

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

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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 based on the information gathered by (1) the Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow (IB PAS), and (2) the Museum and Institute of Zoology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw (MIZ PAS). Both organizations are governmental Institutes being the country research centers in the field of taxonomy and biodiversity, responsible also for gathering and publishing information on biodiversity of all groups of plants and fungi (IB PAS), and animals (MIZ PAS) (floras and faunas, respectively; checklists, atlases, catalogues, iconographies, bibliographies, etc.). They also host central botanical (IB PAS) and zoological (MIZ PAS) collections and libraries in Poland (over 200 000 volumes each). IB PAS also hosts the central herbarium collection (1,6 million items altogether, including iconotheca of algae and collection of fossils). IB PAS and MIZ PAS also regularly publish three and four international journals, respectively, devoted to taxonomy, and phyto- and zoogeography, and almost all important series in this field.

Main sources of information for this report were:

- (i) information gathered by the IB PAS by means of questionnaires for new editions of Polish databases of botanical collections, persons and institutions involved in botanical research in the field of taxonomy and biodiversity; and by MIZ PAS through intensive contacts with individuals and institutions involved in zoological research in Poland;
- (ii) information on programmes supported by the Polish Ministry of Environment, Ministry of the Scientific Research and Information Technology, Foundation for Polish Science, and some other institutions and organisations;
- (iii) information concerning taxonomic initiatives gathered by the Centre of Botanical Information at IB PAS in published and not published (internal) databases, and by MIZ PAS in connection with, among others, its work on the Fauna of Poland.

**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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessment of conditions of storage, protection and availability of scientific botanical and zoological collections; special report prepared. In consequence, the special programme called BIOS of the Foundation for Polish Science, focusing on Polish natural collections has been established for 2004-2006; - information gathered on research carried out in the field of taxonomy of plants and animals, as well as on scientists and institutions involved in this research (for botany - databases prepared by the Centre of Botanical Information at IB PAS in cooperation with the Committee on Botany PAS and Polish Botanical Society; for zoology - databases prepared by MIZ PAS in cooperation with the Committee on Zoology PAS); - a network of Polish scientific institutions involved in taxonomic research was created in order to reinforce cooperation and better identify research priorities in the field of taxonomy and biodiversity in Poland. - data on taxonomic resources collected across 10 countries acceding EU plus Romania during the Fauna Europaea project by MIZ will enable to identify crucial gaps in taxonomic expertise in new member states. 	
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	X
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	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - initiative of creating of the Distributed European Taxonomic Institute in the frame of NoE (Network of Excellence) being - among others - focused on assessments of needs in taxonomic research and identifying priorities in this field; - discovering taxonomical gaps through several projects dealing with animals, including Fauna Europaea (FP V), European Register of Marine Species and, although not directly, through Synthesys (FP VI) 	
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"> - two Institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IB PAS and MIZ PAS) have been involved in the initiative of creating the Distributed European Taxonomic Institute. There are also some other European scale programs dealing in some ways with taxonomy in which Polish institutions are taking active role, including Fauna Europaea, ENBI and GBIF. - MIZ PAS, in collaboration with 19 European natural history museums and botanic gardens has been successful in securing a FP VI European-funded Integrated Infrastructure Initiative grant, called SYNTHESYS - Synthesis of Systematic Resources. 	
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wide spectrum of educational activities focused on various aspects of biodiversity and its threat and conservation has been developed on both country and regional scale by various institutions and organisations; the programmes have been accompanied by selection of publications including fundamental elaborations, such as Polish Red Data Books and Lists, and monographic atlas of protected plants and animals; - collation and dissemination of biodiversity data required to establish/augment international networks of areas important for conservation of European biodiversity (e.g., NATURA 2000, Important Plant Areas for Europe; Important Bird Areas in Europe) - creating and making publicly available databases devoted to Polish research (and its results) in the field of taxonomy and biodiversity. 	

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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - initiating the special programme (BIOS) of the Foundation for Polish Science, devoted to amelioration of storage conditions, protection and availability of scientific natural collections and supporting the development of network of institutions and databases in the field of taxonomy and biodiversity; - building modern infrastructure - rooms supplied with adequate protection and environmental parameters control, to store the collections of the most important Polish research centres (Warszawa, Krakow, Poznan, Wroclaw, Lodz, Katowice); - promotion of research by developing the network of information about scientific collections; scientific collaboration at preparing the country-scale inventories such as: the series "Biodiversity of Poland" (series of checklists and catalogues summing up the to-date knowledge on species from various groups of plants and fungi occurring in Poland), new Polish Field Flora, Ecological Flora of Poland, atlases of distribution of vascular plants, mosses, lichens and fungi, Fauna Polaniae, Catalogus Poloniae, etc. - building new capacities and potential in taxonomical research: development of molecular taxonomy laboratories, etc. 	
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

- two Institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IB PAS and MIZ PAS) have been involved in the initiative of creating the Distributed European Taxonomic Institute;
- MIZ PAS is a member of Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities. It is a networked consortium of scientific institutions in Europe formed to promote training, research and understanding of systematic biology and palaeobiology,
- participating in formal and informal networks of institutions preparing regional inventories (checklists and monographs of different groups of plants, fungi, and animals) in Europe (e.g., Atlas Florae Europaeae; Atlas of European Mammals) and outside of Europe, by specialists in various taxonomic groups (orchids of tropical regions, mosses and lichens of the Arctic and Subantarctic, and others);
- international research projects (EU-financed and others) devoted to studies of biodiversity.

