

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

Contracting Party:	Sultanate of Oman
National Focal Point	
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water resources.
Name and title of contact officer:	Ahmed bin Said Al-Kharousi Director of Coordination and follow up
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 323 P. C. 113
Telephone:	+968(692471)
Fax:	+968(602283)
E-mail:	dgnc@mrmewr.net.gov
Contact officer for this report (if different)	
Name and title of contact officer:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	

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.

- Copies of this report were sent to three governmental organizations involved with taxonomy in addition to the team in this ministry (Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water resources). These are Sultan Qaboos University, Natural History Museum, and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- All the replies were then analyzed by the team in this ministry and further comments by these organizations were put without modification in this report.
- Some information which were used in the preparation of this report were taken from the Oman National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2001.
- The team from this ministry (Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water resources) which were involved in analyzing the information gathered from the above mentioned organizations were:
 - Fatma Abdullah Al-Farsi (Environmental Planning Expert).
 - Samira bin Said Al-Ojaili (Head of Biodiversity Database Section).
 - Saleh Naghmosh Al-Saadi (Head of Endangered Wildlife Permits Section).
 - Ahmed bin Said Al-Shukaili (Head of Wild Plants and Animals Section).

**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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is undertaking characterisation of indigenous pasture plants species under ICARDA's Arabian Peninsula Research Program (APRP). ▪ National History Museum of Oman has been studying and cataloguing wild and marine life. 	
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has initiated work on characterization of indigenous pasture plant species with other countries of Arabian Peninsula under ICARDA-APRP. 	
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Museum is working closely with many international museums on studying wild and marine life such as: ▪ United Kingdom Darwin Initiative micro-algal biodiversity of Oman Project between 1999-2003. International Cooperative Study on marine algae of Dhofar and Indian Ocean. 	

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 ¹ ?	
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	
The Natural History Museum databases are already available for study.	
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)	

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

Further comments on strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy	
Botanist and scientists from regional countries already have accessed to study museum collections	

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)	X
d) yes, to a significant extent (please provide details)	
Further comments on involvement in the development of a coordinated global taxonomy information system	
The museum databases have been standardized in order to develop the National Biodiversity databases.	

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	
A report on terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity in Oman were submitted to the national biodiversity strategy and Action Plan Committee.	

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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Museum cooperated with UK Darwin initiative in studying and cataloguing the marine algae of southern Oman, between 1999-2003. ▪ Japanese International Cooperation Agency made several projects related to mangrove ecosystems in cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources. 	
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)	X
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	
Lack of qualified personnel.	
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	X
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	
b) no, but some activities are being planned	X
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	
b) no, but some programmes are under development	X
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	
Sultan Qaboos University prepared a proposal on a study of a mountain ecosystem "Jebel Akhdar Initiative".	
14. Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas?	
a) no	X
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
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	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	
Programmes made through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2001.	
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	X
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	

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	
d) yes, some activities undertaken but a system is not in place yet (please provide details)	X
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	
Research has been done on traditional medicines and plants used which resulted in publications in both Arabic and English.	
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	X
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

Ministry of Heritage and Culture produces Journal of Oman Studies, in which original research papers on wide variety of subjects is published. e.g. Journal of Oman Studies 'Special Reports on Scientific Results of the Oman Flora and Fauna Survey'.
