

*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 was prepared from information available to the responsible agency. Consultation was undertaken with key groups that are implementing taxonomy work in NZ where necessary to elicit information. Resources did not permit wider research.

**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	
<p>There has been no specific GTI-focused needs assessment. A workshop was held to identify broad issues related to the implementation of the GTI in NZ, and work is continuing to follow up on issues identified in that workshop.</p> <p>Individual agencies that use taxonomy undertake assessments to guide their purchasing of taxonomic information (notably the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Fisheries).</p> <p>The Foundation for Science and Research undertakes periodic assessments of priority for the use of public science funding, including taxonomy work. Government has agreed to an increase in base funding for Nationally Significant Databases and Collections and associated research that restores real funding back to the 1996 levels (about a 25% increase).</p> <p>A programme is being run under the NBSAP to facilitate the provision of information, including taxonomic information, about terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity. This has identified and funded priority projects of broad interest to biodiversity managers. A similar programme for marine biodiversity is in development.</p>	
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	
<p>There is no obvious forum or mechanism for undertaking a specific assessment. Nevertheless, forums for identifying aid priorities for the Pacific could be used to identify taxonomic needs if that was a priority for the Pacific countries.</p>	
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	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	
<p>NZ undertakes programmes to promote the implementation of the NBSAP and related programmes. This does not focus on particular aspects of the CBD, such as the GTI, but rather on the priorities identified for the NZ situation. These do include programmes relating to the use of taxonomic information and the importance of knowing our biodiversity.</p> <p>Promotion of the GTI <i>per se</i> has been limited to those working in the field, particularly through the workshop mentioned above.</p>	

***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	
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	
<p>NZ provides support to Pacific countries in particular in this regard. The degree of support will depend on the priorities identified in those countries when seeking NZ aid.</p> <p>There is an ongoing programme of managing Pacific collections and providing information from those collections back to the countries of origin. New Zealand is working within the proposed Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum to develop proposals to fund information repatriation to Pacific countries.</p> <p>There are strong connections between workers in the Gondwanan and Pacific regions in relation to individual species groups, and this appears to work well. Whether more formal sharing of capacity is warranted is being examined.</p>	

<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)	x
e) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	
Further comments on strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy	
There are strong connections between workers in the Gondwanan and Pacific regions in relation to individual species groups, and this appears to work well. Whether more formal sharing of capacity is warranted is being examined. New Zealand is part of the emerging PACINET as part of BioNet International's initiative to build regional networks to increase taxonomic capability.	

***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	
NZ is involved in the key global processes such as GBIF, PBI, etc. Resources for this work are limited, however. NZ has so far provided 1.4 million records into the GBIF portal and has a database on NZ fungi fully web accessible. We have also developed an image capture and analysis system for rapid biodiversity assessment.	

***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>NZ has undertaken significant inventory work to support biodiversity management in forests. There are processes for prioritising and funding the work in future, although resources are always limited given the large numbers of species, high levels of endemism and high proportions of endangered species in the flora and fauna.</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?	
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)	X
Further comments on taxonomy-related activities identified in the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity	
<p>NZ has undertaken significant inventory work to support biodiversity management in marine and coastal areas, although this work is somewhat less advanced than terrestrial work. There are processes for prioritising and funding the work in future, although resources are always limited given the large numbers of species, high levels of endemism and high proportions of endangered species in the flora and fauna.</p> <p>Priorities are set according to the NBSAP and the sectoral strategies (e.g. the biosecurity strategy).</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?	
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	
<p>NZ has undertaken significant inventory work to support biodiversity management in dry and sub-humid areas. There are processes for prioritising and funding the work in future, although resources are always limited given the large numbers of species, high levels of endemism and high proportions of endangered species in the flora and fauna.</p> <p>Priorities are set according to the NBSAP and the sectoral strategies. Lichens are not a relevant indicator in NZ, but extensive taxonomic work has been undertaken on this group for different reasons.</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?	
a) no	

b) no, but some programmes are under development	
c) yes, some activities undertaken (please provide details)	
d) yes, many activities undertaken (please provide details)	x
Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity	
<p>NZ has undertaken significant inventory work to support biodiversity management in inland water areas. There are processes for prioritising and funding the work in future, although resources are always limited given the large numbers of species, high levels of endemism and high proportions of endangered species in the flora and fauna.</p> <p>Priorities are set according to the NBSAP and the sectoral strategies (e.g. the biosecurity strategy). Regional councils are responsible for overall water health monitoring, and develop guides to support this work.</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)	
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>NZ has undertaken inventory work to support biodiversity management in agriculture. A significant amount of research has also been undertaken and some analysis and prioritisation of activities has subsequently been carried out. Additional research is also in progress. There are processes for further prioritising and funding the work in future, although available human resources are somewhat limited.</p> <p><a href="http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/sustainable-resource-use/biodiversity/">http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/sustainable-resource-use/biodiversity/</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>NZ has undertaken significant inventory work to support biodiversity management in mountain areas. There are processes for prioritising and funding the work in future, although resources are always limited given the large numbers of species, high levels of endemism and high proportions of endangered species in the flora and fauna.</p> <p>Priorities are set according to the NBSAP and the sectoral strategies (e.g. the biosecurity strategy).</p>	

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)	
d) yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details)	x
Further comments on taxonomic support provided to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas	
<p>NZ has undertaken significant inventory work to support biodiversity management in protected areas. There are processes for prioritising and funding the work in future, although resources are always limited given the large numbers of species, high levels of endemism and high proportions of endangered species in the flora and fauna.</p> <p>Priorities are set according to the NBSAP and the management plans for the relevant protected areas.</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***

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	
Taxonomic work is not a priority to support the work being undertaken by the Government in relation to 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)	
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	x
Further comments on taxonomic support to address the issues of invasive alien species	



A biosecurity strategy is in place, and a full reform of the system has recently been undertaken. This is identifying any areas (including in relation to taxonomy capacity) which will require strengthening. Strong systems for biosecurity-related taxonomy are in place.	
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	
Programmes for taxonomy do, however, recognise and incorporate relevant 8(j) issues.	
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	
In particular, a system for classifying and identifying ecosystems has been developed to become the basis for ecosystem management. Biosecurity risks are also being assessed against ecosystem vulnerability using a programme BIOSECURE that utilises global taxonomic databases.	

***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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