

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.***

Italy has a long tradition on taxonomic studies and research, but these expertises and the informations are often disperse. In recent years the Direzione per la Protezione Natura (the National Focal Point for the GTI) has established a network of Italian taxonomists, collecting most of the existing information and supporting new studies for less known taxa. This has given also the opportunity for public education and awareness initiatives, like publications and databases, according to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the CBD and the 2010 target.

The Global Taxonomy Initiative represents a good opportunity for enhance the achieved results. According to the Program of work for the GTI adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> COP the existing initiative will be further implemented and Italy will support any effort for achieving the objectives at regional and global level.

According to this objective during the SBSTTA 10 meeting Italy promoted the idea to implement a GTI portal within the CHM, and at the first meeting of the Open Ended on Protected Area in Montecatini (June 2005) there will be a side event on GTI.

**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	
The checklists of all taxonomic groups has been produced with the exclusion of some freshwater algae and some fungi, which will be considered in the future since not priority compared to other taxa of higher taxonomic level	
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	
Italy is involved in the projects Fauna Europaea, <a href="http://www.faunaeur.org/">http://www.faunaeur.org/</a> ; Flora Europea, Organization for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area (OPTIMA), <a href="http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/OPTIMA/organization/purposes.htm">http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/OPTIMA/organization/purposes.htm</a> ; System for the Observation of and Information on the Alps (SOIA) a data collection project of the wild species within the Alpine Convention, <a href="http://www.apat.gov.it/site/_files/Natura/wild_species.pdf">http://www.apat.gov.it/site/_files/Natura/wild_species.pdf</a>	
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	
During the SBSTTA-10 meeting, while reviewing the development of the process and guidelines for the in-depth review of the GTI program of work, Italy promoted the establishment of a GTI portal, under the CHM	

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	
<p>There is a plenty of local activities, at national level we mention some example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Several publications and databases of the Environment Ministry are available at: <a href="http://www.minambiente.it/Sito/settori_azione/scn/Home_SCN.asp">http://www.minambiente.it/Sito/settori_azione/scn/Home_SCN.asp</a></li> <li>2. The Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services (APAT) has realised the web site <a href="http://www.alpinsieme.org">www.alpinsieme.org</a> to make available all information on alpine wild species</li> <li>3. Working group "Licheni e Didattica" of the Italian Lichen Society: <a href="http://dbiodbs.univ.trieste.it/sli/home.html">http://dbiodbs.univ.trieste.it/sli/home.html</a></li> </ol>	

**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?	
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	
<p>Italy has a Partner in the European Platform for Biodiversity (BioPlatform), a Thematic Network which aims to improve the effectiveness and relevance of European biodiversity research, to contribute to European Research Area for Biodiversity and to promote the dissemination of current best practices and information regarding the scientific understanding of biodiversity conservation:</p> <p><a href="http://www.bioplatform.info/index.htm">http://www.bioplatform.info/index.htm</a></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	
d) yes, some activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	X
e) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	

<sup>1</sup> 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

1. BioCISE (Resource Identification for a Biological Collection Information Service in Europe): <http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/biocise/>
2. The Euro+Med Project (The Information Resource for Euro-Mediterranean Plant Diversity): [http://www.euromed.org.uk/a\\_bout/](http://www.euromed.org.uk/a_bout/)
3. European Network for Biodiversity Information (ENBI): A Thematic Network funded by the European Union with the aim of coordinating Europe's efforts in the broad field of biodiversity information: <http://www.enbi.info/forums/enbi/index.php>
4. projects Fauna Europaea, <http://www.faunaeur.org/>

**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

X

c) yes, to a limited extent (please provide details)

d) yes, to a significant extent (please provide details)

Further comments on involvement in the development of a coordinated global taxonomy information system

**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

Programma nazionale integrato per il controllo degli ecosistemi forestali (CON.ECO.FOR), <http://www.corpoforestale.it/wai/serviziattivita/CONECOFOR/index.htm>

forest biodiversity assessment promoted by CNBF (Centro Nazionale per la Biodiversità Forestale), produces also publications like: Cerretti P., Tagliapietra A., Tisato M., Vanin S., Mason F. & Zapparoli M. [Eds], 2003. Artropodi dell'orizzonte del faggio nell'Appennino settentrionale. Primo contributo.