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

- participation in Pan-European programme BIOCASE;
- development of computer databases of taxonomic information for different groups of organisms, botanical and zoological collections, people and institutions involved in taxonomic research;
- elaboration and publication of country-scale and regional taxonomic checklists and inventories of biodiversity in different groups of organisms.

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
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inventories of protected species for forest areas and national parks and some administrative districts, - participation in the important international networks of areas being involved in protection of European biodiversity (NATURA 2000, Important Plant Areas for Europe; Important Bird Areas in Europe, etc.), including among others forest species and habitats. 	
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"> - participation in preparing the Red List of species and biotopes of Baltic region. - inventory of coastal and marine Important Bird Areas in the Baltic Sea, etc. 	
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)	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	
- regional guides and catalogues of freshwater fish and invertebrates are regularly publishing; for example, "Freshwater fish of Poland" (2001) by Prof. M. Brylinska from the University of Olsztyn. Some institutions, such as Department of Invertebrate Zoology & Hydrobiology of the University of Lodz, specialized in research 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	
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of Agri-Environmental Programmes aimed to support and enhance farmland biodiversity in Poland (as a part of national Rural Development Plan); - national Biological Monitoring programme; - studies on changes in populations of bee-like pollinators in the areas of Polish national parks; - taxonomic needs will be addressed within a national Strategy for Conservation of 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	
c) yes, limited support (please provide details)	
d) yes, significant support (please provide details)	X
Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inventories of different groups of plants and fungi in the mountain regions of Poland (series of checklists of the Carpathians, of the Tatra National Park); - elaboration of red lists and red books of threatened taxa for the Polish mountains; - participation in the international projects aiming at studies of biodiversity of mountain areas in Europe on specific and infraspecific levels (e.g. EU-financed research grants INTRABIODIV, LACOPE). 	
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inventories of various taxonomic groups of plants and animals for almost all of 23 national parks in Poland have been prepared and published; - manuals including species and habitat identification chapters were developed to support biodiversity monitoring and management of international networks of areas important for conservation of European biodiversity (e.g., NATURA 2000, Important Plant Areas for Europe; Important Bird Areas in Europe). 	

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)	
d) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	X
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	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparation and publication of national and regional inventories of biodiversity for different groups of plants, fungi (the series "Biodiversity of Poland" edited by IB PAS), and animals; - preparation and publication of the Atlas of distribution of plants protected in Poland and the Atlas of distribution of plants in Poland (IB PAS, Jagiellonian University in Krakow); the same in the case of animals (one of the best examples is the project "A distribution atlas of butterflies in Poland" running since 1986. Satisfying results were obtained due to large number of records, what was attained by well organized network of ca. 230-240 field recorders. Also some organisations engaged in nature protection are involved: Polish Society of Nature Friends "Pro Natura" from Wroclaw and Radom & Kielce Nature Society); - preparation of other tools facilitating the management of plant biodiversity in Poland (e.g., new Field Flora of Poland, new Descriptive and Ecological Flora of Poland in 5 volumes - in prep., etc.); - a countrywide survey of common breeding birds (numbers, trends and habitat preferences) run since 2000 enables to identify critical habitat requirements and develop appropriate policy measures for a range of habitats, mainly agricultural ones. 	
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - country-scale conference on invasive species in Poland, organized in 2003 in Krakow, by the Committee of the Nature Protection Polish Academy of Science; - multidisciplinary, country-scale research project (financed by the Ministry of Science and Information Technology) devoted to invasive species from different taxonomic groups in Poland has started. The project is coordinated by the Institute of Nature Protection PAS (zoological part) and the Institute of Botany PAS (botanical part). It aims at preparing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Polish Books of invasive plants, animals and fungi; (ii) monographic study of biological invasions; (iii) development of database of invasive species (plants, animals and fungi). 	

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)	
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place (please provide details)	X
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the national system of biological monitoring of chosen taxa related to various ecosystems; - preparation of the atlas of distribution of ecosystems (plant communities) in a 10x10 km grid system (coordinated by prof. J.M. Matuszkiewicz); - The countrywide survey of common breeding birds (numbers, trends & habitat preferences) is providing essential monitoring data for ca 80 species (project run by OTOP (BirdLife Poland) in liaison with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK); - National populations of several most threatened birds of prey species are monitored (numbers, productivity) by Eagle Protection Committee; - Satellite monitoring of the Baltic marine ecosystem by the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Sopot. 	

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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