

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

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Date of submission:	29 <sup>th</sup> 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 which was used as a basis for the report.*

This report was compiled from information and comments from the Ministry of Natural Resources & the Environment, as well as national institutions leading the various Working Groups under the National Council for Biodiversity and Biotechnology.

**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	
Brief national assessment presented at 1 <sup>st</sup> National GTI Workshop 2002, highlighting needs and priorities. ASEANET has also conducted regional needs assessments on plant pathogen and arthropod pest collections, specifically in relation to WTO/SPS compliance. Reports highlight status, needs and priorities for all ASEAN countries, including Malaysia.	
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	
As reported above, the two ASEANET needs assessments, conducted in 2001/2002, involved all ASEAN countries (except Cambodia) and was made possible by funding assistance from AusAID under the APEC Support Program, with technical collaboration from Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia.	
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	
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	
National projects seeking the inventory of biodiversity of specific ecosystems are often highlighted in the local press to raise public awareness on the importance of taxonomy, inventory, and conservation.	

**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	
ASEANET is an ASEAN project led by Malaysia, which hosts the Technical Secretariat. Capacity-building activities are carried out for the benefit of all ASEAN member countries, and have included:	
a) biology and diversity of ants,	
b) taxonomy of fruit flies	
c) developing national biological collections and herbaria	
d) developing electronic keys using LucID	
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	
ASEANET activities are primarily regional in nature, following consultations with National Coordinators. Capacity-building activities attract participants from all member countries.	

<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	
ASEANET is an associate participant of GBIF. In addition, ASEANET is the recipient of a Belgian GTI-sponsored project to repatriate regional taxonomic information lodged outside the region. This is expected to form the basis of a regional taxonomic information system. A more comprehensive proposal on this is scheduled to be tabled at the coming 2 <sup>nd</sup> Asian GTI Meeting.	

**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	
National-level, govt-funded projects exist on forest biodiversity, especially in relation to selected forest reserves and national parks.	
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	

National-level, government-funded projects are being implemented on marine and coastal biodiversity, especially in relation to a national effort to audit and build an inventory of islands.	
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	
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	
Substantial efforts have been expended by national institutions, in collaboration with NGOs and international bodies to study our wetland ecosystems.	
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	
Some collaborative activities, especially in relation to fruit species, are being undertaken involving national and international agencies. A national workshop on pollinators was recently held by ASEANET, with endorsement from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.	
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	
Taxonomic support for the program of work on mountain biodiversity comes in the form of Ministerial support for national expeditions to specific mountain ecosystems for inventory and documentation of biodiversity.	
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	
National programs to study protected areas have received support from the Government, and are being carried out by government agencies and universities.	

***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	
The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, together with the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation, supports capacity-building initiatives in the form of project support as well as training activities. National policies and legislation on biodiversity and access and benefit sharing are part of the effort to strengthen national capacity.	
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	
A 1 <sup>st</sup> National Workshop on Invasive Alien Species was held late last year, delivering a status report that spans the various sectors, as well as a national strategy. This includes calls for harmonization and integration of legislation and approaches to manage IAS.	
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	X
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	
There is strong government interest in the development of herbal and medicinal species into sustainable industries, with corresponding support for the gathering preservation and protection of traditional knowledge, etc.	
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	
Adherence to the ecosystem approach is reflected in the establishment of a National Council on Biodiversity and Biotechnology at the highest level, with the Technical Working Groups set up according to the ecosystems identified under the CBD. These Working Groups comprise multi-institutional representation, generating activities in assessments, monitoring and indicators along ecosystem lines.	

***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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