

*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.***

Since resources for the implementation of the GTI program are extremely limited, the main content has been filled in by some experts on a voluntary basis.

The GTI Focal point has just finished the questionnaire and responded to some specific questions. The whole affair with a huge delay. Please apologize for this.

Answers are based on general knowledge and impressions, mostly without using specific material or making detailed studies.

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The answers were given by the following experts:

Dr. Reto Nyffeler, Institut für Systematische Botanik, Universität Zürich; Task Force Systematic & Taxonomy of the Swiss Academy of Sciences

Prof. Heinz Müller-Schärer, Ecology and Evolution, Département de Biologie Université de Fribourg; Swiss Biodiversity Forum

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**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)	
d) yes, comprehensive assessments made (please provide details)	x
Further comments on country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities	
A working group "Taskforce Systematik und Taxonomie" of the Swiss Academy of Sciences is currently conducting a needs assessment of taxonomy in Switzerland. Priorities identified include (i) raising public awareness for the importance of taxonomy, (ii) strengthening of taxonomy at universities and museums by increasing the number of taxonomists and courses offered, and (iii) ensuring and expanding curation of museum collections. It must be stressed, that this Taskforce is working on a voluntary basis, practically without financial input from the responsible Agency.	
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)	x
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)	
Further comments on regional taxonomic needs assessment and identification of priorities	
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	
Swiss Biodiversity Forum and Task Force Systematik und Taxonomie of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SAS) are involved in activities to raise public awareness. <a href="http://www.biodiversity.ch">http://www.biodiversity.ch</a>	

**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	x
c) yes, limited capacity building (please provide details)	
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	
Only limited activities at some larger taxonomic facilities in Switzerland conduct capacity building by offering training programs (Diploma and Ph.D. programs) to foreign students. An inventory of Swiss biodiversity collections was compiled and is accessible through the internet (meta-database of biological collections MeDaCollect). <a href="http://130.92.225.132/biodiversity/medacol/participants/index_f.html">http://130.92.225.132/biodiversity/medacol/participants/index_f.html</a>	

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

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	
<p>Switzerland's Agency for Development and Cooperation is one of the main funding partners of BIONET International (<a href="http://www.bionet-intl.org">http://www.bionet-intl.org</a>).</p> <p>BIONET establishes subregional Locally Organised and Operated Partnerships (LOOPs); see, for example, <a href="http://safrinet.ecoport.org">http://safrinet.ecoport.org</a> or <a href="http://eafrinet.ecoport.org">http://eafrinet.ecoport.org</a>) of institutions in developing countries that are dedicated to making regions self-sufficient in their taxonomic needs, i.e. designed to optimise self-sufficiency and provide a cost effective basis for strengthening the ability of countries to meet their taxonomic needs by sharing resources subregionally. LOOPs are Technical Cooperation Networks (as defined by UNDP), designed to be permanent government-owned structures formed by intergovernmental agreement to address national and regional taxonomic priorities identified by their member countries. BioNET-INTERNATIONAL has a Technical Secretariat that works to facilitate the establishment of new LOOPs and help existing LOOPs to become self-sufficient via donor-funded activities.</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
Further comments on involvement in the development of a coordinated global taxonomy information system	
<p>Switzerland is currently establishing a GBIF national node. Some taxonomic facilities in Switzerland are running their individual digitizing programs and offer specimen information through the internet. Practically no money is available to conduct systematic programs within the GBIF-targets.</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	
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	
Inventaire forestier nationale. Les premiers relevés (IFN1) furent réalisés entre 1983 et 1985 et la deuxième campagne suivit entre 1993 et 1995. Les relevés de l'IFN3 sont planifiés pour 2004 à 2006. <a href="http://www.lfi.ch">http://www.lfi.ch</a>	
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)	
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	
Not applicable for Switzerland	
10. Has your country developed taxonomic support for implementing relevant actions identified in the programme of work on dry and subhumid 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 subhumid 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	
Fish: Yes. Invertebrates: No. There is an eco-morphological mapping of Swiss water-courses planned or under way in some cantons. Invertebrates are in fact part of the system. But no specific taxonomic activities. At least some specialists can be occupied for data-gathering and/or determination.	
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	
Mapping of vascular plants in prairies gave some good ideas about richness of plants in these habitats. No such activity under way for invertebrates except some case-studies. No information about activities concerning the pollinator-initiative.	
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	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	

Taxonomic support still existing. There is still rather good in museums, research-institutes and within "amateurs". But our country's official resources are very limited, Universities are cutting down taxonomy. Thus it will be in the medium term difficult to maintain the necessary support.

**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	x
b) no, but some programmes are under development	
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	
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	
The Centre Suisse de la Cartographie de la Faune ( <a href="http://www.cscf.ch">http://www.cscf.ch</a> ) and the Centre Suisse du Réseau de Floristique ( <a href="http://www.cjb.unige.ch/rsf/">http://www.cjb.unige.ch/rsf/</a> ) provide scientific information on identification and distribution of IAS. There is also the Swiss Commission for wildplant conservation CPS/SKEW with a working group on IAS ( <a href="http://www.cps-skew.ch/">http://www.cps-skew.ch/</a> )	
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	(x)
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	
Very limited for the Monitoring of Biodiversity (see <a href="http://www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch">www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch</a> ) for vascular plants, mosses, snail and butterflies. None in relation to the ecosystems approach. The revision of Red Lists is also an activity that should be mentioned here.	

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

<p>The Swiss Confederation's input into the implementation of this program is rather small. Only in agriculture there are some noteworthy programs running (phytogenetic and animal resources).</p> <p>Most initiatives and activities are undertaken by private or semi-private people or organizations. Most of the work is done under other titles (baseline and effectiveness monitoring, Red-Lists) and is not specifically dedicated for implementing the GTI working program.</p> <p>Biodiversity in general and taxonomy specifically are not one of the prime priorities in Swiss politics. No specific budget has been created for GTI and for the implementation of its program.</p> <p>-----</p>
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