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	
National Programmes and activities in place:	
<p>- ICRAM (Central Institute for Applied Marine Research) is carrying out a project concerning the identification and distribution of alien species in Italian seas, funded by the Ministry of the Environment. A biologic, taxonomic, ecologic and zoogeographic atlas was produced reporting information on alien species present in the Mediterranean belonging to 8 flora and fauna taxa. A database and a georeferenced cartography and their distribution in the Mediterranean sea and a tissue bank of alien species was created so as to support future genetic research with particular attention on the founder effect, the evaluation of hybridisation risks and the identification of cryptic species. The project also foresaw the creation of an inventory and atlas of non-indigenous and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) utilized in aquaculture and the aquaria industries.</p> <p>- In the National Monitoring Programme of Marine and Coastal Environment plankton and benthos (for some biocenosis) identification at species level is realized.</p> <p>- A pilot programme in place in two harbours (Trieste and Milazzo) foresees the species identification and monitoring of ballast waters.</p> <p>- As far as the Adriatic sea is concerned, Italy is a member of the trilateral ballast water management sub commission for the Adriatic sea (Italy-Slovenia-Croatia) which deals with the problem of introduction of harmful organisms from ships in the area.</p>	
Examples of other activities related to marine biodiversity:	
Furnari G., Giaccone G., Cormaci M., Alongi G., Serio D., 2004. Biodiversità marina delle coste italiane. Catalogo del macrophytobenthos (financially supported by the Italian Ministry for Environment)	
Checklist of Italian Fauna (revision of Marine Species, 2005). SIBM (Italian Society of Marine Biology) and Ministry for Environment	
Checklist of marine planktonic microphyta, 2005. LBM (Marine Biology Laboratory of Trieste) and Ministry of Environment	
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	X
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	
The Provincia Autonoma di Trento has a project on "Biodiversity assessment and integrity evaluation of springs of Trentino (Italian Alps) and long-term ecological research	

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	
<p>Italy is involved in ALTER-Net, a "Network of Excellence" funded by the EU's 6th Framework Programme. Its goals can be found: <a href="http://www.alter-net.info/project.htm">http://www.alter-net.info/project.htm</a></p> <p>Examples of other activities related to inland waters biodiversity:</p> <p>Campaioli S., Ghetti P.F., Minelli A. &amp; Ruffo S., 1994. Manuale per il riconoscimento dei macroinvertebrati delle acque dolci italiane. Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Trento, 2 voll.</p> <p>C.N.R., 1977-1986. Guide per il riconoscimento delle specie animali delle acque interne italiane. Ruffo S. (Ed.), Collana del Progetto Finalizzato "Promozione della Qualità dell'Ambiente". C.N.R., Roma.</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?	
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	
<p>Italy (as International Plant Genetic Resources Institute -IPGRI) is a member of the European Crop Wild Relative Diversity Assessment and Conservation Forum (PGR), a partnership of 23 organizations, which is developing an information system providing access to data on socio-economically important plants and their wild relatives, assessing the threats and conservation status of European crop wild relatives, and producing guidelines for their conservation in situ.</p> <p>For details: <a href="http://www.pgrforum.org/">http://www.pgrforum.org/</a></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?	
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	

<p>System for the Observation of and Information on the Alps (SOIA) a data collection project of the wild species within the Alpine Convention,  <a href="http://www.apat.gov.it/site/_files/Natura/wild_species.pdf">http://www.apat.gov.it/site/_files/Natura/wild_species.pdf</a>  Several scientific institutes are partners in the GLORIA a global research project in Alpine Environments, <a href="http://www.gloria.ac.at/res/gloria_home/">http://www.gloria.ac.at/res/gloria_home/</a></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>	
<p>The terrestrial protected areas have launched several different initiatives but a synthesis at national level is not available  In Marine Protected Areas several research programmes on species inventory (check-lists) and spatial distribution are conducted.  ICRAM and CoNISMa (Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare) have devised, funded and coordinated a scientific programme called "Afrodite/Venere" for the inventory and monitoring of the core zones of Italian Marine Protected Areas, to be completed in a three years span (2001-2004).  In addition to the main goal of helping the creation of a national MPA network, the objectives of "Afrodite/Venere" include the creation of a shared, standardised base of knowledge, the promotion of a higher level of cooperation among scientists in Italy and in the Mediterranean countries. Among several activities habitat and species inventories is performed through first nation-wide application of the Standard Data Entry Forms. To help in the preparation of the inventories, ICRAM has provided for the preparation of a manual for the identification of Mediterranean marine habitat and species (contracted to SIBM). For each species and habitat a fact sheet was prepared with drawings and/or colour photos, as well as descriptions of the main characteristics to enable identification.</p>	

**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**

<p>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?</p>	
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)	
<p>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</p>	



Approximately 20 Italian Institutions (university, botanic gardens, local agencies, national parks, natural history museums, no profit organizations and private companies) has associated in RIBES, the acronym for Italian Seed Bank Network for the ex situ conservation of the native flora. The network activities will focus on seed conservation of non domesticated species, both endangered wild species that might be used for reintroduction and non endangered wild species that might be used for habitat restoration and land reclamation. RIBES is also involved in other EU networks such as Ensconet and Genmedoc. This initiative can be considered an effective contribution to the regional and national implementation of the CBD-UNEP Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The Agriculture Ministry has different activities and projects on taxonomy of cultivated species and wild species of economic interest, also in collaboration with FAO programs.

