

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

Contracting Party:	Norway
<i>National Focal Point</i>	
Full name of the institution:	Directorate for Nature Management
Name and title of contact officer:	Mr Finn Katerås
Mailing address:	N-7485 Trondheim, Norway
Telephone:	+47 73 58 05 00
Fax:	+ 47 73 58 05 01
E-mail:	finn.kateras@dirnat.no
<i>Contact officer for this report (if different)</i>	
Name and title of contact officer:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	September 03, 2004

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 mainly been prepared by executive officers at the Directorate for Nature Management in Norway. There has been some contact to the Natural History Museums and Botanical Garden in Oslo. Programmes and initiatives from the various Universities and research institutions have however not been examined in detail.

**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	
A Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre is to be established. The National Centre for Biosystematics (NCB) was established in 2002 at the Natural History Museums and Botanical Garden (NHM), University of Oslo. It is a cross-disciplinary research centre intended to integrate and strengthen basic research in systematic zoology, botany, mycology, and paleontology.	
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	
Some activities specifically for the marine ecosystem, see no. 9	
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	
Norway is a member of IUCN, and we joined the GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) in March 2004. Norway is also a member of ICOM (international Council of Museums)	
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>The establishment of a Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre will contribute to increased knowledge on this issue.</p> <p>The Natural History Museums, also in collaboration with specialised organisations, are actively involved in raising awareness and in facilitating access to relevant databases and information.</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 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	
<p>The Norwegian Museum Project, initiated by the Ministry of Education, has been creating a common database on taxonomy, and aiming at a thorough revision of earlier taxonomic collections with standardised labelling. The Natural History Museums has several relevant databases and are active in further development of computerised systems. This includes also collections of foreign material.</p> <p>Norway is actively participating in the regional collaboration Council for Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF).</p> <p>Some contribution through development aid projects, e.g. to SADC, and to Dept. of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in South Africa.</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)	
Further comments on strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy	
Norway is participating in several networks, - some of these are BioCASE, EUNIS, GBIF, CAFF,	

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

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	
Norway is participating in the GBIF, and is at present in the process of appointing a Norwegian GBIF-node.	
Norwegian gene banks are meeting international requirements on accessibility. Norway has also included disclosure requirements on the origin of genetic resources in patent applications	

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	
Some relevant activities are taking place at our four general Universities and at the Norwegian Agricultural University, as well as at Regional Highschools, and at research institutions like the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), the Norwegian Institute for Forest Research (NISK) and at the Norwegian Institute for Land Inventory (NIJOS).	
Norway is currently running a programme whereby each of the municipalities shall investigate and report on their biological diversity. The project is planned to be finalized during 2005.	
Additionally, Norway is running a monitoring programme on biological diversity in selected areas, including in forest ecosystems.	

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	
<p>Relevant activities are mainly channeled through the Norwegian Institute for Marine Research situated in Bergen.</p> <p>The MAREANO Programme in Norway is an integrated mapping programme for the Norwegian seas and coastal areas. The programme has four main areas of work; one of them being "Biological Diversity, Habitat Types and Marine Resources". Nine Norwegian institutions are collaborating in the implementation of this programme. More information might be found at www.imr.no</p> <p>MAR-ECO is an international research project in which scientists from 16 nations take part. Norway co-ordinates the project which will enhance our understanding of occurrence, distribution and ecology of animals and animal communities along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between Iceland and the Azores. www.mar-eco.no</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)	
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	
<p>Norway is implementing the European Union's Framework Directive on Water (FDW), including the requirements on inventorying and monitoring the biodiversity in the water bodies that are included in the FDW.</p> <p>The earlier mentioned programme for biodiversity registration in all Norwegian municipalities also covers biodiversity relating to inland waters.</p> <p>Some relevant specialised research projects are taking place in our five Universities and in research institutions.</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>Particularly the work taking place in our gene banks is relevant here, as well as various research taking place at the Agricultural University of Norway (NLH).</p> <p>Additionally, some of the specialised research institutes have relevant activities within this field, including the Norwegian Institute for Forest Research (NISK), the Norwegian Institute for Land Inventory (NIJOS), and the Centre for International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric) at NLH.</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)	x
d) yes, significant support (please provide details)	
Further comments on taxonomic support for the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity	
<p>Some relevant activities are taking place through Norway's active participation in the Council for Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), as well as some activities being undertaken at our five Universities and at some research institutions, including the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA).</p> <p>The Norwegian monitoring programme on biological diversity is also covering mountain areas.</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)	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	
In the process of nominating and designating protected areas relevant taxonomic information is used. The national red-lists being of particular interest.	

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	
Species list of potential invasive alien species is developed. Further information and references can be found in the publication Tømmerås, B.Å., Jelmert, A., Rafoss, T., Sundheim, L., Ødegaard, F. & Økland, B. 2002. Globalisation and Invasive Alien Species. - Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Globalisation Project, Report 15: 1-88. More information may also be found at: http://odin.dep.no/ud/norsk/publ/rapporter/032121-220009/index-dok000-b-n-a.html	
Norway has developed rather comprehensive contingency plans for dealing with the problem. We refer to our last National Report to the CBD dealing with Art. 8h of the Convention.	
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	
Some fairly uncoordinated research efforts are taking place related to the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of the Sami population of Norway.	
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	
Some monitoring activities have elements of the ecosystem approach	

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

--
