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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.

The report has been prepared gathering information from the institutions involved in taxonomic research in the Slovak Republic, namely the institutes of the Slovak Academy of Science (Institute of Botany; Institute of Zoology), main University taxonomic research facilities (Komensky University in Bratislava, Department of Botany and Department of Zoology; Pavol Jozef Safárik University in Kosice, Institute of Biology & Ecology, Department of Botany). The experience with the establishing the network of protected areas “Natura 2000” in the Slovak Republic, carried out in cooperation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Academy of Science, Komensky University in Bratislava and several NGOs, from among them DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology, playing one of the key roles, was taken into consideration. Above-mentioned institutions are involved in several major taxonomically oriented research projects on the national and European levels and experience with these projects was taken into consideration as well. Last but not least experience with taxonomical consulting service for the local botanists and zoologists working in the protected areas, involving providing reference checklists and identification advice was considered. Author of this report was involved as one of editors in the preparation of the most recent version of the Red list of plants and animals of Slovakia, which is available both in printed and electronic versions. Preparation of this List inevitably involved close interaction of taxonomic and conservation approaches.

**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	X
c) yes, some needs assessments made (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive assessments made (please provide details)	
Further comments on country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities	
Considering the size of the country, the taxonomic research in Slovakia is concentrated to several institutions, which closely cooperate and all are well aware of each other. Nevertheless, identification of priorities and taxonomic needs is currently on the way.	
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	
Institutes of Academy of Science (Institute of Botany and Institute of Zoology) as well as Komensky University in Bratislava are actively involved in major European taxonomic projects Fauna Europaea and Euro+Med PlantBase, which seriously contribute to the assessment and focusing of priorities of taxonomic research on the European level. Another major European project, in which the Institute of Botany is involved, BioCASE - A Biological Collection Access Service for Europe, concentrates on biodiversity collections, which play key role in the taxonomic research, and again, priority areas are being identified.	
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	
Slovak Republic is an associate participant of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Institute of Botany playing the role of the national node. In this capacity we contribute also to 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	
There are some activities in respect of popularisation of taxonomic studies, projects like Flóra Slovenska - Flora of Slovakia, as well as international projects dealing with biodiversity in which various institutions in the Slovak Republic are involved, on the national level in various media.	

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	
Major taxonomic research facilities in the Slovak Republic are involved in large projects on the European level (Fauna Europaea, Euro+Med PlantBase, BioCASE, ENBI - European Network for Biodiversity Information). This helps to focus taxonomic research to the continental, but also national priorities as well as strengthen existing facilities both in respect of human capacity and infrastructure. The participation in major European projects facilitates also better access to the financial resources on the national level.	
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	

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

Participation by several institutions in the projects on the European level strengthen the existing research cooperations both in taxonomic research itself (projects as Fauna Europaea and Euro+Med PlantBase), and in the access to the biodiversity collections needed for taxonomic research (project BioCASE), or to the general biodiversity information (ENBI, GBIF).

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

Taxonomic institutions in the Slovak Republic are actively involved in the major initiatives as GBIF and ENBI, which facilitate the development of the global taxonomy/biodiversity information system. Although there are not many biodiversity collections of foreign origin in Slovakia, still some exist and as part of the BioCASE and GBIF projects their digitisation is on the way. An example of such digitised collection is that by F. Nábelek - Iter Turcico-Persicum, collected in 1909-1910, in the area of what is today Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Iran, Bahrain and Iraq. The collection is important for the given region and currently the information about all type specimens is available via both BioCASE and GBIF portals. Images of all types will be available via these portals as well in a short time.

