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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.

Report prepared from interviews with staff of the following stakeholder organizations:

Belau National Museum

Etpison Museum

Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (Republic of Palau)

Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection (Republic of Palau)

The Nature Conservancy

Palau Conservation Society

Palau International Coral Reef Center

Palau Coral Reef Foundation

**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 Belau National Museum published a limited country-based needs assessment in 2004 with regard to terrestrial arthropods. Priorities identified included basic taxonomic research and surveys to complete the cataloguing of arthropod diversity with focus on protected areas, caves, aquatic habitats and other fragile ecosystems.	
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	
Reason: No other NFPs have been identified for countries in our region (Oceania)	
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	

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><u>Human Capacity Building:</u> Trained parataxonomists are available at the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection (field identifications of protected, endangered and invasive species); Ministry of Agriculture (agricultural species, invasive species, quarantine pests); Palau International Coral Reef Center (corals and Algae); Palau Conservation Society (birds). In-country professional taxonomists are located at the Belau National Museum (insects) and Palau Coral Reef Foundation (marine invertebrates).</p> <p><u>Infrastructure:</u> Belau National Museum established a Natural History Section to build synoptic collections of terrestrial plants and animals, which will contain specimens from Palau and other countries in Micronesia. The museum's collection features taxonomic and ethnographic data on plants with traditional medicinal uses. Other significant taxonomic collection capacities in Palau include collections of corals and marine algae at the Palau International Coral Reef Center; medicinal marine invertebrates at the Palau Coral Reef Foundation; and a conservation-oriented collection of vertebrates and invertebrates at the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection.</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	

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

(please provide details)	
Further comments on strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy	
Palau Conservation Society actively networks with organizations outside the country in the area of taxonomic cooperation including, for example, Bird Life International, SPREP (Samoa), FSPI (Fiji), United States Department of Interior and others. The Palau Coral Reef Foundation is a valuable bioprospecting network focus for the National Cancer Institute. In-country representatives of the Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture serve as valuable international and regional focal points for networking in the area of taxonomic cooperation.	

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	
Several grants are under preparation by the Belau National Museum for developing the local information technology necessary to share and access digitized data/information. This will include networking the sizable holdings of many local library resources in taxonomy such as those at the Division of Fish and Wildlife protection, Belau National Museum, Palau Community College, Palau Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, Palau International Coral Reef Center and Palau Coral Reef Foundation.	

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	
Inventories: Palau Conservation Society inventory of forest birds: A 1991 national inventory of forest birds will be repeated in 2005 with funding from Bird Life International. The Nature Conservancy has recently conducted a forest plant survey and a LANDSAT remote sensing forest survey of Palau. A 1997 Smithsonian Institution herpetofauna survey catalogued Palau's forest reptiles and amphibians.	

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	
No taxonomic surveys involving ballast water organisms or mangrove monitoring have been published. Other marine and coastal surveys include species-specific surveys of crocodiles and dugongs (The Nature Conservancy) and a survey of sea grasses for monitoring certain protected marine areas.	
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	
The Nature Conservancy has conducted a survey of fish of one inland water body, Lake Ngardok.	
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	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)	
Further comments on taxonomy-related activities for the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity	
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	
There are no traditional mountain habitats in Palau.	
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	
Palau has a national statute establishing a network of protected areas. The primary responsibility for implementing this legislation is the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection. Taxonomic support for the initiative includes the taxonomic collections of the Division and the Belau National Museum. The Nature Conservancy has a study on the sustainable financing of marine fish spawning sites that are protected under the national statute.	

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	x
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	

Palau's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is currently under development.	
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	
Palau has an interagency invasive species committee that provides policy and program guidance for the management of alien species. Examples of current programs include eradication programs that target <i>Mikania</i> (an invasive plant species) and <i>Tilapia</i> (invasive fish species). Taxonomic support for the agencies involved in quarantine and eradication programs is primarily internal with <i>ad hoc</i> consultations available from the Belau National Museum and various foreign universities and agencies.	

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	
Activities include local societies supported by Palau Conservation Society and the studies of the ethnobotanist on staff at the Belau National Museum.	
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	
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	

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

The consensus of the stakeholders was that a priority need is to continue basic research in taxonomy. Cataloguing of the biodiversity of Palau and other small island nations is far from complete. The fragility of island habitats in the face of economic development gives urgency to the task of cataloguing island biodiversity. Synoptic and regional taxonomic collections are a key need in this respect.

Another compelling issue to many stakeholders was the need to develop country and regional field guides suitable for taxonomic research.