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 INFS (National Wildlife Institute) is a partner of the DAISIE program, supported by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities to create an inventory of invasive species.

General Objectives of DAISIE:

1. To create an inventory of invasive species that threaten European terrestrial, fresh-water and marine environments.
2. To structure the inventory to provide the basis for prevention and control of biological invasions through the understanding of the environmental, social, economic and other factors involved.
3. To assess and summarise the ecological, economic and health risks and impacts of the most widespread and/or noxious invasive species in Europe.
4. To use distribution data and the experiences of the individual Member States as a framework for considering indicators for early warning.

ICRAM (Central Institute for Applied Marine Research) is carrying out several projects;

- identification and distribution of alien species in Italian seas, funded by the Ministry of the Environment.
- In the National Monitoring Programme of Marine and Coastal Environment plankton and benthos (for some biocenosis) identification at species level is realized.
- A pilot programme in place in two harbours (Trieste and Milazzo) foresees the species identification and monitoring of ballast waters.
- As far as the Adriatic sea is concerned, Italy is a member of the trilateral ballast water management sub commission for the Adriatic sea (Italy-Slovenia-Croatia) which deals with the problem of introduction of harmful organisms from ships in the area.
- ALLOCHTHONOUS SPECIES project, which deals with "changes of the interspecific biodiversity of fishes of the Mediterranean Sea, as a biological indicator of the tropicalisation phenomenon".
- ALIEN (Atlantic and Lessepsian Immigrant Environmental Noises) project, in which the environmental and genetical consequences of immigration of allochthonous species are estimated and the main reasons for their penetration are evaluated.
- INTRODUCTION OF NON-INDIGENOUS AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED SPECIES project, a government-funded program stemming from the application of article 13 of Biodiversity Protocol. The project deals mainly with: a) the formulation of a taxonomic and diagnostic atlas for the identified species of each taxonomic group, realized through GIS; b) the monitoring of ballast waters; c) the drawing up of guidelines for aquaculture practices (one of the main causes for the penetration of alien species) to avoid the expansion of this phenomenon.
- Since 1998, the Italian Society for Marine Biology (SIBM) set up a working group with the aim of studying the problem of marine allochthonous species in Italy and collaborating with the ICES Working Group on Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms (WGITMO) and the ICES/IOC/IMO Study Group on Ballast and other Ship Vectors (SGBOSV). In 2001, SIBM produced a study under contract by the Ministry of Environment (Inspectorate for the Defence of the Sea) including survey of the Ports of Genoa, Salerno and Palermo considered target sensible areas for new introductions and stations to be monitored in the time for change (qualitative and quantitative) of the benthos communities.

Examples of other activities related to the terrestrial environment:

Andreotti A., Baccetti N., Perfetti A., Besa M., Genovesi P. & Guberti V., 2001. Mammiferi e Uccelli esotici in Italia: analisi del fenomeno, impatto sulla biodiversità e linee guida gestionali. Quaderni Conservazione della Natura, 2, Ministero dell'Ambiente, Istituto Nazionale della Fauna Selvatica. Modena, pp.189.

Scalera R., 2001. Invasioni biologiche. Le introduzioni di vertebrati in Italia: un problema tra conservazione e globalizzazione. Collana verde, 103. Corpo Forestale dello Stato. Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali. Roma, pp. 368.

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	
Several local initiatives, but a synthesis at national level is not yet available. The Agriculture Ministry has different activities and projects on taxonomy of cultivated species and wild species of economic interest, also in collaboration with FAO programs.	
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	
Ckmap: Checklist and distribution of Italian Fauna and Flora (10.000 terrestrial and freshwater species, 1000 Vascular flora species).	

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

The Direction for Nature Protection as National Focal Point for Global Taxonomy Initiative is collaborating with scientific Institutes for full implementation of the GTI program of work in Italy and as far as possible to contribute to the global process. This will include: implementation of a web page on taxonomic initiatives with the aim to contribute for a Taxonomic portal in the CHM, integration of national taxonomic databases with regional databases (Fauna Europaea, Flora Europaea, European Register of Marine Species).
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