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)	
d) yes, comprehensive studies and inventories made (please provide details)	X

Further comments on taxonomic studies and inventories made for a basic assessment of forest biological diversity

<p>Although not strictly focused on the forest biological diversity, there are several taxonomic studies and inventories at the taxon level (projects as Flóra Slovenska - Flora of Slovakia, providing taxonomic revisions, detailed distribution data on lower and higher plants of Slovakia, identification keys, morphological descriptions), and detailed inventories connected with the building, further development and maintaining the network of protected areas "Natura 2000", which include also great deal of taxonomic information on forest taxa. Although only indirectly contributing to the taxonomic knowledge, inventories on plant communities level including forest vegetation are on the way as well (Rastlinné spoločenstvá Slovenska - Plant communities of Slovakia).</p>	
<p>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?</p>	
a) no	X
b) not applicable	
c) no, but some programmes are under development	
d) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	
e) yes, many measures undertaken (please provide details)	
<p>Further comments on taxonomy-related activities identified in the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity</p>	
<p>As the Slovak Republic is an inland country, there are no research groups focused to marine or coastal biodiversity.</p>	
<p>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?</p>	
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)	
<p>Further comments on taxonomic support for implementing the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity</p>	
<p>Taxonomic research in the Slovak Republic is mainly devoted to the local biodiversity (although in cases of some groups of taxa extending to the European or even world-wide scale) and there are no extensive areas of dry and sub-humid lands in this country.</p>	
<p>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?</p>	
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)	
<p>Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity</p>	

<p>There are some activities, which involve monitoring of biota (both botanical and zoological part) along the large rivers (Danube, Morava) including international cooperation. The preparation of the volumes of the Flora of Slovakia, dealing with freshwater algae, important for the water quality monitoring, is on the way.</p>	
<p>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?</p>	
a) no	X
b) no, but some activities are being planned	
c) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken (please provide details)	
<p>Further comments on taxonomy-related activities for the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity</p>	
<p>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?</p>	
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
<p>Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity</p>	
<p>Although not strictly focused on the mountain biological diversity, there are several taxonomic studies and inventories at the taxon level (projects as Flóra Slovenska - Flora of Slovakia, providing taxonomic revisions, detailed distribution data on lower and higher plants in Slovakia, identification keys, morphological descriptions), and detailed inventories connected with the building, further development and maintaining the network of protected areas "Natura 2000", which include also great deal taxonomic information on mountain taxa. Although only indirectly contributing to the taxonomic knowledge, inventories on plant communities level including mountain vegetation are already published or are on the way as well (Rastlinné spoločenstvá Slovenska - Plant communities of Slovakia). There is also an EU project INTRABIODIV, which currently focuses on the subalpine and alpine vegetation in the Alps and the Carpathians trying to identify spots of rich floristic and genetical variation, in which Institute of Botany of the Slovak Academy of Sciences is actively involved.</p>	
<p>14. Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas?</p>	
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)	
<p>Further comments on taxonomic support provided to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas</p>	

All institutions involved in taxonomic research are actively cooperating with the State Environmental Agency as well as with the botanists and zoologists working in the protected areas. Komensky University and Institute of Botany of the Slovak Academy of Sciences were and still are actively involved in the establishment and maintaining the network of protected areas "Natura 2000".

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	
There are several projects on the way focusing on the inventory of biodiversity on the taxon level, e.g. Flóra Slovenska - Flora of Slovakia, or Identification key to the ferns and flowering plants of Slovakia; other projects concerned on the zoological part of biota (for certain groups, e.g. birds) are on the way as well.	
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	
There is an active working group dealing with invasive and alien plant taxa in the Slovak Republic and this group involves also taxonomists actively contributing to its working programme.	
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	X
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)	
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	
<p>There are several projects including plant biodiversity, which work in close cooperation dealing both with taxon and plant community level. Their interaction strengthens both taxon approach (involving knowledge on taxon-plant community relationships in taxonomical research) and ecosystem/plant community approach (involving latest taxonomical information of plant community components, which allows their better definition). Such projects include Flóra Slovenska - Flora of Slovakia, Identification key of the ferns and flowering plants of Slovakia, on the taxon level; and Rastlinné spoločenstvá Slovenska - Plant communities of Slovakia, List of diagnostic species of higher syntaxa of plant communities of Slovakia, at the ecosystem/plant community level.</p>	
