, animals, fungi and microbes on Earth: see Species 2000

4. ENBI The *European Network for Biodiversity Information* is a network of biodiversity information centres of the western European palaeartic that offers European researchers access to a Europe-wide pool of technical and human resources, expertise and know-how on biodiversity. It provides a forum for GBIF-related discussion and decision-making on scientific issues that are better handled at a European scale than at a national one. ENBI complements and adds value by co-ordinating other relevant research activities in Europe.

5. Fauna Europea (http://www.faunaeur.org/) assembles a database of the scientific names and distribution of all existant multicellular European land and fresh-water animals.

6. SYNTHESYS http://www.synthesys.info/index.htm The *Synthesis of Systematic Resources* aims to create a single virtual museum by providing integrated access to collections, facilities and databases from 19 European natural history collectionsand to develop common policies and methods for the analysis of new kinds of collections, and review advances in analytical methods developed elsewhere, with a view to adapting these methods for use in systematics.

7. CETAF http://www.cetaf.org/ is a networked consortium of scientific institutions in Europe formed to promote training, research and understanding of systematic biology and

palaeobiology, Together, CETAF institutions hold very substantial biological (zoological and botanical), palaeobiological, and geological collections and provide the resource for the work of thousands of researchers in a variety of scientific disciplines.

Further European collection-based projects include:

8. ABC an IHP project to allow European biodiversity researchers to work on Belgian collections
9. BIOCASE http://www.biocase.org/ A Biological Collection Access Service for Europe established web-based access to biological collections in Europe
10. BioCISE http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/biocise/ Resource Identification for a Biological Collection Information Service in Europe prepared a strategy for a Biological Collection Information Service in Europe
11. BIOD-IBERIA an IHP project to allow European researchers to carry out biodiversity research at the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales and the Real Jardín Botánico
12. BIORESOURCE an IHP project to allow European researchers to carry out systematics research at the British Natural History Museum, the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew and the Linnean Society of London.
13. CDEFD http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/CDEFD/default.htm prepared a data structure for European floristic databases that provides taxonomic, nomenclatural, ecological, bibliographical, and geographic views of biological information
14. COBICE an IHP project to to allow European biodiversity researchers to work on the collections of the University of Copenhagen Biosystematics Centre
15. COLPARSYST follow-up to PARSYST
16. ENHSIN http://www.nhm.ac.uk/science/rco/enhsin/index.html European Natural History Specimen Information Network, developed an infrastructure of European natural history specimen databases
17. EUROPHLUKES http://www.europhlukes.net/ develops a database of photos of cetaceans
18. HIGH LAT Access to Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet - High Latitude an IHP project to to allow European biodiversity researchers access to the collections and facilities of the Swedish Museum of Natural History (Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet)
19. PARSYST an IHP project to allow European biodiversity researchers access to the systematics collections and facilities of the Paris Natural History Museum
20. SYS - RESOURCE a follow-up to BIORESOURCE
21. TAXIP a project to allow biodiversity informatics researchers access to facilities in taxonomic information processing of the Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam

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The management committee of Fauna Europaea
(Dr Wouter Los , Amsterdam University , Dr. Henrik Enghoff ,Copenhagen University , Dr Daniel Goujet , National Museum of Natural History, Paris)

is pleased to invite you to the first release of the database

FAUNA EUROPAEA

All European animal species on the web
Access to data on about 130 000 European animal species ,terrestrial and fresh-water, for public use via Internet.

An initiative funded by the European Commission ,resulting from dynamic cooperation between more than 400 experts in animal taxonomy and specialists of databasing and advanced information technology.

Monday 27 September 2004, à 10 AM
Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle
Auditorium de la Grande Galerie de l'Evolution
36 Rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire
Paris Vème

FAUNA EUROPAEA; ALL EUROPEAN ANIMAL SPECIES ON THE WEB

For the first time in history all names of the European land and fresh water species are available on the Web. This public service is presented as *Fauna Europaea*.
Fauna Europaea covers about 130.000 species, which is much more than the originally projected number of 100.000 species when starting *Fauna Europaea*. This is a huge success for all the more than 400 contributing specialists throughout Europe, and an unparalleled effort in the world so far. A first release of the Fauna Europaea index via the web portal (for public access) will be presented at 27th of September 2004.

Fauna Europaea[1] was a European Commission (EU) funded project for a period of 4 1/2 years (starting March 2000) and provides a web based information infrastructure with an index of scientific names (including important synonyms) of all living European land and freshwater animals, their geographical distribution at country level (up to Ural, excluding Caucasus region), and some additional optional information. *Fauna Europaea* is a unique (standard) reference for many users in science, government, industry, nature conservation, and education. Considering the current concepts established in the Zoological Code of nomenclature a new database structure has been designed. To ensure the collation of high quality data, more then 400 specialists, including 65 Group Coordinators, have been contracted. Advanced on-line and off-line tools for data import and data management were developed, and innovative procedures for data validating applied, including regional and thematic validation meetings, and advanced digital tools to check for technical and logical correctness.

[1] *Fauna Europaea*: http://www.faunaeur.org

Expansion of the current geographic coverage of Fauna Europaea, to also include the non-European parts of Northern Asia, and the inclusion of additional data types, is in preparation. *Fauna Europaea* established a formal relationship with its sister projects *Euro+Med PlantBase*[2] and the *European Register of Marine Species*[3] (ERMS), which are developing comparable, services for terrestrial plant and marine species respectively. The advanced integration of the results (databases) of these projects is now being realized through a so-called Euro-Hub, which is an effort of the EU-funded *Species-2000 Europe*[4] project. This will allow for further integration in the *Global Biodiversity Information Facility*[5] (GBIF). Furthermore, the *European Network for Biodiversity Information*[6] (ENBI) is harmonizing all these European activities and initiatives. As an open network, ENBI also includes the European national nodes of GBIF.

Website: www.faunaeur.org
Contact: faunaeuropaea@science.uva.nl

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[1] *Fauna Europaea*: http://www.faunaeur.org
[1] *Euro+Med PlantBase*: http://www.euromed.org.uk
[1] *European Register of Marine Species*: http://www.vliz.be/vmdcdata/erms/index.php
[1] *Species-2000 Europe*: http://sp2000europa.org
[1] *Global Biodiversity Information Facility*: http://www.gbif.org
[1] *European Network for Biodiversity Information*: http://www.enbi.info

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