

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

Contracting Party:	The Netherlands
<b><i>National Focal Point</i></b>	
Full name of the institution:	National Herbarium of the Netherlands and National Research School Biodiversity
Name and title of contact officer:	P. Baas
Mailing address:	Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, P.O. Box 9514 2300 RA Leiden The Netherlands
Telephone:	00 31 71 5273515
Fax:	00 31 71 5273511/22
E-mail:	baas@nhn.leidenuniv.nl
<b><i>Contact officer for this report (if different)</i></b>	
Name and title of contact officer:	Annemarie van der Heijden
Mailing address:	CDB National Focal Point
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
<b><i>Submission</i></b>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	P. Baas/Annemarie van der Heijden
Date of submission:	8 September 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.*

Mr Baas has used his personal knowledge of the taxonomic field in the Netherlands (all taxonomic institutions in the Netherlands are united in the inter-university Research School Biodiversity of which he is the Scientific Director) and has consulted the CBD- CHM website for information on official government policies.

The answers have been coordinated by the National Focal Point; all relevant ministries were consulted and have commented on the answers. The report reflects an integrated view of both the experts in the field and policy makers on national government level.

**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 (see below)
d) yes, comprehensive assessments made (please provide details)	
Further comments on country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities	
Within the Dutch knowledge centres for taxonomy (two Zoological Museums, one decentral National Herbarium with three local university Branches, and one Centre of Fungal Biodiversity) we work according to a Common research plan with as focal themes: taxonomy and floristic and faunistic studies of prioritised taxa and regions; phylogeny and biogeography; population differentiation and speciation, biodiversity assessment, and dissemination of biodiversity information, based - inter alia - on our unique and very extensive collections (ca. 27 million well documented specimens from all over the world).	
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)	
d) yes, many activities undertaken (please provide details)	X (see below)
Further comments on regional taxonomic needs assessment and identification of priorities	
We are very active in the European Consortium of Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) which also addresses regional taxonomic needs at the European level.	
3. Is your country involved in any activities as part of a global taxonomic needs assessment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X (see below)
Further comments on the involvement in the activities for the global taxonomic needs assessment	
Some of our taxonomists contribute to global initiatives such as Diversitas, Species 2000, and GBIF, etc. which all address global taxonomic needs to a limited extent.	

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	x
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	

**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)	
d) Yes, significant capacity building (please provide details)	X (see below)
Further comments on global and regional capacity building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information	
<p>The Dutch Biological Collection institutes and the Expert Centre of Taxonomic Identification (ETI) united in the National Research School Biodiversity are very active in capacity building to support access to And generation of taxonomic information in a number of ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teaching courses at home and abroad, specially targeted to students from biodiversity rich tropical countries;</li> <li>2. Digitising taxonomic and collections-related information and offering free access to that information on websites, channelled through the NLBIF-portal (Netherlands node of GBIF) to GBIF;</li> <li>3. Developing innovative methods of interactive computer-assistant identification of all organismal groups (ETI);</li> <li>4. Assisting in the establishment of forest herbaria in triopical countries (e.g. in Indonesia, The Philippines, Gabon, Guyana).</li> </ol> <p>Our ambitions to contribute to global taxonomic capacity building are much greater than what we actually can contribute at present. The limiting factor is the paucity of grant money available for students, parataxonomists and staff from museums, herbaria and field stations in tropical countries to spend a longer period in one of our institutes and universities for tailor-made training programmes.</p>	
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	

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

d) yes, some activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	
e) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	X (see below)
Further comments on strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy	
<p>In Europe within CETAF (see above); currently we are developing a Proposal for a European Centre of Excellence on Taxonomy to be subsidised by the EU. About 10 of the main centres for taxonomy in Europe will take part.</p> <p>With tropical countries there are many active networks:          With Southeast Asia and the Pacific region: Flora and Fauna Malesiana (covering Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, PNG, Singapore, Brunei, East Timor) and SEABCIN (an EU-funded SEAsian Botanical Collections Information Network - providing an interlinked database of herbarium Specimens in the main national herbaria in ASEAN Countries) With the Neotropics; various faunistic and floristic networks, among them Flora of the Guianas, edited and co-ordinated in the Netherlands, and Inventory and monitoring studies in Tropical West Africa.</p> <p>There is a real need for rapid completion of large Flora and Fauna Projects such as Flora Malesiana, Fauna Malesiana and Flora Neotropica. The GTI, through GEF, does not fund such projects.</p>	

***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 (see below)
Further comments on involvement in the development of a coordinated global taxonomy information system	
<p>Yes, the Dutch taxonomic community is very active in global initiatives such as GBIF (co-funded by the Dutch Government) and many species and collection information systems (BioCase, Fauna Europaea, Register of Marine Organisms, Species 2000, etc.)</p>	

**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	X (see below)
c) yes, some studies and inventories made (please provide details)	
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 inventories of Forest Biodiversity form an integral part of our general national species diversity and monitoring programmes and projects.	
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 (see below)
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	
Taxonomic services have been provided for some projects in these fields.	
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 (see below)
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	
We have very active group of lichenologists, bryologists and mycologists (partly amateurs) monitoring the presence and abundance of lichens, mosses and macrofungi and other indicator taxa in the Netherlands, including its dry and subhumid ecosystems.	

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 (see below)
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	
Yes, mainly on contract basis for national, provincial and local authorities.	
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 (see below)
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	
Yes, but with a far too limited taxonomic component.	
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	X
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	
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	X
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

**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 (see below)
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 taxonomic institutions in the Netherlands have a policy of free access to all taxonomic information associated with its research and collections. This sometimes conflicts with the intellectual property rights claimed by so-called PGOs, organisations that hold large databases on plant and animal occurrences throughout the Netherlands, collected in past and present by parataxonomists and professional taxonomists.	
16. Has your country developed taxonomic support to address the issues of invasive alien species?	
a) no	X (see below)
b) no, but relevant policy and programme under development	
c) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support to address the issues of invasive alien species	
There is a lack of taxonomic support for issues of invasive alien species in the Netherlands.	
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 (see below)
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	
In the framework of ethnobotany and cultural anthropology there are several research projects in this field, but there is no standard Taxonomic information system, to support these. As much as possible Taxonomists do offer their services to give a sound biological underpinning for the protection of indigenous knowledge and sustainable use of traditional biological resources.	
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 (see below)
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	
Some ecosystem analyses make use of extensive floristic databases developed by plant taxonomists and parataxonomists.	

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

The taxonomic community in the Netherlands is very supportive of GTI, which is understandable because of its close involvement of taxonomic inventory and monitoring projects in the tropics, partly based on the biological collections housed in our knowledge centers and our acute awareness of the global taxonomic impediment.
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